

Nigeria's Engagement in the International Health Partnerships (IHP) Process and the Harmonization for Health in Africa Initiative (HHA)

By

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Process so far

1. Nigeria has recently signed onto the IHP Global Compact on May 28, 2008 and A HHA technical support has been requested for the development of a national investment plan and a Compact.
2. The above action by government is also buttressed by the recent Development Partners Paper¹ on the Health Sector calling for Strategic plan for health development in Nigeria
3. Based on these, the WCO initiated a series of brainstorming sessions with Key Partners (World Bank, DFID, USAID, UNICEF, UNFPA) on how to support the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) to develop one **Evidence and Country Based Strategic Plan**. Consensus at the end of these sessions was that one costed National Strategic Health Plan was feasible
4. WCO also initiated and supported the Brainstorming with the FMOH and key Partners on the development of a National Strategic Health Plan. Working from the two positions in the FMOH (one for developing a HSRP II and one for an NSHIP) to a harmonized understanding of the development of one National strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDP)
5. **Process**¹ for developing the NSHDP has been outlined (Figures2 and 3) with an implementation framework (Figure4) and a Timeframe laid out. The Department of Health Planning, Research and Statistics and the FMOH in general in the lead.
6. **Process** was presented to the Health System Forum² (HSF) (Revived earlier in the year at the prompting from the WCO to guide the implementation of the GAVI HSS support and subsequently the Global Fund HSS support) and process was endorsed.
7. Implementation (Figure 3) has kicked off with all the identified Study Teams being convened at Kaduna and Abuja on 23rd November, 2008 and 1st December, 2008 respectively sponsored mainly from Government Funds and supported by PATHS II (an NGO sponsored by DFID)

¹ Health Partners Paper- Nigeria's Health Sector. Notes on achieving Health MDGs –May 2008

² Note that the HSF serves as the Inter-Agency Country Health Sector Team.

Key Challenges

1. The Health sector in Nigeria continues to face many challenges. Ensuring all key players within the FMOH are on board especially all the departments of the FMOH and agencies, such as National Primary Health Care (NPHCDA), remains a major challenge. The absence of a substantive Health Minister and a Permanent Secretary had complicated matters – however, this is being resolved by recent appointments and the newly announced Minister is no stranger to the FMOH and had had the chance to discuss the process as outlined in a visit to the WCO prior to his appointment. Funding for the outlined process towards developing national compacts is a key challenge. A request has been made to Partners to indicate available support to the Technical Working Groups. On the positive note, the process for developing the National Strategic Health *Investment* Plan has also been strengthened by endorsement by the National Council on Health in November, 2007 and the former Minister inaugurating the Steering Committee and Technical Committee of which Partners are members.
2. Ensuring Key Partners support the process (there is still some skepticism amongst the key stakeholders: a few still have doubts as to the feasibility of developing one costed National Health strategic Plan – some believe there should be 37 State Plans separately!). An inception meeting of the Country Heads of Agencies in the Harmonization for Health in Africa (HHA) Partnership for Nigeria was held recently at the initiation of the WHO Country Office. The main purpose was to review the requests of the African Regional Directors of the Agencies involved in the HHA Partnership so as to improve collaboration between the HHA Country Partner Agencies and effectively supporting the Nigerian Government in scaling up the coverage of high impact health interventions within an improved health system, the gains of which would transcend beyond the achievement of the MDGs.
3. WCO is constrained by funds to jump start some of the processes eg. getting the Studies started, and using it as leverage to keep the FMOH engaged

Proposed Support from the Inter-agency Core Team

1. Financial Support
 - a. Despite the important progress made, there is the need to support the Department of Health Planning, Research and Statistics and the entire FMOH on the way forward.
There is the need to support some analytical work and coordination of the process.
2. There is the need to plan for Technical Support when needed.

