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# 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

To produce 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.



# WARIMA Team Visits ACEPHAP ... Promises To Add Value To Its Research Activities

The West African Research and Innovation Management Association (WARIMA) has commended Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) for successfully managing multiple research projects.

The Secretary of WARIMA, Professor Emeh Owoaje who spoke during an interactive session with ACEPHAP management team at the centre's conference hall on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2024, said ACEPHAP had demonstrated determination and zeal to excel in research and training, saying that “we are here to add value to your research endeavours.”

She said WARIMA is an association which was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support research capacities of centres that are implementing research projects funded by the Gates Foundation, adding “we are to visit ACEPHAP and look at the performance of the centre's research activities with a view to rendering support where necessary.” Apart from ACEPHAP, the team is also going to visit other institutions for similar purposes.

During the interactive session with the ACEPHAP team, WARIMA delved into discussions which centred around research management, capacity building, and collaborative efforts.

Leading the ACEPHAP team during the interactive meeting, the Deputy Director, Research, Dr. Taiwo Amole supported by the centre's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor Baba Musa Maiyaki gave a run-down of the centre's activities, the number of projects being executed, collaboration and linkages, postgraduate training, capacity building training and above all the recent E-motive research breakthrough achieved by the centre. The team also interacted with all ACEPHAP project managers.

Earlier, the WARIMA team paid a courtesy call on the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas who

was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics, Professor Sani Mohammed Gumel. The DVC informed the visitors that Bayero University, Kano has 15 research centres, including two – ACEPHAP and CDA that are being funded by the World Bank.

He said the institution's research centres have all registered with quality assurance agencies and expressed willingness of the University to collaborate with WARIMA for improved initiatives. Professor Gumel highlighted the importance of intelligent engagement with data collectors and addressing research gaps, particularly in clinical trials. He wished the WARIMA team a successful engagement.

On the second day of the visit, the visitors were at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) where they underscored the crucial role of institutional backing for research endeavours. They also suggested that

the practice of grant writing should evolve into a continuous programme rather than a one-time course.

The representative of AKTH CMD, Deputy Chairman Medical Advisory Committee, Abdullahi Kabir Suleiman in his response informed the team that the hospital was currently executing seven grants from various funders and actively engaged in training researchers in grant acquisition and proposal writing. He affirmed the hospital's dedication to securing grants to advance humanitarian causes.

At the Yusuf Maitama Sule University (YUMSUK) school of Medical Sciences, the WARIMA team noted the presence of guidelines for grant management, proposal drafting,

and support for research associates. Despite lacking officially designated research administrators, YUMSUK had established policies for meetings and project management.

At the end of the interactive sessions, the team recommended the creation of specialized roles for research management and emphasized the pivotal role of principal investigators within organizational structures.

On data management and research governance, the team voiced concerns over challenges in data handling and stressed the importance of implementing robust data



DVC (Academics), Prof. Sani Muhammad Gumel (right) responding to WARIMA's address

protection protocols. Issues encountered in managing clinical trial data, such as delays from regulatory bodies like NAFDAC, were also highlighted.

Some of the suggestions proposed included implementing mentorship programmes for clinical trials and establishing initiatives akin to the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) in Africa.

Overall, the WARIMA team emphasized the necessity of introducing research at an early stage in educational institutions and advocated for sustained mentorship programmes to fortify research efforts across African research centres and institutions.

# ACEPHAP Trains Research Assistants on KASSEP Verbal Autopsy Project

A Ten-Days training workshop for research assistants involved in the implementation of the Kano State Surveillance for Evidence and Policy (KASSEP) project has ended in Kano.

The workshop which started on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 had 63 participants drawn from Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Yusuf Maitama Sule University, National Bureau of Statistics, Kano Bureau of Statistics and National Population Commission. It is aimed at providing training to the research assistants who will be conducting data collection for the KASSEP Project.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director of ACEPAHP, Professor Hadiza Galadanci said like many other regions in Nigeria, Kano State faces several healthcare challenges which includes high maternal and child

mortality, communicable diseases with periodic outbreaks (recently diphtheria), and difficulties in accessing healthcare, particularly in rural areas. Furthermore, the top causes of these deaths and the social and cultural factors that interplay with the systemic challenges that Kano State faces, are not well characterized, and as such interventions to reduce maternal deaths and stillbirths are hampered.

It is these challenges that the study would seek to address with a view to proffering solutions to the rising cases of maternal and child mortality in Kano State.

On the method to be used for the success of the project, Professor Galadanci stated that the study would employ a mixed methods approach to establish a sample registration system (SRS) that would be named Kano State Surveillance for Evidence and Policy (KASSEP) in the LGAs of Kano state. She said a representative sample of clusters

*It is aimed at providing training to the research assistants who will be conducting data collection for the KASSEP Study.*

would be drawn randomly to ensure representativeness across senatorial districts, urban and rural settings.

