



HSTPnews

The Health Sector Transformation Programme

1st EDITION

His Excellency

MOHAMMED UMARU

BAGO

THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF NIGER STATE

Editorial

Building a Healthier Future Together

As we celebrate another significant milestone in the journey of the **Health Sector Transformation Program (HSTP)**, marked by the successful rollout of the Health Facility Assessment Programme training. It is both timely and essential to reflect on our achievements and renew our commitment to the road ahead. The past months have powerfully demonstrated our shared determination to strengthen Niger State's health system, ensuring that quality healthcare reaches every citizen no matter their location or circumstance.

Guided by the visionary leadership of **His Excellency, Farmer Governor Umaru Bago**, and supported by the Commissioners for Primary Health, Secondary and Tertiary Health, as well as the dedicated Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Deputy Directors, and our tireless health professionals, we have witnessed remarkable progress. New health facilities have risen, existing centers have been modernised, and innovative approaches have been introduced to close persistent gaps in service delivery. These successes are far more than statistics or headlines; they represent lives saved, families strengthened, and hope rekindled in our communities.

However, our mission does not end here. The challenges before us, ranging from resource limitations to the ongoing need for training, capacity building, and community engagement, demand our continued collaboration, creativity, and unwavering commitment. Every stakeholder, from policymakers and administrators to frontline health workers and community leaders, is vital to this transformation. Your dedication and partnership are the foundation upon which we build a healthier future.

In this edition of the HSTP Newsletter, we highlight recent achievements, share inspiring Highlights from stakeholders, and provide updates on upcoming activities and opportunities for involvement. We encourage you to read, share, and engage with the content, and to join us in the ongoing conversation about the future of healthcare in Niger State.

Let us continue to champion innovation, accountability, and compassion in all that we do. The future of Niger State's health sector is bright and it is a future we are building together, one step at a time.

Onward, to a healthier Niger State!

Moyo AWODIYA

*Senior Support Officer
(Communications and
Stakeholder Management)
MRL® Public Sector Consultants*



Henrietta OTIKA

*Programme Administrator
MRL® Public Sector Consultants*

Michael ADEREMI
Photographer

Audu SAMSON
Photographer

Shagari GWAPNA
Graphic Designer

Contents



03 Editorial – Building a Healthier Future Together

06 Introduction to the Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP)

09 The Health Facility Assessment (HFA) Framework

13 Recent Ministerial Engagements

13 // Consultation with the Ministry of Primary Health Care

16 // Collaboration with the Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Health

18 Visual Identity: Symbolism of the HSTP Logo

19 Implementation Timeline and Milestones

20 Government Team Leads: Profiles and Contributions

20 // Honourable Commissioner for Secondary and Tertiary Health: Dr. Bello Tukur

21 // Commissioner, Ministry of Primary Health Care: Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Dangana

22 Spotlight on the MRL® Team

22 // Ninma Christy Angulu: Driving Field Excellence and Programme Impact

23 // Adayi Peterside: Leading with Strategy and Purpose



25 **Expanding Capacity:** Additional Enumerators Trained for HSTP Fieldwork

28 **Training and Capacity Building Updates**

28 // Interview 1: Mr. Abdulkadir Mohammed, Team Lead, Lavun Local Government Area

29 // Interview 2: Mr. Daniel Emmanuel, Enumerator, Chanchaga Local Government Area

31 **Forthcoming Activities** and Strategic Directions

32 **Recent Policy Changes** and New Health Regulations Supporting HSTP

34 **Health Tips** and Public Awareness

36 **FAQs** – Frequently Asked Questions



Introduction to the Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP)



Imagine a future where every mother, child, and family has access to quality healthcare where hospitals and clinics are equipped with the latest tools, health workers are motivated and well-trained, and no one is left behind due to distance, cost, or lack of information. This vision is rapidly becoming a reality through the Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP), a bold and comprehensive initiative launched by Farmer Governor Umaru Mohammed Bago. The Programme is set to revolutionise the healthcare landscape of Niger State by addressing critical gaps and building a sustainable, people-centered health system.

Our Mission

*To develop
a comprehensive, reliable,
and dynamic database of
healthcare facilities across
Niger State that guides
policy formulation, enhances
resource allocation, and
drives continuous
improvements in healthcare
services ultimately ensuring
a healthier, more equitable
future for all residents.*

The Heart of the Programme: Healthcare Facilities Assessment (HFA)

At the core of the HSTP lies the Healthcare Facilities Assessment (HFA), a rigorous, state-wide survey designed to gather detailed data on every health facility, from urban hospitals to rural clinics. This includes assessing infrastructure, availability of essential medical equipment, human resources, and the quality and range of services provided. The HFA is more than just a data collection exercise; it is a vital diagnostic tool that will reveal the health system's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities.

