



## STEERING THE RUDDER IN UNCHARTED WATERS

## From the Editor



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As the project enters the final year of implementation, several activities geared towards consolidating and sustaining the investments took the centre stage. The Mandatory Entry Point accreditation program driven by the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) was flagged off with the training of over 275 PPMVs in Lagos and Kaduna states by the Schools of Health technology. To enable a smooth roll out of the "e-PCN" (which is the digital platform for PCN's registration and regulatory affairs) in all the states in Nigeria, the project handed over IT equipment which includes Computers, Android tables, Printers and Multimedia projectors to the regulator in an occasion witnessed by the Chairman of the governing Council Prof Ahmed Mora. This edition also features some highlights from the Nigeria FP conference where the project shared some of its key learnings.

Finally, we would be introducing our new strategic partner-Nivi who will be helping develop a digital platform for demand creation targeted at the youth to create awareness on family planning that will empower them to take appropriate actions.

# Providers' Training on Family Planning Scaled Up

As part of effort to scale up FP services in both states, the project trained additional 300 Health trained PPMVs on Balanced Counselling and Youth friendly services, Value clarification, injectable including DMPA-SC self-injection as well as implant services in Kaduna. The 300 trained (78 males: 222 females) were trained across two (2) clusters comprising of providers from twelve (12) LGAs (Chikun, Igabi, Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Sabon Gari, Zaria, Kudan, Soba, Markafi, Ikara, Kafanchan, and Giwa). At the end, all trained providers were given DMPA-SC Job Aids, sharp boxes for waste disposal, BCS Flip charts, FP site markers for branding and other tools to commence service provision immediately and assigned to Master trainers for post-training competency certification.

# PCN flagged off its Mandatory Entry Point Accreditation Program (MEPTP)

The Mandatory Entry Point Accreditation training program which is the first step in the PPMV accreditation exercise was flagged off in Lagos with the training of 52 PPMVs (40 Health trained PPMVs and 12 Non-Health trained PPMVs). The 14 days intensive training which covers topics from family planning to other primary healthcare services in accordance with the accreditation curriculum was handled by the two schools of Health technology selected by PCN- O 'Mark school of Health technology and the Yaba school of Health technology. While about 223 PPMVs consisting of 176 Health trained and 47 Non-Health trained PPMVs enrolled for the same training in Kaduna. The PPMVs who achieve the minimum score from the MEPTP (as set by PCN) will also be required to meet the minimum standards for their premises to achieve full accreditation.

# IntegratE Project procures IT Equipment for PCN

**Image:** The Managing Director SFH Dr Idogho Omokhudu handing over the IT equipment to the Chairman PCN Governing Council flanked by the Registrar and other members.



Following the completion of the digital platform for all PCN operation and to facilitate the immediate deployment “e-PCN” across all the council offices in the 36 states in Nigeria including Lagos and Kaduna states, the project with the approval of the donors, procured some IT equipment including android tablets, printers, desktops computers and projectors.

These items were handed over to PCN in an occasion witnessed by over 50 members of the governing council during the last meeting of the board which took place on the 19th of November, 2020. The Chairman of the PCN governing council Prof. Ahmed Tijjani Mora on behalf of all the members appreciated the support of the project in strengthening PCN and improving its capacity to adequately supervise the activities of CPs and PPMVs in the country. This new platform which incorporates most of its operations from registration, licensing, monitoring, supervision and enforcements will undoubtedly reduce the turnaround time for registration and will significantly improve the registration rates of CPs and PPMVs in the coming years.

Over 30,000 Providers across the country (Community Pharmacists and PPMVs) received an SMS requesting them to commence registration by the due date on 31st December, 2020 as a result of the SMS reminder system enabled on the platform. This is also in line with one of deliverables of the project in facilitating registration of CPs and PPMVs with the regulator.



## Partnership with Nivi

The IntegratE project is partnering with Nivi, a consumer-facing digital health company offering actionable information to individuals via popular messaging channels like WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger to conduct campaigns that reach and engage target audiences, source feedback and offer digital referrals for FP clients and generate insights on user journeys.

This entails identifying and prioritizing campaigns that have the most impact for engaging target audiences. Using iterative feedback and real-time data, topical issues that hinder or enable youth and adolescents from voluntary initiation of family planning are identified. Issues like concerns for side effects, myths and misconceptions and uncertainties about the benefits of family planning are

discussed and eventually leading clients to access services from a trained provider within her locality.

Making informed choices about personal health has never been more important, especially among young adults who do not have the confidence or safe spaces to ask questions about issues related to family planning. AskNivi both provides a confidential space for users to explore information and find referrals to nearby service providers.

AskNivi couples its ability to attribute the performance of communications campaigns with its action-oriented conversational content via popular messaging channels like WhatsApp.

Potential users are engaged using digital and offline media to prime interest and drive traffic to Nivi's WhatsApp chatbot (**Text 'Engage' to WhatsApp +234-17006390 or [click on this link](#)**).

