

**DECLARATION OF ACTION AFTER A ONE-DAY MEDIA TRAINING ON
BUDGET TRACKING AND INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM ORGANISED BY
CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH
SUPPORT FROM MAC ARTHUR FOUNDATION HELD AT MAKERA HOTEL,
KATSINA STATE ON 7TH JULY, 2017**

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) with support from MacArthur Foundation organized One-day Media Training on Budget Tracking and Investigative Journalism. The Training aimed at enhancing the capacity of Katsina State's media on investigative journalism and effective monitoring and reporting of maternal health budget in the state. The meeting drew participants from various media outfits in the state. After exhaustive deliberation on various thematic issues, we the participants:

Recognised that health is a critical sector needing serious attention through sufficient budgetary allocation, release, and utilisation; and appropriate tracking and monitoring of maternal and child health budget is achieved through appropriate data collection and analysis, well-informed fact-findings, as well as enhanced curiosity for de-normalised and well-focused investigative reportage to raise public and policy consciousness.

Also recognised that persistent tracking, monitoring and reporting of budget processes will result in compliance to budgetary provisions, enhance accountability, maximise efficiency, promote citizens' participation, and improve service delivery on maternal and child health in the state.

Further recognised that while investigative journalism into maternal health budget involves uncovering what is being hidden in budgetary processes, investigative report can be effectively deployed to expose abuses, unethical attitudes, secrecies, and poor utilisation of maternal and child health budget at all levels.

Expressed concern over delayed release of budget that hampers efforts at providing adequate, accessible and affordable maternal and child healthcare services in the state

Also expressed concern over internal and external restrictive policies that hamper investigative reportage; and will proactively engage enabling platforms for reporting and existing legal provisions to guide our investigation and reportage of maternal and child health budget issues.

Noted that creating sense of ownership through public and policy orientation and re-orientation programmes will help in promoting accessibility to maternal and child health services and complement the state's effort at providing adequate, accessible and affordable maternal health services.

Also noted that embracing budget tracking methodology like advocacy, ad hoc project monitoring, report and third party tracking will help to exhaustively interrogate and report maternal and child health related issues.

Further noted that previous budget's performance monitoring, analysis and reporting will inform and shape policy focus and direction towards adequate maternal health appropriation, release and utilisation.

Affirmed existing rules and regulations, ethical standards and legislation guiding investigative journalism and shall embrace such in fact-findings and reporting on maternal health.

Committed to imbibe and deploy high level professionalism, technical skills, knowledge and resources giving cognizance to contentious budgetary issues such as resource utilisation, project execution, value for money, and impacts in investigative journalism into maternal and child health issues in the state.

Also committed to develop tracking template, maintain regular contacts with key institutions and persistent research for accurate and verifiable data collection to support fact-findings and constructive reportage on maternal and child health budget

Will prioritize the use of knowledge and skills gained from this training to de-normalise reportage into maternal and child health budget issues in the state.

Request persistent capacity development training and re-training programmes, especially on investigative journalism to enhance performance of media practitioners in the state.

Signed: