



Addressing the shortage of female health workers

IMPACT SUMMARY

- ✓ 372 young women from Zamfara were enrolled in FYP and 86 are now professional health workers thanks to W4H.
- ✓ In 2012 the number of indexed places per cohort in Zamfara was 28 – and by 2020 it had increased to 775 student places.
- ✓ All three HTIs in Zamfara have now achieved full accreditation status.
- ✓ Final exam pass rates at the HTIs have increased since 2012 to 98% in 2020.
- ✓ Zamfara legislature passed and gazetted the FYP law in 2017.
- ✓ The government has invested N216.3 million in improving HTIs and supporting FYP since 2017, with N2.1 million released every month for FYP.

# Zamfara state

Population **4.65** million (2019 estimate)

Since it began in 2012, the UK aid funded Women for Health (W4H) programme worked closely with Zamfara'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 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..



*I am very happy that I'm now an employed midwife, I earn some income and support my family, and most importantly people respect me in the community.*

*I'm now empowered and a local champion. Members of the community really like what I am doing. They always express happiness whenever they see me, and pray for me whenever they see me on my way to or from work.*

**Shemahu Abdulwaha** graduated as a community midwife in 2017. She works in the primary healthcare centre in Dan Manau, Bakura.



W4H has helped **372** students in Zamfara state to enter training to become professional health workers

*Some parents in the community are using me as an example whenever they want motivate their daughters to go to school.*

*Some of my patients will only come to the centre when I am around to attend to them. This is because I am very committed, patient, and I am from the community and they feel more comfortable to consult me.*

**Hauwa Abubakar** graduated as a community midwife and is now working at the primary health centre in Sauna, Talata Mafara.

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

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

### School of Nursing, Gusau

Basic Nursing ..... **200** (0)

Community Nursing ..... **150** (0)

### School of Midwifery, Gusau

Basic Midwifery ..... **150** (0)

Community Midwifery ..... **150** (28)

### School of Health Technology, Tsafe

CHEW\* JCHEW\*\* ..... **125** (0)

\* Community Health Extension Worker

\*\* Junior Community Health Extension Worker

**Total places  
in Zamfara State  
this year**

**775**  
in 2020

**28**  
in 2012

*Women for Health has been a wonderful development partner in the state regarding its contribution to the production of professional female health workers. Based on our engagement with Women for Health, the State Government has taken over implementation of FYP since November 2017.*

**Kabiru Muhammad Gayari**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, Zamfara

## The transformation of health worker education in Zamfara

In transforming health worker education in Zamfara, 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 Zamfara raised awareness of the shortage of health workers in the state and led to the government employing more health workers and constructing new classrooms and hostels. 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 three HTIs in Zamfara improving their accreditation status – they all now have full accreditation which allows them 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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