

SECOND EDITION

Pneumo-Watch

A Quarterly Newsletter of the INSPIRING Project



ABOUT THE INSPIRING PROJECT

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

The INSPIRING project is grounded in a highly sophisticatedunderstanding of how change happens on a national scale and offers anevidence-based approach and tailor-made solutions to a neglected issuelike childhood pneumonia. Building on the WHO's Global Action Plan forPneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD), our efforts are focused on:

Protecting children

by establishing good health practices from birth, such as breastfeeding

Preventing children from contracting pneumonia

by increasing coverageof immunization and healthy environments

Diagnose and Treat sick children

through timely and appropriatediagnosis and treatment

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



Happy New Year 2022 to everyone and welcome to the second edition of the Pneumo-Watch Newsletter, a special quarterly newsletter brought to you by the INSPIRING project. It showcases some of our interventions and stakeholders' opinion around childhood pneumonia. I hope that you will find it interesting and useful.

The last quarter of 2021 was a busy period for all of us at the INSPIRING project as we strived to reduce the number of children dying from pneumonia and other infectious disease at scale in Nigeria. I would like to commend and appreciate the entire INSPIRING team in Lagos and Jigawa states, for their commitment and dedication towards delivery of quality interventions for children. I would also like to thank our numerous technical advisors in the Country Office (and in the UK), through the leadership of our Country Director, Mercy Gichuhi for their support.

Some notable high impact achievements we recorded in the last quarter, include donations of medical equipment, instruments and

commodities to the governments of Lagos and Jigawa states worth over 100 million Naira, as part of our efforts to strengthen the capacity of health systems to provide quality pneumonia and other child health services in the states.

Through a special grant from the Pneumonia Centenary Commitment (PCC) Hub, we have installed piped Oxygen Systems with 92 Oxygen outlets in four additional general hospitals in Jigawa State. As a result, patients receiving care at Pediatric, Accident & Emergency and Intensive Care Units of these hospitals now have easy access to high quality medical Oxygen. We also trained health workers in Pulse Oximetry and Oxygen Therapy. More oxygen cylinders, concentrators, pulse oximeters and oxygen analyzers will be donated within the first quarter of 2022.

The INSPIRING project is looking forward to an exciting and impactful year, as we aim to consolidate our gains and showcase more of the impacts we have made in Lagos and Jigawa states.

Let me once again seize this opportunity to appreciate the support we have received from governments at all levels and the community stakeholders, particularly in the two project implementation states.. 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.

Special appreciation goes to our funders, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Pneumonia Centenary Commitment (PCC). We are immensely grateful to the GSK for their generous support.

Thank you and happy reading.

Dr. Adamu Isah, MD, MPH, DrPH
Chief of Party, INSPIRING Project



PHOTO SPEAKS



Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire addressing members of the press at the Ministerial Press Briefing to mark the 2021 World Pneumonia Day in Abuja.



First Lady, Lagos State, Dr Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu commissioning medical equipment donated by the INSPIRING project to health facilities in Ikorodu LGA during MNCH week in Lagos.



A Pneumonia Advocate, Alhaji Adamu Kiyawa, the District Head of Kiyawa in Jigawa State hosting a town hall meeting as part of activities to mark the 2021 World Pneumonia Day.



SCI INSPIRING Staff receiving an award on behalf of SCI, presented by Lagos State Primary Healthcare Board in Lagos.



A handwashing station installed by the INSPIRING project in supported health facilities in Ikorodu LGA, Lagos



GUEST CONTRIBUTOR FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

New Childhood Pneumonia Research Findings You Need to Know About!

Written by: Leith Greenslade, Coordinator, Every Breath Counts Coalition January 2022



The last six months have seen some important research published with big implications for how to reduce child deaths from pneumonia in low-resource settings. Here is a rundown of five major research findings.

(I) Over half of child pneumonia hospital deaths are attributable to child malnutrition, especially wasting, according to a new review.

Children who are moderately underweight and hospitalized with pneumonia are twice as likely to die, and children who are wasted are four and a half times as likely to die. And these estimates don't include community deaths or account for post-discharge mortality which is higher for children with pneumonia and severe malnutrition. More evidence shows that preventing and treating wasting and underweight should be front and center of all child pneumonia services. Read the results by Amir Kirolos (Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme) and colleagues in the BMJ Global Health here.

