



Steering the rudder in uncharted waters

from the editor



Emeka Okafor
Project Director, IntegratE

The stage seems set for the roll out of the PCN's tiered accreditation and supervision model for effective monitoring of PPMVs operation in Nigeria. With the development of an implementation plan and expansion of the Approved Patent Medicines list, the Council is poised to revolutionize the practice of PPMV in Nigeria commencing with Lagos and Kaduna and gradually scaling up to other states in the country.

This edition which covers activities from January to March 2019 summarized the activities of the IntegratE project and other partners in supporting PCN towards a successful pilot in the two states and also expanding access to wide range of contraceptive services among Community Pharmacies and PPMVs with the ultimate goal of ensuring that women who need to space the birth of their children have access to do so.



IPCA having a session in layin Sarki, Kaduna North

Reaching Communities with Family Planning and Primary Healthcare messages through the Interpersonal Communication Agent

The community level project activities received a boost in the quarter with the finalization of the Interpersonal communication strategy as well as the selection, training and deployment of Interpersonal Communication Agents (IPCA) in the two states. A total of 74 IPCAs were engaged and trained by the project in the two states. The training focused on key priority health issues contributing to maternal and infant mortality in Nigeria, Overview of IntegratE project, Roles and responsibility of IPCAs, Overview of child spacing methods, FP myths and misconception, Introduction to IPC sessions, Strategic communication, Conducting IPC sessions, Adolescent mobilisation and the MIS reporting Template. Dialog framework and mock sessions were conducted on Side effects, Social Support, Hand washing, POU water Treatment, ORS and Zinc. The trained IPCAs have all commenced community level demand generation activities.

Twenty out of the Seventy-four IPCAs trained were youth volunteers whose ages range between 15- 24years. These Youth volunteers will focus on engaging their peers either through one-to-one or

group discussions to create awareness on family planning, personal hygiene and setting life goals.

They will also explore the use of social Media - **Facebook, Instagram, twitter** and **WhatsApp** to send regular messages to the youth about healthy living and making great life choices. Young girls are also linked to SFH **"9galnow"** interactive platform on **Facebook** where they can send private messages on sexual and reproductive issues and get prompt feedbacks from trained counsellor, while those that require family planning services are referred to appropriate facilities.



IPCA issuing referral card at Angwan Dora, Kaduna North

Policy and Advocacy support for the roll out of the tiered accreditation system



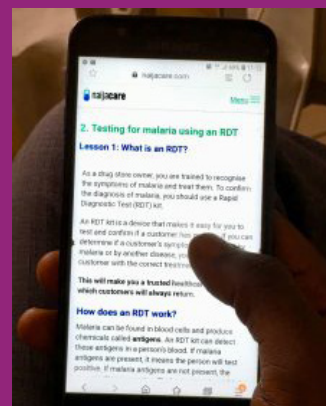
Digital learning a cost-effective, scalable approach to driving community-based provision of approved care.

NaijaCare is a digital peer community that provides a suite of digital services for medicine vendors (PPMVs) in Nigeria. The digital tools such as e-learning, peer support, referral management, and online ordering are aimed at improving the livelihoods of PPMVs and their customers as these tools allow PPMVs to provide better service delivery while growing their businesses. NaijaCare is implemented by Every1Mobile with support from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Unilever.

Through a pilot which started in May 2018, NaijaCare has demonstrated that e-learning can help up skill medicine vendors in areas of record keeping, administering of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria, and taking a rights-based approach in offering family planning services to customers.

Driven by a dual effort of physical and digital engagements, through site visits and WhatsApp communication respectively, engagement by PPMVs with the NaijaCare platform has been consistently high over the duration of the project. In every month for example, a minimum of 52% of

users would log into NaijaCare at least once. High course completion rates also reflect PPMVs' quest for learning. Courses such as rights-based family planning and administering malaria RDT have completion rates of 97% and 94% respectively.



Stakeholders meeting to develop a road map for expansion of APML

The Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PSN-PACFaH) convened the first stakeholders meeting to review the Approved Patent Medicines List (APML) to reflect the commodities expected to be stocked by each Tier of the PPMVs in line with the Tiered accreditation system.

The meeting which held in Abuja was attended by major stakeholders including PCN, Food and Drugs department of FMOH, and other partners.

At the end of the meeting, a comprehensive road map that will guide the expansion of the AMPL in line with the Tiered accreditation system was developed and the list of commodities reviewed. The recommendations will be presented for validation during the next National technical working group on Essential medicines lists committee meeting scheduled to hold in April 2019.

