



## CASE STUDY

# Availability of essential drugs facilitates seamless health care services at Ita-Elewa Health Centre

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Mrs Fausat Yusuf presents her prescription to the pharmacist

Mrs Fausat Yusuf has been a regular at the Ita-elewa Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Lagos State for over 12 years, but until recently, using services at this health facility had one big drawback: high-quality and affordable medicines were not available. “We

would take turns to see the service provider and afterwards receive a prescription to buy the drugs elsewhere,” said Mrs Yusuf. “Sometimes, we would find those drugs very expensive, and the dispenser

couldn't even guarantee the quality. If we could not buy the drugs, we just left everything to fate."

Health centres in Nigeria often lack essential medicines. Twenty-four percent of women in Lagos State cited lack of drugs as a problem limiting access to health care services, according to the 2008 Nigeria Demographic Health Survey. This statistic is much higher in northern Nigeria. "I was posted to Ita-elewa PHC two months ago and know how difficult it is for women to buy prescriptions. So it was a relief to find that this health facility had a drug revolving fund," said Ita-elewa Pharmacist J.O. Akande.

The UKaid-funded PATHS2 programme is supporting the Lagos State Government to ensure that essential drugs are available to women and children. According to Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Dr Jide Idris, "The strengthening of the drug revolving fund system and the overall primary health care system is

largely due to the activities of PATHS2." All supported health facilities in the state went through a process of capitalisation, in which representatives were trained on effective management of a DRF. According to Mrs. Akande, "We keep our records properly, use the official price list and place the daily sales amount in the bank account. We also send in timely requisitions to the central medical store using the standard form."

With available drugs, the women and children seeking health care services at the Ita-elewa PHC have one less thing to worry about.

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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.

