



LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AGENDA OF

THE 10TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Contents

04 Background

05 Nigeria's Health Profile

07 The 10th National Assembly

08 The Health Committees of the 10th National Assembly

10 Legislative Health Agenda

11 The Legislative Health Agenda of the 10th National Assembly

12 Specific Objectives

14 Enablers

16 References

17 Gallery





Point of View

IMPROVING STEWARDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Foreword



Sen. Dr. Ipalibo Harry Banigo
Chairman Senate Committee on
Health, Secondary and Tertiary.

As the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health, I am honored to present the legislative health agenda of the 10th National Assembly, themed “Improving Stewardship and Accountability for Universal Health Coverage.” This comprehensive document has been meticulously crafted by the Joint Committee on Health and other responsible stakeholders through extensive brainstorming sessions and deliberations. This engagement led to recognition of the gravity of Nigeria’s current health landscape, characterized by distressing indices and multifactorial systemic challenges. The committee is determined to take proactive steps in addressing the multifaceted issues plaguing our healthcare system.

The agenda emphasizes the indispensable role of robust oversight, appropriation, and legislative mechanisms in ensuring accountable governance and effective stewardship of resources. Central to our objectives in this document is the enactment of enabling legislation designed to catalyze the realization of universal health coverage. Additionally, we prioritize

resource mobilization, accountability frameworks, and knowledge dissemination to forge a path towards equitable access to quality healthcare services for all Nigerians.

As we embark on this ambitious undertaking, fostering an environment conducive to success is imperative. This involves fostering collaboration, encouraging innovation, and demonstrating steadfast dedication in overcoming the myriad challenges that lie ahead through intentional approaches. Even as we collectively work towards revitalizing the Nigerian health sector and improving all facets of the healthcare system, it is imperative to appeal for the unwavering support of our esteemed colleagues, partners, and stakeholders. I am confident that together, we will chart a course towards a healthier and more prosperous future for Nigeria.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the members of the Joint Committee on Health for their tireless dedication and expertise in shaping this agenda.



**JOINT
HEALTH
COMMITTEE** *of*

**The National Assembly
Abuja, Nigeria**

Background

Nigeria, a nation boasting a population exceeding 200 million, grapples with pressing issues: over 60% of the population live in multidimensional poverty, inflation levels are rising, insecurity challenges consume a significant portion of public funds, wide inequalities exist across regional and geographic boundaries, and life expectancy remains among the lowest in the world.

The landscape of available data is vast, encompassing critical aspects such as child and maternal health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, the healthcare workforce, and the intricate dynamics of health financing. Within this complexity lies a stark reality: the nation's health outcomes fall short of the desired benchmarks. Additional challenges exist.

Healthcare professionals are scarce and healthcare funding is inadequate. This predicament has resulted in health indicators deviating from global standards, outlining a crucial need for comprehensive reforms.

Various strategies have been deployed to address these challenges, yet Nigeria remains on a prolonged journey toward achieving substantive improvements in healthcare especially in areas mainly affected by the overwhelming out-of-pocket health expenditure which has further impoverished the population.

The multifaceted nature of the issues at hand necessitates a holistic approach that delves into not only the shortage of healthcare professionals and financial

constraints but also the broader socio-economic and systemic factors contributing to the health disparities.

The evident disparities between our current state and global health standards underscore the urgency of healthcare reform. Bridging this gap requires sustained efforts to bolster healthcare infrastructure, invest in education and training for healthcare professionals, fund primary healthcare, enhance People-centered health insurance, and implement robust health financing mechanisms.

To help bridge the evident gaps, the current government has set out its health sector renewal agenda which includes seeing that health insurance coverage increases by 20% in the short term, improving access to affordable and quality primary healthcare, reducing maternal mortality, reducing health worker shortage, and setting the country on a path towards universal health coverage and financial risk protection for citizens.

The legislative arm of government has the responsibility to ensure that the right laws are in place, oversight is effective and that all stakeholders involved are held accountable for results.

This legislative health agenda demonstrates the commitment of the Joint Health Committee of the 10th National Assembly to work with all stakeholders to effectively carry out their legislative mandates to drive positive changes in the health sector.



