



# GATES MOTHERHOOD SUPPORT PROJECT

THIRD EDITION

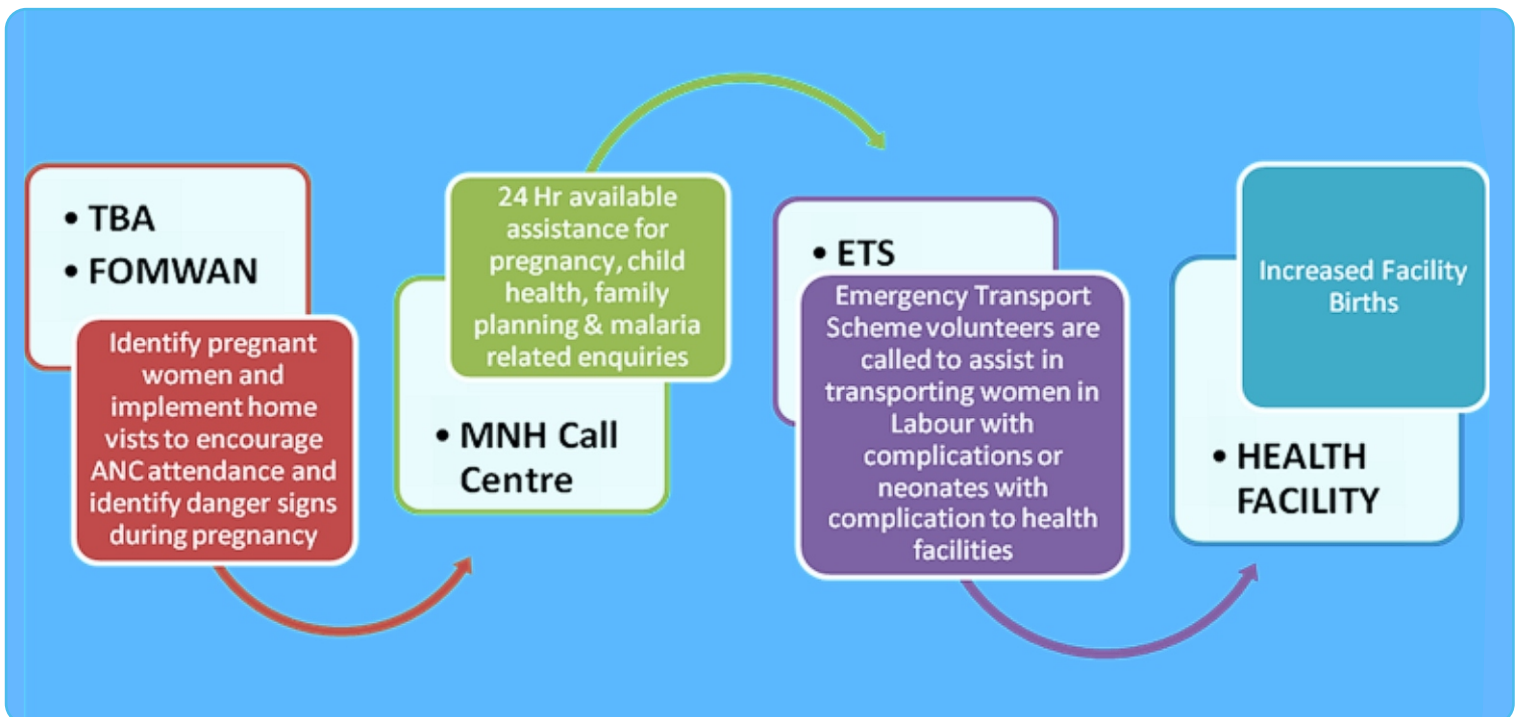


## Newsletter of the Gates Maternal & Neonatal Health Care Project in Gombe State



One year of implementation! The Gates Maternal and Neonatal Health Care Project in Gombe has a lot to share on the trials and triumphs of targeting the proximate causes of Maternal and Neonatal mortality in Northeast Nigeria.

Our focus in this edition of the newsletter is success stories from the flat plains of Kwami to the hills of Kaltungo Local Government Areas! Also enclosed are findings from our routine monitoring and evaluation system to show the progress and trends of the project's intervention.



### INSIDE THIS EDITION

**01** Components of the MNHC intervention

**02** Findings from the continuous survey

**03** 2013 performance indicators

**04** More stories from the field

### Key Components of the Maternal and Neonatal Health Care project:

The flow chart (fig.1) shows the components of the MNHC project.

