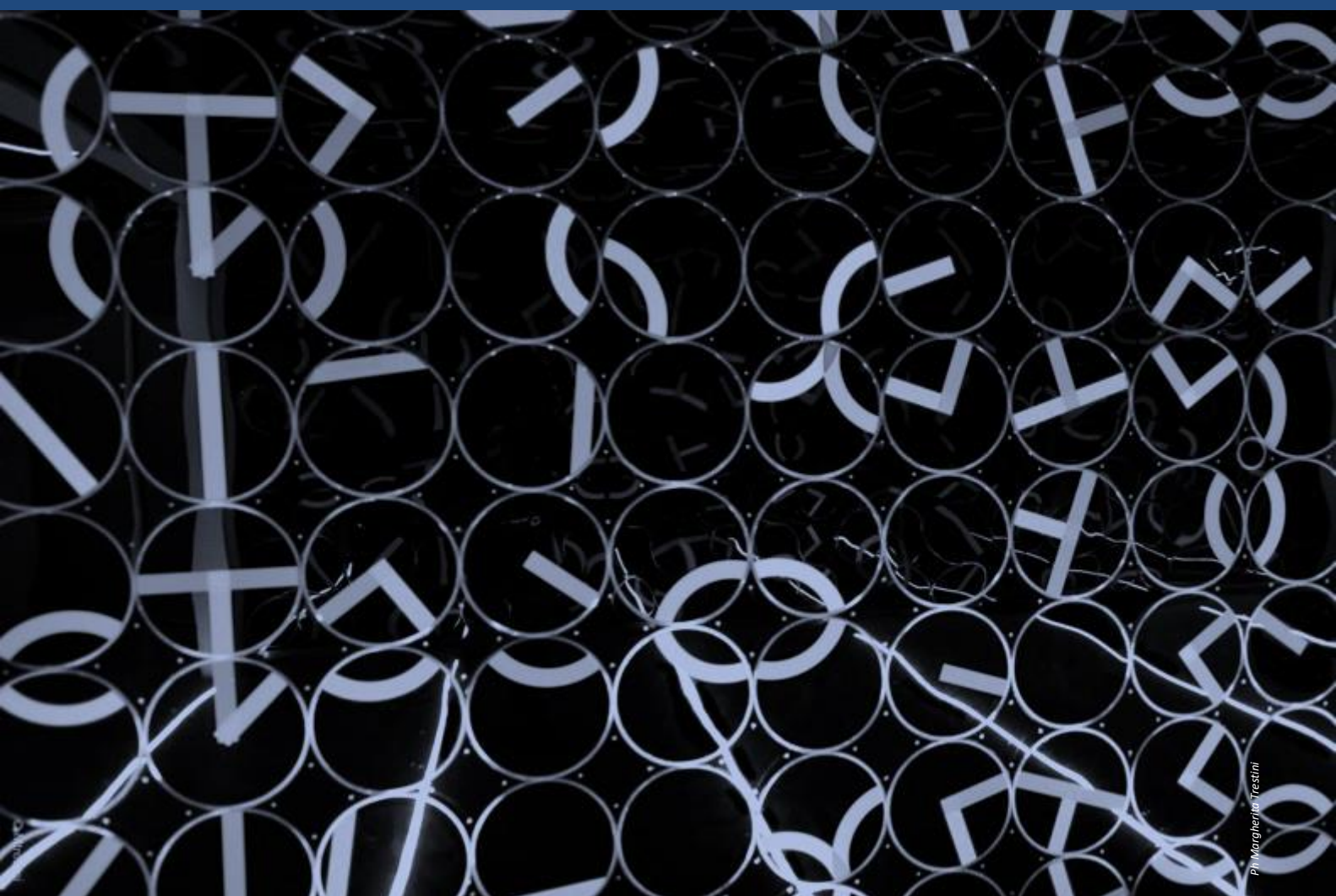


# Primary Health Care Innovation in Nigeria – Quantitative Phase Report – Executive Summary

by the Pro-Poor Growth and Promotion of Employment in Nigeria Programme-  
SEDIN

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The Primary Health Care Quantitative Phase Report includes:

