

Nigeria**Saving One Million Lives Initiative Program-for-Results****Chair Summary*****April 23, 2015**

Executive Directors approved a credit to the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the amount of SDR 354.7 million (US\$500 million equivalent) for the Saving One Million Lives Initiative Program-for-Results (PforR) on the terms and conditions set out in the President's Memorandum.

Directors endorsed the objective of the operation, namely to increase the utilization and quality of high impact reproductive, child health, and nutrition interventions. They recognized the importance of gains in maternal and child health to unlock future growth. Directors welcomed that the credit will finance a program of activities which ensures a focus on results that directly benefit ultimate beneficiaries, increases accountability, improves measurement, strengthens management, and encourages innovation.

Directors commended the use of PforR, since it will provide positive incentives for implementation and noted that this operation could provide a demonstration effect for work in other client countries. They welcomed that the PforR approach builds strong Government ownership for the program and introduces the disbursement mechanism that distinguishes States according to their performance, which is a good initiative to ensure greater focus on results. They emphasized the importance of State capacity, particularly the ability to collect and maintain data, along with the development of effective monitoring and evaluation systems and measurement of results. Directors encouraged management to increase the focus on social inclusion and health service delivery to advance progress towards meeting the MDGs on maternal and child mortality and to address geographical inequity. They underscored the importance of timely introduction of a plan for stakeholder engagement and a complaints redress system, supported by a clear communication strategy.

Directors noted the importance of risk management and mitigation for the operation, particularly in key governance, fiduciary, financial and procurement areas. They encouraged the Bank to assist the Nigerian authorities in deepening public financial management and anti-corruption efforts at State and local levels. Directors also emphasized the importance of effective coordination and minimizing overlap among federal and state level agencies in Nigeria.

Directors appreciated the depth and quality of analysis carried out in the preparation of the PforR, including the technical, fiduciary, and environmental and social systems assessments. They stressed the importance of linking the program to a broader health sector program to ensure that results are sustainable, and suggested an expanded private sector role in providing quality and affordable health services – including a possible insurance scheme - to help reduce the government fiscal burden for the longer term.

*This summary is not an approved record