Each element plays a key role in ensuring women and families in Gombe State are empowered with the right information during pregnancy and delivery and are aware of the MNH Call Centre and the linkages it provides during emergencies. The components also promote the availability of essential commodities in health

facilities in the State. Training on Essential Newborn Care, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) & Management of Third Stage Labour is provided at the facilities. Extending a welcoming attitude to patients to encourage facility attendance is also emphasised during these sessions.

The project also supplies resuscitation kits and Misoprostol to selected facilities.

### The Continuous Survey:

The continuous survey is an innovation used for routine tracking, refinement, improvement and decision making for the MNHC intervention. At a glance it can reveal to programme implementers what is working and what needs to be reviewed. The findings of a continuous survey serve as pointers; directing and guiding the decisions of a project manager.

The Gates MNHC project is one of the few projects implementing continuous surveys as it is an innovative means of monitoring progress on project indicators. The survey is being conducted in 10 Local Government Areas of Gombe State with the exception of Gombe metropolis.

The participating LGAs are: Akko, Balanga, Billiri, Dukku, Funakaye, Kaltungo, Kwami, Nafada, Shongom and Yalmatu Deba.



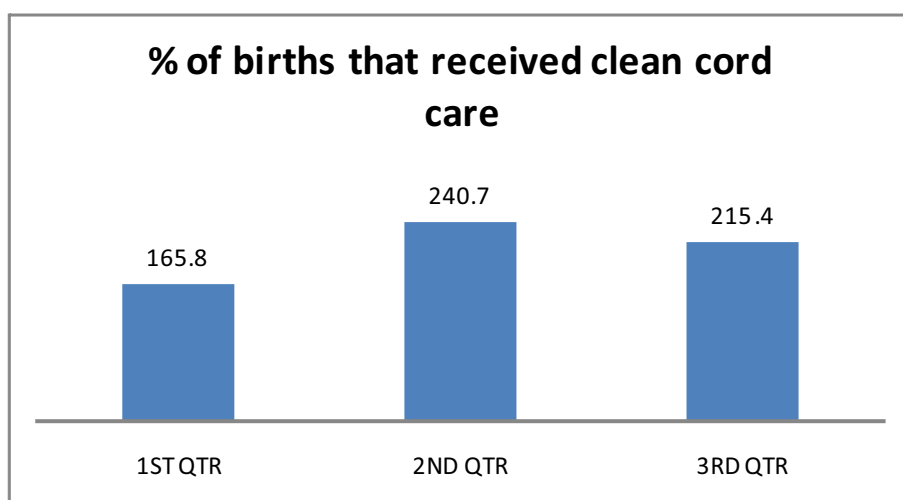
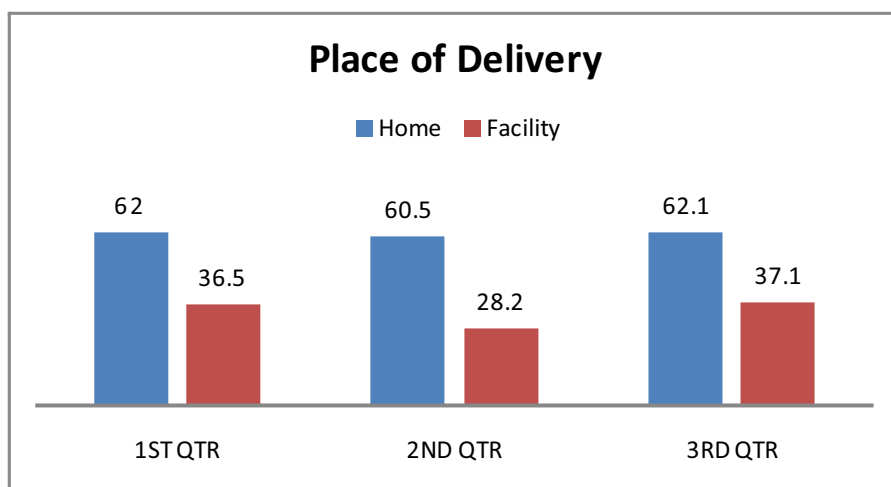
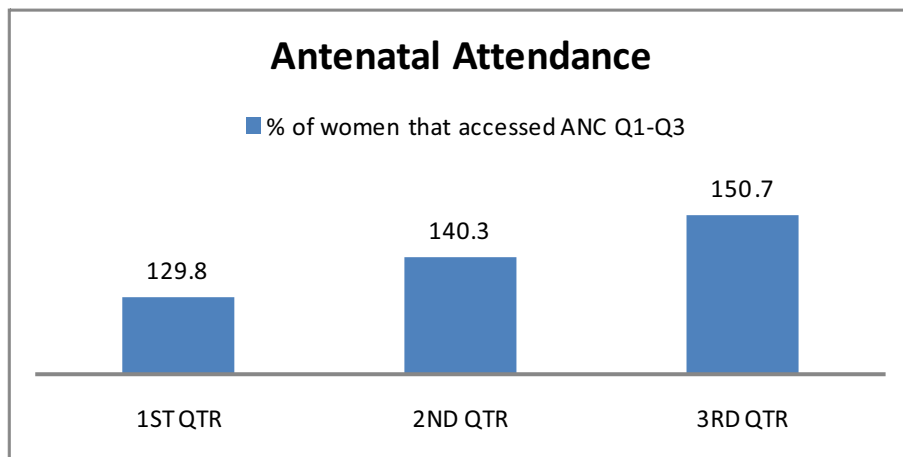
### The Abdus learn about ANC:

