NIGERIA HEALTH WATCH

Informed commentary, intelligence and insights on the Nigerian health sector

2022 FUTURE OF HEALTH CONFERENCE

The Political Economy of Health:

Investing in the Future of Nigeria

#PoliticsofHealthNG
#FHC2022

The Political Economy of Health:
Investing in the Future of Nigeria
Future Of Health Conference Report
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Conference Agenda

9.00 - 10.15am

Registration

Video Interlude: About Nigeria Health Watch

10.15 – 10.20am

Opening Remarks

Vivianne Ihekweazu
Managing Director, Nigeria Health Watch

10.20 – 10.30am

Video Interlude:
Pathfinder International
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC)
Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI)

10.30 – 10.40am

Keynote Speech

Ben Akabueze
DG, Budget Office of the Federation

10.40 – 10.50am

Opening Presentation

Hakeem Belo-Osagie
Chairman, Metis Capital Partners

10.50 – 12.30pm

Panel Discussion 1:
Political Economy of Health

Moderator:
Dr. Olumide Okunola
Senior Health Specialist, Health Population & Nutrition, World Bank

Panelists:

Dr. Sarah Alade
Special Adviser to the Nigerian President on Finance & Economy

Dr. Ola Brown
Founder, Flying Doctors Healthcare Investment Company

Mr. Onoriode Ezire
Senior Health Specialist, World Bank Group

Dr. Habib Sadauki
National President, SOGON

Professor Obinna Onwujekwe
Lancet Nigeria Commissioner

Yosola Akinbi
Coordinator, CWG, National Human Capital Development Program

Q&A Session

12:30 – 12:40pm

Video:

Introduction to #Vote4Health
Naija Campaign

12.40 – 2.05pm

Panel Discussion 2:
Politics & Health

Moderator:
Chioma Agwuegbo
Executive Director, TechHerNG

Panelists:

Dr. Amina Aminu Dorayi
Nigeria Country Director, Pathfinder International

Dr. Amarakoon Bandara
Senior Economic Advisor and Head of Strategic Policy & Inclusive Growth, UNDP Nigeria

Rob Yates
Executive Director, Centre for Universal Health at Chatham House

Yemi Adamolekun
Executive Director, Enough is Enough Nigeria (EiE)

Q&A Session

2.05 – 2.15pm

Video: The Importance of Political Leadership in Ensuring Funding for Epidemic Preparedness and Response at National and sub-National Levels

2.15 - 3.40pm

Panel Discussion 3:
Political Leadership in Health

Moderator:
Dr. Kemisola Agbaoye
Director of Programmes, Nigeria Health Watch

Panelists:

Dr. Betta Edu
Former Honourable Commissioner of Health, Cross River State

Dr. Obi Emmanuel Ikechukwu
Honourable Commissioner for Health, Enugu State

Dr Amina Baloni,
Honourable Commissioner for Health, Kaduna State

Dr. Oyebanji Filani
Honourable Commissioner for Health and Human Services in Ekiti State

Q&A Session

3:40 – 3:45pm

Closing Remarks

Ify Babatunde-Yusuf
Director of Policy & Advocacy, Nigeria Health Watch

Anchors

Amaka Udeh-Walker is a multiple award-winning journalist with a stellar career spanning over 10 years in the media industry. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, she was in the front lines, telling stories from the isolation centers of survivors which helped in dispelling myths whilst informing the public of the importance of protecting themselves and their loved ones. Amaka can be found on the streets Corresponding or on the television screens anchoring the flagship News on Arise Television.

Aloysius Ugwu is a global health leader and advocate for equity in healthcare delivery. His experience spans over seven years in all aspects of local, state, and federal public health advocacy and policy reviews. Also, he is experienced in development programming and its application in social and economic analysis, gender mainstreaming, achievement of the global agendas, and sustainable human development especially for women, children, and youth. Aloysius has accumulated knowledge and skills through partnerships, evidence generation and work in community mobilization. He has worked under the DFID, Gates Foundation and USAID funded projects amongst others and understands their dynamics in programming and reporting processes.

Keynote Presenters

Hakeem Belo-Osagie is Chairman of Metis Capital Partners and FSDH Group Holding Company and Senior Lecturer of Business Administration at Harvard Business School. He is an entrepreneur and philanthropist and the Chairman of Metis Capital Partners, an organisation that focuses on brokering and delivering attractive, large-ticket transactions in Africa to select blue chip international investment partners. Belo-Osagie has been a key player in the development of the Nigerian economy through his participation in several private sector businesses; particularly in the fields of energy, finance and telecommunications.

Ben Akabueze is the Director-General, Budget Office of the Federation, Nigeria. He has over 23 years experience in Accounting, Consulting, Banking, and public financial management. He served as Lagos State Commissioner for Economic Planning & Budget.
He served as Special Adviser (Planning) to the President of Nigeria. Ben Akabueze is very passionate about societal transformation and actively participates in programmes designed to bring the desired change in his country. In this respect, he serves on the Boards of the Apostles in the Marketplace, Society for National Transformation, etc. Ben is the recipient of several academic, professional and community service awards.

Moderators

Panel Session 1

Dr. Olumide Okunola is Senior Health Specialist, World Bank Group and he supports health systems strengthening reforms across several Sub-Saharan African countries. He is a policy entrepreneur who actively engages with stakeholders on broad ranging issues and initiatives on country and regional health financing policies, strategies, and programs for Universal Health Coverage.
He is passionate about bringing innovative and inclusive approaches to healthcare delivery in Africa. His work spans alternative financing models for healthcare infrastructure, institutionalising quality in healthcare and mainstreaming gender in the health sector

Panel Session 2

Chioma Agwuegbo is the Executive Director, TechHerNG and the Convener of the #StateofEmergencyGBV Movement, a coalition igniting citizens to advocate for an urgent, comprehensive, and sustainable response to Gender-based Violence. Chioma believes in applying digital solutions to societal problems, whether it is chaperoning young, first-time women politicians, co-creating solutions for sexual and gender-based violence, or curating sessions on digital freedoms/security. She serves on the boards of PLAN International Nigeria and OXFAM International.

