



Save the Children

HELPING TO SAVE ONE MILLION CHILDREN'S LIVES

THE MAIDEN EDITION

OCTOBER 2021

# Pneumo-Watch

A Quarterly Newsletter of the INSPIRING Project



## ABOUT THE INSPIRING PROJECT

*The INSPIRING project is implemented by Save the Children International and funded by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). The project is supporting the governments of Lagos and Jigawa states, two unique and different contexts to demonstrate how we can reduce the number of children dying from pneumonia and other infectious diseases at scale in Nigeria.*

The INSPIRING project is grounded in a highly sophisticated understanding of how change happens on a national scale and offers an evidence-based approach and tailor-made solutions to a neglected issue like childhood pneumonia. Building on the WHO's Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPD), our efforts are focused on:

**Protecting children** by establishing good health practices from birth, such as breastfeeding

**Preventing children from contracting pneumonia** by increasing coverage of immunization and healthy environments

**Diagnose and Treat sick children** through timely and appropriate diagnosis and treatment

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF PARTY (A.K.A THE CHIEF SERVANT)



**By Dr. Adamu Isah, MD, MPH, DrPH**  
**Chief of Party, INSPiRING Project**

I am pleased to welcome you to this maiden edition of the Pneumo-Watch Newsletter, for your special quarterly information, learning and resourceful bulletin brought to you by the INSPiRING project, to showcase some of our interventions and generate stakeholders' opinions around childhood pneumonia. It is my hope that you will find this material interesting and useful.

It is no longer news that Pneumonia kills more children under the age of five than any other infectious disease in the World and Nigeria, in particular. Despite this fact, this 'silent killer disease' has not been given the attention it deserves in Nigeria and globally.

So, Kevin Watkins, the erstwhile CEO of Save the Children UK was right when he called Pneumonia - "a cause without champions."

We have delivered these and more interventions working in close collaboration and leadership of the state governments in Lagos and Jigawa and under the overall leadership of the Federal Ministry of Health and the National Primary Healthcare Development Agency. I would like to seize this opportunity to appreciate the support we have received from the government at all levels and the community stakeholders. I would also like to appreciate our research partner the University College London (UCL) and University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, for their efforts in providing the evidence guiding our interventions.

**None of the aforementioned would happen without the support of our donor, the GSK. We are immensely grateful to the GSK for their generous support and flexibility, especially during the difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you and happy reading.**

In line with the INSPiRING project's framework, we are making efforts toward achieving our objective and have recorded the following over the past year of full implementation:

- Through our concerted efforts working with other partners under the umbrella of Every Breath Counts Coalition (EBCC), Nigeria became the first country in the world to launch a National Pneumonia Control Strategy and Implementation Plan in 2020.
- We are making efforts to adopt this policy and the National Oxygen policy in Jigawa and Lagos states.
- In terms of health systems strengthening, we have improved oxygen systems through the donation of dozens of oxygen cylinders, concentrators and pulse oximeters to hospitals in Lagos and Jigawa states.
- We have trained over 600 healthcare workers on Oxygen Therapy and Pulse Oximetry, Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), Immunization, Nutrition, Infection Prevention and Quality Data Management in both states.
- We also donated thousands of radio receivers to households, delivered radio interactive programs to their homes, and supplied tippy taps (localized handwashing stations) and soaps to households as part of our COVID-19 response.
- We have trained a total of 212 community volunteers, supervisors and ward development committee members in Jigawa state and established 340 women's and men's groups who are meeting monthly to learn about childhood illnesses, plan and take community actions.

# INSPIRING PROJECT IN RETROSPECT

## Pre-COVID-19 and COVID-19 Activities



INSPIRING Project Disseminated the Situation Analysis Conducted in Lagos and Jigawa States in 2019



Commemoration of World Pneumonia Day in 2019



Kevin Watkins (right), the erstwhile CEO of Save the Children UK visit to Nigeria in 2019. He visited our project sites in Lagos and Jigawa states.



