



CASE STUDY

Sustaining Life-Saving Interventions in Kaduna

Kaduna • August 2014



Multi-skilled Mrs Nuhu Tukura works on hospital records after a day in the antenatal clinic.

Mrs Tabitha Nuhu Tukura, registered nurse-midwife and officer-in-charge at Ungwan Muazu Primary Health Centre, Kaduna, has come a long way. She is now the complete health worker—because, professionally, she has become so much deeper and wider. Deeper, because today she is better at using the skills she acquired while training to be a nurse-midwife; wider, because of the many more skills she has acquired in the last three years.

With UK aid from the Department for International Development, PATHS2 has trained and retrained Mrs Nuhu Tukura to provide quality health care services. She has received training in Advanced Life-Saving Skills, Focused Antenatal Care, and Post-Abortion Care. She has also been trained in management of the Drug Revolving Fund, and on Health Management Information Systems. Working with other similarly trained staff, she has helped improve the clinic's services and helped create a dramatic increase in people's use of the clinic over the

last three years.

Mrs Nuhu Tukura is among 158 health workers who have received training to update old skills or to acquire new ones. Most are grateful to PATHS2, which has used UK aid to invest in sustainable health services, empower communities, and save lives since 2008. 184 health facilities have been reached with life-saving interventions including facility upgrade, drugs and equipment supplies, capacity building of health workers, strengthening of health management information systems, mobilising communities for health thereby improving health care delivery in the state.

With PATHS2 closing out in the northern states in January 2015, beneficiaries have been reacting in different ways, but all agree on the need to sustain the interventions that the programme introduced or supported. Mrs Nuhu Tukura believes that it is the duty of the state government, through the ministries in charge of health and local governments, to ensure the sustenance of the interventions.

Dr Paul Dogo, Permanent Secretary of the Kaduna State Ministry of Health, says that the PATHS2-supported interventions have been so beneficial that some have already taken on a life of their own, while the ministry has taken steps to sustain others.

The overarching decision is that the Deputy Director in charge of health planning will anchor the institutionalisation of the interventions. "We have appointed this key person, and

he will guide us as far as sustainability of PATHS2 interventions is concerned," Dr Dogo said.

The College of Nursing, Kafanchan, has been chosen to be the institutional home for some of the training programmes that PATHS2 started. These include Advanced Life-Saving Skills, Focused Antenatal Care, and Post-Abortion Care, Modified Life-Saving Skills, and Family Planning. The college has inserted the training schemes into its curriculum.

The once PATHS2-supported Medium-Term Sector Strategy, which the health ministry has started doing on its own, has been adopted by the state government as the official planning tool. Local Government Areas have begun to do operational planning unaided, while Emergency Transport Service is a provision in the Free Maternal and Child Health bill, which the Ministry of Justice is examining prior to transmission to the State House of Assembly for enactment as law.

Dr Dogo added that "It is our responsibility as officers that whenever we are leaving, we should be able to capture these key interventions, and give them all the emphasis they require in our handing-over notes. ... I think it would amount to negligence if when I'm leaving this office I do not highlight key interventions that should be sustained."

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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.

