



**NIGERIA
HEALTH
WATCH**

Informed commentary, intelligence and insights on the Nigerian health sector



HEALTH SECURITY POLICY DIALOGUE:

DECENTRALISING HEALTH SECURITY; LESSONS FROM COVID-19

Thursday, 14th July 2022



AGENDA

TIME	ITEM	
10:00am – 10:30am	Tea Break and Networking	All Attendees
10:30am – 10:35am	National Anthem	All Attendees
10:35am – 10:40am	Welcome Address	Vivianne Ihekweazu, Managing Director, Nigeria Health Watch
10:40am – 10:50 am	Goodwill Messages	
10:50am – 11:00am	Keynote Presentation: Decentralising Health Security, Lessons from COVID-19	Dr. Ifedayo Adetifa, Director General, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
11:00am – 11:10am	Speech: How can we strengthen the de-centralised health system in Nigeria in light of COVID-19?	Peter Hawkins, Country Representative, UNICEF
11:10am – 11:20am	Presentation and context setting for Panel Discussion One	Dr Ifeanyi Nsofor, Senior New Voices Fellow, Aspen Institute, Washington DC.
11:20am – 12:10pm	Panel One: RESPONSE STRUCTURES TO EPIDEMICS - Lessons learnt from the performance of epidemic preparedness and response structures deployed at the national level in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and learnings for sub-national structures	<p>Peter Hawkins, Country Representative, UNICEF</p> <p>Dr Festus Soyinka, Director, Public Health, Ogun State Ministry of Health, Ogun State</p> <p>Dr. Olaolu Aderinola, Head, Response Division, Department of Health Emergency, Preparedness and Response, NCDC</p> <p>Dr Alex Okoh, Director, Public Health, FMOH</p> <p>Dr Yahaya Disu, Head of Communications, NCDC</p>

AGENDA

12:10pm – 12:25pm	Q&A	All Panelists
12:25pm – 12:30pm	Presentation and context setting for Panel Discussion Two	Dr Kemisola Agbaoye, Director of Programmes, Nigeria Health Watch
12:30pm – 01:20pm	Panel Two: THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR - How can the capacity of the private sector be leveraged to strengthen health security structures at the national and sub-national level and how capacities built during the pandemic can strengthen health systems.	<p>Niniola Williams, Managing Director DRASA Health Trust</p> <p>Dr. Anne Adah-Ogoh, Head of Policy, Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria</p> <p>Mr Aliu Israel, National Laboratory Manager, Clina Lancet Laboratories</p> <p>Dr Omokhudu Idogho, Managing Director, Society for Family Health</p> <p>Dr Emmanuel Agogo, Country Director, Resolve to Save Lives</p>
01:20pm – 01:35pm	Q&A	All Panelists
01:35pm – 01:40pm	Closing Remarks	Vivianne Ihekweazu, Managing Director, Nigeria Health Watch



SPEAKER PROFILES

Dr. Ifedayo Adetifa

Dr. Ifedayo Adetifa is the Director General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

Dr. Adetifa is a paediatrician and epidemiologist whose work has covered areas of paediatric HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and vaccine-preventable diseases epidemiology.

He has been involved in the COVID-19 response through his activities as a member of the Kenya SARS-COV-2 Serology Consortium and is a member of the World Health Organization, African Region (WHO-AFRO) Regional Immunisation Technical Advisory Group.

He is an Associate Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and Clinical Epidemiologist at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) - Wellcome Trust Research Programme (KWTRP) and prior, a Clinical Epidemiologist at the Medical Research Council Unit, The Gambia.



Peter Hawkins

Peter Hawkins is the UNICEF Representative in Nigeria.

Prior to working with UNICEF, Mr. Hawkins worked with the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) as Head of Profession for Programme Management, London; Team Leader for Human Development, Ethiopia; Deputy Head and Group Head for Sub-national Governance, Conflict Reduction and Democracy, Accountability and Voice, Pakistan; Deputy Head for Provincial Reconstruction Team, Afghanistan, and Team Leader for Human Development, Nigeria.

Peter Hawkins holds an advanced degree in Law from the School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, in the field of International Governance and Human Rights; and a Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) in African Language (Amharic) and Law (UK and International Law), from SOAS, University of London.