(2) Mothers have little say in whether a child with pneumonia symptoms is taken for care, according to a new study from India, echoing the

findings of an earlier study from **Nigeria** which found that children were even more vulnerable when fathers had no role in child-rearing and when mothers were restricted in movements and social interactions. *Empowering mothers should be a critical part of any effort to increase timely care seeking and reduce child pneumonia deaths. Read the results by Shuba Kumar (Samarth) and colleagues in Indian Pediatrics here.*

- (3) The pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) is one of the most life-saving vaccines that most children still do not get! It not only reduces sickness and deaths from pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis but can actually save governments and families money a lot of it. A recent study from The Gambia found that the government and households saved \$US7 million over 20 years while the vaccine cost \$US2 million to roll out. Another reason why Every Breath Counts has called on every country to protect more than 90% of their children with PCV by 2025. Read the results by Clint Pecenka (PATH) and colleagues in the BMJ Global Health here.
- (4) Children aged two months to five years with non-hypoxemic pneumonia can be treated at home with five-days of amoxicillin by trained, equipped, and supervised community health workers. This saves families the challenges of a hospital trip (and the expense). It means every government should make sure amoxicillin can be safely dispensed by community healthcare workers. Read the results by Yasir Bin Nisar (WHOI) and colleagues in the BMJ Global Health here.

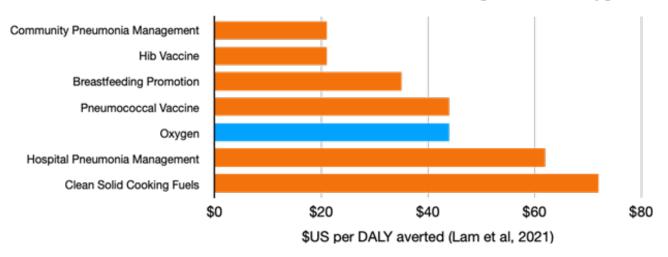
And drum roll for the last one....

(5) Hospitals with fully functioning oxygen in their pediatric wards can reduce child pneumonia deaths by nearly 50% and all-cause child deaths by 25%! No surprise this makes oxygen one of the most lifesaving investments a hospital and government can make (see chart below). International donors



need to heed this research and invest more in helping Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) close access to oxygen gaps. Kudos to the Nigerian hospitals and the University of Ibadan for their critical roles in this study. Read the results by Felix Lam (CHAI) and colleagues in the BMJ Global Health here.

The cost-effectiveness of investing in medical oxygen



CHILDREN ENGAGEMENT

New Leadership for the Children's Parliament in Jigawa State

A children's parliament has been established and inaugurated in Jigawa State. Save the Children through the INSPIRING Project recently joined efforts with Action Against Hunger (ACF) to support the State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development to get the new children's parliament set up. With the election of new principal officials, legislative business will resume in earnest and children will have more opportunity to engage, participate and lead advocacy efforts aimed at improving their right to quality healthcare, education, protection and general wellbeing.





Photo (Left): A member of the children's parliament casting his vote during the election process in Jigawa **Photo (Right):** Members of the CRA club and their Chaperons during the 2021 MNCAH week flag-off by the Lagos State First Lady in Lagos.

GUEST CONTRIBUTOR FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

INSPIRING Transformative Change for Communities through Quality Programming

Written by: **Paula Valentine** - Social and Behaviour Change / Community Capacity Strengthening Advisor (cross-cutting), SCUK



Working on the INSPIRING programme as lead Social and Behaviour Change Advisor has been one of the most interesting and rewarding experiences of my career, and a programme which I'm exceptionally proud to work on! What I have really appreciated is the careful and iterative approach taken in the programme design, in collaboration with our world class academic partner, UCL, and fidelity to implementing as design intended in some challenging environments! In the design, the quality of the formative research was so rich in content and methodology, being truly participative of those most affected and interested, it enabled us to really tailor the

interventions (participatory women's and men's groups) to programme participants' needs and circumstances, removing barriers to their participation where possible.

