

Qualitative study of the prospective scalability and sustainability of the Village Health Worker Scheme in Gombe State



The Village Health Worker (VHW) scheme is a component of a body of work carried out on behalf of the Gombe State Primary Health Care Development Agency, in partnership with Society for Family Health, PACT, Champions for Change, Evidence for Action and IDEAS.

This is a qualitative study to understand the factors that would contribute to making the VHW scheme sustainable at scale, within Gombe and potentially throughout Nigeria, in order to inform the Gombe State Primary Health Care Development Agency, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency and a wider international audience of donors, implementers and researchers. The study will:

- assess the attributes of the VHW scheme that make it scalable and foster its sustainability;
- identify the factors within the broader health system, socio-economic and geographical contexts, that enable and inhibit its sustainability and scale-up and how those barriers might be overcome;
- assess the critical factors that motivate and help to retain village health workers in the longer term;
- make recommendations to the State Primary Health Care Development Agency, and ultimately to federal government, on the scalability and sustainability of the.

This study is one part of a four-part research agenda to evaluate the VHW scheme. The other parts will estimate its effectiveness; analyse routine monitoring data and evaluate the cost of the scheme.

It is being conducted by the IDEAS project team at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The IDEAS project aims to improve the health and survival of mothers and babies through generating evidence to inform policy and practice.

We invite you to take part in the study by participating in a qualitative interview to capture your thoughts and experience of the VHW scheme and the factors that might contribute to, or inhibit its scale-up within the rest of Gombe State and its continued implementation in the longer term, which we refer to as sustainability.

The interview will last no more than one hour. Before your interview begins, the researcher will explain the sorts of questions they will be asking you. With your permission, they will record the interview. If you do not give permission for the interview to be recorded, the researcher will take notes. Your name will not be used in naming the audio file or on the transcript of your interview, but because we are conducting a limited number of interviews specifically on the VHW scheme in Gombe State, we cannot guarantee that it will be possible to maintain your complete anonymity when writing up the study findings. However, we will not use your name or the names of the specific LGA and ward where you work or live. In addition, we will only refer to your role in general terms and we will always check with you before using a quote from your interview. The researcher will not discuss you or your interview with anyone outside the research team for this study.

The information (data) you provide will be stored on a secure server in London to which only the research team has access. Researchers will ensure that once stored there, files are deleted from all other devices. When we have completed the analysis, the data will be transferred to the LSHTM secure server, accessible only to the lead researcher for this study and the LSHTM Data Manager. The data may be shared with other authenticated researchers who have a valid reason for accessing the data and who will be bound by the same rules of confidentiality. We will consider any request to access the data on individual merit.

If you wish to discuss any concerns about participating in this study, please contact:

Dr Nasir Umar, the Nigeria Country Co-ordinator for IDEAS: +2348102474488, or

Dr Yashua Alkali Hamza, who is coordinating the local research team for this study: +2348056494362

If you prefer not to take part in this study, or if you would like to withdraw at any time you are free to do so, without any consequences.

Thank you for your interest.

Ms Deepthi Wickremasinghe (Lead researcher for this study and member of the IDEAS project team)