Dr. Morenike Alex-Okoh

Dr. Morenike Alex-Okoh is the Director of Public Health, Federal Ministry of Health

Dr Alex-Okoh is the Pillar Lead for the Point of Entry Pillar/Technical Working Group of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 in Nigeria. She was the Operational Team Lead for the Point of Entry Response during the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in 2014 and is leading the team in the ongoing COVID-19 Point of Entry Response.

Dr Alex-Okoh obtained a Bachelor's degree in Medicine & Surgery from University of Benin and a Master's in Public Health from the University of Lagos. She is a Fellow of the National Post-graduate Medical College of Nigeria.



Dr. Omokhodu Idogho

Dr Omokhodu Idogho is Managing Director, Society for Family Health (SFH).

Before his appointment as MD, Dr Idogho was the Head of SFH's Innovation Hub. He also served as the Programme Director for DFID's Enhancing Nigeria's Response to HIV & AIDS Programme, one of the largest single country HIV programmes in the world.

Before joining SFH, Dr Idogho worked with ActionAid International in South Africa as the Global HIV & AIDS Programme Coordinator overseeing ActionAid's work in 22 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He also worked as a Policy Advisor with ActionAid Alliance in Belgium focused on shaping policy making in European Union institutions.

Dr Idogho trained as a doctor at the University of Benin and has postgraduate qualifications in public policy and public health.



Dr. Anne Adah-Ogoh

Dr Anne Adah-Ogoh, Head of Policy, Private Sector Health Alliance in Nigeria.

Dr Anne Adah-Ogoh is a qualified public health physician with vast program management experience and holds a Masters' degree from the University of Western Cape. She is a member of the global project management institute, with project management certification from APMG Buckinghamshire and a Risk manager.

Dr Adah-Ogoh attended the prestigious University of Oxford with certification in Cost Benefit Analysis and leadership and management from the university of Washington. She is a highly accomplished solutions-oriented Manager with over 20 years diverse experience in project development and implementation, general research methods, and Business Consulting.



Dr. Emmanuel Agogo

Dr. Emmanuel Agogo is the Nigeria country representative at Resolve to Save Lives, an initiative of global public health organization Vital Strategies, where he oversees efforts to prevent epidemics and improve cardiovascular health.

With over 20 years' experience in public health, he previously served in leadership roles at the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, where he was deputy director and senior technical advisor, and Nigeria's National Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS, where he was assistant director. Dr. Agogo is a subject matter expert on WHO Joint External Evaluation missions and has practiced primary care and family medicine in Nigeria and the United Kingdom.



Dr. Festus Olukayode Soyinka

Dr Festus Olukayode Soyinka is the Director of Public Health, Ogun State Ministry of Health and the Incident Manager for COVID 19, in Ogun State.

Dr Soyinka has worked at the Ogun State Hospitals Management board as Chief Medical Officer. He has headed General Hospital, Isara, General Hospital, Ikenne and Hansens Disease Center, Iberekodo. He has also served as the State Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control Officer.

Dr Soyinka graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Ibadan where he had his MBBS degree and later acquired a Master's degree in Public Health from Olabisi Onabanjo University.



Dr. Olaolu Aderinola

Dr Olaolu Aderinola is the Head, Response Division, Department of Health Emergency, Preparedness and Response, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control.

Dr Aderinola has worked in a variety of capacities, including, the Incident Manager for the 2017/2018 meningitis outbreak season. Before the COVID-19 outbreak, he led Nigeria's Coronavirus Preparedness Group at the NCDC. He was the National Incident Manager for the COVID-19 response at the NCDC from the outbreak's confirmation in July 2020 to April 2021. He continues to support the national response to COVID-19.

Dr Aderinola is a fellow of Public Health Emergency Management programme of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia. He is also a WHO trainer on Public Health Emergency Operations Centre.



Aliu, Israel

Aliu Israel is the National Laboratory manager for Clina-Lancet Laboratories, a member of Cerba Lancet Africa, Nigeria.

He is a HealthCare and Quality management system Consultant with over 12 years of experience in healthcare programs, Management, Operations, Public Health, and research.

Aliu Israel has served as Quality Mentor to Global Fund projects, Management Science for Health, National Agency for the control of AIDS and Nigeria Centre for Disease Control projects.

