

COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



MAY 2022

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We have a health facility, but no health workers: Ashuwa community cries out!

6th May, 2022

In 2012, a Primary Health Centre (PHC) was built for the people of Ashuwa community, a rural community in Magama Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. This was a welcome development as, for the first time ever, they were able to access their healthcare needs with ease. Before the PHC was built, community members travelled to Yangalu and Ibeto, nearby communities and even the town of Kontagora, for their healthcare needs.

A decade after, Ashuwa community members can no longer access healthcare from their PHC and this time, it is simply because there is no health worker available. According to Usman Galadima, the Ashuwa Community Leader, "We have never had a permanent health worker in the health facility since it was built. When they post any health worker, he or she comes for a few days and stops coming. We still must travel to other communities for healthcare. Women cannot have antenatal care, and women giving birth cannot do so in the health facility. The facility has been locked". Galadima added that because the health facility has not been in use, the infrastructure is worn down. "The building is now dilapidated, and there is no equipment," he said.

Human resource for health is one of the most critical needs of any health facility. Qualified and motivated human resource for health is essential for robust health care delivery. Without them, health facilities are nothing but mere buildings. Ashuwa community members deserve access to quality comprehensive healthcare, Magama LGA authorities and the Niger State government must, as a matter of urgency,



What the community wants

- 1. Recruit and deploy adequate and trained health workers to Ashuwa PHC.**
- 2. Rehabilitate the worn-out sections of the PHC.**
- 3. Provide necessary equipment and provide security for the PHC.**

Toroko Health Clinic needs infrastructure, health workers

21st May, 2022

Toroko is an agrarian community in Gbako Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. A small health clinic is in the heart of the community, but it can't meet the healthcare needs of the community members due to challenges with human resource for health and poor infrastructure.

Mohammed Bisanti, the officer in-charge of the facility, lamented that he is the only health worker at the facility, and is often overwhelmed by the volume of patients. On infrastructure, Bisanti noted that besides the need to install a perimeter fence to enhance security, the facility's roof needs to be replaced as it leaks profusely whenever it rains. He added that the facility also needs a fully equipped laboratory, a well-stocked dispensary and technicians. In the absence of a laboratory and dispensary, patients are sent to health facilities in nearby Lemu town, the headquarters of Gbako LGA to get tests done and buy medication.

Furthermore, the health facility has no electricity, no source of water and no toilets.



Hadiza Ibrahim, a community member said, although the Toroko Health Clinic has helped the community, community members face challenges accessing care from it. *“When we come to the clinic and want to ease ourselves, we go to the nearby bush and the smell ends up coming back to the clinic”*, she said.



What the community wants

1. Completely rehabilitate Toroko Health Clinic
2. Ensure the fencing of the facility
3. Recruit and deploy adequate health workers to the clinic
4. Construct a well-equipped laboratory and dispensary for clinic
5. Provide electricity, a source of clean water and gender equitable toilet facilities



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.