When COVID struck, we were about to implement, but were forced to go back to the drawing board in order to adapt the programme to ensure we were not doing harm to communities by asking them to meet face to face. We redesigned the whole community intervention and made it remote, while maintaining the participatory empowerment nature of the intervention through community radio and household visits (with COVID measures). At the beginning of 2021, we reverted to 'peace time' programming and (with COVID measures) implemented a quite complex blended intervention. We are seeing some significant and transformative changes at individual, community and health service delivery levels.

It is not often in a programme you are able to reach the most vulnerable, but in this programme the distribution of women's and men's groups has meant we are reaching those most affected. The quality of implementation is now being reflected in the stories of change that are coming out of the programme from programme participants in their communities. It's experiences like that of the Nigeria INSPIRING Programme when I feel that we are doing our best work to improve the situation for children, their parents and whole communities - it makes me very proud to work for Save the Children!



Hospitals that have fully functioning oxygen in their pediatric wards can reduce child pneumonia deaths by nearly 50% and all-cause child deaths by 25%.

The Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) is one of the most life-saving vaccines that reduces sickness and deaths from pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis and save governments and families a lot of money. Sadly, most children still do not get!

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Stories collected by Patience Alfred, Community Mobilization Assistant Stories written by Ibrahim Haruna, SBC & Media Coordinator

How the Monthly Women's Group Changed My Life – Halima



"Before the group, I did not know any childhood illnesses or ways to prevent my child from any infectious disease, and I don't have any education, because I stopped school early. However, being a member of the women's group taught me many things. Now I know the different signs and symptoms of childhood illnesses and ways to prevent my child from pneumonia, diarrhoea and malnutrition."

Halima is a member of a women's group in Balago community in Kiyawa LGA. She was a beneficiary of the group's contribution as self-help to one another and their community members who needed help in seeking healthcare, especially for their sick children. She shared her story of how the group is helping her and other members of the community.

"I noticed the sign of pneumonia on my 23 months old daughter and I knew she was having pneumonia, because I learnt it from the group meetings. I called the CHV who filled a referral form for me and I hurriedly went to the clinic, where they referred me to PHC Kiyawa (supported by Save the Children). We saw a doctor who prescribed some drugs to buy

which cost around 2,400 Naira, but I did not have the money. The group members supported me with I 000 Naira from the group's savings and I was able to buy all the drugs and my baby is fine now."

The PDQS has Helped Our Community - A WDC Member Trained by Save the Children



Mallam Abdulrazak is a trained facilitator of the Partnership Defined Quality Scorecard (PDQS) approach by the INSPIRING project. He is a member of a ward development committee (WDC) providing support to his community. He shared his experiences working on the INSPIRING project interventions.

"I will say the PDQS has helped our community and the health facility a lot, it has improved the quality of service delivery in DUHUWA Health Post (supported by Save the Children). It has also improved the relationship between the facility staff and the community people, and it has helped us to unite and seek help to improve our community. We were able to get support from the local government through the posting of a permanent female Nurse to provide 24HRS services at the facility. She has been very helpful to our people since she was posted

here and the facility now provides Antenatal Care (ANC) services, accepts labour and delivery, treat sick children, and provide immunization and other services. We also got some hospital equipment like patient beds, delivery bed, drip stands, tables, and chairs through our advocacy to the LGA authorities. We mobilized the community and constructed benches for patients to sit. We are very grateful to SCI for this initiative that is changing our communities."

Men's Group Mobilizing Resources to Support Timely Care-seeking



Mallam Umar is a member of a men's group in a community called Yar Auta in Kiyawa LGA, supported by the INSPIRING project. He shared his experiences of how he started transporting sick children to health facilities free of charge in his community.

