**PCN-LaunchDSI PROJECT**

**REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

**Venue:** AES Luxury Apartments, Daki Biu, Opposite Citec Estate, Jabi-Bypass, Abuja

**Date**: June 14, 2017

**Attendance:** (Attached)

1. **Preamble**

The meeting is among the on-going activities of phase I of PCN-LaunchDSI project. It was a consultative meeting between the PCN-LaunchDSI team and representatives of funding/implementing partners organized to harvest the views, ideas and experiences on the ways and manners by which the healthcare service delivery can be improved in the patent medicines shops, and also seek the readiness of the partners to collaborate with the PCN by providing supports to undertake phases two and three of the research project.

The meeting was attended by the representatives of MSH, WHO, SFH, CHAI, Howard University (HUGIN), Yakubu Gowon Foundation, Institute of Human Virology Nigeria, FHI 360, ARFH

1. **Commencement**

The meeting commenced with an opening prayer at 10:00 am, adoption of the agenda for the meeting followed by formal introduction by all the participants. The meeting was chaired by the Registrar PCN.

1. **Welcome Remarks**

The Registrar PCN, who was also the chairman of the occasion welcomed the participants to the meeting and thanks them for honoring the invitation.

The welcome address highlighted on:

* The statutory responsibilities of PCN
* Places where PCN is carrying out its regulatory activities
* Brief background history of PPMVL operations in Nigeria
* Rationales of the interventions by funding and implementing partners on community pharmacy practice and PPMV operations
* The PCN-MSH collaboration: the objectives and the phases of the new project.
* The background objectives of the meeting with funding and implementing partners.

He conclude by emphasizing on the for a restructured PPMV operation into an “Improved Patent Medicine Shop”

1. **Presentations**
2. **Title:** PCN Mission on improving Access to Quality Medicines in Nigeria.

**Presenter:** Registrar, PCN, N.A.E Mohammed

The presentation focused on:

* Background profile of Nigeria
* Background profile of the PCN
* Efforts made by PCN to improve access to quality assured medicines
* Community Pharmacies
* Patent Medicines Shops
* Satellite Pharmacy Concept
* Sanitized Medicines Distribution System
* The Challenges facing the efforts to improve access to quality assured medicines
* Areas of support from/Collaboration with Partners
* Conclusion

1. **Title:** Overview of PCN-MSH Collaboration: the journey so far.

**Presenter:** Pharm Maria Ochigbo

In her presentation, she highlighted:

* Situation analysis on access to medicines in low- and medium-income countries
* Overview of MSH lead Drug Seller Initiatives (DSI) funded by BMGF
* The major programs under the DSI project
* The MSH ADDO Concept
* Objectives of the DSI
* The Tanzania experience
* Success stories
* Overview of LaunchDSI
* Nigeria: Journey so far
* Conclusion

**Tea-Break**

Presentations continued

**iii. Topic:** Report of the Situation Assessment of the Operation of the Patent Medicines Vendors

**Presenter:** Pharm. Babashehu Ahmed

The outline of the presentation include:

* Background information
  + Profile of Nigeria
  + History of Patent and Proprietary Medicines Vendors (PPMVs) in Nigeria
  + The Place of the PPMVs in the Healthcare Delivery System
* Regulatory Mechanisms
  + Registration and Licensing
  + Orientation Programme and Continuing Education Programme
  + Monitoring and Inspection
  + Activities of PPMV Inspection Committees
  + The PCN PPMVL-Sign Post
* Records of Licensure/Enforcement Activities
* New Strategies to Re-Positioned PPMV Operations in Nigeria
  + New Partnership for Projects Initiatives
  + Review of Approved Patent Medicines List
  + Partnership/Collaboration with Development/Implementing Partners, NGOs and other Agencies
  + Strengthening Regulation Of PPMV Operations

**iv. Topic:** Highlights of the Activities of the 3-Phased Project for Improved Patent Medicines Vendors’ Operation (LaunchDSI Project).

**Presenter:** Pharm. T.O Ilupeju

The highlights of the presentation include:

* The activities under phase I, II and III of the PCN-LaunchDSI project.