Why the HSTP Matters: Building a Healthier Future for All

The importance of the HSTP cannot be overstated. Niger State, like many regions, faces challenges such as uneven distribution of health services, shortages of skilled health workers, and gaps in infrastructure and equipment. These challenges have historically limited access to quality healthcare, especially for vulnerable populations in rural and underserved areas.

The outcome of the Health Facility Assessment will address these issues head-on by:

1. Improving Healthcare Quality:

Upgrading facilities, training health workers, and ensuring consistent essential medicines and equipment availability.

2. Expanding Access:

Bringing services closer to communities through strategic facility upgrades and outreach programs.

3. Strengthening Infrastructure:

Investing in modern health centres, reliable power supply, water, and sanitation to create safe and effective care environments.

4. Improving Healthcare Quality:

Using the insights from the HFA to monitor progress, identify gaps, and adapt strategies dynamically.

This comprehensive approach aligns with Nigeria's national health policies and global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the goal of achieving universal health coverage by ensuring that all individuals receive the health services they need without financial hardship.





The Vision: A Healthier, More Resilient Niger State

The HSTP is not just a Programme, it is a transformative movement toward a future where health is a fundamental right, not a privilege. By fostering innovation, accountability, and community engagement, the Programme aims to position Niger State as a leader in health sector reform in Nigeria and beyond.

Imagine a future where:

1. Pregnant women receive timely antenatal care and safe deliveries.
2. Children are protected from preventable diseases through widespread immunisation.
3. Chronic diseases are managed effectively with continuous care.
4. Health workers are motivated, supported, and equipped to deliver their best.
5. Communities actively participate in their health and well-being.

How You Can Be Part of This Change

The success of the HSTP depends on collaboration among government agencies, healthcare providers, communities, and partners. Everyone has a role to play from health workers on the frontlines to citizens advocating for better services.

As the Healthcare Facilities Assessment progresses, your voice, feedback, and support will be invaluable in shaping a healthcare system that truly meets the needs of Niger State's diverse population.

Our Commitment and Mission

We are committed to transparency, inclusiveness, and sustainability. The data collected will be openly shared with stakeholders to foster trust and collective action. Continuous monitoring and evaluation will ensure that the Programme adapts and improves over time.

The Health Facility Assessment (HFA) Framework



Strategic Objectives and Methodological Approach

The Health Facility Assessment constitutes the foundational component of the Health Sector Transformation Programme, strategically designed to establish a comprehensive evidence base for healthcare system enhancement throughout Niger State. This systematic assessment employs a bifurcated implementation structure comprising: Enumeration and Data Collection, followed by Data Processing, Analysis, and Reporting.

The assessment framework has been methodically constructed to gather standardised information across all healthcare delivery points in Niger State, providing policymakers with accurate, granular understanding of current healthcare infrastructure. By documenting existing capacities, service delivery mechanisms, and systemic gaps, the HFA enables targeted interventions and strategic resource allocation.

The assessment's principal objectives encompass:

- Development of a comprehensive healthcare facility registry spanning primary, secondary, and tertiary service tiers
- Establishment of accurate baseline metrics on infrastructure conditions and service provision capacities
- Identification of geographical distribution patterns and healthcare access disparities
- Evaluation of human resource distribution and capacity development requirements
- Documentation of medical equipment availability, functionality, and technological requirements
- Facilitation of evidence-based policy formulation and implementation strategies
- Creation of monitoring and evaluation benchmarks for future health system interventions

Through this structured methodological approach, the HFA will generate the essential information architecture required for transformative health policy development and implementation, ultimately contributing to improved healthcare outcomes for Niger State residents.



Data Collection and Validation Protocols

The Enumeration and Data Collection phase represents the critical foundation in establishing the evidence architecture necessary for informed healthcare system transformation within the HSTP Framework. This phase employs rigorous methodological protocols to ensure comprehensive and validated data acquisition from healthcare facilities throughout Niger State.

Facility Identification and Geo-Mapping

The data collection process commences with systematic facility verification and spatial documentation. Trained enumerators are strategically deployed across all Local Government Areas to authenticate the existence, operational status, and precise geographical coordinates of each health facility. Utilising GPS-enabled digital devices, accurate locational data is recorded, effectively eliminating duplication risks and ensuring comprehensive documentation. This mapping exercise establishes the definitive sampling framework for subsequent detailed assessment activities.



