



# ACEPHAP news

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## ACEPHAP to Commence Ph.D Programs



**Prof. Galadanci's Amazing ACEPHAP Work Earns Her International Recognition**



# ACEPHAP

## AFRICA CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR POPULATION HEALTH AND POLICY

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### VISION

To be a center of excellence in population health, research and development in Africa.

### MISSION

Skilled human resource for health related to population health with a focus of conducting research to achieve sustainable development through linking research findings to policy implementation

### OBJECTIVES

- To train postgraduate students to acquire knowledge, skills and competence towards achieving health- related SDGs
- To strengthen capacity and capability of translating research findings into policy and practice
- To promote and enable gender parity and participation in population health research and policy
- To increase human resources for nursing health in West and Central Africa.





## Prof. Hadiza Galadanci

# Prof. Hadiza Galadanci's Amazing Work Earns Her World Recognition

**T**he Director of Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Professor Hadiza Shehu Galadanci has earned another major international accolade. The Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, along with her professional colleague, Professor Bosede Afolabi of the University of Lagos, were identified by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as two Nigerian Medical Doctors, changing the World through their innovations around pregnancy care, childbirth, and early childhood development.

This has lent credence to the saying that hard work, honesty, commitment and perseverance always pay. The recognition was contained in the 2023 Goalkeepers Report co-authored by the Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates. The foundation said the world could save two million lives over the next seven years,

using innovation by these Nigerian doctors and some other innovators around the world. According to the Foundation, nearly 800 women are dying every day during childbirth, but expressed happiness that two Nigerian obstetricians are joining innovators around the world to stem the tide through their professional commitment.

According to the report, new data shows that globally scaling seven important innovations and practices that address the leading cause of maternal and newborn deaths, could save two million lives by 2030. It said “by making new innovations accessible to those who need them most, two million additional lives could be saved by 2030, and 6.4 million lives by 2040,” Melinda French and Bill Gates wrote.

Though deaths of children under five have continued to decline since the mid-2010s. The first

month of a newborn's life continues to be the most dangerous, accounting for almost half of all under-five deaths today. An estimated 74% of child deaths happen during a baby's first year, the report said, citing data from the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

#### Why Mother & Children die

A more precise understanding of why children die according to the report was that, in 2015, the Gates Foundation initiated a Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) to understand why children and mothers die during childbirth.

***These doctors of Nigerian origin have, through painstaking efforts, developed ingenious and innovative ways of findings solutions to the challenge and in a global context too.***

Gates said: “even ten years ago, public health officials had only the vaguest information about why babies were dying. Back then, any record of a child's death would generally list one of the four most common causes: diarrhea, malnutrition, pneumonia, or premature birth. But each was a vast ocean of different illnesses, with scores of different causes and cures. Pneumonia, for example, is linked to more than 200 types of pathogens,” adding that “over the past decades, the field of child health has advanced faster and farther than I thought I'd see in my lifetime,” Bill Gates, a co-chair o.



Participants at the Goalkeepers event in a group photograph

“If our delivery can keep pace with our learning – if researchers can continue to develop new innovations and skilled health workers can get them to every mother and child who needs them – then more babies will survive those crucial first days.”

The reasons why children die during or right after childbirth have become much clearer now, expanding beyond just the four likely reasons identified a decade ago. Mothers die from childbirth complications such as post-partum haemorrhage, infections, and maternal anaemia.

Melinda French said “as is so often the case in global health, innovations aren't making their way to the people who need them most; Women in low -



income countries, as well as black and indigenous women in high -income countries like the United States, who are dying at three times the rate of white women. That needs to change.”

### The Nigerian Doctors Changing the Narrative

Postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) is the number one cause of maternal death. According to the World Health Organization, PPH is defined as losing more than half a liter of blood within 24 hours of childbirth. It affects 14 million women annually, ending the lives of 70,000, primarily in low-income countries. Those who survive often face long-term, disabling complications, such as heart or kidney failure.

Professor Hadiza Galadanci, an obstetrician and researcher from Nigeria, led a study called E-MOTIVE. In this study, they designed a simple, low-cost way to identify dangerously excessive blood loss: a drape that looks like a V-shaped plastic bag. When this calibrated obstetric drape is hung at the edge of the bed, collected blood rises akin to a mercury in a thermometer. And in a busy hospital ward, that visual

gauge promptly tells a healthcare provider which patients are in danger in just a single glance. The study resulted in a remarkable 60% decreased in cases of severe bleeding among 200,000 women.

