



CIVIL SOCIETY FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION

From Neglect to Renewal: How Community Advocacy Saved the Kadna Health Center



Nigeria

Nigeria

In Kadna, in the Bosso Local Government Area (Nigeria), the community had long suffered from the lack of a quality primary health center offering all the services required for malaria control. The existing health center was severely dilapidated, and the last renovation had taken place several years prior. The health center's cracked buildings and restricted access deprived the community of essential malaria care. This deterioration had significantly limited access to quality health services and led to a notable decline in patient visits to the Chanchaga health center.

In 2024, with the launch of the project “Long-term Capacity Building of Community and Civil Society Organizations in the Field of Malaria” implemented by ACOMIN under the CE SI, ACOMIN / Global Civil Society for Malaria Elimination (CS4ME), as part of the “Community Rights and Gender” initiative, the “Martval Mother & Child Community Initiative (MMCCI)” committed to strengthening citizen participation and improving access to care. As a CS4ME member CSO, MMCCI benefited from a capacity-building session held on December 3, 2024, focused on developing a SMART advocacy action plan for organizations engaged in the fight against malaria. This training enabled the organization to structure targeted and effective advocacy actions.

Combining community dialogues with rigorous administrative procedures, awareness-raising activities, and constant advocacy with the Primary Health Care Development Agency and the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development. Several structural deficiencies were identified at the Kadna primary health center: cracked buildings, a defective wastewater drainage system, a lack of fencing, dangerous stairs limiting accessibility, and general deterioration of the infrastructure. MMCCI then mobilized the community to conduct a coordinated advocacy campaign, including drafting official letters, regular outreach to local authorities, and collecting voluntary contributions from households to initiate the first repairs.

In August 2025, these efforts bore fruit: the state governor, His Excellency Umar Bago, allocated **3 million naira** to each Neighborhood Development Committee for the modernization of health centers. In Kadna, work began quickly. During a follow-up visit on **September 23 and 24, 2025**, MMCCI observed significant progress. The health center had been fully renovated, becoming a clean, secure space better suited to receiving patients.

According to Mr. Usman Salihu, secretary of the local committee, **“these improvements have led to an immediate increase in patient visits and a commitment from the local community to ensure the center's long-term maintenance”**. For her part, Ms. Adama Alhassan, the facility's director, described this transformation as a “miracle,” stating that she eagerly awaits the return to the renovated premises. The investment of **3 million naira** has already yielded tangible results: an increase in patient numbers, improved quality of care, and enhanced accessibility for surrounding communities. Determined to preserve these gains, the facility manager and the communities have committed to ensuring regular maintenance and keeping the area around the health center clean.

This success illustrates the essential role of community advocacy, local accountability, and collaboration between civil society and public authorities in the sustainable improvement of health services. Kadna's experience will be shared with other nearby committees to promote mutual learning and inspire similar advocacy efforts.