Nigeria's Health Profile



Nigeria's Health Profile

A. Child and Maternal Indices			
S/N	Indices	Value	Year
1	Under 5 Mortality Per 1000 Live Births	111	2021
2	Neonatal Mortality Rate Per 1000 Live Births	35	2020
3	Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 Live Births	71	2021
4	Maternal Mortality Per 100,000 Live Births	1,047	2020
5	Maternal Deaths	81,747	2020
6	Antenatal Coverage	70	2021
8	Births Attended By Skilled Health Personnel (%)	51	2022
B. Healthcare Workforce			
S/N	Indices	Number	Year
1	Nursing and Midwifery Personnel Per 10,000 Population	14.83	2021
2	Medical Doctors Per 10,000 Population	3.95	2021
3	Dentists Per 10,000	0.2	2021
4	Pharmacists	0.81	2021
C. Health Financing			
S/N	Measures	Value	Year
1	External Health Expenditure as a Percentage of Current Health Expenditure	9.58	2020
2	Domestic General Government Health Expenditure as a Percentage of General Government	4.22	2020
3	Current Health Expenditure as A Percentage of Gross Domestic Product	3.38	2020
4	Domestic Private Health Expenditure as a Percentage of Current Health Expenditure	75.45	2020
5	Current Health Expenditure Per Capita In US \$	69.76	2020
6	Domestic General Government Health Expenditure as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	0.51	2020
7	Out Of Pocket Expenditure as a Percentage of Current Health Expenditure	74.68	2020
8	Domestic General Government Health Expenditure Per Capita in US \$	10.44	2020
9	Domestic Private Health Expenditure Per Capita In US \$	52.64	2020
10	Out of Pocket Expenditure Per Capita in US \$	52.1	2020
11	Domestic General Government Health Expenditure as a Percentage of General Government Expenditure	4.22	2020
D. Age Standardized Non-Communicable Disease Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Population		537.3	2018
Age Standardized Suicide Rate (Per 100,000)		6.87	2019
E. Tuberculosis Treatment Coverage		59	2022
F. Universal Health Coverage Index		38	2021
G. Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth (Years)		54.4	2019

The 10th National Assembly



One of the crucial players that have key roles in ensuring policymaking, and the translation of such policies to national development, is the legislature. Their statutory functions of appropriation, legislation, oversight/accountability, and representation have huge implications for the financing and implementation of social protection policies, including critical health sector initiatives in the country. The 10th National Assembly of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria was formally inaugurated on Tuesday 13th June 2023 and will run its course until June 2027.

The National Assembly coordinates its health sector responsibilities through health committees that are appointed by the leadership.

The Health Committees of the 10th National Assembly

The Health Committees of the 10th National Assembly, the chairpersons and leadership of all the standing committees including those of health were appointed and inaugurated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives,

respectively. Furthermore, the Federal House of Representatives established two extra committees to cater for health, bringing the total number of health committees in the National Assembly to seven.



The Committees and their Respective Chairpersons



Sen. Dr. Ipalibo Harry Banigo
Chairman Senate Committee on
Health, Secondary and Tertiary.



Sen. Lamido Ibrahim
Senate Committee on Primary
Healthcare and Disease Control



Hon. Dennis Idahosa
House Committee on Healthcare
Services



Hon. Amos Magaji
House Committee on Health
Institutions



Hon. Alex Egbona
House Committee on Specialty
Health



Hon. Amobi Ogah
House Committee on AIDS/HIV
Tuberculosis and Malaria



Hon. Regina Akume
House Committee on Food and
Drug Control

Together, these Committees form the Joint Health Committee of the 10th National Assembly, Chaired by the Distinguished Senator Dr. Ipalibo Harry Banigo.



Legislative Health *Agenda*

LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AGENDA OF THE 10TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

With the appointment of the chairmen of the health committees and the expansion of the number of committees to cater for the health sector, it was important to set mechanisms in place to ensure that there is proper alignment and coordination of the legislative actions of the 10th Assembly, leveraging the platform of the Joint Health Committees.

It was necessary to set targets and analyze the responsibilities of various committees based on the current realities in the health sector as well as the related policy thrusts of the new government.

To achieve the above target, some activities were conducted through the leadership of the Senate Committee on Health and the entire Joint Health Committees. These were as follows:

1. There were initial consultations with interest groups, government authorities, the National Assembly Leadership, Development Partners, and Civil Society leaders.
2. A retreat was held involving the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the seven health committees of the National Assembly, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Development, and development and technical partners who are members of the legislative network for Universal Health Coverage and WHO sponsored the retreat.
3. Further consultations among leaders and members of the Joint Health Committees as well as technical partners.

The engagement process led to the development of the Legislative Health Agenda for the 10th National Assembly.

The LHA is a framework of objectives and specific activities identifying various

issues and challenges within the health sector and the required legislative interventions to be deployed using legislative statutory functions. Previous Health Committees of the National Assembly developed their Agenda, which helped them to make important legislative contributions to health sector improvement.

These were achieved through sustained engagement of stakeholders and strategic implementation of the stated goals.

The Legislative Health Agenda of the 10th National Assembly

The leadership of the Joint Health Committees has identified specific focal actions that would serve as the Legislative Health Agenda of the 10th National Assembly.

This agenda would help to shape priorities for legislative interventions, guided by strategic targets identified across thematic areas in the health sector. At the heart of the agenda is the need to strengthen the implementation of the provisions of the National Health Act as a basis for moving the country towards Universal Health Coverage, by providing or strengthening enabling laws for government policies, improving resource mobilization, and accountability, and also promoting a learning agenda to encourage similar approaches at subnational levels.

Given Nigeria's current deplorable health profile, these focal areas are meant to improve public stewardship and performance, and by extension health outcomes.

