

## The Impact of Private-Public Financing on Health Workers under the New National Health Insurance Scheme in Nigeria

Chibuzo Opara<sup>1</sup>, Tosin O Kolade<sup>2</sup> and Adham Yehia<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Maastricht University, International Health, Maastricht, The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup> PHP Healthcare, Zonal Medical Manager, Ibadan, Nigeria

<sup>3</sup> Integra Health Nigeria, Lagos, Nigeria

chibuzo.opara@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Nigeria, a Sub-Saharan country with a population of over 150 million people implemented a national health Insurance scheme in 1999. Since then there have been mixed reactions, varied uptake and use of the scheme by, providers, health insurance organizations and enrollees (registered patients). Other issues surrounding the implementation include sustainability, scaling up, patient provider models and relationships, reimbursement models, mechanisms and system wide acceptance.

**Methods:** The attitudes of health workers to a community based health insurance scheme (which has a private-public investment mix) were investigated qualitatively. This was done through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and self administered questionnaires among health workers in 5 primary health centers (Taiwo, Okelerin, Baaki, Taara, Masifa) in Ogbomoso North Local Government Area (L.G.A) located in the south western part of Nigeria.

**Results:** Results are still being analyzed, however preliminary findings indicate that health workers have mixed feelings towards the new scheme ranging from a fear for work overload to positively welcoming the new investment in infrastructure.

### Conclusions:

Health workers are a key determinant to ensuring the success of the national health insurance scheme in Nigeria. Understanding the impact of the new national health insurance scheme on the health workers and vice versa is of importance to policy makers, providers, health insurance firms and other stake holders.

