

COMPASS Update

Issue 4 | June 2007



ITN marketing during the voucher scheme launch
Photo: Nafisa Koguna, COMPASS Central Office

MORE MEN ATTENDING FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS



Men discussing reproductive health issues
Photo: Mohammed Gama, COMPASS Kano

Insecticide-Treated Nets to boost malaria immunization

To improve malaria immunization coverage in Nasarawa state, COMPASS introduced a voucher scheme to provide Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) in collaboration with NETMARK and State MOH.

This scheme will integrate the malaria and immunization activities of the COMPASS Child Survival program. The mother/caretakers of all infants completing a DPT3 vaccination will receive a discount voucher worth N525 to buy ITNs from the outlets around health centers created by NETMARK partners. Approximately 17,000 ITN vouchers will be distributed through 40 participating health centers in 7 LGAs. The scheme was launched on April 16, 2007 with all stakeholders attending the meeting.

“This is the first time in Nigeria that an ITN voucher scheme has been used to promote immunization with public and private sector participation,” said Dr. Mizan Siddiqi, COMPASS Senior Child Survival and Immunization Advisor.

Recent assessment meetings conducted in Kano and Lagos States showed that more men are now attending family planning clinics with their wives, and are participating in the promotion of family planning services.

This change in male attitudes was largely due to a series of trainings conducted for Community Coalitions and service providers in the two states in January, 2007. Through separate meetings facilitated by Kent Klindera from Engenderhealth's ACQUIRE Project, and COMPASS State Teams in Kano and Lagos, community members and service providers shared implemented activities from their action plans and completed quantitative surveys on knowledge of family planning services and gender equality attitudes.

According to Klindera, *“What made the program even more successful and sustainable was the interface between COMPASS Community Coalition members and FP service providers.”*



Teacher prepares instructional materials during cluster training in Lagos
 Photo: COMPASS Basic Education Team

State Universal Basic Education Board commits to scale-up COMPASS Teacher Training

To expand learning opportunities to primary school teachers in Lagos State, the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) in May 2007, disclosed its plan to replicate

COMPASS face-to-face teacher training in six additional Local Government Areas (LGAs).

During a visit by EXEGESIS, a consulting firm appointed by the African Education Initiative to assess the impact and collaboration of government institutions, the SUBEB Executive Chairman Mrs. Olwagbemiga O.T. Benson reiterated the Board's commitment to supporting COMPASS education initiatives including the Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI) program and the teacher training initiative.

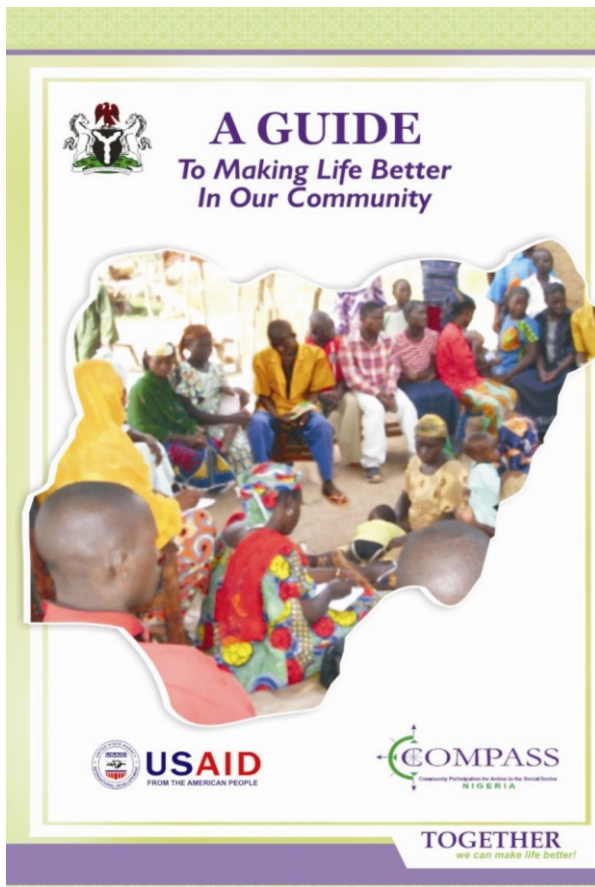
According to Mrs. Benson, *"In addition to other specific teacher training programs, the Board organizes Social Studies, and Primary Science training for teachers in the State."*

So far, more than 5658 teachers from 375 public primary and Islamiyya schools from 14 LGAs have rapidly improved their teaching skills through COMPASS cascade trainings. With the recent commitment by SUBEB, about 2672 additional teachers may benefit from the trainings.

