

# Mapping the Pathway Towards Sustainable Immunization Financing

Insights into Nigeria's Continued Vaccine Financing in Light of its Transition from Gavi's Support

July 2023



**IMMUNIZATION  
ECONOMICS.ORG**



# Authors & Affiliations

## Authors Names

□ Kikelomo Lambo<sup>1</sup>, Ganiyu Salau<sup>2</sup>, Owens Wiwa<sup>1</sup>, Kubura Daradara<sup>2</sup>, Sima Unogu<sup>1</sup>, Akachi Mbogu<sup>1</sup>, Shadrack Mngemane<sup>1</sup>, Sebastian Ilomuanya<sup>1</sup> Jessica Crawford<sup>3</sup>, Brian Atuhaire<sup>3</sup>.

## Affiliations

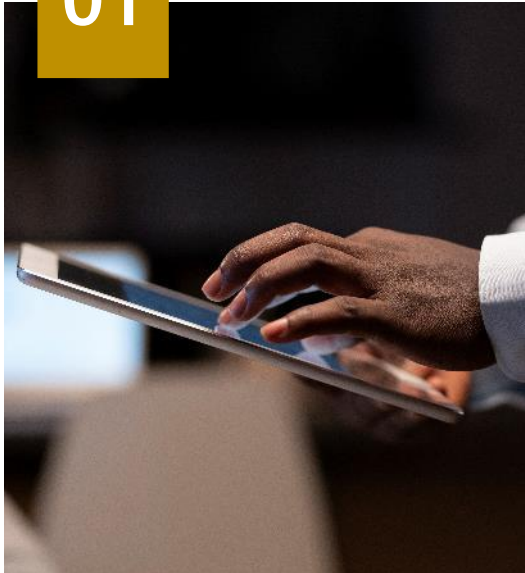
1. Clinton Health Access initiative
2. National Primary Health Care Development Agency
3. Gavi the Alliance

## Keywords

Sustainable immunization finance (SIF), Gavi transition, immunization and Primary Health Care, Health Care Financing

# Presentation Outline

01



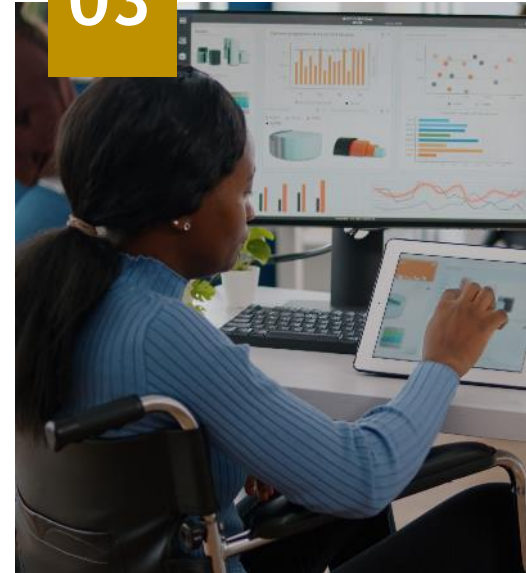
Background

02



Overview of Nigeria's financing since entering accelerated transition from Gavi support

03



Factors that have contributed to the Nigeria's success story

04



Lessons learnt and sustainability plans

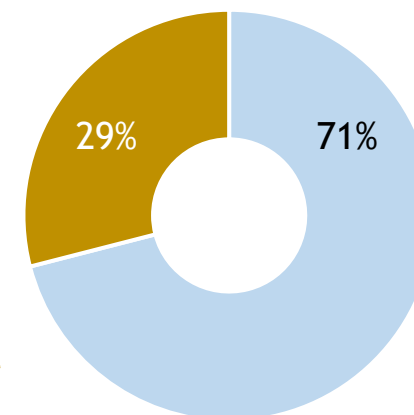
# Historical Context - Nigeria

Total Population	213,401,322
Birth Cohort	8,002,758
Surviving Infants	7,570,882
Infant Mortality Rate	72/1000
Child Mortality Rate	114/1000
World Bank Index, IDA	3.2
GNI (per capita US\$)	2,100
Co-financing Group	Accelerated Transition
No. of LGAs	774

## Gavi's Support to Nigeria

**Non-Vaccine Supply Support (29%)**  
\$214,121,634

- Health system strengthening
- Operational Support
- New vaccine introduction
- Immunization services support



**Vaccine Supply Support (71%)**  
\$518,008,692

- IPV
- Meningitis
- Measles
- Penta
- Pneumo
- Yellow Fever
- Rota Virus
- Covid-19
- Injection Safety Devices

