

Wellbeing and health for all

A thriving collaboration between WHO in the African Region and Wellbeing Foundation Nigeria



H E Toyin Saraki (left) and Dr Matshidiso Moeti (second left) talk to delegates to the World Health Assembly in May

The Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBFA), is the premier organisation in Nigeria with a focus towards improving health outcomes for women, infants and children. It endorses and supports the Transformation Agenda of the World Health Organization (WHO) Africa Regional Office (AFRO) and the progress made in the four key work areas of the Agenda; fostering pro-results values, a smart technical focus, responsive strategic operations and effective communications and partnerships.

Targeting improved accountability and a deeply ingrained sense of responsibility throughout WHO AFRO's work, the new emphasis provides not only a galvanised force of empowerment in the ways staff work together but a

more extensive and efficient platform to recognise key collaborators. This is welcomed by collaborators such as WBFA. The results of this organisational change have been catalysed by a smart technical focus most notably pertaining to health security and the WHO AFRO's swift response to the recent Ebola virus outbreak. On June 12th, the last confirmed patient being discharged from the Ebola treatment centre in Bikoro, Democratic Republic of Congo, and the outbreak was declared over on 25th July 2018. It cannot be overstated as to what an achievement this was. It required concerted logistical efforts and the implementation of a cross-cutting systematic approach.

Still, WHO AFRO has also proven to be committed beyond emergency outbreak responses, in developing and implementing comprehensive strategies to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) across the African continent. The creation of the Adolescent Health Flagship Programme to support and empower the youth of the continent with the youngest population on earth, is a proactive programme which the WBFA fully supports and praises as a leading guide for partners to implement effective and evidence-based interventions to improve the health and well-being of all adolescents in the African region.

The WHO AFRO and WBFA continue to work together in developing strategic operations and increased transparency and accountability, through collaborative advocacy towards UHC, and synergised programmes for improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Nigeria, the wider African region and across the rest of the world. These efforts include a broad range of partners forming a WASH alliance on the path to ensuring safe water and sanitation are present in the most crucial environments, from schools to healthcare facilities.

The founder-President of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa, Her Excellence Toyin Saraki, as an Independent Advisor for the WHO Africa Regional Office will continue to represent and elaborate on the work undertaken in this collaboration and looks forward to participating in the 68th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa during August in Dakar. H.E. Toyin Saraki signals the need for continued collaboration between WHO, the Wellbeing Foundation and other partners to implement the transformation agenda to its full extent and improve the lives of people across the continent via the provision of a universal standard of health and well-being.