

COMMUNITY HEALTH WATCH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**NIGERIA
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WATCH**

Informed commentary, intelligence and insights on the Nigerian health sector



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Women Day College Wushishi: A School where 1500 students share one toilet

5th October, 2021

Women Day College (WDC) in Wushishi Local Government Area (LGA), Niger State is a female only school in the LGA. It has a student population of over 1500. However, despite the huge population, the school only has one toilet, a dangerous



situation that poses a health risk and is essential for the dignity of the students. Worse still, the only toilet has no connection to the water system.

According to Mr. Dangana Mohammed, the health master of the school, both teachers and students are in constant fear of an outbreak of infectious diseases due to the unavailability of adequate toilet facilities in the school. Salamatu Baita, a student and health prefect at the school says, as the toilet facility has no source of water, the only option for them is to use paper to clean themselves, which is a threat to their health especially during their monthly period. "I stay away from using the school toilet and would rather go to the bush because of the number of students queuing just to use it and I am afraid of the risk to my health" said Amina Sa'idu, another student at the school.

Cholera is currently ravaging many states in Nigeria, in addition to other infectious disease outbreaks across the



country. Lack of proper and sufficient water, sanitation and hygiene facilities is the major cause of cholera and other infectious diseases. 1500 students sharing one toilet facility without a water source is a ticking time bomb that should concern everyone. Niger State Government should build more toilets and provide proper water systems to Women Day College and other schools with the same challenge to prevent outbreak of infectious diseases among the students, which could be deadly.



What the community wants

1. Build more quality and gender equitable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for both the students and teachers of Women Day College Wushishi to mitigate outbreak of infectious diseases.
2. Replicate the same for other schools in the state with similar challenges to make certain that students and teachers are protected from preventable infectious diseases.

Community members, health workers complain about poor condition of Dagodnagbe Primary Healthcare Centre

12th October, 2021



The only toilet at Dagodnagbe PHC is in poor condition

It is immunization day at Dagodnagbe PHC in Jadna Ward, a rural agrarian community in Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State. Amina Yau is one of the women bringing their children to be immunized. However, like other women, Yau is not happy with the condition of the Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC). “There is no good toilet, all the windows are broken”, she said, adding that if her child should fall ill, he cannot be admitted at the PHC due to a lack of equipment. She further complained that the PHC is always dirty as it is not always cleaned up, further endangering the health of patients and health workers.

Hadiza Hussaini is the facility incharge of Dagodnagbe PHC. Corroborating Yau, she said that the facility lacks beds, functional wards and labour rooms, no water and electricity. “We cannot admit more than one patient at a time except if we ask the patient to come with a mat from home. We only have one bed, and it is in a bad condition itself”. Hussaini adds that the PHC does not have any staff

for cleaning it, and the few health workers take time in cleaning when there are a smaller number of patients. Additionally, she said the entire structure of the PHC is in bad condition, with broken walls and leaking roof.

The condition of Dagodnagbe PHC is a terrible one and jeopardizes the delivery and uptake of healthcare services in the community. Paikoro LGA and Niger State Government should do a complete overhaul of the facility and provide more health workers including a sanitation worker, equipment that would be used to treat patients as well as all the necessary drugs as recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) Essential medicines list. Only that will ensure the provision and uptake of standard healthcare services in the community.



Dagodnagbe PHC has really dilapidated infrastructure



Dagodnagbe PHC lacks beds, functional wards and labor rooms



Dagodnagbe PHC lacks beds, functional wards and labor rooms

What the community wants

1. Rehabilitate Dagodnagbe PHC and provide it with adequate infrastructures such as beds, electricity and delivery room to ensure effective service delivery and reduce risk of complications for women during childbirth.
2. Ensure constant availability of essential and basic medications in the health facility based on the recommendation of World Health Organisation’s essential medicines list.
3. In line with the Technical Guideline for WASH in PHCs in Nigeria provide adequate, quality and gender equitable water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in the PHC to limit the risk of infectious disease outbreaks.
4. Employ more health workers that can serve the health needs of residents of the Dagodnagbe community.

