



Addressing the shortage of female health workers

IMPACT SUMMARY

- ✓ 102 young women from Yobe are now professional health workers thanks to W4H, 620 young women in total have benefitted from the FYP.
- ✓ Indexed places per cohort in Yobe have increased by 271% since 2012 to 475 in 2020.
- ✓ Final exam pass rates at the HTIs have improved since 2012 from 34 - 43% to 100% in 2020.
- ✓ The government of Yobe has invested N98 million in funding the FYP since 2016 and passed an FYP law in 2018 which is now being revised and improved.
- ✓ Yobe has committed to employ all FYP supported students graduating as professional nurses and midwives.
- ✓ Philanthropists from Yobe paid for essential improvements to HTI facilities and played a key role in their transformation.
- ✓ Yobe has established a working group to ensure the FYP is sustained, with a membership across all sectors.

Yobe state

Population **2.75** million (2019 census)

Since it began in 2012, the UK aid funded Women for Health (W4H) programme worked closely with Yobe's state government and other partners to improve the education and training of female health workers in the state. W4H's innovative Foundation Year Programme (FYP) helped young women from rural communities pass entrance exams to study on professional health courses. W4H support has transformed the health training institutions (HTIs) in the state and encouraged the government to open new HTIs and new courses. More qualified health workers than ever are now being produced – and new laws and funding have been put in place to ensure this will be sustained and scaled up.



Women for Health and the FYP had a great impact on my life. It made me independent and I have been able to help my younger brother and sister to further their education. As a qualified midwife I have become a role model in my community and now other parents allow their younger daughters to go away to study and to return back as health workers. It has helped me to save the lives of mothers and their babies, and increased the number of women to attend hospital delivery and ante-natal care.

Usaina Inuwa graduated in March 2018 and currently works at Ngilewa Primary Health Centre in Nguru LGA.



The FYP has given me the opportunity to become a midwife so that I can provide good health care services to the people of my community, support them with good health advice and sensitize them on the effect of harmful traditional practices. Since I started working in my community, people respect and trust me more than before. They are adhering to the advice I give them, most of the harmful traditional practices are now being eradicated, I have become a role model to girls in the community and am self-dependent.

Fatima Auwal Sani graduated as a midwife in March 2018 and now works at Bubari Primary Health Centre in Nguru LGA.

W4H has helped **102** students in Yobe state qualify as professional health workers

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

HTI Indexed Places per cohort in 2020 (2012 in brackets)

Shehu Sule College of Nursing and Midwifery, Damaturu

Basic Nursing	100 (50)
Basic Midwifery	70 (0)
Community Midwifery	180 (0)

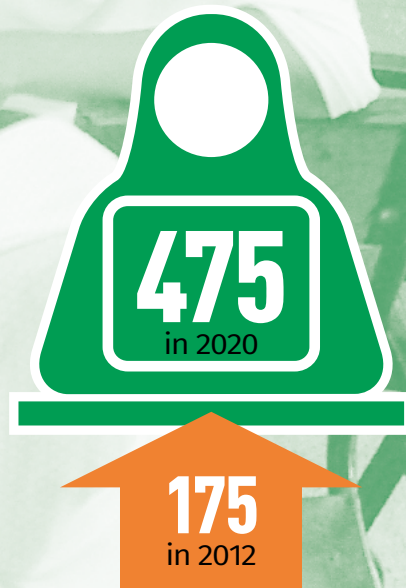
School of Health Technology, Nguru

CHEW*/JCHEW**	125 (125)
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* Community Health Extension Worker

** Junior Community Health Extension Worker

Total places in Yobe State this year



The FYP is an initiative that the people of Yobe state will appreciate for generations to come. Opportunities were opened for rural girls who ordinarily may not have had the chance to become health workers. Having graduated and been posted to rural areas, they have contributed immensely to the increasing uptake of critical Maternal Newborn and Child health services thereby resulting in reduced morbidity and mortality. It's one legacy of the W4H project and the Yobe state government will continue to sustain this work.

Dr Lawan Muhammed Gana, Hon. Commissioner,
State Ministry of Health, Yobe

The transformation of health worker education in Yobe

In transforming health worker education in Yobe, W4H supported the HTIs in many ways:

- Refurbishing infrastructure and facilities, including constructing new classrooms and accommodation blocks.
- Increasing tutor numbers and improving the quality of education through training for tutors and new approaches including student-centred learning and e-learning.
- Improved governance, leadership and management including introduction of computerised record keeping.

W4H advocacy in Yobe raised awareness of the shortage of health workers in the state and led to the government employing more health workers. The programme also facilitated strong collaborative working between the state government, local government, NGOs and programmes, communities and other stakeholders – which will help the achievements of W4H to be sustained and scaled up.

W4H support led to the HTIs in Yobe improving their accreditation status – full accreditation allows HTIs to enroll the maximum number of students per cohort.



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



Shaping a more livable world.



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

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