Panel Session 3

Dr. Kemisola Agbaoye is the Director of Programmes, Nigeria Health Watch. Over the last 5 years, Dr. Agbaoye has worked extensively to support the Nigerian government to strengthen health security at regional, national, and subnational levels. She has ongoing research interests in the use of evidence to influence health policy and regularly contributes her thought leadership on this issue.
At Nigeria Health Watch, she oversees all programme activities, and leads implementation of the Prevent Epidemics project focused on advocacy for sustained funding for epidemic preparedness and response.

Panelists

Dr. Sarah Alade is the Special Adviser to the Nigerian President on Finance and Economy. She chairs the Central Working Committee to actualize the current National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2025 and drive the development of Nigeria Agenda 2050, which focuses on developing and implementing policies designed to accelerate sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Dr. Alade also acted briefly as Governor of the CBN and was the Chairman of African Finance Corporation. She is currently a member of the Investment Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) and an Advisory Panel Member of G20 Contact with Africa (CWA).

Dr. Ola Brown is the Founder of Flying Doctors Healthcare Investment Company. She sits on the board of the Professional Women's Network. She is an international speaker who has spoken at numerous global conferences, a multiple international award winner with many publications to her credit. She currently teaches Economics and Finance at the School of Politics, Policy and Governance in Nigeria. Her organization, Flying Doctors Healthcare Investment Company (FDHIC) focuses on technology-enabled healthcare with public private partnerships (PPP) in Africa.

Mr. Onoriode Ezire is a Senior Health Specialist, World Bank Group. He supported in mobilising domestic resources for health and the development of the FCT Health Insurance Operational Guideline. He is currently working in three Nigeria States and the FCT to strengthen and reposition the States' Health Insurance Scheme and Primary Health Care Development Boards in readiness to assess the Basic Health Care Provision Fund and improve access to health in a bid to achieve Universal Health Coverage. He has successfully sustained and increased the HP+ Nigeria scope and budget. He is experienced in governance, health systems including health financing and advocacy, FP and MNCH.

Dr. Habib Sadauki is the National President of the Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON). He has over thirty years of experience in the medical field, at home and abroad. He has a decade of experience managing RH/FP, MNCH and safe motherhood projects at the national, state and community level. Dr. Sadauki is the Director to the SOGON subgrant on the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health Project (PACFaH). This is a social accountability capacity building project designed to enable 7 Nigerian civil society organisations to advocate to the executive and legislature in the domains of policy; budgetary compliance and regulatory reform.

Professor Obinna Onwujekwe FAS, FAMedS. He is a Professor of Pharmacoeconomics/ Pharmacoepidemiology. He is the Director of Research and the Coordinator of the Health Policy Research Group. He is a member of board of the Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON). He is also the Director of the Nigerian National Centre on Health Policy and Systems. He is a member of The African Advisory Committee on Health Research and Development (AACHRD). He was a Commissioner in the recently launched Lancet Nigeria Commission on Investing in Health and the Future of the Nation. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, among others.

Rob Yates is the Executive Director, Centre for Universal Health at Chatham House. He is a political health economist specialising in universal health coverage (UHC) and progressive health financing. He is also an Honorary Associate Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.His area of expertise is in the political economy of UHC, with a focus on advising governments on planning, financing and implementing national UHC reforms. He was a Senior Health Economist with the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Health Organisation, advising nations on health financing policy and health systems reforms.

Yosolaoluwa Olanrewaju Akinbi is the Coordinator, Core Working Group (CWG), National Human Capital Development Program where she provides strategic leadership on the National Human Capital Development Program. She is also the Head of the National Economic Council Cluster in the Office of the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Yosolaoluwa has many years of professional experience in audit, accounting, project management, systems design and development, privatisation and commercialization, donor coordination, and so forth. She is an insightful, focused, energetic, dependable, and passionate personality.

Yemi Adamolekun is the Executive Director, Enough is Enough Nigeria (EiE). She was appointed to the Editorial Board of ThisDay Newspapers and in May 2022, she won the Global Citizen Prize. EiE is a non-partisan network of individuals and organisations committed to building a culture of good governance & public accountability in Nigeria through active citizenship. The organisation has led various advocacy campaigns including its flagship #RSVP: Register |Select |Vote |Protect Campaign promoting voter education and participation; 'Office of the Citizen' Campaign; it is involved in the #OpenNASS campaign calling for accountability and transparency in the National Assembly.

Dr. Amina Aminu Dorayi is the Nigeria Country Director, Pathfinder International. She is a physician and public health professional with more than 18 years experience in designing and managing health systems and sustainable development programs aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of women, young people and communities. She served as the Technical Director for the USAID-funded Sustaining Health Outcomes through the Private Sector Plus (SHOPS Plus) family planning project in Nigeria. Dr. Dorayi is also a Steering Committee member of Women in Global Health Nigeria Chapter and she serves on the Advisory Board of Family Empowerment Media.

Amarakoon Bandara is a Senior Economic Advisor and Head of Strategic Policy and Inclusive Growth, UNDP Nigeria. He has provided policy advisory support to governments in designing national development plans, implementation of strategies to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), impact assessments, integrated national financing, SDG impact mapping and national human development. He worked for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand. He has to his credit several research articles presented at high-level international conferences and published in reputed refereed journals. He is also a regular independent reviewer for many journals.

Dr. Amina Mohammed Baloni is an Honourable Commissioner for Health, Kaduna State. She has over 25 years of practice as a clinician and a public health professional. Her core competencies of communication which has helped her achieve results while working with government in various States to improve the health and wellbeing of children and women, by building their capacity and transferring technical skills such as planning, analytics, formulation of strategies and monitoring for results. She is a professional with broad public health knowledge. She is passionate about developing people. Dr. Baloni believes that strong systems provide sustainable development and results.

