



CASE STUDY

Fruits of continuity, advocacy and service at Tukur-Tukur PHC

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Mallam Bala Galadima

Bala Galadima, businessman and resident of Tukur-Tukur, Zaria Local Government Area (LGA) in Kaduna State, believes he has two main missions in life. One is to serve Allah to the best of his abilities. The second is to help those who cannot help themselves, without expecting any reward from man—thereby also serving Allah.

For the latter reason Mallam Galadima has been a member of the facility health committee (FHC) of Tukur-Tukur Primary Health Centre since 2006. Through the FHC, he has provided untiring service

to his people, and says he has the UK Department for International Development (DfID) to thank for it. DfID funded the Partnership for Transforming Health Systems (PATHS) programme, which facilitated the FHC's establishment in 2006. DfID now funds PATHS2, the second phase of the PATHS programme, under which the FHC has flourished. With UKaid from DfID, PATHS2 continues to support Tukur-Tukur PHC. In 2012, it upgraded the facility.

Mallam Galadima, who was vice chairman of the committee at its inception, became chairman in 2012. "At the beginning, it was just one room with only a handful of staff," he says. Hajia Ummah Abdullahi, Officer-in-Charge of the facility and secretary of the FHC, adds, "At that time, facility utilisation in terms of out-patient attendance was very low, averaging about four to five per day, or a monthly total of about 100. Also, the facility had fewer than 20 antenatal care visits a month.

It wasn't only the minimal, bare-bones set-up that deterred people from using the facility: the health centre was located on the outskirts of town in a high-crime area that was also a forest reserve harbouring wild animals, where the human population was increasing but only slowly.

To expand the facility and improve attendance, the local government council had erected a building on another site in 2001, but the people would not let

their health centre relocate into the new space, until PATHS Phase I came into the picture in 2006. They persuaded the community that the existing facility was a disincentive to growth and to outside assistance. Reluctantly, the community allowed the facility to relocate to its current site in November 2007, and before long, its staff strength increased to 12, in addition to three volunteers.

Using community resources, the FHC went to work to turn the building into a full-fledged health facility. The building was renovated, a labour room created, the leaky roof repaired, an open well covered, and a laboratory established. Other necessities provided included a deep freezer, borehole, and wash basin. In 2008, a generator was bought for 170,000 Naira (about £680).

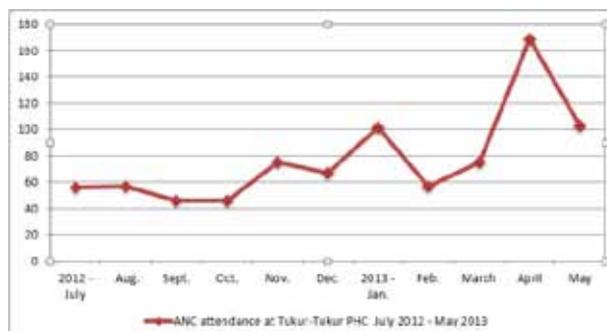
With UKaid from PATHS2, Hajia Ummah and two other staff were trained to start and manage a sustainable drug supply system in the facility in 2007. PATHS provided a seed stock of drugs worth 123,967 Naira (about £500), then recapitalised the system with about 105,000 Naira (or £420).

In 2012, PATHS2 trained one more staff member and added 93,000 Naira (£372) worth of drugs. As of the last stock-taking in May 2013, the sustainable drug supply system was worth more than 160,000 Naira (or £640) in drugs and 79,384 Naira (or £317) cash in

the bank. According to Hajia Ummah, the sustainable drug supply system has faced problems such as clients considering the drugs supplied to be too expensive, and drugs on the verge of expiring, which the facility had to dispose of, sometimes at a loss. Also, the LGA medical store has yet to pay for some drugs returned to prevent them from expiring on the centre's shelves.

With enough space to provide more services, the LGA has named Tukur-Tukur PHC a referral centre, a status that assures it more funding and staffing support from government. In June 2013, the FHC began to convert the hand-pump borehole obtained from the state government with advocacy, into a motorised one, and to pipe water into the facility.

“Now, OPD attendance averages 167 per month,” says Hajia Ummah. It rose from 56 in July 2012, after the facility upgrade funded by PATHS2, to 103 in May 2013. According to Hajia Ummah, ANC attendance in May could have surpassed 200 but for a public holiday on 29 May, normally a clinic day.



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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.