**Gavi's engagement was established in 2001 and will extend until 2028**

- ❑ GAVI provides vaccine financing grants to low-income countries. (Countries with ~\$1,035/capita GNI)
- ❑ When a grantee country's GNI exceeds \$1,035/capita, GAVI commences preparatory transitioning and begins an **accelerated transition** when GNI **exceeds \$1,580/capita**
- ❑ In 2013, Nigeria commenced the rebasing of its economy. This resulted in a 90% increase in its GNI (**\$2,760/capita in 2013 vs \$1,430/capita in 2012**)
- ❑ Given the sudden growth in Nigeria's GNI, GAVI granted **extended time (10 Years)** for the transition preparation and commencement of the accelerated transition.
- ❑ Nigeria is currently in its **fifth year of transitioning** out of GAVI support and is expected to fully transition by 2028

Source: gavi.org

# Nigeria adopted a three-pronged approach to transitioning

- ❑ Transitioning from GAVI's support required a wholistic approach beyond government co-financing
- ❑ It involved creating an enabling environment to secure past wins and leverage them to achieve sustainable immunization coverages & equity post-GAVI support
- ❑ To achieve programmatic and financial sustainability, Nigeria adopted a three-pronged approach to transitioning:

## Transition Assessment

1

- Country context and situation analysis
- Immunization performance and challenges
- Immunization financing, trends and issues
- Co-financing and transition for GAVI support
- Institutional capacities

## Transition Planning

2

- Framework for transitioning to country funding
- Target immunization coverage and PHC strengthening metrics
- Strategies and resource requirements
- Guidance for accountability between the government, donors and partners

## Monitoring and Accountability

3

- Development of the Accountability Framework
- Aligning key metrics for tracking commitments and performance
- Securing political commitment to financing immunization programmes
- Resource management strategy

# The FGoN continues to make progress toward achieving sustainable self-financing by 2028

Background

## Overview of the trajectory of GAVI transition



In **2018**, Nigeria's **Gross National Income** per capita exceeded Gavi's support threshold of **\$1,580**, thus leading to eligibility to enter the accelerated transition phase



Vaccine financing was introduced into the FGoN National Budget's **Service-Wide Vote (SWV)** in **2019**



In **2001**, Gavi started providing support to Nigeria for vaccines, cold chain procurement, immunization campaigns and health system strengthening.



A **10-year strategy plan document** that defines the country's plan for financial ownership of the immunization and primary health care health system was developed in **2018**.



Between **2019** and **2023**, there has been a **~\$231M** release from government allocation to vaccine financing in the SWV

### Programmatic and Financing Challenges

- 1** The **tight fiscal space** poses a risk to the country meeting its co-financing obligation
- 2** **Inadequate accountability** of EPI managers in the utilization of available resources
- 3** **Bureaucratic processes** that lead to delay in the release of budgeted funds for immunization

### CHAI's Role in the Transition Plan

- 1** Supported the development of the **Nigeria Strategy for Immunization and Primary Healthcare System Strengthening**
- 2** Optimized vaccine forecasting processes and facilitated the **creation of a budget line item** in the FGoN Medium Term Expenditure Framework
- 3** Developed an **end-to-end vaccines financing process map** to provide clear financing guidance to all stakeholders

# The country has been able to achieve 2 out of the 3 commitments made towards a domestically funded immunization programme.