Dr. Betta Edu is a Former Honourable Commissioner for Health, Cross River State. She is a fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health England. Dr. Edu is a multiple award winner, a philanthropist and a technocrat who has served in different capacities under various governments. She was former National Chairman of Nigeria Health Commissioners Forum where she coordinated cooperation and unison among Commissioners for Health to effectively serve their States in leading public health initiatives at the state level.

Dr. Obi Emmanuel Ikechukwu is an Honourable Commissioner for Health, Enugu State. He is an Associate Professor of Public Health Medicine, a Public Health Specialist and Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria in Public Health. Dr. Obi is a health development consultant and has served as Long Term Technical Assistant on a Health Systems Strengthening Project for Family Health International (USA). He is a member of the Nigerian Medical Association, Chairman of the Association of Public Health Physicians (APHPN) Enugu State Chapter. He is Deputy National Representative (for Nigeria) of the International Association for Communications in Healthcare (EACH).

Dr. Oyebanji Filani is an Honourable Commissioner for Health and Human Services in Ekiti State. He is a passionate advocate for innovative and sustainable health financing mechanisms. He is a public health economist with over 15 years of experience in health financing and health systems reforms. As the Honourable Commissioner for Health, he is responsible for the development of and provides oversight on the implementation of innovative and sustainable programmes, towards fulfilling the State's Universal Health Coverage. Dr. Filani also worked in the United Kingdom, providing analytical support to the NHS, pharmaceutical companies and charity organisations.

SPONSORS

Platinum Partners

Global Health Advocacy Incubator

The Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) supports civil society organizations who advocate for public health policies that reduce death and disease.

GHAI bring a proven advocacy approach and a global network of local partners, built on a 20-year track record of success across multiple issues in more than 60 countries. They take a specific, targeted approach to deliver health policy wins in countries around the world, in every type of government system. Their advocacy approach includes political mapping, strategic communications, legal analysis and more.

dRPC
Facilitating Inclusive Development

The development Research and Project Centre (dRPC) is registered intermediary non-profit organization established with a mission of strengthening the capacity (organizational and technical capacity) of civil society organizations to design and implement transformative and sustainable development interventions which engage government and address felt needs of the vulnerable and excluded such as women, girls, and youth.

The vision of dRPC is for an ethical, inclusive, and sustainable model of development engaging beneficiaries, civil society organizations as catalytic agents of change and government agencies for scale up, sustainability, ensuring public interest and public good.

Their values are professionalism, inclusivity, innovation, and responsiveness to communities of need.

UN DP

UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in some 170 countries and territories, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

UNDP has been supporting the Government and people of Nigeria in addressing development challenges, through strengthening and building institutions that promote inclusive sustainable development and democratic governance. We work work an array of partners as we work together to support the Nigeria meet her Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promise.

PATHFINDER

Pathfinder International is driven by the conviction that all people, regardless of where they live, have the right to decide whether and when to have children, to exist free from fear and stigma, and to lead the lives they choose. As a global health organization with locally led, community-driven programs, we support women to make their own reproductive health decisions.

Pathfinder envisions a world where everyone has access to contraception, where there are zero new HIV infections, where no woman dies from preventable pregnancy-related complications, and where everyone leads a healthy sexual and reproductive life.

PAS PACFaH@Scale Many Advocates, One Voice

The Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale (PACFaH@Scale/PAS) is a health accountability network of Nigerian civil society organizations working to catalyse national and state governments to make adequate provision for child and family health in Nigeria through evidence-based advocacy for domestic financing and building champions within the executive legislature. PACFaH@Scale is anchored by the development Research Projects Center.

Their key issue areas are family planning, routine immunization, childhood killer diseases, primary healthcare under one roof, capacity building and developing champions within government.

Silver Partners

APIN

APIN Public Health Initiatives is a leading non-governmental organization that focuses on the provision of prevention, care and treatment services to patients with diseases of public health significance such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. APIN also provides technical assistance to relevant government agencies to strengthen the delivery of Reproductive Health, Maternal, New-born and Child Health, Laboratory services. APIN mission is to provide cutting-edge, innovative & sustainable approaches to address diseases of public health importance through effective program management, service delivery, capacity building, research, strategic information & advocacy in partnership with other stakeholders.

Their vision is to be the leading Public Health NGO committed to a reduced disease burden and impact mitigation in Nigeria and Africa.

Supporting Partners

SFH

Society for Family Health (SFH) is a Nigerian non-governmental organisation (NGO) working in partnership with communities, government, donors and the private sector for universal health coverage and social justice for all Nigerians. We leverage on over thirty years of thought leadership in a range of practical community-level interventions and policy engagements to scale population-level impact.

SFH connects all Nigerians in an innovative social business model to expand access to essential health commodities while boosting overall national health financing. Their vision is to ensure Healthy Lives for All.

PharmAccess FOUNDATION

The goal of the foundation is to make inclusive health markets work in sub-Saharan Africa. Realizing that the first wealth is health.They challenge the notion that exclusion from essential healthcare is an inevitable consequence of living in poorer countries and identify the opportunities and partners – both private and public, needed to bring about holistic transformation in failing health markets.

PharmAccess focuses on the root causes that hamper health care financing and investments towards equitable and quality health care in sub-Saharan Africa.

The organization aims at inspiring viable and resilient health markets that provide access to care for millions of people in Africa.

SCIDaR SOLINA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

Solina Centre for International Development and Research (SCIDaR) works to accelerate positive health, social and economic reforms through high-quality program design, implementation, capacity building, scientific research and knowledge generation across human development sectors.
SCIDaR's vision is to become a leading organization working to accelerate social, health and economic development of undeserved populations.

Our mission is to optimize health outcomes globally by improving the effectiveness and sustaining the ability of health systems through innovation and bridging knowledge-action gaps. The organization develops and executes new solutions that are based on operational research, experimental learning, and tested business management tools.

99.9 Kiss FM Abuja

99.9 Kiss FM Abuja is a prestigious leading radio brand with a select quality team of professionals who are always driven by the need to keep raising the bar higher as far as broadcast and service delivery are concerned.

