

Introduction to dRPC Budget Works

The term *Budget* as everybody knows “is an estimate of cost, revenue, and resources over a specific period reflecting a reading of future financial condition and goals”. Public budget is important because it enables the government to plan and manage its financial resources to support the implementation of various programmes and projects that best promote the wellbeing of the people. In recent years, civil society organizations (CSOs) working around budget advocacy work in Nigeria have documented frivolous and wasteful expenditure running into several billions of naira from annual federal budget documents. The little spending that ought to have been beneficial to the people in terms of provisions of much needed critical infrastructures, human capital development and pro-poor social interventions including Health often suffer from inadequate release of funds, un-completed projects, and outright abandonment!

development Research and Project Center (dRPC) under its Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PACFaH@Scale) Project is supporting the CSOs with capacity building training on health budget tracking, analysis, monitoring, and advocacy both at the national and sub-national levels to allow CSOs understand the basics in budgeting, determines the trends in allocation to the health sector, track releases and determine sums spent and returned to the treasury at national and state levels. Through this, the CSOs could raise awareness, and ascertains the extent to which the national and states fund their healthcare to the optimal level and how the donor funds are utilized. Thus, hold the government accountable for efficient health service delivery.

Financing healthcare system is a critical determinant for reaching Universal Health Coverage (UHC) if the government failed in its responsibility of providing accessible, affordable and quality health care for its citizens, the overall health care commitment would be jeopardized. The analysis of the health allocations over the past years revealed the Federal Government has never closed to achieving 15% Abuja declaration commitment to the sector. It also revealed leakages in the flow of resources, poor health service delivery, and weak monitoring process particularly on how funds or expenditures are translated into decision outcomes.

However, the dRPC budget works focused on national and 4 states namely Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, and Niger States. Apart from tracking the overall health budget, it also tracked and determined the government spending on each of the PAS-project issue areas; Primary Health Care Under One Roof (PHCUOR), Family Planning (FP), Childhood Killer Diseases and Routine Immunization (RI).

In furtherance of its campaign on the effective health budget allocations, releases, and utilization, the organization produces evidence-based researches, policy and issues briefs aimed at policymakers, and legislatures both at national and state levels as well as the senior media and civil society organizations executives. It is expected to drive policy improvement and funding in addressing issues around Primary Health Under One Roof, Family Planning, Childhood Killer Diseases, Routine Immunizations as well as improve health budget allocations and spending in the country.