



HEALTH STRATEGY AND
DELIVERY FOUNDATION

Immunization Financing Landscape in Nigeria

Challenges and Opportunities for
Sustainability



Introduction

"Is Nigeria ready to self-finance its immunization programs?"



The decline in immunization coverage in Nigeria poses a significant threat to the health and well-being of its children.

- This issue is particularly pressing given the ongoing "health financing transition," with GAVI, a major support organization, phasing out its assistance to Nigeria.
- Immediate actions are crucial to address this urgent situation. Among other things, it is essential to secure adequate resources, strengthen immunization initiatives, and prioritize the health and well-being of Nigerian children.
- This policy brief seeks to explore the immunization financing landscape in Nigeria, highlighting both the challenges and opportunities for securing sustainable funding for these vital programs.

Background

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

has been supporting Nigeria's immunisation programme since the early 2000s, providing vaccines, cash support and technical assistance through its partners like WHO and UNICEF.

In 2016, Nigeria became **ineligible for GAVI's support** due to its gross national income (GNI) per capita surpassing the eligibility threshold of US\$ 1,580.

Nigeria was scheduled to embark on a **transition period** where it will gradually begin assuming the funding responsibility for its immunisation programs and aiming to finance vaccines independently by 2021.

After prolonged deliberation between the FGoN and Gavi, **Gavi extended Nigeria's transition period until 2028**, requiring the country to **achieve complete self-financing and assume full responsibility by 2029**.

Transition Begins

Nigeria's eligibility for GAVI support ends, prompting a transition to independent vaccine financing by 2021

Extended Transition

Nigeria's transition period extends until 2028, requiring increased budget allocation for complete self-financing

Fully Self-Financing of Routine Immunization (RI)

Nigeria takes on full responsibility for funding its immunization programs without any support from GAVI

2016



2017



2018



2019-2028



2029



Funding Responsibility Shift

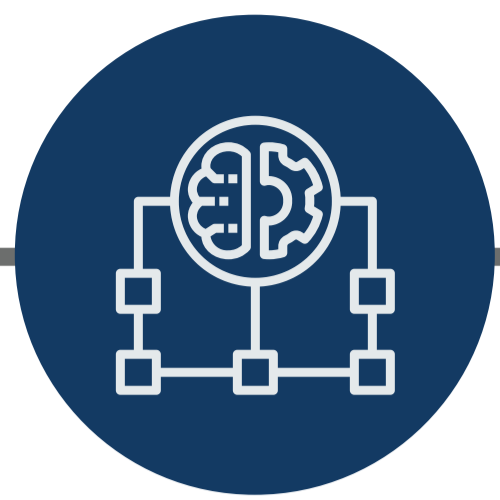
Nigeria embarks on a five-year transition period, gradually assuming funding responsibility for immunisation programs

Journey to Full Responsibility

Nigeria overcomes challenges and steadily increases funding to assume full responsibility for immunisation efforts by 2028

Fig 1: Figure displaying the timeline of Nigeria's "immunization financing transition"

What is currently being done?



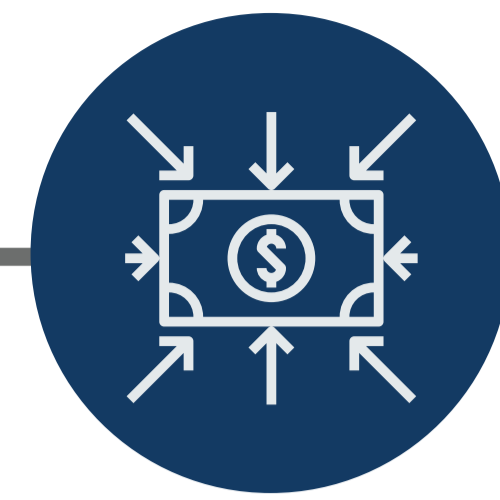
Accountability Framework

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGoN) has established a clear accountability framework with Gavi, emphasizing Nigeria's commitment to the transition outlined in the Nigeria Strategy for Immunization Coverage and PHC System Strengthening (NSIPSS).



Budgetary Commitment

The FGoN aims to enhance routine immunization efforts by annually increasing the proportion of vaccine procurement expenditure released from government budgetary resources by 8% yearly from 2018 to 2028. This reflects a commitment to sustained investment in immunization programs.