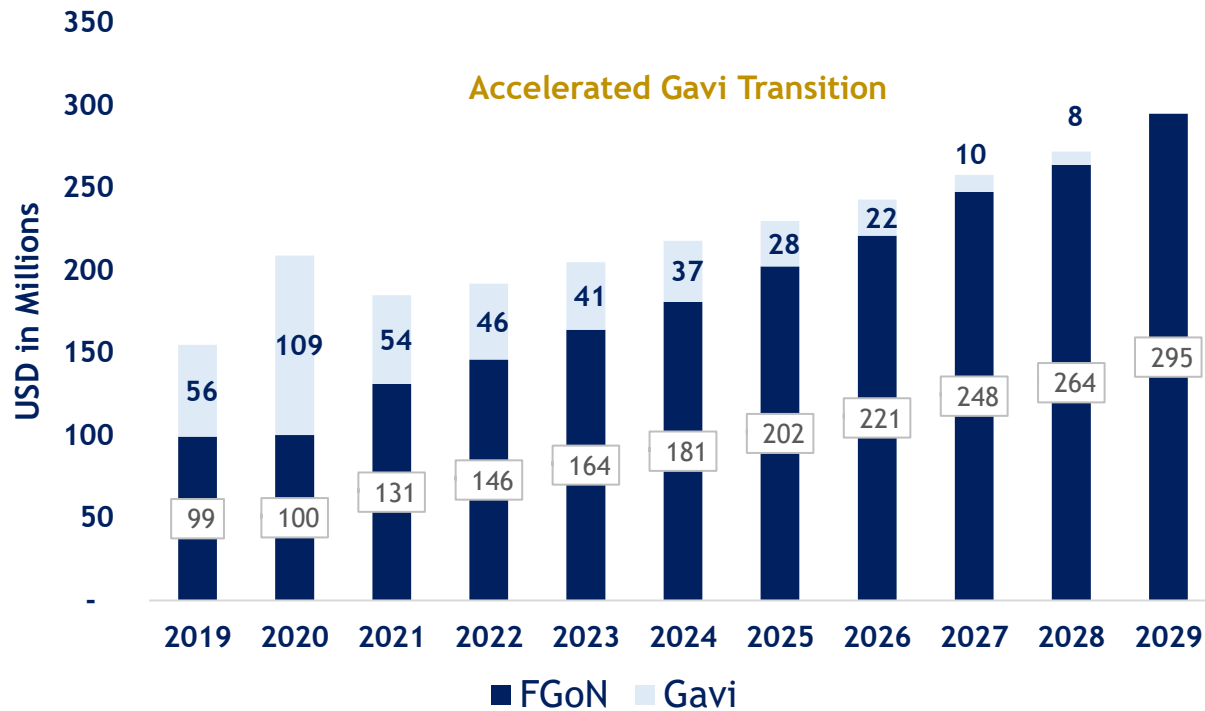
Background

S/No.	Commitment	Status	Comment
1	Annually increase in vaccine co-financing by approximately 10% each year until 2028.	Achieved	Since 2018, the FGoN has continually met the 10% increment in vaccine co-financing.
2	Between 2018 -2022, immunization will be financed through any of the following three options: i. FMOH and NPHCDA Budgets ii. Service Wide Votes iii. Basic Health Care Provision Funds iv. Loan and support from Donors.	Achieved	Immunization is being financed through the service-wide votes, loans from the world bank and BHCPF. - The service wide vote was created in 2018 in the national budget - In 2022, an MoU was signed with the world bank for the provision of funds to augment the procurement of vaccines and devices - 20% of the BHCPF is allocated through the NPHCDA gateway for the procurement of drugs, vaccines, and commodities.
3	From 2023 and beyond as a medium to long-term financing approach, immunization financing will be a first-line charge in the National Budget	In progress	Advocacy and high-level engagement of legislators are ongoing for the inclusion of immunization as a first-line charge.

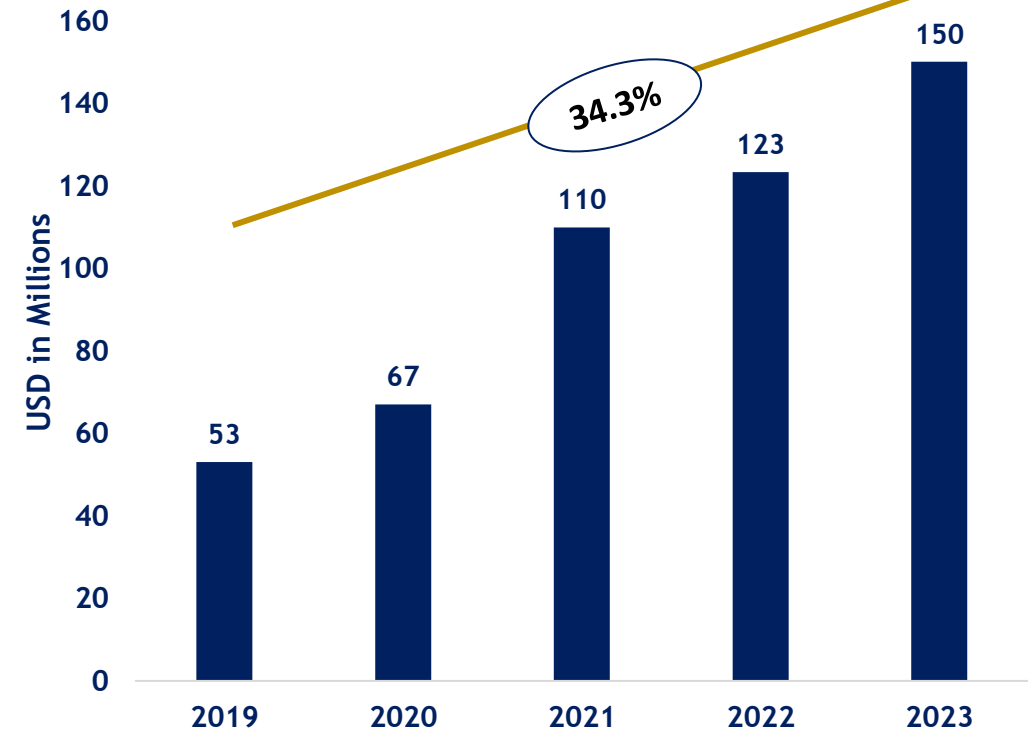
# Since 2019, there has been a 34.3% increase in the allocation to vaccine financing in the service wide vote