He has consulted for the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, advocacy for Society for family Health (SFH), Federal Ministry of Health, GLG projects and programs.

Israel Aliu has a Bachelors degree in medical laboratory science and a Masters degree in Public Health.



Dr. Kemisola Agbaoye

Dr Kemisola Agbaoye is the Director of Programmes at Nigeria Health Watch, a health communications and advocacy organisation that uses informed commentary and insights to advocate for better health and access to quality health care for Nigerians.

At Nigeria Health Watch, Kemisola oversees all program activities, and leads implementation of the Prevent Epidemics project focused on advocacy for sustained funding for epidemic preparedness and response.

Over the last 5 years, she has worked extensively to support the Nigerian government to strengthen health security at regional, national, and subnational levels. She has ongoing research interests in the use of evidence to influence health policy and regularly contributes to the Nigeria Health Watch editorial on this.



Dr. Ifeanyi M. Nsofor

Dr. Ifeanyi Nsofor is a public health physician and a leading voice in global health equity, health security, universal health coverage and health research.

Dr. Nsofor is the Senior Vice President for Africa at Human Health Education and Research Foundation. He is also the Health Technical Expert and Strategy Consultant to Upswell.

He has led more than 30 research projects across Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Ghana and Nigeria, and was a co-lead of evaluation of the African Union intervention for Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Dr Nsofor is also among the top 100 most influential Africans of 2020 by NewAfrican magazine and top 100 healthcare professionals globally in 2020 by Onalytica. He is a two-time TEDx Speaker.



Niniola Williams

Niniola Williams is the Managing Director of Dr. Ameyo Stella Adadevoh Health Trust (DRASA).

Prior to leading DRASA, Niniola Williams worked with Management Sciences for Health (MSH), a global health organization operating in over 50 countries. Before MSH, she worked with a brand agency while also serving on the core team of Keiyo Soy, a Kenyan nonprofit focused on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects as well as medical outreach programs.

Niniola Williams holds a BA in cognitive science/neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania. She is certified in Social Sector Management, Infection Prevention and Control, and Antimicrobial Resistance. She is a member of the Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD), a two-time TEDx speaker, and an Acumen Fellow.



Dr. Yahya Disu

Dr Yahya Oyewoga Disu is the Head of Communications at the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control.

Dr Disu provides risk communications leadership to improve epidemic preparedness and response for disease outbreaks at the national and subnational levels.

Prior to his current role at the NCDC, Dr Disu worked with the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board and Spanish Red Cross. He currently serves as the Public Relations Officer of the Society for Public Health Professionals of Nigeria.

Dr Disu trained as an epidemiologist and public health physician and has led several short-term consultancy engagements with the DFID, African Union and others. He led the Ebola Outbreak Response both in Nigeria and Liberia in 2014 to 2015.



INTRODUCTION



Nigeria Health Watch held a hybrid policy dialogue themed, ***'Decentralising Health Security, Lessons from COVID-19'*** to discuss: Nigeria's response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the national level and learnings from this response for sub-national health security; how best to leverage on private sector capacity to strengthen health security structures at national and sub-national levels; and how capacities built during the pandemic can be sustained to strengthen the nation's health systems.

Vivianne Ihekweazu, Managing Director, Nigeria Health Watch, said health security is one of many issues that have risen to the top of the list of global discussions and priorities. She highlighted the fact that COVID-19 is far from over and will continue to spark conversations around the world, particularly regarding preparedness efforts, demonstrating the importance of strengthening global collaboration structures. This is important because, collectively, none of us are safe until every country is able to invest in their own individual health security, she stated.





GOODWILL MESSAGES



Dr. Patrick Nguku, Country Director of the Africa Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET), said that health security cannot be achieved unless Universal Health Coverage and a strong primary health care system are prioritised.



Ndili Njide, Country Director, PharmAccess Foundation, stated that there should be constant proactiveness in terms of putting policies in place to combat pandemics. She said the private sector has enormous capacity and is willing to help, but they need a coordinated mechanism to deploy their resources.



Dr. Ngozi Azodoh, Director, Department of Health Research and Statistics, Federal Ministry of Health, discussed the need to strengthen local institutions to respond to local issues, whether they are a priority for the international community or not. She emphasised the need to take decisive action to address migration in the health sector, to better strengthen health security.



