

Community Tackles Barriers to Health *following dissemination of baseline findings*



Nura Uba is 20 years old. Married with two children, he was one of the young able-bodied community

members who took part in the repair of the only access road leading to Yankifi community in Kunchi Local Government Area (LGA) of Kano state. The motivation to repair the access road in addition to fixing the community's borehole was the outcome of the dissemination of the qualitative baseline survey findings by PATHS2 in the community in June 2010.

"After that discussion about the health situation of our village and how we can do something to make our condition better, we called ourselves together to clear our road and start repairing the borehole" says Nura.



A cross section of participants at the dissemination

Thus the dissemination of the qualitative baseline survey in Yankifi, which brought Honorable commissioner of Health Mallama Aishatu Isyaku Kuru, the LGA chairman, district heads and chief Imams of Kumbotso, Albasu and Kunchi, representatives of SUNMAP, EU-SRIK, UNICEF, WHO, Rotary International, CHR, Red Cross Society of Nigeria and several local development associations was a historical event for the community.

The baseline findings, which were simplified and translated into Hausa language, focused on personal and environmental hygiene; primary health care challenges notably dilapidated health infrastructure, lack of health personnel, Immunization, lack of portable water and inaccessible roads among a host of other issues. It was on these issues that PATHS2 engaged the community, government representatives and other stakeholders in an

interactive session to proffer ways of ameliorating the conditions for the community members.



During the session, a woman recounted that the only borehole in the community had not been functional for more than a year so the community has been sharing the only other source of water (the river) with camels, donkeys and cows that equally drink, urinate and defecate in the same river. The chief Imam reported that the people of Shamakawa,

Yankifi is a small rural pastoral community with a high population of domestic donkeys which gives the community a perpetual stench of animal dung. Fifty years after the community was relocated by the government to their present location to enable the construction of a Dam, Yankifi still lacks basic social amenities like Health facility, electricity, schools, fire service, a police station, no proper waste disposal system and a road to access the community. They believe they are neglected especially having been selected once as a community to benefit from an irrigation project which did not prosper because they were not properly enlightened about it.

The community proposed a day when a female health worker would come to the health post to attend to health cases especially pregnant women.

Saulawa, and Yankifi had asked him to inform the Local Government Chairman to address the issue of poor, very bad roads leading to their communities, while the community members complained of having only a male health worker in the health post in Yankifi.



Malama Isiyaku Kiru
Kano state Commissioner for Health

...In response, the Local government chairman posted a female health worker to spend at least a full day every week in Yankifi.

As one of the ways to deal with some of the issues raised, the health Commissioner encouraged community members to take action as organized groups in order to tackle primary health issues like personal and environmental hygiene issues that are achievable at community level as opposed to waiting for government intervention.

As a result of the dissemination of findings event, young men of the community committed to a self-help effort to repair the road. At the event, the community proposed a day when a female health worker would come to



A cross section of young men of the community committed to a self-help effort to repair the road

the health post to attend to health cases especially pregnant women. In response, the Local government chairman posted a female health worker to spend at least a full day every week in Yankifi.



20 year old **Jummai Kabiru** is 7 month pregnant with her third child and had this to say,...

"I know that there is now an arrangement for a female health worker to come and see the pregnant women in Yankifi. So I will now start to attend ANC."

ABOUT PATHS2

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, through the UK's Department of 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 in most need.

Apart from working at a Federal level, PATHS2 is working in the five States of Enugu, Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna and Lagos.

PATHS2 follows the successful PATHS1, which ran from 2002 to 2008, and was also funded by UKaid.

CONTACT

Dr Abubakar Izge
State Team Leader
a.izge@paths2.org
08022351519
www.paths2.org

