



# Zainabu's Experience in Kaduna's Healthcare Transformation



# VOICES

Zainabu Adamu, a mother of four, reminisced about her first visit to the renovated Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC), Kachia. She described it as “brand new, everything appeared shiny and bright”. Barely ten minutes after Zainabu’s arrival at the outpatient clinic of the health centre, Grace, a Community Health Extension Worker in the facility beckoned her for her antenatal consultation session. Her vitals were recorded then prescriptions for her recurring morning sickness were handed to her by the pharmacy attendants. It was a seamless process, “this hospital doesn’t just have new paint, it also has new healthcare workers,” she sighed with relief.

During assessments conducted by the Kaduna Contributory Healthcare Management Agency, the Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) in Kachia Local Government Area of Kaduna State failed to meet the requirements for offering basic healthcare services. During the ‘harmattan’ season, the facility was too cold and dusty and during the rainy season, it was too humid. The windows, doors and ceilings were broken, exposing patients to harsh weather conditions. Healthcare workers dreaded being posted to the facility, and as there was inadequate personnel, patient waiting time increased.

A deliberate government policy aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of the Kaduna populace, particularly at the

grassroots, gained momentum, resulting in a comprehensive overhaul of the entire Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) infrastructure. Commencing in 2016 under the Kaduna State Development Plan, the government introduced a strategic blueprint outlining its vision for the state. This plan proposed the renovation and upgrade of at least one PHC centre in each of the 255 wards in the state. By leveraging tools provided by PERL, the state government executed medium-term plans to facilitate the construction and upgrade of health facilities towards addressing the healthcare needs of Kaduna's teeming population.

With funding from successive annual budgets, the plans were translated into transformative projects, gradually reshaping the healthcare landscape. This is made possible through reforms that enhance the linkages between policy, planning, and budget, ensuring that government spending priorities align with the overall development objectives of the State.

“We’ve been able to fund these projects due to our planning approach, which prioritises projects based on potential impact and their connection to the development outcomes of the SDP. We really have PERL to thank for this.” - Mallam Badamasi Musa, Director of State Planning, Ministry of Planning and Budget



One of the newly constructed primary healthcare centres in Kaduna

PERL's support to the Kaduna State Government is improving linkages between policy formulation, medium term planning and budget implementation.

Like Zainabu, numerous women throughout Kaduna now eagerly attend antenatal sessions and seek medical care for their children, thanks to the enhanced services provided in Primary Healthcare Centres across the state.

Since 2016, PERL and other donor programs have collaborated with the state government to implement reforms in the policy-budget space. Sustaining these reforms will guarantee that Zainabu and other residents of Kaduna continue to reap the benefits of improved basic services.

"I am happy with the quality of services I now receive in this facility. This is a difference from what we used to have in the past when there were few workers, and the facility was dilapidated. I can only hope the progress is sustained"- Hajia Zainabu Adamu.

**Contact Address:**

- 📍 10 Bobo Street  
Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria
- ✉ [info@perlnigeria.net](mailto:info@perlnigeria.net)
- 🌐 [www.perlnigeria.net](http://www.perlnigeria.net)
- 📺 Find us on Facebook
- 📘 [www.facebook.com/perlnigeria](https://www.facebook.com/perlnigeria)



The Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) is a five-year public sector accountability and governance programme, funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. The programme provides support to governments in the core areas of policy development and implementation towards delivering public goods and services; supports citizens to engage with these processes and facilitates evidence-based learning and advocacy.

The opinions expressed in this leaflet are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.