Our vision is to be the "go-to" people as far as high-quality, relevant and vibrant programming is concerned in our region.
Our mission is to make sure every second spent listening to us is worthwhile. We do this by churning out well thought and professionally packaged programs for public consumption.

The Political Economy of Health:
Investing in the Future of Nigeria

Inspired by the mandate to advocate for a better health care for all Nigerians, the eighth edition of the Future of Health Conference began with high expectations. Vivianne Ihekweazu, the Managing Director of Nigeria Health Watch began the conference by referring back to the purpose of the annual conference. She emphasized that the entire purpose of hosting the flagship event every year is to critically examine at the health sector from a broader perspective.

The theme for the 2022 Future of Health Conference was ***"The Political Economy of Health, Investing in the Future of Nigeria"***. There is a need for deliberate improvements in the health sector. In understanding the political implication of how health decisions are made, in order for health to receive its rightful place in the national priorities of the country, we need our leaders and health sector to also place health at the top of their priorities. Prioritizing health is an appeal call to all, including political decision-makers, given that the world's economies and productivity have not yet fully recovered from the negative impact of COVID-19.

Furthermore, given the poor state of the Nigeria health indices, it is critical for health actors to seize every opportunity to engage their political counterparts, ensuring that health is prioritised. Decision makers should be held accountable for providing adequate health care services to citizens.

It is also worth noting that the health sector has achieved some significant milestones in the last decade or so. For example, in 2018, the National Assembly appropriated funds for the provision of basic health care. In the same year, the monumental Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) was conducted to gain a better understanding of the HIV burden in Nigeria. In the same year, a bill for an act to establish the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) was signed by President Muhammadu Buhari. These achievements were critical, for example, the establishment of NCDC was critical in the management of disease outbreaks such as COVID-19.

The National Health Insurance Authority Act (NHIA), which repealed the National Health Insurance Scheme Act of 1999, was signed into law in 2022. This was also significant in the history of Nigerian healthcare because it made health insurance mandatory, particularly at the state level. All of these accomplishments required, among other things, political will.

In order to continue redefining the health sector of our dreams, Nigeria Health Watch will continue to focus on meeting the health information gaps and needs of health professionals and the Nigerian population.

> ***"In understanding the political implication of how health decisions are made, in order for health to receive its rightful place in the national priorities of the country, we need our leaders and health sector to also place health at the top of their priorities***
>
> ***- Vivianne Ihekweazu***

Keynote Address

Financing Healthcare Sustainably in Nigeria

by the Technical Adviser to the Director General of the Budget Office of the Federation, Ben Akabueze

AKABUEZE: **'RESOURCE MOBILIZATION ALLOCATION, AS WELL AS PAYMENT MECHANISM ARE VERY CRITICAL IN DETERMINING THE AVAILABILITY, AND AFFORDABILITY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO THOSE THAT NEED THEM'**

Health is high on Nigeria's development agenda, which is why enabling a healthy populace is a key goal of the 2021-2025 National Development Plan. It is commonly stated that health is wealth, and that a healthy population leads to economic prosperity. It is therefore imperative to ensure significant investment in health, effective delivery of healthcare services and equitable access to healthcare services in Nigeria. Health investment serves as a catalyst for economic growth by increasing labor force participation, labor productivity, innovations, income growth, and population well-being. This is why the importance of improved healthcare services for economic growth and development cannot be overstated.

The Budget Office of the Federation recognizes the strong positive relationship between the country's economic development outcomes and the availability, quality, access, costs, and delivery of healthcare services. Invariably, resource mobilization allocation, as well as payment mechanism are very critical in determining the availability, and affordability of health care services to those that need them.

Recognizing the importance of health as a key determinant of economic well-being and development, the government has prioritized health investment financing over time in order to meet the health SDGs and achieve universal health coverage. Over the last five years, the federal government's budget for the health sector has more than doubled. The sector's allocation was increased by 170%, from 305.1 billion naira in 2016 to 823.5 billion in 2022, and by 33% to 1.1 trillion in 2023. This figure excludes health-related expenditure in other MDAs and grants that are heavily focused on health. Agriculture and the wash sectors receive similar allocations.

In order to reverse medical tourism, the private sector can also commit resources to laboratory services and the provision of critical equipment. With that in place, health institutions will no longer have to rely on budgetary resources to fund the provision of critical equipment, machines, and facilities. It is important to note that effective delivery of public healthcare is a shared responsibility between the federal and sub-national government. As a result, sub-national governments must also increase health-care funding.

> ***To optimize healthcare financing, we urgently need innovative and sustainable financing arrangements to further strengthen the healthcare system in Nigeria.***
>
> ***- Ben Akabueze***

Primary Healthcare Centres must be operational in order to improve healthcare performance at the grassroots level. They must be well-equipped and staffed with highly skilled personnel. To ensure effective public healthcare delivery in Nigeria, we must first identify and address non-financial constraints. Governments at all levels should improve allocative efficiency for health-care expenditures, as well as transparency and accountability frameworks for health-care funds.

> ***Health is rated high on Nigeria's development agenda which is why enabling a healthy populace is a key objective of her 2021 to 2025 National Development Plan***
> ***- Ben Akabueze***

According to the budget implementation report, the health sector is one of the sectors with a utilization rate less than 100%. As a result, advocacy efforts in this sector are required to identify the barriers to effective resource utilization. When there are procurement issues, MDAs are advised to begin their procurement early in order to efficiently and effectively use the resources that are provided. We also need to pay greater attention to targeting public health expenditure to ensure that appropriate revenues are raised where possible while maintaining adequate and high-quality services.

Citizens need to be involved and consulted beyond formal oversight mechanisms. To ensure that health interventions have the desired impact, the government, civil society, and business associations must shape and monitor them. To achieve the aforementioned goals, all stakeholders must work together to ensure optimal healthcare delivery.

GOVERNMENT ALLOCATION STRATEGY

The strategy of government is to significantly increase allocation to the health sector and also take into consideration the need to improve the following:

Spending on agriculture, to promote food security and nutrition.