A Cross Section of Photographs During the Fieldwork Training





Comprehensive Facility Assessment Methodology

Following verification, field personnel administer structured assessment instruments utilising Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) methodology. This technology enhanced approach facilitates real-time data capture and cloud synchronisation, maintaining data integrity even in challenging connectivity environments. The assessment protocols capture multidimensional information across critical domains:

- Physical infrastructure conditions and service delivery environments
- Human resource composition, qualifications, and distribution patterns
- Supply chain management systems and essential medicine availability
- Medical equipment inventories with operational status verification
- Service availability matrices and utilisation statistics
- Health information systems and data management practices

This methodical approach to evidence generation provides not only precise documentation of current healthcare service provision in Niger State but also establishes the analytical foundation for developing transformative interventions that will reshape healthcare delivery throughout the region.

Recent Ministerial Engagements



L-R: Dr. Samuel Jiya (Director Disease Control and Immunisation), Dr. Hauwa N. Kolo (Director Community and Family Health Services), Dr. Ibrahim Ahmed Dangana (Commissioner for Ministry of Primary Health Care), Dr. Roni Ajao (Executive Director MRL® Public Consultants), Dr. Mohammed Gana (Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Primary Health Care), Dr. Inuwa Juaidu (Director Health Planning Research and Statistics), and Mr. Adayi Peterside (Senior Consultant MRL® Public Sector Consultants)

Consultation with the Ministry of Primary Health Care

On February 4, 2025, the Ministry of Primary Health Care (MPHC) convened a pivotal stakeholder meeting at its New Secretariat to formally inaugurate the Health Sector Transformation Programme. The strategic assembly brought together senior MPHC officials-including Honourable Commissioner Ibrahim Dagana and departmental directors-alongside technical experts from MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd to establish the framework for this transformative initiative.

The consultation articulated the HSTP's principal objective: *developing a comprehensive, high-quality database encompassing all primary, secondary, and tertiary health facilities throughout Niger State*. This database will capture multidimensional information ranging from facility infrastructure assessments and equipment inventories to precise geo-coordinates, supporting enhanced sector planning, policy development, and sustainable progress aligned with national strategies.

Key deliberations from the meeting included:

■ Data Collection & Mapping:

Implementation of a robust 'Health Facility Assessment' encompassing both public and private facilities, utilising methodologies previously employed in educational sector mapping exercises. This approach incorporates facility imagery and geographic data for developing a dynamic master map, facilitating enhanced monitoring and strategic decision-making.

■ Human Resource Mobilisation:

Advancement of the recruitment process for local government area (LGA) managers and approximately 500 enumerators. A comprehensive two-week training program has been scheduled to ensure field personnel are thoroughly prepared for operations commencing February 24, 2025.

■ Strategic Communications:

Evaluation of five potential logo designs, with preference emerging for imagery symbolising care, inclusivity, and healthcare provision. Strategies for establishing a digital presence and producing regular stakeholder communications were extensively deliberated.

■ Governance Framework:

Establishment of a dedicated HSTP committee structure to ensure regular progress monitoring and maintain implementation momentum. The critical importance of enhanced collaboration across diverse stakeholders-including private healthcare providers, local governmental authorities, and development partners, was emphasised as fundamental to programme success.

The consultation concluded with clearly defined action items, including questionnaire framework finalisation, logo refinement, communication channel establishment, and follow-up coordination mechanisms to address implementation considerations.







L-R: Mr. Iliya Laban (Director Health Planning Research and Statistics), Dr. Abdullahi Imam (Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Health Care) and Dr. Bello Tukur (Honourable Commissioner for Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Health Care)

Collaboration with the Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Health

On February 5, 2025, the Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Health hosted a comprehensive planning session at its New Secretariat to advance the Health Sector Transformation Programme. This engagement assembled ministerial leadership under Dr. Bello Tukur and technical representatives from MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd to synchronise implementation strategies and coordinate programmatic approaches.

The session commenced with contextual introductions and historical perspective on MRL®'s previous contributions to Niger State's development agenda, particularly through educational initiatives including TENS and TENS II. Discussions emphasised the strategic value of inter-ministerial collaboration between the primary and Secondary/Tertiary healthcare Ministries to achieve a comprehensive health system assessment statewide.

The collaborative dialogue reaffirmed HSTP's comprehensive objectives of documenting detailed information across all healthcare facility tiers throughout Niger State. Through systematic documentation of infrastructure conditions, equipment status, and geo-spatial distribution, the project will establish an authoritative database supporting:

- **Evidence-Based Planning & Policy Formulation:** Providing robust analytics for resource allocation and reform initiatives.
- **Enhanced Performance Monitoring:** Enabling longitudinal tracking of healthcare indicators and service delivery gaps.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Coordination:** Aligning governmental, development partner, and community health initiatives toward national health priorities and Sustainable Development Goals.



