



More Funds for Health, Better Life for FCT Residents

Background

Health financing is one of the six building blocks of a health system; and a livewire for the other blocks. This pillar is very crucial in the efforts geared towards achieving the universal health coverage's target and achievement of the FCT Resource Mobilisation Plan.

Current Status

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT), regardless of being the seat of the Federal Government of Nigeria, has its own fair share of the challenges bedeviling its health system. Some of these challenges cut across inadequate human resource, poor or lack of basic infrastructures, inadequate availability of life-saving health commodities, etc. Addressing the above listed challenges hinges on political will and availability of fund secured via health budgeting.

FCT performance on the pillars of health systems

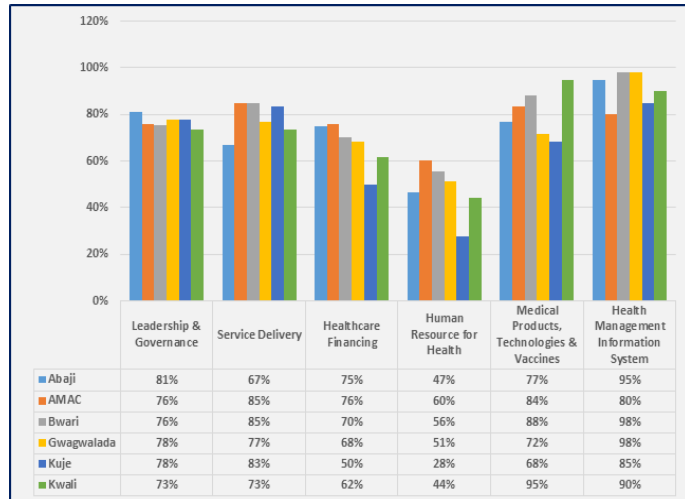


Figure 1: Status of building blocks of health system in FCT

In an assessment conducted by the FCT Accountability Mechanism in October 2021 with USAID IHP support, only 59% of the Ward Model PHCs in FCT have regular access to water supply and 23% to power supply.

¹ Toolkit on monitoring health systems strengthening (Health Systems Financing), WHO, 2008.

Only about 42% have up to half of the skilled health personnel required. The average duration of daily operations was 17.2 hours.

Total Budget Appropriation for Health (2015 - 2021)

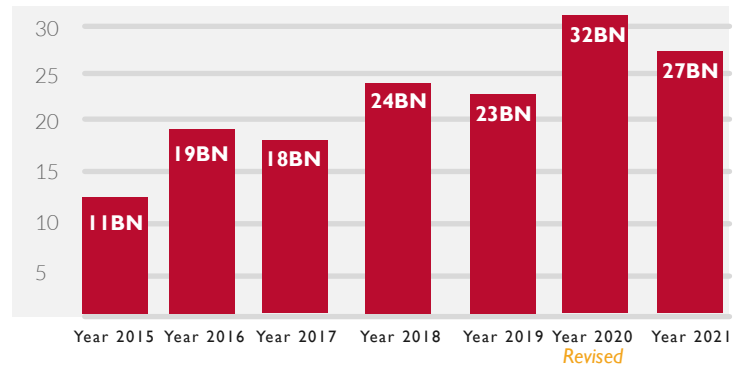


Figure 2: Total Budget appropriation for health in FCT

Total FCT Health Budget vs Releases (2015-2020)

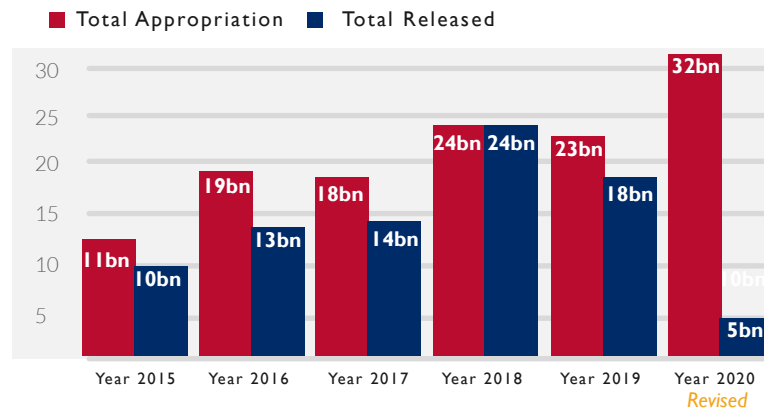


Figure 3: FCT Health Budget Vs Released funds



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Proportion of FCT Health Budget Release (2015-2020)

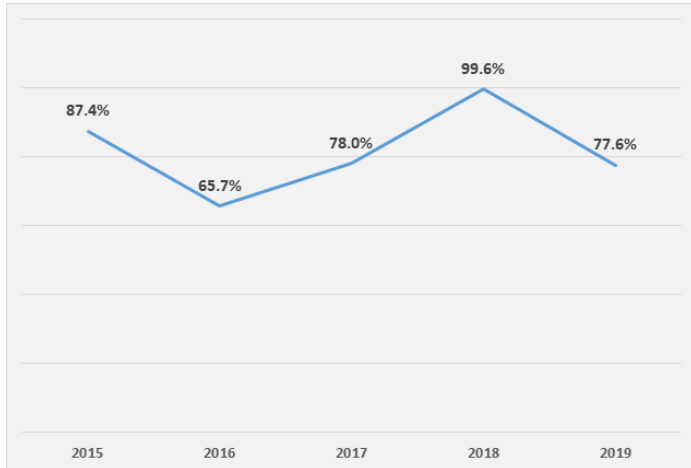


Figure 4: Status of completeness in the release of funds

Conclusion

The FCT is the fastest growing city in Nigeria with a projected annual growth rate of 7%. The increased influx of people into the city and the existing sub-optimal health outcomes exerts more strain on the struggling health system, hence calling for the need to improve funding for health system in FCT.

Recommendations

- Increase the health budget to at least 15% of the total annual FCTA budget.
- Ensure full and timely release of funds to improve quality of health services in PHCs
- Ensure efficient utilization of the released funds for the benefit of FCT residents.
- Transparent reporting of state health expenditures on a quarterly basis.

This scorecard was developed by the Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) in collaboration with the FCT Accountability Mechanism (FCT-AM) with support from the American people through a sub-grant from the USAID Integrated Health Program.