The foundation believed that scaling this would save women globally. A common cause of postpartum haemorrhage is anaemia or severe iron deficiency. Anaemia which affects as many as 37 per cent of pregnant women around the world, according to IHME.

To address this, Bosede Afolabi, a Nigerian obstetrician and researcher, is working on bringing a promising new intervention to the country: a one-time 15-minutes intravenous (IV) infusion of iron. This IV drip is designed to replenish women's iron reserves during pregnancy – or even after pregnancy- and it could help treat severe cases of anaemia quickly and effectively.

### Reactions by some Nigerians

When the news of the international recognitions on Professor Galadanci and her colleague, Professor Bosede broke out, most Nigerians hailed the duo for making the country proud.

Among all the reactions, one that caught the attention of ACEPHAP Newsletter was the comment made by the former Governor of Anambra State and the Presidential candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 Presidential elections, Mr. Peter Obi. He said and I quote:

“It is believed that through their innovative ideas, about two million additional lives could be saved by 2030, and 6.4 million lives by 2040. It is refreshing to learn that while Nigeria as a country has continued to struggle with a high infant mortality rate arising from poverty, inadequate health facilities, etc., these Nigerian doctors have, through painstaking efforts, developed ingenious and innovative ways of findings solutions to the challenge and in a global context too.”

“I salute and commend their creative ingenuity. This great achievement underscores my consistent call that governments must invest aggressively in the health sector because it remains the most critical measure of human development.”

He also added that; “by investing in the health sector, creative innovators like Professor Hadiza Galadanci and Professor Bosede Afolabi and many others yet undiscovered will find adequate support to make more far reaching impact in our society. I congratulate and appreciate Hadiza Galadanci and Bosede Afolabi for the positive impact they are making.” He concluded by saying that a new Nigeria is possible with innovative minds like the duo.

# At Goalkeepers Event

After the release of its historic report that recognized Professors Galadanci and Afolabi as two Nigerian Doctors changing the world, the Bill Gates Foundation again held its grand Goalkeeper's Event at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. In addition to the **Goalkeepers** event, another very important event – **SDG at Half-Time** also took place a day after the Goalkeepers'; on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023. The event was convened to assess the successes of the SDG 3 at half-time.

Due to Professor Galadanci's track record of performance as a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology coupled with her recognition by the Bill Gates Foundation as changing the world, she was chosen as one of the speakers at both events. She was expected to share her experiences in her commitment to fighting the menace of postpartum hemorrhage which is one of the major causes of maternal mortality as well as to speak on the successes or otherwise of SDG at Half-Time.

After her invitation to the podium and introduction by the event's moderator, she was given the floor to address the world. She started by informing the audience that she came from Kano, Nigeria. Kano, she said is a beautiful place; with rolling hills, colorful festivals with horses and music and warm diverse people. But stated that working in the clinics, 'we see a different picture.' As an obstetrician, Professor Galadanci remarked, 'I can bear witness to the enormous suffering of my people, because my country has the highest number of maternal deaths in the world. I have watched life leaving a woman's body as she bleeds out, giving birth. I have seen woman wishing the death of their children to save them from the cycle of pain and poverty they had to endure themselves.'

These women, are my neighbors; they are my friends and even my family.' Professor Galadanci shared a major experience with the audience to show how bad the situation is. She said, 'My first cousin who I loved dearly is one of such women. She came to me for her fourth pregnancy; she had already delivered three healthy babies with me. Early while on admission, her blood pressure spiked. My colleagues and I decided to induce her for vaginal delivery; and she went into labour, normal practice. I went about my normal business in the hospital, doing my rounds and caring for other patients. After a while, I walked into the labour ward to check on her. What I saw would never leave my memory in a hurry. Blood was flowing

out of her like a tap. I put on my gloves and began treating her; massaging her uterus, using all the drugs I had, trying to stop the bleeding, but it wasn't working. She was looking up to me begging me look after her babies after her death. At that moment it was hard to think as a physician. I was just her cousin. We performed a hysterectomy and blood transfusion. We gave her six pints of blood, that was almost the whole volume of blood of the woman, and I sat by her side, until the next morning watching her inhale and exhale until I knew she had to made it.'

