

Title	Implementing the National Primary Health Care Development Fund in Nigeria: How ready is the health system to ensure good governance and accountability?
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Background

In Nigeria, the new National Health Bill aims to substantially increase resources for Primary Health Care (PHC) services through the National Primary Healthcare Development Fund (NPHCDF). The fund will primarily be used to improve the functioning of the PHC system, for example, to pay for essential drugs; maintain facilities, equipment and transport; and support the development of human resources for PHC. However, questions remain about how ready the different stakeholders are to manage this fund and improve the functioning of the PHC system.

The NPHCDA is responsible for developing appropriate guidelines for administration, disbursement and monitoring for the fund, and key stakeholders have requested for evidence to support the development of a framework for implementation that will strengthen accountability.

Purpose of the research

The aim of this research project is to contribute to the production of policy implementation guidelines relating to accountability for the NPHCDF by exploring the governance and accountability readiness of the Nigerian health system for the Fund's implementation. It seeks to address two key research questions:

1. What are the expected roles of various actors at different levels of the health system in managing the flow of funding from the Fund towards improving the responsiveness of the PHC system.
2. What implementing rules could affect how these different actors fulfil their roles and responsibilities, and achieve public purpose through the Fund?

Study methods

The study will involve a desk review of relevant documents and interviews with key actors at the national, state and local government area (LGA) levels. Analysis of initial national interview data will feed into a second set of interviews at the State and LGAs, allowing key stakeholders and researchers to generate policy implementation guidelines together.

Contact

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