

COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**NIGERIA
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Informed commentary, intelligence and insights on the Nigerian health sector



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Mantafien Community in Niger State: Benefitting from 24-hour Healthcare Services

1st November, 2021

Mantafien is a fishing community in Gbako Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State and is surrounded by many other communities that lack access to quality healthcare services, due to the non-functional primary healthcare centers



(PHCs). However, the story is different in Mantafien, as people enjoy 24-hour healthcare services due to the existence of a standard PHC that was built in 2019, under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) program in Niger State.

“The health workers are available at any time of the day” said Usman Muhammad, a community member. He added that the PHC has 24-hour water and power supply as a result of the solar power system in the health facility.

Hadiza Dikko is attending an antenatal session in the PHC. She said that since she became pregnant, she has been receiving antenatal care, including checkups, counseling, and receiving routine medication from the facility. “The health workers are always cheerful and friendly”, she concluded.

Abubakar Muhammad is the in-charge of the PHC. He commended Gbako LGA for consistently supplying routine drugs to the PHC. He however lamented the lack of equipment such as blood pressure monitors and delivery couch, which limits the services they provide. He has requested for more health workers in the PHC, as according to him, they are



only able to provide services for 24-hours a day as a result of help from voluntary staff working at the PHC. In addition, the PHC does not have a laboratory and the toilet is not connected to the water tank in the PHC and as such health workers must use buckets to fetch water from the tank into the toilets. Muhammad said the PHC is also not fenced, making it susceptible to reptiles.

The Niger State SDGs program must be commended for building a PHC that is providing healthcare services to the people of Mantafien. However, for the PHC to be fully functional and provide optimal healthcare, it should be provided with all the necessary equipment by the Gbako LGA and Niger State government. In addition to employing the health workers that have been working as volunteers, the PHC should be fenced to protect both health workers and community members, as well as prevent encroachment of the land.



What the community wants

1. Employ health workers that have been working as volunteers in the facility to augment the number of health workers in the facility.
2. In line with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency' (NPHCDA) Minimum Standards for PHCs in Nigeria, the Gbako local government should ensure that the PHC is fenced to secure the health workers and patients and prevent unsolicited encroachment.
3. Provide basic equipment for the PHC to enable basic diagnostics to be carried out in the facility.
4. Ensure adequate and gender equitable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in the PHC to limit the risk of infectious disease.

Our Only Source of Water Is a Small River. Agwa Community Cries Out

8th November, 2021



Agwa community members walk for 2km from their community down to a river that serves as the source of water supply to them

Agwa is a rural community in Wushishi Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. Most of the people in Agwa are farmers and fishermen. This community is facing numerous challenges such as poor access roads, however most pressing is the lack of safe and clean water supply, according to the community leader, Ibrahim Bello. He stated that the community members walk for 2km from their community down to a river that serves as the source of water supply to them. The only borehole the community has access to is broken. Three other communities also depend on this river for their water source. The worrying issue according to Bello, is that the same river they are drinking from, is the river they wash their clothes in, bathe in and their animals drink from the same water source. He added that once the river dries up, they have no other source of water supply now. Bello said a few months ago, the community was hit by a cholera outbreak, but fortunately no life was lost.

Lack of clean, safe, and quality water for drinking and other uses is a major cause of several infectious diseases including cholera and typhoid. The community wants decision makers in Wushishi LGA and the Niger State Government to take up their responsibility and fix the only borehole in Agwa community. In addition, to reduce pressure on the current borehole, there is a need to construct new boreholes to supply water to the close to 5,000 people in the community.



The same river in Agwa community is used for drinking from, washing clothes, bathing and animals drink from the same water source



The only borehole in Agwa community is broken, and people must depend on the river for water



The only borehole in Agwa community is broken, and people must depend on the river for water

What the community wants

1. Provide sources of adequate and portable water for drinking and other uses, starting with fixing the only borehole in Agwa community, to mitigate outbreak of infectious diseases in the community.
2. Provide accessible motorable roads for the community to facilitate safe and easy movement of people to and from the community.

Lupma PHC Has No Toilet, No Water and Has Only Two Workers

16th November, 2021

Lupma is a rural community in Paikoro Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. The access road to the community is motorable, however their only Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) is not only dilapidated but has only two health workers. According to Fati Bawa who brought her child for immunization,



the biggest challenge in the PHC is that “Only one woman is taking care of immunization, delivery, family planning and antenatal care in this facility”; she said. She added that anytime there are high numbers of women and children in the PHC, they end up waiting over six hours to be attended to. Additionally, Bawa complained that due to the nonavailability of water, the relatives of patients walk close to one kilometer to get water when women are giving birth.

Yusuf Ibrahim is the in-charge at the PHC, and he corroborated that in addition to a shortage of staff, which causes them to be overworked, the facility lacks a single toilet. “We go home to ease ourselves and come back. It is stressful”, He said, adding that for patients, they must wait till they get home or make use of the bush or nearby houses.

To render services to the people, PHCs must be in good condition. That includes adequate human resources for health



and adequate, gender friendly Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities. Paikoro LGA and the Niger State government should take up their responsibility and ensure Lupma PHC and all other health facilities under their purview have the necessary and adequate resources and facilities to provide healthcare to the local community.



What the community wants

1. Rehabilitate Lupma PHC and ensure it has all basic infrastructure to perform optimally.
2. In line with the Technical Guideline for WASH in PHCs in Nigeria, provide adequate, quality and gender equitable WASH facilities in the PHC to limit outbreak of diseases.
3. Employ and deploy an adequate number of health workers to ensure Lupma resident have access to quality health care services.



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.

