

# COMPASS Update

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## COMPASS participatory model disseminated in Arusha Conference

The fifth African Population Conference themed “*Emerging Issues on Population and Development in Africa*”, organized by the Union for African Population Studies, was held in Arusha, Tanzania from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, December 2007.

The conference drew professionals from around the globe to discuss population and development challenges faced by Africa nations and engage in scientific and policy discussions to help the continent progress meaningfully in its population development agenda. In addition, models for grassroots empowerment for poverty eradication, and improving health, environment, and education outcomes were disseminated.

Representing COMPASS at the conference, Mabilia Ma-Umba shared a community empowerment model from Nigeria. He presented two participatory problem solving approaches (Community Action Cycle/Partnership Defined Quality) employed by the Project and how they have ensured active participation of communities in development initiatives.

Mabilia also summarized the results of a recent assessment of the COMPASS community mobilization program which showed that the use of health services for family planning, antenatal care, facility deliveries, and routine immunization was considerably higher in facilities where communities were adopting the two approaches as compared to those who were not.

Development partners, the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health and a Pathfinder International project in Kenya have shown interests in replicating the COMPASS community mobilization model since it clearly demonstrated that communities empowered with the right knowledge and skills can take the lead to improve their health and education status.

## One Net One Life

3200 pregnant women and under-five children residing in underserved, riverine and densely populated COMPASS-supported communities in Lagos were recipients of Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets as part of the effort to combat malaria in the State.

The distribution of nets, in collaboration with the Society of Family Health and NetMark program, was implemented in September, 2007 and received other generous net donations from various private organizations including Vestergaard Frandsen, Nandos, Protea Hotel and CocaCola.

The net disbursement was part of the “One Net One Life” initiative of African Outside Edge Expedition which is supported by USAID and its implementing partners, as well as private organizations.



Lagos State Health Ministry's Roll Back Malaria Manager Dr. Tolu Arowolo demonstrating the treatment of net with the assistance of COMPASS State Child Survival Program Manager Dr. Joseph Monehin at Itoikin community, Ibeju-lekki Local Government Area, Lagos state  
*Photo: Efe Enakhena, COMPASS Lagos*

Led by South African Explorer Kingsley Holgate, the “One Net One Life” expedition, covers coastal countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

COMPASS distributed nets in the project-supported health facilities, and through Community Coalitions (Ccs), community health promoters, and sub-grantees, which resulted in massive support and turnout of pregnant women and mothers of under-five children.

As part of its sustainability plans, COMPASS is currently mentoring its CCs and sub-grantees on how to implement activities with such level of collaboration, especially with the private sector.

## COMPASS takes measures to improve signal problems to boost radio program coverage

Thirty primary schools in Karu, Nasarawa State were proud recipients of 90 CD players and pre-recorded primary 3-6 Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI) programs in an event held on November 5, 2007. The presentation of the CD players was in response to a prevailing radio signal problem which prevented teachers and pupils in the area from participating in and benefiting from the IRI program.



Delighted head teacher receiving a CD player during the event in Nasarawa  
*Photo: Akpoga Envuladu, COMPASS Nasarawa*

Led by COMPASS Senior Education Advisor, Ayo Oladini, the Basic Education Team used the opportunity to facilitate interactive sessions to remind head teachers of previous training topics.

Responding to the gesture from COMPASS, Karu Education Secretary, Viyilo Ali, and two other colleagues from Karshi and Panda development areas expressed their commitments to ensure a constant power supply to reduce the need for schools to purchase batteries.

On their part, some of the schools raised funds in their communities to procure small power generators to ensure a back-up power supply during IRI lessons. The IRI program has continued to improve student learning in supported schools in Kano, Nasarawa and Lagos States reaching a total of **21,104** teachers and **711,711** pupils by the end of this school year.

## COMPASS to consolidate achievements for maximizing health and education outcomes in Nigeria

Launched in May 2004, COMPASS is already in its fourth year of program implementation. Following three successful years heralding improved health and education outcomes for communities in its fifty-one supported LGAs, the project is set to consolidate its efforts and maximize achievements in these areas.

