



CASE STUDY

The blessing of Agban Health Clinic

Kaduna • 2013

Single and pregnant, Blessing Titus, a resident of Agban in Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State, was not proud of her status. She knew antenatal care was important, but registered at Fada Primary Health Centre, six kilometres away. When she went into labour in February 2013, shame made her delay going to the clinic until the decision was out of her hands. Family members rushed her to PATHS2-supported Agban Health Clinic, but Blessing delivered on the way. She suffered severe lacerations and bled heavily.

The staff of Agban Health Clinic rose to the occasion, led by Mrs Elizabeth Nyio, who had been trained in focused antenatal care. They treated Blessing and took care of her baby. Before the end of the day, she was stable, and a volunteer Emergency Transport Scheme (ETS) driver took her home.

With UKaid from the Department for International Development (DFID), PATHS2 has been supporting Agban Health Clinic since 2012. The facility was established in 2008, and one of PATHS2's first activities was to facilitate the transformation of an existing community committee into an elected Facility Health Committee (FHC). Under its Community Participation in Health Programme, PATHS2 trained the members to understand their role in improving the community's health. The training included advocacy, community mobilisation, fund-raising, and health improvement strategies.



Blessing Titus with her son, Promise

The FHC has since raised money and constructed a building used for post-natal observation. It purchased reagents for the laboratory, which does most of the tests required locally. Now, it plans to renovate the facility building.

“The training improved our knowledge and skills, and the mentor PATHS2 sends to help us has really been beneficial to the community,” says Mrs Nyio, FHC secretary and Officer-in-Charge of the facility. She says monthly supportive supervision helps keep the facility staff on their toes.

PATHS2 organised training for Mrs Nyio and another staff member on sustainable drug supply, and facilitated a drug revolving fund. This helps to ensure that clients and patients have access to good-quality drugs at affordable prices. Occasionally, clients need to be referred to larger health facilities, using the ETS, whose drivers were selected and trained in how to respond to emergencies and handle pregnant women, particularly when in labour.

“This clinic operates from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but we have an arrangement with a staff member who lives in the community to attend to emergencies after hours.” Mrs Nyio explains.

Agban community members are pleased to have a health facility within reach. A resident, Mrs Kaliat Irmiya, says that the fact that the centre can attend

to their most pressing needs and avert trips to receive health care in other communities makes them very happy.

“We used to go to Fada, Garaje and Kafanchan General Hospital on bicycles, on motorcycles, or on foot, but now we have our own hospital,” Mrs Irmiya enthuses. Fada and Garaje are about 6 kilometres from Agban, while Kafanchan General Hospital is about 8 kilometres away.

For Mrs Grace Hosea, another community member, the drug revolving fund is particularly helpful. She knows that fake drugs and high cost of drugs are problems of health care in Nigeria. The facility’s sustainable drug supply system addresses both issues.

Mrs Irmiya and Mrs Hosea, who are both nursing mothers, immunise their babies at the health centre. Previously, they would have needed to travel 6 kilometres for the service. They are hopeful that with self-help and assistance from PATHS2 and the government, their health facility will soon have better structures, more health workers, longer opening hours, and a better power supply.

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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.