According to her establishing the Sample Registration System would enable the study to engage in both a retrospective study (maternal deaths and stillbirths that occurred within the last 12 months before the study date) and prospective study (maternal deaths and stillbirths that occurred with two years after the study start date). She added that the 2022 World Health Organization's Verbal Autopsy Instrument would be adapted for this study for both the retrospective and prospective components of this study.

She said the objectives of the study were to understand the causes and the contextual factors



Prof. Galadanci presenting her address

Professor Hadiza Galadanci charged the trainees to consider the assignment of data collection for the project as a great sacrifice and urged them to apply the knowledge they learnt from the training workshop to collect authentic data for the success of the project.



Prof. Galadanci displaying KASSEP souvenir being assisted by one of the researchers



Prof. Baba Musa Maiyaki shedding more light during the training

associated with maternal deaths and stillbirths to provide Kano State with insights on program/policy intervention. She also said it would afford the government of Kano State the opportunity to utilize the findings of this research to speedily implement policy/actions that specifically: Accelerate the reduction of preventable maternal deaths by intensifying the scale of proven low-cost interventions via its structures and institutions (whether these be publicly or privately-owned). Increased quality of care for the mother and baby-in-conception to accelerate the reduction of preventable stillbirths.

She charged the trainees to consider the assignment of data collection for the project as a great sacrifice and urged them to apply the knowledge they learnt from the training workshop to collect authentic data for the success of the project.



Prof. Galadanci in a group photograph with some of the research assistants

## Groundswell of Recognition:

# ...Professor Galadanci Breaks the Glass ceiling

An erudite scholar and a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Professor Hadiza Shehu Galadanci has broken the glass ceiling among her peers in the field of medicine. The groundswell of recognition she attracts as a result of her dedication to serving humanity in the year 2024 is overwhelming as it marks a watershed in her professional career as a medical doctor.

The most important of all the recognitions is her choice among the top *TIME* 100 Most Influential Figures in Global Health 2024.

### *TIME* 100 Most Influential Figures in Global Health 2024

The *Time* International Magazine of New York released the maiden list of the 100 most influential professionals in global health in its May 2024 edition. Professor Hadiza Galadanci, the Director of Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) made the list. The magazine specifically acknowledged her for her innovation along with 99 others from across the world. It said their choice “reflects humanity at its best: people using all their resourcefulness and ingenuity to help one another live better.”

“Whether you are familiar with the individuals on this list or this is the first time you are reading about them, their work is changing the lives of people in your community and around the world. We are thrilled to announce the first *TIME*100 Health most influential people,” the report said.

The nominees were categorized

“*Professor Hadiza Galadanci is working toward solutions for other common causes of maternal mortality, including seizures that occur late in a person's pregnancy or shortly after birth, known as eclampsia*”

under five groups of Innovators, titans, pioneers, leaders and catalysts. The list had people from Europe, Asia, America, Africa and Russia. To make it into the 100 most influential people in health, Professor Galadanci was appreciated for her efforts at reducing maternal mortality.

According to *TIME* Magazine, it observed that over the past few years, Galadanci, a clinician, researcher, teacher and mentor has worked with a network of collaborators in other countries to implement and study a simple yet effective system for preventing fatal postpartum hemorrhage, one of the leading causes of maternal mortality.

As part of her ingenuity, first, doctors place a blood-collection drape under a birthing mother, so they can track exactly how much blood she has lost during delivery. (Often, it's difficult for doctors to assess how much blood the mother has lost.) If the blood pooled in the drape passes a certain level, physicians provide a simultaneous “bundle” of treatments—including uterine massage, medications, and intravenous fluids—rather than trying them one at a time, which can take too long. If the suite of



Prof. Hadiza Shehu Galadanci presenting her address

interventions doesn't work, they move quickly to the operating room.

The 2023 New England Journal of Medicine published this intervention, compared to standard care, led to a 60% lower risk of serious complications, including severe blood loss resulting in surgery or death. Only six months after the study was published, the WHO used it as grounds for updating its childbirth guidelines - lightning fast in the bureaucratic world of global health.

It will take a long time to see how the approach affects global maternal-mortality rates, but Galadanci is already seeing change on the local level. "I get to facilities where [they're using this system] and they're telling me they haven't seen any women dying of [postpartum hemorrhage] since they started," she says. "That's enough satisfaction that it is working."

Already, Galadanci is working toward solutions for other common causes of maternal mortality, including seizures that occur late in pregnancy or shortly after birth, known as eclampsia.