"During the early phase of the group meeting, part of our action plan was timely care-seeking for sick child, and we agreed to contribute the sum of 50-100-naira based on individual income. Sometimes we gather the sum of 2000 – 2500 naira a month. The money is used to support members who cannot afford medical bills and we also use the money to support or pay bike man (motor cycle) to take sick children and pregnant women to the facility. I am a group member and I volunteered to use my motor cycle to take patients to the clinic. Sometimes, the group members support me with 500 to 1000 naira to fuel my bike a month. I also spoke to my friend who is not a group member and he volunteer his motor cycle for the work to transport sick people from the community to the facility. Sometimes they wake me up by midnight to take someone to the hospital, sometimes it is challenging, but I am glad to help my people. We like what you have brought to our community, it made us to know that we can come together and help one another"



OPINIONS AND ARTICLES

The Ultimate Search of Local Terminologies in SBC

Written by: Ibrahim Haruna, Social and Behaviour Change & Media Coordinator, INSPIRING Project



Raising awareness and sensitizing local communities is a familiar endeavor, yet a challenging task for Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) practitioners. SBC goes beyond dissemination of information to the public. It requires deliberately designing and implementing evidence-based approaches that fit local context. One of the most challenging tasks for SBC practitioners is how to create messages that communicate the right information in a culturally appropriate and acceptable manner.

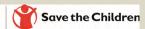
Two years ago, as we designed our interventions, we went through an ultimate search for appropriate terminologies for pneumonia and its signs and symptoms as we aimed to influence/change social norms and behaviors and ultimately contribute in reducing deaths of children aged under five in Kiyawa local government in Jigawa state.

We consulted with local communities, and uncovered a conflicting set of local terminologies for pneumonia, which further pointed to a mixed understanding of the disease across different

levels. 'Ciwon Sanyi' (direct translation mean cold in Hausa), appeared to provide answer to our search for a local description of pneumonia, but was not generally accepted as it describes different types of disease in Hausa language. For chest in-drawing (a major danger sign of pneumonia), we came across words like Mokadewar hakarkari, fadawar kirji, fadawar murfi. Difficulty in breathing was not any easier to describe, as terms such as Numfashi mai nauyi, wahalar numfashi, numfashi ma wuya, surfaced, making our work more complicated and the process elongated.

As you may wonder, were we successful in our Ultimate Search of local terminologies? Well, there is not definite answer, what we did was consult widely, pretest our materials and adopt the most acceptable terms across communities. One keytakeaway from this, is that you should never dislodge the importance of using the right terminologies in SBC. It is risky to assume your target audience will understand your messages or assume you have chosen the right words for them. Engaging your target audience during development of messages and materials and getting their feedback through pretesting will make your messages more understandable, enabling your intervention to achieve its desired outcome.





Governing Boards Set Up for Key Health Agencies in Jigawa State

Written by: George Akor, Health Financing and Advocacy Specialist



Given that, the foundation of health systems strengthening relies on leadership and good governance.. From our engagement with the State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (SPHCDA) and State Contributory Health Management Agency (JICHMA), we observed there was a gap in leadership and decided to do something about it.

Following consistent advocacy by Save the Children's INSPIRING project and other civil society groups to the Jigawa State government to expedite action on the setting up of governing boards for the two agencies. We are pleased to report that the State Government has inaugurated the boards of these two agencies.

With the appointment of the governing boards, it is expected that the move will improve coordination, management and fast-track program implementation towards attainment of the agencies' goals and objectives, and ultimately the achievement of Universal Health Coverage in the State. One of the governing board members of JICHMA is a pneumonia champion and a member of the Every Breath Counts Coalition, a platform established and made functional by the INSPIRING project. Dr. Bashir Mohammad Ahmed is the director of Hospital Services in the State Ministry of Health. As a member of the board, he will play a vital role in influencing INSPIRING and Save the Children's advocacy asks.





Donation of Medical Equipment, Instruments and Commodities to Health Facilities in Lagos and Jigawa States

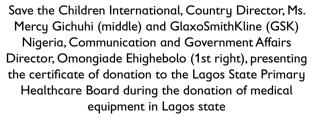
Save the Children International (SCI) Nigeria and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) partnership through the INSPIRING project in October 2021 donated medical equipment, instruments and consumables worth over 100 million Naira to 30 public health facilities in Ikorodu LGA of Lagos state and 35 health facilities in Jigawa state. The donation includes basic medical equipment, such as, oxygen analyzers, weighing scales, BP apparatus, stethoscopes, respiratory timers, infrared thermometers, pulse oximeters, cold chain equipment such as refrigerators and

vaccine carriers; and nutrition equipment and consumables including cooking gas and food items

In her official statement during the donation, Mercy Gichuhi, Country Director, Save the Children International Nigeria said,

"Healthcare facilities should be ready to provide quality services to their patients, especially children affected by pneumonia and other childhood diseases. However, this cannot be achieved if health providers lack access to the tools and resources they need to save lives. Save the Children is not only concerned about availability and capacity of healthcare providers, but also with the tools they need to provide quality services."