Fritz Fonkeng, Technical Officer at the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), said COVID-19 brought diagnosis to the forefront. He emphasised the importance of decentralisation and strengthening aid to subnational systems.



Dr. Emmanuel Agogo, Country Director, Resolve to Save Lives, added that the discussion should not end with ideas alone, but with concrete support, ideas, and next steps that the Federal Ministry of Health and partners can implement.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



► **Peter Hawkins** commended Nigeria's multi sectoral pandemic response as one of the best responses worldwide. He highlighted human resource, bottom-up accountability in governance, disease surveillance, intelligent primary health care systems and adequate funding as critical to strengthening Nigeria's health security.



► **Dr Ifedayo Adetifa** said decentralising health security begins with states recognising that they have the authority and responsibility to build the systems necessary to respond to health emergencies to improve overall public health. He stated that it is critical that all the lessons learned from the pandemic response and investments made be carried forward, consolidated, and made accessible to ensure decentralisation of these resources as part of decentralising national health security.

PANEL SESSIONS

Panel 1

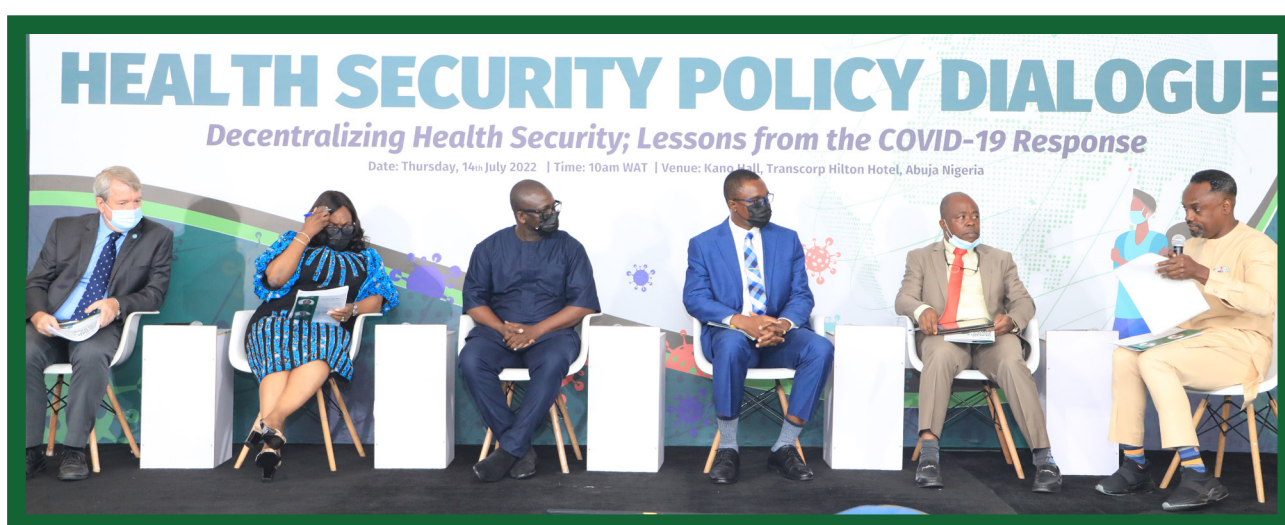
The Performance of Epidemic Preparedness Structures Deployed at National Level



MODERATOR

Dr Ifeanyi Nsofor

Senior Fellow, Aspen New Voices



First panel discussion with experts in health system strengthening from the private and public sectors.



Dr Yahaya Disu shared insights on the NCDC's #TakeResponsibility media campaign which encouraged every citizen to play their part in limiting the spread of COVID-19 by taking individual and collective responsibility. This was a critical lesson that was repeated at the subnational level. He revealed that the NCDC needed a campaign that would resonate with everyone and distil expectations at all levels, so the agency trained advocates and used local languages to disseminate the messages.



Dr Alex Okoh listed Nigeria's four designated points of entry: three international airports, and one seaport. She discussed the measures deployed at the points of entry in response to the pandemic such as, the development of a public health contingency plan, a national health emergency contingency plan, national entry and exit screening measures, and others. These measures, she noted, provided the first line of defense within the surveillance architecture of the country and effectively linked the points of entry to other parts of the National Health Surveillance System.