Conceptual Framework for NSHDP

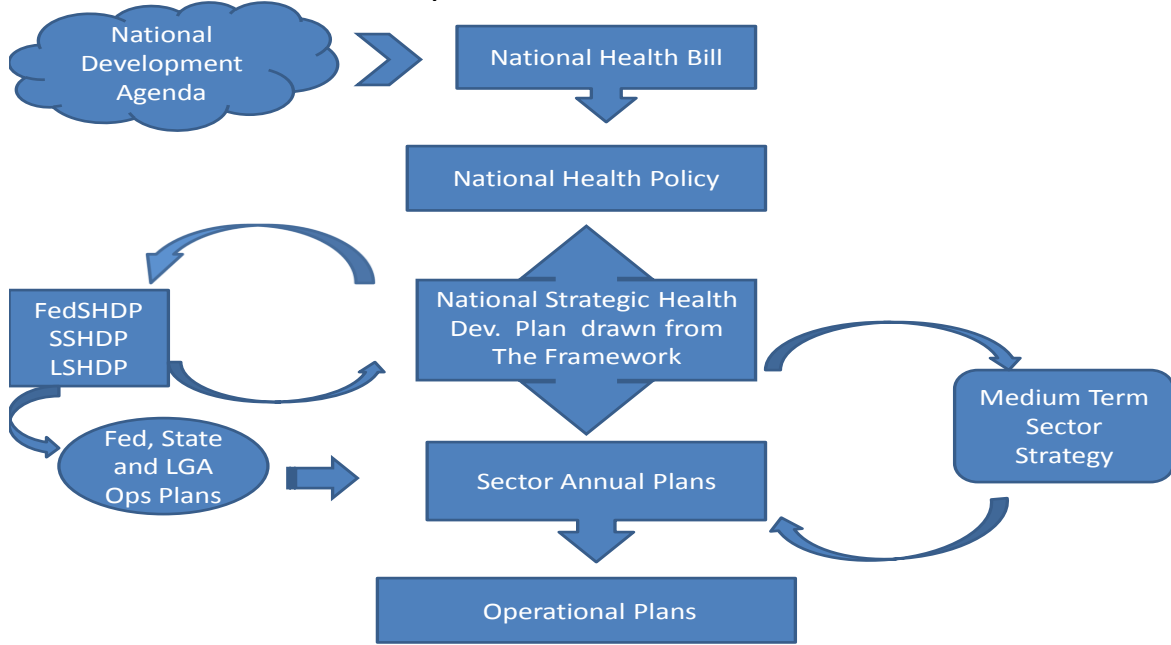


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework for NSHDP

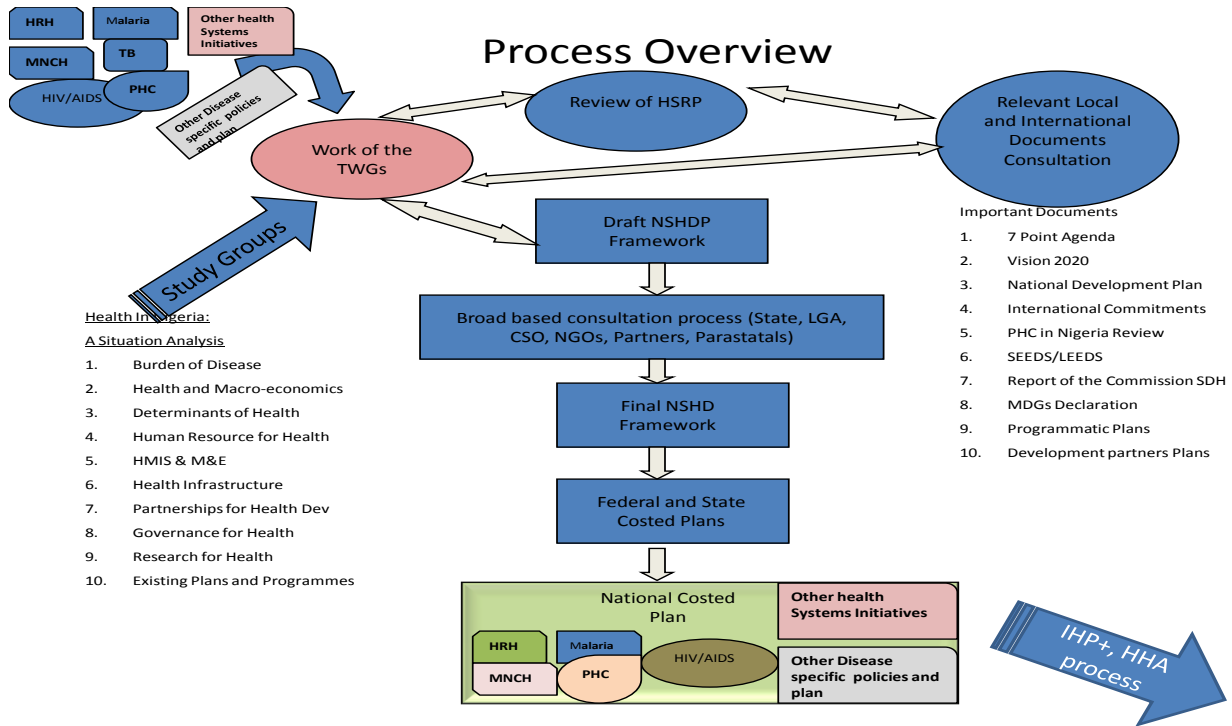


Figure 2 NSHDP Process Overview

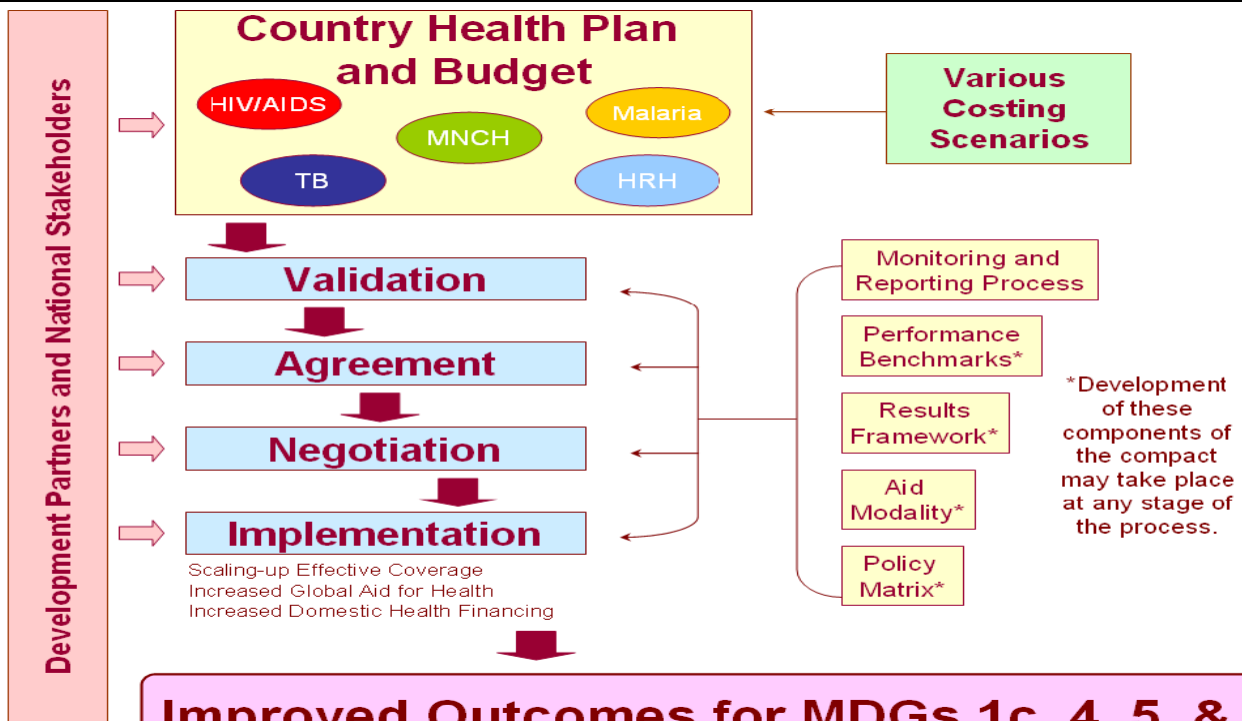


Figure 3

Implementation



Figure 4 Implementation Plan

Timelines

Activity	Timeline					
	Oct 08	Nov 08	Dec 08	Jan 09	Feb 09	March 09
HMH Launching Steering/Technical Committees		✓				
Health System Forum Meeting	✓					
Finalization of Concept Note on NSHDP	✓					
TWG Meetings		✓				
Desk Review & Studies		✓				
Finalization of HSRP 1 Review and Documentation		✓				
First Draft of Framework				✓		
Technical & Steering Committee				✓		
Facilitative Consultation			✓	✓		
Finalize Consultation and Report					✓	
Second Draft of Framework					✓	
Steering Committee to Present to TMC/HMH						✓
Presentation to NCH						
Finalization & Printing						✓

ⁱ In order to develop a National Health Investment Plan for Nigeria, the Department of health Planning, Research and Statistics with other Key Stakeholders had evolved a process. This process is to moves through September 2008 through to March 2009.

Stages of the process

1. Stage 1. Development of a National Strategic Health Development Framework (NSHDF)

Nigeria is a Federation with 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory with extensive autonomy. This poses a huge challenge to the development of a single national health strategic plan. It is recognized that the collective input of all the States in a national