



Newsletter of
The Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale
(PACFaH@Scale)
-----Nigerian CSOs lead policy advocacy for child and family health-----
No.1 of 2023



Cross section of participants at the 41st Inaugural Lecture held in the University of Abuja on 1st June 2023

Introduction

The PACFaH@Scale program closed out in December 2022 after 5-years of programming in which **92%** of all targets were achieved. As new governments take up office at national and state levels following the 2023 General Elections, PACFaH@Scale CSOs are impacting the child and family health space.

PACFaH@Scale CSOs/Media Partners advocate to in-coming government

President of Population Association of Nigeria (PAN), PACFaH@Scale partner, calls on President Tinubu to prioritize Family Planning at Inaugural Lecture at University of Abuja

At the Inaugural lecture held at the University of Abuja on Thursday June 1st, 2023, Professor Mundi, President of PAN, a PACFaH@Scale partner, called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to resolve the challenges associated with population growth, such as insecurity, unemployment, and poor socio-economic indices, by adequately funding family planning and implementing the national policy on population. Professor Mundi said:

“ I am calling on President Tinubu to implement the national population policy and invest in family planning. To solve the population paradox, it is imperative for Nigeria to accurately determine its population and implement measures to intentionally create a productive and manageable population. This will enable effective national planning and the realization of the country's development objectives. ”

Professor Rhoda Mundi

President, Population Association of Nigeria (PAN)



The Population Association of Nigeria (PAN) was supported by PACFaH@Scale (PAS) in 2022 to convene the PAN Annual National Conference and to participate in the annual PAS press conference on women and health for the 2022 International Women's Day. Professor Mundi was the lead consultant to the National population commission (NPC) to develop the National Population Policy.

PAN's President, Professor Rhoda Mundi partnered with PAS to support her inaugural lecture on Demography and Population in Nigeria at the University of Abuja on Thursday, June 1st, 2023, speaking on the theme ***“The paradox of population growth in Nigeria.”***



PAN led by Professor Rhoda Mundi presenting her inaugural lecture on Demography and Population in Nigeria themed ***“The Paradox of Population Growth in Nigeria”***

At the Lecture, Professor Mundi emphasized the need for collaborative efforts at the national and subnational levels to address the challenges posed by the country's increasing population. She also called on new government to implement the National Population Policy.

Media Links

- [Family Planning: Population experts set agenda for the new administration](#)
- [Implement nat'l population policy, fund family planning, Prof Mundi tells Tinubu](#)
- [Implement national population policy, don tells Tinubu](#)
- [Tinubu urged to conduct census this year, implement population policy](#)
- [Int'l Women's Day: Coalition Wants More Funding For Women's Health](#)

dRPC supports the National Association of Community Health Practitioners of Nigeria (NACHPN) to conduct Advocacy Visit to the Sultan's representative Deputy Chair Northern Traditional Leaders Committee on Primary Health Care (NTLC) - the Emir of Argungu

On the 7th March 2023, the dRPC supported the Executive of the National Association of Community Health Practitioners of Nigeria (NACHPN), a PACFaH@Scale partner, to develop advocacy messages and pay an advocacy visit to the representative of the Sultan of Sokoto and Deputy Chair of the Northern Traditional Leaders Committee on PHC - His Highness the Emir of Argungu in Kebbi State. The purpose of the NACHPN advocacy engagement was to bring to the attention of the Emir the comments of the Federal Minister of Health calling on traditional leaders to support the implementation of Basic Health Care Provision Fund and Primary Health Care Under One Roof Policy.



Advocacy visit by the NACHPN Team at the palace of the Emir of Argungu on 7th March 2023

The Emir warmly welcomed the team and expressed gratitude for their visit. The Emir accepted the advocacy message and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the primary health care system. He welcomed the idea of partnering

with NACHPN and proposed a sensitization meeting with other traditional leaders on PHCUOR after the General Election.

Media Link

- [Emir assures dRPC of sustained efforts in promoting primary healthcare service delivery in Kebbi](#)

PACFaH@Scale Budget analysis informs media pitch to President Tinubu

Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale (PACFaH@Scale) did an analysis of health financing in Nigeria and articulated immediate, medium- and long-term solutions President Bola Ahmed Tinubu should consider in overhauling the nation's health sector. Several media organizations, including the Tribune, adopted and published the in-depth analysis in Nigeria.

