



NATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE (NHC) 2006

**BACKGROUND AND UPDATE – By
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NHC2006: What we've done

- March 2003: Change Agent Programme (CAP) [now HERFON], led by current HMoH, produced a document named PUTTING HEALTH HIGH ON THE POLITICAL AGENDA. This document was disseminated and discussed with all the registered political parties.
- Its outcome is that since 2003, Nigeria had embarked on another journey towards better health, through a robust Health Sector Reform regime aimed at strengthening the National Health System; culminating in the current National Health Bill (NHB) awaiting final passage by the National Assembly
- As 2007 elections approach: new leadership is expected, and engagement with the political circle and policy makers is extremely necessary for the sustainance of current reforms through the next democratic regimes; especially in the various States of the Federation, using Change Agents and other stakeholders



NHC2006: But....

- The health status of Nigerians remains poor, while most of the current reforms are occurring at the federal level, although the States and LGAs needed to be involved to produce desired results. The consequence is that Nigeria's health indicators still remain deplorable
- Persistent poor health reduces labour output and productivity and keeps Nigerians in persistent poverty
- Persistent poverty impedes our development by keeping Nigerians in ill-health due to the lack of resources to access effective health care, which in turn perpetuates poverty, creating a vicious circle



NHC2006: Here we are...

- NHC idea has been generated, discussed and accepted in interactions between the Senate Committee on Health, FMoH, HERFON, Development Partners and Change Agents as a 'doable' approach towards 'recovering the years that the locust had eaten' in our health system; as epitomized by the current reforms in the health sector led by President Olusegun Obasanjo and the HMoH Professor Eyitayo Lambo
- The setting up of the National Steering Committee for the National Health Conference 2006 is one most essential activity that will make this only possible, and its inauguration is a virtual signature to that



NHC2006: What has been done

- Preliminary discussions as already mentioned
- Drawing up of a draft TOR, activity-scope and budget
- Setting up of the National Steering Committee (NSC)
- Call for consultants - through expression of interests - has been sent to all Change Agents and placed on the HERFON website and in the following e-forums [af-aids, afro-nets, icasa2005 Forum, JAAIDS eforum, sea-aids] in order to provide a necessary manpower database for the conference
- Responses to the call for consultants have been encouraging, entries are daily being received



NHC2006: Goal

- To develop a Health Agenda for Nigeria in the twenty-first (21st) Century and disseminate this Agenda to Stakeholders at all levels of Government, Development Partners and NGOs, nationally and internationally



NHC2006: Objectives (1)

- To create a forum for interactions among key stakeholders [The Presidency, National Assembly, State Governments, local governments, FMoH and line Ministries, SMOHs, Policy makers, Development Partners, Professional organizations, Parastatals and institutions, Health care financers, health care providers, Facility owners, Community leaders, Traditional healers, pharmaceutical manufacturers/suppliers, clients/patients, etc.] in order to increase their understanding of issues and challenges of the Nigerian health sector and participation in various plans to address them.



NHC2006: Objectives (2)

- 2. To Review the current situation of the Nigerian Health Sector in relation to existing health policies
- 3. To review and propagate the achievements of the ongoing Health Sector Reform Programme [HSRP]
- 4. To develop locally appropriate, acceptable and affordable approaches for the consolidation of the achievements of the ongoing reforms
- 5. To develop the focus and agenda for Nigeria Health Sector for 2007 and beyond
- 6. To develop the plans for disseminating the agreed Agenda to political actors, policy makers, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders at all levels



NHC2006: Suggested areas of activities

- General Coordination
- Program/Secretariat
- Technical - Topics, Papers, Speeches etc.
- Collaborations/Funding
- Printings/Meeting materials
- Media management
- Venue/Accommodation
- Invitation/Communication
- Protocols
- Transportation and security



NHC2006: What products we expect [Output]

- A Comprehensive report of the activities, presentations, sessions and decisions of the forum.
- A summarized report of the key decisions and agreed activities by the forum – that is The Agreed Agenda.
- A programmatic work plan for the implementation of the decisions arrived at during the conference
- The establishment of a monitoring group with a secretariat that would follow-up on relevant stakeholders to ensure that the proposed work plan is adopted/adapted and implemented at the various levels of governance in the country
- An Advocacy document in a very simple and summarized format that could be used as a marketing document to various stakeholders.



NHC2006: Suggested Roles for the National Steering Committee

- To consider the TOR, budget and time-frame of 30-31 October 2006 for the conference
- To provide the strong political leverage and recruit more partners as needed, for the successful organisation of the NHC and marketing of its outcome
- To mobilise the resources needed for the NHC and its zonal equivalents
- To market the outcomes of the NHC for sustainable health systems reform and improvement in health status of Nigerians
- To consider other measures needed to organise the NHC and fully realise its objectives



NHC2006: Excepted Outcomes

- Effective national health systems
- Better and appropriate health services and health-seeking behaviours within the population
- Improved health indices for the population
- Better health outcomes
- Enhanced human development
- Increased general life expectancy



NHC2006: Together, we shall
deliver....

- Better Health for All
Nigerians

- *Thank you!*