The training ensures full adoption of student-centered teaching methods, compliance with the basic quality standards of education and introduces teachers to radio broadcasts to enrich lesson instruction in the classroom. The broadcasts are in the native Yoruba language for primary classes one and two and in English for primary classes three through six.

COMPASS BRIEFS

- ▶ 350 student-teachers from Akwanga College of Education received tuition scholarships from COMPASS totaling N700,000. The scholarships are awarded as a way to sustain COMPASS' efforts at improving the quality of Nigeria's teachers. The COMPASS scholarship scheme, which began in 2006, has benefitted 476 Primary Education Studies students in Lagos, Kano, and Nasarawa States.
- ▶ 160 Islamiyya school teachers selected from 16 LGAs in Kano State are now set to integrate child survival interventions into their teaching programs. During a 13th March 2007 orientation, they learned of the seven key child survival interventions: early and exclusive breast-feeding, appropriate complimentary feeding, immunization, adequate micronutrients through diet and supplementation, Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs), home management of infection, and Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT). The teachers developed action plans to integrate these activities in their lesson plans.
- ▶ Linkages with Community-Based Providers (CBPs) have continued to be effective for improving the use of public health services, reaching 36,896 community members between January to March 2007 alone. Through community-level activities ranging from one-on-one or group discussions to house-to-house visits, sensitization meetings, drama presentations, and discussions based in the marketplace, CBPs provide factual information on reproductive health, child health, and basic education to community members, distribute informational materials and non-prescriptive family planning commodities, and refer clients to health facilities for additional services.
- ▶ Targeting specific clusters within communities to resolve non-compliance for polio immunization has proved successful in Jigawa State. During the early March 2007 round of immunization-plus days, COMPASS had discussions with nomadic Fulanis in Gwaram LGA, who shared their fears and assumptions about polio immunization, and learned of the importance of getting their children immunized. By the end they were thoroughly convinced of the benefits of getting their children vaccinated and, as a result, spearheaded local campaigns in 11 LGAs, reaching 29,627 eligible children. Of these, 1,049 had never received the vaccine. The campaign was supported by the Federation of Muslim Women's Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) and Myetti Allah, a respected local NGO.



COMPASS ALBUM



Non-compliance Fulani Settlement accepting Polio vaccine after sensitization
 Photo: Auwalu Kawu, COMPASS Central Office

COMPASS Family Health Booklet Saves a Child's Life

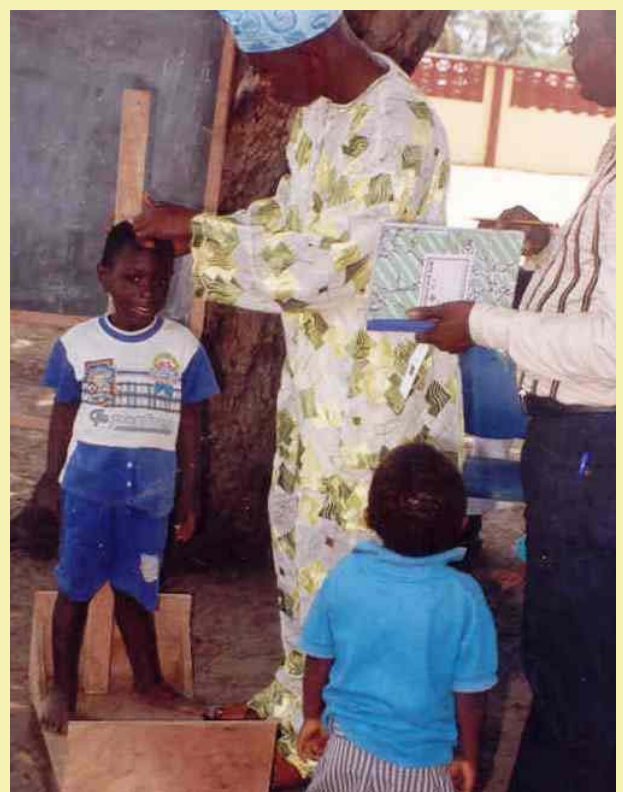
The COMPASS family health booklet “A Guide to Making Life Better in our Community” came in handy for Mrs. Caroline Omonokhua when her youngest of three children suddenly took ill in the night with persistent diarrhea and vomiting. Despite her experience, Caroline was unable to handle the situation and eventually called for help.

