

COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



August 2022

WHAT'S INSIDE

***Jigawa Health Post:
Accessing Healthcare
with Dignity***

-page 2

***Human Resource, a Critical
Need for Dawakiji
Health Clinic***

-page 3

***Code Red: Katakpa
Community Health Facility
Needs a Reset***

-page 4

***Madangen Clinic:
A Perfect Picture of
Health Inequity***

-page 5



Jigawa Health Post: Accessing Healthcare with Dignity

6th August, 2022

Jigawa, a rural community in the Warawa Local Government Area (LGA) of Kano State has a health post that provides healthcare services to residents. Health posts are designed to bring quality healthcare closer to rural community members. However, the health post in this community is not operating as it should as residents must sit on the floor when they access care at the facility. According to Sulaiman Isyaku, the focal person of the health post, this affects both clients and staff. Even pregnant women are not spared the indignity as they must sit on the floor during their antenatal visits.

He pointed out other factors hindering service delivery at the facility: most of the windows are broken which violates the privacy of clients especially women on antenatal visits, the roof is also in a bad state of disrepair which exposes staff and clients to rainfall. There is no source of water supply as the borehole has been broken down for a long time. According to Samira Abubakar, the officer in charge of antenatal services, the facility needs a perimeter fence to ensure the safety of both staff and clients.

A community member, Habiba Muhammad, said while women like her who are not pregnant can make do with sitting on the floor, it poses a difficulty for pregnant women. *“It is appalling to see them sitting like that. Sometimes they remove their shoes and sit on them,”* she said.

Everyone must be able to access healthcare in dignity. A place to sit comfortably while waiting to be attended to or while being attended to is a requirement for quality delivery of healthcare services, more so for pregnant women.



What the community wants

1. Provision of comfortable seats and benches for staff and clients at the health facility
2. Fencing the health facility to ensure safety of clients and health workers
3. Fixing of the borehole at the health facility
4. Fixing of the broken windows and roof at the health facility

Human Resource, a Critical Need for Dawakiji Health Clinic

13th August, 2022

Dawakiji Basic Health Clinic in Dawakiji community of Dawakin Kudu Local Government Area (LGA) of Kano State provides healthcare services to the residents of Dawakiji and neighbouring communities. According to Idris Bashir Kode, the officer in charge of the clinic, the community members, especially women, patronise the health facility for antenatal care (ANC).

The building that houses the clinic is in good condition, but the clinic lacks critical human resource. Kode says the facility needs additional health workers in every unit. They also need a labour room. *“We do not have a resting room or enough beds for the pregnant women to use after they deliver. We use a ward as a labor room, and there is no equipment which makes delivery difficult to conduct”.*

Safiyya Ibrahim says she is the only staff working in the maternity unit of the clinic, which puts pressure on her and makes it difficult to provide quality care to community members. *“I conduct ANC, provide family planning, and take delivery. On ANC days especially, it is difficult”*, she adds. Ibrahim admits that but not for the



help of volunteers from the community - who studied a health science course - who sometimes come to the facility to assist her, she would not have been able to provide the services. According to Ibrahim, the facility used to have enough staff, but they were transferred to other facilities without replacement.

It is important for Dawakiji Basic Health Clinic and others like it to have an adequate, well trained and remunerated health workforce. It is dangerous to both patients and staff to have one health worker in the maternity unit as she will be overwhelmed, which might lead to avoidable mistakes and burnout.



What the community wants

1. Engage more health workers, including midwives for the health facility.
2. Build a labor room in the health facility.
3. Provide adequate equipment for the health facility.

Code Red: Katakpa Community Health Facility Needs a Reset

20th August, 2022

Katakpa is a rural farming community in Lapai Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. Due to years of neglect, the only health facility in the community is now barely functional.

Mohammed Shuaibu, a community member said, *“there are no health workers here. They left because according to them they were not being paid salaries. We used to contribute money to pay them something but now we cannot. The facility is also completely dilapidated due to lack of maintenance.”*

He added that community members now travel long distances to other towns and villages to access healthcare, which is a burden on them. *“We have lost many lives in the process,”* he said.

Abdullahi Mohammed, another community member, said staff shortage is just one of the many challenges in the health facility as the building, furniture and equipment are either broken or in a bad state of disrepair. The compound is also overrun with grass and weeds. Mohammed added that poor working conditions, the absence of a staff quarters and lack of basic amenities like portable water contributed to the health workers abandoning the facility.



Katakpa community members can no longer sit and watch their fellow community members die due to lack of access to quality and affordable healthcare. They are therefore crying out to Lapai local government officials and the Niger State government.



What the community wants

1. Complete renovation of Katakpa health facility
2. Provide the necessary equipment for the health facility
3. Build staff quarters for the health workers posted to the facility
4. Recruit and deploy health workers to the facility, and pay their entitlements
5. Provide portable water for the health facility and the community

Madangen Clinic: A Perfect Picture of Health Inequity

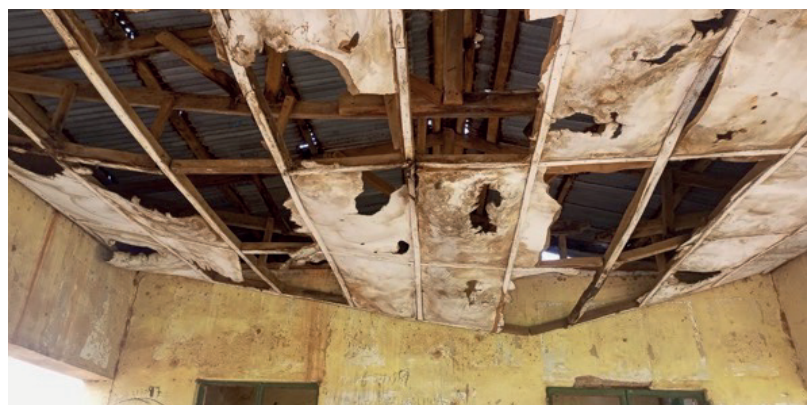
27th August, 2022

Madangen is a mainly agrarian community under Tungan Wawa ward in Kontagora Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. The community members are unable to readily access quality health care as the only health clinic is in a bad state of disrepair and has been so for over five years, said Yunusa Imam, a health worker. Community members have repeatedly complained about the condition of the clinic to the Kontagora LGA, but nothing has been done about it.

According to Imam, the challenges at the clinic were so overwhelming, him and his colleagues had to abandon it. *"It is inhabitable. Everything is broken. After our complaints were ignored, we sought permission from the director of health of the LGA to move to the staff quarters, which are also in a bad shape, to be able to provide services,"* he said.

Although they have moved location, the challenges remain, as the facility still has neither essential drugs nor equipment. *"We don't have delivery equipment. We don't even have a labor room talk less of the equipment. Our patients must buy drugs from nearby towns because we are always having stockout,"* Imam added.

Madangen community members are facing the harsh reality of health inequity. They sometimes must travel 30 to 40 kilometers to access healthcare. A pregnant woman in labour is at risk of complications or even death, so also a child suffering from malaria or any other childhood disease.



What the community wants

1. Complete reconstruction of Madangen Clinic
2. Equip the clinic with all necessary equipment
3. Rebuild the clinic staff quarters
4. Keep the clinic stocked with essential drugs



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.

