

**THE DISTRICT HEAD OF GANDI INITIATES WAYS TO LESSEN MATERNAL MORTALITY BY WORKING WITH STAKEHOLDERS IN HIS LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

22 December 2009

***“By virtue of my pronouncements on RH, pregnant women now attend ANC in droves”***

Muhammad Maccido, the District Head of Gandhi



**Alhaji Maccido listening attentively to the question of dRPC monitoring team leader on his RH activities in Gandhi town**

Alhaji Muhammad Maccido who is in his sixties is the district head of Gandhi one of the prominent towns of Raba local government of Sokoto state. He was privileged to be part of the USAID/dRPC team who attended Egypt study tour between July and August 2009 for leadership and reproductive health in Islam. On his return to Nigeria, he attended another training, which was an extension of the

same project for the mentees of Egypt study tour participants. His participation in the two trainings gave him a broader view and appreciation of the challenges of RH in his town.

Immediately he returned from the tour, he resolved to put into practice what he gained in terms of knowledge and experience in Egypt. He therefore, suggested to his local government the need to select and train traditional birth attendants (TBAs) to supplement the work of midwives(who are quite inadequate) in receiving delivery. In addition, they should give lectures to pregnant women in their various villages on the importance of ANC in general. The local government considered this suggestion worth implementing and thereupon, selected some TBAs who were taken to Raba town (local government headquarters) and trained .At the end of the training they were posted to different villages within the local government for their duty.

Alhaji Maccido did not stop at that, he further held meetings with the well to do in his town on how to curb the dangerous delay on the road in conveying pregnant women who are in labour to hospitals. Having offered many convincing explanations, he was able to persuade the well-to-do to render befitting assistance.

The result of the meeting gave birth to an idea which was unanimously accepted. The idea spelt out that whoever possesses a car would help to convey to hospital any woman on labor in his neighborhood. In areas where cars cannot serve this purpose, carts are to be used as a last resort. This idea is being implemented throughout Gandhi town.

He actively engages in making public pronouncements on RH. He is helped by his three mentees who are Islamic scholars and preachers. Among his mentees is the chief imam of the Gandhi town. Mallam zakariyyah Ladan Gandhi one of the three

mentees told the dRPC monitoring team that Alhaji Maccido always encourages him to use his adult Islamic school to pass the RH message to his students who come from nearby villages weekly. Mallam Ladan said, he used his lesson period and passed the message for more than five weeks.



**One of the Alhaji Maccido's mentee Mallam Zakariyya explaining how they pass RH message to the people of Gandi town**

At last, the district head, Alhaji Maccido expressed optimism that before the end of next year successes could be recorded in multiples throughout Gandi town