To prevent or treat eclampsia, doctors sometimes give an at-risk expectant mother multiple injections of magnesium sulphate. Galadanci's team has partnered with WHO to study whether a smaller number of injections proves equally effective, since this approach would be faster, more affordable, and more accessible. She expects data collection to wrap up this spring and if the results are good, the approach could shortly become part of standard medical practice.

Speaking on the recognition achieved by Professor Galadanci, the immediate past Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, said he was highly impressed with her commitment, ingenuity and perseverance.

Professor Rasheed, a former Vice Chancellor of Bayero University,

said Hadiza is a very intelligent, brilliant and hard working intellectual. "She made us proud as she most eminently represented our University, Kano state and Nigeria in all ramifications. We are all proud to associate ourselves with her."

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, said members of the University community were elated about her recognition in the global arena, which is a great source of pride to the university and our country as a whole.

"This recognition for Professor Galadanci didn't come to me as a surprise as I already envisaged it coming, taking into consideration her efforts in addressing the most critical medical challenges facing our society as well as her unequal commitment in her professional callings. He said the recognition is for the university, her state and the country as a whole.

The Vice Chancellor described Galadanci as exceptionally brilliant academics who faced all assignments with zeal and seriousness so as not to encounter any failure.

### ... International Women Day Celebration

It is not only the *TIME* of New York that has beamed their search light on Professor Galadanci exploits in her chosen career. Even here at home, more attentions were being paid to her activities in salvaging humanity. It is therefore not surprising when at this year's celebration of International Women Day, she was chosen along with few others for recognition.

The International Women Day Celebration which is usually celebrated annually with lectures about gender sensitivities and exhibition globally, was observed in Kano with pomp and pageantry.

The highlight of the annual event witnessed the identification of few women who distinguished themselves in their chosen careers as well as impacted positively on humanities for recognition.

Of the five prominent women chosen by the organizers of the event – the Kano State Ministry of Women, Children and Disabled for recognition and award of excellence was the Director of Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Professor Hadiza Galadanci.



Chief of staff to Gov. Abba K. Yusuf, Alh. Sagagi presenting the award to Prof. Galadanci

Her choice for this prestigious award did not come as a surprise to most people in ACEPHAP and BUK, rather it goes to confirm what we already know of her – epitome of hardwork, dedication and passion for saving lives.

It was not the first time Professor Galadanci will be chosen for recognition in the course of her medical career. She has received numerous awards, including FIGO's Women Award, the Paul Harrison's Fellow Award, the KAMSA Merit Award, the Red Ribbon Award for

Progress” would witness the recognition of few women who distinguished themselves in their chosen careers by impacting positively on the lives of humanity.

The Commissioner named the six outstanding women chosen for the award of excellence to include; Dr. Naja'atu Bala Mohammed, Hajiya Maryam Sani Abacha, Hajiya Aisha M., Professor Hadiza Galadanci and the two wives of Kano State Governor. She said their choice followed a rigorous screening exercise coupled with

their track record of achievements. She congratulated them and hoped that they would maintain the tempo.

Professor Aisha Ismail of Bayero University, Kano who

was the guest lecturer at the event, spoke extensively on the need to strengthen the institution of the family, saying that of recent, the fallen value of the family arising from lack of cohesion was worrisome. She said investing in women as the theme of the celebration depicts would go a long way to accelerate the progress of families.

Professor Aisha said children and the youth who were the potential leaders of tomorrow must be given the best of training at home, adding that whatever training/knowledge impacted on the children in school would only be a continuation of home foundation.

Responding, Professor Galadanci thanked the ministry for the recognition. She said the honour done to her and her colleagues

would go a long way to ginger them to continue to do more for humanity.

She urged governments at all levels to always give priority on matters that affect the welfare of women particularly girl-child education which she said had been experiencing decline in recent times. She also made an appeal for women empowerment, saying that “when you empower a woman, you have empowered the family and the entire household.”

### ... Emerges winner of Maiden VC's Innovative Award 2024

Another accolade for Professor Galadanci was her emergence as the overall winner of the Vice Chancellor's Innovative Maiden Award, 2024. The Award was presented to her by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas on Saturday at grand finale of the 38<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony. Her emotive research breakthrough which found solution to postpartum hemorrhage was considered in assessing her for the award.

It could be recalled that Professor Galadanci led a study called E-MOTIVE. In this study, they designed a simple, low-cost way to identify 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 per cent decreased in cases of severe bleeding among 200,000 women.



