

# Improving the Synergy of Ward Development Committee Activities in Sokoto State, Nigeria

To grow the impact of Ward Development Committees (WDCs) in all 23 local government areas (LGAs) in Nigeria, the Sokoto State Primary Health Care Development Agency (SSPHCDA) needed to overcome a huge challenge: improving the synergy of activities across all WDCs in the state. The agency also had difficulty tracking and documenting WDC training, service delivery support, and community efforts to improve health facilities organized by other implementing partners working with WDCs in Sokoto. To close these knowledge gaps, Breakthrough ACTION Nigeria provided support to the SSPHCDA in the form of capacity building, advocacy, and the use of data reporting tools. The project aimed for a more streamlined process to enhance the coordination of WDC activities by implementing the following strategies:

- **Appointing focal persons.** Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria worked with the SSPHCDA to identify and appoint LGA-WDC focal persons within each of the 23 LGAs. Focal persons were trained in leadership, gender, resource mobilization, and the roles and responsibilities of the WDC.
- **Adapting national guidelines.** Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria also helped the SSPHCDA adopt the National WDC Operational Guidelines for Sokoto State. The SSPHCDA also resumed holding state and LGA WDC forums for advocacy and coordination of WDC activities.
- **Creating data-driven resources.** Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria developed monthly reporting templates, which strengthened ownership of the WDC platform. The templates helped WDCs have accurate, up-to-date information about the activities that were happening across communities.

The results of this endeavor have been remarkable. Not only has this process improved coordination and harmonization of WDC activities, but it has also been adopted and used by other implementing partners in Sokoto State. Aliyu Abbas, SSPHCDA Director of Advocacy, Communication, and Social Mobilization, noted: “Sokoto State Primary Health Care Development Agency likes the harmonization of working with the Ward Development Committees. This helps decrease the duplication of effort and resources.”

This success story highlights how the collaborative efforts of Breakthrough ACTION-Nigeria and the SSPHCDA, and how other partners can effectively improve the impact of the WDCs in their communities.

This success story is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Breakthrough ACTION and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

