

FAMILY PLANNING FUNDING GAP



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CONTEXT

The Federal government's target of reaching 27% mCPR by 2020 has been set, and in order to improve uptake it was noted that there is a need to free FP information, services, and commodities at all public health facilities. Thus, ensuring free access to the FP commodities depends on the government's ability to make funding available. When reverse is the case it creates a dangerous gap that may be very difficult to breach, thereby affecting its FP budget commitment.



GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO FP FUNDING

Since 2012 the Nigeria government has series of commitment towards improving family planning uptake. During the London Summit on Family Planning in 2012, Nigeria committed to increase CPR by 2% every year to achieve 36% by 2018 to avert 31,000 maternal deaths and 1.5 million child deaths and save more than 700,000 mothers from injuries or permanent illness due to childbirth. In the same year, it committed to provide an additional US \$8.35 million annually (current US \$3 million) over the next four years (2016) for the procurement of reproductive health commodities; work with the state and local governments to secure complementary budgets for family planning and reproductive health service delivery; realize its health financing goals laid out under the National Strategic Health Development Plan, the institutionalization of the support for primary health services provided by the SURE Program, and meet or exceed the Abuja Declaration health financing commitments.¹

While updating its target of reaching 27% mCPR by 2020 to improve uptake, the government² of Nigeria updated her commitment at the FP Summit in London, UK (July 11, 2017) to ensure sustainable financing for the National

Family Planning Program. Although the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) obtained approval from the Federal Executive Council to renew the Memorandum of Understanding with UNFPA which will ensure provision

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of US\$4mil annually from 2017 to 2020 for procurement of contraceptives for the public sector, the Nigeria Family Planning Worksheet, "Prioritized Action Planning 2019-2020" shows that the said approval starts in 2018 and would run to 2021. This corroborate the submission of Mr. Laurence from the Federal Ministry of Health during a webinar organized by


Premium Time entitled "Securing the Funding Gap for Family Planning in the face of Covid-19". In his words; "...in 2017 when FG renew its commitment to contribute \$4 million (N1.2bn) to FP commodities, because the budget has already been submitted to the National Assembly and Passed into law, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) instructed that in the approval of the request whatever was appropriated for 2017 should be the amount to be released. Subsequently, effort should be made to pay the full sum of \$4million."²



² Mr. Lawrence Anyanwu, Director Family Planning Branch, Family Planning Department Federal Ministry of Health, at a Webinar entitled "Securing the Funding Gap for Family Planning in the face of Covid-19", organized by the Premium Time Centre for Investigating Journalism (PTCIJ), June 3, 2020.

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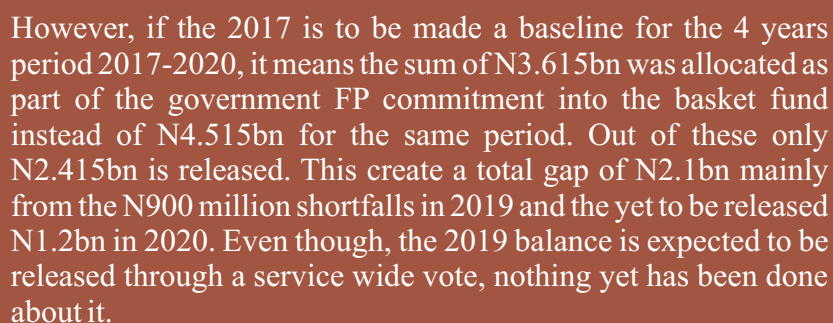


A young girl with her hair styled in small braids, wearing a vibrant blue and yellow patterned dress, is looking down. The background shows other people in colorful traditional attire. A red text box with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image. A white arrow points from the text box towards the left side of the image.

The table on the left shows the Budgetary allocation for the Family Planning between 2017 and 2021 consisting both the counterpart funding and other budget lines. The counterpart funding is highlighted in yellow.

2018-2021

- Total Expected Allocation: 4.8bn
- Total Allocation: N2.7bn
- Total Released: N1.5bn
- Total Shortfall: N3.3bn



The 2019 would have been a watershed to achieving the FP goal in Nigeria given the preceding effort but the budget cuts for FP counterpart funding in that year create setback on FP commitment. It could be recalled that when the efforts to release the FP budget allocation for 2019 is made, FMOH recommended to the FMOF that the 900,000,000m Naira 2019 FP budget shortfall should be released from the Service Wide Vote in December 2019, but this was not materialized. While the 2020 FP funding is still awaiting releases, there was no proposed allocation as counterpart funding in the 2021 proposed budget.

- There is a need to ensure that all fund committed by the Federal government on FP is released.
- Advocacy efforts should be focused on ensuring that Nigeria meets its budgetary commitments.
- Identify the right person in the FMOH, FMOF and AGOF to influence FP releases.
- There is a need to also pursue a multichannel engagement with key government stakeholders. Engagement will prioritise the FMOH and FMOF as well as all levels of government. All partners involved should share comparative advantages and strong relationships to advocacy partners.

It could be deduced from the above that despite committing to allocate US\$4mil for contraceptive amounting to 1.2 billion naira annually between 2018 and 2021 on FP, the country has not adhered to the promise. Although 1.2 billion was allocated in 2018, only 25% of the agreed sum was allocated in 2019, this rise again in 2020 budget year and nothing allocated in 2021. Currently, the 2020 FP budget has not been released despite the government commitment in that regard. The poor releases of the fund have created a funding gap on FP funding.

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Facilitating Participatory Development



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