Prof. Sagir A. Abbas (left) presenting a plaque to Prof. Hadiza Shehu Galadanci as the winner of the Maiden VC Innovation Award

Dedication and Outstanding Commitment to Combat HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, and Kano State Government Merit Award. To cap it all, the most recent of her recognition was at Kigali, Rwanda at the 2023 Heroines of Health Award Gala Dinner.

The intermittent applause that followed when her citation was read has re-echoed the popular saying “who the cap fits, let him wear it.”

Earlier, in her address, the Kano State Commissioner for Women, Children and Disabled, Hajiya Aisha Lawal Sadiq told the audience that the International Women Day celebration was an annual event usually celebrated globally with lectures and exhibition to advance the cause of women. She said this year's celebration with the theme: “Invest in Women to Accelerate



# KASSEP Implementation Team:

## ...Visits Mozambique; Studies Similar Project Implementation Module

The Kano State Surveillance for Evidence and Policy (KASSEP) implementation team comprising Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Yusuf Maitama Sule University, the Ministry of Health, and the Kano state Government visited Mozambique to study a similar project's implementation module.

The objective of the visit was to gain insights from their experience in implementing their project which is similar to KASSEP for better-informed decision-making around the Kano team's implementation.

It should be noted that one of the mandates of ACEPHAP, BUK is the establishment of SRS in Kano state through the Kano State Surveillance for Evidence and Policy (KASSEP) project. In line with that objective, a team of experts and policymakers (Members of the Technical Committee and Central Management Committee of the KASSEP) from the state were officially sent to study a similar project implementation module in Mozambique. From April 21st to April 27th, the representatives from the Technical Committee travelled to Maputo to meet with the Country Wide Surveillance for Action

*There is a need to review the existing symptoms and mentioned diseases in the VASA tool to fit the Nigerian context of tropical diseases as the matrix for assigning cause of death is complex and would require more information collected from the respondents.*

(CWSA) team.

A series of meetings were held in Maputo after the team split into two; technical and policymaking, for the purpose of maintaining professionalism and timeliness. The technical focused on scientific aspects of the implementation such as the sampling, techniques in sampling, data collection protocols, platforms and cleaning, and overall project (baseline and prospective study) management.



The KASSEP team with Dr. Ivalda Macicame, the Director of the National Institute of Health after her presentation on the overview of the (CWSA) project

The technical team held a series of meetings involving key stakeholders from the Country Wide Surveillance for Action (CWSA) team such as the Principal Investigator, Lead IT personnel, Data Manager, statisticians, and supporting physicians. The discussions revealed several critical technical issues. Initially, the Mozambique team had received

*The technical focuses on scientific aspects of the implementation such as the sampling, techniques in sampling, data collection protocols, platforms and cleaning, and overall project (baseline and prospective study) management.*

comprehensive mentoring from JHU across all project aspects. However, after JHU's departure, the team localised its protocols.

The implementation process had three distinct stages. JHU had set up data collection platforms and protocols for routine, biannual (ideally annual), and baseline data collection. Additionally, JHU established three databases and platforms (website-based) for data visualisation and analysis. The team is currently constructing another platform on DHS for government and official use.

However, it has been stressed by the CWSA team that both the project and programme are based on the data that is being collected from the communities; not health facilities.

Unlike the CWSA team, the Kano team has consolidated all three forms into one, comprising the

household form, maternity/pregnancy form, and vital registration form. This approach contrasts with the CWSA team's method, which captures these forms separately, a difference that carries financial implications. The CWSA team employs the Stata package for data cleaning, merging of forms, and analysis, with 50% automation through an existing program. In contrast, the Kano team utilizes an Excel-based process for data cleaning and analysis. The CWSA team in Mozambique has assembled a team of experts to manage incoming data from all provinces, but they encounter challenges with updating data on the server.

Meanwhile, the Kano team has implemented all forms on ODK platforms similar to those used by JHU in Mozambique and the CWSA team, eliminating the need for additional investment, except for potential updates and paid automation of household data for routine information.

The team noted the need to review the existing symptoms and mentioned diseases in the VASA tool to fit the Nigerian context of tropical diseases as the matrix for assigning cause of death is complex and would require more information collected from the respondents.

However, the study visits to Mozambique was not without benefits, it provided valuable insights for the Kano State Surveillance for Evidence and Policy (KASSEP) project. The Instituto Nacional de Saúde (INS) in Mozambique, with its autonomous structure and diversified responsibilities, demonstrated effective leadership and a comprehensive approach to health research and surveillance. The transition from the CWSA project to SIS COVE highlighted the importance of adaptability and data-driven decision-making. The INS's engagement with stakeholders, utilization of technology, and robust data collection and analysis methods were notable.

