

Country Profile: Nigeria

Overview of Resolve to Save Lives

Resolve to Save Lives (RTSL) is a global health organization that partners locally and globally to create and scale solutions to the world's deadliest health threats. We use technical, operational, and policy approaches to identify leading health threats that can be stopped, rapidly co-create and test simple solutions, and scale up proven solutions worldwide. Since 2017, we've worked with governments and partners in more than 60 countries to save millions of lives.

RTSL, Resolve to Save Lives, Nigeria, Ltd/Gte is a subsidiary of RTSL that works closely with the Government of Nigeria and other partners at national and subnational levels to strengthen epidemic prevention and control, and enhance cardiovascular health outcomes in Nigeria by controlling blood pressure and creating a healthier food environment.



RTSL Nigeria's goals

Blood pressure control

- Improve hypertension treatment and control at the primary health care level by supporting the implementation of evidence-based protocols, improving access to antihypertensive treatment, supporting team-based care and patient-centred services, and strengthening systems for supportive supervision, monitoring, and reviews, in line with the WHO HEARTS technical package.

Healthier foods

- Promote healthy diets through trans fat elimination and salt reduction, including trans fat regulations, front-of-package labelling, and healthy food procurement policies.
- Reduce population-level salt consumption through the implementation of policies and interventions targeting the salt content of foods consumed at home, outside of home, and in packaged foods.

Epidemic prevention

- Increase financing for health security at national and subnational levels by advocating for increased and flexible funding for the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and states to respond to outbreaks rapidly.
- Improve subnational health security capacity through legislation and financing, highlighting the vital importance of security at the subnational level in a decentralized country such as Nigeria.
- Expand NCDC and relevant partners' capacity to effectively plan and implement activities to improve their ability to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks.

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Our Work

Hypertension Control

- **The Nigerian Hypertension Control Initiative (NHCI)**
 - RTSL partnered with the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (FMOH&SW), National Primary Healthcare Development Agency, World Health Organization (WHO), and the Kano and Ogun State Governments to launch NHCI in 2020.
 - NHCI has expanded to over 496 facilities in Kano and Ogun states, with state governments leading and funding 392.
 - By May 2025, NHCI enrolled more than 40,000 patients, with blood pressure control rates improving to 35% (from 0% in 2020), driven by the adoption of simplified national treatment protocols for primary care.
- RTSL contributed to the development of key NCD policies and frameworks, including the National NCD Policy, Task-Shifting/Sharing Policy for the Control of NCDs, National Hypertension Guideline, and the inclusion of anti-hypertensive medications in the expanded National Essential Medicines List.
- RTSL co-led the development of the DHIS2 Tracker for NCDs, an electronic data system to track patient outcomes at the primary health care level, and supported the inclusion of hypertension and diabetes data elements in the Nigeria Demographic and Health Surveys and the integration of hypertension medicines and blood pressure devices into the National Health Management Information.
- Launched in partnership with FMOH&SW, our online Mobile Hypertension Course trained more than 6000 primary health care workers in hypertension management, with continuing medical education credits approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria and the Community Health Practitioners Registration Board of Nigeria.
- RTSL supported the establishment of a drug revolving fund to ensure continuous access to medication across 60 primary health care centres in Abuja, under the NIH3-funded Hypertension Treatment Project. About 23,000 patients are currently receiving treatment, with 56% achieving controlled blood pressure.

Healthier Food

- We supported the development of the [National Guidelines for Sodium Reduction in Nigeria](#), which recommends evidence-based interventions, including mandatory sodium limits for processed foods and front-of-pack warning labels.
- RTSL partners with FMOH&SW to strengthen front-of-pack labelling efforts, including the establishment of a National Technical Working Group, and research with Johns Hopkins University to determine the most effective label design to help consumers make quick, informed food choices.
- In partnership with the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, RTSL developed the National Guidelines for Public Food Procurement and Service, an evidence-based framework that establishes nutrition standards for food procurement, preparation, and service in Nigerian public institutions.
- We supported FMOH&SW's "*Let Your Health Guide Your Taste*" campaign to raise public awareness about excessive salt consumption risks and advocate for sodium reduction interventions.
- RTSL supported the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control to develop an implementation roadmap for the [Fats, Oils and Foods Containing Fats and Oils Regulations-2022](#) in line with the WHO REPLACE technical package to eliminate trans fat in Nigeria's food supply.

- RTSL supports national efforts to build public and private laboratory capacity for trans fatty acid analysis using WHO testing protocols. We procured equipment, reagents, and consumables for selected laboratories and, in partnership with WHO, trained lab technicians, with ongoing support to sustain long-term monitoring.

