



## CASE STUDY

# PATHS2 Empowers Isigwe Community in Enugu State to Build Health Centre

Enugu • September 2012



Some members of the FHC at the site of the new health facility under construction

**M**r. Peter Nwankwo, the Facility Health Committee (FHC) Chairman proudly showed off the new building of the Isigwe-Ugbawka health centre (HC) in Nkanu-East Local Government Area (LGA) Enugu State. The FHC had convinced the community about the need for a new building to house the HC and mobilised the 14 villages that make up the community to contribute to and build it. Although still in the early stages of construction, the community was already counting the days until the HC

moves from its current rented two room building to the new site.

The leaders of the community had identified and given four plots of land for the new HC to be built on, a result of several advocacy visits about the need to move the Ugbawka HC to a larger building that would house a maternity and children's ward, consultation

rooms, a laboratory, store, bathrooms and toilets for staff and in-patients, and staff quarters to provide a place for staff to rest when on night duty. The new HC will be about four times the size of the present one when completed.

It had taken great determination and coordination skills to bring the 14 villages that make up Isigwe community to participate in, and own the project.

Mrs. Augustina Ede is a member of the FHC in Ugbawka HC. She explains that the new HC is being built by residents of the 14 villages that make up Isigwe community. “We decided to save money by doing it ourselves, and not hiring contractors to build.

The builders, masons, bricklayers and carpenters in our villages, who are experienced house builders, take the lead and direct the others on what to do. The villages take turns to do it every day. The community members also contribute personal funds and materials to build the HC.”

Mrs Regina Nwobodo the Officer in charge of Isiegwe Ugawka HC confirms that the LGA is aware of the project that the Isigwe community has embarked on. “They have committed to help us, but said that while they make funds available, the community should continue the great work they have started in building

the new HC.”

FHCs are considered an integral part of the management of health facilities in Nigeria as they serve as the link, the bridge between service providers, management of health facilities and the communities. In Enugu State, PATHS2 has worked with the LGA and communities to establish FHCs in 39 HCs since August 2011. Since then, a total of 435 FHC members (235 male, 200 female) have been equipped with the knowledge and skills to mobilise the community; identify and prioritise community health problems; and support facility performance improvement.

Some positive outcomes have already been recorded since then, like the one discussed above. In other facilities like Olo HC and Ozalla Model Primary Health Centre (PHC), the FHCs have begun to monitor duty rosters to check the rate of health worker (HW) absenteeism. Reports of this have been made to Health Heads of Department in the LGAs for suitable disciplinary measures where a HW is found wanting.

Mr Nwankwo is very pleased with PATHS2 and is grateful for the training that the FHC received. He is convinced that the community would never have been able to come together to begin building the HC without PATHS2’s support.

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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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