



CASE STUDY

Drug Provides Fresh Prospects for Residents of Lambu

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Hajia Sadiyya waiting to receive drugs at the Lambu PHC

For over four years, Abdulsalam Ibrahim has been the Officer-in-Charge of the very remote Lambu Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Tofa Local Government Area of Kano State. Despite the strategic location of the Lambu PHC in the village, most

women preferred to visit local drug sellers to buy expensive, poor-quality over-the-counter drugs.

PHC client Hajia Sadiyya Bala said many women

didn't patronize the PHC because it didn't have essential medicines. "When we visited the PHC, they would just write a prescription and ask us to find a pharmacy to buy the drugs from," said Hajia Sadiyya. Sometimes the women could not buy the drugs because they were not affordable. "A friend of mine said on one occasion that she could not afford to buy the drugs from the pharmacy, and just resigned herself to fate."

In response, the UK aid-funded PATHS2 programme supported the Lambu PHC in setting up and managing a drug revolving fund in March 2013. "We received an essential training on how to manage the DRF," said Abdulsalam Ibrahim.

With the help of the facility health committee (FHC), community members were informed of the development at the PHC. "When we came back to the health centre, we noticed the improvements," said Sadiyya. "Nowadays, the service provider prescribes

the drugs and we get them readily within the health centre. With little money, we can buy the drugs. We are happy."

Excited about the developments at the health centre, Ibrahim highlighted the gradual increase in client flow from 611 and 702 in May and June 2012 to 845 and 948 in May and June 2013. "Our sales went from 12,000 naira (£48) in March to 68,000 naira (£272) in June 2013," said Ibrahim.

Members of the FHC are now exploring new possibilities for the PHC. "We currently refer women to other health facilities for delivery services," said Ibrahim. "The FHC is now advocating to the Local Government Authority for a midwife so we can begin providing delivery services."

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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.