The PACFaH@Scale analysis looked at the assessment of the impact of the developmental intervention in the health sector by the federal government, and the average budget allocation to the health sector in the last two decades. It also showed that the Federal Ministry of Health and its agencies' budgets between 2001 and 2021 pointed to the fact that Nigeria neglected to follow through on its promise, oftentimes barely reaching a third of the 15% African Union endorsed target.

Media Link

- [Analysis: Why Tinubu must prioritise healthcare financing in Nigeria](#)

PACFaH@Scale partner, Women in Media (WIM) calls for accountability in government during 2023 Open Government Partnership (OGP) Week, Kano state

The Women in Media Communication Initiative (WIM), PACFaH@Scale partner anchored the 2023 OGP Week in Kano State where WIM called on government to implement policies for increased transparency, information sharing to CSOs and accountability. The event aimed to review the progress of implementing the OGP and provide recommendations for the new incoming administration. Key officials present included the Deputy Governor-elect, legislators-elect, the National and Kano OGP teams, Development partners, and members of the Kano Civil Society Forum.

The discussions focused on the importance of transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in governance, with recommendations such as reconstituting the OGP Steering Committee, strengthening the secretariat, and aligning the State Action Plan with the new administration's blueprint. The Deputy Governor-elect expressed the new government's commitment to open and transparent governance, outlining initiatives such as developing a state development plan and strengthening anti-corruption measures.

Media Link

- [OGP Week: WIM Holds Stakeholders Dialogue in Kano](#)



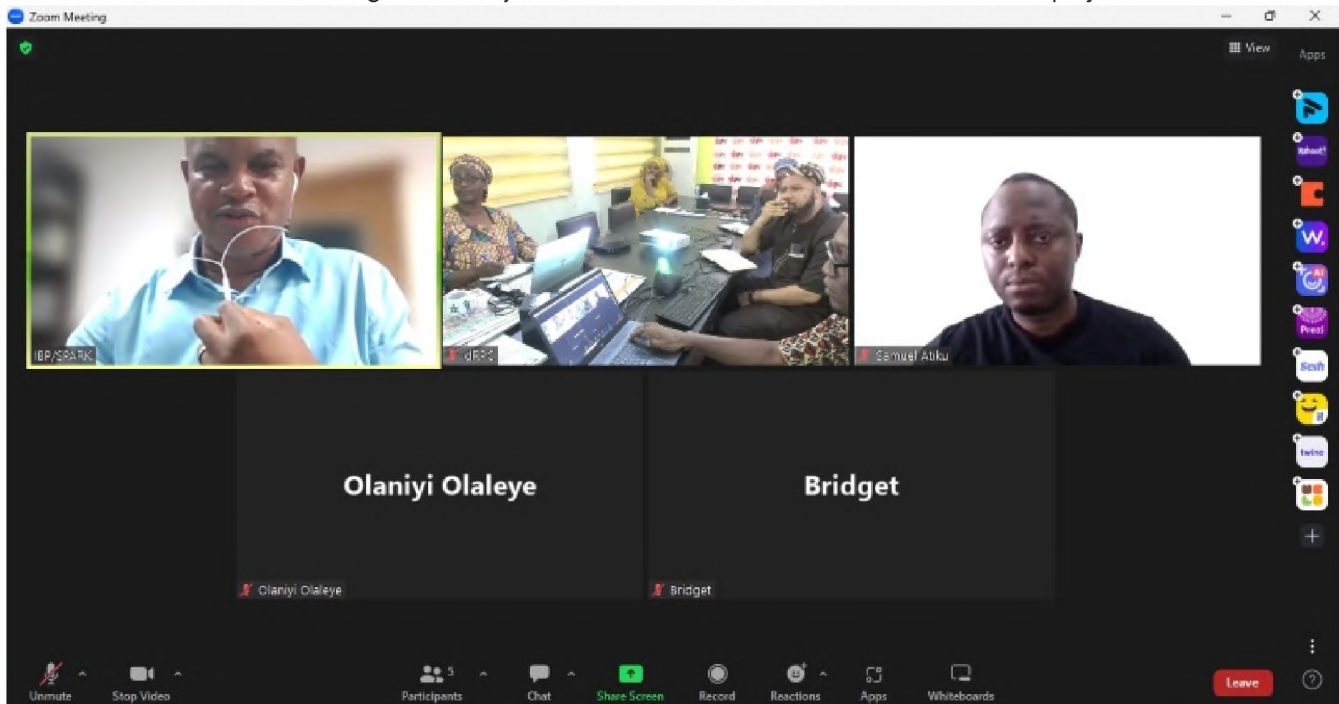
Group photograph of the participants of the Policy Dialogue - 10th May 2023

