



Addressing the shortage of female health workers

IMPACT SUMMARY

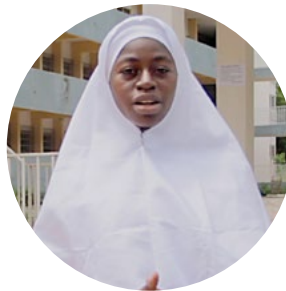
- ✓ Establishing an FYP for Borno based at the College of Nursing and Midwifery, Maiduguri.
- ✓ Two cohorts of 120 FYP students have been recruited so far, with the first entering the health training institutions (HTIs) in 2020.
- ✓ A network of women community leaders in the IDP camps were recruited to help W4H find suitable candidates for the FYP.
- ✓ W4H developed trauma support and counselling for students, and a humanitarian curriculum relevant to the situation in Borno.
- ✓ FYP students provided outreach sessions on health messaging, trauma awareness and Covid-19 prevention. Over 11,000 people were reached in three months in 2020.
- ✓ W4H recruited and deployed 50 midwives and nurses for rural areas, with the Borno government agreeing to take over funding.
- ✓ Borno government has committed to fund the HTIs and approved the recruitment of 355 nurses and midwives.
- ✓ The government now has a five-year strategic plan to produce more health workers and plans to open two new health training institutions.

Borno state

Population **5.86** million (2016)

In 2018, the Women for Health (W4H) programme began supporting Borno state in the North East of Nigeria with the aim of increasing the number of qualified female health workers, in particular for underserved rural areas. W4H launched a Foundation Year Programme (FYP) in Borno to help young women from rural and disadvantaged communities to qualify for professional health training courses and to succeed and return to serve their communities as nurses and midwives.

Borno state has been the epicentre of an armed conflict for more than a decade – with rural communities experiencing the worst of the violence. As well as the impact on the people, hundreds of thousands of whom have fled their communities, the insurgency has put the Borno's health system under great strain. Women for Health worked in partnership with the Borno government and other stakeholders to improve the education of health workers in the state – and the government has committed to sustain this work after W4H ended in September 2020.



Aisha Abubakar, FYP student, Borno State

This programme aims to help less privileged persons and no words can express my delight that I was one of them. When I was younger I had a zeal to go to college but it was not possible. Then Women for Health gave me this opportunity and I am very grateful for that.

Two cohorts of **120** FYP students have been recruited so far in Borno state



When I think how W4H has touched my life it fills my heart with joy, this programme has helped my dream to come true. This programme was very timely as insurgency had rampaged into our community and destroyed people's lives and also our health facilities. Women for Health will go a long way towards reaching out to those in the community who lack proper health care services.

Fatima Usman Sherriff, FYP student, Borno State.

Celebrating the successful partnership with Women for Health from 2012 to 2020

HTI Indexed Places per cohort in 2020 (2017 in brackets)

College of Nursing and Midwifery, Maiduguri

Basic Nursing	100 (50)
Basic Midwifery	100 (40)
Community Midwifery	100 (20)
Community Nursing	100 (0)
Post Basic Midwifery	50 (20)

College School of Health Technology, Maiduguri

CHEW*	50 (50)
JCHEW**	125 (50)
Health Info Management	100 (50)
Med Lab Tech	100 (50)

* Community Health Extension Worker

** Junior Community Health Extension Worker

Total places in Borno State this year

825
in 2020

330
in 2017

The government of Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum will not let this work die. We have already passed a bill for funding the FYP and his excellency the Governor has assented to the bill – and this will make sure we will continue to train nurses and midwives and deploy them to rural areas where they can save lives.

Professor Isah Hussaini Marte, Chief of Staff to the Governor, Borno State



The transformation of health worker education in Borno

W4H helped to transform the HTIs so they achieved full accreditation status, meaning that they could double their student capacity:

- Refurbishing infrastructure and facilities, including constructing new classrooms and accommodation blocks, providing equipment and textbooks.
- Increasing tutor numbers and improving the quality of education through training for tutors and new approaches including student-centred learning and e-learning.
- Improving governance, leadership and management including introduction of computerised record keeping.
- Providing trauma counselling and support to students and staff – and introducing a humanitarian curriculum so the students can support others.

W4H worked to scale up the trauma support across Borno. A training programme for trauma awareness was developed and training was given to two groups of staff from the HTIs, FYP students and women community leaders from 12 IDPs camps within Maiduguri. These women and the FYP students went on to cascade the training to others: between September 2019 and July 2020, a total of 7,530 people living in IDPs camps and 4,391 displaced persons living in host communities were reached with trauma awareness messages. General health messaging and guidance on Covid-19 prevention were also part of the FYP students' community outreach work.



The W4H programme is funded with UK aid from the UK government.



The programme is led by DAI Global Health (incorporating Health Partners International and GRID), in partnership with Save the Children.

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