



CASE STUDY

Dutse General Hospital's Drug Revolving Fund Supports Health Care Delivery in Jigawa State

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Women and their children waiting for drugs from the DRF store in Dutse General Hospital

Malama Harra Dahiru of Jiba community, near Dutse, the Jigawa State capital, marvels at the transformation of the health system in her state. Remembering the days when hospitals were described as “consulting clinics” where patients received prescriptions only, she says that now her hospital pharmacy never runs out of the drugs she is prescribed.

Today, Malama Harra collects the drugs prescribed for her two-year-old daughter, Ziyada Yushe’u, from Pharm. Nasiru Alhassan, Chief Pharmacist of PATHS2-supported Dutse General Hospital. What is making the difference in the drug supply situation is

the hospital’s Drug Revolving Fund (DRF) scheme, supported by PATHS2 in collaboration with the State Ministry of Health. It was established as a pro-poor program to complement the delivery of quality health care services to the people, says Pharm. Alhassan. Since its establishment, the Fund has sold drugs to patients and replenished its stocks with the proceeds of sales. Prices patients pay are low, but have a mark-up that takes care of inflation and administration. The funds from this mark-up are additionally pooled to pay for drugs for people who simply cannot afford to pay when they need the drugs.



Chief Pharmacist Nasiru Hassan Alhassan

The DRF has become one of the gateways to the success of the Free Maternal, Newborn and Child Health program of the Jigawa State Government. The initial capitalisation was 1,567,236 naira worth of drugs. Subsequently, there was a top-up of 9,561,537 naira, bringing the total capitalisation to 11,128,773 naira.

According to the chief pharmacist, the DRF scheme has made 95 – 100 percent of the drugs demanded in the maternity ward available at all times. The drugs required in the emergency unit are always available.

“These drugs are replaced daily. For pregnant women, from their first antenatal visit to 40 days after delivery, the drugs are given free,” Alhassan explains. “We supply all the drugs for Free Maternal, Newborn and Child Health to the patients as a loan to the government, and it repays us at the end of the month.”

The scheme has made it easy for the government, which does not need to undertake the cumbersome business of going out to purchase drugs by itself.

The DRF also supports the Jigawa State government’s free health care for children under the age of five. The pharmacy supplies drugs for free and the government reimburses the pharmacy each month.

The DRF directly supports the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), under which NHIS clients get free or subsidized services, and the hospital pays the pharmacy back at the end of the month. As Alhassan also explains, the NHIS would have failed if there had not been enough drugs available to cater to the needs of the over 1,500 enrollees. “If we didn’t have enough capital, we would not be able to keep the quantity of drugs for this large number of enrollees,” he says.

The motivation of the UKaid-supported PATHS2 programme is the urgent need to lift the poor out of poverty in Jigawa, by intervening to improve their health. People who can’t afford to pay for medical care usually find it difficult to break out of the cycle of poverty and ill health.

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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.