Significant implementation considerations addressed during the engagement included:

■ Field Personnel Deployment:

Initiation of recruitment processes for LGA Manager and 539 enumerators, with comprehensive training scheduled before field operations. Selection criteria prioritise technological proficiency and appropriate educational qualifications to ensure data integrity.

■ Programme Identity Development:

Evaluation of visual identity options, with consensus emerging around Logo 5 complemented by a recommendation to incorporate thematic messaging. Digital platform development drawing from established methodologies was proposed alongside regular stakeholder communication mechanisms.

■ Governance Structure:

Formalisation of an HSTP committee framework with weekly coordination meetings to ensure continuous progress monitoring, with appropriate provisions for participant engagement.

■ Technical Prerequisites:

Commitment to developing comprehensive resource inventories, including health facility directories, non-governmental partner registries, and LGA Medical Officer listings to support field operations. Authentication documentation for field personnel was identified as an operational necessity.

The engagement concluded with precise implementation directives including visual identity harmonisation, communication channel establishment, committee membership finalisation, and field readiness preparations.



Visual Identity

Symbolism of the HSTP Logo

The Health Sector Transformation Programme's visual identity embodies sophisticated symbolism, thoughtfully conceptualised to communicate the initiative's vision and strategic objectives. Each design element has been deliberately incorporated to convey the Programme's fundamental values, transformation agenda, and commitment to healthcare system enhancement throughout Niger State.

The logo is a composition of the geographical representation of Niger State's territorial boundaries, which contextualises the Programme within its specific implementation environment while demonstrating governmental commitment to healthcare transformation across all administrative regions. This core element represents institutional ownership, contextual relevance, and direct connection to beneficiary communities.

Superimposed upon this geographical element is the universally recognised stereoscope symbol, representing diagnostic precision, analytical clarity, and evidence-based decision-making. This visual component reinforces HSTP's methodological commitment to generating accurate health system data through comprehensive assessment and utilising this evidence to design strategic interventions. The positive sign (+) incorporated within the design serves as the internationally recognised healthcare symbol, communicating the programme's fundamental objective of enhancing health outcomes, improving service accessibility, and promoting population wellbeing.

The most distinctive element within the visual identity is the carefully integrated triadic arrangement of dots, symbolising the family unit-father, mother, and child. This representation conveys the programme's community-centred approach that positions families as the fundamental beneficiaries of all system enhancements. By incorporating this familial



representation, the logo underscores HSTP's commitment to ensuring healthcare reforms permeate to the household level, strengthen community health systems, and implement inclusive policies that address all demographic segments.

In its compositional entirety, the HSTP visual identity communicates the narrative of a methodologically rigorous, evidence driven, community focused initiative designed to fundamentally transform Niger State's health landscape through sustainable system enhancement.



Implementation Timeline and Milestones

The Health Sector Transformation Programme is proceeding according to its strategic implementation framework, with significant progress achieved during initial programmatic phases. The initiative was formally inaugurated in February 2025 through strategic consultations with both the Ministry of Primary Health Care and the Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Health, establishing the governance architecture for collaborative implementation.

The human resource mobilisation process for 25 Local Government Area Managers and approximately 539 field enumerators is currently advancing, with candidate selection criteria emphasising technological proficiency and appropriate professional qualifications. Selected personnel will undergo comprehensive capacity development through a two-day training programme designed to ensure methodological consistency and data quality standards throughout the assessment process.

Field operations for the Health Facility Assessment are scheduled to commence at a later date, to be confirmed, with enumeration teams systematically deploying across all Local Government Areas to initiate the comprehensive mapping and data collection processes. Preparatory activities, including assessment instrument finalisation, technological infrastructure deployment, and logistical arrangements, are currently being operationalised to support successful field implementation.



The inter-ministerial HSTP Coordination Committee has been formally constituted with representation from both health ministries and technical advisors from MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd. Weekly coordination meetings have been institutionalised to monitor implementation progress, address operational considerations, and maintain programmatic momentum. Communication protocols, including dedicated digital platforms, have been established to facilitate efficient information exchange among committee members and key stakeholders.

GOVERNMENT TEAM LEADS

Profiles and Contributions



Dr. Bello Tukur, *Honourable Commissioner for Secondary and Tertiary Health*

Dr. Bello Tukur currently serves as the **Honourable Commissioner for the Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Health in Niger State**. With over two decades of distinguished service in the medical and public health sectors, **Dr. Tukur** brings a wealth of expertise and leadership to the **Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP)**.

He holds an MBBS degree from the University of Maiduguri, complemented by a Master's degree in Disaster Risk Management (MDRM) from the Federal University of Technology, Minna, and a Master's in Health Economics (MHE) from Bayero University, Kano. His extensive career includes pivotal leadership roles such as Director of Quality Assurance and Standards at the Niger State Contributory Health Agency and Head of Hospital Services across multiple general hospitals.

Internationally, Dr. Tukur contributed as a Technical Aid Corps volunteer and ART physician in The Gambia, demonstrating his commitment to global health advancement. He is also a certified national trainer in critical healthcare areas, including severe malaria management, HIV/AIDS care, and maternal and newborn health skills.

Dr. Tukur's leadership is characterised by a passionate advocacy for health system strengthening, ensuring that reforms under the HSTP are people-centred and sustainable. His strategic vision and grassroots knowledge are instrumental in driving transformative health policies that benefit all Niger State residents.



Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Dangana

Commissioner, Ministry of Primary Health Care

Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Dangana is the esteemed Commissioner of the Ministry of Primary Health Care (MPHC) in Niger State. Renowned for his humility, dedication, and visionary leadership, Dr. Dangana has been a pivotal figure in the state's health sector transformation.

His academic credentials include a medical degree from the University of Maiduguri and specialisation in Community Health from Ahmadu Bello University, where he earned fellowship status with the West African College of Physicians. His career spans significant roles at local and international levels, including engagements with AFENET in Uganda and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Dr. Dangana's commitment to Niger State is exemplified by his leadership as Managing Director of the Niger State Primary Health Care Development Agency, where he spearheaded reforms that culminated in the establishment of a standalone Ministry of Primary Health Care. As the first Commissioner of this ministry, he continues to champion innovative, tech-enabled health systems aimed at expanding access and improving service delivery.

His contributions have been recognised through prestigious honors such as the traditional title Baraden Gabas Nupe (Dodon Dawa) bestowed by the Etsu Nupe, reflecting his profound impact on community health and governance.

Dr. Dangana embodies service, integrity, and vision-qualities that underpin the ongoing advancement of Niger State's healthcare system through the HSTP.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MRL® TEAM



Ninma Christy Angulu

Driving Field Excellence and Programme Impact

PSO: FIELD COORDINATOR

Ninma Christy Angulu serves as a Programme Support Officer at MRL® Public Consultant, playing a critical role in the Health Sector Transformation Programme. As the Field Coordinator, she meticulously organises and oversees field operations, ensuring efficient and effective execution.

Her prior experience includes key responsibilities in the Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) programme, where she conducted interviews, transcribed data, and supported overall programme management. Ninma's expertise in documentation, communication, and organisational support has been instrumental in delivering high-impact projects.

A graduate of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, with a degree in Sociology, Ninma is also a trained peer educator with multiple health sector certifications. Her analytical acumen, leadership skills, and dedication to community development make her an invaluable asset to the HSTP.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE MRL® TEAM



Adayi Peterside

Leading with Strategy and Purpose



Adayi Peterside is the Project Manager for the HSTP and a Senior Consultant at MRL® Public Sector Consultants. He oversees programme planning, coordination, and stakeholder engagement, ensuring the seamless delivery of field activities.

Previously, Adayi played a senior role in the TENS II Programme, leading a statewide school census under challenging conditions. His strategic leadership ensured data collection was conducted safely and efficiently, providing critical insights for education policy development.



Holding an M.Sc. in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Birmingham and a B.Sc. in Geography and Environmental Management from the University of Port Harcourt, Adayi combines technical expertise with practical field experience. His commitment to leveraging data for transformative change is a driving force behind the success of the HSTP.



2 YEARS ANNIVERSARY



His Excellency
MOHAMMED UMARU BAGO
THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF NIGER STATE



HSTP
Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria

MRL[®]
Public Sector Consultants



Expanding Capacity

ENUMERATORS TRAINED FOR HSTP FIELDWORK

As the Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP) continues to expand its impact across Niger State, a critical milestone was reached with the successful completion of the supplementary enumerator training, held on the 1st and 2nd of May, 2025, at Guddel Hotel Hall in Minna. This session brought 31 additional enumerators into the fold, significantly strengthening the programme's capacity to conduct a comprehensive and data-driven assessment of health service delivery across the state. The training was structured to provide participants with hands-on knowledge and practical skills in data collection, including the use of digital tools and platforms. Emphasis was placed on the importance of data accuracy, ethical handling of sensitive health information, and professional conduct during fieldwork.

The training was opened by a powerful keynote address from Dr. Inuwa Junaidu, Director of Planning and Statistics at the Ministry of Primary Health Care, who reminded enumerators of the critical role they play in shaping the future of the healthcare system. He encouraged them to treat their assignments with seriousness and a sense of ownership, highlighting that the true reward lies not in monetary compensation but in the long-term impact of their work on health outcomes in the state.