# Kano State Ministry of Health visits PCN and IntegratE Project on a Study Tour

Following the remarkable successes achieved so far by the IntegratE project, the Kano State ministry of Health led by the Hon. Commissioner for Health Dr Aminu Ibrahim Tsanyawa paid a learning visit to the Registrar of PCN at the head office in Abuja and IntegratE project offices both in Abuja and Kaduna States. This visit was to learn more about some of the successes, lessons and best practices recorded by the project with the view of replicating same model in Kano State.

The team which also includes the Director General of the State Medical Supply Company, Executive Secretary of Private Health Institution Management Authority (PHIMA), Director of Pharmaceutical services of PHIMA, Director of Pharmaceutical services of SMOH and Director Medical of PHIMA as well as other key staff of the SMOH and Primary Healthcare development Agency (PHCDA),

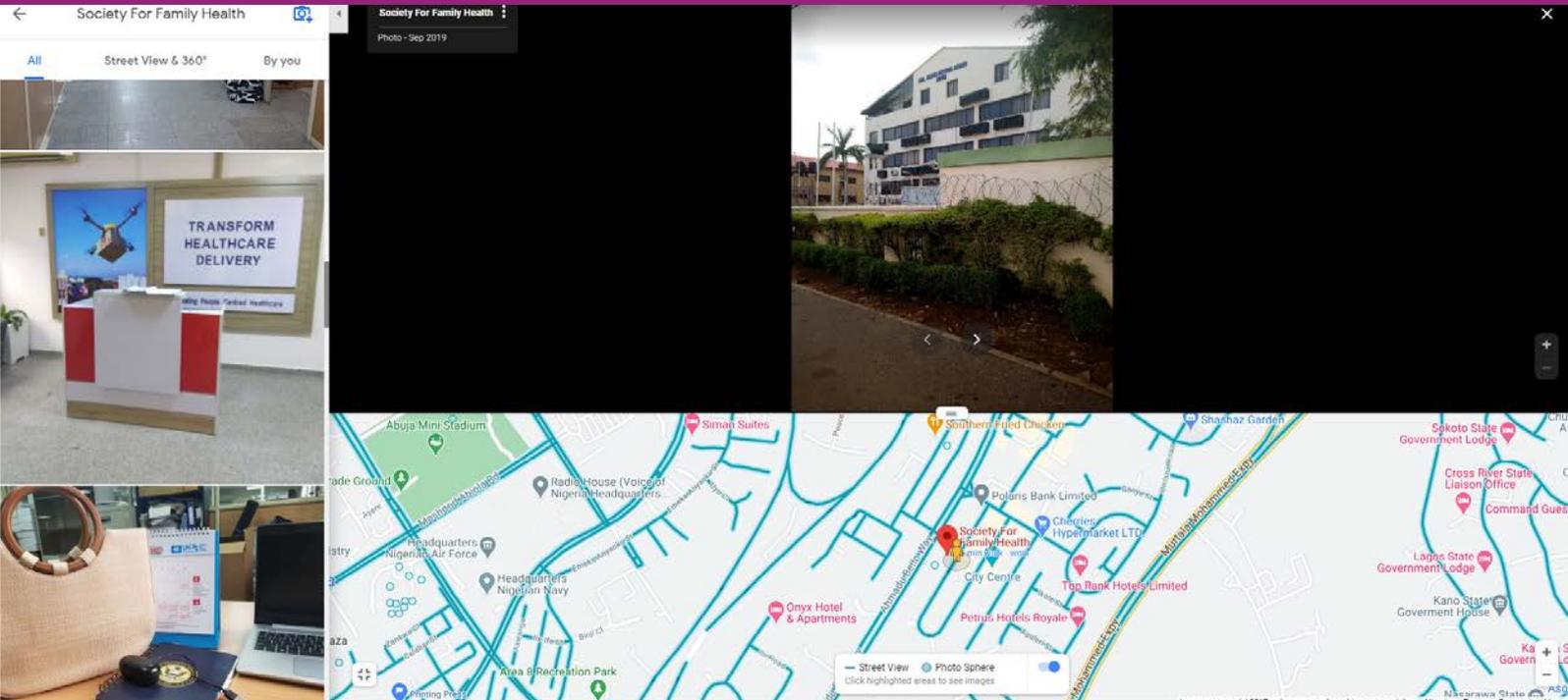


Kano State Ministry of Health in SFH office in Abuja to learn about the successes and lessons learned on the IntegratE project.

had series of discussions with the Registrar of PCN and his team, the IntegratE project management team in Abuja before proceeding to the implementation sites in Kaduna to have a first-hand encounter with some of the trained providers (CPs and PPMVs).

Through funding from the Lafiya project (funded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development office (formerly UKAID) which aims to improve health outcome and strengthen existing systems by advocating for increased investment in the health sector and creating enabling environment for the sustainable delivery of services by CPs and PPMVs), the Kano Ministry of health will be replicating the Tiered accreditation and supervision model in the state.

# connect with us



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