

Achieving Positive Outcomes by Promoting the Basic Health Care Provision Fund in Nigeria

The overall purpose of the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), which was derived from the National Health Act, is to provide free primary health care to low-income Nigerian communities to move the country towards achieving universal health coverage . Although the fund is available to Nigerian citizens who fit certain criteria, many Ward Development Committees (WDCs) in Bauchi did not understand the BHCPF and how it could help community members use existing health services, including for maternal, newborn, and child health.

To orient Bauchi WDCs to the BHCPF, Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria worked with the Bauchi State Health Care Management Chairman and the State Incident Manager for Polio Emergency Operations Center/BHCPF State Primary Health Care Development Agency to provide training on the BHCPF operations, objective, and activities. This also allowed the project to identify areas of collaboration with the WDCs.

Breakthrough ACTION lined up with the BHCPF desk officers in each local government area to facilitate further orientations. WDCs were taught about the Basic Minimum Package of Health Services, which includes primary and secondary health services as well as the Vulnerable Program, Formal Sector Program, and Informal Sector Program for fund allocations.

The WDCs then carried out advocacy visits and mobilized to educate community members on using the scheme, leading to more beneficiaries registering and accessing the BHCPF. Vulnerable beneficiaries, such as women of childbearing age and children under 5 have seen more success in utilizing the funds.

Overall, the efforts of the WDCs have been successful, leading to more people having access to medical services and improving maternal, newborn, and child health plus nutrition service uptake by households in the community.

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