



HEALTH POLICY PROJECT/NIGERIA

Building capacity for improved health policy, advocacy, governance, and finance.

The Health Policy Project (HPP), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), contributes to improved health through strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of health systems.

To learn more, visit HPP at: www.healthpolicyproject.com

Overview

Nigeria faces significant challenges related to family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH). The country's population continues to grow rapidly, particularly in the north, and the total fertility rate (TFR) has changed little since 1990. Use of modern contraceptives remains low, contraceptive prevalence rates (CPRs) have stagnated over the past decade, and many Nigerians lack access to FP/RH services. Moreover, progress on FP/RH has been uneven, with most positive change limited to Nigeria's southern and eastern states.

The Health Policy Project (HPP) supports the government of Nigeria (GON) and other stakeholders to improve FP/RH outcomes by fostering a more supportive policy environment for addressing FP/RH and related issues.

Since its inception in 2010, HPP/Nigeria has focused on:

- Building the capacity of FP advocates at the national and state levels
- Working with local partners to update key policies and strategies, including the National Population Policy for Sustainable Development
- Supporting the development of state-level FP costing implementation plans (CIPs) to increase investment in FP and ensure that available resources are used effectively and efficiently
- Strengthening the monitoring and evaluation capacity of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to support implementation of its Community-Based Social Health Insurance Program (CBSHIP)

Policy

HPP/Nigeria works with local partners to mobilize political and financial support for and strengthen implementation of FP/RH programs.

The project is working with the National Population Commission (NPopC) to revise the National Policy on Population and Sustainable Development, last updated in 2004. Informed by HPP's demographic dividend model (DemDiv), the new policy will emphasize that realizing the benefits of the demographic dividend requires sound policy and governance, as well as investments in health, education, and infrastructure.

Other key achievements include

- Developing state-level CIPs for FP in six states
- Increasing political and financial support for FP, as demonstrated by the GON's adoption of a US\$3 million national budget line item for FP commodities, and its commitment to invest an additional US\$8.35 million annually through 2018 for RH commodities



Photo by: Health Policy Project

Dr. Hadiza Khamofu, director of Prevention, Care and Treatment/Strengthening Integrated Delivery of HIV/AIDS Services (SIDHAS), speaks at the Nigeria Family Planning Stakeholders Meeting in Abuja in February 2014.

Capacity Development

Capacity development is central to HPP/Nigeria's work. Highlights include

- Contributing to the creation and institutionalization of the FPAG/AAFP
- Building the advocacy capacity of CSOs, including Advocacy Nigeria
- Training NPopC, NHIS, and other government staff on monitoring and evaluation and advocacy strategy
- Building the capacity of government staff and other national stakeholders to use models—such as RAPID, FamPlan, LiST, DemDiv, and GAP—to generate evidence for advocacy

- Collaborating with and building the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for implementation of the National Community Health Extension Workers Policy to increase access to long-acting and permanent FP methods

Advocacy

Since 2010, HPP/Nigeria has played a major role in supporting FP advocates and building the capacity of FP advocacy organizations.

Key successes include

- Creation of the Family Planning Action Group (FPAG) as a venue for collaboration among major national FP advocates, and establishment of FPAG as a registered, independent nonprofit organization—the Association for the Advancement of Family Planning (AAFP)
- Enhancement of local partners' capacity to use evidence-based advocacy to generate greater political and financial support for FP
- Inclusion of data produced with the project's support—including results from RAPID/Nigeria—in the GON statement at the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning

Health Financing

Expanding access to health insurance is vital to improving access to FP/RH and other health services. HPP/Nigeria enhances the monitoring and evaluation capacity of NHIS, enabling it to more effectively implement its CBSHIP—a program designed to increase access to insurance for rural populations. The project assists in the drafting of strategies and guidelines, and trains NHIS staff on advocacy and monitoring and evaluation.

How to Work with Us

For over 40 years, Futures Group has managed large and complex international health and development projects for a range of major development players, achieving significant results on the ground in more than 100 countries. Host-country partners with interest to participate should contact their USAID Mission. All Missions may participate through field support. For information on how to work with the Health Policy Project please contact:

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