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1 Introduction and objectives

Background: Strong technical and management capacities are critical to successfully planning, implementing, and monitoring health programs. In the effort to support the Nigeria Family Planning (FP) Blueprint goals, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) invests in a variety of strategies. These include capacity building (CB) activities with Ministry of Health (MOH) at both Federal and state levels to strengthen data use skills in order to improve management and monitoring of FP programs.

Objectives: This study aims to describe institutional changes with data use for monitoring and decision making in FP programs. Specifically, we examine:

1. What are BMGF-supported CB strategies on data use with Federal and State MOHs (FMOH/SMOH)?
2. What are results and impact of these strategies in decision making for and monitoring of FP programs?
3. What are challenges impeding the progress?

2 Methods

Study design and sample size: We used qualitative research methods to derive contextual information around the CB strategies to understand how they have operated at FMOH and SMOHs. A total of 28 in-depth interviews were conducted with 18 government staff beneficiaries of CB activities, working within the FMOH and Kaduna and Lagos SMOHs, as well as 19 technical advisors (TAs) working for BMGF grantees and providing CB.

| Group | # of participants | # of interviews |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| FMOH staff | 4 | 4 |
| SMOH staff (Kaduna & Lagos) | 14 | 14 |
| TAs Federal | 14 | 6 |
| TAs State (Kaduna & Lagos) | 5 | 4 |
| Total | 37 | 28 |

Data analysis: We coded interviews using Atlas.ti software, and conducted a thematic content analysis, extracting key themes and representative quotations. Grounded theory was used as the primary mode of data analysis.

3 Results

Grounded theory was used to develop a framework to describe how BMGF CB strategies have influenced the FMOH and SMOH progress in using data for monitoring FP program, and what could be done to further facilitate the CB process (Figure 1).

