



Future Health Systems

Innovations for equity



Innovations and knowledge for future health systems for the poor

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About Future Health Systems (FHS)

The aim of Future Health Systems (FHS) Research Programme Consortium is to find ways to translate political and financial commitments of government to meet the health needs of the poor. The consortium addresses the fundamental questions about future health systems and work closely with actors who are leading the transformation of health systems in their own countries. Our research themes are:

- Protecting the poor against the impact of health-related shocks
- Developing innovations in health provision
- Understanding health policy processes and the role of research

Innovators' Meeting

The Future Health Systems, Nigeria hosted the annual meeting of the international Future Health Systems Consortium this year. The meeting with the theme "Innovations on Marketised Health Systems" was held January 12th and 13th, 2009 in Abuja, Nigeria.



Cross section of participants at the FHS innovators' meeting at Abuja in January 2009.

The meeting which attracted participants from UK, USA, China, India, Uganda and Nigeria had in attendance policy makers like the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Right Honourable Dimeji Bankole, ably represented by Hon. Dr. Alaba Lad-Ojomo, the Chairperson, House Committee on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Hon. Saudatu Sanni, Minister for Health, Prof Babatunde Osotimehin, who was ably represented by Dr. M. Lekki and the Oyo state Commissioner for Health, Dr. Isaac Owolabi.

Others included academic, ministry officials (federal and state), private medical practitioners, representatives of various NGOs the National Association of Patent and Proprietary Medicine Dealers, development partners, financial institutions, social entrepreneurs and the press.

Various presentations were made and possible areas of collaboration examined within the framework of the FHS work in Nigeria.

Country Coordinators' Meeting

As a follow up to the innovators' workshop, the Future Health Systems Consortium held its country coordinators meeting 14th – 16th January 2009. The objectives were to share research results and opportunities for future collaborations and finalise next biennial plan of actions.

FHS (Nigeria) on the AM Express

The Future Health Systems Coordinator in Nigeria featured on the AM Express, a breakfast magazine programme of the Nigerian Television Authority on "World Malaria day". The significance of malaria day and its relationship to the FHS work in Nigeria especially the innovative interventions to ensure access of the poor to quality malaria services through a multi-stakeholders partnership was highlighted. Feedback through telephone calls from listeners were received acknowledging the importance of the FHS work in making health systems work better for the poor.



FHS (Nigeria) Country Coordinator, Prof. Oladebo featuring on the NTA breakfast magazine show, AM Express on World's Malaria Day 25th April, 2009.

FHS Presentation at MTN office in Lagos

The giant mobile telecommunication company, MTN, played host to FHS (Nigeria) Friday April 30th, 2009. The meeting, held at the MTN office, Falomo, Lagos, explored areas of possible collaboration on the FHS proposed interventions. The activities of the FHS consortium in Nigeria were presented by the Country Coordinator. In response, the MTN Health Portfolio Manager, Mrs. Foyinsola Oyebola, stated that the FHS focus is in line with 3 key areas of corporate social responsibility of the MTN. She expressed MTN's interest in two out of the four proposed FHS interventions which include the purchase of minilab equipment and the use of mobile phones for text messaging (SMS) on antimalaria drugs, government policies, regulations and guidelines.



The FHS Country Coordinator presenting at the MTN office in Lagos. With him are the MTN Health Portfolio Manager, Mrs. Foyinsola Oyebola and the MTN Health Project Coordinator, Mr. Victor Ohuruogu.

WHO/TDR Thematic Reference Group on Health Systems and Implementation Research

The WHO/TDR Thematic Reference Group (TRG) meeting on Health Systems and implementation was held between May 4 & 6, 2009 in Abuja. The TRG is an internationally recognized group of expert with diverse and multi-disciplinary background that will assist WHO/TDR in providing global oversight and serve as international reference boards for information on research on specific diseases of poverty on related cross-cutting thematic areas. The FHS, through its Country Coordinator, presented a paper on "The role of patent medicine vendors in meeting the health needs of the poor".

FHS Partnership Strengthening Stakeholders' meeting

Key stakeholders committed to improving poor people's access to quality malaria services in Nigeria gathered in Abuja on May 27 – 28, 2009 under the auspices of the Future Health Systems Research Programme Consortium (FHS-RPC) to share experiences on PMV related work on malaria services explore opportunities for strengthening partnership and ways of moving the FHS work forward.

Participants were from government agencies, research institutions, and professional associations, development partners and NGOs – Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), Roll Back Malaria (RBM), National Association for Patent Medicine Dealers (NAPPMED), the Oyo State Ministry of Health (OSMOH), Partnership for Transforming Health Systems Phase II (PATH2), Support for National Malaria Programme (SuNMap), Society for Family Health (SFH),

Department for International Development (DFID), Community Life Project (CLP) and Future Health Systems Research Programme Consortium (FHS-RPC).

Based on the presentations made and follow-up discussions, it was agreed that:

1. Two interventions (a) Capacity Strengthening for performance improvement of PMVs through training and (b) Strengthening of PMVs' internal regulatory mechanism within the framework of a national agenda of the FMOH in collaboration with FHS and other partners be implemented
2. The use of (a) The Minilab equipment for quality drug testing and (b) Cell phone use for messaging and information sharing on malaria policies/guidelines and appropriate malaria drugs to PMVs be further explored with the FMOH and MTN Nigeria or integrated into the FMOH work
3. An all inclusive stakeholders' meeting to draft a harmonised PMVs' training curriculum and a framework for strengthening internal regulatory mechanism of the PMVs' Association be convened by the FMOH in collaboration with FHS was scheduled for July, 2009



Participants at the just concluded FHS Partnership Strengthening Stakeholders' meeting at Abuja in May 2009.

FHS, Nigeria Newsletter! Summaries key activities of the Future Health Systems (FHS) Nigeria.

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