



CASE STUDY

Facility saves mother with retained placenta

Jigawa • August 2013

Forty-four-year old mother of seven Hajiya Hindatu Musa's last two children are twins born in an emergency at Sankara Primary Health Centre in Jigawa State. The Daushe community resident said the PATHS2-supported health facility saved her from imminent death.

Hajiya Hindatu fell into labour suddenly and delivered at home before she could be taken to Ringim General Hospital, where she had been receiving antenatal care. After a fruitless wait for the placenta to be expelled, her carers knew she was in danger of bleeding to death. She was rushed to Sankara PHC, about 10 minutes' drive from Daushe.

When Hajiya Hindatu arrived at the facility, which receives UKaid from the Department for International Development, a midwife and the Officer-in-Charge (OIC), Mallam Anas Abubakar Yusuf, went to work to remove the retained placenta. They found a second baby yet undelivered, and were able to deliver him and remove the placenta.

"She could have bled to death if she had not been brought here in time," says the OIC. Listless but recovering, Hajiya Hindatu said she was happy with the facility. "I pray for the staff of this hospital. Were it not for them, I might be dead by now," she said.

The midwife, one of three deployed to the facility by PATHS2 and the federal Midwives Services Scheme, recently attended an Advanced Life-Saving Skills



Hajiya Hindatu Musa resting after delivering the second baby

(ALSS) training organised by PATHS2, along with the facility's doctor, who was also deployed by PATHS2.

Since 2008, when PATHS2 started supporting the facility, its staff have received training to improve service delivery, and the results have endeared it to community members. The OIC said he and the routine immunisation service provider recently attended a training on integrated health care communications, while the doctor and midwife received ALSS training. Another midwife received training on focused antenatal care.

After each training, staff who had not participated receive step-down training in the facility. “The purpose of step-down training is to equip clinical staff to deal with the problem, and non-clinical staff to recognise danger signs and persuade people to visit the facility,” said Mallam Yusuf.

“I recently underwent malaria rapid diagnostic test training for the first time, and used the knowledge to quickly diagnose a difficult malaria case, after which appropriate treatment was given,” Mallam Yusuf said. The patient returned for review two days later, much better.

That case had been spotted by a facility cleaner following a step-down training. She recognised the problem and persuaded the boy’s parents, who had been trying to treat him at home, to take him to the facility.

Mallam Yusuf said he arrived at the Sankara facility in September 2012, while it was undergoing a renovation funded by PATHS2. The roof and ceiling were replaced, the walls repainted, and the floor rehabilitated. Equipment and materials were also supplied, including an inverter.

All the recent developments, particularly the new staff and the availability of services round the clock, are

helping to increase patronage. Outpatient attendance increased more than 100 per cent between 2012 and 2013.

Mallam Yusuf said outpatient attendance was around 200 people each in October and November 2012. Since then, it has grown substantially—to 472 (January), 490 (February), 498 (March), 516 (April), and 520 (May)—in 2013.

The increasing turnout is also because the facility health committee, whose establishment was facilitated by PATHS2, has been active. Members of the committee have been conducting community mobilisation to get people to use the facility, and advocating for more resources with the local government authorities.



Pregnant women during ANC visit to the facility

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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.