Chief of Party signs donation certificate as GSK/SCI donates IPC materials to Lagos state Government for COVID-19 response



Training of Health workers on Infection Prevention and Control to limit transmission of COVID-19 in Lagos and Jigawa

# INSPIRING PROJECT IN RETROSPECT

## Pre-COVID-19 and COVID-19 Activities



Permanent Secretary (middle) Jigawa State Ministry of Health receives oxygen cylinders, PPE and IPC materials donated by the INSPIRING project as part of COVID-19 response



Supplied Tippy Taps to communities in Jigawa and sensitized community members on proper handwashing practice



Empowered households in Jigawa with portable radio receivers and delivered an interactive radio program to receive information on COVID-19 and childhood illnesses



Trained Community Health Volunteers and empowered them with Android phones to support households and transmit data remotely

# PHOTO SPEAKS



GSK MD, Kunle Oyelana (left sitting), Senator Adetokunbo Abiru (middle sitting) and SCI INSPIRING Project Manager, Folasayo Olukera (right sitting) during a courtesy call to the Senator representing Lagos East Senatorial District.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Childhood pneumonia is not caused by cold weather. Children who are unimmunized, malnourished, exposed to cooking smoke in unventilated rooms, dusty weather and marketplaces are at greater risk of pneumonia.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES JANUARY - JUNE 2021

## IMPROVING QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY IN LAGOS AND JIGAWA STATES

### Strengthening Oxygen Systems in Health Facilities in Lagos and Jigawa States

Timely access to medical oxygen can make the difference between life and death for many children, especially those under the age of five, who struggle for breath due to severe pneumonia and other medical complications.

Oxygen is the only drug for treatment of hypoxemia, which is defined as lower oxygen levels in the blood and a common sign of severe pneumonia. Oxygen is often needed as an emergency intervention to save lives. It is therefore imperative for all health care facilities (from primary to tertiary levels) to establish a system of Oxygen security. At any given time, Oxygen must be available and ready to be administered in Emergency Pediatric Units, Special Care Baby Unit, Accident and Emergency Units, Intensive Care Unit, Labor Room, Operating Theatres and any other unit where hypoxemia is detected.

Sadly, this lifesaving intervention is not sufficiently available across health facilities in Nigeria, as many preventable deaths occurred due to a lack of timely access to oxygen. As part of efforts to ensure hospitals and appropriate health facilities are equipped with functional oxygen delivery systems in Nigeria, the INSPIRING project is strengthening oxygen delivery systems of hospitals in Lagos and Jigawa states.

The project donated dozens of oxygen concentrators and pulse oximeters to health facilities in both states. In addition, about 60 oxygen cylinders and about 77 Oxygen Outlets connected through piping systems to every bed in the Paediatric ward, Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU), Accident and Emergency wards of two secondary hospitals Dutse, while three PHCs were strengthened with six oxygen cylinders and pulse oximeters in Kiyawa LGA in Jigawa state.



**Secretary to Jigawa State Government, Alhaji Abdulkadir Fanani Adamu commissions oxygen systems donated by GSK/SCI to Jigawa state Government.**

As a result of these interventions, severely sick children and several other patients who need oxygen can now receive oxygen simultaneously and promptly. The INSPIRING project is demonstrating how we can enhance the capacity of hospitals to provide lifesaving oxygen therapy, especially for children under the age of five.



**Oxygen Concentrator installed by INSPIRING Project at a PHC in Ikorodu LGA in Lagos state**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES JANUARY - JUNE 2021

## IMPROVING QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY IN LAGOS AND JIGAWA STATES

### Training on Oxygen Therapy and Pulse Oximetry

To ensure healthcare providers have the skills to properly diagnose the level of oxygen and administer oxygen, the project trained 247 health workers, including Pediatric Doctors, Anesthetists, and Nurses in Lagos and Jigawa states on oxygen therapy and pulse oximetry.

In his word, the Master Trainer in Jigawa, Professor Alhassan Datti Muhammad said,

*"If you install oxygen systems without training the health providers on how to administer the oxygen properly, then the project will not be worthwhile."*



***A Health Worker and beneficiary of the training practice how to administer oxygen during the practical session of the Oxygen Therapy training in Jigawa State***

### Training of Health Workers on IMCI in Lagos and Jigawa States

Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) provides a guideline for integrated management of sick children under the age of five, especially in low resource settings.

The INSPIRING project in collaboration with Lagos and Jigawa state ministries of health and related agencies conducted rounds of IMCI training in the two states.