Permanent Secretary Jigawa State Ministry of Health, Dr. Salisu Mu'azu (middle), Executive Chairman of Kiyawa LGA (second left), District Head of Kiyawa, Alhaji Adamu Kiyawa (1st left), Dr. Abdullahi Yakubu (2nd right) and Dr. Adamu Isah, Chief of Party, INSPIRING project during presentation of the donated items in Jigawa state.



Hadejia LGA Chairman (in green), inspecting pipped oxygen systems donated to Hadejia General Hospital by Save the Children International in Jigawa state.

Expanding Medical Oxygen in Secondary Health Facilities in Jigawa State through the Pneumonia Centenary Commitment (PCC)

In our last newsletter, we covered how the INSPIRING project is strengthening access to oxygen systems across health facilities in Lagos and Jigawa states. This effort has received further boost through the PCC award, enabling the project to expand its oxygen support to additional four General Hospitals, across the three Senatorial Districts in Jigawa state. This includes installation of piped oxygen system across Pediatric, Accident and Emergency, ICU and Surgical units of Hadejia, Gumel, Babura and Kazaure General Hospitals. In total,92 oxygen outlets were established across the four hospitals in the state.

Strengthening Capacity of Healthcare Providers in Lagos and Jigawa States

Available evidence suggest that high-quality services improve health outcomes. It is based on this premise that the INSPIRING project invests in training of healthcare providers to strengthen their capacity in provision of quality service delivery. The Project trained additional health providers on Immunization, Oxygen Therapy and Pulse Oximetry, Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) and Nutrition across supported health facilities in the states.





Photo (Left): A cross section of participants during IMCl Training in Lagos **Photo (Right):** A Biomedical Engineer demonstrating how to maintain oxygen facilities during practical session of the oxygen therapy training for health providers in Jigawa





A healthcare provider vaccinating a child during immunization outreach in Jigawa state

Reaching Children in Underserved Communities with Immunization Services

Save the children through the INSPIRING project supported immunization outreach services to under-served children in hard-to-reach communities. This is to support the government's drive towards reaching every child with immunization services and ensuring no child is left behind. Immunization is one of the most cost-effective intervention recommended by WHO for prevention of childhood illnesses, including pneumonia.

Participatory Learning and Action through Men's and Women's Group Meetings

The INSPIRING project is demonstrating how communities can organize, learn and pull local resources to address their health and development challenges. Men and women come together in small groups of 25 members where they meet monthly under the facilitation of a trained community health volunteer. These groups (340) established across 193 communities in Kiyawa LGA of Jigawa are making sustainable impact in their communities as they mobilize other community members to take action and prevent child death from pneumonia and other illnesses.





Photo (Left): Men's group members conducting community environmental sanitation as part of the group's action plan in November 2021. In the photo is a drummer mobilizing and sensitizing community members.

Photo (Right): Women's group members conducting food demonstration exercise as part of the groups action plan to encourage improved nutrition for children to address malnutrition in their community.

Community Participation in Health Service Quality Improvement in Jigawa State

Community members in Kiyawa LGA in Jigawa state have become active stakeholders in health service delivery and service improvement rather than passive recipients of healthcare. Through the Partnership Defined Quality Scorecard (PDQS), Save the Children International has established an effective mechanism where communities and healthcare providers meet to discuss challenges affecting delivery and uptake of quality healthcare in their communities.





Photo (Right): A Community member and Health Provider exchanging pleasantries after an interface meeting community representatives and their catchment healthcare providers to consolidate scores from the scorecard, and plan actions to address service quality issues.