Health Development Plan is essential. Hence the first stage is to provide uniform guidance for the States and the FCT to develop their State health strategic plans. This will be done by the elaboration of the NSHDF. The NSHDF is to be guided by a series of studies or desk reviewsⁱ that are designed to review various components of the current Health Sector, identify weakness and bottlenecks that are militating against the development of a robust health system, make recommendations that will lead to the fixing of the health systems bottlenecks. There will also be a review of existing disease specific policies and other health systems initiatives and recommend areas of integration etc. The framework is to driven by existing developmental agenda of the country as well as international initiativesⁱ. The work of the Study groups are to inform the Technical Working Group (TWG) that had been put together to draft the Framework. The Draft Framework is expected to be subjected to stakeholder discussions (Public Service Providers from all levels, CSO's NGO's and Development Partners etc) before a final Framework is evolved.

2. Stage2. Development of the State Strategic Health Plans

The Final Framework is expected to be used as a uniform guide for all 36 States and the FCT to elaborate or revise existing Strategic Health Policies. Whilst facilitating the process nationwide, the Federal Level is also expected to elaborate its Strategic Plan with costing based on scenarios.

3. Stage 3. Collation of the State and Federal Health Plans into a National health Plan and further stakeholder analysis.

This stage of the process seeks initiate the process of compiling a national strategic health development plan based on a uniform framework agreed on by all stakeholders for Nigeria.

4. Stage 4. Subjection the national strategic health development plan and budgets to various costing scenarios and M&E Frameworks

This stage will require technical assistance to enable the country to subject the national strategic health development plan and budget s to various costing scenarios . The End product is expected to be the National Strategic Health *Investment* Plan for which all current policies and strategies take root from and a strategic tool that Nigeria will used to engage the IHP+ and HHA process

5. Stage 5. Validation, Agreement, Negotiation and Implementation

The fifth and last stage of the process is the validation, agreement, negotiation and implementation of the country Health Plan and Budget. This stage will be when the compact with Development Partners and national stakeholders will be done. Monitoring and reporting of the Process, performance benchmarking, setting of results framework, aid modality setting and policy matrix for the compact will be developed along the process.

It is expected that these processes will lead to scaling-up effective coverage, increased global aid for health and increased domestic health financing that the partners paper on health in Nigeria had advocated and ultimately leading to the improved outcomes for MDG's 1c, 4,5, and 6