Driving Positive Change: Key Facilitators of Success in Promoting Community Ownership and Sustainable Health Initiatives in Northeast Nigeria

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Theme 1: How have systems thinking approaches and tools been incorporated in activities to improve health equity? Were these approaches useful in achieving health equity goals? If so, what are the pathways by which these approaches helped to address the root causes of inequity?

Achieving Health Equity in Northeast Nigeria

The conflict in North-East Nigeria has had profound health implications, impacting health outcomes and equity in the region. The Health Resilience of Northeast Nigeria (HeRON) project, in collaboration with the USAID Health team, has worked on improving health equity through various interventions.

Activity Description

The Health Resilience of Northeast Nigeria (HeRON) project aimed to strengthen the healthcare system and promote community ownership in the Northeast region. This was achieved through several initiatives such as the Maternal, Newborn, and Child Emergency Transport System (MaNCETs), the Community Transport Volunteers (CTVs), and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RUWASA) program.

Evidence

The Health Resilience of Northeast Nigeria (HeRON) project has shown improvements in health equity through various initiatives. The Maternal, Newborn, and Child Emergency Transport System (MaNCETs) has reduced maternal mortality rates, and the Community Transport Volunteers (CTVs) have improved maternal and child health outcomes.

Facilitators

The facilitators of these initiatives included the involvement of local communities, strong partnerships with stakeholders, and the use of evidence-based tools and approaches.

Challenges

The challenges faced during the implementation of these initiatives included funding scarcity, logistical difficulties, and the need for sustained efforts to maintain and scale up the interventions.

Lessons Learned

The lessons learned from these initiatives include the importance of community engagement, the need for sustainable financing, and the significance of building strong partnerships with local communities.

Context

Sustainable development and health equity: What is the health problem that you are trying to solve? What health system challenges contribute to this problem? What are the primary factors that affect the health system in your region?

Activity Impact

How did this initiative improve health equity? Were there any unexpected outcomes? How were these outcomes measured? Did the initiative meet its intended goals? How can this initiative be sustained and scaled up?

Fig 1. Deliveries with complications 6 months prior (Apr 2022-Sep 22) to ETS implementation and 6 months after (Oct 2022-Mar 2023)

Fig 2. Snapshot of solar newly constructed solar powered borehole in Gabai PHCC of Gulani LGA

Fig 3. Deliveries with complications 6 months prior (Apr 2022-Sep 22) to ETS implementation and 6 months after (Oct 2022-Mar 2023)