

# A review of Nigeria's health systems response to COVID-19: lessons for strengthening the health systems for improved service delivery

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**CATALYSE**



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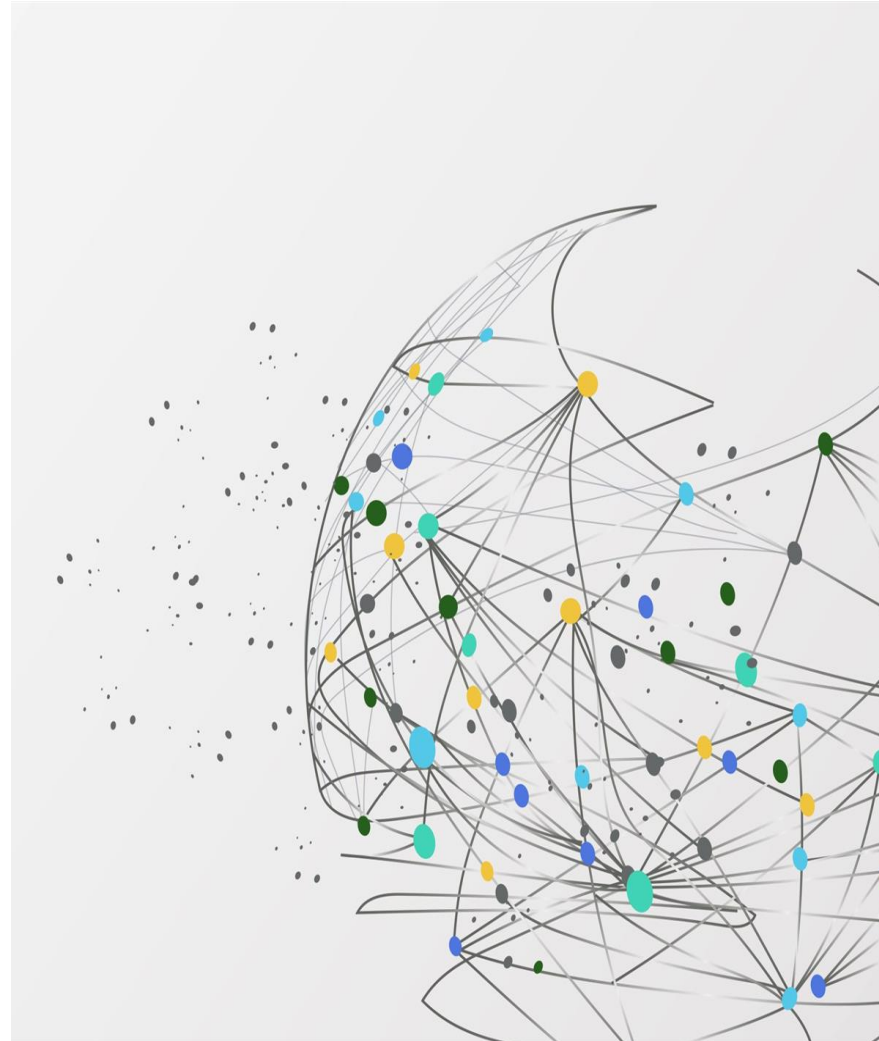
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# INTRODUCTION

1 COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the health systems of almost all the countries in the world

2 A strong health system is characterized by its ability to respond to emergencies while remaining resilient in delivering high-quality routine essential services promptly

4 These efforts are worth documenting, as they will inform policy makers and other stakeholders in Nigeria to reflect on the ways to adopt and scale up the positive identified measures