Diverse Funding Sources

The current funding mechanisms for immunization in Nigeria include government budget allocation, external donor funding from partners like BMGF and the World Bank, domestic resource mobilization (taxes), partnerships with NGOs, and private sector contributions.



Financial Commitments

To meet the funding needs for immunization between 2018 and 2028, certain agreements were made. Nigeria has projected a total requirement of \$2.7 billion. **78% (\$1.95 billion)** will be from domestic budgets and other sources, with the remaining **22% (\$773.2 million)** sought from Gavi.

“To what extent can the current funding mechanisms ensure the long-term financing of immunization programs and sustained availability of vaccines?”

Projected Financing of Loaded Routine Immunization Vaccines From 2018-2028

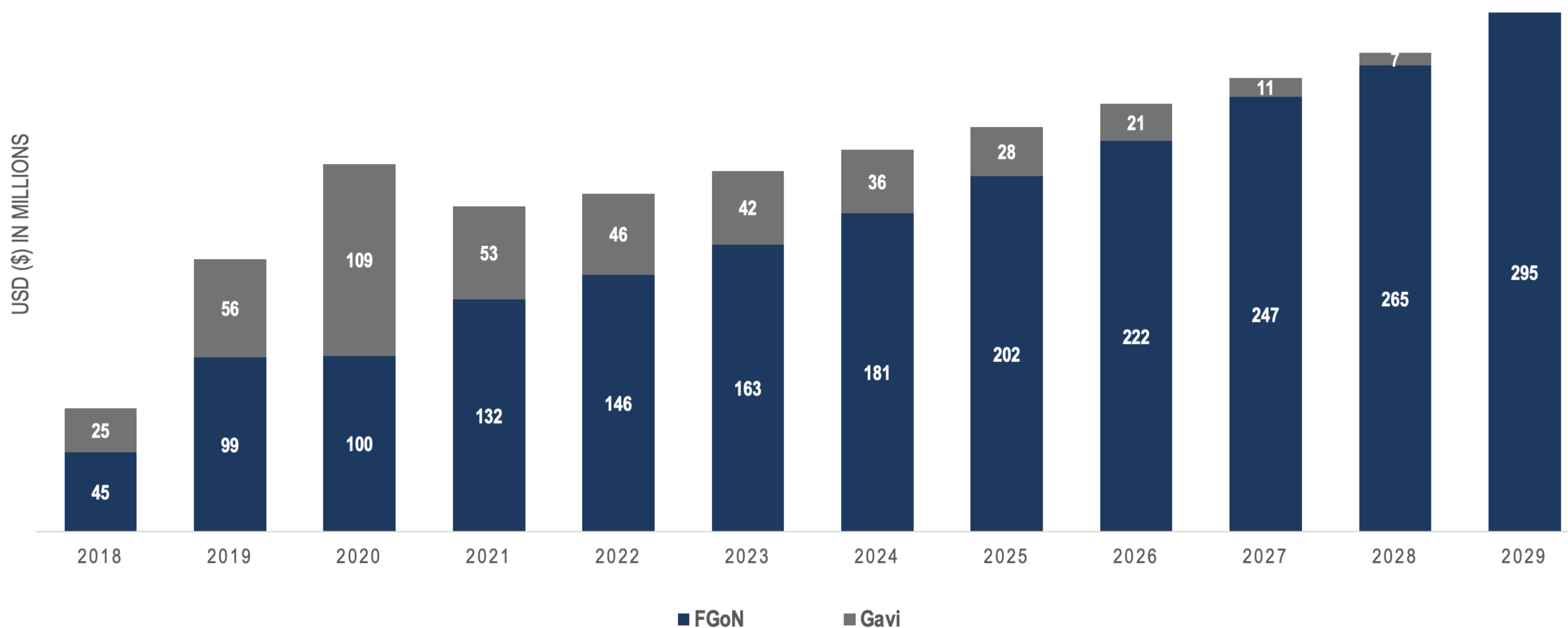


Fig 2: Year-on-year funding requirements and proposed FGoN/GAVI split (in \$ millions)*

Challenges in Financing Immunization Programs

1

Inadequate Funding

Inadequate funding significantly challenges the goal of achieving comprehensive immunization coverage, reflecting a low priority for health in budget allocations. Despite recent increases in funding, government spending on vaccine procurement still falls short of the growing demand, failing to ensure universal access to vaccines. Additionally, many state governments provide sub-optimal funding, resulting in systemic bottlenecks that hinder the effective delivery of immunization services.