The Kano team will further benefit from these lessons by focusing on establishing a strong surveillance system, supporting Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) reporting, and enhancing data analysis and presentation capabilities. Engaging with communities and building technical expertise will be crucial for the success and sustainability of the KASSEP project in Kano State.



The KASSEP team in a group photograph with their host

# ACEPHAP Holds Report Writing Workshop for BUK's Senior Administrative Staff

**A**frica Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) organized a 5-Day Report Writing and Presentation Workshop for Senior Administrative Staff of Bayero University, Kano as part of the efforts to make the University feel the impact of the center's activities, Director of the Center, Professor Hadiza Shehu Galadanci has disclosed.

Speaking shortly before she declared the workshop opened, Professor Galadanci said the intention of the training workshop was to improve the skills of the university's administrative staff to enable them give their best for the success of the institution.

She said last year, a similar workshop was held for administrative staff to improve their computer operation knowledge, saying that at the end of the training, the feedback the center received from the participants made it possible for "us to organize another workshop, this time to enhance their report writing and presentation skills."

The Director stated that as senior administrative officers, their schedules and responsibilities included writing minutes and reports arising from Committees' meetings and resolutions for decisions and other administrative actions to be taken for the development of the institutions. To assist them master the art of report writing, "we decided to organize the workshop to build their capacities to enable them achieve perfection."

She disclosed that over 10 administrative staff were sponsored for a foreign capacity building training, assuring that the center would continue to make its impact felt in the areas of training and retraining.

Professor Galadanci advised the participants to step-down the training by training their subordinates in their various units, that way the impact of the training would permeate down the administrative ladder.

Speaking on the objectives of the workshop, the Deputy Director, Research of the Center, Dr. Taiwo Amole said reports are absolute necessities in any organization. Inaccurate reports inevitably lead to wrong decisions and actions.

She added that writing quality reports and presenting them effectively required certain skills and competencies, saying that it was in an effort to help bridge the gap with a view to equipping participants with

the requisite knowledge, skills and competencies in report writing and presentation that the workshop was organized. Dr. Amole wished the participants a successful training.

Meanwhile, similar workshop with the theme: Enhancing Report Writing and Presentation was also jointly organized by ACEPHAP and Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto for senior administrative staff of the University. The three-day workshop which took place at the UDUS main campus, Sokoto opened on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 and ended on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.

Among the facilitators were former Registrar of Sule Lamido University, Kafin Hausa in Jigawa State, Malam Muhammad Danlami Nasir and Dr. Sai'du Ahmad Dukawa of the department of Public Administration, Bayero University, Kano.

Some of the participants at both workshops expressed appreciation to ACEPHAP for the training and assured that they would step-down the training to their colleagues who were not opportune to attend the training.



ACEPHAP, Director, Prof. Hadiza Galadanci presenting certificate to one of the beneficiaries



ACEPHAP team in a group photograph with UDUS VC

### WARIMA Visits to ACEPHAP in Pictures



## 2024 International Women Day Celebration in Pictures



## ACEPHAP Activities Captured in Pictures



# KASSEP Partners From APHRC, Kenya Visits ACEPHAP

## ... Trains Kano Team on Project Implementations Strategy

The Kano State Surveillance for Evidence and Policy (KASSEP) project recorded a major boost when it received technical support on project implementation from a team of researchers from African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), Kenya.

The APHRC visited ACEPHAP on Friday May, 17<sup>th</sup> 2024 and provided technical assistance to KASSEP project team aimed at ensuring thoroughness and accuracy in the implementation of the project. The two-day training session took place at the ACEPHAP conference hall in Kano.

The training/technical assistance focused on two main components. Firstly, attention was given to reviewing and finalizing the sampling methodology. This involved assessing the current sampling distribution and determining the distribution of additional households. Additionally, the delegate assisted in updating the protocol methodology and reviewing the data analysis plan to enhance the overall quality of the project.

In Component two, the delegates provided training on the Target Policy Profile (TPoP) and connected it to the Theory of Influence. This component aimed to document the progress achieved by the Kano team in stakeholder engagement. The objective was to create a framework illustrating the process undertaken to expedite the adoption of evidence by relevant stakeholders, particularly policy and decision-makers. This initiative recognizes the importance of engaging a diverse range of stakeholders and organizing them into a cohesive framework to facilitate effective decision-making based on evidence.

The support from African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) was aimed at not

only to enhance the technical aspects of the project but also to strengthen the engagement with stakeholders. By documenting the progress made thus far, the Kano team can demonstrate their efforts in mobilizing key stakeholders. This documentation would serve as a

APHRC showed the importance of partnerships in advancing public health initiatives. She said the technical assistance provided by APHRC had helped to ensure the robustness and accuracy of the project's methodology and analysis plans, adding that the focus on



Participants brainstorming during the meeting

valuable resource for understanding the strategies employed and the outcomes achieved in stakeholder engagement. It will also provide insights into how these efforts have contributed to advancing the project's objectives and promoting evidence-based decision-making in Kano State.