Since entering accelerated transition, Nigeria has released ~\$231M from its service-wide vote for Vaccine Financing

### Projected routine immunization funding for vaccines & devices committed in Nigeria by funding source per NSIPSS



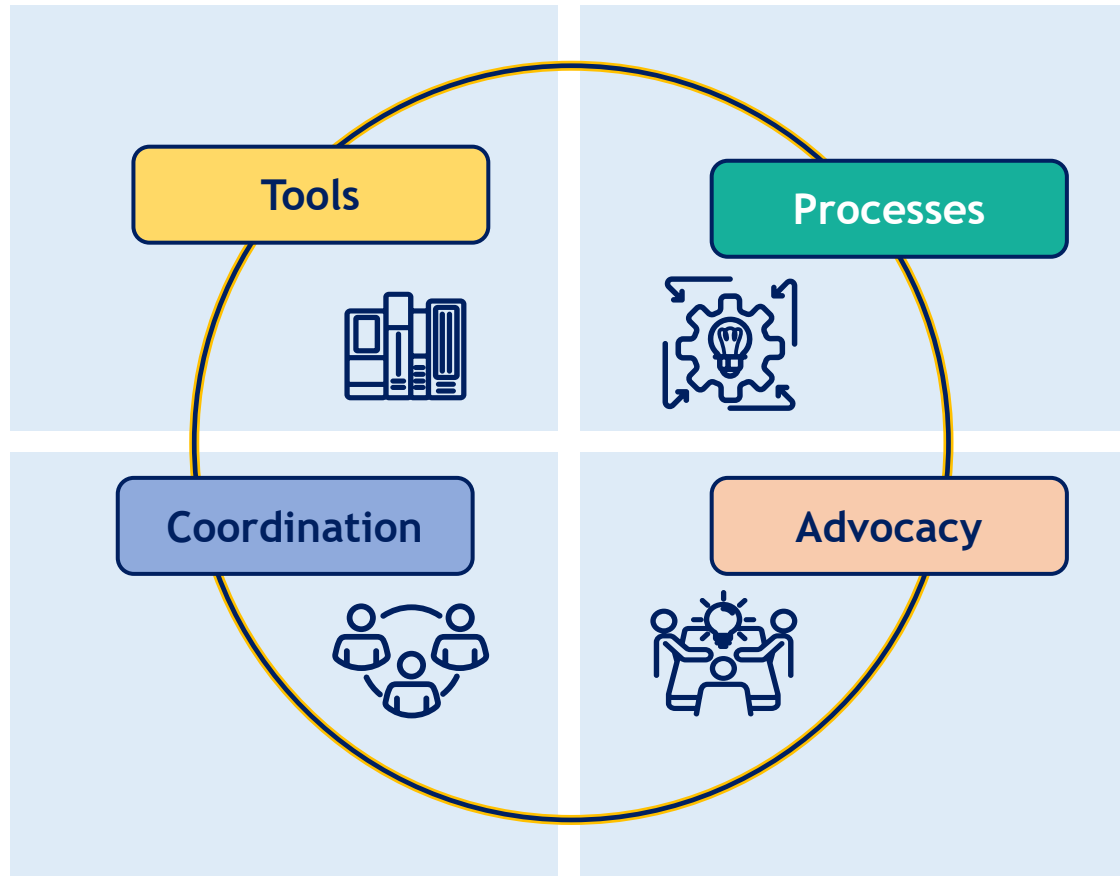
### Annual increase in service-wide vote allocated to vaccine financing



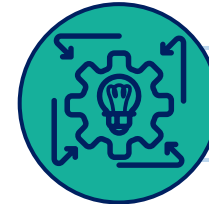
SOURCE: NPHCDA, FGoN Budget, CHAI Analysis

# Four enabling factors have contributed to Nigeria's success story

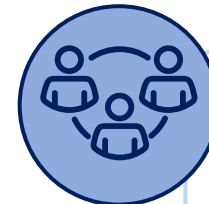
Success factors



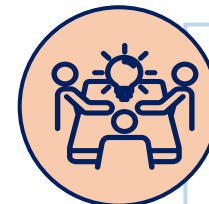
- Accountability framework
- Vaccine financing plan and outlook
- Vaccine funds disbursement process map



- Instituted new forecast processes
- Optimized existing forecast processes



- Internal coordination platform
- External (Inter-ministerial) coordination platform



- Inclusion of budget line in National Budget (service wide vote)
- Identification of vaccine champions
- Inter-ministerial advocacy for prioritization of vaccine financing

# Certain tools have aided the institutionalization of immunization financing

Success factors [Tools]

