



# Addressing equity and social exclusion of rural girls to education in Northern Nigeria health training institutions

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# Background

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- **Disparities exist between the health status of Nigerians**
  - in rural vs urban areas; and between the Northern and the Southern regions.
- **Disparities linked to numerous barriers, such as:**
  1. distance to health care facilities
  2. costs of services
  3. lack of equipment, drugs and supplies
  4. **inadequate number and poor distribution of health workers**

# However....

- **Many rural Northern Nigeria women and girls are unable to access HTIs**
  - They do not have the secondary school qualifications required for entry.
  - Poor quality rural education result in low educational attainment of girls
  - Many who make the entry requirements are unable to compete with their urban counterparts.
  - Lack of financial resources and support for training.



# The Intervention: Foundation Year Programme (FYP)



- FYP provides rigorous support to **young women** from **rural communities** to achieve prescribed entry requirements into HTIs.



# FYP Pathways

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- **Two pathways:**

- **Bridging pathway:** for young women who lack qualifications to enter HTIs (9 months)
- **Preparatory pathway:** gives support to young women with prescribed entry requirements but who would benefit from further support in order to pass the HTI entrance examination (3 months).

# FYP Approach

- **Community driven:**
  - Recruitment
  - Community sponsorship and bonding
- **Based on the needs of the state:**
  - FYPB and FYPP- Katsina, Yobe and Zamfara
  - FYPP- Jigawa and Kano
- **State based structure:**
  - Based within HTI
  - FYP working group
  - Collaboration and leadership by MOWA and MOE
- **A package of support:**
- **Quality Assurance:**
  - development and use of clear guidelines
  - trainings of FYP facilitators who worked with the community
- **Monitoring and Evaluation**



# Result

1. Recruitment of FYP students was community-led which generated high-level community acceptance, commitment and ownership.



## Table 2: Total number of FYP students' recruited by pathways by state

State	No. Recruited by pathways		Total (%)
	Bridging (%)	Preparatory (%)	
<b>First Cohort</b>			
Katsina	40 (40.0)	60 (60.0)	100 (100.0)
Zamfara	60 (66.7)	30 (33.3)	90 (100.0)
Jigawa	54 (81.8)	12 (18.2)	66 (100.0)
Kano	70 (68.6)	32 (31.4)	102 (100.0)
Yobe	59 (65.1)	45 (34.9)	104 (100.0)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>283 (63.1)</b>	<b>179 (36.9)</b>	<b>462 (100.0)</b>
<b>Second Cohort</b>			
Katsina	35 (58.3)	25 (41.6)	60 (100.0)
Zamfara	28 (37.3)	47 (62.7)	75 (100.0)
Jigawa	0 (0.0)	58 (100.0)	58 (100.0)
Kano	0 (0.0)	28 (100.0)	28 (100.0)
Yobe	25 (25.0)	75 (75.0)	100 (0.0)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>88 (27.4)</b>	<b>233 (72.6)</b>	<b>321 (100.0)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>371 (47.4)</b>	<b>412 (52.6)</b>	<b>783 (100.0)</b>



## 2. FYP preparatory students' progression to HTIs



**Table 3: FYP preparatory students' progression and transition into HTIs**

State	# of students recruited	# who gained admission into HTI (%)
<b>First Cohort</b>		
Katsina	60	37 (62.0)
Zamfara	30	25 (83.3)
Jigawa	12	11 (92.0)
Kano	32	25 (78.1)
Yobe	45	45 (100)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>143 (87.2)</b>
<b>Second Cohort</b>		
Katsina	25	17 (68.0)
Zamfara	46	NA*
Jigawa	68	68 (100)
Kano	28	28 (100)
Yobe	75	NA
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>113 (66.5)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>256 (62.1)</b>

### 3. FYP Preparatory students' progression by type of health training



**Table 4: FYP Preparatory students by type of health training institution**

State	Distribution of students by type of HTI					Total
	# in Schools of Nursing	# in Schools of Midwifery	# in Schools of Health Technology	# in Community Midwifery	# in other health courses	
<b>First Cohort</b>						
Katsina	22	4	7	1	3	37
Zamfara	2	19	2	1	1	25
Jigawa	5	2	3	0	1	11
Kano	3	17	5	0	0	25
Yobe	0	45	0	0	0	45
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>32 (22.4%)</b>	<b>87 (60.8%)</b>	<b>17 (12.0%)</b>	<b>2 (1.4%)</b>	<b>5 (3.5%)</b>	<b>143 (100%)</b>
<b>Second Cohort</b>						
Katsina	7	5	0	3	2	17
Zamfara	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*	NA*
Jigawa	53	0	15	0	0	68
Kano	14	9	5	0	0	28
Yobe	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>74 (65.5%)</b>	<b>14 (9.8%)</b>	<b>20 (17.7%)</b>	<b>3 (2.8%)</b>	<b>2 (2.6%)</b>	<b>113 (100%)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>106 (41.4%)</b>	<b>101 (39.5%)</b>	<b>37 (14.5%)</b>	<b>5 (2.0%)</b>	<b>7 (2.7%)</b>	<b>256 (100%)</b>

## 4. Progression of FYP Bridging Students

State	# of students enrolled	# of students with 5 credits after the FYP bridging (%)	No. in Health training institution so far....
<b>First Cohort</b>			
Katsina	40	21 (52.5)	30
Zamfara	60	21 (35.0)	31
Jigawa	54	12 (22.2)	15
Kano	70	37 (53.0)	37
Yobe	59	10 (17.0)	1 NHTI
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>101 (36.0)</b>	<b>114 (40.3)</b>
<b>Second Cohort</b>			
Katsina	35	13 (37.1)	2 (Dental SHT Daura)
Zamfara	28	28 (100.0)	All awaiting admission
Jigawa	0	0	0
Kano	0	0	0
Yobe	25	25 (100.0)	All awaiting admission
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>66 (75.0)</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>167 (45.0)</b>	

# 5. Students' motivated and empowered to be health workers

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Findings of recent studies and follow up of FYP students revealed:

- High level of motivation, confidence and empowerment.
- FYP student called upon to help make important decisions on community health issues.
- Acting as role model and advising other young women and their parents on the benefits of continued studying and further education.
- Currently conducting a cohort study to document gender empowerment outcome

# Some quotes from FYP students

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***“I had never thought I would have the opportunity to go back to School, now I am offered this excellent opportunity and I am very much ready to learn even if I am nursing a child”***

***“Before FYP, community members did not care about me. They didn’t even know me well. But now the news has circulated that.....the wife of Mallam..... is in School....people respect me more, they take notice of me now. During ceremonies people point at me to others that don’t know me”***

***“FYP has increased my knowledge and capacity. I’m exposed to the world. It’s like I have freedom now”***

# Conclusion

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- The current severe shortage of health workers in rural Northern Nigeria has called for an innovative approach to rapidly and effectively increase the number of health workers who are able to work in rural areas.
- The W4H FYP has recruited 783 rural girls and young women who otherwise would not have had the opportunity back into education and has given them a “second chance”. Offering them support and opportunity to further their education, improve their lives and fulfil a life-long career in health.