

# STOP

## THE BLAME GAME!

*Let us Tackle the Menace of  
Maternal and Child Deaths in Nigeria*



**JOIN HANDS TO HOLD THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE  
FOR THE USE OF OUR MATERNAL HEALTH RESOURCES**

With tears rolling down his cheeks during a chat with Channels Television News, the Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II, recounted how a baby died in the arms of the woman who had come for financial assistance at his palace to purchase drugs for her sick baby. The desperate woman had run to the palace from a nearby children's hospital to find help. But help did not come on time as the child died in the mother's arms while she was waiting for her turn to ask for money from the palace to buy the drugs to save her child.

At a recent report launch by CRHICED, an invited guest recounted the chilling story of a pregnant woman in labour, that was abandoned in the hospital by her husband and left to die. "The husband finally took his wife to the hospital after protracted labour at home and eloped under the excuse of getting blood for the wife. When the man failed to show up after over one and half hours, the management of the hospital mobilized to get the required blood in order to rescue the woman and her unborn baby. To the surprise of the hospital, the man returned the next morning with a car and a casket to evacuate the corpse of the wife – expecting the poor woman to have died from the protracted labour and child-birth related complications".

These sad narratives are expressions of the everyday challenges facing the woman and the child in Kano state.

## Things to Know

**Do you know that** Nigeria is one of the most dangerous places in the world for a woman to give birth? According to the WHO World Health Statistics, Nigeria occupies the fourth position on the global ranking of countries with the highest maternal, newborn and child mortality.<sup>1</sup>

**Do you know that** in Nigeria, Kano State has the highest maternal mortality rate (MMR) with 576 out of every 100,000 women in Kano State dying during or immediately after child birth?<sup>2</sup>

**Do you know that** 113 out of every 1000 children born in Kano State die during or immediately after child birth, and only 5.1% of children born in the state are delivered by health professionals?<sup>3</sup>

**Do you know that** Year-in, year-out, Kano state government, supported by Non-Governmental Organisations and International Development Partners commit huge amount of resources to Maternal, Newborn and Child (MNC) Healthcare in the state?

**Do you know that** Kano State is one of the states with the highest percentage of budgetary allocation to the healthcare sector in Nigeria?

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.who.int/gho/publications/world\\_health\\_statistics/2015/en/](https://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/2015/en/)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.mnch2.com/%2Fkano-state>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.nigerianstat.gov.ng>

## Questions You Must Ask As A Citizen.

If international development partners, donor agencies and the government of Kano State are committing so much money and resources into Maternal, Newborn and Child Healthcare in Kano State:

- ◆ why are our women and children in kano still dying every day before, during or shortly after childbirth?
- ◆ Why is Kano state primary healthcare system unable to meet the healthcare needs of our people?
- ◆ Why do Kano state still have large shortage of essential health workers - doctors, nurses, and midwives- to attend to our women and children?

## What Did CHRICED Find Out?

- ◆ **CHRICED** found out that the money budgeted by the Kano state government for maternal health are not completely released, and the amount released are not properly utilized for taking care of our pregnant women and new born babies.
- ◆ **CHRICED** found out that only 49.91% of the total Kano state budgetary allocation to the health sector was actually released in 2016, while 55.43% was released in 2017?
- ◆ **CHRICED** also found out that there is weak accountability mechanisms for tracking the utilization of Kano state budgetary allocations, which leave room for mismanagement and misplacement of priorities in health budget and implementation in the state.
- ◆ **CHRICED** also discovered that bulk of the money released by Kano state government to the health sector were spent on recurrent expenditure. Capital expenditure spending are inadequate and suffer from irregular releases.

## What To Do As A Responsible Citizen To Stop This Ugly Trend?

As a citizen, you have a duty to stand up, speak up and take action to draw the attention of the relevant institution or agency responsible for the provision of health care services to the problems in the primary healthcare centres (PHCs) in your communities.

Importantly too, you must know that your right to quality healthcare comes with responsibilities. If government awards a contract for a health project, in your community, you must be interested in ensuring the contractor delivers the right quality of work.

- ◆ Join other citizens in your local community; form yourselves into an advocacy group that will take up the responsibility of monitoring how the money allocated to the Centre (PHC) closest to your community is being spent.

- ◆ Where you find that the money released to the Primary Healthcare Centre is not being properly utilized, or that the services being rendered are not satisfactory, contact your representative at the Kano State Public Complaint and Anti-Corruption Commission, the Police, EFCC, or ICPC.
- ◆ Report any husband who refuses to allow his wife to seek health care or anyone who contributes to increased maternal deaths to police or human rights organisations.
- ◆ Encourage pregnant women in your communities to register and attend antenatal services all through the period of pregnancy.
- ◆ Mobilize and encourage pregnant women to deliver their babies in hospitals and not at home.
- ◆ Engage the politicians representing your constituency in government to draw their attention to the poor state of Primary Healthcare Centre in your community.
- ◆ You can also make contribution into the budgetary allocation process for the Primary Healthcare Centre in your community by making submissions on the areas of need to the government through your political representatives.

The right to life is a God-given right affirmed by the state, therefore anyone who endangers the life of another should be treated and tried as a criminal. It is time to criminalise wanton waste of lives due to childbirth.

*Issued by:*

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