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DKT International Launches Bold Initiative Expanding Access to Reproductive Health in Nigeria

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WASHINGTON D.C., USA – DKT International is proud to announce we have received funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to enhance access to reproductive health services across three key states in Nigeria. The initiative addresses critical gaps in family planning and reproductive healthcare by leveraging innovative solutions and community-centered approaches and will empower millions of individuals with the resources, education, and tools necessary to make informed choices, advancing health equity and improving lives in underserved communities.

The three focus geographies – Kano, Kaduna, and Lagos – represent areas with some of the greatest challenges. In Nigeria, an estimated 61,000 women die annually due to complications during childbirth, abortion or miscarriage. A lack of access to essential, high-quality, affordable contraception in the country remains a pressing challenge, with over 50% of all unintended pregnancies resulting in abortion. With a modern contraceptive prevalence rate (mCPR) of just 14.4% (Track20), Nigeria faces a significant unmet need for family planning services. The country is striving to achieve an ambitious target of 27% mCPR, but numerous challenges persist.

DKT International is one of the largest global providers of contraception in the world and DKT Nigeria is the largest provider of contraception products to the private sector in Nigeria. The organization is well positioned to play a pivotal role in addressing existing gaps. The ***Supply Chain Strengthening and Implementation*** initiative will ensure wide availability of high-quality, affordable contraceptive products by strengthening supply chains and building the existing health system's capacity through 2028, incorporating strategic partnerships with local and international organizations to increase understanding of, and demand for, contraceptive products and services.

“This funding represents a vital step toward addressing the unmet need for contraception in Nigeria. By combining DKT’s extensive on-the-ground experience with the foundation’s unparalleled commitment to improving global health, we aim to strengthen supply chains and ensure that millions of Nigerians have the power to make informed choices about their reproductive health,” said **Christopher Purdy, President of DKT International.**

Private healthcare providers are vital to improving contraceptive access in Nigeria, delivering 60% of all health services and a growing share of contraceptive care, from 41% in 2018 to 60% in 2020. These facilities offer privacy, convenience, and consistent supply, which are critical for reaching underserved groups like unmarried women, adolescents, and rural communities. By leveraging existing private sector

channels, DKT's **Supply Chain Strengthening and Implementation** initiative aims to increase the use of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), enhancing reproductive health outcomes for women in historically underserved areas.

Through the next four years, DKT plans to procure and distribute over 2,500,000 injectables, 300,000 implants, and 330,000 IUDs to a network of 4,189 private clinics and 18,811 drug shops and community pharmacies in the priority geographies to support the private sector. The initiative will generate over 2.8 million CYPs at an efficient cost of \$2.83 per CYP and cater to private sector outlets, offering women and girls more choice in method and channel preference. DKT will further partner with Data Science Nigeria, a Nigerian-owned AI company to upgrade and leverage its established Honey&Banana digital platform and ecosystem, thereby expanding access and driving demand in the important demographic of clients aged 15-35.

About DKT International

Since 1989, DKT International's core mission has been to provide safe and affordable options for family planning and HIV prevention through social marketing in 100 countries throughout Latin America, Africa, and Asia. In 2023, DKT delivered more than 64.1 million couple years of protection (CYPs), making DKT one of the largest private providers of family planning in the world. DKT's sales totals for 2023 included 5.38 million IUDs, 1.76 million hormonal implants, 119.9 million oral contraceptives, 32.95 million injectables, and 949.6 million condoms. DKT's 2023 work averted 32,500 maternal deaths, 16.9 million unsafe abortions, and 16.75 million unintended pregnancies.

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About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people—especially those with the fewest resources—have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, Washington, the foundation is led by CEO Mark Suzman, under the direction of Co-chairs Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates and the board of trustees.

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