



IHAT NIGERIA PROFILE

Initiative for Health Accountability and Transparency

Who We Are

Health system in Nigeria has witnessed persistent service delivery challenges and failures that have resulted in sub optimal and relatively poor health outcomes compared with other low income countries. There are numerous testimonies of unattended and unresolved cases of abuses, frauds and wastes; and non-compliance with professional ethics, procedures and standards.

IHAT is a Non-Governmental Organisation, not for profit founded to promote and monitor accountability in the health system in Nigeria. Every Nigerian has Right to Good Health (*National Health Act 2014*). IHAT Support Right to Health. However, the unfortunate reality is that health system in Nigeria is largely unaccountable, and accountability barriers to health are significant.

Our Mission is to Make Accountability a Core Element in Health in Nigeria.

Riding on our mission, IHAT is creating a new value system of *health care governed by accountability* through multidimensional strategies aimed at the prevention and mitigation of abuses and non-compliance with ethics, procedures and standards, frauds and wastes; improving efficiency and performance and making significant contribution towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and other health related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We have extensive network of *registered accountability champions* with detailed contact information delegated to scoop and channel alleged cases of abuses, frauds and wastes for investigation and necessary engagement with relevant actors and authorities.

IHAT Governance Structure consist of a Board of Trustees and the Management Team constituted of highly qualified, experienced and tested health professionals with far-reaching expertise in health system leadership and governance, legal practitioners, administrators, health economist, social scientist, financial and management experts and media professionals drawn from the academia, health industry, public and private sector and the media.

The Flagship Programmes and Deliverables

*Legal,
Regulatory and
Policy
Networking on
Health
Governance*

*Quality
Assurance
Promotion
(QAP)*

*Provider
Patient
Partnership
(PPP)*

*Track and
Trace
(T&T)
Initiative*

*Reporting and
Investigation
(R&I)*

*Strategic
Research on
Health
Governance*

Legal, Regulatory and Policy Networks

We are promoting strategic engagement with stakeholders for improved legal, regulatory and policy instruments on good health governance.

Quality Assurance Promotion (QAP)

At IHAT, we are promoting quality improvement in health care institutions and facilities to ensure responsiveness to the needs and demands of patients.

Provider Patient Partnership (PPP)

We are promoting "Patient as a Partner" initiative through the promotion and protection of health human right using multiple strategies such as Patients Right Charter, Health Consumer Forums and monitoring and surveillance of providers to ensure patient satisfaction

Track and Trace(T&T) Initiative

Through our T&T initiative, we are monitoring, tracking and tracing health budget, programmes and project to ensure value for money for all investments in health

Reporting and Investigation (R&I)

We are collaborating with strategic partners including the *mass media* in Reporting and Investigation of cases of Abuses, Frauds and Waste to ensure accountability and value for money through social media and radio/TV platforms. We also organise "expoforums" to aggregate complaints, grievances and petitions and channel to appropriate actors and authorities.

Strategic Research in Health Governance

We undertake strategic Research in Health Governance to generate empirical evidence for far reaching impact.

Why Accountability in Health is Important

There is strong correlation between accountability and health outcomes measures. Failed accountability fuels abuses, non-compliance with ethics, standards and procedures and several other illegal and unethical acts and behaviours that undermine health care delivery and result in poor performance.

The general effect of failed accountability in the health care delivery is that well-intentioned spending may have no impact, the national health priorities, goals and objectives cannot be met while scarce resources are wasted.

Measuring accountability based on corruption indicators, shows negative association with child and infant mortality, the likelihood of an attended birth, immunization coverage and low-birth weight even when factors such as mother's education, public health and education spending and urbanization are controlled for. It is also reported that measuring the impact of corruption on the effectiveness of health spending, the effectiveness of public health spending in reducing child mortality hinges on the integrity rating, with higher integrity associated with reduced mortality. Spending (investment in health) reduces under 5 mortality where there is good governance based on World Bank's CPIA score (Country Policy and Institutional Assessment) with regards to corruption and governance.

In public health programming, MNCH activities including RI, FP and Control of Killer Diseases are often at great risk of failed accountability. Absenteeism poses a serious challenge. It can severely limit patient access to RI, FP, ANC services and institutional delivery, reduces quality of care and patient satisfaction.

Corruption can affect availability of equipment and public health supplies including the cold chain logistics, vaccines, FP commodities, Insect Treated Nets, and delays and reduces the vaccination of new-born, discourages the use of public health clinics, reduces satisfaction of households with public health services and increases waiting times at health clinics.