Day two of the training was especially interactive, as participants engaged in mock data collection exercises, group discussions, and practical scenarios that mirrored real-life challenges they might face in the field. These activities helped boost their confidence, clarify expectations, and ensure a higher level of preparedness for deployment.





A major highlight of the training was the visible support from top government officials, which demonstrated the importance of the HSTP at the highest levels of health governance in Niger State. The Honourable Commissioner for the Ministry of Secondary and Tertiary Health, Dr. Bello Tukur, led a full delegation of directors and the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Imran, to the venue. Their presence, along with key representatives from the Ministry of Primary Health Care such as Hajiya Aishatu A. Yahaya

(Deputy Director, Planning and Statistics) and Mamman Dauda (State M&E Officer), underscored the collaborative nature of the HSTP and the shared vision for its success. In his address, Dr. Tukur reiterated the Programme's transformative potential, emphasising its role in building a more responsive, data-driven, and sustainable healthcare system.

With this phase of training concluded, the HSTP is now better positioned to deliver reliable and

timely data that will inform strategic decisions and health policy planning. The dedication and readiness of the newly trained enumerators, combined with continued high-level leadership and cross-ministerial collaboration, set a strong foundation for ongoing improvements in healthcare delivery across Niger State. This training marks not just a technical achievement, but a step closer to achieving the long-term goal of a healthier and more resilient statewide health system.

Training and Capacity Building Updates

Interview 1



Mr. Abdulkadir Mohammed
Team Lead, Lavun Local
Government Area

Interview conducted by
Henrietta Otika,
MRL® Programme Support Officer

Henrietta: Good afternoon, Sir. Could you please introduce yourself to our readers?

Mr. Mohammed: Good afternoon. My name is Abdulkadir Mohammed, and I am the team lead for the Health Sector Transformation Programme in Lavun Local Government Area.



Henrietta: How was your experience during the recent training sessions?

Mr. Mohammed: The training was fantastic- one of the best I've attended so far. The facilitators, especially Mr. Adayi and his team, did an excellent job ensuring that every participant fully understood the material. You could see the enthusiasm and satisfaction among everyone involved. I'm confident that the knowledge and skills we gained will translate into effective and accurate data collection once we're in the field.

Henrietta: What message would you like to share with the State Government regarding this Programme?

Mr. Mohammed: I want to emphasise how important this Programme is. The data we collect from the field will provide the state government with a clear and accurate picture of the health situation in our localities. Often, what is reported at the headquarters doesn't fully reflect what's happening on the ground. By sending trained teams like ours to gather firsthand information from health facilities, the government will be better equipped to identify gaps and make informed decisions to improve healthcare delivery across Niger State. This Programme is a vital step toward building a stronger, more responsive health system. Thank you very much.

Interview 2



Mr. Daniel Emmanuel,
Enumerator, Chanchaga Local
Government Area

Interview conducted by
Henrietta Otika,
MRL® Programme Support Officer

Henrietta: Can you please tell us your name?

Daniel: My name is Daniel Emmanuel.

Henrietta: Thank you, Daniel. Could you give us a brief review of the training session?

Daniel: The training was amazing. The first session on day one was very insightful, and day two was excellent as well. I enjoyed the entire experience.

Henrietta: What specific skills or knowledge did you gain from the training?

Daniel: I learned a lot about using digital tools like the Kobo Toolbox and Kobo Collect for effective data collection. We also received hands-on training with the Open Camera app, which will help us capture accurate field data. The practical sessions boosted my confidence in using these technologies.

Henrietta: How do you think this training will impact your work in the field?

Daniel: Absolutely. Things are looking very promising, especially with the use of the Kobo Toolbox and the Open Camera app. I believe everything will go smoothly, and we're well-prepared for the fieldwork ahead. The training has equipped us to collect and manage data more efficiently, which will improve our overall output.

Henrietta: Were there any challenges you faced during the training, and how were they addressed?

Daniel: At first, I found some of the technical aspects a bit challenging, especially setting up the Kobo Collect tool. However, the facilitators were very supportive and provided step-by-step guidance. By the end of the training, I felt much more comfortable using all the tools.

Henrietta: What aspect of the training did you find most valuable?

Daniel: The most valuable part for me was the interactive sessions where we practised real-life scenarios. It helped me understand how to apply what we learned directly in the field. Also, being able to ask questions and get immediate feedback from the trainers was really helpful.

Henrietta: Thank you very much, Daniel, for sharing your thoughts.

Daniel: Thank you for having me. I appreciate the opportunity.

