



ECWA CENTRAL PHARMACY LTD

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The Honorable Commissioner
Plateau State Ministry of Health
Jos.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), Baptist church and Seventh Day Adventist (SDA), and Assemblies of God, we want to thank the government of Nigeria for participating in the global partnership called Family Planning 2020 (FP2020).

We acknowledge that only 15% of married women in Nigeria are using family planning methods. Consequently, 1.6 million unintended pregnancies occur annually and escalate the cases of abortion. It is also estimated that 400,000 infant and 700,000 child deaths are attributed to poor health of the in child birth and maternal care. We understand that the national goal is to raise this to at least 36% by 2018 as expressed in the Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint, October 2014. Through our network of health facilities and churches we join hands with the government in achieving this goal. It is noted that the low Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) is highly attributed to misconceptions about timing and spacing of children through family planning and we hope to change these misconceptions.

The Bible says that my people perish for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4; 6). Currently 25 church leaders from Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), Baptist church, Seventh Day Adventist (SDA), and Assemblies of God in the Jos area have been trained on family planning (FP) and are sharing what they learned through F.P bible based discussions, sermons and health talks among other church activities. These church leaders are in partnership with their hospitals and clinics to ensure the proper information is shared to their churches. For example, in Jos, ECWA leaders work with the one teaching hospital and 20 clinics to provide information.

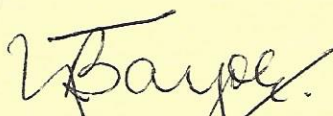
Our shared goal is to share FP information with more religious leaders, train them, and commission them as community health promoters and champions; in addition our desire is to ensuring health facilities have needed commodities through strong supply chains. This goal is ambitious, and it has to be. While we have made significant strides, the faith based health systems still face major challenges.

We wish that the MOH would reexamine its commitment towards FBOs especially on;

- Inclusion in the government supply chain of FP commodities and reproductive health programs. These include information materials and job aids.
- Support supervision and feed back at the health facility level.
- Government budget allocation for training more health workers and religious leaders especially on FP services.

We believe that our mutual collaborations with government will accelerate our goal in the long run and yield healthier lives for our nation.

Yours Sincerely,


Pharm. Bulus T. Yayok
Managing Director