



CIVIL SOCIETY  
ORGANISATION  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
FRAMEWORK  
FOR NIGERIA

2017



*“Civil society must be strengthened to help raise awareness among people living with HIV, and those at risk, of their rights, and to ensure they have access to legal services and redress through the courts.”*

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***HIV and AIDS still remains a threat. It hinders the socio-economic development of resource limited countries and a major concern for world leaders.***


Nigeria's response to the epidemic has lasted for more than three decades. Unfortunately, the morbidity and mortality associated with HIV in the country remains high despite the huge investment into the response. HIV prevalence has stabilized at 3% but increase in HIV incidence is still being recorded in some populations – key populations and adolescents.

Before now, there has been no in-country watch and accountability demand for the HIV response in Nigeria. For local leaders to promote sustainable development in line with the global vision, stakeholders must employ a very clear, acceptable and practicable model that compare reported results and x-ray the normative, strategic and operational HIV management and responses: first with a purpose to ensure it is addressing local needs, and second to ensure it is keeping up targets with the global vision of ending AIDS.

The CSO accountability forum is a jump start initiative to establish a platform to get answers to “the difficult to ask questions” for the National HIV and AIDS response journey. Civil society leaders all over the country, will contribute meaningfully to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by becoming witnesses to, and promoters of key agreements reached. The CSO accountability forum is a collaborative effort to help stakeholders engaged with the HIV response in Nigeria establish and implement effective commitments and human rights in partnership with civil societies in Nigeria. The initiative is promoting an Accountability Framework that brings greater clarity, consistency, and effectiveness to the implementation of civil society organization's investment in the governments' commitment to local, national and global HIV and AIDS control and elimination goals respectively.

The 2nd CSO accountability forum will as part of efforts in calling stakeholders to account, examine the civil society accountability framework for the HIV and AIDS response in Nigeria. This is to increase commitment to, and strengthen a shared understanding in the collective march for ending AIDS in Nigeria by 2030.

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## Chapter 2 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

### ***Civil society organisations in Nigeria, under the umbrella of CISHAN, will periodically conduct an assessment of the response to HIV and AIDS in Nigeria.***

The CSO Accountability forum already is the annual platform for meaningful engagements of CSOs in Nigeria with the stakeholders engaged with the HIV response in Nigeria, for the purpose of conducting appraisals of the institutions and stakeholder contributions. It is a frame to drive change with the civil society taking the lead. The change framework will be articulated annually with the goal being to eliminate AIDS by 2030 in Nigeria. The civil society in Nigeria will organize and provide the sole leadership for the CSO Accountability forum in Nigeria.

Accountability in this sense, is a mechanism to improve on the overall response to HIV and AIDS in Nigeria. The accountability frame work provides the opportunity for those in positions of responsibility to learn to refine their work because underperformance is being monitored for report and may have consequences. The CSO Accountability Framework acts as an enabler by providing the overall architecture for accountability by all members of CISHAN and defining what it entails. It is guided by seven core principles of accountability defined by the World Health Organisation<sup>1</sup>. The principles shall form the basis for implementing accountability policies, processes, and tools.

### **Is your accountability Battery fully charged?**



- +5 Act on your plan now
- +4 Consider options and create a plan
- +3 Decide internally to achieve your goal
- +2 Create a SMART\* goal
- +1 Own your part in it and choose your attitude
- 0 Acknowledge the situation
- 1 Wait and hope
- 2 Use personal excuses
- 3 Blame others
- 4 Deny or avoid
- 5 Unconcerned or unaware

\*SMART goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-constrained

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In leadership roles, accountability is the acknowledgment and assumption of responsibility for actions, products, decisions, and policies including the administration, governance, and implementation within the scope of the role or employment position and encompassing the obligation to report, explain and be answerable for resulting consequences.<sup>2</sup>



## 2.1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 2.1.1. Mutual accountability and clarity of organizational responsibility. The CISHAN National secretariat, State secretariat, the CCEs, and all member organisations will have defined and distinct responsibilities for delivering on their respective obligations. These obligations must be prescribed in a written document that can be updated from time to time through a defined mechanism.
- 2.1.2. Alignment of strategic direction and results: CISHAN National secretariat, State secretariat, the CCEs, and all member organisations will have strategic directions aligned to achieve the goals of the national HIV and AIDS strategic plan, in addition to other organizational goals. The strategic direction must be understood by the organizational management, and are accountable for aligning the strategic direction and objectives to achieve these expected results.
- 2.1.3. Individual and collective commitment. All staff members in the Organizations registered with CISHAN National secretariat, State secretariat, the CCEs, and all member organisations are accountable individually and organizationally. This requires individual and collective commitment to established accountabilities and involves cooperation and collaboration.
- 2.1.4. Highest standards of personal integrity: All staff members in the Organizations registered with CISHAN National secretariat, State secretariat, the CCEs and all member organisations should uphold Organizational values, ethics and behavior expected and clearly communicated and applied in the Organization. Individuals should declare potential conflicts of interest according to ethical standards.
- 2.1.5. Transparency: CISHAN National secretariat, State secretariat, the CCEs shall operate in a transparent fashion. They shall make available reliable and timely information about existing conditions, decisions and actions relating to its activities, in an accessible, visible and understandable fashion, unless the information is deemed confidential.
- 2.1.6. Continuous monitoring and learning: CISHAN National secretariat, State secretariat, the CCEs and all member organisations shall institute mechanisms for feedback, sharing and institution of practice based on lessons learnt from continuous review and evaluation of the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of programmes, and the achievement of results in order to improve and strengthen performance.
- 2.1.7. Promote collaboration, networking and partnerships: CISHAN National secretariat, State secretariat, the CCEs and all member organisations must seek to establish systems and structures that seeks to foster national development, poverty alleviation and improved health systems. Collaboration, networking and partnership opportunities should be explored.