A total of 164 (Lagos, 113 and Jigawa 51) health workers, comprising of doctors, nurses and CHEWs from secondary and primary health facilities have been trained on the IMCI guidelines. In his testimony, a beneficiary of the training, Mr Bako, the Officer In/charge of Balago BHC in Jigawa said



*"Your intervention is improving the healthcare system in Kiyawa LGA. Before the IMCI training, we were not taking appropriate steps in assessing, classifying and treating children with symptoms of pneumonia. But now, after the training by Save the Children, we are now following appropriate steps. As a result, we have detected and treated over 26 children with pneumonia compared to same period before the training, when we were only able to detect five cases." - Mr Bako, Officer In/charge of Balago BHC, Kiyawa LGA (pictured above)*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES JANUARY - JUNE 2021

## IMPROVING QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY IN LAGOS AND JIGAWA STATES

### Training on Immunization

Immunization is one of the proven and most effective interventions for preventing childhood pneumonia and other illnesses affecting children under the age of five.

As part of its efforts to improve the knowledge and skills of healthcare workers to deliver qualitative immunization services to children, the INSPIRING project trained a total of 84 healthcare workers on immunization service delivery across supported health facilities in Jigawa and Lagos states.



*A Trainer leading session during Immunization training for health workers in Jigawa*

### Donation of Infection Prevention and Control Materials and PPE to Health Facilities



*GSK (left) and SCI Staff(right) presenting the certificate of donation to Lagos state.*

To ensure health workers are providing quality services while keeping themselves and their patients safe from infections, the INSPIRING Project donated Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worth millions of naira to 30 supported health facilities in Lagos and 35 in Jigawa states.

These donations included handwashing stations, disposable masks, hand sanitisers, liquid soaps, disposable gloves, protective gowns, safety boots, goggles, etc.

The government of both states have expressed their appreciation to Save the Children and GSK for the donation.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES JANUARY - JUNE 2021

## SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC) INTERVENTIONS IN JIGAWA STATE

Changing the behaviour of people takes time, and it requires deliberate efforts through the design and delivery of evidence-based social and behaviour change (SBC) interventions.

To contribute towards addressing the knowledge gap around pneumonia and other childhood illnesses, promote preventive and care-seeking behaviours for sick children under five, the project is delivering high quality and evidence-based SBC interventions in Kiyawa LGA in Jigawa state.

Two interventions blended into one program, are being implemented; the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) delivered through men's and women's groups and the Partnership Defined Quality Scorecard (PDQS), a service quality improvement and social-accountability mechanism. Learn more about these interventions below:

### Strengthening Capacity of Community Structures



#### ***INSPIRING SBC Coordinator facilitating a session during training of trainers of CHVs***

To enhance the quality of our interventions, the project, in collaboration with Jigawa State Ministry of Health (SMOH), State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (SPHCDA), Kiyawa Local Government Authorities (LGA) and community leaders, identified and trained a total of 170 (85 male, 85 females) Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), 25 (13 males, 12 females) CHVs supervisors and 17 Ward Development Committee (WDC) members.

The training focused on participatory facilitation and problem-solving techniques, childhood diseases, including pneumonia, diarrhoea, malnutrition and malaria.

Ward Development Committee members were trained on the Partnership Defined Quality Scorecard (PDQS) approach, to facilitate linkage between health facilities and the communities they serve by working in partnership to identify and address service quality issues.

This training has strengthened the capacity and reawakened the interest of WDCs play active roles in community health.



#### ***INSPIRING project MEAL Officer facilitating a session during WDCs training***

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES JANUARY - JUNE 2021

## SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC) INTERVENTIONS IN JIGAWA STATE

### Establishment of Community Women's and Men's Groups on Child Health in Jigawa State



**A women's group conducting their monthly group meeting in Katuka community in Kiyawa LGA**

The INSPIRING project, in collaboration with Jigawa state SMOH/SPHCDA and Kiyawa LGA is demonstrating how community members can organize themselves to identify and take action to address child health issues in their communities.

Through the support of trained CHVs, community women and men meet separately every month in groups of 25 within their communities. In phases, they explore and identify child health issues in their communities; they learn about causes, signs and symptoms of diseases.

They learn the importance of immunization and other protective and preventive practices such as exclusive breastfeeding, and improved air condition; and the importance of prompt care-seeking for sick children.

Mallam Muhammed, a member of the men's group in the Shuwarin ward in Kiyawa LGA, while giving his testimony of how the group activities have impacted his family, said.

