

The Nigerian Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) Act, its impact on Nigerians and key actions required for implementation

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HEALTH STRATEGY AND
DELIVERY FOUNDATION

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KEY POINTS FROM THE NHIA ACT



1. Role of the NHIA as a Legal entity

The National Health Insurance Authority is a legal entity tasked with, among other things, regulating, promoting & integrating health insurance programs present in Nigeria, and putting health scheme policies into effect.

The NHIA Act is aligned with establishment of the State Health Insurance Schemes (SHIS) and provides a legal framework for the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund (BHCPF).



2. Mandatory Health Insurance

The Act mandates health insurance for every Nigerian and legal resident to engender the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). The law does not prevent Nigerian residents from obtaining private health insurance provided such person also participates in any mandated state health scheme.

KEY POINTS FROM THE NHIA ACT



3. Operational Modification

- Private health insurance to handle supplementary benefits (top-up) to be regulated by the Authority
- The Authority retains power to sanction and resolve disputes among parties under the Act
- Tariffs to be reviewed every 3 years by the Authority to the mutual satisfaction of Healthcare providers (HCP), Health Maintenance Organisations (HMOs), SHIS and the Authority
- Development of the Operational Guidelines for the Authority and review at least once in five (5) years by the Authority



4. Vulnerable Group Fund (VGF)

The Act establishes the Vulnerable Group Fund, prioritizing children under 5 years, pregnant women, senior citizens and all those deemed to be vulnerable. It outlines funding sources (BHCPF, Health Insurance Levy, Special Intervention Fund, Return on investment, Grants, Donation, Gifts, Voluntary contributions), disbursement, management, investment and expenses of the fund.

Criteria for disbursement of Vulnerable Group Funds

- The NHIA Council formulates fund policies, develops disbursement criteria and submits them for approval to the Minister of Health for disbursement to SHIA
- The Authority may invest the fund in securities and deposits, subject to NHIA Governing Council approval

WHAT IMPACT WILL THE NHIA ACT HAVE?

Standardized health insurance is likely to lead to an increase in the following society outcomes....



Access to quality healthcare



Financial Risk Protection for Lives & Livelihoods



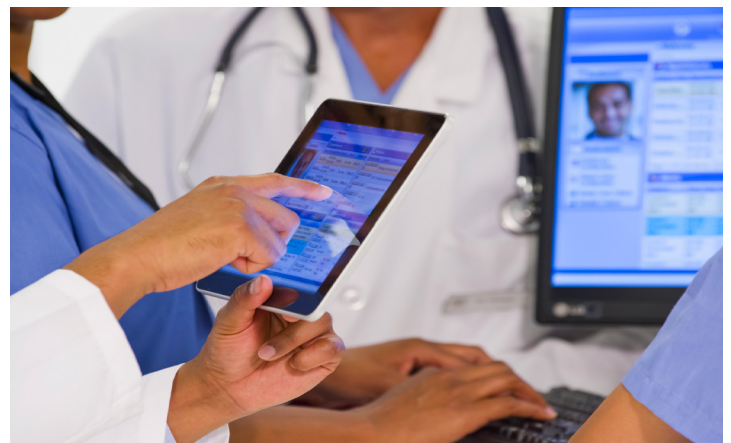
Economic Output



Life Expectancy for Nigerians



Improve health equity



Revenue for health providers and job opportunities

IMPLEMENTING NHIA ACT: ROLE OF POLICY MAKERS



The Bottleneck

Current limited budgetary allocation towards implementing the NHIA Act



The Need

To ensure adequate funding and resources are provided for the implementation of the NHIA Act



Potential Impact

80 million of the poorest Nigerians receive sufficient insurance coverage



The Ask

Incremental budget allocation for the NHIA, streamlining bureaucratic processes, enforcing anti-corruption measures.



Leveraging Innovation and Tech

Leverage technology for communications and enhancing transparency and accountability, public-private partnerships for resource mobilization..



About HSDF:

The Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation (HSDF) is a not-for-profit firm established in December 2013 to improve the quality of decision-making and execution in the health and social sectors. HSDF supports key stakeholders at all levels of government and private sector to achieve measurable and sustainable impact.



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