The Fulanis' in their constant search for pasture for their livestock are very mobile. While making her rounds one fateful day, Cecilia Nafaty; the TBA in charge of one of the cluster of communities in Shongom LGA, came across a homestead.

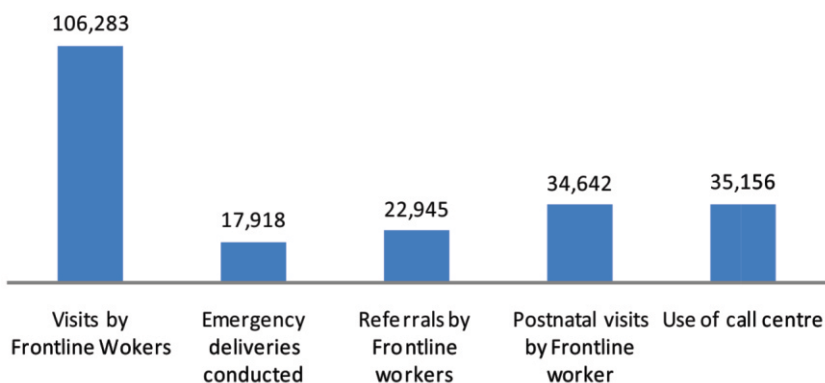
Mal. Abdu and his pregnant wife Amina were very receptive to Cecilia especially when she started talking to them about pregnancy care and the importance of ANC attendance. Pregnant with their 2nd child, Amina was keen to learn how to identify danger signs in pregnancy, the importance of sleeping under a mosquito net and taking her iron supplements.

On a follow up visit, Cecilia was pleased to learn that Amina had attended her first ANC session at Kushi Maternity and now sleeps under a mosquito net as advised by the TBA. Her husband Abdu agreed that Amina is stronger, looks more radiant and appears to be in better health compared to her first pregnancy, having put into practice some of the advice received from the TBA.

Amina desires to deliver at the health facility but her mother in-law is not in support of her wish. Her husband has promised to try and persuade his mother but if she refuses; he has promised to contact Cecilia who has been trained by the MNH project, to conduct skilled birth at home; to take delivery of their child. Amina is glad that the MNHC project reached her.



## Performance Indicators



### Call Centre Responses:

The MNHC in Gombe has received calls from families that accessed advice during emergencies. A few of such listed below.

**Mal. Ibrahim Abubakar** from Gombe called to appreciate the centre for the advice given to him when his wife experienced headaches and dizziness during her pregnancy. She was referred to a facility for medical attention and is now doing well.

**Mal. Bukar Wanzam** from Yobe State called to appreciate the call centre for advising him to allow his wife deliver at a health facility. His wife and baby returned home after the delivery of a healthy and happy baby at the facility.

**Musa Idris** from Yobe State also called to appreciate the centre for advising him to promptly take his pregnant wife who complained of bleeding to the nearest health facility. She was attended to and Musa was told that his quick response to the situation saved the pregnancy and his wife's life.

### The joy of Exclusive Breast Feeding!-



In Kauri community a Fulani settlement in Shongom LGA, Maimuna Dadi used to think exclusive breast feeding was impossible until she received a visit from TBA Cecilia. She was pregnant with her 2nd child then and Cecilia encouraged her to attend ANC. During the ANC sessions, Maimuna was given information about the benefits of exclusive breast feeding. TBA Cecilia had already shared this with her and she decided to try it. Her son Hassan was delivered safely and she decided to practice exclusive breast feeding.

When this picture was taken, Hassan had been exclusively breast fed for 5 months!