Increased allocation to environment to improve sanitation.This is because allocation of more resources to these WASH sectors will help prevent outbreak of diseases.

Increased allocation to water resources to ensure that we're able to promote the health of the people.

Administrative Competence In Implementing Health Program

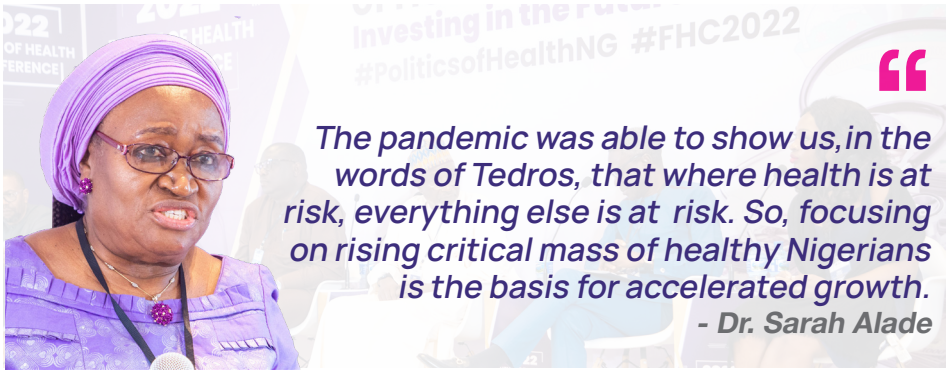
Opening Presentation by Hakeem Bello-Osagie, Chairman Metis Capital Partners

"Those who care about health should also care about ensuring that our government's overall revenue base and spending pattern allow for a significant portion of that money to go toward health." Political will is critical. A wealthy country should be able to improve its health-care system. However, there are times when there is no political will to prioritize health. Our determination to give health its proper place is critical, and it should be ongoing, not just during outbreaks like Ebola and COVID. Management and Administrative competence and efficiency, well-crafted policies and technology has a huge role and impact in health care.

A good example is its role in telemedicine, which has brought health care to areas where it was previously unavailable. The combination of telemedicine and an excellent communication system can accomplish so much in the field of healthcare. It is critical that we use technology to its full potential. Thus, extending mobile technology to all parts of the country is beneficial to the healthcare system because it aids in bringing health care to every nook and cranny of the country. Given the impact that COVID and Ebola have had on our society, it is indeed a wake-up call that we must be serious and focused on health care. Invariably, policy analysis is critical as we strive to ensure successful health care in our country.

PANEL SESSION 1

Political Economy of Health



The pandemic was able to show us, in the words of Tedros, that where health is at risk, everything else is at risk. So, focusing on rising critical mass of healthy Nigerians is the basis for accelerated growth.
- Dr. Sarah Alade

ALADE: 'THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IF WE DON'T HAVE HEALTH.'

Dr. Sarah Alade, Special Adviser to the Nigerian President on Finance and Economy, emphasized the importance of making government understand that human capital development is critical for comfort in healthcare. She revealed that the government plans to finance 85% of public needs through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and other private sector initiatives over the next four years. To achieve these initiatives, specific PPPs tailored to the sectors, as well as a continuous increase in budget allocation, are required. She hinted that one of the National Development Plan's strategic objectives from 2021 to 2025 is to enable a vibrant, educated, and healthy populace. She emphasized that in order to accomplish this, all hands must be on deck.

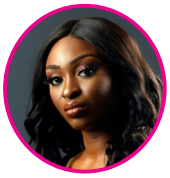
ONWUJEKWE: 'GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PRIVATIZATION OF HEALTH ARE THE FIRST PLACE TO START THE JOURNEY TO GOOD HEALTH.'

Professor Obinna, Lancet Nigeria Commissioner, emphasized that in order to make good use of available funds, a targeted budget is required. He identified the absence of that in the sector as a disadvantage. Governance and human resource issues are also significant challenges in managing the available funds in the health sector. Therefore, the public health fund would be utilized better when there is less corruption and accountable government as well as the engagement of credible and trained personnel. He also discussed the importance of targeted benefit package implementation that identifies beneficiaries in order to reduce sabotage in the use of available resources.

Dr. Olumide Okunola
Senior Health Specialist, World Bank Group
(Moderator)

Dr. Sarah Alade
Special Adviser to the Nigerian President on Finance & Economy

Dr. Habib Sadauki
National President, SOGON



Dr. Ola Brown
Founder, Flying Doctors Healthcare Investment Company

Professor Obinna Onwujekwe
Lancet Nigeria Commissioner

Mr. Onoriode Ezire
Senior Health Specialist, World Bank Group

Yosola Akinbi
Coordinator, CWG, National Human Capital Development Program

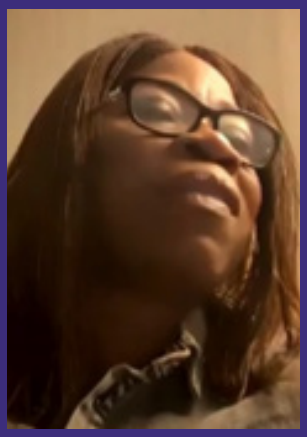
If we reposition healthcare at the level of the presidency, House of Reps, Senate, as not just solving a healthcare problem, but as a solution to all Nigeria's problems, then we can get the government to focus on it like they did with all the other sectors.

- Dr. Ola Brown

Responding to the factors that encourage private investments in health, Dr. Ola Brown, Founder of Flying Doctors Healthcare Investment Company, emphasized the importance of creating an enabling environment for public-private partnerships (PPPs) in Nigeria's health sector by establishing a specialized PPP framework for healthcare that allows investors to invest. There is a need for a public sector investment for people who cannot afford health insurance, which will provide scale for investors. On technology investment, she asserted the need to create an avenue for investors like Google and Facebook that want to provide this infrastructure for free, which would be a game changer in terms of last mile connectivity, allowing these solutions to scale.