PANEL SESSIONS



Dr Festus Soyinka said Ogun State's response was effective because of subnational participation and collaboration. He revealed that when Nigeria's COVID-19 index case was reported in Ogun State, to contain the spread, there was a collaborative effort with Lagos State and other neighbouring states on several aspects of the response, including activating an incident management system and forming a multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary Emergency Operation Centre (EOC).



Peter Hawkins revealed that the COVID-19 Basket Fund launched by the United Nations was critical to the COVID-19 response. It was timely and further placed responsibility on states to be held accountable for integrated immunization services. He said that states must ensure that funds allocated for immunization and other services are used appropriately.



PANEL SESSIONS

Learnings for Sub-national Structures

MODERATOR

Dr Ifeanyi Nsofor commenting on the success of Nigeria's COVID-19 response at a national level urged that the gains be replicated at the sub-national level to protect all Nigerians. He added that Nigerians must understand that the health of all is dependent on all levels of governance therefore they must begin to ask the right questions and hold their government accountable for their health outcomes.



Dr. Olaolu Aderinola said that any public health event requires leadership, and this was provided by the multisectoral collaboration between the Presidential Task Force and the NCDC. He said that to align roles and responsibilities that will be clearly delineated there is a need to review the nation's public health strategy response plan.



Peter Hawkins recommended that government should ensure routine immunization is integrated and each state must be held accountable for integrated services and immunization programmes. He said that while the cold chain system has been reinforced, and immunization rates are increasing, there is a need to demonstrate that financing has also improved.



Dr. Festus Soyinka highlighted the challenges in Ogun State's response: insufficient quarantine facilities at the border, little support from the government and inadequate funding. But with partner support, the state was able to construct an 80-bed isolation facility in Ota, as well as a General Hospital to house a 10-bed facility. He recommended that the federal government support states during pandemics instead of the excessive reliance on partners.



PANEL SESSIONS



Dr Alex Okoh recommended taking advantage of the multi stakeholder ecosystem, training them to recognize the signs and symptoms of infectious diseases and set up specific protocols to effectively manage different points of porous borders. She added that it is critical to educate communities on the importance of reporting through Designated Standard Maintenance Organisations (DSMOs) and the state health system and ensure that personnel training happens at subnational level.



Dr Olaolu Aderinola reiterated the lessons learnt that can be replicated at subnational level: Ensuring that everyone is on board for resource optimization, ensuring that audience needs are taken into account when planning messaging, using data-driven science-based messaging and communication and training journalists on how to translate understandable technical information into public narratives.

**THE HEALTH OF NIGERIANS
IS DEPENDENT ON ALL
LEVELS OF GOVERNANCE.**

**THEREFORE NIGERIANS
MUST BEGIN TO ASK THE
RIGHT QUESTIONS.**



PANEL SESSION

Panel 2

Harnessing Private Sector Investments to Strengthen Health Security Structures at Sub-national Level

MODERATOR

Dr Kemisola Agbaoye

Director of Programmes,
Nigeria Health Watch



Second panel discussion with experts in health system strengthening from the private and public sectors.

MODERATOR

Dr Kemisola Agbaoye in her opening statement, reflected on the fact that the Nigerian market is heavily skewed towards the informal sector, which accounts for approximately 65% of Nigeria's economic output. She stated that the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing restrictions on movements and lock downs affected the private sector in an unprecedented way. This was one of the factors that prompted the private sector's response to the pandemic which had a significant impact, even at the subnational level, she mentioned.



Dr Emmanuel Agogo discussed the Rapid Response Fund established by Resolve to Save Lives, in collaboration with the NCDC and with fiscal management by the AFENET, which provided funding to address the gaps and enabling factors that allow for preparedness and response when there is an outbreak. He recommended putting in place other funding mechanisms at the national level, such as increasing budgetary allocation to the NCDC, and looking at specific budget lines. He reiterated the need to build a stronger surveillance system as we improve our systems and rethink how initiatives are built.