## Accountability Framework



- The accountability framework was **developed to assess Nigeria's progress** against agreed targets and indicators to achieve the goal of the NSIPSS
- It has 15 indicators that cut across **health financing, financial management, governance, and programmatic performance**
- The accountability framework has **enhanced ownership and promoted transparency across the system.**

## Vaccine Financing Plan



- An annual plan that details how the FGoN will finance immunization activities.
- It **highlights risks** that could derail the government from meeting its co-financing obligation while also proposing approaches to address the challenges
- Key highlights of the plan include the annual vaccine resource need, sources of vaccine financing, fund flow and disbursement schedule

## Funds Disbursement Process Map



- This living document outlays the different stages of funds disbursement from initiation to transfer to UNICEF supply division.
- It **highlights bottlenecks** in the funds disbursement process and **proposes recommendations including shorter timelines at the various touchpoints**

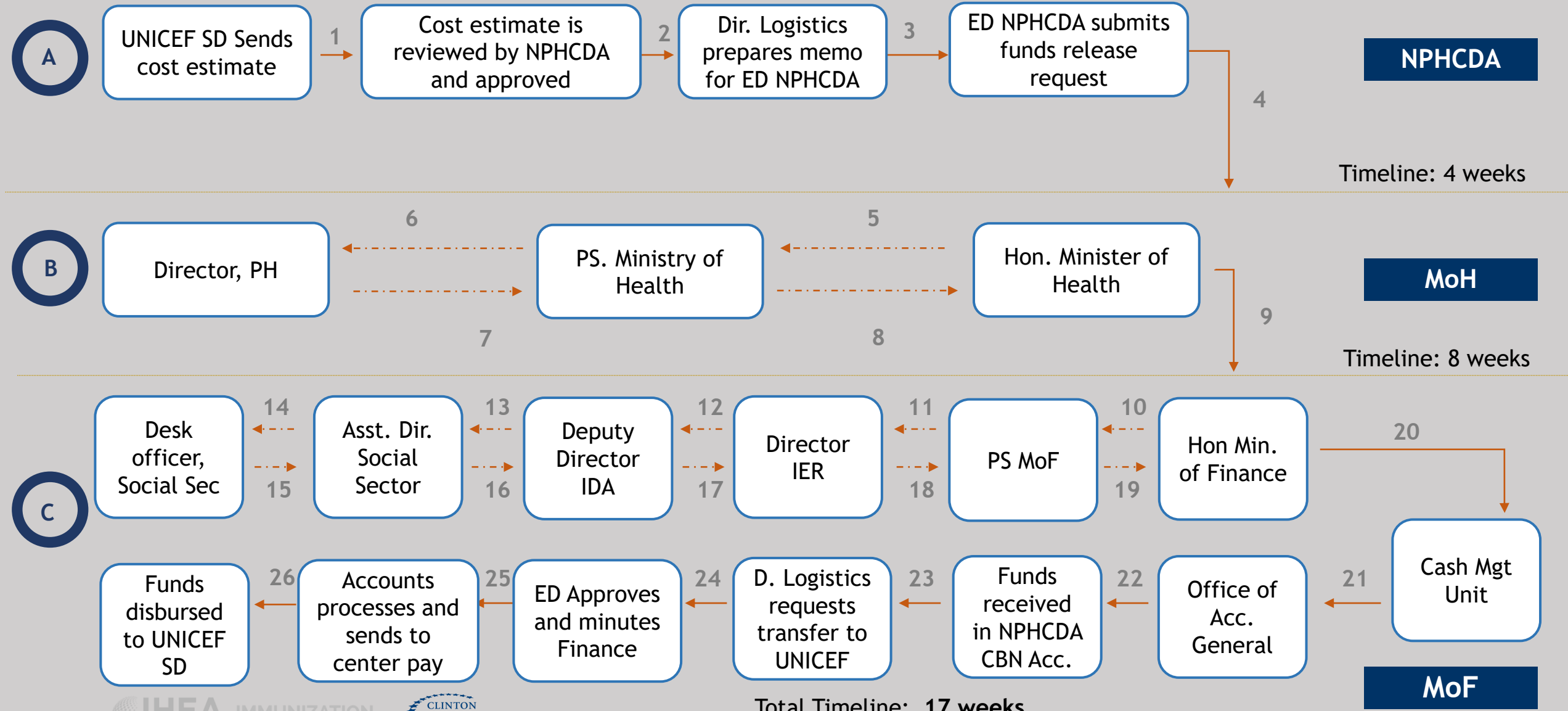
## Vaccine Finance Tracker



- Monitors funds disbursement  
Monitors quarterly shipment, delivery and utilization (distribution) of routine immunization and supplementary immunization antigens.
- **Tracks stock out of antigens** based on delivery to the cold stores and vaccination program utilization

