Policy Development and Collaborations

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Presentation Outline

- Nigeria at a glance
- Policy development process in Nigeria
- Global drivers that shape national health policy
- Strategies/ plans that influence national health policy
- Collaborations
- Challenges
- Success stories
- Next steps
- Closing statement
Nigeria

- Area (923,000 km²) is slightly more than twice the size of California
- Nigeria ranks 158 (out of 198) in the Human Development Indices of the UNDP (2)
- 3rd largest HIV burden in the world and a HIV prevalence of 3.6% in general adult population (3)
- Nigeria is one of the only four polio-endemic countries

Policy Development Process in Nigeria

- **National Council on Health (NCH)**
  - Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) coordinates all tiers of Government in the development of policies through the NCH
    - NCH meets once or twice a year or during national emergencies
    - Development partners participate as observers
  - Major NCH decisions are ratified by the Federal Executive Council (FEC)

- **Legislative process**
  - Health related legislations are initiated internally within the Bi-Camera National Assembly (NASS) or sent as Bills from the executive
  - Health sector stakeholders (public and private) can also send in draft health legislations
Global Drivers that shape National Health Policy

- Alma-Ata declaration of 1978 on PHC
- World Bank - IMF structural adjustment plan in health sector
- WHO Bamako initiative in 1987
- UN millennium declarations and MDGs in 2000
- Roll back malaria initiative 2000
- African Union initiative on HIV/AIDS and other infections diseases 2001
- The Global Fund (2001)
- Paris declaration and the Accra agenda for action (AAA) (2005)
Strategies/Plans that influence National Health Policy

- **National Health Bill**
  - Senate approved, awaiting House approval, then Presidential assent

- **Vision 20-2020 (health sector theme)**
  - Sets a goal for Nigeria to become among the first 20 Developed Nations by 2020

- **7 point agenda**
  - Health subsumed under human capital development

- **National health strategic development plan (NHSDP) of FMOH (2010 - 2015)**

Collaborations

- **Nigeria health development partner program matrix**

- **Multilaterals:**
  - WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNDP, WB

- **Bilaterals:**
  - DFID, CIDA, JICA,
  - USG Agencies: USAID, CDC, (PEPFAR & global health initiative (GHI))

- **Foundations:**
  - The Global Fund; Clinton, B&M Gates; Carter, Ford, Rotary Int.

- **Public Private Partnerships:**
  - Exxon-Mobil, Pfizer, Merck; National health insurance scheme (NHIS) in partnership with private health care providers

- **Traditional, religious & community leaders**
Challenges

- Inconsistency and frequent change in Policy
- Poor government funding and prioritization
- Development assistance often dictates policy emphasis (donor driven)
- Donor funding guides priority setting
- Weak policy implementation and M&E plans
- Weak multi-sector approach to development process
  - Non-health sector impact on health, cholera, lead poisoning and floods,
- Weak coordination of health partners and stakeholders
Success Stories

- National health bill
- Systematic engagement of community (traditional and religious leaders) in polio eradication initiative (PEI)
- NHIS: Maternal and Child Health Scheme
- PEPFAR-I built capacity, improved standards, brought in technical capacity that improved health workforce retention

Success in disease control:
- Guinea worm eradication, (last reported case – October, 2008)
- Polio reduction (98% reduction in 2010)
- HIV/AIDS reducing/stabilizing incidence (twenty-two of the most affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa (including Nigeria) have reduced new HIV infections by more than 25% (UNAIDS 2010).
Next Steps

- Finalize the national health bill
- Increase government funding and prioritization
- Sustain, improve and follow-up on policy
- Improve coordination of health partners
- Ensure evidence-based policy development, implementation and M&E
- Conclude the eradication of all diseases on the verge of eradication like guinea worm, leprosy, polio, etc
- Sustain the success of promising Initiatives in maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, etc
- Harness the benefits of new global partnerships like GF, GHI, B&M Gates and Clinton foundations
Policy development and collaborations are significantly influenced by global and national initiatives. However, countries must provide the leadership and coordination in order to achieve meaningful impact.