She asked a question; how many people are that so lucky to have a family member who is an obstetrician.? 'I couldn't stop thinking about how unfair that was. That was when I realized something, I could only save one or two lives at a time as an obstetrician, but I could save a hundred or thousand lives by becoming a medical researcher. This



Prof. Galadanci speaking at the Goalkeepers event

experienced gave me the impetus to focus my research on areas that affect the lives of women such as postpartum hemorrhage (PPH).' The ACEPHAP Director, stated that PPH is the number one cause of maternal death not just in Nigeria but all over the world. Postpartum Hemorrhage simply means losing more than half a litter of blood within 24hrs of childbirth. She disclosed that statistics showed that 14 Million women experienced this, every year and that approximately 70 thousand die from it. Speaking on her recent breakthrough research which had been discovered as a solution to maternal mortality arising from PPH, Professor Galadanci stated that in the study they did called E-MOTIVE, with her fellow researchers, they discovered that half of the women who had PPH were never even diagnosed, because healthcare workers were busy and struggling with 'how much blood loss is too much blood loss.' The

solution to this, she said, is almost shockingly straightforward; a simple drape that hangs at the edge of a bed. 'So that you can see fast an accurate measurement of collected blood. In a busy labour ward, this can be the difference between life and death. Our study also found out when postpartum hemorrhage is actually identified, the standard treatment of uterine massage, oxytocin drugs, tranexamic acids IV fluids and genital track examination are often delivered one by one over several hours. We asked ourselves why we don't bundle these interventions, administering all the five at once and so we tried it and we decreased cases of severe bleeding by 60%. Often we didn't need anything complicated to save lives; just a drip and a change of protocol.'

Professor Galadanci told the audience who intermittently applauded her that these simple changes have huge benefits, lifesaving benefits. 'Thanks to research! We know that without doubt. Imagine a world where these treatments are available in every one room clinic, every labour ward and every hospital. How many mothers would be saved? That's the work that is left for us to do. And I hope we can do it together, thank you,' she concluded and received a thunderous standing ovation from the audience.

### At the SDG at Half-Time Pavilion

While speaking at the SDG pavilion, Professor Galadanci had a complete change of tone. She appears disturbed and worried. The audience could not understand why her composure changed. But deep inside her she knew that the statistics she was about to release regarding maternal mortality as it effects Nigeria would be alarming and that explains the change of mood to prepare the audience.

It was precisely on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2023 at the United Nations General Assembly, when global issues/challenges were discussed with a view to finding lasting solutions. On the side of the world event, healthcare professionals globally also assembled to take stock of the performance of Sustainable Development Goals 3 target (SDG) implementation at half time under the title: SDG at HalfTime with the theme: Towards Global Health Equity. As a prelude to the global event, the following food for thought/questions were raised, thus: 'We have made great progress in reducing infant and maternal mortality around the world, but we have much further to go. What actions should be taken to accelerate that progress? How can we ensure that mental health services are accessible for all?'

In her emotional laden address, Professor Galadanci did not mince words in presenting a disturbing picture of the avoidable agony expectant mothers pass through during childbirth. She intermittently drew applause and sometimes tears from the audience who listened to her presentation with enthralled attention.

Professor Galadanci began her address thus; Good day everyone, is wonderful to be here, I come from a country, Nigeria that contributes 28% of the global maternal death out of the daily global maternal death of eight hundred (800). Ladies and gentlemen, that means 224 maternal deaths occurring every day in Nigeria. She added that it is pathetic that 'I still see women pouring out blood like a tap following childbirth. I still see women present with dead babies in their wombs having been in labour for two days. I still see women mourning the death of their babies, incontinent of urine, ashamed of their offensiveness and abandoned by their families. I still see women convulsing having Eclampsia which is purely preventable with access to quality antenatal care. I still see women



Prof. Galadanci displaying her simple solution stopping women from losing blood after child birth

crying, I still see children crying in the pediatric emergency with conditions that have long been eradicated in some countries by immunization.'