# Funds disbursement process map

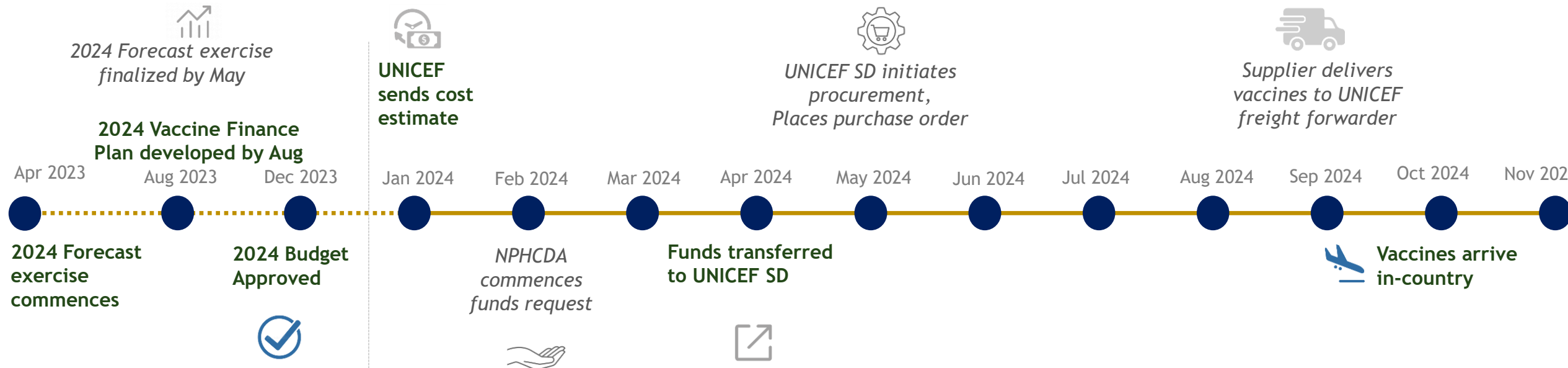
Success factors [Tools]



# The forecast process was optimized to see that it is accurate and timely for budgetary use.

Success factors [Processes]

- ❑ The forecast exercise is directly linked to the development of the annual vaccine financing plan (VFP). The VFP directly incorporates estimates and assumptions from the completed forecast as well as expected sources of financing, funds flow and disbursement schedule.
- ❑ To coincide with the nation's budgeting cycle, the forecast needed to be done on time. The forecasting process is completed by May in time for the commencement of the national budgeting cycle, which begins in June.
- ❑ The forecast was changed from a national-level activity to a state-level activity and this led to the use of realistic coverage targets to optimize and promote judicious use of resources.



