

COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**NIGERIA
HEALTH
WATCH**

Informed commentary, intelligence and insights on the Nigerian health sector



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Nuwankosoma PHC: Nothing but an empty shell

1st February, 2022

Nuwankosoma Primary Health Center (PHC) in Gbako Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State was built 20 years ago and there is no evidence that it has undergone any tangible renovation in that period.



The PHC was built in the early 2000s to meet the health care needs of the people of Nuwankosoma community who used to visit traditional healers for all their health needs.

As a result of wear and tear from years of neglect, the PHC no longer functions as well as it used to and the community members who are mainly farmers, having no other healthcare alternatives, are gradually resorting to their previous practice of visiting traditional healers.

Abubakar Tanko, who oversees the health centre said the PHC has no beds. "Patients are admitted on mats. There is no delivery couch, no essential drugs for pregnant women or even basic drugs for malaria and diarrhea. We sometimes use our money to purchase drugs". Tanko added that the facility also lacks water, and they rely on a nearby river to get water to use in the PHC.

Hauwa Abdullah, a resident of Nuwonkosoma, confirmed Tanko's observations and added that



women are reluctant to access antenatal services at the PHC because there are no drugs for them, and no relevant equipment. "Even during deliveries, women are normally referred to other health facilities inside town because this one does not have a bed, no drugs and no equipment."

Nuwankosoma community members recognise that to effectively meet their health needs, a PHC must have a standard structure, essential drugs, adequate and gender equitable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and qualified and adequate health workers.



What the community wants

1. Completely rehabilitate Nuwankosoma PHC with improved, standard infrastructure
2. Provide essential and basic medications for health facility
3. Ensure the availability of adequate and gender equitable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in the PHC
4. Provide beds and a delivery couch, in addition to basic diagnostic equipment, in the PHC.

Gada Yan Biyu PHC: Where Healthcare is Not Accessible

22nd February, 2022



Healthcare must be accessible, and like every Primary Health Centre, Gada Yan Biyu PHC was built to ensure that the community members of Gada Yan Biyu in Shiroro Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State, have access to quality healthcare. But the PHC is not able to meet the community's healthcare needs as, according to Talatu Gomna, the officer in charge of the facility, there is insufficient supply of essential drugs and clinical equipment like delivery kits and vital signs assessment equipment are unavailable. "People in the community do not have access to adequate quality health services due to the unavailability of these basic but essential drugs. A woman in labor will have to buy drugs and other basic items, this discourages community members from visiting the health facility. They, especially pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, prefer to go to the clinics in town to access health care, Gomna said, adding that the facility does not have electricity, which limits 24-hour service delivery.

Bose Balogun, a community member, said that people in the community,

especially women, don't visit the PHC because there are "no delivery kits and no adequate drugs, so they prefer to visit other health facilities which are usually far from the community just to access health services".

Primary healthcare should meet 80–90% of a person's health needs so when a PHC performs well, it meets most of the people's health needs. However, a PHC cannot perform well if it lacks the basic drugs, equipment, infrastructure and personnel required to enable it perform optimally.

The residents of Gada Yan Biyu do not deserve to live in a community where their health needs are not provided for. Therefore, the government Shiroro LGA and Niger state must do their utmost to address the issues raised in this PHC to ensure that community members can access healthcare where and when they need it.



What the community wants

1. Provision of basic essential drugs and equipment in Gada Yan biyu PHC
2. Provision of electricity at Gada Yan Biyu PHC
3. Rehabilitation of the PHC to improve infrastructure.



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.

