

Multi stakeholders' roles and coordination mechanism for a resilient health system in COVID-19 response: Learning from experiences in Nigeria

Uchenna Ezenwaka and Obinna Onwujekwe

Affiliation: Health Policy Research Group, University of Nigeria

Background

Collaboration among multiple stakeholders from different sectors requires a coherent coordination mechanism in planning and implementing responses to public health emergencies such as COVID-19 to improve the effectiveness of a health system and health outcomes.

The review provides new knowledge on stakeholders involved in the COVID-19 response and how their actions and roles are has been coordinated across different levels of government in Nigeria.

Methods

- We undertook a scoping review of documents between January 2020 and August 2021.
- Data were collected through a review of published and unpublished official documents and media reports on COVID-19 in Nigeria.
- A total of 173 documents (comprising 51 documents and 122 media reports) were reviewed.
- Data were extracted verbatim into excel spreadsheets and analyzed using the WHO framework for multistakeholder preparedness coordination.

Conclusion

A collaborative effort involving multiple stakeholders working at varying capacities requires coherent coordination and linkage for an effective and resilient health system during a pandemic. Hence, the likelihood of reducing duplication of efforts, inequitable resource allocation, and wastage of resources and time.

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Key Findings

- ❑ Various stakeholders at national, state, and local government levels, as well as non-state actors, played complementary roles in the implementation of specific sectorial responses to COVID-19 in Nigeria.
- ❑ The multi-sectoral response to COVID-19 in Nigeria was coordinated through the Presidential and State task force (P/STF) teams.
- ❑ However, there are no linkages between and across task force teams and the entire pandemic response. The expert and advisory committees at national and sub-national levels appear to be working in their silos without any lines of communication to encourage information sharing and learning.
- ❑ Similarly, it is unclear whether and how the private sector is linked to other actors in the response strategy. Hence, the processes of coordination of actors and their actions were intricate and fragmented.
- ❑ The coordination of COVID-19 response at all levels has been facilitated by the sense of responsibility and complementarity of the roles of stakeholders in resource mobilization and risk communication.
- ❑ However, coordination was hampered by poor communication of policies among stakeholders, poor planning and contextualization of response strategies, lack of data for planning and implementation, and lack of accountability.