A ten percent increase in corruption reduces immunization rates by 10 to 20 %. Reducing corruption can result in significant social gains as measured by decreases in child and infant mortality rates, as well as percent of low-birth weight babies.

Partnership for Accountability

As a champion for accountability in the health system, we are engaging relevant stakeholders - citizens, communities, providers in the public and private health sector, policy makers, health managers, legislature, Civil Society Organisations, mass media etc to build effective **accountability linkage and networks** for promotion of accountability in the health system.

How We Are Responding To Opportunities And Challenges.

Failed or insufficient accountability furnishes abuses, non-compliance with ethics, procedures and standards. It lead to poor quality of services, poor utilization of basic health services, poor coverage of life saving interventions and poor performance of the health system as a whole, and poor health outcome measures.

The foregoing challenges, offers good opportunity for our work. Our response is to conduct mapping of accountability linkages, identify the gaps and strategic partners, engage with the actors, build trust and empower the key actors and work closely and jointly on key strategies at all levels to influence positive approach to accountability for delivery of health care that is responsive to the needs, the demands and the satisfaction of care seekers, the citizens and the communities. Through our networks and social accountability programmes, we are giving the people “VOICE” ensuring that clients and the communities are sufficiently empowered to demand for client’s rights and value for money for every investment in health in their communities.

We are supporting the building of stronger accountability linkage among the citizens, the political leaders, policy makers, health managers and service providers aimed at addressing the three (3) broad objectives of accountability of assuring compliance with ethics, procedures and standards, reducing abuse – addressing inappropriate actions and behaviour and improving performance – better health outcomes.

The challenges of insufficient or failed accountability is offering great opportunity to IHAT for:

1. Exposing, using available evidence and platforms, how failed accountability in health has undermined service delivery and health system performance such as the effect of failed rural health infrastructural expansion project, the effect of failed ambulance programme and the effect of wasted expired anti-retroviral drugs etc.
2. Promoting stronger accountability linkage through strategic networking with key stakeholders such as the communities, providers, health managers, policy makers, political leaders, the media and the CSOs, public enlightenment and spotlight for awareness creation, and promotion and protection of health consumer rights.
3. Monitoring, Surveillance and Evaluation of health budgets, programs/projects and service delivery
4. Complaints Investigation and Reporting.
5. Focused Research for Health Governance. IHAT is promoting research to generate empirical evidence for improving health governance. With support of our partners, our research will focus on *quality assessment and assurance, independent performance review, providers behaviours, patient satisfaction survey, utilization analysis and outcome analysis etc*

What We Have Achieved

Through our programmes, we have brought accountability in health to the public spotlight, drawing providers and manager’s attention, creating awareness on citizens’ right to good health, and how failed accountability has undermined service delivery and health system performance.

Consequently, more people know their rights as patients, and risks of poor accountability are higher with the possibility of less failure of programmes, abuses, frauds and waste.

Our Plan, 2018/19

Our plan for 2018/19 will cover the following activities:

1. Strategic Partnership Engagement, Mobilization and Networking on Health Governance - Legal, Regulatory and Policy matters, and participation in relevant meetings and conferences.
2. Advocacy and Mobilization through visits, meetings, workshops and conferences for drawing stakeholders' attention and public spotlight
3. Programme Communication - through IEC - fliers, posters, banners, radio and TV programmes, use of Social Media and Consumer Forums, Town Hall Meetings and Conferences.
4. Promoting and supporting Quality Assessment and Assurance in health care
5. Right to Good Health - supporting the Protection and Promotion of Right to Good Health including the use of online/electronic "exposforums" and periodic monitoring and surveillance (in collaboration with Consumer Protection Council and NHIS) of consumer rights in health facilities.
6. Track & Trace of health budgets and projects - through the monitoring and surveillance of health budgets and projects, and publishing periodic reports on budget implementation and projects.
7. Investigation and Reporting: Collaborate with relevant agencies including the regulatory and anti-corruption agencies, professional groups and the media to investigate and report on cases of alleged abuses, frauds and wastes.
8. Supporting provider prepayment system in collaboration with NHIS to promote accountability in the provider prepayment system through participation in accreditation of providers and HMOs, utilization surveys and patient satisfaction surveys.
9. Use of Electronic Platforms – Tracker & Dashboard for health budget and health information analytics.
10. Support Research – our interest is in quality assessment and assurance, independent performance review, providers behaviours, patient satisfaction survey, utilization analysis and outcome analysis etc