“

The greatest wealth of any nation is the health of its people, for without a healthy population, productivity declines, innovation stalls, and progress is stifled. Good health fuels education, economic growth, and societal stability; making it the true foundation of national prosperity and resilience.

- Dr. Roni Ajao

Executive Director
MRL® Public Sector Consultants

Forthcoming Activities and Strategic Directions



As the Health Sector Transformation Programme advances through its implementation phases, several critical activities and strategic milestones are anticipated in subsequent operational periods. Following the commencement of field operations, which is slated for May 2025, the data collection phase is projected to continue for approximately eight weeks, with robust quality assurance mechanisms systematically implemented to ensure data integrity throughout the process.

Upon completion of the field assessment component, programmatic focus will transition to Data Processing, Analysis, and Reporting. During this analytical phase, collected information will undergo rigorous validation and multi-dimensional analysis to identify systemic patterns, service delivery trends, and strategic opportunities for healthcare system enhancement. The analytical findings will be synthesised into comprehensive technical documentation providing actionable recommendations for policymakers and healthcare administrators.

The Programme will simultaneously prioritise stakeholder engagement mechanisms, including regular informational dissemination through this newsletter format and the forthcoming HSTP digital platform. These communication channels will document implementation progress, highlight programmatic

achievements, and maintain transparency regarding operational challenges and mitigation strategies.

Subsequent editions of this newsletter will provide detailed reporting on field implementation progress, preliminary assessment findings, and emerging insights from the Health Facility Assessment. Additionally, future communications will feature profiles of implementation personnel, document successful institutional collaborations, and incorporate perspectives from community stakeholders regarding this transformative health system.

The HSTP implementation team remains committed to maintaining established momentum and achieving the programme's strategic objectives of creating an evidence-based foundation for sustainable health system enhancement throughout Niger State.

Recent **Policy Changes** and New **Health Regulations** Supporting **HSTP**

1

Mandatory Health Facility Registration and Digital Mapping

Policy Update:

In early 2025, the Niger State Government mandated the registration and digital geo-mapping of all health facilities-public and private-across the state. This regulation requires every facility to be included in a central database, with up-to-date information on infrastructure, staffing, and service delivery.

How This Supports HSTP:

This policy directly aligns with the HSTP's core objective of creating a comprehensive, reliable health facility registry. It ensures that no facility is left undocumented, enabling targeted interventions, equitable resource allocation, and improved monitoring of healthcare standards.

2

Strengthened Data Governance and Confidentiality Protocols

Policy Update:

New data governance guidelines were introduced to safeguard patient and facility information collected during the Health Facility Assessment (HFA). These protocols emphasise data privacy, secure storage, and responsible sharing among authorised stakeholders.

How This Supports HSTP:

By protecting sensitive data, this policy builds public trust and encourages full participation in the HFA. It also ensures that data-driven decisions are made responsibly, supporting the programme's commitment to transparency and accountability.

3

Expanded Human Resources for Health (HRH) Recruitment

Policy Update:

A recent directive authorised the accelerated recruitment and training of up to 500 enumerators and additional Local Government Area (LGA) health managers. This policy aims to strengthen the workforce needed for comprehensive facility assessment and ongoing health system improvements.

How This Supports HSTP:

A larger, well-trained workforce enables thorough and timely data collection, which is foundational for HSTP's evidence-based planning. It also builds local capacity for sustained health sector transformation beyond the assessment phase.

4

Inter-Ministerial Collaboration Framework

Policy Update:

Formal collaboration agreements have been established between the Ministries of Primary Health Care, and Secondary and Tertiary Health. These frameworks mandate regular coordination, shared resources, and unified reporting on health sector progress.

How This Supports HSTP:

Integrated planning and resource sharing across ministries ensure that all tiers of healthcare delivery are included in the transformation process. This holistic approach avoids duplication, leverages synergies, and accelerates progress towards HSTP's goals.

5

Community Engagement and Feedback Mechanisms

Policy Update:

New regulations require that all major health initiatives, including the HSTP, incorporate structured community engagement-such as town hall meetings, public forums, and feedback channels.

How This Supports HSTP:

Direct community input ensures that the programme addresses real needs, increases public buy-in, and helps identify local barriers to healthcare access. This participatory approach is vital for sustainable, people-centred health reforms.

Summary Table: Policy Alignment with HSTP Goals

Policy/Regulation	HSTP Goal Supported
Facility Registration & Digital Mapping	Comprehensive data, targeted interventions
Data Governance & Confidentiality	Trust, transparency, responsible data use
HRH Recruitment & Training	Capacity building, timely data collection
Inter-Ministerial Collaboration	Integrated, system-wide transformation
Community Engagement Requirements	Inclusiveness, relevance, sustainability



Health Tips and Public Awareness

Your Health, Your Wealth: Simple Steps for a Healthier Life



Handwashing Saves Lives

Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating or after using the toilet.

