



CASE STUDY

Enhanced health planning capacity excites Kaduna stakeholders

Kaduna • August 2013



Mallam Muhammad Awwal Waziri, Director Primary Health Care, Kaduna State Ministry for Local Governments

Muhammad Awwal Waziri, Director, Primary Health Care, Kaduna State Ministry for Local Governments, believes that the state owes PATHS2 a debt of gratitude. The reason is PATHS2's support to improve health care in the state over the years.

From inception, systems strengthening and service delivery have been uppermost on PATHS2's agenda, but recently planning came into the picture to sustain the efforts, Mallam Waziri says.

With UKaid from the Department for International Development, PATHS2 in 2012 initiated health development planning in the five states it supports. The local government (LGA) system, which had little capacity to plan, is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the initiative.

According to Mallam Waziri, in 2012 the LGAs started doing health operational plans derived from the State Strategic Health Development Plan (SSHDP), which PATHS2 facilitated. Although the LGAs had challenges implementing their 2012 plans because of financial problems, LGA planning is yielding dividends. And, they were supported to plan for 2013.

"The LGA health team is now more focused because they now know where they are, where they want to be, and how they want to get there," he says, explaining that previously, LGAs just spent money without concrete plans or targets. With the plans, however, their meagre resources are now properly channelled towards achieving specific targets.

According to Dr. Paul Dogo, Permanent Secretary, Kaduna State Ministry of Health, the previous planning deficiencies underlined the failings of the health system. "The key to the success of any programme is how you plan it and the way you budget for it, (and) in fact for me, I've been asking, how had we been running health before?"

PATHS2-supported states now do Medium Term Sector Strategy (MTSS), from which they draw annual operational plans. Some stakeholders describe it as "scientific" and "purposeful" because it removes arbitrariness. This planning process involves designing activities and costing them such that budget proposals and funding requests converge.

It has brought fiscal discipline, and supports the saying, "If you plan well, you're going to execute well," Dr.

Dogo asserts, adding: "We're gradually moving; we're not at the level that we should be, but for the fact that we know where we're heading, we're going to get there." The statement sums up the feeling among health stakeholders in Kaduna State about planning and its effects on the health situation.

For Mallam Sani Nabawa, secretary of the facility health committee, Tudunwada PHC, Zaria, who attended an LGA planning meeting for FHCs and CSOs, planning has helped the development process. He says he is better informed and empowered about the rights and duties of the people.

"Our rights had been denied; now we understand that it is our right to know such things as the budget for our health, and to be involved in planning. We now know that if necessary we can go up to the LGA chairman to make demands," he says.

On sustainability, Mallam Waziri says the establishment of Kaduna State Primary Health Care Agency (KSPHCA) will help strengthen the system and ensure that the new developments are entrenched. Dr. Sufianu Babale, Executive Secretary/CEO, of KSPHCA agrees. "In the past, our actions were like rituals; now, whatever we're doing is evidence-based," he asserts.

Dr. Dogo gives much of the credit for the birth of KSPHCA and the state's drug management agency (DMA) to PATHS2. "If you look at leadership and

governance, PATHS2 did a lot of high level advocacy on behalf of the Ministry of Health, and that gave birth to the operationalisation of the PHC agency and the DMA..." The laws establishing the agencies were enacted in 2008, but they became operational in 2012."

The overall goal of health planning is to improve the people's health status, towards which LGs have agreed on some key activities, for which the LGA chairmen have promised funding. The initiative to institutionalise planning is thus having ripple effects throughout the Kaduna State health system.



Dr. Sufianu Babale, Executive Secretary/CEO, Kaduna State Primary Health Care Agency

For more information, please contact: Gafar Alawode (g.alawode@paths2.org)

FOLLOW US ON-LINE:

www.paths2.org • www.facebook.com/paths2nigeria • www.youtube.com/paths2nigeria
www.flickr.com/paths2nigeria • www.twitter.com/paths2nigeria

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.

