



CASE STUDY

No More Delivery in the Dark

Ward Health Committee Members donate generator set to a health facility in Lagos

Lagos • September 2012



Mrs Iyabo Bello wraps a shawl around Bilal to keep him warm from the breeze

Bilal Bello was born on the night of 16 June, 2012, into a world filled with light from a new electricity generator. The 3.5 KVA generator was bought by the Ward Health Committee and Support Group (WHCSG) in his small, rural community. The 15 members of the WHC personally contributed the N35,000 Naira necessary to buy the generator when they couldn't get funds from the Lekki Local Council Development Area (LCDA) or from the community. In March 2012 they had the generator installed in the Lekki Primary Health Centre (PHC), located in the Ibeju Lekki Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Bilal's mother, 30 year old Mrs. Iyabo Bello—a tailor by profession—was one of the first to benefit from

the new generator. She was also one of five pregnant women to receive a gift package of baby clothes, a small bag to carry the baby's clothes and diapers, and beverages for the mother, given to the women when they went to the PHC to give birth. The WHC put the package together as an incentive for women who received antenatal care at the PHC to return to deliver their babies there.

“There was no power supply that night I went to deliver, but they used the generator that was donated by you and these people (the WHC Secretary and

PATHS2). I was there the day the generator was donated”—Mrs. Bello

The PHC provides 24-hour health services, and is located within the same compound as, and directly behind, the Lekki Council Development Area Secretariat. Like most communities in Lagos, the Lekki community is faced with the problem of unstable electric power supply. They get about four hours of electricity weekly. The health workers in the PHC, which provides 24-hour health services, had to deliver babies and attend to other clients under these circumstances. At night, battery-powered torches and kerosene lanterns would be their only light source. Mrs. Temitope Yusuf is one of four health workers at the PHC, and a beneficiary of PATHS2’s Advanced Life-Saving Skills training to reduce maternal and child mortality. She tells of how a snake slithered into the PHC one night in May, while she and her colleagues were in the reception area. “Without the light from the generator, we would not have seen and killed that snake. Perhaps one of us, or, God forbid, a patient, would have been bitten.”

Dr. Samuel Usman, PATHS2 Service Integration Advisor, says that the importance of adequate lighting for quality patient care “cannot be over emphasised. Regular electricity is critical in emergency situations such as when life saving oxygen is required to save



a baby, mother, or any other patient. The oxygen machine is powered by electricity. And if a woman just delivered of a baby sustained a third-degree laceration in the process, how would you do a good job stitching her up just using light from a lantern? It would be a very difficult task, and quite painful to the client.”

Eighteen babies were delivered in the PHC between March and July 2012. Members of the WHCSG were selected by the LGA chairmen in Lagos State, and PATHS2 oriented them on their roles and functions in the active management of PHCs in their domain. The goal is to help put the right systems in place to improve health service delivery outcomes. PATHS2 has helped establish and train 12 WHCs in Lekki LCDA, which has an estimated population of 137,521 people served by 12 health facilities.

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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.



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