

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF A ONE-DAY EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, CSOs AND MEDIA DIALOGUE ON MATERNAL HEALTH ORGANIZED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION, HELD AT MAKERA HOTEL, KATSINA STATE ON 1ST MARCH, 2018.

PREAMBLE:

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) organized a One-day Executive, Legislative, CSOs and Media Dialogue on Maternal Health. The Dialogue aims at bringing Kano state's executive, legislators, CSOs and media under one roof to brainstorm on current trend, progress, opportunities and challenges on maternal healthcare service provision and delivery in the state. The meeting drew participants representing State House of Assembly, Ministries of Health, Budget and Planning, Education, Women Affairs and the Media. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following trend, progress, opportunities, challenges and recommendations were recorded:

Progress:

1. In 2018 Appropriation, the state has allocated 11.8% of its total budget to the health sector.
2. The State House of Assembly has sustained and intensified its existing open door policy with the civil society group to present issues and recommendations on improving maternal health services.
3. The state has proposed recruitment of additional 450 health personnel in the 2018 Appropriation to bridge existing gaps in healthcare service delivery.
4. The state government has mainstreamed two candidates each across 34 local governments in the state into state's School of Nursing and Midwifery to fill human resources challenge bedeviling accessibility to maternal health services, especially in the grassroots.
5. Maternal Death Review is presently conducted and reported monthly to provide quantitative and qualitative data to inform appropriate policy and legislative decision and intervention on maternal health in the state.
6. Katsina State Accountability Mechanism—comprising State Assembly, Executives, CSOs and Media, presently scrutinizes maternal health issues and regular reports of the State Ministry of Health where it is accessible to CSOs and the media.
7. The state Government has re-employed retired health workers into the health service primarily to fill existing human resources gaps in the health sector.
8. Media holds constructive criticisms and accountability on government policy and programmes on maternal health.
9. Eleven (11) nutritionists were recruited by the state government to promote accessible to maternal and child nutrition services in the state.
10. The State Government has graduated over 100 female students from School of Nursing and Midwifery mainstreamed and trained under Foundation Year Programme.

Opportunities:

1. Proposed CSOs-Executive meeting in the state will help to ascertain Maternal Health allocation for 2018.
 2. About \$6million was given to the state by the World Bank in addition to its existing \$1million under the Save 1million lives initiative.
 3. The State House of Assembly is currently deliberating on amendment on the nursing and midwifery law to sustain Foundation Year Programme.
 4. Accountability Mechanism group leverages on existing radio programmes to articulate trend, development, progress and challenges on maternal health.
 5. Civil society presently advocates for international training and experience sharing programme to enhance media capacity and reportage on maternal health related issues.
 6. The institutionalized Primary Health Care under one roof will ensure coordination and improve healthcare service delivery.
 7. Existing appreciable level of political will and interest in maternal health service provision and delivery.
 8. Open door policy to committed Health Committee demanding accountability on maternal health related issues.
 9. The existing collaboration between Ministries of Women Affairs and Health in awareness creation and women mobilization for health attendance.
 10. Existing School Feeding Programme remains an enabling platform to promote maternal and childhood nutrition services in the state.
 11. Existing Health Reporters Forum leveraging the social media in advocating maternal health related issues.
- Implementation of the provision of National Health Act p

Challenges:

1. Lack of synergy and direct budget line item by the underlining ministries on maternal health
2. Under-reported related progress and development in the media
3. Existing human resources gaps in the health sector delay adequate accessibility to maternal health services.
4. Delayed food technology and nutrition inclusive of men in the state's educational system by the relevant ministries.
5. Weak performance by the Office of Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Development Partners and Donor Agencies delays appropriate monitoring of donors' presence, capital receipts to avoid duplication of activities in maternal healthcare by development partners.

6. Delayed collaboration among Ministries of Women Affairs, Health, Education and Information remains a challenge in sustaining synergy in financing and activities on maternal health.
7. Inadequate human resources across schools to administer and mainstream nutrition and maternal health related issues into home management teaching curriculum.

Action points:

1. Civil Society group to facilitate the implementation of provision of the National Health Act.
2. Civil Society group to facilitate collaboration among underlining Ministries in improving synergy in activities and finance for maternal health.
3. Civil Society to continuously advocate for better partnership to facilitate adequate monitoring and speed release of funds.
4. Media to partner development partners on capacity building to enhance accurate and effective reportage on maternal health.
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