

MEN AS CHAMPIONS OF CHILDBIRTH SPACING IN KANO STATE: PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN

(Dialogue with Men)



BACKGROUND

The birth of a baby in every home is a thing of joy; however, women approach childbirth with apprehension because many pregnant women die from preventable pregnancy related complications. In Nigeria, 1 out of every 13 pregnant women is at risk of dying from complication that could occur during pregnancy, at delivery or immediately after birth. Regional (North West zone to which Kano state belong) maternal mortality ratio is estimated at 1,025/100,000 live birth. The high maternal mortalities are not only tragedies in themselves, they represent enormous loss to families, communities and the nation.

As at 2017, Kano State has an estimated population of 13,534,125 people, and 2,977,508 women of reproductive age, with growth rate estimated at 3.3% (NPopC, 2006 Census projected by NBS 2018).

However, the population growth rate may be much higher now, due to the influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Yobe and Borno States, due to the insurgency in the North-East of Nigeria. Kano State has about 1,508 Health Facilities (1,257 Public and 251 Private) with about 822 Public Health facilities providing childbirth spacing services.

The good news is that this maternal death in Kano State could be prevented simply by learning more about healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies and taking action to access quality information and services.

DESIRE TO USE CBS

- ▶ In Kano State, about 36 percent of women in Kano State desire to space pregnancy. This means that on average, 1 out of 3 women, representing 747,794 out of a population of 2,077,207 women of reproductive age desire to space childbirth (NPC & IMC Macro, 2014). However, most of these women are unable to access the childbirth spacing (CBS) services without the support of their husbands.
- ▶ The Kano State Government is committed to improving the health of women, families and communities. To this end, the Government is upgrading facilities and introducing contributory health insurance scheme, and facilitating access to quality, client responsive childbirth spacing services.

WHY MEN SHOULD BECOME CHAMPIONS OF CHILDBIRTH SPACING

MEN have traditionally determined household decisions, including access to health care and childbirth spacing services. When men are knowledgeable about the benefits of childbirth spacing, they support and prioritize women's health and avoid the tragedy of maternal death by practicing healthy timing and spacing of births (Formative data: Findings from health facility and flex-track surveys in Kano State, June 2018).

MEN therefore bear the responsibility of reducing maternal death. The good thing is that men can achieve this by learning about the benefits of child birth spacing services, and the consequences of denying women the opportunity to space childbirth.



ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Know the facts about childbirth spacing.
- ▶ Talk about it with your wives/partners, peers and experts.
- ▶ Encourage and use suitable methods of childbirth spacing by accessing services available near you from qualified providers.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Reduction of maternal mortality by 40% through childbirth spacing is possible and this promotes maternal health and family wellbeing.
- ▶ Resources will also be freed up for other investments which would otherwise be spent as a cost of care.

SCRIPTURAL BASIS

"For which of you intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it. Lest haply after he hath laid the foundation and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him. Saying this man began to build and was not able to finish" (Luke 14:28-30)

"And we have enjoined on man to be good and dutiful to his parents. His mother bears him in hardship and brings him forth in hardship and his conception and weaning of him is thirty months" (Qur'an 46:15)

"Mothers may nurse their infants for two whole years for those who desire to complete the nursing period. It is the duty of the father to provide for them and clothe in a proper manner. No soul shall be burdened beyond its capacity. No mother shall be harmed on account of her child, and no father shall be harmed on account of his child. The same duty rests upon the heir. If the couple desire weaning by mutual consent and consultation they commit no error by doing so. You commit no error by hiring nursing mothers, as long as you pay them fairly. And be wary of Allah, and know that Allah is seeing what you do" (Qur'an 2:233)

INFLUENCIAL VOICES

"Islam is so concerned about the kind of child you are giving birth to. We should all understand that feeding is not the only thing to take into consideration when having a child. There is education, clothing, moral upbringing and many other things besides"

- His Highness, Muhammad Sanusi II, CON - Sarkin Kano (4th June, 2016)

Source: <http://guardian.ng/features/how-muslim-clerics-preach-maternal-child-mortality>



PROMOTING CHILDBIRTH SPACING

(Role of the Media)



BACKGROUND

The birth of a baby in every home is a thing of joy; however, women approach childbirth with apprehension because many pregnant women die from preventable pregnancy related complications. In Nigeria, 1 out of every 13 pregnant women is at risk of dying from complication that could occur during pregnancy, at delivery or immediately after birth. Regional (North West zone to which Kano state belong) maternal mortality ratio is estimated at 1,025/100,000 live births.

This high maternal mortalities are not only tragedies in themselves, they represent enormous loss to families, communities and the nation.

The good news is that this maternal death and disabilities in Kano State could be prevented with cost effective, comprehensive and integrated health awareness campaigns that highlights the benefits of investing in childbirth spacing with clear messages to policy makers, health managers and beneficiaries (community and religious leaders, families and women).

