



Strengthening Katsina State Medical Store

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The purpose of this consultancy was to strengthen the Katsina State Medical Store with a view to transforming it into an efficient Drug Management Agency as proposed by the State Ministry of Health and Health Services Management Board.

The consultancy commenced in June 2010, but had to move at a very slow pace because of mixed messages from the stakeholders and some level of resistance to the design of the sustainable drug supply and financial management systems initially agreed. During this period, the proposals to strengthen the State Medical Store were discussed at individual consultation level, all of which were accepted in principle. However, a formal presentation of the proposals to a wider stakeholders audience held in a workshop in December 2010. The outcome of these has been included in this report.

As a basis for these proposals, the consultants reviewed existing literature of similar organisation within the country and especially those with free health care programmes in contiguous states. Similarly, the proposed Drug Management Agency draft law was also reviewed. Finally, after taking into consideration inputs from stakeholders during consultation process, possible areas of intervention are presented as proposals in the main report.

The proposals foresees a drug management agency (albeit, gradual transformation from the State Medical Store [SMS]) that is a parastatal of the Ministry Health, that is self accounting with some level of autonomy and a clear organisational structure and accountable mechanisms. The structure envisaged includes:

- Drug Procurement and Distribution
- Accounting and Finance
- Internal Audit
- Drug Manufacturing Unit
- Human Resources
- Administration

Overall, the mission made five key recommendations as a way of going forward which are:

- Establish a Transition Committee, to oversee the implementation of activities
- Establish a Framework for Funding Mechanism
- Establish Funding Requirement for Infrastructural Upgrade and additional capitalisation
- Develop Operational Guidelines
- Work towards Accelerated Exco Approval of the Management Arrangement.

At the 1-day mini-workshop, stakeholders accepted the proposals for a transformed State Medical Store and the resulting recommendations, for going forward that were presented. The stakeholders represented key institutions in the health sector including: the Ministry of Health (SMoH), Health Services Management Board (HSMB), Ministry of Local Government & Chieftaincy Affairs (MoLG&CA), Local Government Service Commission (LGSC), State Primary Health Care Development Agency (PHCDA) and the Local Government Councils (LGC).

All recommendations were accepted except that they needed more time to discuss before deciding on the final organisation structure. Two key outcomes from this is that the stakeholders established a Transition Committee that will work and oversee the entire transformation process of the State Medical Store and a timeline of implementation of activities.

The provision of technical assistance to the transition committee is essential so that the proposed activities are implemented in a technically sound manner and in time to meet the political and socio-economic priorities of the health sector. Such priorities include the State's free MNCH policy and the community based service delivery schemes which aimed at improving access to health services for the rural poor and other marginalised groups in Katsina State.

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