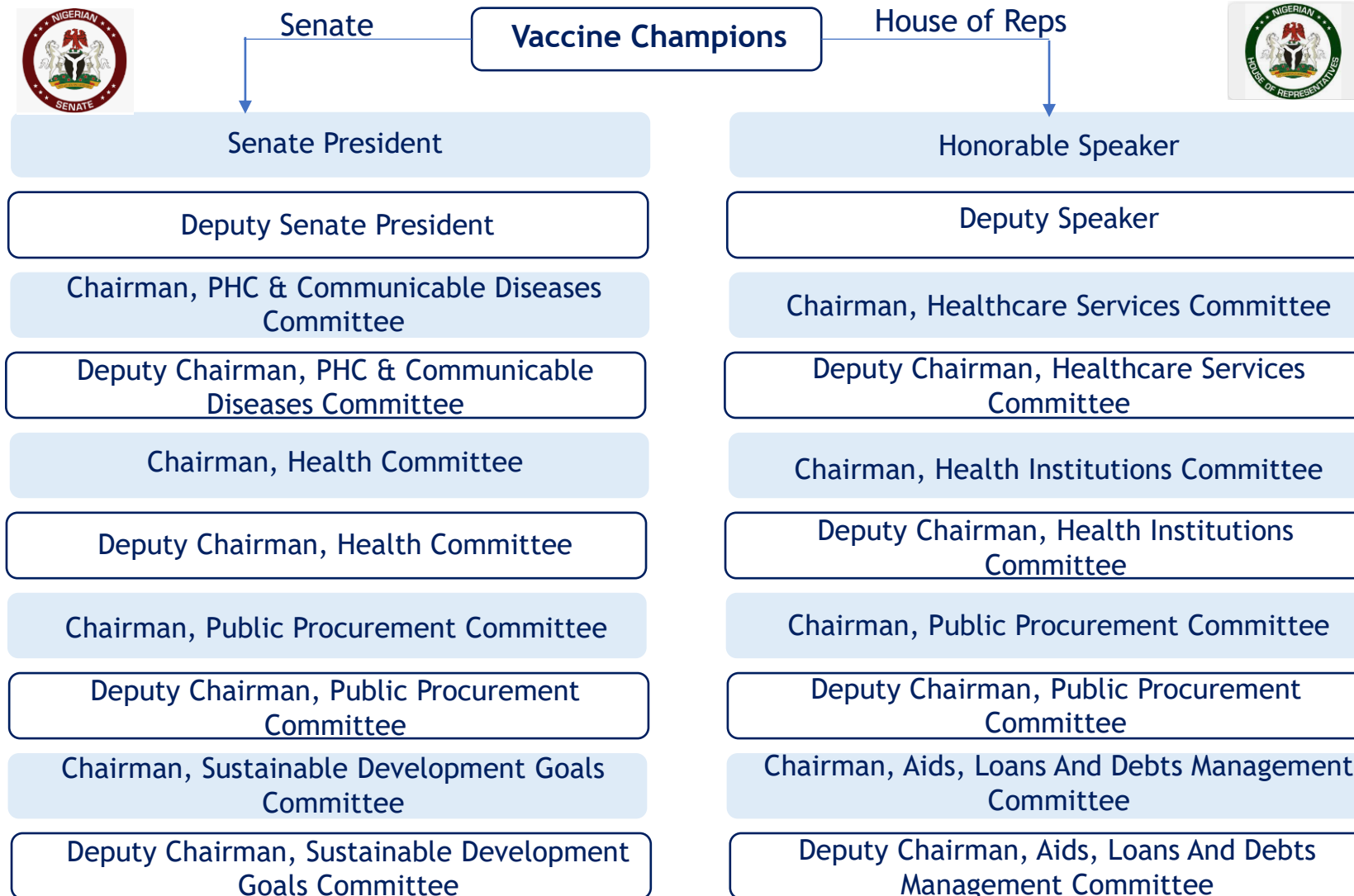
# The country has strong coordination platforms that ensure immunization financing goals are met

Success factors [Coordination]

	Coordination Platform	Members	Responsibilities
1.	Vaccine Finance and Accountability Task Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPHCDA</li> <li>Ministry of Finance</li> <li>GAVI</li> <li>BMGF</li> <li>World Bank</li> <li>Ministry of Health</li> <li>CHAI</li> <li>Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitors the progress of implementation of the approved NSIPSS Accountability Framework.</li> <li>Tracks funds and vaccines utilization</li> <li>Strengthens advocacy for immunization and PHC financing</li> <li>Develops the annual vaccine financing (VF) Plan</li> </ul>
2.	Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPHCDA</li> <li>GAVI</li> <li>CHAI</li> <li>BMGF</li> <li>World Bank</li> <li>Ministry of Health</li> <li>Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversees the country's immunization program.</li> <li>Approves the annual vaccine financing plan each year</li> <li>Reviews the vaccine financing progress report at least twice a year or as may be needed.</li> </ul>
3.	National Logistics Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPHCDA</li> <li>UNICEF</li> <li>CHAI</li> <li>Partners in the supply chain space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducts the annual state-specific forecast</li> <li>Ensures availability of adequate and potent vaccines at all service delivery points</li> <li>Oversees the planning and implementation of all logistics activities.</li> </ul>
4.	NPHCDA Finance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPHCDA</li> <li>CHAI</li> <li>Partners supporting PHC financing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensures the availability and proper allocation of resources</li> <li>Contributes to the success of immunization initiatives</li> <li>Facilitates stakeholder engagement for effective financial management</li> </ul>