A neighbor, Aisha Ahmed Adama, remembered a family booklet that discussed care during pregnancy given to her by another neighbor, and she wondered if it included issues on child health as well. After a few minutes of flipping the pages, Aisha and Caroline found a column on how to prevent and control diarrhea using Oral Rehydration Solution -- simply known as Salt-Sugar Solution. Moving swiftly, the women prepared and administered the solution and were relieved when the diarrhea symptoms stopped.

The COMPASS family health booklet was developed to help individuals, families, and communities understand common health and education issues. It contains information about a wide range of basic education, child health, and reproductive health issues, and gives community members important information that helps them make daily decisions about themselves and their children.

“Illnesses like diarrhea kill many children, but it can be easily managed if everyone in the community knows how to take care of it as soon as it starts,” said COMPASS Community Mobilization Advisor, Mabilia Maumba.

The booklet, which was produced in January 2007, was distributed to community members in Kano, Lagos, Nasarawa, and Bauchi States, and the Federal Capital Territory.



Growth monitoring by a community member after Positive Deviance Health Session
 Photo: Joseph Monehin, COMPASS Lagos

FEATURE STORY

Polio Victim gets a new lease on life, one she won't give up



*Left - Karimatu talks about her vision for young polio victims in her community
Photo: Mohammed Jiya-Doko, COMPASS Kano*

Karimatu Salisu almost tripped over her crutches as she excitedly made her way to the Kano Polio Victims Trust Association (KPVTA) adult literacy classes. It was her first day in school after the semester break, and she had looked forward to every bit of it, especially because she had an intriguing story to share.

According to her mother, Karimatu contracted polio when she was five, leading to the paralysis of her left leg. After several unsuccessful years searching for a cure, her anxious parents hoped to give her in marriage to any man who would care for her.

Too often polio victims are robbed of their dignity and the opportunity to lead a productive and fulfilling life. Frequently marginalized, most are forced to beg to earn their living. Through COMPASS' support to KPVTA, the Association is reducing the stigma and discrimination adult polio victims experience by teaching them the skills and knowledge they need to be self-sufficient and less dependent on charitable donations. The adult literacy program is one of several successful approaches; the program has already graduated 50 members and is training 100 others.

In a narration exercise, students shared their experiences during the holidays. At her turn, Karimatu recounted how the literacy program had changed her friends' perspectives and broadened her own vision. Outside her friend's house one afternoon, Karimatu looked up and was able to read a sign post: it said "Lokon Makera", giving directions to their ward. "The sign post was always there, but we

were never able to make any meaning of it," she said. She and her friends wondered how many other important pieces of information they passed by unknowingly. "We have been proud of her ability to read ever since," said her friends Fati Ahmed and Binta Ado.

Though Karimatu and her friends joined the KPVTA at the same time, she earned the opportunity through the entrance test to join 99 others in the second phase of the literacy program. Inspired by their friend's performance, Fati and Binta are now looking forward to competing with about 600 other members of KPVTA, should another opportunity emerge. "I think the lack of education amongst polio victims is one of the reasons why the majority are engaged in street begging. Karimatu's new ability to read makes me proud, and I hope to try again when there is an opening," said Fati.

In addition to giving her literacy skills, the program has inspired Karimatu to strive for greater achievements in life. She now plans to establish evening classes for out-of-school teenage polio victims in her community and to encourage parents to enroll their children in formal schools. "My main interest," she said, "is to persuade parents to give their children an opportunity to learn now. It may be too late to wait until later."

Karimatu herself has a new lease on life; an opportunity to learn, teach others, and further her goals. She currently teaches Fati and Binta some of the things she learns in school, while waiting to graduate from the literacy program in September 2007. "I won't stop now," she said, "my goal is to get a university degree."

COMPASS UPDATE is published quarterly by the Community Participation for Action in the Social Sector (COMPASS) to communicate the work of our Project .

COMPASS represents a partnership between the Government of Nigeria and the United States Agency for International Development. The Project engages local Nigerian communities in building high quality, integrated health and education

COMPASS is implemented by nine partner organizations under the leadership of Pathfinder International
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