



Advocacy Documentary leads to the first ever Presidential Summit on Health

March 2010 – The late President Umaru Musa YarAdua convened the first ever Presidential Summit on Health immediately after viewing ‘State of Health in Nigeria’, a 15-minute advocacy documentary produced for the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) by PATHS2. The Summit ended with the unilateral commitment of the President, 36 State Governors and Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to improve on poor health indicators, especially those related to women and children.

In Nigeria, despite the fact that the National Health Financing Policy (NHFP), 2006 calls for federal, state and local governments to allocate not less than 15 percent of total budget to health, at federal level in 2010, health budget was about 10 percent.

Since 2008, PATHS2 has been actively supporting a renewed commitment by the government to the health sector by moving away from a ‘business as usual’ approach and identifying new strategies of doing things.

The production of advocacy documentaries was part of a media and communication strategy jointly developed by the FMoH and PATHS2. The strategic thrust of this media and communication strategy is to develop and implement a plan of action for

bringing health issues and activities of FMoH to the attention of policy makers, media, political class, development stakeholders and the general public through the use of appropriate media to share information, build partnerships and engender responsiveness.

“The documentary was ground breaking; giving voice to the people. What it has done is to sensitise, galvanise and bring to the fore what the average Nigerian really feels about the health system being delivered to them.”

Dr Mohammed Lecky, Director of the Department of Planning, Research and Statistics, FMoH

Some voices from the ‘State of Health in Nigeria’ documentary...

“I spent my whole day’s earning to buy this drug at N350. If the government is helping us correctly as they should be doing, I should not buy this eye drop for more than sixty naira” - Okada Rider, Kaduna state.

“The only thing that is free in this health centre is the registration card, all other things are paid for” - Mother, Lagos State

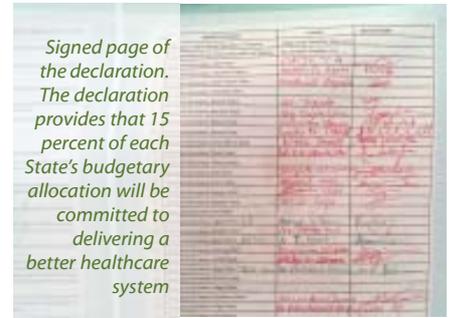
“Our wards are too congested; we need to expand the wards. At times, we admit two people on a bed because of congestion” - Community Health Extension Worker (CHEW), Jigawa State

“My sister went into labour and there was no vehicle to transport her to the nearest hospital. While we were searching for a vehicle for a whole day, her condition deteriorated, she died” - Mother, Jigawa.

PATHS2 documentaries are designed to showcase the life of unusual people and the socially excluded and draw the attention of decision makers to the plight and health challenges facing people in Nigeria. PATHS2 documentaries have been well accepted and are being used for health policy advocacy by different stakeholders in the focal states where we are working.

The attributes of a documentary makes it a good catalyst for social change as it has the ability to combine truth telling with human-interest angle. Little wonder then that the 'State of Health in Nigeria' documentary gained widespread accolades for depicting a truthful but extremely moving story of the reality of the health situation of the Nigerian public, culminating in the call for the first ever Presidential Summit on Health.

The PATHS2 programme will continue to support policy advocacy efforts with the use of documentaries and



Signed page of the declaration. The declaration provides that 15 percent of each State's budgetary allocation will be committed to delivering a better healthcare system

actively work with the Nigerian government in ensuring that the commitments made at the Summit are delivered order to meet the aims of the National Health Plan (NHP) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) four and five.

HIGHLIGHT OF DECLARATION

'National Health Partnership Declaration and Mutual Accountability for Measurable Results'

ESTABLISHING pro-poor financial protection systems, including provider incentives to implement fee exemptions for the poor and vulnerable groups and appropriate risk pooling mechanism such as social and community health insurance;

ADDRESSING all the human resources for health challenges, including incentives-based deployment to rural and underserved locations, direct implementation of the Midwifery Services Scheme, as well as up-scaling the production of human resources for health;

IMPROVING infrastructure planning and investments targeted at underserved populations, inclusive of maintenance and operational costs;

ESTABLISHING AND STRENGTHENING partnerships with the private sector and other health service providers such as nongovernmental organizations, military, etc towards improved access and service coverage;

ACHIEVING timely availability of quality health commodities and supplies at all levels within federal, state and Local Government owned facilities, as applicable;

ENSURING effective coordination and collaboration with development partners in the health sector at federal, State and Local Government levels, as well as private sector, CSOs, Traditional and Religious Institutions, and the communities, particularly on demand creation for health services;

COMMITTING to strengthening the National Health Information System to serve as the backbone for managing for results;

ENSURING the provision of periodic reports on the status of implementation to the National Economic Council and the hosting of an annual review of performance by Federal, States and Local Government Areas along the benchmarks set out in our state and national plans' results indicators framework; and

IMPLEMENTING the decisions and recommendations of this first Presidential Summit on Health Care in Nigeria.

ABOUT PATHS2

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, through the UK's Department of 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 in most need.

Apart from working at a Federal level, PATHS2 is working in the five States of Enugu, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna and Lagos.

PATHS2 follows the successful PATHS1, which ran from 2002 to 2008, and was also funded by UKaid.

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