



CASE STUDY

Volunteers Get Gurum Women to Embrace Hospital Care

Kano • August 2013



Amina demonstrating hand-washing in a household in Gurum

Forty-year-old Amina Abdu volunteers with the Gurum Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Tsanyawa Local Government Area in Kano State. She regularly conducts house-to-house visits to women, educating them on the importance of attending antenatal care (ANC) sessions and delivering at the hospital. “I also talk to them about the danger signs in pregnancy, and proper nutrition, and show them how to improve hygiene through regular hand-washing,” said Amina.

Getting women to attend ANC is a major step in reducing complications and deaths from causes related to pregnancy. According to the 2008 Nigeria Demographic Health Survey, only 50 percent women attended ANC in Kano State, and only 11 percent delivered with support from qualified health staff. In response to this relatively low turnout, the UKaid-

funded PATHS2 project works with communities in Kano State to develop a support system for safe motherhood. In March 2013, 32 community volunteers received training to carry out household and community communication activities effectively. “The training showed us how to address some of the fears and misconceptions that women have, and to improve their perceptions about the importance of seeking the support of a qualified provider, especially during pregnancy,” said Amina. Female volunteers conduct household education for pregnant women and nursing mothers, while their male counterparts educate the husbands. “Involving male volunteers ensured that the women received support and approval from the husbands,” said male volunteer Sani Sa’idu.

The results of efforts by Amina and other volunteers in Gurum are obvious. “We had about 98 women attending ANC in March 2013. In June 2013, 472 women visited the PHC for pregnancy-related issues,” said service provider Hanna Ozovehi. Larai Abdullahi experienced hospital delivery for the first time after three children. “I realise that delivering in the PHC is easier and safer compared with the experience at home,” she said. Larai enrolled for ANC following a visit by a community volunteer to her home, who explained its importance. “Attending ANC prepared me for a smooth delivery,” said Larai.



Women for post-natal care at Gurum PHC

The number of women delivering at the Gurum PHC increased from 12 in March 2013 to 19 in June 2013. With the efforts of community volunteers like Amina, more women in Gurum are embracing hospital care during pregnancy and delivering at the PHC. Amina is happy about the changes that the combined efforts of volunteers in Gurum have created. “This is what we are passionate about and will continue doing. Once the woman attends ANC and delivers at the hospital, it makes all the difference,” said Amina.

For more information, please contact: Abubakar Izge (a.izge@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.

