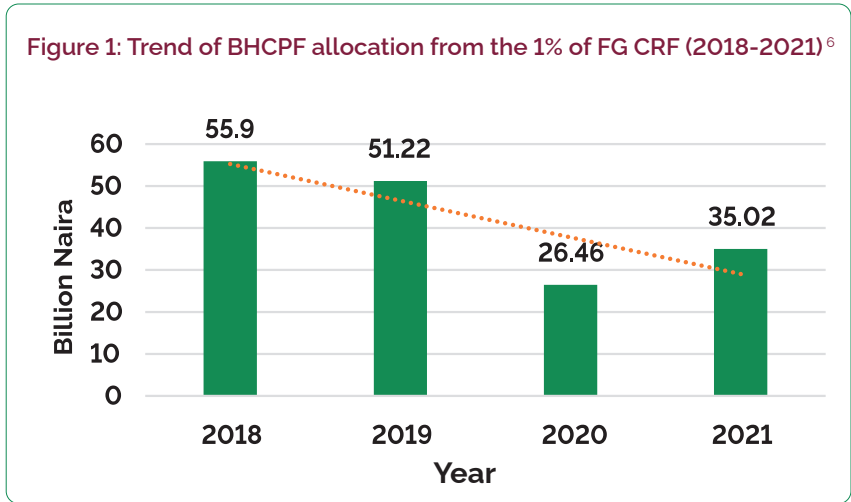







1% of the FG CRF has been allocated to the BHCPF in the annual budget since 2018 (Figure 1). However, the allocation has been receding due to dwindling government revenue and shrinkage in the overall size of the CRF thus reducing the population covered by BHCPF. For the financial year 2021, 1% of the CRF translates to ₦35 billion, which is only enough to cover 1,459,414 beneficiaries, or 0.7% of the population. Based on current revenue projection and inflation rate, an increase in BHCPF percentage allocation of the CRF will be required to reach the level of funding allocated and the number of beneficiaries covered in 2018.



## DELAYS IN BHCPF IMPLEMENTATION: THE BOTTLENECKS

While BHCPF funds are being disbursed to states, as outlined below, there are a number of bottlenecks that are preventing the widescale roll out of the BHCPF:

 <b>FEDERAL LEVEL</b>	 <b>CROSS CUTTING</b>	 <b>STATE LEVEL</b>
<p>Suspension in fund disbursement for 8 months (January to August 2020) to allow for the revision of the BHCPF operational guidelines, which was approved by the National Council on Health in August 2020<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Incomplete disbursement of BHCPF Allocation by the Federal Ministry of Finance to the federal implementing agencies, i.e. NHIS, NPHCDA and NEMTC<sup>5</sup></p>	<p>Lack of readily available information on BHCPF disbursements and utilization.</p>	<p>Failure to meet the eligibility criteria to access the funds due to outstanding pre-implementation activities e.g. delays in fully setting up the State Social Health Insurance Agency management team and signing of Service Level Agreement between State Primary Health Care Management Board and health facilities</p> <p>Challenges in identifying vulnerable groups using the national social register as not all LGAs are captured in the register thus hampering enrolment efforts in the state</p> <p>Delays in the enrolment process due to non-availability of National Identification Numbers for population groups to enrol with.</p>

