



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

The Cotton Tree Medical Group-Sierra Leone (CTMG-SL) is a Sierra Leone based health service company which is a subsidiary of Cotton Tree Medical Group Incorporated (CTMG-Inc) based in Virginia, USA. CTMG-SL 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.**

CTMG-SL intends to partner with the **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** of the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)** on ensuring the smooth transition to country ownership of the **President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)** in Sierra Leone. In this regard, CTMG-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.**

CTMG-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, CPA,** who has a sufficient leadership and practitioner background in the contract procurement, reporting, and management systems, procedures, and processes often required by federal systems used by the US Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and (iii) **Mohamed Sidie Sheriff, MSc,** who has a sufficient leadership and practitioner background in developmental and behavioral change programs for local clients in Sierra Leone and for global clients administered from the United States, including working on several monitoring, evaluation and policy/behavior change initiatives related to **health and HIV/AIDS at the World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF** and a **US Government funded HIV prevention consultancy overseen by CARE International in Sierra Leone in 2006.**

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 Cotton Tree Medical 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 Group* 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 lead vital institutions in the country's public, private and civic sectors.

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