CALL FOR ACTION

A CALL FOR ACTION PRESENTED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) DURING ADVOCACY VISIT ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH TO KATSINA STATE RADIO SERVICE AND VOICE OF AMERICA RADIO ON 6TH FEBRUARY, 2015

Since January 2014, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) with support from MacArthur Foundation has been implementing series of activities in Katsina State primarily to strengthen the capacity of relevant stakeholders—Legislature, Executives, Civil Society, and the Media in the State and interrogate issues around maternal and child health. Among such activities were CSOs-Legislative-Executive Roundtable on Maternal Health, Media Training for Legislative Reporters on Maternal Health and Town-Hall Meeting on Strengthening Existing MDGs Committee in the Katsina State Assembly, Town-Hall Meeting on Understanding Legislative Oversight Function on Maternal Health organized between 22nd-23rd January, 2014 and 7th-8th May, 2014.

As part of the efforts to ensure relevant stakeholders are held accountable to their roles and responsibilities and take well-informed decisions in planning, policy formulation and domestication of National Health Act to provide for effective maternal and child health services in the State (as observed and recommended throughout the aforementioned engagements), CISLAC found it essential to further engage the media so as to sustain its existing tempo of advocacy. This primarily informed the decision by CISLAC to pay an advocacy visit to Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of Katsina State Radio Service and Voice of America Radio on 6th February, 2015. During the visits, CISLAC made the following calls:

Call for Action to Katsina State’s Legislature

- Effective political commitment and intensified legislative oversight towards health sector in the State.
- Increased in budgetary allocation, supervision and transparency toward the health sector; and intensified focus on preventive rather than curative measures on maternal mortality.
- Effective domestication and implementation of National Health Act to provide for realistic and sustainable maternal and child health services in the State.
- Increased legislative oversight and supervision to ensure proper professional codes of conduct by medical personnel in the State; and constructive collaboration among CSOs, executives and legislators on effective maternal accountability.

Call for Action to Katsina State’s Executives

- Massive recruitment of medically trained personnel to strengthen the existing medical attendance; and provision of training and re-training programmes on maternal health for medical personnel in the State.
• Provision of sufficient infrastructural facilities, especially at the grassroots to combat maternal and infant mortality across the State.
• Provision of adequate security measures to tackle theft and sabotage on the State’s infrastructural facilities, especially in the grassroots.
• Radical sensitization campaign, advocacy and public awareness programmes to drive positive individual orientation towards maternal health services across the State.
• Strengthen Primary Healthcare System, judicious utilization of existing resources and workable implementation of health related policies across the State.
• Effective and judicious utilization of the existing local resources to cater for sufficient maternal healthcare service in the State.

Call for Action to Katsina State’s Civil Society

• Provision of adequate and accurate data on budgetary allocation to health sector and maternal mortality across the state to assist government and development partners interventions toward maternal health services.
• Continuous demand for gender equality in policy and decision making; and enhanced public involvement and participation in budgetary process.

Call for Action to Katsina State Media

• Objective focused and de-normalised media reportage to influence advocacy and participation on maternal health across the grassroots.
• Well-informed and evidence-based media to generate factual data and reportage on maternal health in the State.
• Effective use of socio-media as a tool to enhance media reportage, audience interactivity and accessibility, and feedback on maternal health.
• Investigative journalism, qualitative, informative and educative, reportage to drive individual attention towards local media reportage.
• Strengthened media reportage on maternal health using new reliable and developmental platforms.
• Persistent and expanded media coverage and reportage on maternal health; and increased in political oversight on proper codes of conduct by medical personnel in the State.
• Massive and sustainable public awareness and sensitization to drive individual positive orientation maternal health across the grassroots with significant consideration for religion and traditional leaders.
• Increased in media curiosity towards reportage and supervision on budgetary allocation and implementation in the health sector.
• Effective utilisation of the existing data sources to validate media reportage on maternal health; and increase surveillance by reporters on the existing health facilities in the State.

Action Points by Katsina State Radio Service and Voice of America Radio
After presentation of the Call for Action by CISLAC, the CEOs of Katsina State Radio Service and Voice of America Radio:

- Found it very essential to prioritize issues around maternal and child health using the stations’ existing programs on health.
- Committed to strengthen collaboration with CISLAC and other relevant stakeholders towards galvanizing public sensitization and advocacy on issues affecting maternal and child health in the State.
- Affirmed continuous support for CISLAC’s ongoing advocacy towards achieving maternal accountability in the State.
- Supported the motion by Voice of America Radio Service to immediately interrogate and broadcast issues around maternal health, especially across the grassroots.
- Demanded that CISLAC utilize the existing health platforms by the stations to sustain its ongoing advocacy on maternal accountability in the State.