PACFaH@Scale CSOs shares learning with BMGF investments for impact

IBP/dRPC coordinate to identify effective advocacy NGOs in expanded program

The dRPC and International Budget Partnership (IBP) Nigeria are collaborating to improve performance and increase

the potential for impact by sharing knowledge and progress made by women-led NGOs involved in the PACFaH@Scale project's implementation. IBP aims to leverage on existing BMGF investment to identify female-led advocacy NGOs for the next phase of the Strengthening Public Accountability for Results and Knowledge (SPARK) project. IBP's goal is to establish a robust coalition of budget reform advocates, led by women, to ensure government accountability for maternal and child health services at the PHC level in select states. This coordinated effort will identify existing gaps in NGO effectiveness and address concerns for achieving sustainable development. The initiative prioritizes the involvement of underserved communities in budget advocacy efforts and builds on the success of the SPARK project.



Virtual meeting of dRPC and IBP

dRPC/PACFaH@Scale shares Sub-granting and capacity building experience with local CSOs, participating in Gavi, Pre-RFP market research with Community Engagement team

On 6th January 2023, the dRPC shared a deck and its experiences from the PACFaH@Scale program to the Civil society and Community Engagement team of Gavi in a pre-RFA Partner Dialogue.



PACFaH@Scale CSOs SHARES LEARNING WITH BMGF INVESTMENTS FOR IMPACT



dRPC PRE-RFP PARTNER DIALOGUE

The Gavi Pre-RFP market research aimed to identifying potential partners to support contracting and management of CSOs and local partners. The dRPC shared best practices in sub-granting; profile of the CSOs in the RI space in Nigeria; pre-award processes; and average sub-grant size.

RFPs release

- <https://www.gavi.org/our-alliance/work-us/rfps-and-consulting-opportunities>

dRPC supports SOGON to replicate PACFaH@Scale model in BMGF grant in the FIGO Leadership Development Initiative



Society of Obstetrics and Gynecologists of Nigeria (SOGON), a partner in the BMGF funded PACFaH and PACFaH@Scale policy advocacy projects is a deep investment Health Professional Association in Nigeria. SOGON optimized its 8 years of investment in policy advocacy with BMGF funding to develop the Nigeria component of the 6-country FIGO Leadership Development Initiative (2022-2025). **The FIGO Leadership Development Initiative: Improving Maternal and Newborn Health Outcomes through advocacy and improved care** will support national Obstetric and Gynecologic Societies (SOGON in Nigeria) in six countries in their efforts to be the Leading Voice for Women's Health within their country. Maternal and newborn health outcomes will improve and be sustained through leadership development, which includes strategic national and global advocacy, and increased uptake of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. In Nigeria, SOGON will implement clinical and health advocacy/leadership components of the project to increase uptake of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of post-partum hemorrhage (with tranexamic acid) and preeclampsia/eclampsia (with Magnesium Sulphate). The dRPC, which anchored the BMGF funded PACFaH and PACFaH@Scale has committed to providing technical backstopping to SOGON over the life of the project to replicate the PACFaH-PACFaH@Scale policy advocacy model; trainings manuals; advocacy TOT Technology; data base of mentors; champion/leadership 10-point scale; and monitoring and evaluation tools. The dRPC will also support SOGON to mainstream gender components into the project. The project will be implemented in PACFaH@Scale states. The dRPC's support for the SOGON demonstrates the effectiveness of BMGF deep investment, joined up strategies at country level for impact.

PACFaH@Scale African health advocacy communication strategies go global

PACFaH@Scale story of Strategic Health Communication in Africa to be featured as Chapter in abstract accept “The Routledge Handbook of Communication and Social Change in Africa”

Communication and Social Change in Africa
Anthology Routledge

The dRPC responded to the Routledge Handbook call for chapter outlines by submitting an abstract on the unique experience of the PACFaH@Scale Project. The dRPC was excited by framing of the research documenting African case studies of communication. The dRPC chose the health communication option. On 27th March 2023, the dRPC received communication that the PACFaH@Scale story abstract had been accepted. Below is the chapter abstract. The book “*The Routledge Handbook of Communication and Social Change in Africa*” is to be published in the spring of 2024.