Professor Galadanci further informed her audience that currently "we have an epidemic of diphtheria in Kano, Nigeria. I still see healthcare workers exhausted having to care for patients even though, they are burnt out due to poor or inadequate healthcare providers. I still see healthcare workers struggling with inappropriate and inadequate facilities and commodities to care for the vulnerable women and children. We have continued to see inequalities to achievement of universal healthcare that aims to have no one left behind in accessing quality healthcare services. There is no doubt that we are losing at halftime. But we now have the opportunity to push to ensure we win this vital match in

the second half. I am optimistic that winning in 2030 is possible. We have 146 countries that have met or are on track to meet the SDG target in under-five mortality. There are great learning's from countries that other countries can leverage on. We have seen leaders and policy makers in some countries that have exhibited great leadership and accountability skills towards ensuring adequate investments in healthcare services. We have initiatives such as Align NMH where the maternal and the newborn health communities have come together and collectively are ensuring that the mothers and babies do not only survive but thrive. We have seen researchers that are working very hard to find new treatments and new innovations to address the leading causes of maternal and under-five mortality. We have the E-MOTIVE Trial, demonstrating the use of E-MOTIVE bundle. We have the IVON Trial that has demonstrated the use of new treatment for anemia in pregnancy. We have STEPMag trial, trying to access simplified method of treating Eclampsia so that we can improve access to care for women in low- and middle-income countries. We have also seen the ACTION trial, accessing the use of



Prof. Galadanci (1st left) and Melinda (1st right)

steroids to reduce morbidity and mortality of preterm birth, and on and on. Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the solution to winning at the end of the march are obviously with us. One, commitment of our leaders; holding them accountable to ensure adequate investment in healthcare. Two, collective action, ensuring together we are committed to achieving quality, equity and dignity for women and newborn and children including a universal

healthcare access and leaving no one behind. Thirdly, supporting researchers to continue to develop new treatments and innovations and importantly ensuring that these new treatments and innovations reach those that require them; which means every mother and child that requires them. Ladies and gentlemen, the second half is about to start, let's decide collectively that the lives of our mothers and children are worth saving." Thank you.



We have made great progress in reducing infant and maternal mortality around the world, but we have much further to go.



Prof. Hadiza Galadanci answering questions from one of the presenters





Professor Galadanci explaining a point to members of the Resource Verification Team

## ACEPHAP To Commence PhD Programs ... Receives Resource Verification Team from NUC

All is now set for the Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) to start two PhD programs – PhD Public Health and PhD Human Reproduction.

It could be recalled that the Center is currently running five postgraduate programs – MSc. Global Health and Policy, MSc. Public Mental Health and Policy, MSc. Health Nutrition and Policy, MSc. Public Health Nursing and Policy, and MSC. Maternal Child Health and Policy. The programs had attracted scores of foreign students from 10 African countries.

As part of the requirement to run the PhD programs, the Center under the leadership of Professor Hadiza Galadanci received a team for Resource Verification from the National Universities Commission (NUC). Although the verification exercise was not specifically for the center as other departments were also visited by the team.

The resource verification panel was made up of four (4) panels of 12 resource persons and they visited the University on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 to inspect 13 programs across the University, ACEPHAP was among the centers scheduled to receive the team.

The team earlier paid a courtesy call on the Vice

Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas to intimate him of their mission to the University. In his remarks during a courtesy call, the leader of the team, Professor Abdulkadir Mukhtar had promised that the verification was not a witch hunting or fault-finding exercise rather to make sure things are going the way they should. He assured that they would give their maximum best to report adequately what they have seen.

Responding, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Management Services, Professor Mahmoud Umar Sani, assured the NUC team that the University is ready and enthusiastic about giving them the utmost support to carry out their assignment.

He added that Bayero University is always prepared to take note of advices, suggestions and criticism in order to improve on their mandate.

However, on Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 2023, the resource verification team visited the center for the purpose of accrediting the two proposed PhD programs.

Receiving the team, the Director of the Center, Professor Hadiza Galadanci conducted the team round some the international standard facilities put in place by the center to ensure that quality postgraduate training is assured to especially its regional students. She told the team that the center is fully ready to start the two PhD programs, saying that already the center is currently running five MSc programs.

Professor Galadanci also informed the team that in addition to national students currently undergoing postgraduate training, the center also had scores of regional students from African countries. She assured that the center would do everything humanly possible to abide by the requirements put in place by the supervising body.