Speaking at the end of the training, Dr. Fatima Mahmoud, one

stakeholder engagement reflected a commitment to fostering a conducive environment for evidence uptake among policymakers and other relevant stakeholders. Dr. Fatimah believed that continued collaboration and documentation of progress would be essential for sustaining momentum and maximizing the impact of the KASSEP project in Kano State.



The Kenyan visitors in a group photograph with KASSEP team

of the KASSEP research implementation team stated that the collaboration between KASSEP and

The project is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

# KASSEP Advocacy Visits: Kano Emirs Assured of Full Support

Emirs from the five Kano State emirate Councils have assured the Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) of their full support in its collaborative research to address the rising cases of child and maternal mortality in the state.

The emirs gave the assurance during a weeklong advocacy visits to their palaces by a research team led by the Director of ACEPHAP, Professor Hadiza Galadanci.

The advocacy tour started on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 with a visit to the palace of the emir of Karaye, while on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, the team was in the palace of the emir of Kano. On 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 the team visited the palaces of the emirs of Gaya, Rano and Bichi respectively.

They emirs expressed unanimity in their resolve to cooperate with the team of researchers to get to the root cause of the unfortunate high rate of child and maternal mortality in the State and find lasting solution to the avoidable deaths. They however commended the efforts of the State Government in tackling some of the major health challenges afflicting the state.

The project named: Kano State Surveillance for Evidence and Policy (KASSEP) is a collaborative project with the Kano State Government to address the menace of high rate of child and maternal mortality in the state.

Specifically, the emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero said the alarming statistics of maternal mortality which showed that Nigeria was contributing about 28 per cent globally and Northern

Nigeria particularly Kano was recording the highest number of child and maternal mortality was worrisome.

forementioned collaborative research aimed at getting to the root cause of the high maternal mortality, the emirate had heaved a sigh of relief because, “from all indications solution was very much on sight.”

He pledged continued support to the team, assuring that the emirate would direct district, ward and village heads to cooperate and assist the research team by educating the people and urging



Representative of Kano Emir (middle) Madakin Kano, Alh. Nabahani Yusuf Cigari

The emir who was represented by the *Madakin* Kano, Alhaji Nabahani Yusuf Ibrahim Cigari said

them to cooperate with the researchers during house to house visit for data collections.



Prof. Galadanci delivering her address at the Emir Palace

with the State Government intervention through the

Earlier, the leader of the team and Director of Africa Center of



Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Professor Hadiza Galadanci said the team was in the palace to pay homage and solicit support from the emirate to enable the team successfully carry out Collaboratory research aimed at addressing the raising cases of child and maternal mortality in the State. “we will seek permission and support from you to enable us to enter into the selected local governments under your emirate to try to address the challenges pregnant women face which often lead to their deaths during child birth.”

Professor Galadanci said the project which would do a thorough investigation with a view to ascertaining the reasons for the rising cases of death of women after child birth. It would be carried out in collaboration with the researchers from Yusuf Maitama Sule

University Kano, representatives of the Kano Ministry of Health, Kano State Primary Health Care Management Board, National Bureau of Statistics, Kano Bureau of Statistics, National Population Commission & the Ministry for Higher Education with ACEPHAP as the principal investigator.

She assured that the project would also attempt to unravel the authenticity of the statistics which showed Kano State had the highest maternal mortality. This, she said would be achieved as we collect authentic data, analyze and study them with a view to arriving at a true reflection of the happenings in the state.

The team leader hoped that the emirs would assist the research team by directing all district, ward and village heads in the selected areas to cooperate and assist the

team to get to the nooks and crannies for the purpose of collecting data for the success of the project.

Professor Galadanci disclosed that the project would cover a total of 21 local governments from Urban and Rural areas across the three senatorial districts of the state. She named the local governments as: Dawakin Kudu, Garun Malam, Gwale, Kumbotso, Madobi, Nasarawa, Ungogo, Albasu, Bunkure, Garko, Kibiya, Rano, Sumaila, Tudun Wada, Bagwai, Dambatta, Gabasawa, Kabo, Kunci, Rimin Gado, Tofa. These local governments cut across the state’s five emirate councils, hence the reasons for the advocacy visits to all the emirate councils of Karaye, Rano, Gaya, Bichi and Kano.

Those on the tour include representatives from all the collaborative institutions involved in the research project.



