

COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



June 2022

WHAT'S INSIDE

Tungan Habu Primary Health Centre: A Human Right Violation

— page 2

Somajigi PHC: Seeking a Resolution to its Multiples Challenges

— page 3

Warawa Primary Health Center: This is What Happens When Government Steps Up

— page 4



Tungan Habu Primary Health Centre: A Human Right Violation

2nd June, 2022

Tungan Habu is a rural community in Madara ward of Kontagora Local Government Area of Niger State. The community has a Primary Health Centre (PHC) that serves more than 10 other communities, however health workers at the PHC are grappling with so many facility-related challenges that its hampering their ability to effectively do their job.

According to Maimuna Audi, the officer in charge of the facility, the PHC has never had a functional labor room, making delivery impossible. "We follow women who live close by to their houses to take delivery. Those that are live far away either deliver without help or are taken to Kontagora," she said. Audi added that Tungan Habu PHC has never had a source of water supply, the toilets are broken down, there is no source of power supply and the building which houses the PHC is dilapidated. For Audi, the worst challenge is the constant stock out of essential medications which the Kontagora LGA allow to go on for longer than is necessary.

Musa Muhammadu, community leader of Tunga Habu narrated that the health facility is not able to cater for the healthcare needs of his and other communities. According to him, women don't bother to access antenatal services at the facility since they are often met with the stock out of routine medications. He however appreciated the health workers for trying their best to provide care, especially by following pregnant women to their houses to take delivery.

A PHC must be able to provide quality maternal services. A situation where a PHC cannot provide the services it was created for is an alarming one as it denies the people in that community access to a service that is their fundamental right.



What the community wants

1. A total rehabilitation of the health facility
2. Build and equip a labor room in the PHC
3. Ensure constant provision of essential drugs to the PHC
4. Provide water and electricity to the PHC
5. Renovate all the toilets in the PHC

Somajigi PHC: Seeking a Resolution to its Multiples Challenges

10th June, 2022

Somajigi is a rural community in Gbako Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. A Primary Health Centre (PHC) was established to meet the health care needs of the residents of Somajigi and surrounding communities, but it lacks the necessary infrastructure to enable it function smoothly.

Mohammed Chado, the officer in-charge of the PHC said the facility has no functional equipment, and the staff strength is grossly inadequate. *“I am the only staff here. I provide all the services alone. Whenever I am absent, the facility closes,”* he said, adding that he performs other duties such as cleaning the health facility as there are no cleaners available. He bemoaned the fact that there are not enough beds in the facility. *“When the beds we are managing are occupied patients lie on the ground,”* he said.

There appears to be no end to the issues in Somajigi PHC as Chado also revealed that there are no toilets and no source of water supply. Patients or their relatives fetch water from rivers where cows and other domestic animals also drink from, and wells. Worse still, they are left to figure out what to do about bowel movements.



In addition to the above-mentioned challenges, the facility also grapples with frequent and prolonged medicine stock outs. According to Chado, requests to Gbako Local Government Area health secretariat for replenishment are not attended to in a timely manner. As a result, Somajigi community members are forced to travel to Lemu or Bida towns to access quality healthcare.

The poor state of Somajigi PHC is taking a toll on the community members, as according to Aisah Alhaji, when they go into labour, women are taken to Lemu or Bida towns to give birth. *“When you come in the evening or at night there is no one here. There is only one worker and once he closes, the health facility closes,”* she said.

It's not right that a place that should be providing quality healthcare is left in such a condition. For Somajigi PHC to function optimally, Chado, Alhaji and other community members are asking for the deliverables below.

What the community wants

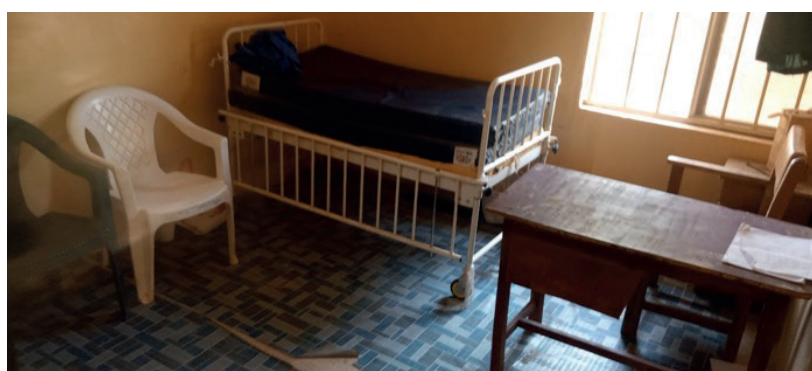
1. Recruitment and deployment of more health workers to the facility.
2. Provision of functional equipment in the facility.
3. Constant replenishment and provision of drugs and consumables for the facility.
4. Construction of adequate and gender friendly toilet and water facilities for the facility.

Warawa Primary Health Center: This is What Happens When Government Steps Up

23rd June, 2022

Warawa PHC in Warawa Local Government Area of Kano State exists to cater for the health needs of the residents of Warawa community and its environs. A few years ago, the entire PHC was renovated, courtesy of the Kano State Contributory Health Care Management Agency (KASCHMA) as a result, services are being dispensed with ease. "The improvement of the PHC came about as a result of the introduction of the KASCHMA of which Warawa PHC is a beneficiary," said Usman Muhammad, the officer in charge of the facility.

KASCHMA was established in 2016 by an act of the Kano State parliament with the aim of ensuring all residents of the state have access to quality and affordable healthcare services. According to Muhammad, through the monthly capitation of about two hundred thousand naira (N200,000) which the PHC receives from the Agency, they have been able to, not just provide health services to patients at a subsidised cost, but also procure the necessary medical equipment for the PHC and maintain it. "With the money, we built a borehole, connected the facility with electricity, repaired our delivery bed and bought lots of other equipment," he added.



While he praises the development, Muhammed lamented that the facility still lacks adequate manpower. "We need manpower in all ramifications of health services; midwives, community health extension workers, pharmacy technician", he said, adding that one of the two labor rooms in the PHC is also not functioning because it is not completed. This requires urgent attention as the facility receives numerous deliveries that one labor room is sometimes not enough.

Warawa PHC appears to be putting the funds received from KASCHMA to good use, but the facility could do even better if some of the resources are also used to improve the workforce, even on temporary basis.

We commend the efforts of KASCHMA and the Kano State government and hope that they will be emulated by other states.



What the community wants

1. Recruiting and deploying more skilled health workers to the PHC.
2. Completing the construction of the second labor room and equipping it with the necessary equipment.



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.