"**Only 22%** of mothers or women of reproductive age group are using family planning methods and this is very low for a population control. "

- Dr. Habib Sadauki



Yosola Akinbi
Coordinator, Core Working Group (CWG), National Human Capital Development Program

In as much as strong political will is important in advancing healthcare, it is also important that we as citizens joined forces together with government to actually monitor and track and see where we are.

Advocating and pushing for improvement in the health sector based on population, age and sex, is very important for development.

- Dr. Onoriode Ezire

Dr. Onoriode Ezire, Senior Health Specialist at the World Bank Group, discussed the importance of accountability in service delivery at the local and state government levels. To make health a top priority, he stated that health actors must evolve to ensure that health engagements and other necessary compromises are pushed forward and supported at the local and state levels. Furthermore, the importance of providing accurate data and evidence to assist in making sound decisions in the health domain cannot be overstated. Transparency is another important factor in ensuring stakeholder accountability at the local and state government levels. At these levels, a support system with a strong accountability mechanism should be in place to ensure that funds are used appropriately.

There are a lot of economic benefits in providing contraception to women who need it. If you invest in family planning of $1, you make a saving of $3, in terms of complication that will arise from childbirth.

- Dr. Habib Sadauki

SADAUKI: '**FAMILY PLANNING EMPOWERS WOMEN, IT GIVES THEM ECONOMIC POWER TO TAKE DECISIONS AND CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES**.'

The National President of the Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON), Dr. Habib Sadauki, spoke about the importance of family planning in economic development. He stated that in order for Nigeria to get its fertility under control, to allow the economy grow faster than the population so that people can have access to basic amenities, there is the urgent need to address the issue of family planning by allocating more resources for family planning and sexual reproductive health services. He also mentioned that there is a budget allocation for family planning in 2023, which is commendable.

"**About 60%** of people's income at the lower economic level is spent on food followed by shelter then leaving almost nothing for health."

- Dr. Sarah Alade

You cannot bring down fertility, if you don't also have increased education for your girls and the use of expanded primary health care services, which also have voluntary family planning services.

- Dr. Olumide Okunola

SESSION 1 PRESENTATIONS TAKEAWAYS

1. Instability in the economy is not an excuse for not achieving universal health coverage (UHC) as most countries achieved UHC when their economies were bad. For instance, the UK setup its NHIS when it was at war.
2. Without public financing, we cannot achieve Universal Health Coverage.
3. If we are to reduce the fuel subsidy, then there will be expanded fiscal space to fund things that matter to people like health and education, among others.
4. Priority should be accorded to human capital development, specifically health education and social projects protection in resource allocation.
5. To achieve human capital development and health in particular there is a need to incentivize the private sector to be able to pick the bulk of the bill.
6. Family Planning empowers the whole family and by so doing, it empowers economic development across the country.
7. If Nigeria's population is not structured, our economic growth is going to be stunted.
8. A combination of negotiation and political compromise, incremental budgeting and understanding of health needs is core in prioritizing health.
9. Investing in health can solve all the other economy related challenges in Nigeria.
10. Human capital plays a key role in addressing poverty, while ensuring participatory and sustainable economic growth.
11. Economic growth is not achievable without prioritizing health.
12. Public health is a fundamental building block of national economic growth, and there is no way sustainable development and inclusive development can be achieved, if there is no health.

PANEL SESSION 2

Politics & Health

The second panel continued the conversation on politics and health, with the goal of redefining Nigeria's healthcare system. During the discussion, the four panelists took a solutions-oriented approach to sharing their thoughts.

Yemi Adamolekun, Director of Enough is Enough Nigeria (EiE), discussed citizen engagement with policymakers in developing policies that can advance the healthcare system. She emphasized the importance of policymakers, such as political aspirants, engaging with citizens on their policy strategy for development, particularly in health. Furthermore, citizens should go beyond simply stating what they want in the economy to voting for the right policies and collaborating with organizations based on their preferences in order to achieve the desired outcome. She went on to say that the bar in our media industry is quite low, and many media outlets lack the resources to conduct in-depth research. If these and other questions are asked, rather than focusing solely on infrastructure and good intentions, we can be certain that not only the media organizations, but also the health sector and the nation as a whole, will improve.

> *"Nigeria has so many media champions and young people that are not only active on social media but are fearless and innovative. So why don't we walk with them and help strengthen their capacity in their preferred areas.*
>
> ***- Dr. Amina Dorayi***

Chioma Agwuegbo
Executive Director, TechHerNG
(Moderator)

Dr. Amina Aminu Dorayi
Nigeria Country Director, Pathfinder International

Rob Yates
Executive Director, Centre for Universal Health at Chatham House

Dr. Amarakoon Bandara
Senior Economic Advisor and Head of Strategic Policy & Inclusive Growth, UNDP Nigeria

Yemi Adamolekun
Executive Director, Enough is Enough Nigeria (EiE)

Rob Yates, Executive Director, Centre for Universal Health at Chatham House, highlighted underfunding as the root problem of Nigeria's health system in his discussion of the key gaps responsible for Nigeria's slow progress toward UHC and steps to bridge them. He went on to emphasize the critical need for public funding to improve the nation's healthcare. Furthermore, he stated that universal health reforms begin with the health sector selling the idea of quality health to their political counterparts in order to achieve them, and that as a result, health heroes may emerge from the nation in the near future.

"The only way you can reach UHC is through public financing and the world has learned that lesson.

- Dr. Rob Yates

"Investments in wealth will yield little if the people are unhealthy.

- Chioma Agwuegbo (Moderator)

DORAYI: **'ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE IS EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY AND SHOULD BE A POLITICAL GOAL, AND NOT A HEALTHCARE GOAL.'**

Dr. Amina Dorayi, Pathfinder International's Nigeria Country Director, emphasized the importance of collective responsibility in achieving UHC by emphasizing the participatory duties of every patriot. She went on to emphasize the importance of health advocates being involved at all levels, particularly at the subnational level, so that decision makers can be held accountable.

