

Basket Fund in Zamfara – a model

“It is an innovative pooled funding mechanism that provides guaranteed funds to finance crucial recurrent PHC activities, through a transparent disbursement and efficient utilization mechanism.”¹

The fund began in September 2009 and was created to address three interlinked issues at LGA level:

- poor service delivery e.g. coverage of routine immunization services was very low in the state;
- inadequate release of resources or poor utilization of released funds; and
- challenges with coordinating different sources of funding for PHC and RI (from government, WHO, UNICEF, PRRINN-MNCH, EU PRIME, etc)

Activities supported include routine immunisation, supplemental immunisation, maternal health, supervision, routine data collection, community mobilisation, allowances for the midwives service scheme and currently exploring funding the free MNCH services. Funding is from LGAs (70%), state government (20%) and partners (10%) plus the partners provide technical support.

The state has an account as does each LGA with adequate checks and balances re signing powers. Funds are released directly to the PHC finance officers who submit retirement statements every month signed by the LGA chairman. Subsequent funds are only disbursed upon retirement of previous funds collected.

Two key advantages have been noted:

- it creates a platform for transparent fund disbursement and utilisation; and
- it promotes coordinated financing of interventions and removes duplication of funding for the same activities by different funding sources

Use of the fund has contributed to an increase in the routine immunisation coverage, reduction in the wild polio virus cases, monthly supervision visits in all LGAs, improvement in data collection (see graph below). In addition, it has led to interest from federal level bodies and other states.



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