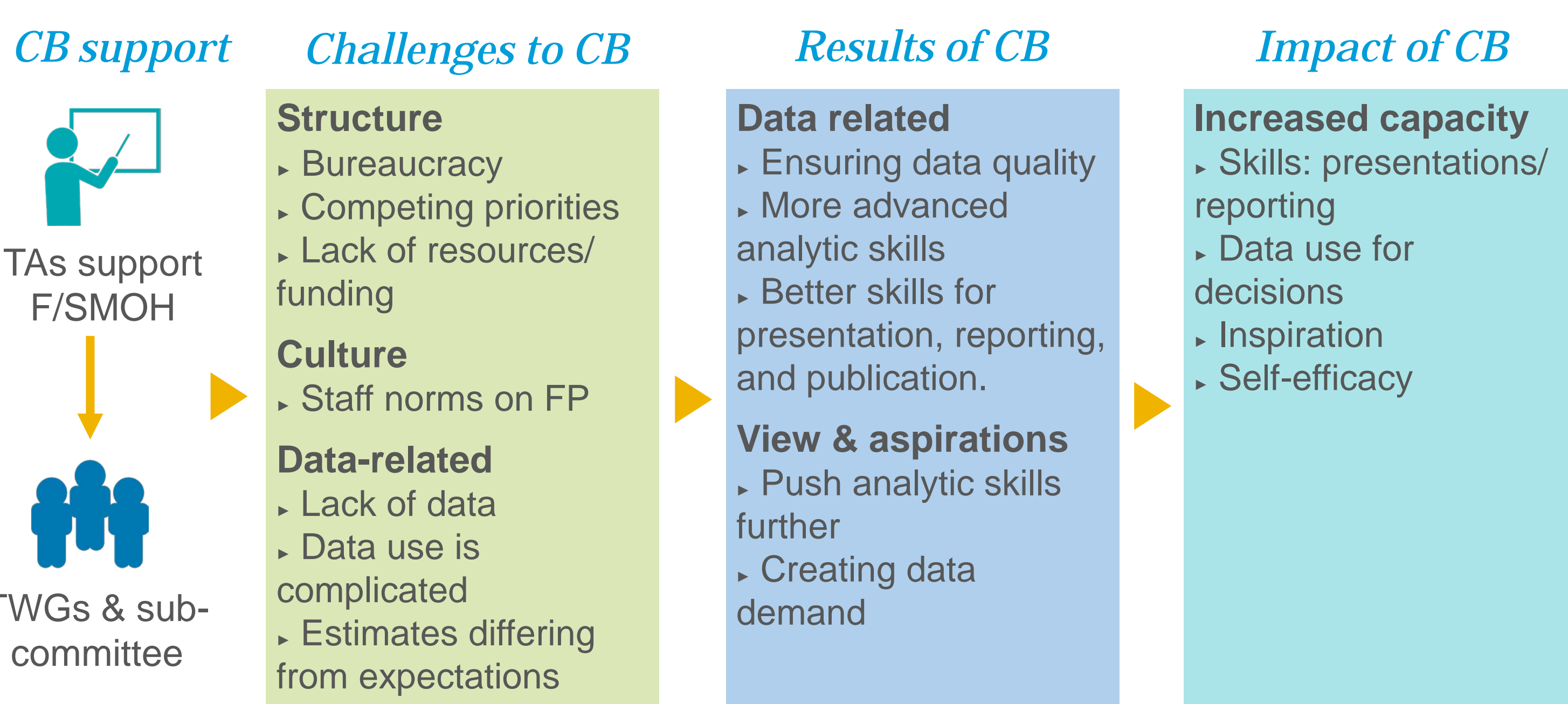


Figure 1: Ground theory model explaining the CB process, its results, and impact on FMOH/SMOH's progress in using data for decisions in FP program.

❖ **Results of government CB strategies:** The success of CB strategies employed was demonstrated in two main areas.

1. Better data-related skill:



2. The expression of participants' views and aspirations on how they are feeling about the CB strategies that have taken place: Expressed views and aspirations provided evidence for personal commitment and self-confidence in performing work-related tasks.

Gov't staff shared what could make their job better:

Push analytic skills further

"If I could ask for anything... more on analytical skills, because everything is evidence-based now." – State Ministry of Health staff

Create data demand

The only thing that I would have wanted was if we could... [include in] our monthly data all the private health facilities. We are doing a lot with the public but... we are not getting sufficient data from the private. – State Ministry of Health staff

❖ **Impact of CB strategies on F/SMOH capacity:** Increased capacity was demonstrated by using data for evidence-based decision-making, expression of self-efficacy, and general motivation among staff.

Data for evidence-based decision making

"In (producing) the annual forecast for family planning commodity for the country, I rely on data and a few demographic assumptions... Without data there is no way I can forecast what we need for... each year. Based on that forecast, that we (develop a) procurement plan with UNFPA. If we do not have a reliable forecast, there is no way UNFPA can... take care of our commodity need, and that means we will run out of stock of commodity and the whole FP program will fail."

– Federal Ministry of Health Staff

Self-efficacy

"I think it's also good to mention how for a lot of them also, just their general IT skills, the capacity has been built in this process. A lot of them who may not even have opened a computer in a very long while you know, we've seen them grow in that skill which is good for everything."

– Federal Technical Advisor

Staff motivation

"So, now because of the various interactions and engagements with the LGA chairmen, the supervising councilor for health bringing them up to speed on the importance of family planning; the implication of family planning in their own little community; how it affects them as a people; how it affects even the economy of the LGA; how health and economy tie together. They are now beginning to see the importance why they need to invest in family planning."

– Lagos State Technical Advisor

4 Conclusions

Did F/SMOH capacity in data use to monitor FP program increase?

Yes

Government staff's capacity was observed by both program implementors and gov't staff beneficiaries, at Federal and state levels. Capacity building in data use for monitoring and decision making are effective when it is directed at institutional structures and processes, and should be continued to ensure full ownership and institutional changes.

5 About FP CAPE

The Family Planning Country Action Process Evaluation (FP CAPE) is an evaluation of the BMGF portfolios of family planning investments in DRC and Nigeria. Each portfolio includes more than 15 interventions implemented by various partners to increase access, quality, and use of modern contraceptive methods in each country.