Even at the community level, different civil societies must speak with one voice, listen to one another, and draft a less complicated message that will carry people along, so that our politicians and citizens understand and participate appropriately. Dr. Amarakoon Bandara, Senior Economic Advisor and Head of Strategic Policy and Inclusive Growth at UNDP Nigeria, pushed the discussion forward by emphasizing the importance of human capital development in developing a prosperous economy. We try to build the capacity of both the federal government and the states in crafting policies and strategies that cater to various needs, including health, by supporting federal and state level planning processes and ensuring that policies are SDG aligned. He concluded by stating that health problems cannot be solved in isolation and that a holistic approach is required.

In a nutshell, health politics can either facilitate or deter health outcomes, and citizen participation is critical in decision making, particularly in the health and overall well-being landscape.

"In supporting the federal and state level planning processes, we make sure that these are SDG aligned in that sense, we try to build the capacity of both the federal government and the states in crafting policies and strategies that cater to the nation's different needs, health inclusive

- Mr Amarakoon Bandara

SESSION 2 KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Achieving Universal Health Coverage should be a political goal, and not just a healthcare goal.
2. There is a need for increased citizen engagement with policies and policymakers.
3. Public financing needs to be doubled, if not trebled in the presidential term and this has been done by other countries who are advancing in achieving UHC.
4. When there are women in politics and decision making, we would not have to worry about putting health at the top of the agenda because women understand the need for maternal health, child health, family planning and the likes, which is the bane of development.
5. Adopting subsidy removal strategy that has been proven effective from other nations like Indonesia and Iran would help Nigeria's journey to achieving UHC. That is to say, you fund rapid UHC reforms out of cutting fuel subsidies.
6. In partnerships, especially between government and donors, mutual respect and understanding helps in achieving the listed goals.
7. Health problems cannot be solved in isolation. It has to be a holistic approach.
8. Citizens must see health as a critical issue that must be rallied around. So, beyond roads, schools and jobs, citizens should ask politicians, what is your plan for the health sector?
9. Cultivating political will and engagement is a critical part of investing in the future of health.

PANEL SESSION 3

Political Leadership In Health

The conversations, which had been a melting pot of several inspiring ideas and strategies, reached a climax with the third panel's discussion on political leadership in health. The panel was made up of key health leaders who had taken the bull by the horns and implemented reforms in their respective states.

As at the last count, we have over 60,000 persons registered under the Scheme. Beyond registering, they also receive care from the facilities when the need arises. - Dr. Betta Edu

Dr. Betta Edu, Former Honourable Commissioner of Health in Cross River State, spoke on some initiatives that were implemented in the state, sharing her thoughts on some of the reforms that have been instituted to help improve healthcare at the sub-national level. "In Cross River State, we were able to kick-start the implementation of the State Health Insurance Scheme. As at the last count, we have over 60,000 persons registered under the Scheme. Beyond registering, they also receive care from the facilities when the need arises.'The introduction of Electronic Medical Record (EMR) also resulted in a shift from paper data capture to digital data capture in the health sector."

She went on to mention that achieving UHC in Nigeria should be a priority. "The nation has to move from voluntary health insurance to getting a full mandatory health insurance so we can have majority of the population under it that will fund for those who cannot afford it. Also, attaining UHC in Nigeria amounts to creating more employment for more people in the society. As a matter of fact, if we achieve universal health coverage in Nigeria, we would be able to reduce unemployment by over 80%."

"As health professionals, policymakers, experts, we need to be able to step out of our shoes and think about healthcare, the way the politician should, so that we can have the right framing to attract the right resources, and the right interest for the sector.
- Dr. Betta Edu

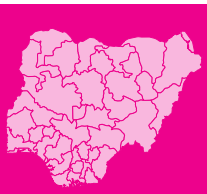
Dr. Kemisola Agbaoye
Director of Programmes, Nigeria Health Watch
(Moderator)

Dr. Betta Edu
Former Honourable Commissioner of Health, Cross River State

Dr. Amina Baloni,
Honourable Commissioner for Health, Kaduna State

Dr. Obi Emmanuel Ikechukwu
Honourable Commissioner for Health, Enugu State

Dr. Oyebanji Filani
Honourable Commissioner for Health and Human Services, Ekiti State



Universal healthcare coverage in Nigeria

Reduce unemployment by over 80%.

> *The more you have people on health insurance the more you have funds for health. Right now, we are struggling with numbers, but it is estimated that if you get 40% of your population in health insurance coverage you should be able to fund healthcare for everybody.*
>
> ***- Dr. Amina Baloni***

Dr. Amina Baloni, Honourable Commissioner for Health, Kaduna State continuing on the health reform journey so far in the state mentioned social determinants as key factors in attaining the reforms. Currently, the state operates a zipline that makes approximately 800 deliveries to PHCs. Investing in leadership capacity at all levels is critical to achieving the projected reformation initiatives. She stated that there is a need to focus more on the people who implement reform policies so that they can understand and buy into the vision, as well as properly translate policy into action. Kaduna State healthcare has an integrated demand creation strategy that goes from community to community to get feedbacks on improvement mechanisms. Policymakers ought to be held accountable for the policies that they make. She went on to suggest that a level of sanction should be introduced to punish a bridge in policies.

> *We should institute the rule to always plan, implement, and evaluate.*
>
> ***- Dr. Obi Emmanuel Ikechukwu***

FILANI: 'WE SHOULD INSTITUTE THE RULE TO ALWAYS PLAN, IMPLEMENT, AND EVALUATE. '