### Goalkeepers and SDG At Half-Time Activities in Pictures



### ACEPHAP Activities Captured in Pictures



## “Gates Catalyze Initiative” Project: ACEPHAP Collaborates with Kenyan APHRC

**A**frica Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) and African Population Health Research Center (APHRC), Kenya are to jointly implement the “Gates Catalyze” Initiative project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

As part of the collaborative efforts, two members of the Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Professor Baba M. Musa, the Center's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Associate Professor Taiwo G. Amole, Deputy Director, Research were at the African Population Health Research Center (APHRC) in Kenya.

The ACEPHAP team was in Kenya from the 29<sup>th</sup> of August to the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2023. It was a follow-up visit by the Center having earlier received the APHRC team which came and introduced the project 'Gates Catalyze'. The African Population Health Research Center had received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to implement the Gates Catalyze Initiative.

Shedding more light on the initiative, ACEPHAP's Deputy Director, Research who led the ACEPHAP team to the APHRC in Kenya, said the initiative is designed to increase the number of African universities and research institutes that effectively test and adopt evidence and innovations generated from health research as global public goods to achieve health impact. She added that, this is with the background that although Africa faces the largest human development needs, most African universities and research institutions were not involved in generating the needed evidence for policy formation, implementation, or change. “Thus, the Catalyze Project was tasked with changing this narrative,” she explained.

Giving a run-down of their activities at APHRC, Dr. Amole said the first day was essentially to share the BMGF's vision to strengthen the Research and Development (R&D) ecosystem in Africa, give an overview

of the Catalyze Project, and discuss country-specific engagements and projects. She said the day ended with a closed session that set up and launched a Strategy Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Catalyze Project.

Management Office met with the ACEPHAP team to familiarize them with the APHRC's history, mission and objectives; APHRC's approach to identifying and applying for grants,



Panel of discussants at the Kenyan APHRC meeting

The second day consisted of panel discussions on 'Enhancing opportunities and platforms for implementation research in Africa, opportunities for researchers and research institutions in Africa, capacity strengthening programs at

Grant Management at APHRC, and Approach to Business Development.

Dr. Amole also said the ACEPHAP team also had an exclusive interview with the Executive Director of APHRC (Dr. Catherine Kyobutungi) and selected members of



Participants in a group photograph

APHRC using the CARTA platform, and discussions on Data Science for data-driven decision-making. The third and final day according to her was dedicated to the ACEPHAP team on understudying the workings at APHRC. Team leads from the Grant

the team to discuss mobilizing and managing resources for multiple grants. The team was able to glean lessons with strategies from APHRC which would be adapted at ACEPHAP to strengthen the Center's R&D ecosystem.

# BUK Convenes Regional Strategy Validation Workshop On Ratification of DLI (7)

**B**ayero University, Kano held a Regional Strategy Validation workshop on ratification of Disbursement Linked Indicator Number (7). The DLI (7) was designed by the World Bank and Association of African Universities (AAU) for institutional impact.

The workshop which took place on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 was facilitated by the Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) and Center for Dryland Agriculture (CDA). It was aimed at presenting the Draft report of the Regional Strategy document for achieving the Disbursement Linked Indicator 7.1 with objective of making a comprehensive observation, providing input, and ratifying it by the key stakeholders of the University.

It is worth nothing that the University had set up a Committee to review the functions and activities of ACEPHAP and CDA and then draft a document for achieving the DLI 7. The Committee was under the Chairmanship of the University's Dean of School of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Mustapha Ahmad Isa.

In his opening address, the Vice Chancellor,

Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas who presented the DLI 7 document, emphasizing that among the requirements of the World Bank is that the Africa Centers of Excellence (ACEs) must positively impact their institutions. Professor Abbas who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Management Services, Professor Mahmoud Umar Sani stated that the objective is to impart high quality training, strengthen and build regional partnerships and conduct high impact research to address Africa's developmental challenges.

The Vice Chancellor said the University's two ACEs, Africa Center of Excellence for population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) and Center for Dryland Agriculture (CDA) enjoyed the full support of the management in view of their performance and achievements.

He said the University would evolve a strategy to ensure that the Regional Strategy document would be applied to all aspects of the University, stressing that 'it is not for the consumption of the ACEs alone. The Vice Chancellor commended the Committee members for a job well done.