KASSEP team in a group photograph with Emir of Karaye



## *ACEPHAP Sustains Mentorship:* ... Trains staff of TETFund Center of Excellence FCE, Yola

In line with the determination of the Management of Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP) to accept the challenge of mentoring TETFund centers of excellence across the country, another TETFund Center of Excellence domiciled at the Federal College of Education, Yola was the latest mentee.

It could be recalled that in January, this year about 10 TETFund centers of Excellence were mentored by ACEPHAP at 5-Day capacity building workshop jointly organized by TETFund Center of Excellence for Integrated Farming Systems, Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi.

The latest mentorship training took place at ACEPHAP head office in Kano for staff of TETFund Center of Excellence for Teaching Agro Business Skills (TCoE-TBABS), Federal College of Education, Yola. It was a three-day capacity building

workshop with the theme: “Effective Management of Center of Excellence.” The workshop took place from Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Director of TCoE-TBABS, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Girei said the center focused on developing a hub in various livestock production to enhance agro business, inculcate skills and practice in students as well as youths of the immediate environment and promote Agro business through livestock feed formulation.

Dr. Girei stated that some of the terms of operation of individual center staff are modalities for accessing funds, effective monitoring and evaluation, protective strategies for achieving disbursement link indicators, partnership and collaborations for sustainability among others.

He said as part of effort to

achieve the center's desired objectives in line with TETFund mandate, TCoE-TBABS decided to collaborate with ACEPHAP for capacity building training/workshop for all staff of the center. Dr. Girei stated that because of the successes and breakthrough recorded by ACEPHAP, “we decided to approach the Director of ACEPHAP, Professor Hadiza Galadanci and requested for mentorship training which she gladly agreed and her acceptance led to this joint workshop,” he remarked.

He thanked ACEPHAP for the training and assured that all the lessons learnt from the various presentations would be fully implemented.

In her lead paper titled: “Concept of Center of Excellence” presented at the workshop, Professor Hadiza Galadanci began her presentation by drawing analogy between Africa Center of Excellence

and TETFund Center of Excellence. She said both centers were conceived with a set of clear objectives which were outlined by the donor agencies. She said the success or otherwise of a center depended on its management team's approach/compliance with the guidelines stipulated by the donor agencies.

Professor Galadanci told the participants that you can only achieve your goals if you know why the Centers were established. She said the first thing the center leader should do in terms of project implementation, was for him to put all the other center team members on the same page by educating them to understand the vision, mission and objectives of the center. She said, only by so doing, they center management staff would be able to work as a team towards achieving the desired objectives.

The ACEPHAP Director unveiled the center's template which she wanted participants to replicate and use as a guide towards achieving successes. She mentioned the model used by the center to include; regional networking, regional postgraduate training, cutting edge research, collaboration and linkages, high impact publication, institutional impact, innovation and entrepreneurship and gender sensitivity as the secret of ACEPHAP successes. She said any center that is desirous of success must take cognizance of the model. As a mentorship workshop, most of the presentations were experience sharing spearheaded by the staff of ACEPHAP.

The papers presented at the workshop are as follows: Lead Presentation Titled: Concept of Centers of Excellence, Effective Project Management Fundamentals and Challenges: The ACEPHAP Perspectives, Revenue Generation and Sustainability plan, Accounting and Financial Management for Effective Running of the College of Education.

Others are: Auditing for College of Education; Best practices and

Tools, Procurement Principles, Methods, Strategies and Best Practices and Concept of Environmental Safeguard: Compliance with Relevant Government Policies, Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Regulations and Compliance.

The rest are; Training, Regionalization and Internationalization of Centers of Excellence, Overview of ACEPHAP's Research Activities as a guide to Center Coordinators, The role of collaborations and linkages in the development of centers of

Excellence, Effective Documentation, Communication and Publicity in the Management and Visibility of College of Education, Monitoring and Evaluation Concepts and Overview of Annual Work Plan Development for Centers of Excellence as well as Advocacy and Stakeholders Engagement for Center's Development and Impact.

Some of the participants who commented at the end of the workshop, expressed gratitude to the ACEPHAP Team for a thorough experience sharing presentations, saying that "we shall replicate the



Director of TCoE-TBABS, Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim Girei



Participants in a group photograph

# Kano Healthcare Providers Celebrate International Safe Motherhood Day

## ... with Pomp and Pageantry

The Kano State Ministry of Health in collaboration with Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), UNICEF and UK – Lafiya joined the rest of the world to

all women receive the care they need; the care has to be safe and healthy throughout pregnancy and childbirth.

These comprehensive services are: antenatal care, obstetric and

young married adolescents facing higher risks than older women from complications and death as a result of pregnancy.

