



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TELEMEDICINE AND DIGITAL HEALTH COOPERATION LAUNCHED BETWEEN CFID AND SPEETAR ON WORLD HEPATITIS DAY 2022

Lagos/Tripoli, 28 July 2022 – The Centre for Initiative and Development (CFID) Taraba and Speetar launched new telemedicine and digital health cooperation, signing a corresponding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The objective of this cooperation is to improve the inclusive and sustainable healthcare provision for hepatitis patients in Nigeria. The signing of the MoU was held on World Hepatitis Day 2022.

The hepatitis health crisis. With a total population of 211.4 million, it is estimated that approximately 20 million hepatitis patients (9.5%) are currently living in Nigeria. This is a staggering high prevalence and represents a harmful, yet overlooked health crisis. An estimated 60 million people live with the disease in Africa. 1.3 million people die globally of the disease annually, with one person dying every 30 seconds globally due to hepatitis-related illnesses. As the COVID-19 pandemic has required the dedication of healthcare resources to combat this global health emergency, the provision of regular and consistent care to chronic patients, such as the diabetic healthcare community, has become more difficult. People with hepatitis represent an at-risk population who need protection from avoidable outpatient visits, especially during times of epidemic outbreaks, such as COVID-19. Amongst people with Hepatitis B, COVID-19 mortality was estimated to range at 13.5% compared to 8.2% of non-infected patients.

Telemedicine and digital health cooperation. Against this background, telemedicine solutions have an elevated potential to address key challenges faced by both urban and rural communities in providing accessible, affordable, high-quality health care services to low-income communities. Telemedicine has demonstrated its potential as one of the significant innovations in health services; it overcomes geographical barriers and increases access to health care services. This cooperation offers a promising approach to close critical healthcare gaps, in order to make care for hepatitis patients in Nigeria more effective and inclusive – especially for rural/sub-urban and vulnerable patient groups – and to protect the lives of both patients and care providers amidst the continued threat of COVID-19 transmissions.

The Centre for Initiative and Development (CFID) Taraba. CFID's mission is to promote access to quality social and health care intervention services, engaging and empowering communities to address the challenges of sustainable development and health outcomes through family-centered approaches in all target communities.

Speetar. Speetar's mission is to leverage telemedicine and digital health solutions in the pursuit of breaking down economic, social, and geographic barriers that too often limit the choices patients have when seeking quality healthcare. Speetar has been successfully providing digital health solutions to make healthcare inclusive and affordable for marginalized communities in Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, and Yemen.

On the occasion of the MoU's signing, *Danjuma Adda, Executive Director of CFID, said:* "This provides significant progress for the inclusive healthcare provision to more than 20 million hepatitis patients in Nigeria. Speetar's innovative digital health solutions have proven its impact across the globe and we look forward to bringing its significant benefits to the hepatitis patient community."

Dr. Mohamed Aburawi, Founder and CEO of Speetar, said: "The impactful leadership of the Danjuma Adda and CFID to improve the lives of Nigerian communities is outstanding. We are honored to partner with CFID to leverage digital innovation toward improving the healthcare access of hepatitis patients in Nigeria.

Press contact:

Danjuma Adda – Executive Director, CFID, admin@cfidtaraba.org

Luca Bucken – Head of Growth, Speetar, luca.bucken@speetar.com

*****NOTHING FURTHER*****