



Southeast Health Summit 2015



Building Sustainable Health Systems and Universal Coverage

DATE:

September 3, 2015

VENUE:

Enugu, Nigeria

812 Stakeholders || Policymakers · Researchers · Development Agencies

SOUTHEAST HEALTH SUMMIT 2015

INTRODUCTION

The **Southeast Health Summit 2015**, organized by the Health Systems Forum (HSF) Nigeria and the Health Policy Research Group of the University of Nigeria, marked a pivotal gathering for regional health reform. Held on September 3, 2015, in Enugu, the summit convened 812 stakeholders — including policymakers, researchers, and development agencies — to address the critical challenges facing the health sector in Southeast Nigeria.

The event was coordinated by **Dr. Chima Onoka**, and supported by key partners such as the Federal Ministry of Health, the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), and PATHS2/DfID.

OPENING AND TECHNICAL EXHIBITIONS

The summit opened with an exhibition featuring 12 posters and 8 organizations, including FHI360 and the NHIS, highlighting regional health indicators. The formal sessions were moderated by **Chima Onoka**, **Ijeoma Itanyi**, and **Chinemerem Onwuliri**, while **Professor Obinna Onwujekwe** facilitated the core discussions.

THEMATIC SESSION I: SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES

This session focused on the transition from building physical structures to establishing functional systems.

- **Dr. John Ihebereme** emphasized that health spending must be tied to specific indicators like maternal mortality rather than top-down infrastructure projects.
- **Dr. Mahmoud Magaji** shared the "Gunduma" model from Jigawa State as a blueprint for primary healthcare (PHC) efficiency.
- **Professor J.C. Azubuike** addressed the ethical dilemmas of dual practice among public doctors.
- **Professor Samuel Ohaegbulam** used the success of Memfys Hospital to showcase private sector excellence.
- **Dr. Chukwuemeka Oluoha and Dr. Ibrahim Kana** provided roadmaps for establishing State PHC Development Boards to unlock international and federal funding.

SPECIAL SESSION: POLICY AND LEGISLATION

A high-level session focused on the national framework for Universal Health Coverage (UHC). **Mr. Femi Akingbade** (Acting ES, NHIS) represented by **Dr. Jonathan Eke**, delivered a keynote pledging technical support for state-led insurance schemes. **Dr. Francis Ukwuije** discussed leveraging the National Health Act for funding. Finally, **Professor Eddy Nwobodo** moderated a panel with Southeast health commissioners to align regional progress on state-supported insurance.

THEMATIC SESSION II: FINANCING AND WORKFORCE

The final session explored the economic and human resource pillars of health.

- **Mr. Uka Uduma** shared lessons from Abia State's insurance scheme, highlighting the need for political will.
- **Professor Obinna Onwujekwe** called for the elimination of corrupt "free health" programs in favor of sustainable insurance.
- **Dr. Nkata Chukwu** (KPMG) discussed bridging the gap in private sector financing, while Rev. Sister Angela Muobike presented the "Ndo Nwanne" insurance model as a successful private-sector initiative for the vulnerable.
- **Dr. Daniel Ogbuabor and Professor Odidika Umeorah** addressed the health workforce, proposing legislative support and innovative posting strategies to serve rural areas.

CONCLUSION

In his closing remarks, coordinator **Dr. Chima Onoka** summarized the summit's achievements and outlined plans to track the implementation of these action points across the five southeast states. The summit concluded with a commitment to move beyond dialogue toward measurable improvements in regional health outcomes.