# Vaccines champions were identified within the upper and lower chambers of the National assembly

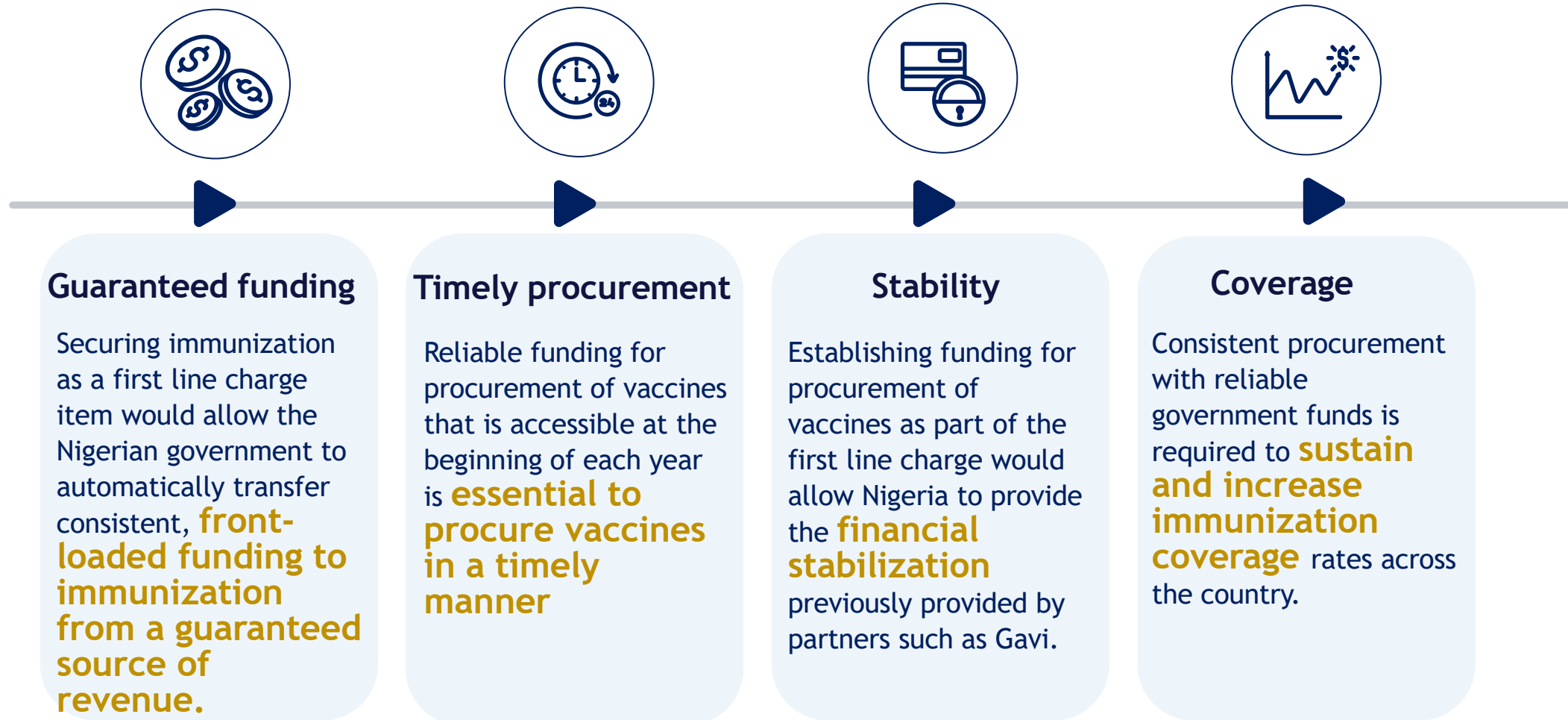
Success factors [Advocacy]



These champions were identified to support **defense of the vaccine financing line item** on the country's budget and for engagement with respect to the **inclusion of vaccine finance as a first line charge item** on the National Budget

# Funding vaccines as a first-line charge item will result in significant reduction in bureaucracy and time taken for approvals

*The following are cases for the inclusion of vaccine financing as a first-line charge in the national budget*



# As we transition, challenges, risks and mitigants have been identified

Lessons learnt

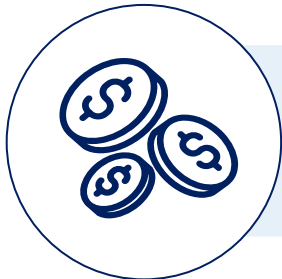
CHALLENGES/RISKS

SOLUTIONS



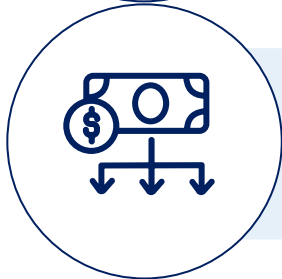
Change in political landscape and key stakeholders because of national elections

Conduct of sensitization workshops, high level advocacy visits with advocacy materials to engage the new key stakeholders



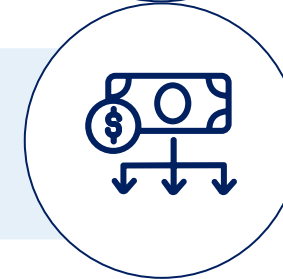
Inability of government to meet its co-financing obligation to Gavi in a timely manner due to a delay in budget approval and release process

Developed a process map highlighting bottlenecks in the funds disbursement process and proposed recommendations



Risk of diversion of funds, as well as tight fiscal space, leading to non-fulfilment of the country's financial obligations.

Developed a procurement plan for submission to MoF and BoF, to assist with the prioritization budget releases for vaccines.



Issues with data availability and quality, leading to ineffective or inaccurate costing, forecasting, and budgeting for vaccine procurement.

Regular updates and monthly review of the vaccine financing tracker with all key stakeholders



# Thank you



**IMMUNIZATION  
ECONOMICS.ORG**