Nigeria has four designated points of entry and according to the World Health Organization, each designated point of entry must have a public health emergency contingency plan. Niniola Williams, Managing Director, DRASA Health Trust, discussed how DRASA Health Trust collaborated with ProHealth to develop the first contingency plan a few months before the first COVID-19 case in 2020. These plans, she said, aided in the development of coordination, communication, reporting, and response mechanisms, as well as the capacity of the human resources at these points of entry.



PANEL SESSION



Aliu Isreal recommended that public-private partnership synergies be strengthened to sustain the gains made during the pandemic and decisions must be based on a factual, data-driven approach. He added that training and advocacy are also necessary to consolidate and sustain the gains.



Dr. Anne Adah-Ogoh highlighted the gap between public and private funding, stating that this sparked the idea of collaborating with the Primary Health Care Development Agency on their projects. She discussed how the Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria (PSHAN) is working to establish one primary health care facility in each of Nigeria's 774 local governments in Nigeria. Their Adopt-A-Health Facility Program (ADHFP) project aims to address both the supply and demand sides holistically. She recommended focusing on community empowerment as it is essential for gaining access to healthcare.



Dr. Omokhodu Idogho said the Society for Family Health (SFH) was privileged to work across the various structures put in place for the COVID-19 response, from the Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) to the various coordinating units. He discussed how building on comparative competence, and the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) implementation at the state level worked well but recommended that more work needs to be done on the fundamental concept of private-public partnership. For him, risk communication, resource mobilization, data and academia are significant advantages and critical in considering what needs to be done in the future.

Public-private partnership synergies should be strengthened to sustain the gains made during the pandemic.

How Capacities Built During the COVID-19 Pandemic can Strengthen Health Systems

Aliu Israel agreed that capacity has been built on the private laboratory sector over the course of the COVID-19 response, such as: technical expertise, infrastructure development, an increase in technology and platform optimization, improvement on the quality of laboratory results, etc. He recommended that process improvement, and accreditations of regulatory agencies be required to sustain the capacity that has been built over time.



Dr. Anne Adah-Ogoh opined that interconnectivity between the national and subnational levels has not been well established. She recommended that states and local governments participate in the decision-making process. She added that, for partnerships to work, political will, commitment of resources and trust at all levels are critical.

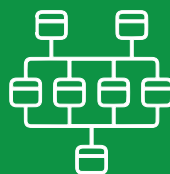


Dr. Omokhodu Idogho said the concept of how government or the public sector purchases services from the private sector requires more attention as it is not well developed. This, he added, reflect the issues in resource absorption.



Key insights

1. Strong subnational systems that are interconnected are the foundation for an effective national architecture for health emergency preparedness and response. It is critical that the coordination structures at the subnational level be just as strong as those at the national level in order to strengthen health security.



2. Strengthening national and subnational health security requires a proactive response rather than a reactive one.



3. Communication, in all forms, must be prioritized because it is critical in strengthening health security.



4. Collaboration with academic and research institutions is required to strengthen health security.



5. Adequate funding must be made available to sustain gains made during the pandemic response and to implement the lessons learned at sub national level.

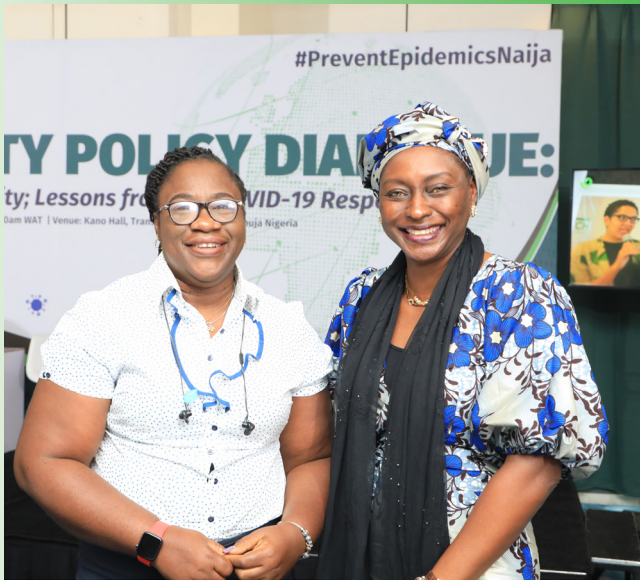


6. Every state is unique and in every state in Nigeria lies an opportunity. Private sector players should recognize the opportunities that exist within each state.



