

SECRET

JUNE. 2018

NCH/61/006

**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH ON THE HEALTH SECTOR HUMANITARIAN
EMERGENCIES IN NIGERIA**

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to inform and seek Council's approval for the Development of a National Framework for Health Sector Response to Humanitarian Crisis in the Nigeria

2. Nigeria over the years has combated different humanitarian crisis, be it as a result of conflicts, insurgencies or migration. Amongst these, the Boko-haram insurgency is recognized to have wreaked the most debilitating humanitarian crisis with an almost complete destruction of the health architecture in the North East with Borno State as the epicenter. As at June 2017, it was estimated that there are 1,825,321 Internally Displaced Persons (330,680 households) across Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States (**Displacement Tracking Matrix June 2017**). Considering all the conflicts in Nigeria with the North East being the most affected the Honourable Minister of Health directed the establishment of a stepwise coordination structure to efficiently and effectively midwife the process of repositioning the Humanitarian crisis affected regions in Nigeria but with emphasis on the ravaging instance in the North East. Through exceptional leadership portrayed by the HMH, diligence of the Special project department and support from relevant stakeholders notably WHO, PCNI, VSF, UNICEF and other UN subsidiary agencies, a North East Health Sector Humanitarian Crisis Response Strategic Plan (NEHSHRSP) was developed and subsequently domesticated to State Specific Operational Plans for the six (6) North East states. Juxtapose to this response, there was a reported decline in the health and nutritional status of the populace in the Humanitarian crisis epicenter "Borno state" resulting in a declaration of an emergency within the on-going emergency. This retrogression in health status warranted the deployment of a rapid response team by the Honourable Minister of Health to assess the situation and develop a comprehensive Health and Nutrition Emergency Response Plan for Borno state. In accordance to the set Terms of Reference a Health and Nutrition Emergency Response in Borno State Project (HNERIBS) was collaboratively developed with state actors and development partners and implemented over a period of one (1) year in two phases of six (6) months each. A total of N4.3 billion was expended in the first phase and N380,000,000 in the second phase of the project. Over N2 billion was utilized in procuring and distributing medicines and health related supplies (Large cache of medicines still remaining at the central medical stores) other components of this project were the procurement of logistics trucks for distribution, ambulances for referrals and logistic vehicles for monitoring and evaluation as well as outreach programmes by ad-hoc staff. The summit of this project was the engagement and deployment of 375 ad-hoc staff in groups of thirteen (13) members to 25 LGAs in Borno state to provide day to day Nutritional care, treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), Obstetric and family health care.

3. In addition to the on-going Humanitarian crisis in the North East, There have been a myriad of on-going reoccurring crisis in other parts of the country such as the pastoralist and farmers clashes in the middle belt and in agrarian communities, violent campaigns of secessionist in the south east, and the health crisis in oil producing communities in the south south region. In recent times, the FMOH has supported Benue state in responding to the flooding disaster by providing medicines and Health related supplies to the affected communities and has provided support to 2,000 Nigerian returnees from Libya and is to be replicated for the upcoming repatriation exercise of 91,000 returnees from Cameroun

4. Mindful of the complexity and evolutionary pattern of Humanitarian crisis, it is pertinent to establish a National Humanitarian crisis response Framework to effectively and efficiently respond to all variants of hazards and humanitarian situations in the Country and the following: -

- a. The institutionalization of an office for health humanitarian crisis intervention in all State Ministry of Health.
- b. To strengthen the National office for coordinating Health sector response to Humanitarian crisis

5. Prayers:

a). Council is invited to note the following:

- i. The protracted insurgency in the North East and increased complexities of humanitarian crisis in Nigeria warrants a more systemic approach.
- ii. There are various on-going humanitarian crisis in Nigeria such as such the pastoralist and farmers clashes in the middle belt and in agrarian communities, violent campaigns of secessionist in the south east, and the health crisis in oil producing communities in the south-south region
- iii. In response to the Humanitarian crisis in the North East, a North East Health Sector Humanitarian Crisis Response Strategic Plan (NEHSHRSP) was developed and subsequently domesticated to state specific operational plans for the six (6) North East states to address the health dilapidation and reposition the health system in the North East.
- iv. An emergency within an emergency was declared in Borno state warranting the development of a Health and Nutrition Emergency Response in Borno State which has been implemented over a period of one (1) year, in two (2) phases of six (6) months each with an expenditure of N4.3 billion and N380,000,000 respectively.
- v. Through this project, access to quality health care has increased in Borno State.
- vi. Finalization of the development of the North East Health system strengthening comprehensive plan and 2018 operational plan.
- vii. Benue State was supported with medicines and health related supplies during the flooding incident in the state.
- viii. A total of 2,000 Nigerian migrants from Libya have been provided with comprehensive health care and psychosocial support during repatriation exercise funded by the Federal Government.
- ix. The FMOH has developed and submitted a comprehensive plan for the provision of comprehensive health care and psychosocial support to an expected 91,000 Nigerian returnees from Cameroun.

Council is further invited to approve

- i. The Development of a National Framework for the Health Sector Response to Humanitarian Crisis in Nigeria.

- ii. The institutionalization of a coordination office for health sector response to humanitarian crisis in all State Ministries of Health and
- iii. The strengthening of the extant National coordination office on health sector response to humanitarian crisis.

HONOURABLE MINISTER OF HEALTH

JUNE, 2018.