

NATIONAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICY (2010)

Summary of Sections that Most Apply to Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health:

POLICY SUMMARY

The National Reproductive Health Policy was approved in 2010 by the Federal Government of Nigeria, with the goal of ensuring availability and access to full sexual and reproductive health information and quality services. The Policy does this by seeking to address key issues it identifies, including: low funding, inadequate human resources, poor integration of maternal and family planning services, the high cost of commodities at service delivery points, limited efforts at family planning demand creation, high unmet need for family planning, inadequately equipped facilities, and lack of linkages between adolescent reproductive health (ARH) services and the regular health service delivery system, poor coordination of ARH at state levels together with quality issues in STI/HIV/AIDS services, and limited activities in the areas of reproductive cancers, andropause and menopause.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

The policy outlines key underlying values and strategic priorities for the Reproductive Health (RH) Policy:

Values

- A rights-based approach to the highest standard of health
- Ensuring equitable sexual and reproductive health in a gender-sensitive manner
- Cultural sensitivity and targeting changes in negative cultural practices
- Participatory and consultative in meeting people's needs
- Evidence-based-research for development, implementation and service delivery

Strategic Priorities

- **Healthy pregnancy and childbearing** through improving antenatal, delivery, postpartum and newborn care.
- **Healthy sexual development and sexuality** through promotion of sexual health, provision of appropriate sexual and reproductive health information and friendly services to young people, and combating sexual coercion and other reproductive rights violation.

- **Infection-free sex and reproduction** through combating reproductive tract infections, including HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and high quality management of post-abortion complications and gynecological morbidities.
- **Achieving desired and intended fertility**, including prevention of mistimed and unwanted pregnancies through the provision of high-quality services for family planning, including infertility services

IMPLEMENTATION

The Nigerian government and peoples are responsible for policy implementation with the support and partnership of the donor community and other international development partners. The policy outlines the following roles for key government institutions:

- **The Health Sector** plays the leadership role in implementation of this policy. The Federal Ministry of Health provides overall strategic support, while State Ministries of Health provide leadership for state implementation, and Local Government Areas integrate RH services into primary health care services.
- **The Ministry of Education** is expected to expand the integration and teaching of Family Life and HIV/AIDS Education (FLHE) into relevant subject curricula at all levels and various institutions, and to scale-up the training of teachers in this curriculum.
- **The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development** will promote gender equality, gender equity, and women's empowerment, and increase awareness of RH among families, especially women, at various levels.
- **The Ministry of Youth Development** is to establish and manage youth centres that include relevant adolescent and youth-friendly services such as counselling to meet the needs of in- and out-of-school adolescents and other young people.
- **The Legislature** is to advocate and support implementation and appropriate legislation on Reproductive Health issues, in

addition to ensuring timely, adequate budgetary allocation and appropriation of funds for effective implementation of reproductive health activities and programs.

- **Other Ministries, Civil Society Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations and Key Stakeholders**, including local communities, political parties, media, the private sector, and international development partners, are required to complement government efforts in the formulation, financing, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of reproductive health programs.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In line with the declaration of this policy, strategic frameworks and other implementation tools that have been developed for different service areas of RH shall continue to be used. In addition, a National Framework for Monitoring and Evaluation of Reproductive Health Programs and Services shall be developed and widely circulated for the use of all stakeholders. National, state, and local government implementation plans shall be developed for each of the four strategic foci. These plans shall form the basis of developing annual work plans for each relevant agency and development partner, in line with their mandate.

FOR A COPY OF THE NATIONAL POLICY ON THE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN NIGERIA, PLEASE VISIT:

**Federal Ministry of Health Head Quarters Office, Abuja, Nigeria
New Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase III,
Ahmadu Bello Way, Central Business District,
P.M.B 083 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria**

ABOUT CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE:

Champions for Change (C4C) invests in visionary local leaders and organizations to sustainably improve health outcomes for women, children and youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. C4C achieves large-scale impacts through advocacy, leadership development, organizational strengthening, and grant making. In Nigeria, C4C's national network is advocating for improved reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent Health (RMNCAH). In Kenya, C4C works to prevent and combat Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) among young people through locally-led advocacy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.championingchange.org