The hallmark of its framework for this fourth year is the implementation of the new USAID Operational Plan which was developed in a work planning effort that adopted a bottom-up approach, with activities generated and conceived by the state offices in close collaboration with partners in the government health and education sectors. Specifically, Year 4 is focused on increasing participation of the Nigerian partner networks and sub-grantees; increasing engagement of existing community structures and platforms to implement prioritized activities; intensifying expansion of outreach and community-level activities; intensifying joint monitoring and data auditing; and strategically linking and integrating project interventions across the board.

Basic education interventions will continue to emphasize improving the teaching of literacy and numeracy at the primary level and engaging an additional 400 schools, bringing the total number of supported schools to 1400.

To improve coverage and access to child survival interventions, COMPASS will continue strengthening community support networks through orientation of 800 community volunteers and traditional birth attendants, and training patent medicine vendors and community health workers on malaria treatment and prevention. This effort will be supported with the distribution of 75,000 Insecticide Treated Nets. 2.5 million under-five children are expected to be reached with child survival interventions.

The project will increase access to service delivery points and increase demand for reproductive health services through a series of community-based activities, including the "Men As Partners"

(MAP) approach, which promotes male involvement in reproductive health matters. The effort will be endorsed in private health facilities through the support of the Nigerian Medical Association. Best practices, including market-day clinics, will expand access to reproductive health services reaching approximately 2.2 million visits. To address the needs of young people, the COMPASS Team, with AHIP taking the lead, will establish eleven additional youth-friendly centers, while FOMWAN will continue to educate married adolescents on reproductive health issues.

Considerable effort this year will go into reinforcing the network of Community Coalitions (CCs) and helping them strengthen their partnerships with government. COMPASS will continue to build their capacities to continue with their social change initiatives. A number of communication materials will be produced to meet the CCs' needs and to support innovative grassroots campaigns promoting gender parity and addressing the issues of school enrolment, attendance and completion. In addition, COMPASS will support Ccs as they strive for policy implementation and measure how four priority policies are being implemented in Nigeria.

Based on two years of intensive experience with the National Program on Immunization and more recently the National Program on Health and Community Development Activities, the Polio Eradication Program will continue to support and improve national polio eradication in a coordinated manner with all partners involved. Through continuous collaboration with the Federation of Muslim Women's Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), COMPASS' input is most useful in issues related to data quality, training, and social mobilization, especially as they relate to missed children.

Throughout Year 4, the Nigerian partners will capitalize on the institutional and technical capacity-building of the previous three years to exert focused leadership through their vast networks, memberships and affiliates. This will be particularly evident at state and LGA levels, where they are responsible for specific COMPASS deliverables.

## COMPASS ALBUM



COMPASS Chief of Party, COMPASS Kano state program staff and Community Coalition members listen with rapt attention to achievements in education outcomes highlighted by the headteacher in Zakirai Yamma quality school in Kano state  
*Photo: Kemi Ayanda, COMPASS Central Office*



Habibatu Musa recalls family planning messages taught by COMPASS-trained Islamic teacher Mallam Ahmad Rufai Nasir during the last Ramadan Tafsir [muslim fasting season] in Nasarawa State  
*Photo: Kemi Ayanda, COMPASS Central Office*



Service providers from Gar Maternity in Bauchi state express appreciation following training by COMPASS on post-abortion care. With the new skill, they helped to save Zainab Abubakar's (middle) life.  
*Photo: Kemi Ayanda, COMPASS Central Office*

## Exchange visit between project participants to implement best practices to improve health services in Bauchi state



Participants from Bauchi cross-checking routine immunization register in Gudi health facility in Akwanga Local Government, Nasarawa state

Photo: Timothy Audu, COMPASS Nasarawa

COMPASS, in collaboration with Immunization Basics - also a USAID-funded project - organized a peer exchange visit between service providers

working in Bauchi and Nasarawa States in November, 2007.