2

Bureaucratic Delays in Fund Disbursement

Navigating bureaucratic delays in fund disbursement remains a formidable challenge. These delays occur at various stages of the funding process, including the submission of funding requests, the availability of funds from government or donor sources, invoicing procedures, and approval mechanisms. Each step introduces its own hurdles, leading to inefficiencies that significantly impact the flow of funds critical for sustaining vaccination efforts.

Recommendations in Financing Immunization Programs



Increased Government Budgetary Allocation

Although there is a subsequent increase, the budgetary allocation for health remains insufficient. The government should prioritize health in budgetary allocations at all levels, ensuring a higher proportion of the approved budget is allocated to the health sector.



Advocacy for Innovative & Sustainable Financing

The FMoH, NPHCDA, and other stakeholders like the private sector should engage with the Budget Office of the Federation and the National Assembly to advocate for sustainable financing mechanisms for the health sector.

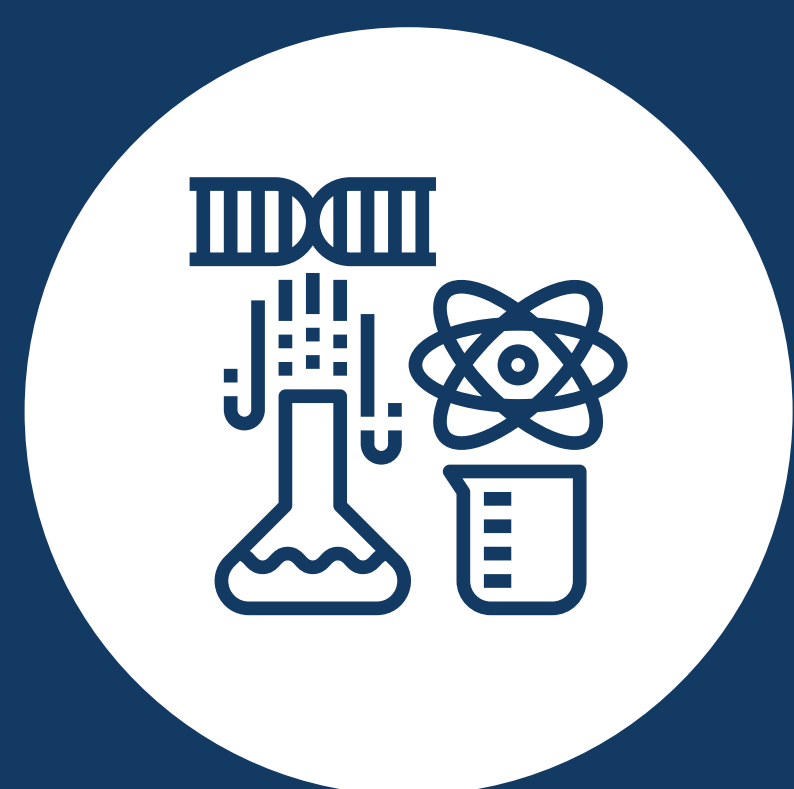


Establishment of a Dedicated Immunization Fund

A dedicated immunization fund holds the promise of ensuring a steady provision of resources while showcasing the government's unwavering commitment to public health. This initiative will not only enhance financial accountability but also encourages collaborative partnerships with diverse stakeholders. The ultimate outcome is anticipated to be an enhancement in immunization coverage and subsequently, an improvement in overall health outcomes for the population.

Some innovative financing mechanisms for an immunization fund could include:

- **Earmarked taxes/levies** (Revenue generated from taxes on certain goods & services such as pharmaceutical products, chemical products, etc can be dedicated to the immunization fund)
- **Public-Private Partnerships** (Government can unlock additional resources through collaborations with corporate entities, foundations, and other private sector partners).



Advocacy for Local Manufacturing of Vaccines

Supporting immunization programs in Nigeria crucially involves advocating for the local manufacturing of vaccines. Investing in domestic production facilities can reduce dependence on expensive imports, ensure a stable supply of vaccines, and create job opportunities. Furthermore, local manufacturing encourages technology transfer and enhances healthcare infrastructure. This approach not only promotes self-reliance but also ensures sustainability in protecting public health.

FMoH: Federal Ministry of Health, **NPHCDA:** National Primary Health Care Development Agency

This brief was informed by the **Technical Assistance for Coordinating Nigeria's Immunisation Financing Report (2021)** by the Budget Office of the Federation, Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation, Centre for Policy Impact in Global Health