[Communication and Social Change in Africa - NordMedia Network](#)

Chapter Abstract:

Health Communication for policy change in Nigeria-The experience of the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale program 2015-2022

In 2015, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), with one of the largest investments in public health in Nigeria made a radical shift to its policy advocacy country strategy in the health sector. The new strategy pivoted away from child and family health advocacy grants to international NGO grantees to local Nigerian NGOs. For the first time, a new localization strategy supported policy advocacy programming through local CSOs which were to anchored through a Nigerian non-profit, the development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC). The dRPC was engaged in 2015 to anchor the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health Project (PACFaH) through two grant cycles of 2015 to 2017; and 2017 to 2023. PACFaH targeted policy makers at the national level and in 9 states. This chapter assesses the efficacy and cultural responsiveness of the health communication strategies, channels of communication, and messages adopted by the 23 Nigerian civil society organizations implementing PACFaH between 2015 to 2022. The chapter examines the extent to which the CSOs choice of health communication strategy, advocacy messages and channels responded to the realities of bureaucracy and policy change in the public sector; the patterns and levers of influence; gender norms on public health issues such as family planning; and expectations of the role of civil society organizations which characterized the Nigerian policy ecosystem. The chapter poses two research questions-

1. How responsive was the PACFaH and PACFaH@Scale CSO networks as authentic and Nigerian-responsive health communication platforms to the realities of the Nigerian policy advocacy ecosystem; and
2. How effective were the communication strategies; channels; and messaging of PACFaH to achieve the health advocacy asks of the program: - adequate funding and timely releases of funds for child and family health?

The chapter will employ a retrospective research design, using qualitative tools such as key informant interview guides administered to PACFaH and PACFaH@Scale CSOs as well as to advocacy targets to explore the two research questions. This will be complemented by content analysis of the communication strategies and messages and messaging plans of the CSOs. The authors of this paper are the PACFaH/PACFaH@Scale: Executive Director, Judith-Ann Walker; Communication Officer-Hassan Aliyu; and Director of Projects-Stanley Ukpai.

PACFaH@Scale CSO Project Directors make waves globally & locally

President, Medical Women, Kano state and PACFaH@Scale partner, Appointed by the new government as Executive Secretary of the Kano State Contributory Health Management Scheme Agency (KSCHMA)

Dr. Rahila Mukhtar MSc Public Health, MBBS (BUK), the President, Medical Women Kano, has been appointed as the Executive Secretary for the Kano Contributory Health Management Scheme Agency (KSCHMA) by His Excellency the Executive Governor of Kano State on June 1, 2023. Dr. Rahila brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her new role having led more than 8 advocacy visits to the previous Executive Secretary of the (KSCHMA) under the PACFaH@Scale project.

She served as the President of the Medical Women Association of Nigeria (MWAN-Kano Chapter) and as the Project Director of the MWAN-PACFaH@Scale Project. She also held the position of Co-chair of the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale Coalition in Kano State. In these roles, she led numerous advocacy visits to key stakeholders of the past administration, including the Honorable Speaker of the Kano State House of Assembly, the Honorable Commissioner of Health, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. Her appointment as the Executive Secretary of KSCHMA is a testament to the government's confidence in her capabilities, which have been demonstrated through her previous PACFaH@Scale advocacy engagements.



Project Director of AANI-Lagos, PACFaH@Scale partner, speaks at World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings Session on Building Resilience in Health Systems

Professor Shina Ogunbiyi, mni, the Project Director of AANI-Lagos, PACFaH@Scale Partner is one of 6 speakers at a side session on Building Resilience in Health Systems telling the story of Lagos State health systems strengthening. Professor Ogunbiyi has been the Project Director of the PACFaH@Scale Lagos project between 2018 to 2022, leading on Family Planning and Routine Immunization issue areas.



PACFaH@Scale Nigerian CSOs shape health advocacy space in 2023

NIPSS, Nigeria's apex think tank and PACFaH@Scale partner establishes Gender Center with dRPC support

The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), a deep investment government partner developing champions in Ministries, Departments and Agencies at national and state levels in PACFaH and PACFaH@Scale. With PACFaH@Scale support, NIPSS Directing staff attended training at SAARS on gender in health policy analysis. As a result of this reflective learning and collaboration with dRPC PACFaH@Scale, in 2023 NIPSS to the strategic decision to establish a Gender Centre. The Director General wrote on 18th April to the dRPC requesting for backstopping and support to design and roll out gender training programs targeting senior executive in the in-coming administration. ***“Curriculum development and training for three (3) certificate courses to jump-start activities of the Centre”***. With funding from the ODI, ALIGN project, the dRPC is currently supporting NIPSS to conduct a comprehensive gender review of the National Institute and its programs.