**v. Topic:** Discussion on Identified Gaps and Emerging Opportunities in the Operation of the PMVs in Nigeria.

**Presented by:** Pharm. Viona Ologe

The highlights include of the presentation include:

* Identified gaps
* Emerging opportunities

**5. Comments/Questions and Answers**

At the end of the presentations some questions and comments were raised and responded by the Registrar, Pharm Babashehu Ibrahim Ahmed and Pharm T.O Ilupeju.

The comments made by the participants:

1. The PCN should also consider improving access to quality medicines in other practice areas. Example the concept of “Pharmacists Initiated Medicines” which is currently operating in the UK, provision of primary healthcare services at community pharmacies.
2. The activities under each phase of the project should be clear, more detailed and structured. This is to enable the funding and implementing partners to understand the relevant area of intervention.
3. Community pharmacies should be encourage to operate in the rural communities
4. The PCN should include the following in its efforts to improve access to quality medicines:
   1. Strategic plans (Short, medium and long term).
   2. Plans for sustainability
   3. Improvement in enforcement activities.

The questions asked by the participants

1. Why the gap between registered and licensed pharmacists/PPMVs is too wide (than more than 50%)
2. What are the sources of some of the data and statistics shown in the presentations, is it from a previous study?
3. Is Amoxicillin dispersible table officially listed in the current Essential Medicines List?
4. Are there plans for expanding the operation of PPMVs?
5. How will the new project (PCN-LaunchDSI) be made known to the wider stakeholders and the public?
6. What is the timeline of the whole project?

**Response by the Registrar, PCN**

The Registrar, PCN thanks the participants for their comments and questions. He responded that:

The reason for the wide gap between registered and licensed pharmacists/PMVs is because:

* Many registered pharmacists and PMVs have died without reporting to PCN, and this number is still captured in the statistics of registered pharmacists/PMVs in Nigeria.
* Most of the registered pharmacists in hospital, academia, and medical representatives do not always renew their practicing license.
* Many registered pharmacists are now practicing abroad, only few of them renew their annual license with PCN.

On sources of some data presented, the statistics shown in the presentations were from the PCN’s database of pharmacists/PMVs, while others were from previous studies and were properly cited in the slides presented.

Regarding expanding the operations of PMVs, the Registrar informed the participants that recently, he attended a meeting hosted by WHO in USA on expanding the scope of operations of pharmacies and PMS. The PCN is now waiting for the WHO recommendations from that meting to work on. Among the proposed recommendations include splitting the PMVs in to two cadres: Those with medical/health-related backgrounds and those without. PCN has recently expanded the APML to include Amoxicillin DT, Zinc+Low Osmolar ORS, Chlorhexidine and ACTs. The included drugs were derived from the current Nigeria’s EDL.

Concerning the project timeline and publicity, several activities have been lined up under different phases of the project to sensitize specific categories of and the wider group of stakeholders. Another wider public sensitization will be carried out while scaling up the project to other states after successful pilot implementation in each of the six geopolitical zone.

**6. Enlistment of commitment by the representatives of funding/implementing partners.**

The representatives of the funding/implementing partners commended the PCN and MSH for taking a giant stride in improving access to quality medicines in hard reached areas in Nigeria.

They unanimously accept the new concept and assured PCN of their support and buy-in.

The representative of SFH added that, currently they have a proposed project at hand to be funded by BMGF that can fit in the second phase of the project. Only that the project is meant to be implemented in Kaduna and Lagos States.

The representative of Institute of Human Virology (IHV) further expressed his happiness and willingness of IHV to collaborate with PCN in this direction. He added that his institute has a project on access to medicines in hard reached areas of Nigeria, thus, may require the services of the “improved patent medicines shops”

Pharm I.B Ahmed thanks all the participants for enlisting their commitment and giving supports towards implementing the project. It was however added that, a meeting was held in Lagos between PCN and SFH in which the issues of supporting phase II and III of the project was extensively discussed. And that was what lead to selecting Kaduna and Lagos states in the pilot field survey for the situation analysis of the PPMV operations in Nigeria.

At the end, the participants suggested that such kind of consultative meeting should be organized annually to streamline the activities and identified areas of intervention.

**7. Closing Remarks**

Pharm I.B Ahmed thanks all the participants for honoring the invitation, contributions and enlisting of their commitment to support the project. He however, said the doors of PCN are always open for collaboration from all funding/implementing partners.

**8. Closing prayer**

The meeting ended at 04:30 pm with a closing prayer (second stanza of the National anthem) by all the participants.

**9. Lunch**