*"My child used to have this disease, but we did not know what was wrong, so we usually take him to our local herbalist, but the problem still continued. Now that I have learned about Nimoniya (pneumonia), I understand the disease and we have been able to seek care at the health facility and our child is doing fine. This meeting is very good in helping us learn about diseases and how we can protect our children."*

### Bridging the Gap between Healthcare Providers and the Communities in Jigawa State

The attitude of health workers, inadequate staff, cost of drugs, distance to facilities, poor care-seeking of community members, poor infrastructures and more, are controversial, but very crucial aspects of quality of care discussed by communities and healthcare providers in Kiyawa LGA in Jigawa state.

Through the Partnership Defined Quality Scorecard (PDQS) implemented by the INSPIRING project, communities are working in partnership with the health providers to appraise the quality of services provided, plan and take action to address poor service quality issues.



**Community members and health providers voting during an interface meeting on service quality indicators in Jigawa**

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES JANUARY - AUGUST 2021

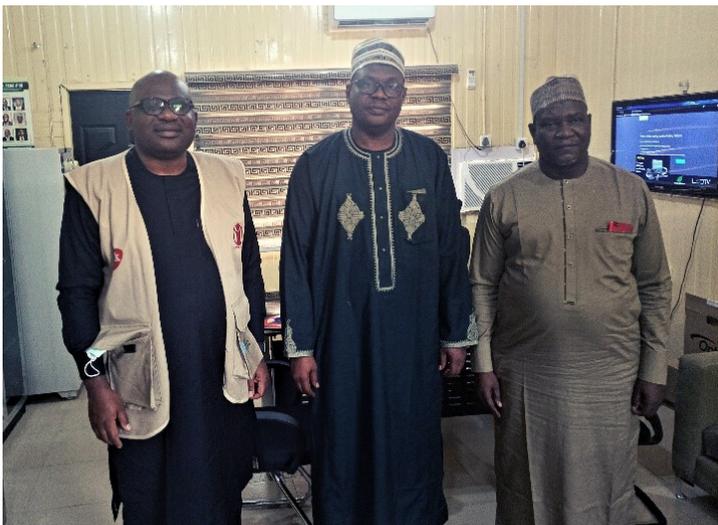
## HEALTH FINANCING AND ADVOCACY IN JIGAWA AND LAGOS STATES

### Essential Drugs List Expansion to Include Medication for Childhood Pneumonia in Jigawa State

A simple definition of Out-of-Pocket expense is the direct payment of money that may or may not be later reimbursed from a third-party source. In terms of health care, It has the tendency of leading poor families to what is referred to as Catastrophic expenditure where a high percentage of income is used for health care and thus can lead the family to a destitute state.

INSPIRING project is engaging the Jigawa Contributory Health Management Agency (JICHMA) to, among other asks, ensure the inclusion of essential medication for the treatment of pneumonia (Amoxicillin DT) and medical oxygen in its essential medicine list, for registered individuals on health insurance.

These asks have favourably been considered by the agency. We await formal pronouncement in this effect. Advocacy is being sustained to ensure this.



*Executive Secretary, JICHMA (middle) and INSPIRING team during an advocacy call to the agency.*

### Towards Adopting the National Pneumonia Control Strategy in Lagos and Jigawa States



*Permanent Secretary Jigawa Ministry of Health, Dr Salisu Mu'azu giving his opening address at the Dissemination of the National Pneumonia Control Strategy in Jigawa State*

Policy development and implementation is key towards sustainable healthcare financing and delivery in Nigeria.

Save the Children International through the INSPIRING project is taking the lead to commence state-level dissemination of the National Pneumonia Control Strategy and Implementation Plan, which was launched by the Federal Ministry of Health in Nigeria in 2020.

A state-wide dissemination was organised in Jigawa state in June, and the project is working with the Lagos state ministry of health and relevant partners to disseminate the strategy in Lagos.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES JANUARY - AUGUST 2021

## HEALTH FINANCING AND ADVOCACY IN JIGAWA AND LAGOS STATES

### Towards a Supportive Environment for Medical Oxygen Systems in Jigawa State



*Stakeholders engaged in a consultative workshop as part of process towards adoption of the National Policy on Medical Oxygen in Jigawa state.*

Jigawa took the first, but important, step towards adopting the National Policy on Medical Oxygen in Health Facilities through a process that began with a stakeholders' consultative workshop to define and deliberate priorities for an oxygen policy framework in the State.