Epidemic Prevention

National and subnational health security planning

- RTSL provided technical assistance for Nigeria's second Joint External Evaluation exercise conducted in 2023, as well as for the development and implementation of the first National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS 2018–2022). We also supported the development and validation of NAPHS 2.0.
- Since 2022, we have supported Nigeria's State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting, including the development of the NAPHS Annual Operational Plan.
- We supported 13 states to conduct subnational health security assessments. Three of these states, Kano, Jigawa and Ebonyi, have developed State Action Plans for Health Security to address the gaps identified.
- In partnership with NCDC, we trained over 60 senior officials under the Project Management for Epidemic Preparedness initiative, strengthening leadership, coordination, and resource mobilization for health security implementation.

Health financing

- We support the operationalization of the NCDC Basic Healthcare Provision Fund gateway to strengthen national and state capacity for epidemic preparedness; each state has secured Treasury Single Account access and submitted work plans.
- We provide strategic support to NCDC to align World Bank-funded Health Security (HeSP) and Human Capital Opportunities for Prosperity and Equality (HOPE) projects with national health security priorities and leverage these investments to support NAPHS implementation.

Laboratory systems

- Since 2018, RTSL has supported NCDC and FMOH&SW with strategic, financial, and technical assistance to strengthen laboratory systems, including sample referral and transport, laboratory quality, coordination and tiered laboratory networks for improved epidemic detection and surveillance.
- RTSL provides strategic support to the National Laboratory Technical Working Group and State Laboratory Technical Working Group in Bayelsa, Enugu, and Kano States, and the FCT, which support the integration of laboratory programmes into broader public health interventions and provide feedback and control mechanisms at the state level.
- RTSL is supporting the pilot of real-time sample tracking systems for priority diseases. Preliminary results show the system can reduce costs, enable intra-state sample transport, and provide cost-effective, real-time tracking.

Laws and regulations

- Since 2019, RTSL has supported NCDC in strengthening legal frameworks for IHR implementation and developing tools to streamline public health legal reform.

- RTSL supported a 2020 NCDC review of federal public health laws for building IHR capacities, which informed bills including the NCDC (Amendment) Bill 2022, Nigeria Health Act (Amendment) Bill 2021, Quarantine Act (Amendment) Bill 2021, and the Public Health Emergency Bill 2020.
- RTSL piloted public health law reforms in eight states (Lagos, Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, Kebbi, Enugu, Ogun, and Nasarawa). Five have initiated reforms using the Subnational Model Public Health Security Bill, with three enacting laws as of June 2025.
- In collaboration with NCDC, we trained over 100 federal and state legal officers, strengthening legal preparedness for IHR implementation in Nigeria.
- With NCDC, RTSL conducted Nigeria's first gender gap assessment of federal public health laws and developed a Gender Gaps Assessment Tool. Also revised the subnational legal assessment tool to integrate gender components, which was applied in 16 states. This is the first-ever subnational gender assessment of public health laws globally.
- Supported NCDC to develop an IPC Legal Assessment Tool to conduct a comprehensive legal analysis of Nigeria's readiness for effective IPC implementation and enforcement across the health system. The analysis identified critical gaps and facilitated the drafting of the National IPC Regulations 2024, now awaiting Ministerial approval.

Collaborative Surveillance

- Since 2017, RTSL has partnered with NCDC to strengthen surveillance systems.
- In January 2025, RTSL and NCDC launched the Collaborative Surveillance project with a co-creation workshop that engaged key institutions to identify collaboration opportunities and leverage cross-sectoral data to improve decision-making across all phases of the health emergency cycle.
- RTSL supports NCDC in developing and disseminating priority information products—including a disease outbreak preparedness report, risk and readiness outlook, enhanced SITREPs, an outbreak response monitoring dashboard, an automated weekly epidemiological report, and a revamped national epidemiological bulletin.

Epidemic-Ready Primary Health Care (ERPHC) Project

- RTSL supports the Nigerian government to strengthen infection prevention and control at the primary health care level and enhance the prompt detection and reporting of notifiable diseases using the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system.
- In 2024, RTSL partnered with HealthLearn to launch the Clinical IDSR Foundation Course, a free online training that equips frontline workers with skills in surveillance, IPC, laboratory practices, and case management. It currently covers six national priority diseases: Cerebrospinal Meningitis, Measles, Lassa Fever, Cholera, Yellow Fever, and Diphtheria.