



Katsina State is located in the Sahel Savannah in northwest Nigeria. It has a total population of nearly 6 million. Each ward has at least one functional primary health facility and the state has seen great improvements in some health indicators: delivery by skilled birth attendance has risen from 5.1% in 2008 to 20.8% in 2017. However, antenatal attendance stands at 33.40% and immunisation coverage is 6%. The unmet need for child spacing is 29.5% (MICs 2016/2017).

### Key achievements

- The programme conducted a quarterly review meeting with 34 Safe Space Initiative (SSI) members to discuss key challenges and the way forward for all SSI members across the state's 34 local government areas (LGAs).
- A state specific protocol for the management of maternal and perinatal deaths, to be used for both primary and secondary health facilities in the state, was developed with technical assistance of MNCH2.
- The programme engaged the service of a consultant to review the State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (SCHCMA) bill. After this review, the bill was signed into law by the Executive Governor of the state.
- 68 traditional birth attendants (TBAs) from all the state's LGAs were trained on use of protective gloves in providing services.

### Lessons

- Securing secluded locations for the conduct of Safe Space Initiative (SSI) sessions has boosted the confidence of husbands and encouraged them to allow their wives to attend the group sessions.
- Facility Health Committees (FHCs) are now collaborating with State-Led Accountability Mechanism (SLAM) Knowledge Management Committees and journalists to disseminate success stories across all the LGAs in the state.

### Transition and Sustainability

- The State Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA) has set aside N25,000,000 for the conduct of SSI in the state.
- State Ministry of Health (SMOH) printed National Health Management Information (NHMIS) data tools for all the health facilities across the state.
- The SMOH has made a commitment to continue supporting the conduct of Data Quality Assessments (DQAs).
- State Government spent N3.5 billion on the rehabilitation, upgrading and installation of medical equipment in 7 general hospitals across the state.

*“Pregnancy is not a disease, therefore women should not die because of it. We need to actively engage our stakeholders at the community level to arrest maternal mortality.”*

*Shawai Alhassan  
Katsina State FHC Chairman*

### Priorities for next month

- Hand over emergency transport scheme activities to civil society organisations and leadership of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW).
- Provide support to obstetricians conducting volunteer services to supported health facilities.
- Distribute demand generation training manuals to community volunteers, Emirate Council Committees on Health and identified institutional homes for transition of activities.



TBAs training on use of protective gloves at Kadafawa Community, Kaita LGA.