Strengthening the Quality of Service Delivery and Accountability



The team from the State discussing with a PPMV during the ISSV in Lagos



A trained Nurse (Tier2 PPMV) demonstrating her skills in insertion

As part of efforts to strengthen quality of services, the project commenced Integrated Supportive Supervision (ISS) involving relevant stakeholders during the quarter. In Lagos, a total of thirteen (13) facilities were visited within the three days of the activity in Alimosho LGA, 2 of which were tier 2 PPMVs, 1 CP and 10 Tier 1 PPMVs. ISS team included staff from Lagos State Ministry of Health (LSMOH), PCN and the State Primary Healthcare Board (LSPHCB).

Areas of focus included provider's knowledge retention of some of the topics treated during the training, ability to provide balanced FP counseling, referral, stock balance of FP commodities, Site branding, availability of job aids, use of appropriate techniques to provide FP methods and Infection prevention as contained in the SSV tools utilized. The feedback from the exercise shows that a number of the trained PPMVs are providing quality FP services in line with standard protocols while a few needs further supervision and mentoring.

Strengthening Capacities and building synergies Pharmacist Council of Nigeria (PCN) Self assessment



The Registrar (Middle) and other senior staff of PCN

As a first step towards strengthening the capacity to effectively monitor and supervise the PPMV in the tiered accreditation system, the IntegratE project supported the Pharmacist Council of Nigeria (PCN) in carrying out an Organizational Capacity Assessment using the National Harmonized Organizational Capacity Assessment tool (NHOCAT).



Cross section of PCN directors and staff during the OCA Session

The exercise which looked at 11 domains including staff development plan, governance and leadership, physical infrastructure, management system, supervision, monitoring & evaluation and data management among others will be used in identifying areas of gap to guide the project in providing appropriate support to ensure the Council's capacity to monitor and supervise the PPMVs is strengthened.

Deployment of Mobile DHIS 2 System- Training of Trainers



Cross section of participants during the Mobile DHIS2 System TOT

Preparatory to the deployment of about 800 mobile phones configured with the mobile DHIS2 System to all the trained Community Pharmacists and PPMVs in Lagos and Kaduna States, the IntegratE project organised a 3 - day training of trainers workshop in Akwanga, Nasarawa state.

The training was organised to build the capacity of State Monitoring and Evaluation officers, PCN and project M&E team to provide step down training for the providers on the use of the mobile DHIS2 system and also equip them with skills to trouble shoot and support the providers. About 20 participants from Lagos and Kaduna states primary Healthcare Board, Ministry of Health including FMOH (Department for Planning Research and Statistics) and PCN were trained.

Expanding the Capacity of Community based providers to provide Medium and Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives



Practical demonstration of implant insertion using arm model during Tier 2 PPMV training in Kaduna



PPMV Tier 2 Training in Kaduna

The IntegratE project trained 38 Tier 1 (Non-Health trained PPMVs) and 48 Tier 2 (Health trained PPMVs) in Kaduna State and 18 Tier 2 PPMVs and 42 Tier 1 PPMVs in Lagos within the quarter. This brings the total number of trained Tier 1 PPMVs (Non-Health trained PPMVs) to 320 and the Tier 2 (Health trained PPMVs) to 179.

The Tier 1 PPMVs (Non-Health trained PPMVs) who are mainly providers without background training in health related areas in line with PCN's guidelines where trained only on overview of Family planning, Counselling and Referral. While the Tier 2 PPMVs (Health trained PPMVs)

were provided with both practical and didactic training on the overview of Family planning methods, Balanced Counselling and Referral, Value clarifications, youth friendly services and documentation.

The providers who were mainly Nurses and CHEWs were provided a hands-on practical training on injectable including DMPA-SC and implants at selected Primary Healthcare Centres in both States. Post-training supportive supervision for competency certification has since commenced in line with national guidelines.

PCN sets the Stage for the roll out of the Tiered accreditation system and Supervision models



Partners at the Implementation plan meeting



The Registrar Pharm. E. Mohammed at the meeting

In readiness for the roll out of the tiered accreditation system and the supervision models for the regulation of PPMV practice in Nigeria, PCN with support from IntegratE and other partners including Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PSN-PACFaH) and Every1Mobile organized a one-day stakeholders meeting to develop and implementation plan for the roll out of the Tiered accreditation system.

The document which has since been approved by the Registrar of the Council details the activities and time-lines for achieving a stepwise roll out of the accreditation system with emphasis on the two pilot States - Kaduna and Lagos. The pilot is expected to provide lessons necessary to guide scale up to other states.

connect with us

2nd Floor, Justice Ifeyinwa Nzeako House, #8 Port Harcourt Crescent, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

 SFHIntegratE
  IntegratEProj
  IntegratEProj

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