



Accountability in action

fighting health sector corruption in

Malawi and Nigeria 2020-2023

How do we support people to change corrupt practice?

How do we make anti-corruption socially and institutionally feasible?

How can we change health systems to stop "survival corruption"?

Across the world, too many people are still unable to access affordable and high-quality health care. Although the challenges governments face in overcoming a lack of resources are similar, the quality of health services in some countries is much better than in others.

One reason for better performance of health sectors in these countries is better governance, with transparent decision-making and systems that prevent corruption. However often, there are few mechanisms that allow healthcare providers and governments to be held to account. This creates opportunities for corruption which disproportionately affects the poor, who do not have the power to demand change. And if we don't know what works to tackle health sector corruption, countries will struggle to deliver on their commitments to roll out universal access to healthcare and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have brought together a multi-disciplinary team of researchers and practitioners to undertake a 3-year research project to investigate factors that drive corruption in district health systems in Nigeria and Malawi and how these can be addressed. It is funded by the Health Systems Research Initiative (HSRI DFID/MRC/Wellcome with support from ESRC) and the research is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, in collaboration with the Health Policy Research Group. The University of Nigeria (Enugu Campus) and the University of Malawi will gather data and analyse findings in both countries with support from Options Consultancy Services Ltd.

Our findings will feed into government, donor and civil society strategies designed to strengthen accountability and will build a community of practice to combat health sector corruption.

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