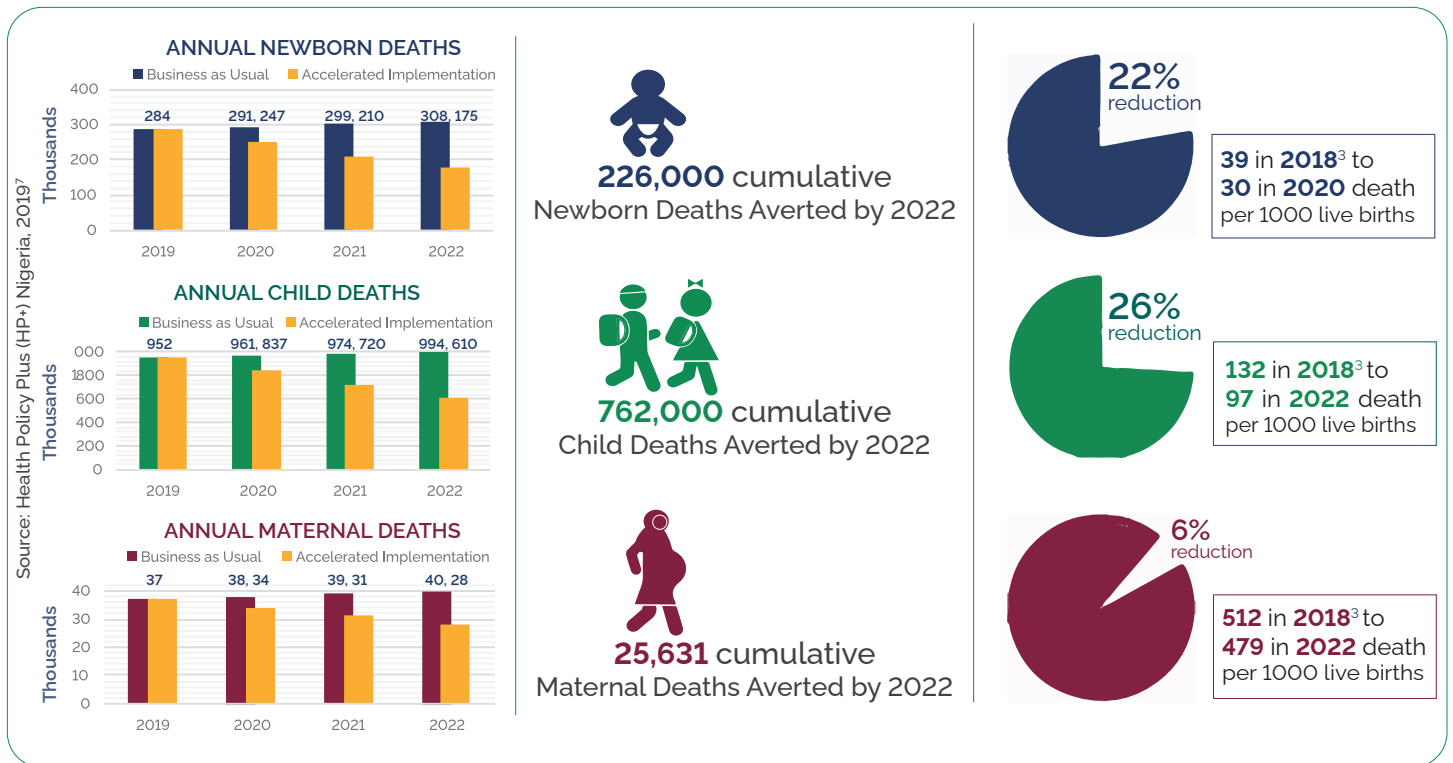
## IMPORTANCE OF INVESTMENT IN BHCPF



## ACCELERATING BHCPF IMPLEMENTATION: THE BENEFITS

If the coverage of basic healthcare services remains constant at 2018 levels, accelerating implementation of the BHCPF could result in 226,000 averted neonatal deaths, over 760,000 averted cumulative child deaths and 25,632 averted maternal deaths by 2022. This further emphasizes the need to review the BHCPF to 2% of the CRF, in order to ensure these potential gains, and avoid the reduction in population coverage by BHCPF due to the reduced net amount.

**Figure 3: Scenario for health outcomes by 2022 with coverage of basic healthcare services (if it remains constant at 2018 levels) from accelerated BHCPF implementation.**



## CALL TO ACTION

We call on the government to increase BHCPF allocation and ensure timely releases. Specifically, we call on the



### Legislature

To increase BHCPF allocation to 2% of CRF from the ongoing National Health Act, 2014 amendment



### State Governor

To ensure payment of the 25% counterpart funding for the BHCPF gateways to enable full access to the BHCPF



### Federal Ministry of Finance

To prioritize timely and complete release of BHCPF, including releases of present and outstanding BHCPF allocation (2019 & 2020) within the 2021 fiscal year.

## References

1. Federal Government of Nigeria. 2014. National Health Act, 2014 (Act No. 8 of 2014). Available at: [https://nigeriahealthwatch.com/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2018/07/01\\_-\\_Official-Gazette-of-the-National-Health-Act-FGN.pdf](https://nigeriahealthwatch.com/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2018/07/01_-_Official-Gazette-of-the-National-Health-Act-FGN.pdf) (it is not shown in the document)
2. Federal Government of Nigeria (2018). Nigeria's Vision to Accelerate Human capital Development by 2030
3. National Council On Health Meeting Approves 2020 Basic Health Care Provision Fund Guideline. [https://www.health.gov.ng/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=743:national-council-on-health-meeting-approves-2020-basic-health-care-provision-fund-guideline](https://www.health.gov.ng/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=743:national-council-on-health-meeting-approves-2020-basic-health-care-provision-fund-guideline) (accessed Feb. 11, 2021).
4. NPHCDA, NHIS, and NEMTC, "Guideline for the Administration, Disbursement and Monitoring of the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund," pp. 1-71. 2020.
5. Federal Ministry of Health. 2021. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC HEALTH CARE PROVISION FUND (BH-CPF). Available at : <https://ngfrepository.org.ng:8443/bitstream/123456789/2777/1/UPDATE%20ON%20IMPLEMENTATION%20OF%20THE%20BHCPF%20for%20NEC.pptx>
6. Budget Document - Budget Office of the Federation - Federal Republic of Nigeria. <https://www.budgetoffice.gov.ng/index.php/resources/internal-resources/budget-documents> (accessed Jan. 22, 2021).
7. Health Policy Plus. 2019. Investing in Basic Healthcare to Save Lives: The Urgency of Accelerating Implementation of Nigeria's Basic Health Care Provision Fund. Washington, DC: Palladium, Health Policy Plus. Available at: [http://www.healthpolicyplus.com/ns/pubs/16354-16636\\_NigeriaLiSTBrief.pdf](http://www.healthpolicyplus.com/ns/pubs/16354-16636_NigeriaLiSTBrief.pdf)