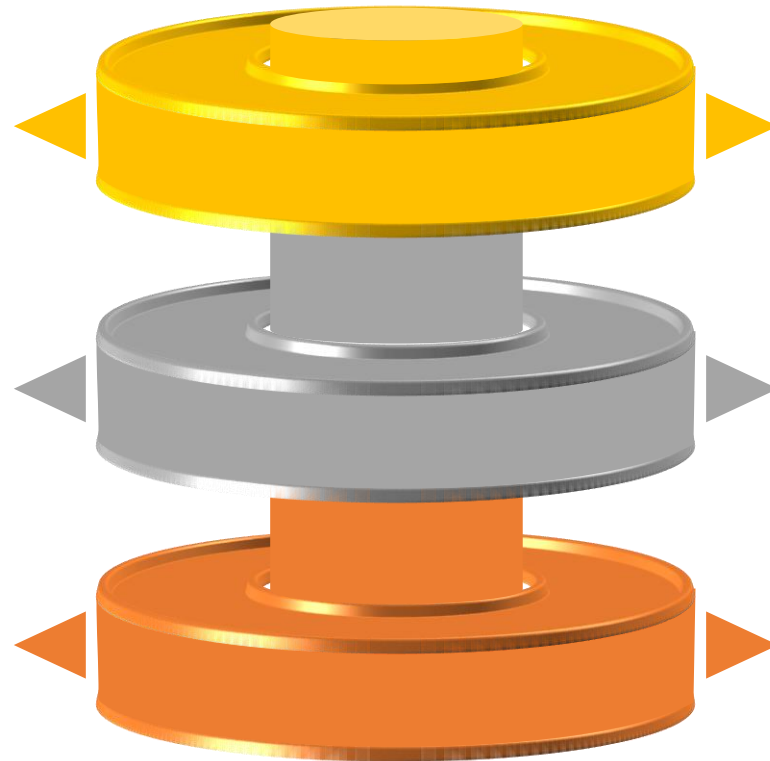
3 Prior to the pandemic, health systems had not received adequate attention. With this pandemic, the country's leadership has made efforts to respond and reduce its spread



# Aims and objectives



The aim of this review is to understand and report on selected health system interventions that are considered nationally and sub-nationally of particular significance, both in terms of COVID-19 responses and in terms of strengthening the health system for improved service delivery and responding to future threats in Nigeria



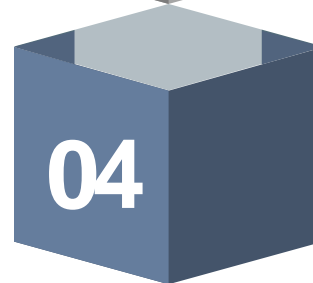
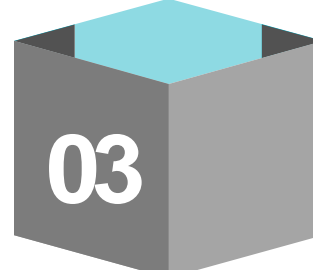
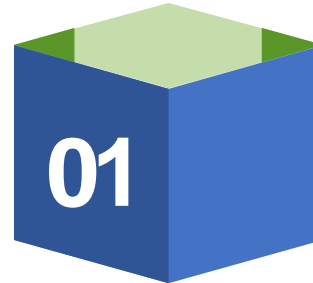
To organize evidence, capacities and measures of significant learning from this first phase of the pandemic that can inform health system responses for improved service delivery



# METHODS



A scoping review of published and grey literature including journals, news/ media documents and official documents published from 1st December 2019 to 31st December 2020



Reviewers read and extracted relevant data using a uniform data extraction template

Template was structured in themes using the health system building blocks and service delivery subtheme that captured technical support and interventions targeted at health workers was used for the manual content analysis



# Findings: Technical support and interventions targeted at health workers



Training of about 17,000 health workers

Engaging and supervising more health workers

Upgrading laboratories and building new ones to improve screening and diagnosis

Motivation of health workforce with incentives (financial and non-financial)



New infrastructure were built, and old ones renovated or converted to isolation centers to accommodate the rising number of patients

Improved data and information systems

Supply of medicines, medical products and non-pharmaceutical materials through local production



# Findings 2



- Other identified influencers
  - Influx of philanthropic gestures which mostly provided support for adhoc staff
  - Several collaborations and partnerships were created to help the government
  - Presence of strong political will and government's efforts in health systems response to COVID-19 facilitated these interventions



# Conclusion



COVID-19 pandemic has placed a huge burden on the Nigerian health system, but the interventions of state and non-state actors have strengthened the health systems for improved service delivery

More needs to be done towards sustaining these gains and towards making the health system strong and resilient to absorb the unprecedented shocks and deliver quality health services