The visit created the appropriate platform for the service providers to exchange ideas and gather best practices for improving routine immunization implementation and management at Local Government Area and health facility levels, and at other service delivery points.

It also afforded them the opportunity to observe and learn about health facility management, documentation, defaulter tracking and outreach implementation. The visit was hosted by the COMPASS Child Survival Team and enjoyed support from COMPASS' Senior Program Officer for Child Survival and the State Ministry of Health.

Visits were conducted to the COMPASS Nasarawa State field office, State Ministry of Health in Lafia, state vaccine cold store and five COMPASS-supported health facilities in Akwanga, Doma and Keffi. Following the experience, participants from Bauchi

remarked that partner coordination in implementing routine immunization services was much better and well integrated with other child interventions in Nasarawa State when compared with Bauchi.

In addition to the site visits, participants held a round table discussion with officials of the State Primary Health Care Department and paid an advocacy visit to the newly appointed State Commissioner for Health, Alhaji Abdullahi Sarki Dahiru.

The visits stimulated action plans for improving routine immunization services in Bauchi State. According to Immunization Basics' Deputy Country Representative, Dr Folake Kio-Olayinka, "Our team was very excited on all what they learnt and are already itching to implement some of the best practices. The recommendations are being seriously considered for future exchanges and how best we can utilize this peer learning approach for performance."

## FOMWAN distributes manuals during 2007 annual conference in Ekiti state



FOMWAN National Amirah Dr. Lateefah Durosinmi and COMPASS Advocacy Advisor Hajia Dije Jibrin-Bala during the presentation

Photo: FOMWAN

The 2007 Annual National FOMWAN Conference, which was themed "Human Security and National Development", hosted 900 members at Ado Ekiti, from August 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>. The COMPASS Advocacy Advisor, Dije Jibrin-Bala, who represented the project, used the platform to present copies of manuals on accounting, human resources, and operations published for the association. National Amirah, Dr. Lateefah Durosinmi, commended COMPASS for its continuous support and requested all state Amirahs to use the manuals for improving administrative practices and organizational performance.

## COMPASS holds third annual partners meeting



Crosssection of participants at the partners meeting in Abuja  
Photo: Sabo Musa, COMPASS Central Office

On November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, the third annual international partners meeting was held in the Abuja Central Office with representatives from each of the nine COMPASS partner organizations. The meeting objectives were to share project achievements and challenges, review and strengthen COMPASS partnership and maximize collaboration for increased results in Year 4.

The meeting was chaired by Caroline Crosbie, Pathfinder International's Vice President, and served as an appropriate time to introduce the new Chief of Party, Mr. Uche Ekenna, who had arrived in Nigeria just days before.

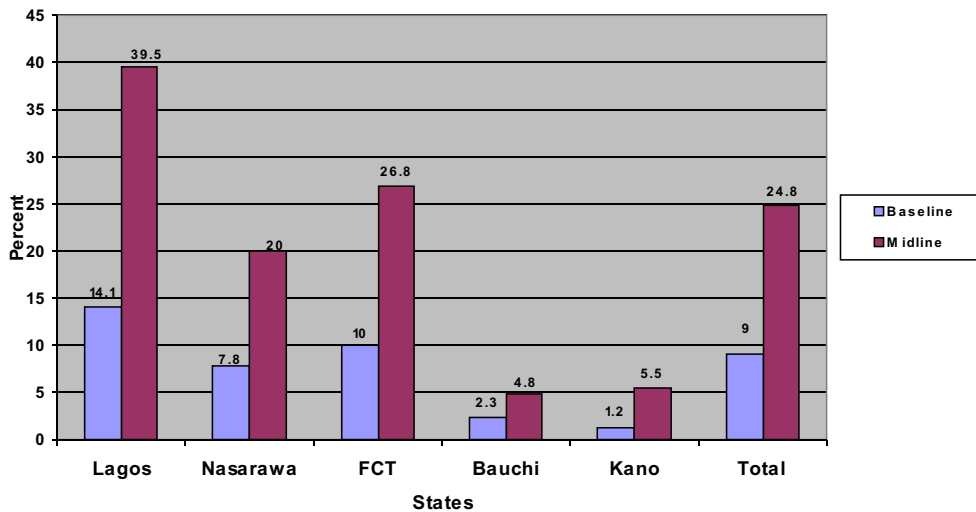
During the meeting, COMPASS was commended for successfully mentoring Nigerians to take over five of the eight expatriate positions on the project. The exited expatriates will however continue to provide technical assistance to the project remotely from their respective headquarter offices.

