



## YOUTH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND SOCIAL VICES

**Executive Director:** Abdulrazaq Alkali  
**C4C Fellows:** Abdulrazaq Alkali and Abdullahi Muhammad Yakubu (Senior Program Officer)  
**Location:** Kano city, Nigeria  
**Organizational annual budget:** Not available  
**Champions for Change Grantee since 2014**  
**Total C4C Funding Received:** \$40,000

## NIGERIA GRANTEE BRIEF

### ABOUT YOUTH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND SOCIAL VICES

Youth Society for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Social Vices (YOSPIS) is a non-governmental organization that is working to promote the social well-being of young people, including women of reproductive age in Kano State. YOSPIS utilizes advocacy, social marketing, and partnerships at the health facility and community level to improve the delivery of RMNCAH services. Through its school and community-based programs, YOSPIS promotes public sector accountability, gender equality, women's empowerment and youth rights.

### RMNCAH ADVOCACY

**Project Title:** "Strengthening free maternal, newborn and child health (FMNCH) policy in Kano State"

**Project Dates:** August 15, 2015 – August 15, 2016

### KEY IMPACTS

- Kano State validated its FMNCH charter on August 16, 2016, thus demonstrating its accountability to the people of the State to reduce maternal mortality.
- 25% budget increase for FMNCH included in 2016 Kano State budget will result in provision of free MNCH services to 3.9 million women and children.

### Geographic Focus: Kano State

In response to high infant and maternal mortality rates, the Kano state government in 2001 initiated a process to address this health crisis. The government made policy statements on the delivery of free maternal and child health services. The policy statements were implemented without clearly defined guidelines and this created implementation bottlenecks at the health facilities identified to provide the FMNCH services. YOSPIS designed this project to support the development of a policy framework and implementation guidelines to ensure effective coordination and delivery of free maternal and child health services.

YOSPIS's project goal is to harmonize the existing Free Maternal Newborn and Child Health (FMNCH) policy statements into a single and unified policy to clarify the ambiguities concerning what constitutes the FMNCH services, and to serve as a guide for effective government decision-making for service delivery in Kano State.

The project's objectives include:

1. Integrate the pieces of FMNCH policy statements into a consolidated and comprehensive policy in Kano state within the 12 months of the project.
2. Increase awareness of 20 policy makers about the FMNCH policy in Kano and seek for their support.
3. Increase by 20% the participation of civil society organizations and media in the FMNCH campaign in Kano state.
4. Increase women and girls' participation in public discussions on FMNCH through policy dialogues and use of media platforms in Kano.

*Rise Up's Champions for Change (C4C) initiative improves the lives and health of women, children, and youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. C4C achieves large-scale impacts by investing in visionary local leaders and organizations through advocacy, leadership development, organizational strengthening, and grantmaking. In Nigeria, C4C's national network is advocating for improved reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health. In Kenya, C4C's national network is advocating to improve young people's health by preventing and combating non-communicable diseases. For more information please visit <http://www.championingchange.org/>*

## IMPACTS TO DATE

- As a direct result of YOSPIS's advocacy efforts, on August 16, 2016, Kano State validated its Free Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Service (FMNCH) charter.
- YOSPIS engaged with the State House of Assembly and participated in the public hearing which resulted in 25% increase (from N80 million to N130 million) of the budget allocated for FMNCH in the 2016 Kano State health budget.
- Ninety adult women participated in project activities including policy stock taking and held policy dialogues with senior ministry of health officials and State Legislators on the 2016 health budget.
- The project launched a radio program to discuss issues of FMNCH and engaged audiences about relevant RMNCAH policies at local, state, national and international levels.

## SELECTED ARTICLES

- "Kano validates free Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Services Charter." 22 August 2016 in African Newpage. <http://africannewspage.net/2016/08/kano-validates-free-maternal-newborn-and-child-health-service-charter/>