Maimuna enthuses "Exclusive breast feeding had saved me a lot of worry especially regarding what to feed Hassan".

She added that Hassan is very strong and healthy and has not experienced any of the illnesses his older brother had. Maimuna has also not missed any immunisation session for her baby.

### Saved by a uniform!

13th of November 2013, while the project quality assessment team were making their routine visits, they sighted a woman in the project's TBA uniform with a very pregnant woman under a tree by the road side waiting for emergency transport to get to Kaltungo General Hospital, 10 minutes away from their current location, a community called Ture Oakwaldi of Kaltungo Local government. This community is one of the clusters under the care of Zara Haruna, a TBA who was trained by the project. The TBA in uniform was identified as Zara. Zara has been part of the MNHC project since the learning grant in 2009.

She had identified Maryam, a 17 year old resident of Ture Oakwaldi at the onset of her pregnancy and kept a close eye on her progress especially when she found out that



this was Maryam's first child. Zara was escorting Maryam to the hospital for skilled birth delivery as taught by the project. The team immediately set about getting Maryam who was already having contractions and Zara to the hospital. On arrival, Maryam was immediately rushed to the labour room by the welcoming nursing team and a few minutes later, she delivered a beautiful baby girl!

After the excitement of the incident, and congratulations on the birth of the baby, the team paid a follow up visit to Zara and Maryam to see how mother and child were doing. Maryam informed us that Zara has visited almost every day since their arrival at home. The baby's cord stump is cleaned with methylated spirit just as the TBAs were taught. Maryam and her family are very happy with the role Zara played in ensuring that she had a safe facility delivery.



## CALL CENTRE NUMBERS; DON TALLAFIN LAFIYAR IYALANKU A'KIRA WADANNAN LAMBOBI



### MTN

0803 123 0206  
0803 123 0221  
0803 123 0167

### AIRTEL

0708 060 1009  
0708 060 1010  
0708 060 1011

### ETISALAT

0809 993 6304  
0809 993 6305

**CALL TOLL FREE  
KIRA KAYAUTA NE A'KO YAUSHE**

### Improving Neonatal survival through Kangaroo Mother Care

There are no incubators in most health facilities in the rural parts of Gombe State; where available, the numbers are insufficient. One of the objectives of the MNHC project is to support public sector health facilities in the delivery of selected

Health Facility staff immediately recognised the importance of this innovation to the survival of a neonate, the added benefit of bonding between mother and child that it promotes and how easy it is to breast feed in this position.



Hafsat and Zainab were both born low birth weight babies in Dukkul Maternity, in Kwami LGA. Their mothers were immediately schooled in the art of Kangaroo Mother Care by the facility staff that attended to their births.

Hafsat and Zainab thankfully responded to the innovation and have gained back their normal baby weight as photographed when our team reached their mothers to hear their stories.

This was what they had to say:

technical interventions, one of which is the Kangaroo Mother Care.



"Whenever I place Hafsat in the KMC position, she would always look up at me and smile." (Hafsat's mum)

When I gave birth to Zainab I was very discouraged, she looked so weak and didn't weigh much, but the Facility Staff "Malama" counselled me and told me about KMC, she assured me that if I adhered to it I would be pleasantly surprised. She linked me with a TBA close to me to ensure I did exactly as I was taught. Needless to say it worked! Zainab is a complete picture of health now and I couldn't be happier" (Zainab's mum)

### A Valuable Ally!



During the routine monitoring and supervisory visit of volunteers in Dukku LGA, the team met **Yakubu Abdullahi** the husband of

**Aishatu Adamu**; one of the FOMWAN Volunteers working with the Gates MNHC project. Since the selection and training of his wife as a volunteer who sensitizes women on the importance of ANC attendance and facility delivery, Yakubu has displayed keen interest in the mission of the

project. He shared how his wife explained the messages contained in her flipchart and the use of the ETS and Call Centre which are components of the intervention. She also told him that the project relies on the support of husbands to help their wives make appropriate healthy choices.

Thus began Yakubu's crusade every evening at the **Majalisa**, a gathering of male peers that starts at about 4 p.m and ends around 8 p.m. During this time, Yakubu would tell his peer group members about what should make up a pregnant woman's diet, what

danger signs to look out for when a wife is expecting and the importance of allowing your wife attend ANC so that any health problem can be identified and taken care of quickly. Yakubu said that since his wife started volunteering, she is treated with respect and honour in their community and this makes him very proud.

He added that he and his family are glad to be part of this programme that is improving the lot of women and babies in his community and in Gombe State.

Send your views and comments to

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