Speaking, the Chairman of the Committee, Professor Mustapha A. Isa said apart from drafting the document, the committee was also saddled with the responsibility of organizing the workshop to get feedback from stakeholders involved directly in the activities of the two centers.

The CDA Deputy Director for Outreach and Publications, Professor Amina Mustapha presented the Draft Regional Strategy 2023-2028.

Stakeholders from ACEPHAP and CDA who attended the workshop took turn to provide input and make valid suggestions on how to improve the document.



Director DRIP, Professor I. A. Rufai making presentation while the participants listened

## *Induction of Medical and Health Professionals:* **... Be Good Team Players, Prof. Galadanci Charges the Inductees**

The Director of Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Professor Hadiza Shehu Galadanci has enjoined the medical and health Professional inductees to be good team players as that is the requisite for practice in the health profession.

Delivering a good will message at the induction ceremony of 315 health professionals from the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences in its 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> harmonized induction ceremony for Doctor of Optometry, Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science, Bachelor of Medical Radiography, Bachelor of Nursing Sciences and Bachelor of Physiotherapy respectively. Four programs but only three sets.

The induction ceremony which took place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at the Convocation Arena, New Site, also witnessed the Hippocratic oath administered on the graduands by the Registrars of ODORBN, MLSCN, RRBN, NMCN, MRTB, Drs. Obinna Edwin, Professor Tosan E. represented by Mr. Victor Rufa'i Yusuf Ahmed respectively and were inducted into their various professional bodies.

She thanked the organizers for inviting her to be part of the great occasion, congratulated the University, the Faculty, the different Departments, the parents and the graduands for achieving this success.

Professor Galadanci stated that there was no doubt that Bayero University Kano has grown beyond expectation, adding that at onset the University was only offering one degree, but now 'we offer over seven degrees in the College.'

To the graduands, Professor Galadanci drew their attention, saying that 'You heard many of our very senior colleagues' right from the Provost of the College, Professor Aisha Kuliya Gwarzo to the deans giving you various advices. Well, I think it is not too much to reiterate some very important ones. They mentioned selfless service, care for your patients with empathy, with dignity; and having good communication skills. You must work as a team player and be hardworking.

The ACEPHAP Director stated that there are two or three things she would like to emphasize to them. One, is that 'you must be a good team player. Now there is no doubt there is no profession that has different professionals that work together as much as the health system. The health system is endowed with many professions and if you want to practice in the health system, you must be able to work with other professionals,' she remarked.

She said the spirit of team playing started right from the graduation ceremony, saying that 'from this graduation conduct, you can see that we didn't decide to conduct only graduation of Physiotherapy or Radiography or Medical Lab. or Nursing. We decided to conduct it together because together we can achieve our

goals. You know that when you want to go fast, you can



Prof. Galadanci delivering her address

continue to run fast but if you want to go far you must work with others,' she admonished.

The Professor of Gynecology and Obstetrics added that 'you must ensure that you work to respect each and every profession and work together, then you can achieve your goals.

Secondly, she said "don't think that because you have gotten a Bachelor's degree that is the end of the world, it is just the beginning. You must ensure that you decide which of the specialties you want to pursue and then come back for Masters, PhD and your Fellowship.



Cross section of the inductees

Finally, of course "your patients are the most important people. I tell every single healthcare professional that without patients then you should be prepared to sell tomatoes and pepper in the market to survive. So, the patients are the most important and therefore you must respect your patients, you must give them the dignity they require and must treat them with empathy,' Professor Galadanci emphasized. She wished them Allah's guidance and blessing.



Participants in a group photograph

## ACEPHAP Trains Research Assistants for the AFABEM RMNCH Quality of Case Study

**A**frica Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) conducted a four-day intensive training for research assistants as a crucial component of the Assessment of Facilitators and Barriers to Effective Governance and Implementation of Quality of Care (QoC) of Reproductive Maternal Newborn Care Health (RMNCH) Services in North West and North East Nigeria, referred to as the AFABEM RMNCH Quality of Case Study.

The study is supported by Momentum Country and Global Leadership in Nigeria (MCGL) and coordinated by JHPIEGO Nigeria.

Speaking at the opening ceremony which took place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, the ACEPHAP Director, Professor Hadiza Galadanci said the training workshop was aimed at equipping research assistants with the necessary knowledge and

skills to carry out the mixed method study research effectively.

