

# PAS NIGER COALITION ADVOCATES TO CHAIRMAN HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH NIGER STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY 17.03.2020



The PAS project is holding decision makers in the Executive and Legislative arm of government to account on the health policies /law and financial commitments; bringing down regulatory and administrative barriers related to child and family health.

Niger State PAS Partners jointly with Religious Opinion leaders conducted a one-day advocacy visit to select committees in Niger State House of Assembly.

The Committees visited: House committees on Health, Appropriation, Finance and Local Government Affairs.

The visit conducted on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 created opportunity for Niger PAS coalition to inter-phase with Legislators of the committees in line with the issues of the Niger State Health Sector.

## THE ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED

- ✚ Inadequate domestic source of funding for Routine Immunization leading to low Routine Immunization coverage (standing at 38.8% for DPT3/Penta3 coverage and 23.30% of children fully immunized against childhood diseases by age 1 NDHS 2018) in Niger State; leaving Routine Immunization funding at the mercy of partners in Niger State
- ✚ Poor allocation of fund for family planning resulting in maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 352/100,000 live birth, with a 19.20% unmet need for family planning subsequently resulting in a low contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) of 7.6% in the state
- ✚ Inadequate funding to address childhood killer diseases with current statistics of 98/1000 for children under 5 annually in Niger State
- ✚ Poor implementation of PHCUOR policy leading to Niger State dropping from 2<sup>nd</sup> position in National Scorecard 4 of 2018 to 5<sup>th</sup> position in National Scorecard 5<sup>th</sup> of 2020 and in the long run resulting to Poor Health care delivery at the PHC centers in Niger State
- ✚ Poor accountability of fund for Routine Immunization, Ending Childhood Killer Diseases and Family Planning resulting in poor healthcare delivery in the state

## PAS NIGER STATE PARTNERS AIMED:

1. To further intimate the Chairman House Committees on Health, Appropriation, Finance and Local Government Affairs on the PAS project in Niger State and its objectives
2. To present current evidence for support of the achievement of better health indices for child and family health in Niger State

In attendance and representing other committee members were the Chairman House Committee on Health – **Hon. Dr. Hussaini Yabagi Akote** the Secretary of the House – Mall Farouk Umar Isah and the Clerk of the House Committee on Local Government – Mall Ahmed Musa representing the House Committee on Local Government Affairs. In attendance also are the members of the media and the media crew of Niger State House of Assembly

**Dr. Aliyu Yabagi Shehu** representing the Niger PAS coalition made advocacy presentation to the Chairman House Committee on health, providing context and an overview of

the PAS project, the current evidence from the Niger State health sector with the Advocacy Asks.

The Chairman House Committee on Health – **Hon Dr. Yabagi Akote**, responding on behalf of the team first commended the effort of the team in the drive towards better health for Nigerlites. He thereafter assured the group of relaying what transpired in the advocacy engagements with other committee members that were not present. In furtherance of response to the group, he also informed the group that within the purview of the House Committee members, their permissibility is timely release of funds and then committed to seeing the fulfilment of the advocacy asks. In addition, he noted that regarding PHCUOR, they had had meetings with other Commissioners at the Deputy Governor’s office on the issues and are planning a meeting with the Executive Governor on PHC activities and other regulations. The Chairman House Committee on Health assured the team of regularizing their oversight function.

The House Committee on Local Government represented by the Clerk, House Committee on Local Government Affairs – **Mall Ahmed Umar Musa** in his response noted that the visit was timely owing to the fact that the defense for the 2020 Local Government allocation is currently ongoing. He then made a commitment to brief his Chairman and also make sure that the 15% allocation from LGAs revenue to SPHCDA is captured. He also committed to seeing that other recommendations on the advocacy asks were fulfilled.

After the advocacy engagements, an interview was conducted by NTA with religious / opinion leaders in Niger state on their take on issues related Family Planning and the stake of religious opinion leaders on the interest around PAS interest area of the project.

## OUTCOMES OF THIS ADVOCACY

- ✚ PAS partners support acknowledged for exposing the Committees to issues around child and family health in Niger State
- ✚ The House Committee noted that timely release of funds is within their purview and would be pursued vigorously
- ✚ Commitment to the strengthening of PHCUOR policy implementation through full relocation of all PHCs activities, regulations as well as salaries from Local Government to SPHCDA.
- ✚ Commitment to regularize the conduct of oversight functions across the MDAs
- ✚ House Committee on Local Government Affairs assured the team of the capturing of the 15% allocation from Local Government Revenue to SPHCDA in the 2020 LGs budget.
- ✚ The recommendations mentioned will be discussed in the ongoing Local Government 2020 budget defense.
- ✚ They assured the PAS partners of open-door policy in relation to matters that concerns PAS with their respective Committees