



STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PEPFAR TRANSITION TO COUNTRY OWNERSHIP IN SIERRA LEONE

Cotton Tree Medical (CTM) Group-SL, a Sierra Leone based social enterprise, is a subsidiary of the US Virginia based *Cotton Tree Medical Group Incorporated* which has since 2008 been registered in Sierra Leone as a social enterprise with a vision that looks beyond solely maximizing profit to investing primarily in social and human causes that include: (i) providing quality and affordable access to medication and related services in Sierra Leone, including antiretroviral medications for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, (ii) driving and advocating for health screening, including HIV/AIDS screening and testing, (ii) steering the awareness and prevention of infectious transmissible diseases such as HIV/AIDS, (iii) driving and advocating for the care and treatment of people living with terminal illnesses that include HIV/AIDS, and (ii) leveraging technology and best practice monitoring and evaluation skills to enhance quality health/medical data management, including HIV/AIDS response data management, for effective decision making and policies.

For the purpose of partnering with the USAID-led smooth transition to the country ownership of the *President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)*, *CTM Group-SL* offers to undertake the following service areas which are crucial to strengthening the sustainability of the country ownership of PEPFAR in Sierra Leone: (i) support to lifesaving antiretroviral HIV/AIDS treatment and care, (ii) support to social mobilization and advocacy for HIV/AIDS screening and testing, and (iii) support to the management of behavior change communication, measurement, data generation and data management for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment response and outcomes.

Cotton Tree Medical Group-SL has the residual capacity in terms of the people, processes, and logistics already in place to deliver on the above service offerings. There is already a core overall steering team in place consisting of three people, namely: (i) **Fouad Sheriff, MD**, who has a sufficient leadership and practitioner background in clinical/medication delivery practices in the United States and Sierra Leone, including practices related to HIV/AIDS viral disease screening and testing, and lifesaving HIV/AIDS antiretroviral treatment and care; (ii) **Mustapha Wai, a U.S. trained certified public accountant (CPA)**, who has a sufficient leadership and practitioner background in the contract procurement, U.S. Government financial reporting, and management systems, procedures, and processes often required by federal systems used by USAID, and (iii) **Mohamed Sidie Sheriff, MSc**, who has a sufficient leadership and practitioner background in developmental and behavioral change programs in Sierra Leone in for local clients and the United States for global clients, including working on several monitoring, evaluation and behavior change best practice initiatives related to health and HIV/AIDS for the World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF and a USAID funded HIV prevention program by CARE International in Sierra Leone in 2006. In addition, CTM group has local personel and teaming partners with years of relevant local experience working in HIV/AIDS program.

Each of the above team members has strong ties and country presence in Sierra Leone. For example, in addition to maintaining the local branch of CTM Group in Sierra Leone, Fouad Sheriff also has an exemplary investment in medication delivery through the *Cotton Tree Pharmacy* in Freetown, and an investment in critical medical care through the *Dialysis Center* in Freetown. Also, in addition to maintaining the local branch of his *Wai and Associates* accounting and consulting firm branch in Sierra Leone, Mustapha Wai also has an investment in the delivery service sector in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, before moving to the US in 2012, Mohamed Sidie Sheriff worked for over 20 years in Sierra Leone, leaving behind a mentorship footprint of young leaders who now head vital institutions in the country across the public, private and civic sectors.

CTM Group-SL also has plans to expand its current team and receive capacity enhancing support from USAID to effectively participate in the PEPFAR Transition To Country Ownership process in Sierra Leone. So far, our combined core team skills can capably manage the oversight responsibilities associated with our service offerings in the areas of (i) supporting the lifesaving antiretroviral HIV/AIDS treatment and care, (ii) supporting the social mobilization events and advocacy for HIV/AIDS screening and testing, and (iii) support to the management of behavior change communication, measurement, data generation and data management for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment response and outcomes.