



CASE STUDY

Equipped with new skills to save lives of women and newborns

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Mrs. Maduchiebe and her twin boys

“It was as if the matron went for this training because of me. I delivered my twins successfully, and so easily that I didn’t even know when the babies came out. I had been pregnant with twins before but one of them had died while I was giving birth, so when I learnt I was going to have twins again I became worried that the same thing would happen. But look—I have both of them alive in my hands. And I am very happy.” - Mrs. Georgina Maduchiebe.

26 March 2012 was a joyful day for Mrs. Georgina Maduchiebe, a 35-year-old mother of six from the Ibite-Olo community in the Ezeagu Local Government Area of Enugu State. She had just been delivered of a set of male twins. Mrs. Maduchiebe had been receiving antenatal care at the Olo health centre, a PATHS2-supported health facility in Ezeagu LGA.

“This pregnancy is my fifth,” says Mrs. Maduchiebe. “I had the other four children in this health centre, but this delivery was different. Matron showed me a new and easier way to position myself when giving birth to my babies.”

“There was something obviously different about this particular delivery,” said the matron, Mrs. Blessing Udeozor, the Officer-In-Charge of Olo Health Centre. “It was easy, although it was not expected to be.” In fact, Mrs. Udeozor could hardly contain her joy as she expressed how easy it was to deliver these healthy babies without complications using the problem-solving skills she had mastered in the recent Advanced Life-Saving Skills training, which PATHS2 had supported.

“I have been practicing for over 19 years now, and delivering a baby has never been as easy as it is for me now,” she said. “The scan result showed that one of the babies was breech while the other was positioned well. We provided for emergency transportation to convey Mrs. Maduchiebe to the district hospital if we ran into problems. But I wasn’t worried because I knew that with everything I was taught in the ALSS training I would deliver the babies successfully.” This was the first delivery the matron had performed since she and others were trained on Life-Saving Skills.

“When Georgina first came here,” Mrs. Udeozor said, “I taught her to drink water continuously during

labour to give her more energy and strength during the delivery. I also taught her the breathing exercises and how to position herself, and the best ways to push. I instructed her support person to keep on fanning her to keep her temperature low until she had delivered the babies.”

On her last ANC visit to the health centre, Mrs. Maduchiebe had undergone a scan to check the positions of her babies—one of whom had assumed a breech presentation and was likely to come out buttocks-first. Mrs. Maduchiebe arrived at the health centre at 7:00 a.m.—accompanied by her support person, as instructed by Mrs. Udeozor. Her labour had just started, so she was brought into the labour ward immediately.

“Matron gave me a bottle of water and asked me to drink. This really helped,” said Mrs. Maduchiebe. She was also asked to begin a sequence of breathing exercises timed to coincide with the opening of the cervix. With the help of her support person, she was guided to a comfortable position for the delivery.

“I showed her the four different positions and pushing methods that we were taught in the ALSS training—squatting, half sitting, left lateral, and knees to chest. I asked her to pick any one that would be comfortable for her and she chose the left lateral position, and



Mrs. Blessing Udeozor officer in charge Olo health centre

with the help of the support person we delivered the babies,” said Mrs. Udeozor. Mrs. Maduchiebe’s twins arrived at about 9:30 a.m. on the same day, weighing 3.2kg and 3.3kg.

The PATHS2-supported Life-Saving Skills/Focused Antenatal Care training for health workers in Enugu State began on 23 January 2012 with a training of trainers facilitated by the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM), for 12 selected midwives from the state. Then 24 other health workers selected from health facilities across the state received three weeks of intensive Life-Saving Skills step-down training from these 12 trainers. In the near future another 36 health workers will be trained in Life-Saving Skills.

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The Partnership for Transforming Health Systems Phase Two (PATHS2) is a six-year development initiative that aims to ensure Nigeria achieves important health-related Millennium Development Goals.

Funded by UKAID from the Department for International Development, PATHS2 is working in partnership with the Government of Nigeria and other stakeholders to improve the planning, financing, and delivery of sustainable health services for those most in need. In addition to its work at the Federal level, the PATHS2 programme is implemented in the five states of Enugu, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, and Lagos. PATHS2 follows the successful PATHS programme, which was implemented from 2002 to 2008.

PATHS2 is managed by Abt Associates, in association with Options, Mannion Daniels, and the Axios Foundation.



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