Briefing the meeting on new developments at USAID, the USAID Team, led by the SO 13 Team Leader, Akua Kwateng-Addo, and COMPASS Cognizant Technical Officer, Karla Fossand, announced the resumption of a new Nigeria Mission Director, Ms. Sharon Cromer, and shared results of the Mission's annual portfolio review which gave COMPASS an overall green (very good) rating.

Presentations by Nigerian partner representatives showcased increased organizational achievements and improved capacities as a result of COMPASS' institutional capacity building programs. The meeting also involved brief presentations from each Senior Technical Advisor on Year 3 achievements and Year 4 priorities. All presentations and discussions at the meeting embraced the 'consolidation' objective of the project in Year 4.

## Study reveals increase in contraceptive use in supported Local Government Areas in five States

Contraceptive Prevalence Rate among women 15-49 years old  
COMPASS project 51 LGAS in Lagos, FCT, Nasarawa, Bauchi and Kano  
2005 – 2007



Last year MEASURE Evaluation/Tulane University conducted a large-scale household survey among a representative sample of women aged 15-49 and men aged 15-64. The data shows that among females overall, contraceptive use increased almost thrice in the period of two years, from 9% at baseline in 2005 to 25% at midline in 2007. Midline results were highest among women from Lagos (40%), FCT (27%) and Nasarawa (20%). While Kano and Bauchi presented the lowest level of contraceptive use at 6% and 5% respectively. When comparing

percentage of increase over baseline, Kano revealed the highest level of increase, from 1 to 6%.

In relation to the method mix at both baseline and midline, the male condom was the most commonly reported method in all 5 states, followed by the oral pill. The use of IUD, diaphragm, implants, and sterilization was low, but slight increases were observed from baseline values to midline values. The largest increases were observed for respondents using the male condom in FCT and Lagos.



The COMPASS project heartily welcomes its new Chief of Party, Uche Ekenna, who arrived on November 12, 2007. Mr. Ekenna is a highly qualified, seasoned professional with over 15 years of experience in both the U.S. and Nigeria. He has extensive experience managing and developing a variety of family planning and reproductive health programs and networks in public and private sectors in Nigeria and the Africa region, including work with Family Planning International Assistance (FPIA), USAID/Nigeria Health, Population and Nutrition Project, IPAS and John Snow Inc (JSI).

## COMPASS Visitors

Mr. Joseph Carney, USAID/EGAT/Office of Education Director along with Dr. Sandy Ojikutu USAID Senior Education Program Advisor had a meeting with COMPASS Basic Education Team and management at the Central Office in September 2007. The visitors also went to see Basic Education projects in Kano state.

Mr. Don Holzworth, President of Constella Futures, a COMPASS Partner, paid a courtesy visit to COMPASS management in October 2007

Ms. Lisa Piascik, US Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, observed interventions at COMPASS sites, while on a visit to USAID project sites in Kano state in October 2007.

Dr. Kola Owokale and Prof. Dr. Robert Zinser from Rotary International met with COMPASS management in November 2007 to discuss collaboration on fistula efforts.

Ms. Joyce Holfeld and Ms. Trish McDonald both from USAID Washington, accompanied by Dr. Mai Wada Abdullahi of USAID Nigeria, discussed successes, challenges and steps for improving coordination and collaboration with COMPASS and other USAID projects in Kano state, in November 2007.

**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  
Adolescent Health Information Project  
Civil Society Action Coalition on Education For All  
Creative Associates International, Inc  
CONSTELLA Futures  
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