

**PRESS RELEASE:**

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT/PARTNERS PLAN TO ENGAGE 200,000 VILLAGE HEALTH WORKERS ON PHC REVITALISATION**

The Federal Government and Development Partners are concluding plans to scale up voluntary/village Health workers to create demand for immunization, antenatal care and other PHC services. This is in line with the Federal Government agenda on Primary Health Care Revitalization.

Currently, Nigeria has about 17,000 of such voluntary Community Mobilizers, working to mobilize people and create awareness for active participation on immunization in rural parts of at least 9 (nine) high risk Polio States.

The Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Faisal Shuaib disclosed this today while receiving the Country Representative of UNICEF, Dr. Mohammad Malik Fall who paid him a courtesy visit in his office in Abuja.

Dr. Faisal emphasized that the Federal Government Primary Health Care Revitalization was a top priority programme that the Health Minister, Professor Isaac Adewole was very keen and passionate about, stressing the need for all partners to key into the programme for its successful implementation.

He disclosed that the plan which was initially to deploy 20 voluntary village health workers to each political ward of 9 states, would now be nationwide; bringing the total number of the voluntary village health workers to about two hundred when fully established.

The Executive Director also disclosed that 20,000 out of Nigerian Graduates under N-power Health, being engaged in the Federal Government graduate scheme would be made available to assist primary health care in quality data generation, collation and transmission from grassroots.

The Agency, he stressed, was working closely with State Primary Healthcare Boards across the country to improve Primary Healthcare service delivery.

According to him, the Agency had also concluded plan with the Security Agencies to ensure that children in all the areas liberated by Nigerian Armed Forces in the North-East are fully nutritionally rehabilitated and immunized against Polio and other vaccine preventable diseases.

Dr. Faisal reiterated his avowed commitment to zero tolerance to corruption, transparency and accountability in line with the leadership by example of the President and the Honourable Minister of Health.

In his speech, the UNICEF Country Representative, Dr. Muhammad Malik Fall emphasized the critical leadership position of Nigeria in Africa and the World at large.

Dr. Fall noted with grave concern, the enormous health challenges arising from the crisis in the North-East and the imperative of UNICEF partnership with NPHCDA as Nigeria Health Institution with the most effective structures to deliver health services.

The two Organizations agreed to consolidate on their collaboration to end Polio transmission, strengthen routine immunization, nutritional services and effective implementation of Primary healthcare revitalization agenda of President Muhammad Buhari's Administration.

END.

SIGNED

Saadu Salahu

Head, PRU.