



Remarks by

His Excellency

Mr. Biodun Oyebanji

Governor, Ekiti State, Nigeria

Delivered During the

FLAG-OFF CEREMONY OF THE IMPACT PROJECT IN EKITI STATE

Monday, June 5th, 2023 | Ekiti State, Nigeria

Protocol

It is my pleasure to address you all at this flag-off event for the **IMPACT** Project in Ekiti State. Today marks another milestone in our journey to delivering quality and equitable health services to the good people of our dear State.

2. The IMPACT project represents a crucial step forward in our ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the Ekiti people. As you have heard, the primary objective of this project is to reduce under-5 mortality. This aim is highly consistent with the State's human capital development goals and complements other existing programs such as Ulerawa (our flagship health insurance program), the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), and the IMPACT Malaria project, all of which are aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality in the State.



-
3. Results from the 2021 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) indicate that we need to work harder to reduce mortality rates. For instance, our neonatal and under 5 mortality at 53 and 82 per 1000 live births respectively, is not consistent with our vision to be a frontier health system.
 4. To address this challenge, the state government has already put in place a suite of supply and demand side interventions, with the primary goal of reducing our mortality rates by 2030. Under the demand side interventions, for instance, the government established Ulerawa, which aims to provide an explicit but guaranteed package of primary care services for 1million persons by 2025.
 5. Integrating the IMPACT project into our existing and proven interventions should therefore guarantee an increase in coverage and outcomes.
 6. Ladies and Gentlemen, in 2022, we signed the memorandum of understanding with the World Bank to enable us commence implementation of the malaria component of the IMPACT project. This component is aimed at improving the utilization and quality of malaria prevention and treatment services in the State.
 7. In February this year, we also sent a request to the Federal Ministry of Finance and the World Bank to participate in this second component of the IMPACT project. Our request was granted, and it gives me great joy to flag off this project today.
 8. Both components of the IMPACT project, provide a springboard to improve the quality and utilisation of a broader suite of primary health care services in the State. For this, I have the Federal Government, and the World Bank to thank.
 9. It warms my heart to know that out of the 36 States in the Federation, only Ekiti State has secured approval from the World Bank to implement both components (malaria and immunization-plus) of the IMPACT Project. This is proof of our readiness to seize all



opportunities available to us to improve the health of the Ekiti people, and an indication of the confidence our partners have in us, to deliver.

10. Under this program, 177 primary health care facilities will each receive the sum of N4.6m as a one-off investment fund. Facilities are expected to develop workplans that would guide the use of the fund. It is important that these funds are used judiciously. Our focus must be to deploy these resources in a manner that is catalytic and complementary to existing programs.

11. Consequently, I expect facilities to use these funds to purchase drugs and consumables through our Drug Management Agency (DMA), carry out basic renovations, purchase equipment and ensure that data management tools are available. Availability of drugs is a critical part of our Ulerawa expansion strategy and ensures that more people have access to high impact interventions.

12. I strongly encourage our officers in charge (OIC) at the facilities to seek guidance from the Project Implementing Unit of the program and the Ministry of Health, on how to develop their workplans.

13. Only by integrating these programmes, can we maximize the impact of our resources, streamline service delivery, and achieve greater efficiency in our healthcare system. This is why the IMPACT project truly embodies our holistic approach to health, acknowledging the complexity of health problems and the need to deploy a comprehensive response.

14. As with all our interventions, we are aggressively committed to achieving the results. It is not enough to implement programs and projects; we will ensure that they yield tangible and sustainable outcomes. Through monitoring, supervision, and feedback mechanisms, the ministry of health will ensure that funds allocated to health facilities and



other workstreams of the project are utilized efficiently and transparently. The State Government will ensure that every naira is accounted for, and every resource is utilized optimally. We will prioritize accountability, not only to fulfil our duty to the people of Ekiti State but also to maintain our enduring partnership with the World Bank.

15. Today, as I flag off the IMPACT project, I reaffirm our commitment to the health of the Ekiti people and restate our administration determination to confront health challenges with a comprehensive and integrated approach that will yield substantial improvements across all indicators, resulting in a healthier population and a brighter future for our state.

16. In conclusion, let me use this opportunity to thank the World Bank team, led by its country director Mr. Shubham Chaudhuri, who came into Ekiti yesterday, to mark this occasion with us. Their immense and unwavering support to Ekiti State is commendable. As at today, there are over 10 World Bank projects being implemented in different sectors in Ekiti.

17. Finally, I enjoin all stakeholders to work with us to ensure the success of this project because together, we can build a healthier and more prosperous State.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.

Mr Biodun Oyebanji
Governor Ekiti State.
Monday, 5th June 2023
Ekiti State, Nigeria.