

COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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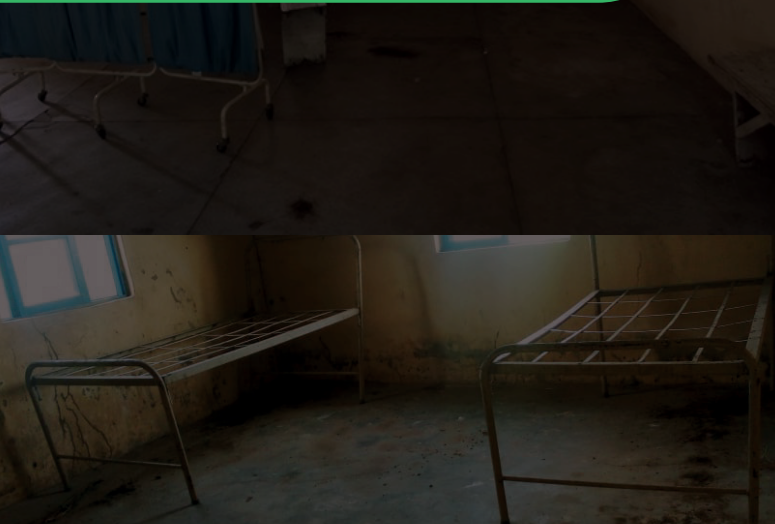
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Karamin Rami Community: Forced to Assess Healthcare from a Small Shop

3rd September, 2022

After years of neglect, the Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Karamin Rami, a rural community in Mashegu Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State, shut down five years ago. It can no longer provide healthcare services to the community members

The PHC is nothing but a dilapidated structure, as there is no roofing, no equipment and no medication. It has nothing but health workers who have nothing to work with. This prompted the community leader to offer them a small shop where they now provide services to the community members.

According to Zainab Mohammed the officer in charge of the facility, the shop given to them is too small for both health workers and patients to sit in. *"It is not even enough for us the health workers. It is just a small room. We follow the community members to their houses to provide them with services. We follow women in labor to conduct delivery at home,"* she said. They sometimes must also follow women and children home to provide immunisation and antenatal services. Mohammed further lamented the frequent stock out of medications, especially essential drugs, and how that is forcing community members to travel to other towns to buy them after getting a prescription.



Hafizu Aliyu, a community member said several complaints and pleas have been lodged to the Mashegu Local Government authorities for the health facility to be rehabilitated but nothing has been done. He added that when women are in labor at night, they must be transported to other towns and this has led to the loss of many lives.

Karamin Rami community members are eager to access healthcare, but the absence of a health facility is a hindrance. No woman should be forced to give birth at home or die due to lack of access to a health facility. Health workers deserve to provide care in comfort and dignity. Children should be able to receive their routine immunisation shots in comfort and with dignity.

What the community wants

1. Complete reconstruction of Karamin Rami PHC
2. Provision of equipment and essential medications to the facility

Tiwugi Clinic: One Health Worker and No Essentials

10th September, 2022

Tiwugi is a remote community in Gbako Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. The community's only health clinic provides antenatal, delivery, immunisation and community outreach services, among others. However, only one health worker does all these - Abdullahi Haruna the officer in charge of the clinic. Haruna said he has tried his best to provide all the health services needed by community members, but one person can't do it all. As a result, he is experiencing extreme burn out.

Haruna revealed that although the building is in good condition, the facility lacks critical equipment, including beds and a delivery couch. "We lay our patients on a mat," he said, pointing to a room with only mats on the floor inside the clinic. He added that the clinic has no source of water, no functional toilet, and is not connected to electricity, which further hinders delivery of 24-hour service. The clinic constantly experiences stock out of essential drugs, forcing him to sometimes prescribe routine medication for pregnant women. This, according to Muhammad Umar, a community member, is not safe as pregnant women or their husband must travel to Gbako town through the extremely bad roads to get the medications.



These many challenges have left Tiwugi Clinic incapacitated and the people of Tiwugi community are unable to access healthcare with ease. Primary healthcare is provided by the local government authority through health centers, etc, they are staffed by nurses, midwives, community health officers, health technicians, community health. Anything less is a human right violation.



What the community wants

1. Completely rehabilitate Toroko Health Clinic
2. Ensure the fencing of the facility
3. Recruit and deploy adequate health workers to the clinic
4. Construct a well-equipped laboratory and dispensary for clinic
5. Provide electricity, a source of clean water and gender equitable toilet facilities

Spotlighting the Many Challenges at Dappo Primary Health Centre

24th September, 2022

The Primary Health Care (PHC) system is designed to meet more than 70 percent of an individual's healthcare needs. What then happens to the individual who can't access primary healthcare? This is the scenario for the people of Dappo, a rural community in Kontagora Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State, who do not have ready access to healthcare as the PHC in the community can't meet the health care needs of the community members.

According to Zakiyya Aliyu, the officer in charge of the PHC, the facility lacks adequate manpower, which affects optimal healthcare delivery. The building is also in a bad state of disrepair and there is neither a labor room nor a laboratory, meaning they cannot conduct tests or take delivery. "Even essential drugs we don't have. We don't receive them and sometimes the clients must go to other towns to buy medications," she said, adding that the facility also has no functional toilet and no source of clean water. As such, health workers and patients depend on the goodwill of neighbours willing to share their toilet facilities.

"Our people want to access care from the health facility but due to its condition they cannot. With your own money you can't have access to good quality healthcare, that's why they prefer to go to health facilities in Kontagora for treatment," Mohammed Audu, a community member lamented.

Dappo community members want to be able to access quality healthcare with ease.



What the community wants

1. A complete rehabilitation of Dappo PHC
2. Government to recruit and deploy more health workers to the facility
3. Government to construct and equip a labor room and laboratory
4. Government to provide essential medications
5. Government to provide a source of clean water and gender equitable toilet facilities.



Nigeria Health Watch is a not-for-profit health communication and advocacy organisation that seeks to advocate for better health for Nigerians. We have worked to actively engage and support the government in raising awareness and increasing knowledge on a wide range of health issues in Nigeria. We aim to hold duty bearers accountable for delivering affordable and quality healthcare to Nigerians. The unique capacity of Nigeria Health Watch lies in the combination of its communication and health expertise, which enables the organisation to provide solutions for evidence-based communications and advocacy in the health sector.