She said at the end of the training, participants are expected to have acquired a solid foundation in research methodologies, both quantitative and qualitative, being equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to conduct research effectively.

Professor Galadanci explained that overall, the training outcomes were designed to empower research assistants with the skills, knowledge, and ethical awareness needed to carry out their roles effectively and contribute to the success of the AFABEM RMNCH Quality Study. These outcomes not only benefit the research assistants but also have a positive impact on the quality of healthcare research and services in the RMNCH field.

Speaking on the training objectives, the

ACEPHAP Director, Professor Galadanci said some of the objectives of the training include; To Understand the Importance of Quality of Care; Define and explain the concept of "quality of care" in the context of healthcare services; Recognize the significance of providing high-quality care to improve health outcomes and patient satisfaction; To identify and describe essential quality indicators used to assess healthcare service quality; Understand how these indicators contribute to improving healthcare delivery and recognize the cultural and contextual factors that can impact the quality of care among others.

Some of the papers presented at the training include: "Concept of Quality of Care for RMNCH: A comprehensive discussion on the concept of Quality of Care (QoC) in the context of Reproductive Maternal Newborn Care Health (RMNCH) services."

"Effective Governance/Implementation of QoC of RMNCH Services: An in-depth exploration of the governance and implementation aspects of QoC:" Basics of mixed-methods research, including and introduction to the fundamental principles of mixed-methods research and understanding data types (Quantitative and Qualitative). Subsequently, the research assistants were grouped according to the tasks they would conduct in the study by their respective state coordinators.

They Project Manger, Dr. Fatima Muhammad want on to give an overview of the qualitative study and related it with the AFABEM study where the research assistants gained an insight into the research methodologies. Her lectures were followed by Dr Surayyah Murtala's presentation on the ethical Considerations in Data Collection issues like Informed Consent and anonymity were discussed. The research assistants were also introduced to the quantitative data collection tool, the Kobo platform by Sadiq Isa. Thereafter, Professor Amzat

Jimoh Introduced the interview guides for Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), In-Depth Interviews (IDIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) for the study.

On the last day of the training, the research team visited three health facilities for the interviews. The pilot sites were Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Jigirya and Giginyu Primary Health Care. After that, the data collected during the pilot study was reviewed and discussed.

The four-day intensive training (11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2023) was a significant step towards ensuring the success of the AFABEM RMNCH Quality Study. It equipped participants with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to carry out qualitative research effectively. The training's comprehensive agenda, led by experts in the field, ensured that research assistants were well-prepared for their roles in the study.



One of the paper presenters, receiving a copy of ACEPHAP Newsletter from Professor Hadiza Galadanci



Sokoto State Coordinator (1st left) receiving a copy of the center's newsletter from the Director, Prof. Hadiza Galadanci



*At World Congress of O & G in Paris - FIGO 2023*

## Prof. Galadanci Speaks on WHO's Strategies to End Maternal Mortality Arising from PPH



On Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 2023, Paris the capital city of France played host to the World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics termed: FIGO 2023. The congress has been a traditional assembly of gynaecologist and obstetricians from across the world, who routinely convene to assess the challenges facing the field, particularly the rate of maternal mortality caused by postpartum bleeding, often referred to as postpartum haemorrhage (PPH).

Disturbed by the global rate of maternal mortality resulting from PPH, this year's congress, with the tacit of the World Health Organization decided to introduce a roadmap to convert postpartum haemorrhage.

Among the speakers at the launch of the WHO Roadmap, was Hadiza Galadanci, a Professor of

*We all are really going to act so that we end the unacceptable maternal mortality arising from the number one cause of maternal death, which is Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH).*

Obstetrics and Gynecology, Director of Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Bayero University, Kano.

### Masterclass: A Roadmap to Combat Postpartum Hemorrhage between 2023 and 2030

To herald the launch of the WHO introduced Roadmap, pertinent questions were asked as to why did the World Health Organization decided to introduce the roadmap to combat PPH. Mr. Femi Oladapo, the head of maternal and parental health unit at the department of sexual and reproductive health and research at the World Health Organization (WHO) provided the answers:

He started by saying that there are four key reasons why WHO decided to introduced the Roadmap – first, he said Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH) is the leading cause of maternal death worldwide. He said it accounted for about 25 percent of maternal deaths, adding that it had been a difficult situation to deal with for several decades. Secondly, and importantly, there was also innovation deficit in the area of PPH. He said in the last 30 years, only two medications were identified to prevent or treat PPH and these were not good enough. Mr. Oladapo stated it was not so in other areas, such as HIV and some other disease conditions. He also mentioned that the implementation bottlenecks were huge, donors and countries were not well coordinated in their actions to improve outcomes. And lastly, advocacy according to him is not sufficient. 'For something that kills a large number of women globally, we should be serious in doing something about it.'