Photo (Left): A WDC member presenting findings of the PDQS activities to LGA Chairman and other stakeholders during a town hall meeting between community representatives and healthcare provider in Kiyawa LGA, Jigawa

Facilitating Effective Community Referral Systems for Child Health in Jigawa

Prompt care seeking can make the difference between life and death for sick children under five and the decision to seek care is influenced by various factors. These factors could be lack of access to facilities and finance and delayed decision-making. To address some of these factors, the project introduced a community referral system with the use of referral forms; the community members refer identified sick patients to health facilities.





Photo (Left): I I months old child with severe pneumonia, diarrhoea and malnutrition referred by the INSPIRING supported CHV using the referral form. This is one of the 2,413 sick children referred between June and December 2021.

Photo (Right): A Community member who volunteers his motorcycle to transport sick children to health facility in his community.



Commemorating 2021 World Pneumonia Day in Nigeria

To mark the 2021 World Pneumonia Day, with the theme: **Pneumonia and Air Pollution,** Save the Children International Nigeria in collaboration with partners under the umbrella of Every Breath Counts Coalition organized series of events at the National, State and LGA levels in Abuja, Lagos and Jigawa, respectively. A Ministerial Press Briefing took place in Abuja, where the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire addressed members of the Press and made commitment for full implementation of the National Pneumonia Control Strategy, which was launched in 2020. Below is a rundown of the various events conducted at different levels.





Photo (Right): Honourable Minister of Health, Dr. Osagie Ehanire with members of the Every Breath Counts Coalition after a Ministerial Press Briefing to mark the 2021 World Pneumonia Day in Abuja

Photo (Left): L-R Representatives from GSK, Paediatric Association of Nigeria (PAN), Save the Children, FMOH, UNICEF and WHO on a panel discussion during a symposium to mark the World Pneumonia Day in Abuja.





Photo (Left): Cross section of participants during a symposium to commemorate the World Pneumonia Day in Lagos state. **Photo (Right):** Kiyawa LGA Executive Chairman addressing community stakeholders during a town hall meeting in commemoration of World Pneumonia Day in Jigawa State.

Supporting the Policy Environment: Development and Validation of Policies

Save the Children supported the adoption processes of two significant national policies and strategies that can foster universal access to MNCH services in Jigawa and Lagos States. The Policy on Medical Oxygen in Health Facilities provides the basis for the improvement of equitable access to medical oxygen in health facilities in Nigeria and provides principles for engaging stakeholders in the entire oxygen chain.

On the other hand, the National Integrated Pneumonia Control Strategy and Implementation Plan provides concrete priorities and recommendations—as well as coordination and accountability mechanisms—to strengthen pneumonia control in a manner that is integrated into existing policies and strategies.





Photo (Left): participants attending a consultative workshop on the adoption of National Pneumonia Control Strategy in Lagos State organized by the INSPIRING project

Photo (Right): A participant making a presentation on behalf of his sector/group at the medical oxygen policy consultative process in Jigawa State

Supporting Jigawa's Food and Nutrition Committee in Policy Review & Work plan development

INSPIRING supported the Jigawa Food and Nutrition Committee to review the State Nutrition Policy and the Multi-Sectoral Plan of Action, the costed work plan and the 2022 budget plan preparation. This is part of the project's advocacy for Universal Health Coverage, particularly for malnourished children. This support enabled the development of activity/action plans per line Ministries, Departments and Agencies. These fed into the State budget process for 2022.



Cross section of members of the Jigawa Committee on Food and Nutrition at the policy review and work plan development for 2022 supported by SCI.



Strengthening Data Quality in Health Facilities

Data quality assurance is one of the methods to checkmate data availability, consistency, validity and other data quality dimensions at health facility(s) for quality data that will lead to better decision-making. With inception of the INSPIRING project, DQA exercise has been reactivated across supported health facilities, which has contributed to observed improvement in quality data capturing and reporting, a key component of quality health service delivery. The DQA is being conducted every quarter acrorss the supported health facilities.



LGA Monitoring and Evaluation Officer during monthly data quality assurance exercise with healthcare providers in Kiyawa LGA, ligawa supported by the INSPIRING project

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Thank you for reading!



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HELPING TO SAVE ONE MILLION CHILDREN'S LIVES