Specific Objectives

The Legislative Health Agenda of the 10th National Assembly is themed: *“Improving stewardship and accountability for universal health coverage”*.

It includes the following four objectives:

1. ENABLING LAWS:

Enact or strengthen enabling laws that support the country’s progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

2. RESOURCE MOBILISATION:

Support lawful measures aimed at mobilising and sustaining human,

financial and material resources for health through public systems as well as partnerships with private sector and development organisations.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY:

Promote accountability by ensuring effective public finance management systems in the health sector.

4. KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION:

Drive a learning agenda to strengthen the legislation, appropriation, and oversight functions of health committees at national and subnational levels.



KNOWLEDGE
TRANSLATION



ACCOUNTABILITY



RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION



ENABLING LAWS

1. ENABLING LAWS: Enact or strengthen enabling laws that support the country's progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

- a. Revise the National Health Act to ensure the incorporation of necessary provisions that enable the achievement of universal health coverage and health security.
- b. Identify all health-related laws and ensure effective communication with citizens and interest groups.
- c. Review the status of pending health laws introduced by previous national assembly health committees and take steps towards their prioritisation and speedy enactment based on their appropriateness and relevance.
- d. Take steps to follow up on legislation already signed into law to ensure the commencement of appropriation and implementation.

2. RESOURCE MOBILISATION:

Support lawful measures aimed at mobilising and sustaining human, financial and material resources for health through public systems as well as partnerships with private sector and development organisations.

- a. Establish effective processes to facilitate the inclusion of relevant legislative provisions supporting the adequate mobilization of resources, with a specific focus on achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- b. Promote efforts to strengthen the implementation of UHC-linked policies with earmarked funds including the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) and the Vulnerable Group Fund (VGF).
- c. Strengthen partnerships with the private sector and development organisations, and leverage such engagements to enhance resource mobilization efforts of the Government.
- d. Strengthen relationships with organisations and professional groups that will increase mobilisation and retention of human resources for health.

3. ACCOUNTABILITY: Promote accountability by ensuring effective public finance management systems in the health sector.

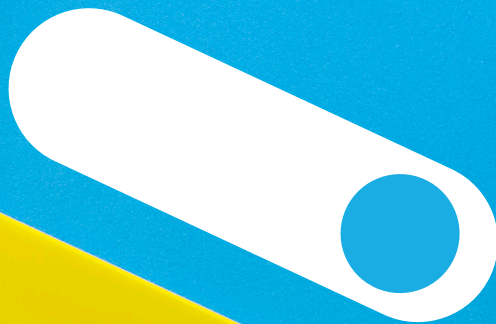
- a. Proactively engage the Federal Ministry of Health and its Agencies, to achieve a shared understanding of sectoral priorities, as well as expectations for implementation and accountability, to increase the chances of delivery of results.
- b. Enable and routinize systematic processes for receiving and analysing appropriation documents for MDAs, and for undertaking oversight activities, in order to achieve better accountability outcomes.
- c. Strengthen oversight on accountability frameworks developed between ministries, departments and agencies of government, and global/local development/funding organisations to prevent/mitigate deviations from expectations.
- d. Develop effective communication strategies with citizens and civil society to enable citizens' voices to be heard in the process of legislation, appropriation and oversight and accountability.

4. KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION:

Drive a learning agenda to strengthen the legislation, appropriation, and oversight functions of health committees at national and subnational levels.

- a. Strengthen the understanding of the National Health Act, Universal Health Coverage, health security and related health functions among legislators.
- b. Provide information, guidance and tools needed to enhance the capacity of lawmakers to carry out effective legislation, appropriation and oversight functions.
- c. Create and operationalise platforms to engage and connect lawmakers in health committees at the national and sub-national levels to enable knowledge and experience sharing, and promote learning for health sector advancement.
- d. Support health committees of State Houses of Assembly to develop their Legislative Health Agenda.

enablers



The following enabling conditions will help the Joint Committee achieve the desired outcomes of the Legislative Health Agenda of the 10th National Assembly.



One

Carry out regular consultations, briefings, and discussions between the leaders of the various health committees to sustain a shared understanding of the health sector's priorities and align legislative actions.

Two

Develop a clear set of frameworks with specific tasks, targets and measures and use it to track progress, bottlenecks, and results.

Three

Mobilise development and technical partners, as well as civil society organizations to sustain assistance to the Joint Health Committee of the National Assembly to enhance the achievement of shared objectives.

Four

Communicate progress through relevant media platforms, especially leveraging the opportunities provided by the media system of the National Assembly.

Five

Constantly engage and update the leadership of the National Assembly on progress to ensure continued support for the activities of the Joint Health Committee.

Six

Maintain a cordial relationship with various stakeholders needed to achieve success.



References

Nigeria's Health Profile

1. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS, 2021) & National Immunization Coverage Survey (NICS, 2021)
2. World Health Organisation, The Global Health Observatory. <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators>

Photo Gallery

