



Zamfara is located in northwest Nigeria and has a population of 4.1 million (800,000 children under five). Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is 1,100 deaths per 100,000 live births. Infant mortality is 104 /1000 per live births. Contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 3.3% in 2011 to 5% 2016. (MIC survey 2011-2016).

Key achievements

- The programme engaged and trained 20 Male Support Group Volunteers, 171 Interpersonal Communication Conductors; conducted 3 activities for outreach mobilisation and facilitated 2 blood donation drives in the 20 communities reached with strategic behavioural change communications
- MNCH2 supported implementation of Data Quality Assessments (DQA) across 84 programme-supported and non-supported health care facilities.
- The programme supported conduct of Quarterly Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISS) visits to 84 supported health facilities across 14 LGAs in the state.

Lessons

- Engagement with the Executive Governor of the state through the Partners' Forum has significantly assisted in tackling some of the pressing maternal and child health bottlenecks in the state.
- Advocacy efforts of the Zamfara State Accountability Mechanism on MNCH (ZAMoM) are leading to transparency in budgetary allocations to the health sector in the state.
- Engagement with religious leaders has contributed to increased turnout of women at health facilities, both for antenatal care and HTSP.

Transition and Sustainability

The Programme's continued intensive engagement with relevant stakeholders and partners across the LGAs and at state level, have led to agreement by the Executive Governor agreed to implement memoranda on Health Care Financing, Task Shifting and Domestication Policy and the memorandum on Human Resources for Health Policy for sustainability.

Priorities for next month

Follow up with the Executive Governor on the following as agreed upon during Partners' Forum meeting:

- Improvement in status of Human Resources for Health in the state.
- Take-over of the Nahuche Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS) by Zamfara State Government
- Procurement of blood banks to secondary health facilities and provision of free drugs and commodities for women and children in the State
- Accreditation of health training institutions
- Follow up with the Ministry for Religious Affairs on the institutionalisation MNCH services.



Surgical theatre staff receiving training on the use of anaesthesia equipment provided by MNCH2 to health facilities in Zamfara State.

“ I would like to thank MNCH2 for all they are doing in the state because they have been supporting us and encouraging us to take ownership of health-related activities in our communities.”

- Malam Abubakar Furfuri

Director of Nuril Islam School, Bungudu LGA

