



# Achieving UHC in Nigeria: Key outputs from the Presidential Summit on UHC; March 10, 2014

June 2016





# 1.0 Outline



- **Overview of UHC**
- **Key points from the pre-summit technical meeting**
- **Key action points for the implementation of UHC in Nigeria**



## 2.0 Overview

# What is Universal Health Coverage (UHC)?



**UHC is about *(all)* people having access to the health care they need without suffering financial hardship** (World Bank, 2013)

- **Countries should “...develop their health systems, so that all people have access to services and do not suffer financial hardship paying for them”** (58th World Health Assembly, 2005)
- **UHC holds the key to unlocking the door for significant improvement in the health status of Nigerians.**

# Target indicators proposed by WHO & World Bank to monitor progress to achieving UHC



- **Total health expenditure should be at least 4% - 5% of gross domestic product**
- **Out-of-pocket spending should not exceed 30-40% of total health expenditure**
- **Over 90% of the population is covered by pre-payment and risk pooling schemes**
- **Close to 100% coverage of vulnerable population groups with social assistance and safety-net programmes**
- **At least, 80% of the poorest 40% of the population have effective coverage to quality health services**

# Is Nigeria on track to achieve UHC?



- Total health expenditure was **6.7% of GDP** in 2009 (more than the baseline of 4-5%)
- Out-of-pocket spending is **more than 60%** of total health expenditure instead of the recommended 30-40%
- **Less than 5%** the population is covered by pre-payment and risk pooling schemes instead of the recommended 90%
- **Less than 2%** coverage of population with social assistance and safety-net programmes instead of the recommended 100%
- **Less than 5%** of the poorest 40% of the population have effective coverage to quality health services



## **3.0 Key Outputs from Pre-summit Technical Session**

- I. Financial access**
- II. Physical access**
- III. Quality of services**





**Governments at all tiers  
should declare that the  
achievement of Universal  
Health Coverage in Nigeria  
is a priority goal**

# Recommended Actions for improving financial access for UHC (1)



- **Commitment by all tiers of government to ensure every Nigerian has financial access to health services through mandatory health insurance and other financial risk protection mechanisms**
- **Fast-track the amendment of the NHIS Act to ensure that all employers in formal, informal and organized private sector cover their employees with mandatory health insurance**

# Recommended Actions for improving financial access (2)



- **Establish a Universal Health Coverage (UHC) fund with innovative funding sources – general tax revenue with budget line for UHC, Sin tax (alcohol, tobacco), air-ticket levy, percentage of VAT, GSM contributions, etc.**
- **Governments (Federal and states) should ring-fence the UHC fund for ensuring compulsory coverage for the poor and vulnerable groups including, pregnant women, children, those physically challenged, etc.**

# Recommended Actions for improving financial access (3)



- **Governments at all levels should increase their budgetary allocations to health to reach the “Abuja Declaration”**
- **Establish mechanisms to ensure all government workers pay the 1.75% salary contributions for the Formal Sector Social Health Insurance Programme of the National Health Insurance Scheme.**

# Recommended Actions for improving physical access



- **Governments at all levels should ensure the presence of at least one functional primary health care centre per ward and one general hospital per LGA that can deliver the minimum defined benefit package.**
- **All states should reactivate their Central Medical Stores to conform to a minimum standard for the supply chain management of health products**
- **Governments at all levels should ensure that their health facilities have the availability of the minimum standards (numbers and skill sets) defined for human resources for health at each level**

# Recommended Actions for improving physical access



- **Training institutions should ensure that there is competency-based training of all health professionals. around priority health needs**
- **The government should address maldistribution of health workers through policies and incentives around retention**

# Recommended Actions for improving quality of health services



- **Governments at all levels should conduct a health system needs assessment for improvement of quality of services**
- **Governments should strengthen existing systems for supervision and monitoring of quality of healthcare provision and institutionalize monitoring and evaluation of health system in Nigeria**
- **Governments should explore the use of an Independent Health Quality System for issues relating to quality in health services**



# Recommended Actions for improving quality of health services



- **Strengthen existing consumer protection agencies including SERVICOM and every hospital should have its own SERVICOM desk**
- **Governments should establish a Clinical Governance body or bodies to protect both providers and consumers at all levels**
- **Governments at all levels should improve healthcare infrastructure and equipment (including maintenance strategy).**

# In implementing UHC interventions



- *Affordability* is important but may not be enough
- Target the *poor*, but keep an eye on the non-poor
- Benefits should be closely linked to *target populations' needs*
- Highly *focused interventions* can be a useful initial step toward UHC

(Giedion et al, 2013)

# Finally



- **Strive for more health for money  
(improved efficiency in use of available funds)**
- **Advocacy to decision makers and all Nigerians to understand and be fully involved in interventions to achieve UHC**
- **UHC will save millions of lives in Nigeria**



# Thank you