

Joint Learning Agenda Nigeria (Phase 2)

Advocacy Plan
May 2022



Background

In May 2022, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari signed into the law the National Health Insurance Authority Bill repealing the National Health Insurance Scheme Act of 1999. The New Act now makes health insurance mandatory in Nigeria and establishes a Vulnerable Group Fund. This is indeed a positive step in Nigeria's quest towards Universal Health Coverage as it could mean that over 70% of Nigerians who pay for health out of pocket, many of whom are thrown into poverty as a result could now benefit from national level mandatory health insurance¹

Specifically, the Act requires the following to get health insurance:

1. All employers and employees in the public and private sectors with five staff and above
2. Informal sector employees
3. All other residents in Nigeria

The 2022 Act also supports the establishment of the National Health Insurance Authority which will focus on.

- Promoting, regulating and integrating health insurance schemes
- Improving and harnessing private sector participation in the provision of health care services
- Supporting the achievement of Universal Health Coverage for all Nigerians

Problem

At subnational (State levels), various health Insurance schemes also exist, however uptake of the services is still limited as a result of a myriad of factors – ignorance, norms and cultural beliefs that fuel myths and misconceptions about insurance that limit uptake of services.

The laws guiding the establishment of several sub national Health Insurance schemes mandates residents to enroll with the scheme, but there are still difficulties at State level with enrollment. While some states have adopted some modifications in nomenclature such as using 'Contributory health schemes' rather than the term 'Insurance' in order to appeal to more potential beneficiaries, several challenges still persist. While several sub national level structures in their policy documents clearly state the willingness to prosecute those who do not have health insurance, many argue that it will be unfair to penalize individuals regarding issues about which they do not even know.

¹ From a Scheme to an Authority – 5 Things you need to know about the New NHIA Act
<https://nigeriahealthwatch.com/from-a-scheme-to-an-authority-5-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-new-nhia-act/>

Rationale

At the end of Country Level Training on UHC, Health Financing and Budget Advocacy under the Joint Learning Agenda held in Nigeria between July and August 2021, trainees had identified a broad range of follow up issues which they would be prioritizing, amongst which Health Insurance featured prominently. The emphasis on Health Insurance is even more germane and relevant now given the passage of this New Act.

Trainees in their deliberation acknowledged that at their respective subnational levels, there is an urgent need to bridge the knowledge gaps and collaborate under the JLA Nigeria platform through continued advocacy and social mobilization efforts to lead massive public education and ensure broader awareness and engagement with community structures , and push for increased uptake of Health Insurance at their various State and community levels .

Purpose

To improve financial risk protection for the vulnerable at the subnational levels in Nigeria

Specific Objectives

- To Build Capacity of a nation-wide network of civil society and media organizations with advocacy tools (including accountability frameworks and policy briefs) and other resources to advocate effective implementation and subnational adoption of the NHIA Act and Guideline
- To support NHIA Act Implementing Agencies (including subnational agencies and private sector) with continuous community enrollment, accountability and transparency initiatives, and knowledge generation and management for effective implementation
- To provide the NHIA Implementing Agency with Technical Assistance in the Development of the NHIA Act 2022 Implementation Guideline and other strategy requirements

Proposed Timelines

July 2022 -June 2023

Intervention	Tasks	Resources Needed	Responsible	Timeline
Civil Society Recommendation for the NHIA Implementation Guideline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joint Review/Baseline Assessment of the NHIA Act and the Existing Subnational Health Insurance Policy Environment ● Consultations with Key Stakeholders and Formation of Civil Society Knowledge Base for the NHIA Act Implementation ● Development of Draft Civil Society Recommendation for the NHIA Implementation Guidelines ● Validation of Civil Society Recommendation by nation-wide representation of relevant civil society coalitions, responsible government agencies and partners ● Delivery of Civil Society Recommendation Document to Key Implementing Agencies <p>NOTE: This Tasks can be achieved in a Nation-wide-representative Workshop</p>	<p>Financial Assistance</p> <p>Technical Assistance</p>	<p>JLA</p> <p>Other civil society/media coalitions</p> <p>Partners</p>	TBD
Advocacy & Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of Advocacy Points for Subnational Adoption of 	<p>Financial Assistance</p>	JLA	

	<p>Implementation Guidelines of the Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advocacy for Domestication of the NHIA Act in Rivers and Akwa Ibom ● Conduct of Continuous Advocacy to Stakeholders at National and Subnational Levels ● Development and Harmonization of Accountability Framework(s) for the Implementation of the NHIS Act ● Collation of Utilized Accountability Framework in form of Scorecards and Factsheets 	<p>Technical Assistance</p> <p>Media Visibility</p>	<p>NHIA Legislators</p>	
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quarterly Joint Learning and Stakeholders Meetings at National and Subnational Level ● Expansion Activities for Collective Civil Society Voice for Effective Implementation of the NHIA Act ● Capacity Building for Community Structures and WDCs on NHIA Act Facility-level Implementation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● JLA ● Other Civil Society Coalitions ● Partners 	Kick off July ,2022
Demand Creation and Enrollment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Citizens mobilization and Community Engagement Activities ● Media Engagement and Social Media Awareness Activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial support ● Technical support ● Media Visibility 		<p>National Level: September,2022</p> <p>Sub-national level:October,2022-February,2023</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Private Sector Engagement Activities 			
Knowledge Generation and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conduct Policy and Facility Assessments ● Conduct of Quality of Care/Patients Satisfaction Assessment ● Continuous Consultation with responsible agencies ● Adoption of Technology-enabled knowledge management system for wide network of civil society in the JLA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Technical support ● Financial support 		TBD
Dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Issue Policy brief ● Issue monthly press release on Implementation of NHIA ● Mass/Social Media Use in Sharing Advocacy Outcomes ● Community engagement 			

