

OYSHIA: A MAJOR STAKEHOLDER IN HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING IN OYO STATE

INTRODUCTION

In today's world, a strong health system is no longer a luxury it is a necessity. It's no news that strong and effective health services are important for the productivity and growth of any given society. Undoubtedly, **Oyo State Health Insurance Agency (OYSHIA)** is one major stakeholder playing a critical role in the process of improving how healthcare services are delivered, financed, accessed, and distributed among the people living in the society. In Oyo State, the government has put in effort to improve access to quality and affordable healthcare through OYSHIA.

Over the years and still counting, OYSHIA has reduced the heavy burden of out-of-pocket healthcare payments and catastrophic spendings amongst others as well has contributed to Health System strengthening in the following ways:

- **EXPANDED UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE FOR RESIDENTS OF OYO STATE**

Aligned with **Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3): “Ensure healthy living and promote well-being for all at all ages”**, OYSHIA plays a strategic role in expanding universal health coverage (UHC) and strengthening the health system in Oyo State through inclusive health insurance mechanisms. This reduces health inequities, promotes financial risk protection, and ensures access to essential health services for insured population groups.

With a clear focus on **leaving no one behind**, OYSHIA has made impressive strides at expanding UHC in Oyo State with over **300,000 lives registered and currently enjoying** health care services without fear of financial hardship. The scheme had made impressive efforts at extending UHC beyond salaried employees to artisans, traders, and other informal residents, with an estimated figure of **115,437 beneficiaries from the formal sector** and **214,278 from the informal sector**. In further support of SDG 3's equity principle, the Agency has enrolled **over 50,000**

vulnerable residents under the **SAfER Health** programme and extended coverage to **10,000 public primary school pupils**, thus ensuring early access to healthcare and promoting long-term well-being.

Furthermore, OYSHIA's implementation of the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) strongly supports Sustainable Development Goal 1: *“End poverty in all its forms everywhere”*. By providing vulnerable populations with access to essential healthcare services at no cost, the scheme protects households from being pushed further into poverty from catastrophic health expenditures.

- **PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY FACILITIES STRENGTHENING THROUGH CAPITATION AND FEE-FOR-SERVICE PAYMENT.**

Timely payment of capitation and fee-for-service to hospitals strengthens and aides improved infrastructure, procurement of essential medical equipment and drugs, improved service readiness, and enhanced quality of care delivered across the state.

The Agency's approach also means that while OYSHIA enrollees receive quality assured care, the wider population also benefits from the strengthened facilities. Hence, OYSHIA contributes not only to the improved health outcomes of insured individuals but undoubtedly also to the overall resilience and effectiveness of the health system in Oyo State and by extension the health outcome of the wider population in Oyo State.

- **INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION**

The Agency is keen on eliminating inefficiencies and duplication of resources, as such intersectoral collaboration has become a major move. This collaboration helps with effective resource mobilization, planning and policy management which consequently improves the health system and overall health outcome of the residents in Oyo state.

- **QUALITY ASSURANCE/MONITORING & EVALUATION FRAMEWORK**

There's no health system strengthening without a strong Quality Assurance/Monitoring & Evaluation Framework. This strategic approach ensures that

accredited facilities do not merely render services but deliver quality healthcare services through acceptable standards of quality, safety and efficiency to the residents enrolled under the insurance scheme.

The assessment outcomes enable the Agency identify gaps, provide feedback to stakeholders, and recommend corrective actions aimed at continuous improvement of the health system strengthening.

CONCLUSION

There is no quality healthcare without the right tools in the right places and certainly OYSHIA as a major stakeholder has and will continue to strengthen the health system with the right tools for quality healthcare delivery.