The workshop garnered contributions and support from key government agencies, civil society representatives, traditional/religious leaders, and women groups.

“The Policy on Oxygen provides the basis for the improvement of equitable access to medical oxygen in health facilities in Nigeria. It provides principles for engaging stakeholders in the entire oxygen chain”, said the Chief of Party, Dr Adamu Isah

## CHILDREN PARTICIPATION

Save the Children works with children by creating opportunities and platforms to amplify their voices, including children on the move, to demand for their right to survive, learn and be protected from harms and abuses.

In actualizing its objective to be the voice for children, Save the Children establishes Child Rights Advocacy (CRA) clubs and Children's Parliament across its supported states. In Lagos and Jigawa states, these platforms have been established and functional.



*INSPIRING Health Financing and Advocacy Specialist engaging children in Lagos state.*

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES JANUARY - AUGUST 2021

## CHILDREN PARTICIPATION

### Malaria or Pneumonia – Which is the worst enemy? A children’s debate



*Cross-section of members of Child Rights Advocacy (CRA) Club in JGSS Kudai, Jigawa state after a debate organized by INSPIRING*

The CRA clubs are supported by the INSPIRING project to lead child rights advocacy and engagements in the state. This includes participation in major national and international events such as World Pneumonia Day, World Breastfeeding Week, Day of the African Child, etc.

For Save the Children, participation is about having the opportunity to express a view, influencing decision-making and achieving change. Children’s participation is an informed and willing involvement of all children, including the most marginalized and those of different ages and abilities, in any matter concerning them either directly or indirectly.

Children’s participation is a way of working and an essential principle that cuts across all programs and takes place in all arenas – from homes to government, from local to international levels.

To support members of the Child Rights Advocacy Club of Junior Secondary School Kudai, Dutse in Jigawa State, to join efforts in advocating for children’s right to health and on childhood pneumonia, a debate was organized to scale up information and awareness on pneumonia.

The debating session was on the key question: “Which is the greatest killer of under-5 children: Malaria or Pneumonia?”

# HIGHLIGHTS OF INSPIRING ACTIVITIES JANUARY - AUGUST 2021

## MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS



*Participants engaged at the Media Roundtable in Abuja in September 2021*

The media provides indispensable platforms for shaping public opinion, influencing policy action and disseminating information to the wider public. To Save the Children International in Nigeria, the media is a major partner in its efforts toward promoting the rights and well-being of children.

Save the Children works with the media within the framework of Media Working Groups across its supported states and in the Federal Capital Territory.

Based on this principle, the INSPIRING project has prioritized media engagement as a key component of the program delivery in Jigawa and Lagos states. The project has successfully established media working groups in both states and coordinated its media engagements through the established working groups.

The INSPIRING project is committed to maintaining and strengthening its relationship with the media as a trusted and reliable partner in the delivery of its goal to catalyse change and contribute to an accelerated reduction in child deaths from pneumonia and other preventable infectious diseases in Nigeria.

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

**“We learned about pneumonia from a radio program and this saved our son’s life.”**

Written by Ibrahim Haruna. Edited by Pamela Osakwe. Photo by Patience Alfred



*“My son, Musa became sick with cough, fever, and had difficulty in breathing. We didn’t understand what it was, and we had to give him our local treatment with a mixture of boiled clove, garlic, and other herbs, but he was not getting better.*

*After some days, we were listening to Kula Da Lafiya (an INSPIRING interactive radio program) on Freedom radio when we learned about pneumonia causes, signs, and symptoms.*

*When the community health volunteer (CHV) visited our home for our regular meeting, we discussed our son’s situation with her and she advised us to seek care at the health facility.*

*We took our son to Katuka Basic Health Center (BHC) and the Nurse In/charge said he had pneumonia and gave us medications. He was also given immunization for the first time since he was born.*

*Musa is responding now to treatment, but he is not completely fine. We thank our CHV and Save the Children for educating us.”*

Childcare for children under the age of five is poor among families especially in low-income households, due to low awareness about childhood diseases, its causes, symptoms and prevention, which leads to high child mortalities.

**For Musa\* and millions of other women around the world, childcare can be a challenging task especially when responding to childhood illnesses. Thanks to GSK for providing funding support to help us save children like Musa in Nigeria.**

# EDITORIAL

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# Thank you for reading!



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