The West African Institute of Public Health - Building a new generation of Young Public Health Professionals in the June 2023, YPPH launch

The West African Institute of Public Health (WAIPH), a non-state regional public health organization, has been a lead partner in the PACFaH@Scale project (2017-2022). In PACFaH@Scale WAIPH worked to position and grow as advocates 250 young public health professionals in the Young Public Health Professionals (YPPH) program, participating in the Biannual Family Planning Conference and conducting advocacy visits.

YPPH will be launching the 2023 cohort in two weeks time, with the dRPC providing backstopping to WAIPH to strengthen the advocacy components of the curriculum to equip the young public health professionals to amplify their voice in public spaces on the gaps and challenges in the public health system in Nigeria with particular reference to family planning.

The Young Professionals program has the clear objectives of improving their health literacy, and encouraging their active participation in advocacy initiatives in Nigeria. In PACFaH@Scale the young professionals have actively advocated to policymakers such as the funding gap in family planning, and convened sessions in the 2020 National



Family Planning Conference.

The YPPH program runs for three months and is designed to provide a thorough curriculum that covers different areas of public health and evidence-based advocacy for policy reforms that promote health equity and social justice. Throughout the program, participants are mentored and facilitated by experienced public health practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. This enables them to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world situations by contributing to ongoing public health initiatives through research briefs, position papers, and speaking at public health events.

The program offers an opportunity to tap into the advocacy capacity of the young Nigerian public health professionals in the cohort to saturate the space with evidence.

Health Professional Conferences of PACFaH@Scale Partners in 2023

Paediatric Association of Nigeria (PAN)

The Paediatric Association of Nigeria (PAN) held their 54th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference tagged PANCONF at the International Cultural and Events Centre (The Dome) Akure, Ondo State, on Tuesday 17th - Saturday 21st January 2023. Important themes discussed included:

1. Brain Drain and The Nigerian Child: The Paradox, Problems and Prospects of Possible Solutions
2. Disruptors of Child Survival Strategies: Insecurity, Displacements and Pandemics
3. Combating the Scourge of Sickle Cell Disease in Nigeria: Treatment Guidelines and Vaccine Preventive Strategies
4. Childhood Community-Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) in Nigeria: Treatment Guidelines and Vaccine Preventive Strategies



Cross section of panel session on **"Sustaining Routine Immunization Financing Beyond the Context of COVID-19: Opportunities & Challenges"** in the 2022 PAN Conference held on 20th January 2022 in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State

PACFaH@Scale supported 2022 PAN scientific conference held in Uyo Akwa Ibom state. PACFaH@Scale also worked with PAN to host a policy dialogue during the scientific conference. The session, titled **"Sustaining Routine Immunization Financing Beyond the Context of COVID-19: Opportunities and Challenges,"** brought together policymakers and practitioners to discuss the milestones, challenges, and opportunities of routine immunization

financing in the context of COVID-19 and the national PHCUOR policy. The panel, designed as a PHC advocacy event, brought together over 50 high-level policymakers in Nigeria.

PACFaH@Scale to support the Nigerian Academy of Medicine 2023 Public Lecturers

In 2022, PACFaH@Scale concluded arrangements to collaborate with the Nigerian Academy of Medicine on its Public Lectures for 2023. Working with the Council of the NAMEd, PACFaH@Scale concluded to support Public Lecturers in the Series:



- 1. Towards improving Adolescent Health and Wellbeing in Nigeria: Policy Research and Programme Dimensions**
- 2. The Role of Health Providers in the Public Health System As Champions For Health Financing and Reform in Nigeria.**

The chosen date for this discussion is August 17th, 2023

PACFaH@Scale, partner, SOGON will host 2023 Annual Scientific Conference

PACFaH@Scale is finalizing plans with the Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON) to support the hosting of their 57th Annual General Meeting and scientific conference from the 20th-24th of November 2023 at No 52, Bristol Palace Hotel, Guda Abdullahi street, Farm Center, Nasarawa Kano state. The conference theme is **“The Tragedy of Maternal Deaths in Nigeria: Our Collective Responsibility”**. PACFaH@Scale will be supporting the conference sub-theme: **Unmet Needs of Family Planning: The Way Forward**

