



Katsina State is located in northwest Nigeria and 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 skill birth attendants 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 performance review of the State Facility Health Committees Alliance where they shared success stories, achievements, and lessons learnt across the 34 local government areas in the state.
- MNCH2 conducted a quarterly review meeting for Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) across 28 LGAs, which resulted in the selection of some TBAs as Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health focal persons who will work directly with the traditional rulers in their catchment communities.
- The quarterly meeting with Male Support Group facilitators yielded a positive response from the traditional rulers of Daura Emirate Council, with the traditional rulers volunteering to donate blood to pregnant women on request in their catchment communities.

### Lessons

- Traditional birth attendants' participation in awareness campaigns on Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health services has had a positive impact on community members, Young Women and Men's Support Groups leading to increased demand for services and changing the health-seeking behavior of the community.
- This was evidenced by an increased number of women attending ANC in Batagarawa Primary Healthcare Centre (from 38 in December 2017 to 56 in January 2018) due to the efforts of the TBAs.

### Transition and Sustainability

Despite inclusion of organisational capacity assessments and other key MNCH2 activities in the state's Sustainable Health Development Plan, the actual release of funds to facilitate scale-up of these activities remains a big concern.

### Priorities for next month

- Conduct a training of trainers for stakeholders and Civil Society Organisations on how to support demand creation activities for sustainability.
- Collaborate with UNICEF to provide technical support for state and facility-level Maternal Death Review Committees based on the new National Community Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response (MPDSR) Guidelines and reactivate MDR committees at supported secondary healthcare facilities
- Support the State Maternal Death Review Committee to disseminate Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance and Response findings through the bi-annual review meeting of State Community Maternal and Perinatal Death Surveillance committees. .

*“I am calling with a loud voice to all community volunteers, especially the TBAs, to continue utilising the good foundation laid by MNCH2 in creating awareness and sensitising pregnant women on prevention of anaemia in pregnancy.”*

*Alh. Abdulhadi Haruna,  
District Head, Yar Daje,  
Zango LGA*

Trained TBAs during a review meeting at Kofar Fada PHC in Malumfashi LGA