The WHO head of maternal and parental health unit added that the guidelines that are released by both



Prof. Hadiza Galadanci

Femi Oladapo  
Head of Maternal and Perinatal Health Unit

World Health Organization

international and national bodies, were not always consistent and the end users always find it difficult to decide on which one to use. For these reasons, “we decided to bring together several stakeholders across industries and private sectors, academic institutions, professional associations, NGOs and just everybody that works at Postpartum Hemorrhage space to discuss four key areas - Research, Guidelines, Implementation Bottlenecks as well as Advocacy.

He recalled that a summit that was held in Dubai in March 2023, concluded as great ideas on how to move things forward. He then said Professor Hadiza Galadanci would be telling the world about the call to action that was decided by 135 stakeholders that attended the Summit.

### Professor Hadiza Galadanci

Addressing the participants, Professor Galadanci said stakeholders have all agreed that “we must take our call to action very seriously, right from day one. The international organizations must unify and have a leader who will take the lead in trying to address the issue of maternal mortality arising from PPH. The governments, the ministries of health must strengthen our healthcare system by providing healthcare providers as well as ensuring that the services are available that will address the issue of PPH.” She said the researchers and academicians would have to do researches that are addressing the public health needs

related to PPH. And importantly, according to her, they should be doing implementation science research that would address how “we are going to be able to implement the evidence based best practices that actually address PPH and maternal death arising from that.”

To the professional bodies, the ACEPHAP Director told them to ensure that they improve the capacity of healthcare workers so that they would be able to provide quality services to women that present with PPH. She also charged women leaders and the Civil Society Organization to carry their advocates to governments, because, according to her “we must have the political will. The issue of PPH has to be on table.” To donor agencies, she called on them to have a unified voice and also increase funding for research, funding innovative tools for addressing PPH.

“In fact, we hope that we can have a basket of funding that can really help us in trying to address research that can really give us answers for finding solution.” She implored every stakeholder that “we must agreed that “we must: harmonize our guidelines; we must have a unified voice for advocacy; we must reduce the implementation gap; and we must have more funding for research and have a single agenda for research. We all are really going to act so that we end the unacceptable maternal mortality arising from the number one cause of maternal death, which is Postpartum Hemorrhage (PPH).”

## Facts About ACEPHAP

# Postgraduate Programmes

ACEPHAP stands for Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy. It is a World Bank supported center of Bayero University, Kano established since 2019.

The Center conducts its own research and collaborates with institutions/centers to conduct cutting edge research. It supports its staff and students to conduct research, disseminate findings and facilitate necessary policy change or formulation. One of its just concluded researches (EMOTIVE Trial) will change the policy on management of postpartum haemorrhage and is set to reduce maternal deaths from postpartum haemorrhage globally.

The Center runs five MSc programs - Global Health and Policy, Public Mental Health and Policy, Public Health Nutrition and Policy, Public Health Nursing and Policy, and Maternal Child Health and Policy. The Center has scores of foreign students from 10 African countries. The Center is also about to start two PhD programs; PhD Public Health and PhD Human Reproduction.

### Why Choose ACEPHAP?

1. The Center offers a variety of degrees that many people from different backgrounds can fit in. All these degrees emphasize on equipping with skills on translating research into policy. These degrees can only be obtained from ACEPHAP. No identical degrees exist anywhere in Nigeria.
2. Being a World Bank supported center, students are supported for their dissertation, including laboratory work. There is also a mandatory one month internship that is fully sponsored (on merit it may be outside Nigeria) in a place chosen by students.
3. If you are a regional student (non-Nigerian), you can enjoy scholarship that covers your tuition and your accommodation. In addition, you will be entitled to a return ticket as well as a monthly stipend throughout the duration of your study in Nigeria.