Handwashing reduces the risk of diarrhoea and respiratory infections by up to 30%.



Stay Up-to-Date on Immunisations

Ensure children receive all recommended vaccines on schedule.

Immunisation protects against diseases like measles, polio, and hepatitis.



Eat Smart, Live Strong

Fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables at every meal.

Limit sugary drinks and processed foods.



Drink Safe Water

Always use clean, safe water for drinking and cooking.

Boil or treat water if you are unsure about its safety.



Prevent Malaria

Sleep under insecticide-treated nets every night.

Remove standing water around your home to stop mosquito breeding.



Know Your Numbers

Check your blood pressure and blood sugar regularly.

Early detection of hypertension and diabetes can save lives.



Maternal & Child Health

Pregnant women should attend all antenatal visits.

Exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months gives babies the best start in life.



Mental Health Matters

Talk to someone you trust if you feel overwhelmed or stressed.

Seek help early-mental health is just as important as physical health.



Practice Safe Hygiene

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or elbow when coughing or sneezing.

Dispose of tissues properly and wash your hands afterwards.

Quick FACTS



*Did you know? Just 30 minutes of **walking** a day can reduce your risk of heart disease.*



*Fact: Exclusive **breastfeeding** lowers infant mortality by 13%.*



*Tip: Drinking 8 glasses of **water** daily helps maintain healthy kidneys.*

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions



1 What is the Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP)?

The HSTP is a state-wide initiative launched by the Niger State Government to improve the quality, accessibility, and efficiency of healthcare services. The Programme focuses on upgrading health facilities, training personnel, and using data-driven strategies to address gaps in the health sector.

2 What is the Healthcare Facilities Assessment (HFA)?

The HFA is a comprehensive survey of all health facilities in Niger State-public and private, urban and rural. It collects data on infrastructure, equipment, staffing, and services to identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement across the health system.

3 Why is the HSTP important for Niger State?

HSTP is crucial for ensuring that every resident, regardless of location, has access to quality healthcare. By identifying gaps and needs through reliable data, the Programme enables smarter investments, better resource allocation, and more effective health policies.

4 Who is conducting the assessment?

The assessment is being carried out by trained enumerators and field teams, supported by the Ministry of Health, MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd, and other partners. All field staff undergo rigorous training to ensure data quality and integrity.

5 How will the data collected be used?

Data from the HFA will guide policy decisions, facility upgrades, staff training, and resource distribution. It will also help monitor progress and ensure accountability in the health sector transformation process.

6 How are communities involved in the HSTP?

Community members are encouraged to participate by welcoming enumerators, providing accurate information, and sharing feedback. Regular town hall meetings, forums, and feedback channels are available for community voices to be heard and considered in decision-making.



7 How can I identify official HSTP enumerators?

All official enumerators will carry government-issued identification and wear HSTP-branded vests or badges. If in doubt, you can verify their identity by contacting your local health authority or visiting.

8 Will my personal or facility information be kept confidential?

Yes. All data collected is handled with strict confidentiality and used only for planning and improvement of health services. No personal information will be shared publicly.

9 How can I stay updated on HSTP activities and progress?

You can follow updates through the official HSTP website (www.hstpniqerng.com), newsletters, social media channels, and community meetings.

10 How can I contribute or get involved?

You can get involved by:

- Participating in community meetings and feedback sessions
- Welcoming and cooperating with assessment teams
- Volunteering for local health initiatives
- Sharing your suggestions via the HSTP website or local health offices

11 Who can I contact for more information?

For more information, visit www.hstpniqerng.com or contact your local health authority. You can also email us at mrl@mrl.uk.com



Have more questions? Let us know! Your feedback helps us build a healthier Niger State for everyone.

Let's all get involved...

www.hstpnniger.org



PRIMARY HEALTH CARE/MCH
GWARI ROAD
CLINIC
ANCHAGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Disinfect Your Hands
Whiten Your Walls

ALL GERMS = WHITENS = REDUCES



...our health is everything.



MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd

📍 Pepple House, 8 Broad Street, Great Cambourne,
Cambridge CB23 6HJ, United Kingdom.

☎ +44 (0) 7961 326981
+234 (0) 913 644 4110

✉ mrl@mrl.uk.com

🌐 www.mrl.uk.com

www.hstpningerng.com

✕  [hstpningerng](https://www.instagram.com/hstpningerng)