



Participants at the development of Policy Briefs on the NHA 2003 -2005 results

Institutionalizing NHA in Nigeria

In November 2009, health care financing in Nigeria recorded significant progress with the successful validation of the 2003-2005 National Health Accounts (NHA). The federal and state governments can now estimate the resources needed to finance the National and States Strategic Health Development Plans (NSHDP and SSHDPs) for 2010-2015 using the information from the 2003 - 2005 NHA. The estimates will be used to mobilize resources to finance the gaps in funding of the strategic plans.

NHA findings revealed a drop in total health expenditures to 8.56% of gross domestic product (GDP) compared with 12.25 percent in 2003, suggesting that health expenditures amounted to N976.69 billion, which is about 8.56 percent of the GDP in 2005.

How it was done

The Federal Ministry of Health, with the support of PATHS2, brought together the states and federal ministries of health staff along with development partners like World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for one week to review and cross-check the results estimated from the 2003-2005 NHA at different levels as well as to also review the adequacy of the methodology used in the data generation.



"...The NHA process championed by the Federal Ministry of Health is increasingly being institutionalized and with two rounds successfully implemented and the third round underway, it's providing much needed evidence of and for healthcare financing in Nigeria..."

Dr. Mohammed Lecky (Director, Department of Health Planning, Research and Statistics, FMOH)

PATHS2 used the platform of the validation meeting to enhance the capacity of the states on international best practice in NHA estimation methodologies and applications by providing technical guidance throughout the validation process. The validation meeting was also used to discuss modalities for improving on the next round of NHA estimation for 2006 - 2008. In response to requests from state participants, a country specific training guidelines and implementation manual for NHA estimation to guide states in the next round of estimation was then developed by PATHS2 for the FMOH.

"It is a method of establishing a sustainable system that will continuously generate information on the flow of fund in the health. This information is necessary for decision making on equitable allocation of fund. For example, NHA will provide information on the distribution of health spending between primary and

secon-dary health care" - Pamela Archer, NHA Focal Officer, Edo State Ministry of Health

Maximizing the gains - first ever Nigerian Policy Briefs on NHA

To further consolidate the gains from the validation process, PATHS2 provided financial and technical support to the FMOH to produce the first ever policy briefs on National Health Accounts in Nigeria and its related issues. This was achieved at a one week workshop in February 2010 that had participation from State Ministries of Health, National Planning Commission (NPC), SMOHs, National Bureau of Statistics, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), UNFPA, WHO, Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations (NGOs, CSOs).

The main purpose of the policy brief workshop was to distil, document and disseminate the results of the 2003 - 2005 NHA to key stakeholders in

decision making to serve as a guide for evidence-based health policy making. To this end, key stakeholders who would need the results to enhance their work were mapped out as beneficiaries of the policy briefs. The findings from the 2003 – 2005 NHA were also analyzed to tease out important specific topics and issues emerging from the results.

These topics informed the content of the 10 policy briefs, all of which are available on www.fmh.gov.ng:

1. *Health Care Financing in Nigeria: Is Government Playing its Role?*
2. *National Health Accounts and Legislative Backing for Improved Health Care*
3. *Minimizing the Burden of Household Health Expenditure in Nigeria*
4. *Organized Private Sector: Partnering Options in Health Financing*
5. *Increasing Engagement of CSOs/ NGOs in Health Financing*
6. *Development Partners in Nigeria: Bridging the Health Financing Gap*
7. *Boosting Social Protection Against Health Risk*
8. *National Health Accounts in Nigeria: Concepts, Approaches and Findings*
9. *National Health Accounts: Media as Partners*
10. *National Health Accounts Institutionalization in Nigeria*

The policy briefs present country specific contexts, experiences, challenges and best practices, and will

serve as a guide to understand the NHA concept. They will also contribute towards ensuring use of standard methodology in evaluating health expenditure, and ensuring consistency and continuity in estimation of NHA and State NHA (SNHA) in Nigeria. Importantly, the briefs represent the collective efforts of more than a decade of work in NHA in Nigeria. The process of conducting National Health Accounts (NHA) in Nigeria commenced in 2002 by using data for 1998-2002. This process was technically and financially supported by the Economics Department of the University of Ibadan, and the World Health Organization respectively.

Beyond the policy briefs, federal and state ministries of health personnel acquired an additional skill on how to develop policy briefs from the several studies and researches commissioned within the health sector on regular basis. An outcome of this is the availability of a critical mass of people trained on NHA results interpretation and utilization for decision making. Knowledge is said to be power.

Now a new zeal for NHA

The 2003 – 2005 NHA results validation, the development of the policy briefs on NHA, the presence of an implementation manual for the process and the availability of a core group of personnel skilled in NHA has aroused more stakeholder interests in institutionalizing the NHA as a part of the process for establishing good governance for public spending in the

health sector.

The estimation of the 2006-2008 NHA with selected sub-accounts in Nigeria has already commenced in March 2010 in response to identified next steps in the national health plan development process. PATHS2 has supported the government to develop a framework for linking the NHA to its Public Expenditure Reviews (PER) and Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) Surveys. Through these three health financing tools, the Federal Ministry of Health and State Ministries of Health will work closely with development partners to improve available information on public expenditure at the Federal and State levels.

National Health Accounts (NHA) is a framework that has been used internationally to diagnose the financial functioning of health systems and design sound health financing policies, which can lead to improvement in the performance of health systems.

A key objective of PATHS2 is to help the government for health to get more efficient in how the health sector activities are planned and financed so as to ensure quality and affordable health services are delivered to Nigerians.

*Further reading on the use of the 2003 – 2005 NHA results:
National Health Strategic Development Plan,
www.fmh.gov.ng*

ABOUT PATHS2

The Partnership for Transforming Health Systems Phase Two (PATHS2) is a six year development initiative that aims to ensure Nigeria achieves important health-related Millennium Development Goals.

Funded by UKaid, through the UK's Department of International Development, PATHS2 is working in partnership with the Government of Nigeria and other stakeholders, to improve the planning, financing and delivery of sustainable health services for those in most need.

Apart from working at a Federal level, PATHS2 is working in the five States of Enugu, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna and Lagos.

PATHS2 follows the successful PATHS1, which ran from 2002 to 2008, and was also funded by UKaid.

CONTACT

Mike Egboh
National Programme Manager
m.egboh@paths2.org
09-8725058
www.paths2.org



Federal Ministry of Health