Zinari Primary Healthcare Centre: Patients Suffer the Indignity of Inadequate Sanitation and Hygiene Facilities

21st October, 2021

Zinari is a small community under Shata ward in Bosso Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State. The community is about 20 kilometers from Bosso town, and community members must cross three small rivers and climb several hills to get to Bosso. Karima Musa is a traditional birth attendant and is taking her



The ceiling of Zinari PHC is completely broken, exposing patients and health workers to unbearable weather condition

son for his routine immunization at the only health facility in the community. However, Musa and other women with health workers must endure the foul smell coming out of the open pit latrine in the health facility. "The latrine is close to the facility and the smell is unbearable", she said. Additionally, Musa says due to the latrine being open, she and other women bringing children for immunization or attending antenatal cannot use it. "Our dignity is not protected. If any of us is pressed, our only option is to return home. Those whose homes are far from here make use of our homes to ease themselves", Musa said, pleading with Bosso LGA to at least fix the toilet in the facility for women in the community, so they feel secure enough to use it. Mary Ishaya is the in-charge of Zinari Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC), and she confessed that the smell coming out of the open pit latrine is a bitter distraction for the health workers. "We cannot sit comfortably inside the facility. Both us and the patients are disturbed", she said. Ishaya added that Zinari PHC is surrounded by grass, it is not fenced and the ceiling in the health facility is completely broken, posing a danger to the health workers and patients.



Zinari PHC is not fenced, and surrounded by huge grasses, posing risk to the health and security of patients and health workers

Sanitation and hygiene facilities are some of the basic and necessary requirements for a health facility. Health workers in Zinari PHC should not endure the smell that comes out of the open pit laterin, and women should not have to suffer the indignity of having to rush home to ease themselves while attending antenatal or immunization visits in the facility. Bosso LGA and Niger State government should do the needful in Zinari PHC and other PHCs that are in such condition in the state. In addition, the facility should be fenced to protect the health workers and patients and to ensure their security. Additionally, grass around health facilities such as Zinari PHC should consistently be cleared to limit the risk to patients from snakes and other dangerous animals. The inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities increases the risk of infectious diseases spreading and makes the functioning of any infection prevention and control (IPC) measures difficult to implement.



Patients and health workers must endure the foul smell coming out of the open latrine at Zinari PHC



The building of Zinari PHC is completely dilapidated, and could run down at any moment

What the community wants

1. Provision of adequate, quality and gender equitable WASH facilities as recommended by the Technical Guide for WASH in PHCs in Nigeria.
2. Secure Zinari PHC by fencing it to protect the health workers and patients from unwanted intrusio.
3. Employ a sanitation worker to maintain cleanliness in and around the health facility.

Malagi Primary Healthcare Centre in Niger State is a mere broken structure

27th October, 2021

Malagi Primary HealthCare Centre in Niger State is a mere broken structure
27th October, 2021

Malagi is a rural community in Gbako Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State with a population of about two thousand people. However, the only Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) in the community has been in a deplorable condition for over ten years. According to Muhammad Abdullahi, the in charge of the PHC, the facility lacks all the basic needs to function. "There is no toilet, when there is need, health workers and patients make use of the bush" he said. He added that the PHC has only one bed with no mattress. In addition, there is no source of water in the PHC, and there is no electricity either. "The worse situation is that the floor of the facility is not cemented. So, we provide healthcare on sandy ground" Usman Yunusa is a resident of Malagi. He narrated that the PHC is not meeting the healthcare needs of the community members. According to Yunusa, the

condition of the PHC is leaving them with no option but to seek healthcare from traditional medicine healers. "Most of our women do not go for antenatal due to the condition of the facility. When they are to deliver, they are attended to by traditional birth attendants except when the condition is serious then we take them to the hospital in Lemu or Wushishi General Hospital", Yunusa further narrated.

Amina Usman, another resident of the community said most women do not go to the PHC for antenatal care because their needs are not provided for at the facility. "No drugs, no toilet, nothing. It is not a health facility".

Malagi PHC could best be described as a mere broken structure. It does not only lack almost every need of a health facility; it also doesn't have the confidence of the community it is meant to serve. Gbako LGA and Niger State government should carry out a complete rehabilitation of the PHC and equip it with necessary facilities, equipment, medications, and manpower. Through that, the confidence of the community in the PHC will be restored and they will perhaps start seeking healthcare from the facility instead of resorting to traditional medicine healers and traditional birth attendants.



Malagi PHC also has no single toilet for the use of patients and health workers



The floor of the facility is not cemented, so healthcare services are provided on sandy ground



Malagi PHC lacks basic drug for the treatment of illnesses



Malagi PHC could best be described as a mere broken structure

What the community wants

1. Rehabilitation of Malagi PHC and provide it with adequate infrastructures such as beds, electricity and delivery room to improve service delivery and ensure women have access to skilled health workers during pregnancy and childbirth.
2. Ensure the constant availability of essential and basic medications in Malagi PHC.
3. In line with the Technical Guideline for WASH in PHCs in Nigeria provide adequate, quality and gender equitable WASH facilities in the PHC to prevent outbreak of diseases.



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.

