



Advancing Community Accountability: TB Network Leads Stakeholders to Validate Community-Led Monitoring SOPs to Strengthen Community Accountability in Nigeria

Abuja, Nigeria | 20 May 2026

“Validating these SOPs represents an important step in strengthening community ownership and ensuring that evidence generated through Community-Led Monitoring translates into improved health services,” said Oliade Akanni, National Coordinator, TB Network.

Stakeholders from government institutions, civil society, and implementing partners convened in Abuja to validate Nigeria’s Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Community-Led Monitoring (CLM), an important milestone toward strengthening community accountability, improving service quality, and advancing sustainable health systems across the country.

The engagement was convened by TB Network for the ATM Networks at Candellux Hotel with support from The Global Fund under the leadership of the Principal Recipient, National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Buruli Ulcer Control Programme (NTBLCP).

The meeting brought together representatives from Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM), Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN), National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP), ATM Network, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), More than 80% representatives from government, civil society, and implementing partners, and other key stakeholders working to strengthen community systems and accountability mechanisms.

Building a Common Framework for Community-Led Monitoring

Community-Led Monitoring is increasingly recognized as a strategic approach for improving health outcomes by ensuring that communities actively participate in identifying barriers, generating evidence, and influencing service improvements.

The validation meeting focused on reviewing and refining the SOPs developed to guide the implementation of CLM activities in Nigeria. Participants examined the procedures



to ensure they provide clear operational guidance while remaining responsive to realities at community and facility levels.

The validation process was guided by three objectives:

To review and validate the draft SOPs for CLM implementation and ensure alignment with national and donor expectations.

To ensure that the SOPs reflect implementation experiences, community realities, and emerging best practices.

To promote transparency, ethical standards, quality assurance, and consistency in monitoring health service delivery.

Participants agreed that effective Community-Led Monitoring extends beyond collecting data – it enables communities to generate evidence that informs decision-making, strengthens accountability, and contributes to measurable improvements in service quality.

Strengthening Community Systems through Integration and Ownership

Discussions highlighted the progress made in moving Community-Led Monitoring from fragmented implementation approaches toward more structured and sustainable systems.

Stakeholders emphasized the importance of integrating community-generated evidence into national health information and decision-making processes to improve responsiveness and ensure that community priorities influence planning and implementation.

The meeting also reinforced the importance of sustainability through stronger government ownership, institutional learning, and collaboration across sectors. Participants recognized that long-term impact depends on embedding community accountability mechanisms within existing health structures.

A recurring theme throughout the discussions was the need to strengthen engagement at the state level to ensure broader awareness of Community-Led Monitoring and improve coordination among stakeholders.



Addressing Operational Challenges and Expanding Impact

Participants identified implementation challenges that require continued attention, including limited awareness of Community-Led Monitoring approaches among some stakeholders and inconsistent recognition of Community-Based Organizations at facility level.

To address these gaps, stakeholders recommended clearer operational guidance, stronger communication of program achievements, and improved coordination mechanisms to support implementation across states.

The discussions also encouraged broader documentation of outcomes and greater use of storytelling approaches to demonstrate how community action contributes to stronger health systems and improved service delivery.

Participants further proposed structured coaching and support mechanisms to strengthen the participation of youth-led organizations and expand community engagement within monitoring networks.

Key Outcomes

The meeting resulted in the following commitments:

- Validation and endorsement of updated SOPs for Community-Led Monitoring implementation in Nigeria.
- Reinforcement of Community-Led Monitoring as a tool for improving service quality and accountability.
- Agreement to strengthen integration between community monitoring processes and national health information systems.
- Commitment to deepen stakeholder engagement and government collaboration at national and state levels.
- Identification of actions to address stigma, improve visibility, and expand community reach.
- Agreement to strengthen documentation and communicate implementation impact more effectively.
- Commitment to finalize and disseminate implementation guidance to support standardized rollout.



Looking Ahead

The validation of the SOPs marks an important step toward institutionalizing Community-Led Monitoring as a sustainable mechanism for accountability and service improvement.

As implementation progresses, stakeholders reaffirmed their collective commitment to ensuring that communities remain central to shaping health responses and driving equitable access to quality services across Nigeria.

The validated SOP will guide standardized implementation of CLM across supported states and enhance better positioning to donors.

About Community-Led Monitoring (CLM)

Community-Led Monitoring is a structured accountability approach through which communities systematically collect, analyze, and use evidence to improve access, quality, responsiveness, and equity in health services. Through community participation and continuous feedback, CLM supports stronger health systems and more people-centered service delivery.



Stakeholders during the validation meeting on Community-Led Monitoring SOPs held in Abuja on 20 May 2026.