## 2.2. ACCOUNTABILITY IN HIV AND AIDS RESPONSE IN NIGERIA


This is an obligation for CISHAN National secretariat, State secretariat, the CCEs and all member organisations as well as all other HIV related stakeholders in Nigeria, to be answerable for delivering specific results that have been determined through a clear and transparent assignment of responsibility, subject to the availability of resources and constraints posed by external factors. Accountability includes achieving objectives and results in response to mandates, fair and accurate reporting on performance results, stewardship of funds, and all aspects of performance for the HIV response in Nigeria in accordance with regulations, rules and standards, including a clearly defined system of rewards and sanctions.

The civil society shall periodically conduct an assessment of the response to HIV and AIDS in Nigeria; and shall meaningfully engage stakeholders in the national response based on the outcome of its assessment. This implies that annually, CISHAN and its partners shall appraise institutions and stakeholder contributions to the national HIV response in Nigeria, develop its score card, and discuss the results of this score cards with stakeholders invited to the annual platform.

The appraisal shall use this framework:

- The relevance and appropriateness of existing policies, and the actual level of implementation of these policies. The forum shall make recommendations for HIV and AIDS related policy formula and review.
- Compliance to the foundational principles for HIV response in Nigeria defined in the HIV policy, and the HIV and AIDS National Strategic Framework; and with respect for the three 'ones' principles. The focus will be on access to HIV related services by specific populations groups.
- The National response resourcing and justifications for HIV and AIDS resource allocations by all HIV and AIDS funding agencies in Nigeria, inclusive of the national government.
- Identification of key priority areas needing urgent intervention.

***The civil society seek a holistic evaluation to foster alignment and accelerate the country's efforts to ending AIDS by 2030.***



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## Chapter 3

# ONE HIV AND AIDS ACTION FRAMEWORK

An agreed, common AIDS action framework is a basic element for coordination across partnerships and funding mechanisms, and for the effective functioning of a national HIV and AIDS coordinating authority.

***This framework requires that all stakeholder in the HIV and AIDS response in Nigeria ensure:***

- ***Clear priorities*** are set for resource allocation and accountability, making it possible to link priorities, resource flows and outcomes/results.
  - ***Regular joint reviews and consultations*** on progress that include all partners one of which is representatives of civil society organisation
  - ***Engagement of partners for partnership.*** Partners should include civil society, the private sector, religious group, people living with HIV and other nongovernmental partners.
  - ***Commitment by external support agencies*** to work with and commit to supporting the AIDS action framework in a way that is consistent with the goals of the national government to ending AIDS by 2030.
  - ***Links the HIV response with sustainable development goals*** so that the AIDS response contributes to national development, poverty-reduction and a strengthened health system through a partnership arrangements.
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## Chapter 4

# ONE NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING AUTHORITY

The HIV and AIDS response is a broad based multi-sector response. This implies that partnership is built around one common action framework require a national coordinating authority. The legitimacy and effectiveness of such an authority is dependent on adherence to the following principles.

***CISHAN National secretariat, State secretariat, the CCEs and all member organisations shall engage and align only with institutions, organisations and entities with:***

- ***Legal status and a formal mandate*** that reflects national ownership, broad and inclusive membership and clear lines of authority and accountability.
  - ***A clearly defined role*** to coordinate the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national HIV and AIDS action framework in an accountable and transparent manner. This includes coordinating requests for financing according to agreed national priorities, while leaving financial management and implementation to other entities.
  - ***Democratic oversight*** by legislative authorities, including regular information sharing and reporting.
  - ***Commitment to an inclusive national AIDS response*** that welcomes the full participation of civil society, religious groups, the private sector, people living with HIV and other non-governmental sectors, and recognizes the mandates and contributions of partnership and funding mechanisms.
  - ***Acceptance and respect by all stakeholders*** for the national HIV and AIDS action framework and the leadership role of the national AIDS coordinating authority as the basis for cooperation that will enhance rather than constrain their efforts. All stakeholders shall acknowledge, respect and uphold the fundamental human rights of persons and people that needs to be represented as a stakeholder.
  - ***Establishment of a broad-based national partnership forum*** that bridges the policy and umbrella functions of the national AIDS coordinating authority and the actual implementation of the AIDS action framework.
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## Chapter 5

# ONE MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The nation has defined its national HIV and AIDS priorities outlined in the National HIV and AIDS Strategic plan.

***Principles to forge stronger national monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the national response plan include:***

- Alignment of monitoring and evaluation indicators linked to the United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and additional core elements that emphasize performance and accountability.
  - Core national monitoring and evaluation system that provides high-quality data for analyzing country performance.
  - National and external investment in building essential human capacity and infrastructure to meet national monitoring and evaluation needs.
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#6281



*"One day, I'd love to be able to say,  
"I used to have HIV."*

Anonymous



**TAM Initiative**  
Treatment Access Mobilizer Initiative CACIT/NO 72671