As at 2017, Kano State has an estimated population of 13,534,125 people, and 2,977,508 women of reproductive age, with growth rate estimated at 3.3% (NPopC, 2006 Census projected by NBS 2018).

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ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Calling for appropriate budgetary allocation and releases for the provision of quality childbirth spacing services and strategic behavior change communication campaign.
- ▶ Investigating how programs respond to the needs of the people, determining the availability and access to services, quality of service, distributive equity as well as whether people are using the services provided or not and why not.
- ▶ Initiating programs, editorials and experts on the benefits of healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies and births, including the consequences of non-use of modern methods of childbirth spacing.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Reduction of maternal mortality by 35 – 40% through childbirth spacing is possible and this promotes maternal health and family wellbeing.
- ▶ Resources will also be freed up for other investments/capital projects which would otherwise be spent as cost of care.
- ▶ If Kano State achieves its Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) goal of 17% mCPR, the State could save a total of 4.5 Billion Naira in costs of maternal and child health care. For this to happen, Kano State would need to budget more funds for child birth spacing (CBS) services.

KANO STATE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INDICATORS
COMPARED WITH NATIONAL AVERAGE

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S/N	Indicators	Kano		National Average		Source
		All (%)	Married (%)	All (%)	Married (%)	
1.	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR)					
1.	All method	7.0	9.7	24.2	27.6	PMA2020, 2018
2.	Modern Method – mCPR	5.7	7.8	17.6	19.0	PMA2020, 2018
3.	Long Acting/Permanent	1.8	2.6	4.2	6.2	PMA2020, 2018
4.	Total Unmet Needs	20.0	32.6	16.6	22.6	PMA2020, 2018
5.	For Limiting	5.6	7.5	4.5	6.5	PMA2020, 2018
6.	For Spacing	18.4	25.2	12.1	16.2	PMA2020, 2018
7.	Total Demand	33.0	42.3	40.8	50.2	PMA2020, 2018
8.	Demand satisfied by Modern Method	18.2	18.4	43.1	37.9	PMA2020, 2018
9.	Paid for FP Services	87.6		83.3		PMA2020, 2018
10.	Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	6.8		5.5		NDHS 2018
11.	ANC Coverage	65.3		67		NDHS 2018
12.	Post Natal Care Coverage	23.2		40		NDHS 2018
13.	Facility-based Delivery Rate	19.2		39		NDHS 2018
14.	Deliveries attended by skilled Attendant	23.6		43		NDHS 2018
15.	Maternal Mortality Rate	1,025/100,000 live births (North West)				NDHS 2008

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INFLUENTIAL VOICES

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IMPROVED CHILDBIRTH SPACING FUNDING MECHANISM

(Role of the Legislature)



BACKGROUND

Kano State has 1,508 Health Facilities (1,257 Public and 251 Private) with about 822 Public Health facilities providing child birth spacing (CBS) services. Despite this numbers, the services are inadequate to meet the current and growing need of the population. As such, while the birth of a baby in every home is a thing of joy; women, nonetheless, approach delivery with apprehension because many pregnant women die from preventable pregnancy related complications.

In Nigeria, 1 out of every 13 pregnant women is at risk of dying from complication that could occur during pregnancy, at delivery or immediately after birth. Regional (North West zone to which Kano state belong) maternal mortality ratio is estimated at 1,025/100,000 live birth. The high maternal mortalities are not only tragedies in themselves, they represent enormous loss to families, communities and the nation.

The good news is that maternal death in Kano State could be prevented with cost effective, comprehensive and integrated healthcare services that prioritize investment in childbirth spacing services and integrate same into the State's development agenda, through such initiatives as:

1. Primary Health Care Under One Roof
2. Kano State Contributory Health Care Management Agency
3. Task Shifting and Task Sharing Policy
4. Basic Healthcare Provision Fund, and
5. Other social interventions that may be considered in future

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ACTIONS REQUIRED

- ▶ Make the appropriate budgetary provision for childbirth spacing services and ensure cash backing and release.
 - Use the Kano State Childbirth Spacing Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) as a guide to the funding needs of the State annual budgetary provisions.
- ▶ Prioritize childbirth spacing intervention as a development agenda for Kano State.

BENEFITS

- ▶ Reduction of maternal mortality by 35 – 40% through childbirth spacing is possible and this promotes maternal health and family wellbeing.
- ▶ Resources will also be freed up for other investments/capital projects which would otherwise be spent as cost of care.
- ▶ If Kano State achieves its Costed Implementation Plan (CIP) goal of 17% mCPR, the State could save a total of 4.5 Billion Naira in costs of maternal and child health care. For this to happen, Kano State would need to budget more funds for child birth spacing (CBS) services.

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