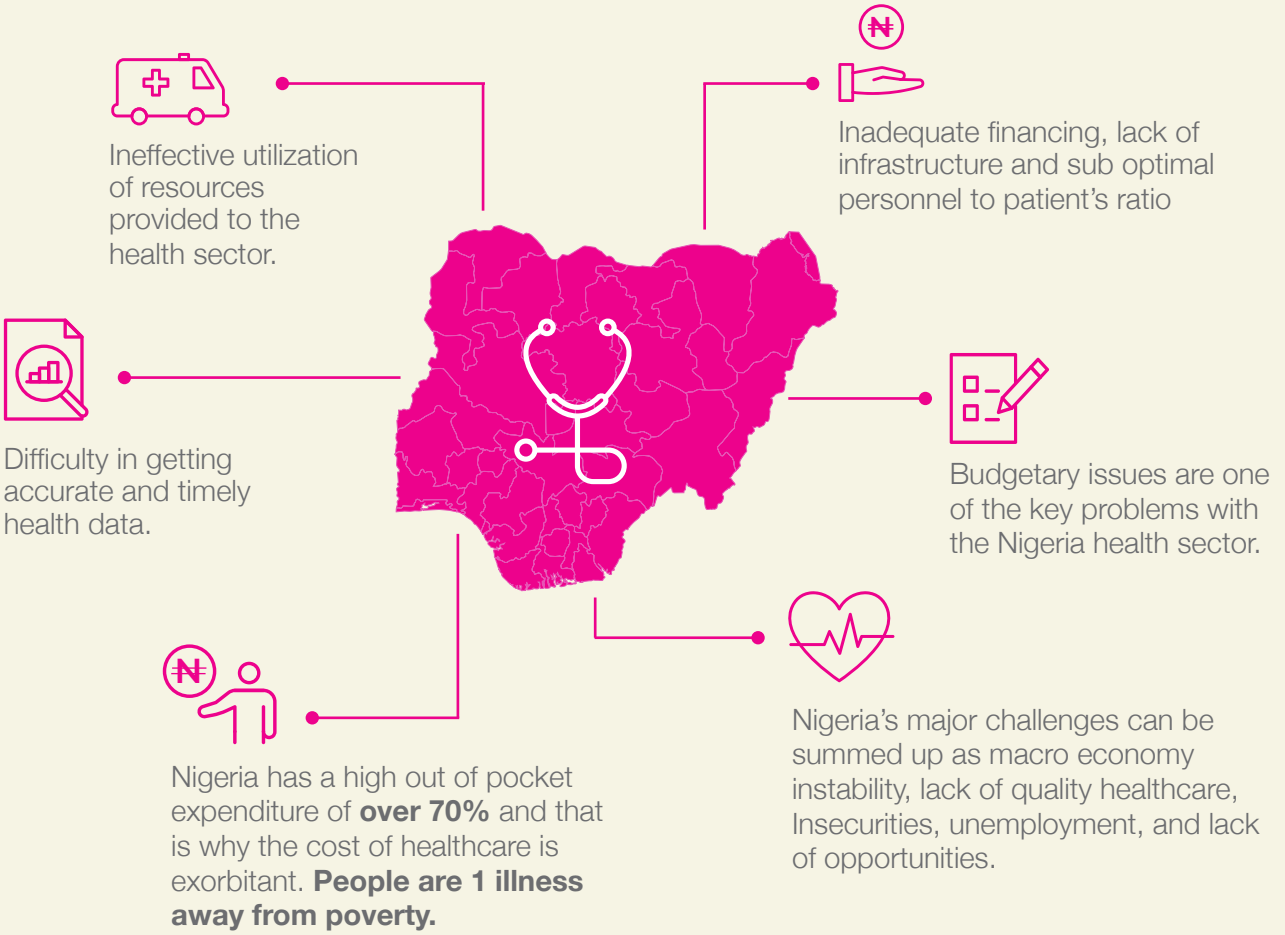
Dr. Oyebanji Filani, Honourable Commissioner for Health, Ekiti State started by speaking on the importance of health. If people are healthy, they can be productive, if they're productive, then they can contribute meaningfully to the society. It took collaborative efforts of stakeholders in education, environment, finance and other social determinants of health, in conveying the massage of prioritizing health and this made achieving improved health initiatives easier for the state. He also expressed the need to hold government accountable in the health sector. Knowing the significance of fund in boosting healthcare services, Ekiti state had about 89% budgetary for the health sector in 2021 and this really improved the outcomes at the facilities.

Stressing on the role of a healthy governance in achieving health reforms, Dr. Obi Emmanuel Ikechukwu, Honourable Commissioner for Health, Enugu State, went on say that strong governance in health systems must be guided by competent leaders with clear vision and ability to motivate and mobilize other health systems stakeholders. here is a need to examine the commitment implementation of the National Health Policy, National Health Act, and National Strategic Health Development Plan in health governance. They should not only exist, but also be implemented and evaluated. For example, Enugu State has a health sector reform law and is one of the first states to conduct a joint external evaluation of its health security infrastructure.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SESSION 3

1. As a nation we must begin to work towards Universal Health Coverage. We need to make our health insurance mandatory not voluntary so we can have majority of the population fund and cover for those who cannot afford it.
2. Falsification of data and inaccurate data is a major challenge in health sector. People need to understand the essence of being truthful about data.
3. The more you have people on health insurance the more you have funds for health. It is estimated that if you get 40% of your population in health insurance coverage you should be able to fund healthcare for everybody.
4. Effective communication and the use of virtual aids as well as IEC communications at the facilities would offer a wider health coverage, extending to the vulnerable, destitute and the physically challenged.
5. Achieving UHC is easier when the social determinants of health like education, environment, finance, and others are engaged in advancing the prioritization of health.

CHALLENGES



CALL TO ACTION

1
Transparency and accountability for public health funds utilization.

2
Early procurement of provided public health funds by the MDAs.

3
Reducing the subsidy to expand fiscal space to fund things that are more essential for human capital development.

4
There is a need to invest more public funds in the health sector.

5
More women should engage in governance to trigger more change in the sectors.

6
The National Health Policy, National Health Act, and National Strategic Health Development Plan should be implemented accordingly.

7
A level of sanction should be introduced to checkmate a bridge in policies.

8
Investing in health can solve most of the nation's economy challenges.

9
We should look at having State Health Policy and State Health Acts, State strategic Care Development Plans and domesticate them.

10
Engaging Nigeria media champions as well as young fearless and innovative people who are active on social media in the journey to achieve UHC is pivotal.

11
Attaining UHC in Nigeria amounts to creating more employment for more people in the society.

2022
FUTURE OF HEALTH
The Political Economy

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