- ✓ the findings from the semi-structured survey among the stakeholders as well as the quantitative one among the Nigerian Primary Health Care (PHC) health workers;
- ✓ the results of the online questionnaire;
- ✓ the outcome of the online validation workshop conducted with innovation and healthcare experts

The results of the quantitative phase are consistent with the results of the previous two phases: the desk research and the qualitative research. From the quantitative and the stakeholders surveys, it emerged that in many of the PHC centres from the five states included in the survey, namely Edo, Lagos, Niger, Ogun, and Plateau, **63% PHC personnel have between 1-20 patients on a typical day**.

From the quantitative and the stakeholders' surveys, it **emerges that key benefits of PHC are accessibility and closeness to homes of patients**. However, it is important to note that patients were not included in the study. This survey was purely conducted among the PHC Healthcare Personnel and Stakeholders.

Both stakeholders and healthcare personnel agree that the Nigerian PHC had advantages and benefits. **The most important of these advantages and benefits is accessibility**. It is also come out that both the stakeholders and the healthcare personnel did not perceive the fact that the services offered at the PHC are free as important.

On challenges, the most pressing challenge according to both the stakeholders and the healthcare personnel **is lack of facilities such as laboratories as well as lack of funding**.

When it comes to awareness and use of technologies it emerged that it is better to segment the market not into hardware and software but into **“Rudimentary/Traditional Technologies”** and **“Emerging Technologies”**.

“Rudimentary/Traditional Technologies” are types of innovations that have been in existence for over a decade, while “Emerging Technologies” may have been in existence for a long but have gained popularity within the decade. For example, robotics is in existence for over two to three decades but has gained popularity in healthcare in this decade. Drones have been in use in other areas for over a decade but have gained popularity in dropping medical essentials recently. Also, in “Emerging Technologies” there are new technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT) in healthcare which is quite new and in its early adoption stage globally and so is Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The **awareness of usage of technological innovations in the Nigerian PHC is limited to “Rudimentary/Tradition”** with both the stakeholders and healthcare personnel mainly aware of usage of computers/laptops and mobile phones at the PHC level. Emerging technologies such as drones, AI, and blockchain have a very low level of awareness.

At the same time, **the stakeholders and healthcare personnel feel that “Rudimentary/Tradition” had a high likelihood of adoption in the Nigerian PHC** as opposed to emerging technologies such as drones, robotics etc.

Some of the reasons why adoption of emerging technologies has a low likelihood of adoption included:

- ✓ Lack of awareness of the existence of emerging technologies
- ✓ Lack of knowledge of their functions
- ✓ Perceived to be very expensive
- ✓ Perceived to be very technical requiring a lot of technology skills and experts to operate

Some even think that the emerging technologies were undependable and not feasible. In addition, there might be not much acceptance/trust from the people.

Therefore, it is true to say that currently, the use of technological innovation in the Nigerian PHC is very basic and restricted to the use of computers/laptops and mobile phones. We cannot jump to conclusions and say that because of this, the emerging technologies cannot work, but they do not at the moment. The market needs to evolve from its current basic nature. At the moment the best technological solutions need to be around the use of computers and mobile phones.

**The low awareness of already existing solutions shows that the entrepreneurs who have already invested in technological innovations lack funds to create awareness and hence are not leaping to maximum benefits on their investment.**

Below are areas that need further investigation.

- ✓ The adoption of technology in general is sought after because it will make operations easier
- ✓ Telemedicine, mobile health, use of social media
- ✓ Record keeping, SMS, inventory control
- ✓ To grow local talents and speed up innovation adoption at the PHC levels, there is a need to identify and encourage innovators by financing them
- ✓ Training of the PHC staff will help in ensuring that the PHC is efficient in such a way that people do not bypass them, to go to other either secondary or federal level facilities and consequently reducing pressure on these
- ✓ Financiers - Since lack of funding is a major challenge, there are opportunities to fund innovations and other developments in the Nigerian PHC.

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