RHCC YEAR 2 AND 3

Comprehensive community health worker training in Nigeria

PATH

Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge
NIGERIA

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge (RHCC) is a three-year multi-country project aimed at delivering integrated community case management (iCCM) to communities across Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, and Zambia. With funding from the Rotary Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and World Vision, the RHCC project leverages local community health worker (CHW) groups to deliver iCCM services across project sites, with the goal of reducing death and severe illness in children under five due to malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia. RHCC Nigeria is working with the State Primary Health Care Development Agency (SPHCDA) to support ongoing iCCM implementation in Kebbi and Akwa Ibom states. PATH is working in partnership with the SPHCDA to train, equip, and mentor CHWs to provide testing, treatment, and referral services through a five-step process to become a CHW.

1 SELECTION OF CHWS



Expanding iCCM services to new areas requires the selection of new CHWs. This crucial step includes community nomination of CHW candidates, who are generally existing respected members of the community. Individuals eligible for CHW training must be at least 20 years old; have a minimum of secondary education; are able to read and write in English; and reside in the targeted community. Prospective CHWs can expect to cover up to 200 or 250 households, depending on state guidelines.

2 CHW TRAININGS



The training of CHWs soon follows and includes modules on community mapping, household registration, home visits, maternal and pregnancy care, management of sick children under five, and data recording using CHW registers. Participatory methods such as role-plays, demonstrations, and simulations are used to build confidence and practical skills. CHWs learn how to test and treat sick children, identify danger signs, provide appropriate referrals, correctly complete the required data forms, and successfully engage with their communities.

3 COMMUNITY MAPPING



Directly after training, CHWs return to their communities to map out assigned catchment areas and estimate the number of households and population size within that catchment area. CHWs receive support from supervising community health extension workers to ensure accuracy and completeness of mapping and documentation. During mapping, CHWs number houses and record household member demographics and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) information.

4 MENTORSHIP PERIOD



After community mapping, CHWs undergo post-training mentorship as they commence service delivery in project areas. Supervising CHWs visit communities to observe CHWs providing services and give feedback to ensure quality service delivery. CHWs also receive a comprehensive package of supplies needed to deliver quality iCCM services. These resources support accurate diagnosis, appropriate treatment, effective documentation, and proper commodity storage, equipping CHWs to provide high-quality care within their communities.

5 GRADUATION



The completion of the mentorship period signifies the end of the training period and is an essential marker of graduation to a fully equipped CHW.

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PATH is a global nonprofit dedicated to achieving health equity. With more than 40 years of experience forging multisector partnerships, and with expertise in science, economics, technology, advocacy, and dozens of other specialties, PATH develops and scales up innovative solutions to the world's most pressing health challenges.

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