



CASE STUDY

Kaduna State Adopts MTSS as Health Ministry Sustains PATHS2 Interventions

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Dr Paul Dogo, Permanent Secretary, Kaduna State Ministry of Health

The Kaduna State government has taken over the Medium-Term Sector Strategy (MTSS), a planning tool that PATHS2 introduced into the health sector in Kaduna State. Plans are in place for a training programme to enable key officers in the state's ministries, departments, and agencies to understand and use the MTSS, said Dr Paul Dogo, Permanent Secretary in the Kaduna State Ministry of Health. Dr Dogo, who calls the MTSS process "one of the biggest things that has happened to us in the health sector," added, "I'm so fortunate—I came in just about the time that directors were being trained and we were getting acquainted with the MTSS."

The MTSS is a three-year rolling strategy in which an operational plan is drawn each year, following which the plan is updated for another three-year cycle.

The decision to adopt the MTSS followed the ministry's presentation on health sector reforms, particularly with respect to budgeting, at a retreat on the highlights of the implementation of the state's 2014 budget. Impressed with the presentation, Governor Muktar Ramalan Yero directed that the MTSS become the state's standard planning tool, following which the Ministry of Economic Planning picked up the task and started running with it.

In the health ministry itself, Dr Dogo said, “It has become part of us.” He explained that the ministry did the 2014 MTSS by itself, unlike in 2012 and 2013, when it was supervised by consultants recruited to assist the ministry; and that the state has started its 2015–2017 MTSS planning cycle.

To entrench the benefits of MTSS, the ministry making public hospitals in the state to start utilising the MTSS planning tool. It is starting with seven of the 29 secondary health facilities. These are Barau Dikko Specialist Hospital; Yusuf Dansoho General Hospital; Dr Gwomna Awan Hospital; Kafanchan General Hospital; Gambo Sawaba General Hospital, Zaria; Jibril Maigwari General Hospital, Birnin Gwari; and Mohammed Sabo Dorai General Hospital, Saminaka.

Also, the Deputy Director in charge of health planning in the ministry is to ensure the continuation of the

interventions introduced into the state’s health sector by PATHS2.

“We have appointed this key person, and he will guide us as far as sustainability of PATHS2 support and interventions are concerned,” Dr Dogo said.

“All things being equal, we should be able to prosecute all the interventions that were either initiated by PATHS2 or in which PATHS2 supported us,” he added.

Other PATHS2-initiated programmes in Kaduna State are the Safe Motherhood Demand-Side interventions (including the Emergency Maternal Fund, Emergency Transport Service, and formation of local blood donor groups and community volunteers), and a host of training programmes (including Advanced and Modified Life-Saving Schemes, Focused Antenatal Care, and Post-Abortion Care), as well as training in family planning and establishment of family planning clinics.

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The Partnership for Transforming Health Systems Phase Two (PATHS2) is a health systems strengthening 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.

