



# REGULATORY PULSE

LEGAL AND REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECTORS

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## 1. NIGERIA-U.S. SIGNS LANDMARK BILATERAL HEALTH COOPERATION MOU

In December 2025, the Federal Government signed a five-year bilateral health cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United States to strengthen health security, disease surveillance, laboratory capacity, and primary care delivery. The MoU focuses on HIV, TB, malaria, maternal and child health, and health system resilience, emphasising co-financing and technical support.

The MoU has implications for federal disease control agencies, laboratory governance, financing units, and public health insurers, who must align surveillance protocols, biosafety procedures, data systems, and programme financing mechanisms with the MoU commitments.

## 2. NIGERIA'S FIRST NATIONAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SURVEY

Nigeria has launched its first nationally representative antimicrobial resistance (AMR) survey, supported by the World Health Organization and partners. The survey will generate critical evidence to inform national AMR policy, stewardship strategies, and clinical guidelines, preserving antibiotic efficacy and strengthening health-system resilience.

The survey will provide data for public-health programmes, regulatory bodies, and clinical providers across federal and state levels. Stakeholders must now integrate AMR data into national treatment guidelines, surveillance systems, and rational-prescribing protocols, and support stewardship activities.

### **3. NEW POLICIES TO COMBAT MICRONUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES IN NIGERIA**

Nigeria has unveiled new policies and a National Advisory Committee to tackle micronutrient deficiency. The policies include the Roadmap for Scaling Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (2025–2029), Nutrition in Emergencies Strategy, Knowledge Management and Learning Strategy, and other frameworks. The Committee's mandate is to coordinate these policies, strengthen national data systems, and align interventions across the health, agriculture, and education sectors.

Stakeholders in relevant sectors must begin compliance alignment and resource allocation planning to support the implementation and reporting requirements under this new framework.

### **4. NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE ALTERNATIVE CARE OF CHILDREN IN NIGERIA**

In December 2025, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, supported by UNICEF and SOS Children's Villages, developed these guidelines to standardise care for children deprived of family support, including those without appropriate home environments, children on the move, and other vulnerable groups. The guidelines provide a regulatory framework that protects children from exploitation, neglect, and abuse, while promoting family-based and community-care options and strengthening accountability across child-welfare services.

The framework imposes compliance requirements on federal and state social-welfare ministries, child-protection agencies, community service providers, and civil-society partners, requiring them to adopt standardised placement procedures, strengthen gate-keeping and monitoring, ensure caregiver vetting and training, and integrate care-data systems.

### **5. NATIONAL POLICY ON DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN SCHOOLS**

The Federal Government has unveiled the National Policy on Drug and Substance Abuse in Schools to curb rising substance misuse among pupils and students. The policy introduces structured prevention measures, including counselling, behavioural support, curriculum integration, awareness programmes, and disciplinary frameworks for repeat offenders. It establishes a Substance Use Prevention Unit to coordinate implementation, working with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on education campaigns and compulsory drug-integrity testing in tertiary institutions.

Education authorities, school proprietors, and tertiary institutions must now align internal policies with the new framework, integrate prevention and testing protocols into student-welfare systems, and plan resources to ensure effective implementation and regulatory compliance.

## **6. LAGOS STATE HIV PREVENTION ACTION PLAN (2025–2027)**

In December 2025, the Lagos State Government unveiled its HIV Prevention Plan, a strategic framework designed to strengthen local responses and sustain services in the effort to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

A key component of the sustainability strategy involves domestic resource mobilization and the local production of antiretrovirals (ARVs) and test kits to mitigate dwindling donor support. Stakeholders must now adopt a shared responsibility framework with healthcare providers integrating HIV prevention, pharma firms investing in local ARV/test kit manufacturing, and CSOs driving community-led innovation and accountability.

## **7. LAGOS LAUNCHES DIASPORA HEALTH INSURANCE**

Lagos State has launched two new health-insurance packages, Waka-Well and Home Konnect, under the Ilera-Eko Health Insurance Scheme, to provide accessible healthcare and enforce the state's mandatory health insurance order.

These packages extend coverage to Nigerians in the diaspora, tourists, and non-immigrant visitors. Waka-Well covers short-term visitors for common travel-related conditions, emergency care, and telemedicine, while Home Konnect lets Nigerians abroad pay premiums for family members in Lagos.

Insurers, health-care providers, HMOs, and private partners must now conduct readiness assessments and align operational, compliance and data systems to integrate the diaspora-focused plans into the mandatory health-insurance framework.

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