PHOTO GALLERY







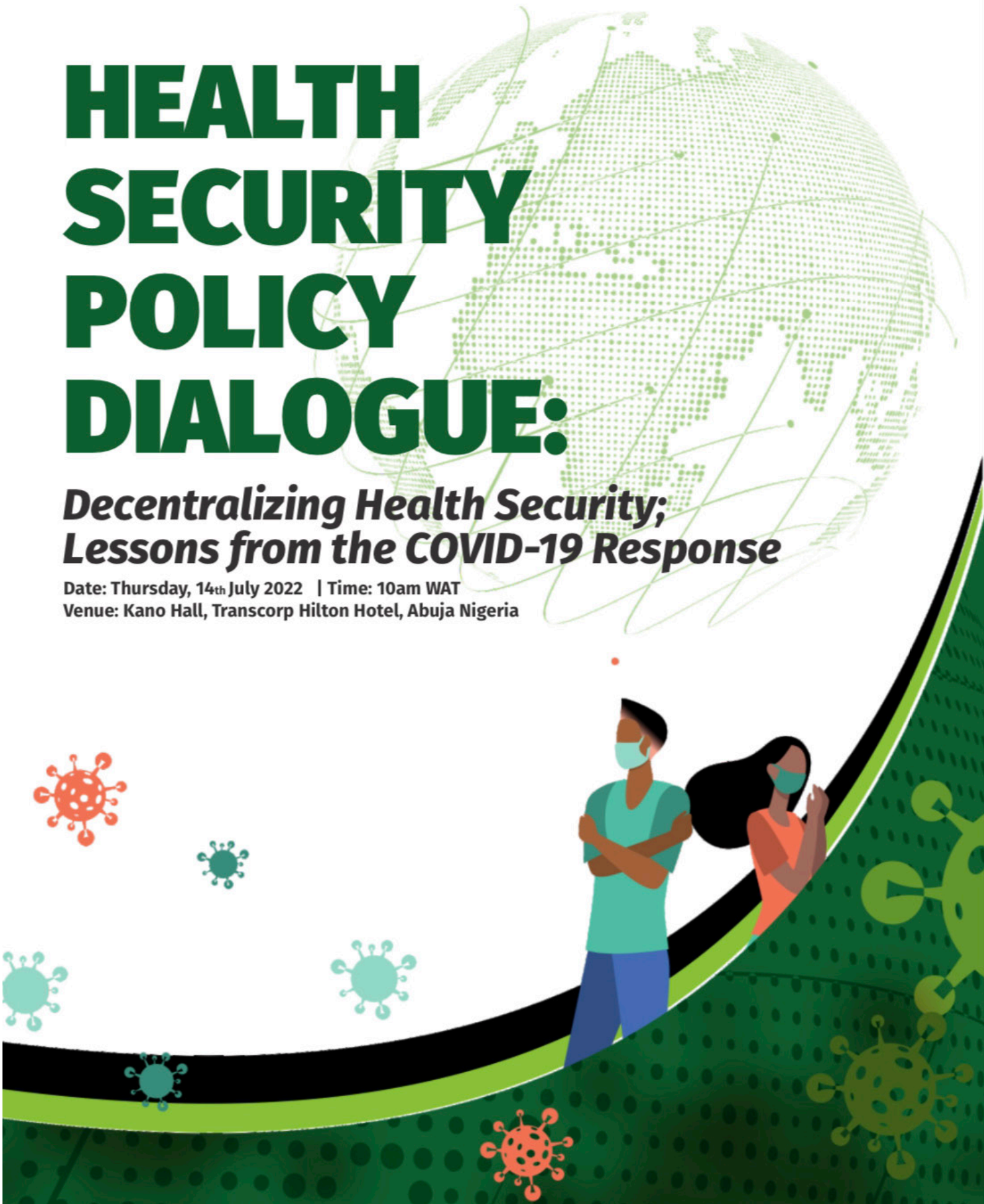
#PreventEpidemicsNaija

HEALTH SECURITY POLICY DIALOGUE:

*Decentralizing Health Security;
Lessons from the COVID-19 Response*

Date: Thursday, 14th July 2022 | Time: 10am WAT

Venue: Kano Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja Nigeria





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