



# IMPROVING LAST MILE SUPPLY CHAINS FOR WOMEN IN NIGERIA

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGoN) and its partners have increased commitments to improving maternal health outcomes over the past 10 years. However, significant progress still needs to be made, as the lifetime risk of dying from pregnancy-related causes in Nigeria remains among the highest globally. Among the obstacles to improving maternal health outcomes in Nigeria are its public health supply chains, which are varied, complex and in many cases weak and inefficient. As a result, frequent health commodity stock outs impede availability of essential health commodities to the women and children who need them.

In Nigeria, oversight and management of essential medicine supply chains occur at the state level. While the National Supply Chain Integration Project (NSCIP) seeks to integrate supply chains for public health programs in the country, recent state-level efforts to address systematic weaknesses in their essential medicine supply chain need to be ramped up to improve maternal health outcomes. For instance, in Kano state, at 1,025 per 100,000 live births, the state maternal mortality ratio nearly doubles that of the national average. In order to support the Kano state government in improving maternal and child health supply chains, MSD for Mothers selected VillageReach to provide its expertise in solving last-mile health care delivery challenges. VillageReach, working with Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), as a primary in-country partner with significant experience in public health service delivery, will help ensure the availability of life-saving maternal and child health commodities in Kano State.

## Designing for Long-Term Impact

To deepen understanding of the root causes of persistent supply chain weaknesses for reproductive, maternal, neonatal and child health (RMNCH) commodities in Kano State, VillageReach and CHAI worked with the state government to conduct a supply chain assessment across state, local government and facility levels. The results of the assessment formed the basis of several workshops with stakeholders to identify solutions to the root causes of the supply chain inefficiencies.



Kano State, Nigeria

In Kano, the assessment identified lack of data visibility across all supply chain levels, poor transport of resources and weak processes as key weaknesses. Additionally, a considerable proportion of the MNCH supply chain is financed by partners, which could undermine its long-term sustainability. Accordingly, VillageReach and CHAI are supporting the state to develop a sustainable approach that will strengthen the MNCH supply chain system, and impact positive outcomes across data quality, visibility at service delivery points, commodity availability at the state level and leadership capacity of government to make data-driven decisions.

<sup>1</sup> WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank 2017 Report

<sup>2</sup> Nigeria Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2016

Our approach to system design is built on three core beliefs to ensure sustainability. Supply chain design must be:

1. **Government-led.** Any approach to optimization must have national, state and local government health stakeholders at the center, building technical capacity for system design and eventual implementation.
2. **Data-driven.** Data is necessary to better understand how changing one or more components will affect performance or cost of the supply chain.
3. **Continuously improving.** An ongoing process is necessary to identify future challenges and solutions.

## Primary Activities

We will work with the government to transform the MNCH supply chain in Kano State to:

- ✓ **Design** an innovative approach to supply chain financing
- ✓ **Identify** specific private sector partners
- ✓ **Determine** opportunities to integrate into existing data visibility initiatives
- ✓ **Better understand issues** surrounding new product introduction including acceptability of heat-stable carbetocin

## Timeline

The work will take place through **August 2019**, in agreement and coordination with the Kano State government.



## About VillageReach

VillageReach works with governments to solve health care delivery challenges in low-resource communities. Our programs focus on increasing access to quality health care at the last mile, or the point at which services are delivered. We develop and implement new ideas and approaches to ensure vaccines and medicines are available, increase the capacity of health workers and ensure they have access to data to improve health. Our work improves the lives of more than 20 million people in sub-Saharan Africa. More information about VillageReach's supply chain work is available at <http://www.villagereach.org/work/supply-chain-and-logistics/>.

## About CHAI

The Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) is a global health organization committed to strengthening integrated health systems and expanding access to care and treatment in the developing world. CHAI's solution-oriented approach focuses on improving market dynamics for medicines and diagnostics; lowering prices for treatment; accelerating access to lifesaving technologies; and helping governments build the capacity required for high-quality care and treatment programs. CHAI has operated in Nigeria since 2007. For more information, please visit: <http://www.clintonhealthaccess.org>.

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