



CASE STUDY

Relief as Ketu-Oke Opens shop for immunisation services

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A health worker immunises a baby at Yomi Convalescent Clinic, Ketu-Oke, Lagos

Yomi Convalescent Clinic (YCC) is the only health facility in the Ketu-Oke area in Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area in Lagos State. Although YCC was set up to provide basic maternal and child health services, it was not equipped to provide routine immunisation services. Thus, mothers were referred

to other health centres that were a long way off—and, according to YCC Medical Director Idris Oladoke, “It was routine for mothers to visit health centres very early and return late in the evening without receiving immunisation services.”

Long-distance walking and long waiting times are common reasons for missed opportunities and incomplete vaccinations. According to the 2008 Nigeria Demographic Health Survey, 14 percent of mothers did not visit the health centre for vaccinations because immunisation posts were located too far away.

Moreover, most health posts are equipped to vaccinate for only a few days in a week, thus encouraging long waiting queues. Meanwhile, studies have shown that immunisation is one of the most successful and cost-effective investments that could prevent many early childhood deaths. According to the World Health Organisation, about 200,000 Nigerian children die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases.

In support of Nigeria's Reaching Every Ward approach, the UKaid-funded PATHS2 programme partnered with the YCC to improve access to immunisation services for the residents of Ketu-Oke.

The programme provided an inverter to facilitate the required power supply necessary for storing vaccines,

and established a drug revolving fund at YCC. "The inadequate power supply made it unaffordable to provide immunisation services here. In the past, we referred clients to other health facilities." Said Dr Oladoke. With the inverter, YCC began providing free immunisation services in February 2013. A constant power source ensures that YCC provides vaccinations to the community daily.

"We now have clients who were referred from surrounding health facilities." The drug revolving fund also helps the facility provide quality drugs at affordable rates to the community. To create the necessary awareness, the health centre works with community leaders to organise periodic outreaches.

"The community is happy about the free immunisation services as well as the high-quality and affordable drugs," according to Dr Oladoke. Meanwhile, 46 children received immunisation services between February and June 2013.

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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.

