



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR POLICY & STRATEGIC STUDY, KURU

FOMWAN

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

ince 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

"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."

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

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

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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

²Mr. 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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Years	Budget lines	Amount Allocated	Actual Released	PFRM
2017	Support to States in The Development of a Costed Implementation Plan for The Nigeria Family Planning Blueprint.	9,000,000	n.a	n.a
	Reproductive Health- Training of Community Health Extension Workers on Family Planning Methods In 6 Zones	40,000,000	11.3	u.a
	10-Day Training of Community Health Extension Workers on the Provision of Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCS)	10,000,000	n.a	n.a
	Training of Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWS) on Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCS)	1.827,224	n.a	n.a
	Last Mile Distribution of Contraceptive Commodities.	12,296,827	n.a	n.a
	Co-Funding for The Procurement & National Distribution of Contraceptive Commodities Based On 2016 Forecast	915,000.000	915.000.000	100%
Subtotal		988,124,051	915,000,000	92.5
2018	Improve Family Planning Services Through Contraceptives Use Interventions & Counterpart Funding	1,200,000,000	1,200,000,000	100%a
	Counterpart Funding to Match Grants From UNFPA, USAID, BMGF & UNICEF	2,400,000,000	n.a	n.a
Subtotal		3,600,000,000	1,200,000,000	33.3%
2019	Improve Family Planning Services Through Contraceptives Use Interventions & Counterpart Funding	300,000,000	300,000,000	100%
2020	Procurement and Distribution of Family Planning Commodities Through Counterpart Funding To UNFP	1,200,000,000	Nil	Nil
Proposed 2021	Scale Up of Implementation of The National Family Planning Programme Through Capacity Building of Critical Human Resource for Health & System Strengthening	44,638,658	4	
	Strengthening National Support for Young Women & Men in the Areas of Youth Health Issues & Reproductive Health	30,000,000	5	÷.
	5-Day National Sensitisation/Advocacy Programme on Rape/Domestic Violence and Other Sexual Reproductive Health Issues.	30,000,000	÷	•
	Procurement of Kits and Commodities for Community Health Influencers. Promoters and Servicers (Chips) And Operationalisation.	954,922,500	*	1
	Procurement and Distribution of Family Planning Commodities Through Counterpart Funding To UNFP		7	1
Subtotal		1,059,561,158		

Going by the Nigeria FP worksheet developed by the FG government through consultation and engagement with multiple stakeholders especially Association for the Advancement of Family Planning, IYAFP, UNFPA, and the USAID representatives, the sum of 4.8bn is expected to be allocated for counterpart funding for the family planning commodities between 2018-2021. However, this has not been so. Between 2018 and the 2021 only N2,700,000,000 was allocated, meaning that about N2,100,000,000 is left out. This is mainly due to the N900,000,000 million left out in 2019 and zero allocation in the proposed 2021 budget. It must also be noted that out of N2.7bn allocated between the 4 years (2018-2021), only N1.5bn has been released, leaving the shortfall for of about N3.3bn.



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However, if the 2017 is to be made a baseline for the 4 years period 2017-2020, it means the sum of N3.615bn was allocated as part of the government FP commitment into the basket fund instead of N4.515bn for the same period. Out of these only N2.415bn is released. This create a total gap of N2.1bn mainly from the N900 million shortfalls in 2019 and the yet to be released N1.2bn in 2020. Even though, the 2019 balance is expected to be released through a service wide vote, nothing yet has been done about it.

POLICY CHALLENGE

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.

BRIDGING THE GAP

- 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.

CONCLUSION

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.

However, a continuing delay in the releases of fund could lead to scarcity of FP commodities and consumables, thereby increasing the chance of poor access FP, reduction in the modern contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR), increase the total fertility rate (TFR) and the annual national annual growth rate.









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