



COMMUNIQUÉ

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND NATIONAL COORDINATION FRAMEWORK FOR HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (HCD) 2.0

“Revitalizing Human Capital: Aligning States with the National HCD 2.0 Strategy”

BY

HCD 2.0 Core Working Group Secretariat

The National Human Capital Development (HCD) Programme 2.0 Secretariat, with support from the Gates Foundation, convened the National Stakeholder Engagement Workshop on the Implementation Strategy and National Coordination Framework for Human Capital Development (HCD) 2.0 on 18 May 2026 in Abuja.

The workshop brought together representatives of the Federal Government, State HCD Focal Persons from 29 States and the Federal Capital Territory, the Core Working Group, development partners, philanthropic organizations, technical experts, civil society, the private sector, and the media to strengthen collaboration and accelerate implementation of the Human Capital Development Strategy 2.0.

Participants deliberated on strategies for strengthening federal-state coordination, enhancing governance and accountability, improving financing mechanisms, institutionalizing evidence-based decision-making, and accelerating implementation of HCD priorities across health, education, nutrition, social protection, labour force participation, and economic empowerment.

OBSERVATIONS

Participants observed that:

1. Nigeria's Human Capital Development Strategy 2.0 represents a critical shift from policy development to results-oriented implementation aimed at positioning Nigeria among the top 80 countries on the Human Capital Index by 2030.

2. Sustainable improvements in human capital outcomes require stronger coordination across all tiers of government, with clearly defined institutional roles and strengthened governance structures.
3. While progress has been recorded under HCD 1.0, significant implementation gaps remain in financing, data systems, institutional capacity, monitoring and evaluation, and inter-sectoral coordination.
4. State ownership and leadership remain the cornerstone of successful HCD implementation, as national outcomes are dependent on sustained subnational performance.
5. Reliable data, standardized performance scorecards, and the HCD Dashboard are essential tools for evidence-based planning, monitoring, accountability, and decision-making.
6. Human capital financing remains inadequate across many states, requiring increased domestic resource mobilization, stronger budget prioritization, and innovative financing approaches involving government, development partners, philanthropy, and the private sector.
7. Gender-responsive planning and budgeting should be institutionalized across all HCD thematic areas to promote equitable and inclusive development outcomes.
8. Stronger alignment among government institutions, development partners, and other stakeholders is necessary to reduce duplication, maximize available resources, and improve development effectiveness.

RESOLUTIONS

After extensive deliberations, participants resolved to:

1. Strengthen coordination mechanisms between the Federal and State Governments, and development partners to accelerate implementation of the HCD Strategy 2.0.
2. Institutionalize functional HCD governance structures and strengthen the mandates of State HCD Focal Persons to improve coordination and accountability.
3. Promote the adoption and utilization of the HCD Dashboard, Scorecard, and other performance management tools to support evidence-based decision-making and transparent reporting.
4. Strengthen data governance systems by improving collaboration between State Bureaus of Statistics and HCD structures and enhancing data quality and reporting.
5. Advocate for increased and sustainable financing for Human Capital Development through improved budget allocations, innovative financing mechanisms, private sector engagement, and stronger development partner coordination.

6. Deepen integration of local government structures into HCD implementation to ensure effective grassroots delivery.
7. Promote peer learning, continuous knowledge sharing, and collaboration among State HCD Focal Persons through structured regional engagement platforms.
8. Strengthen capacity development in governance, planning, monitoring and evaluation, programme management, financing, resource mobilization, and leadership across all states.
9. Ensure that HCD implementation remains inclusive by promoting gender-responsive, equitable, and people-centred interventions that leave no one behind.

COMMITMENTS

Participants collectively committed to:

- Align state implementation plans with the Human Capital Development Strategy 2.0.
- Translate workshop outcomes into measurable actions with clearly defined responsibilities and timelines.
- Strengthen accountability through regular monitoring, reporting, and performance reviews.
- Foster stronger collaboration among government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector.
- Sustain regional engagement and peer learning among State HCD Focal Persons to accelerate implementation and share best practices.
- Promote evidence-based planning and data-driven decision-making across all HCD thematic areas.

Development partners reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting Nigeria through technical assistance, capacity strengthening, resource mobilization, policy support, and investments that accelerate improvements in human capital outcomes.

CALL TO ACTION

The workshop called on:

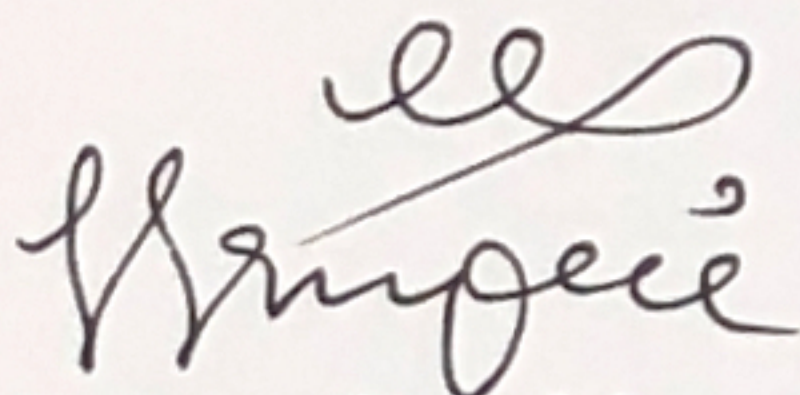
- Federal and State Governments to prioritize investments in human capital as a national development imperative.
- Development partners to continue aligning technical and financial support with national and state HCD priorities.
- The private sector and philanthropic organizations to expand investments in education, health, nutrition, skills development, digital inclusion, and economic empowerment.

- All stakeholders to sustain collaboration and collective action to achieve measurable improvements in Nigeria's Human Capital Development outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Participants reaffirmed that investing in people is fundamental to Nigeria's long-term prosperity and sustainable development. They pledged to work collectively to translate the Human Capital Development Strategy 2.0 into tangible improvements in health, education, productivity, inclusion, and the overall well-being of Nigerians.

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to coordinated implementation, strengthened accountability, sustained partnerships, and accelerated delivery of Human Capital Development priorities across all States and the Federal Capital Territory.



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