In 2020, an estimated 287, 000 women globally died from a



Honourable Commissioner, Dr. Abubakar Labaran Yusuf and Professor Hadiza Galadanci distributing delivery kits to the beneficiaries

commemorate the 2024 International Safe Motherhood Day. This year's celebration took place from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024 at Tahir Guest Palace, Kano.

The day is celebrated every 11<sup>th</sup> April of each year. It is a global initiative set aside to raise awareness about adequate access to quality care during pregnancy, childbirth, and postnatal period. Safe motherhood, refers to a time of good expectation and joy for the woman, her family and the community. It also means ensuring

newborn care, child birth spacing, postnatal care, post-abortion care as well as prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV/AIDS.

The World Health Organization (WHO) revealed that the global report on maternal health between year 2000 and 2017 showed that maternal mortality worldwide had dropped by about 38%. The report also showed that most maternal mortalities occurred in low- and middle-income countries with

maternal cause (a third lower than 446,000 in 2000). The global MMR in 2020 was estimated at 223 maternal deaths per 100, 000 live births (34.3% reduction in 20-year period). Almost 800 maternal deaths every day and approximately one every two minutes.

In his address, the Kano State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Abubakar Labaran Yusuf said the State Government had put in place all the necessary mechanisms to check maternal mortality to save the lives of women and children. He

said it was part of the effort of the government to prioritize the health of citizens and women, adding the measure was paramount due to the growing need to tackle the menace.

He said the State Government invested a lot through the recruitment of health professionals in the state to strengthen its commitment to women's health.

The Commissioner who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Alhaji Musa Tanko pointed out that Government was doing everything possible to change the past narratives in making sure a pregnant woman receives all pillars of care during and after pregnancy. According to the Commissioner, these stages such as antenatal care, skilled and facility-based delivery, quality services, as well as postnatal care, family planning, and post-abortion family planning are assured.

Speaking on the objectives of the Safe Motherhood Day, Dr. Labaran stated that it was meant to raise awareness on Maternal & Child Health safety including mortality, access to prenatal and postnatal care, and the importance of family planning, to advocate for policy change: Advocate for policies and programs that prioritize maternal health, including increased funding for maternal healthcare services, improved access to healthcare facilities, and initiatives to address maternal mortality, to Promote Maternal Health Initiatives.

The **theme** of this year's celebration according to the commissioner is: **Investing in Maternal Health for a sustainable future** with the **Slogan: Mother lives, Child Survives.**

Also speaking, the Head, Specialist Maternal Newborn UNICEF and Child Health Kano Field Office, Saudat Abdullahi Bashir, assured that they would continue to support the Ministry of Health to improve safe motherhood

across the state. "UNICEF support will surely help in changing the old narrative for the better".

In his remarks, the Falakin Bichi, Alhaji Abba Wada Waziri suggested for an increase in the budgetary allocations for maternal mortality and accessibility to health centers in rural areas. Waziri said the records of mortality of newborns and women at the pregnancy stage are low in the south compared to the data in the North, which showed that there is a need for the Government to do more in that area.

### ... Symposium During the International Safe Motherhood Day/Week

Some of the activities carried out to commemorate the international safe motherhood day/week include a symposium, supported by UNICEF

maternal health complications that contributed to the growing number of maternal mortality cases in Kano State. She listed the three complications as: Postpartum Hemorrhage, Preeclampsia/eclampsia and unsafe abortion.

The guest speaker who was speaking at a symposium organized by Kano State Ministry of Health in collaboration with ACEPHAP, UNICEF and UK-Lafiya to commemorate the 2024 Safe Motherhood Day, a global initiative annually marked on April 11 to raise awareness about adequate access to care during pregnancy, childbirth, and post-natal services, with the Theme: **Investing in maternal health for sustainable future** took place at Tahir Guest Palace, Kano on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024.

She said the problem needed a



Prof. Hadiza Galadanci delivering her paper

on maternal health. One of the interesting topics presented was; Prevention of Maternal Mortality through New Innovations (PPH, Pre-eclampsia/Eclampsia).

It was delivered by Professor Hadiza Shehu Galadanci, the Director Africa Center of Excellence for Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP). In the thought-provoking paper, Professor Galadanci identified three worst

concerted and collective effort by the immediate family, community, and health personnel at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels to ensure the safety of a pregnant woman and her child during pregnancy, delivery, and after delivery. According to her, "currently Nigeria has the highest number of maternal mortality cases in the World compared to other developed and underdeveloped

countries, which Nigeria is contributing 28.5%. We need to do more to address the situation by strengthening our healthcare facilities with sufficient funding, this is by prioritizing available data for action," she counselled.

Professor Galadanci is of the opinion that "it is time for the system to be ready to implement all the changes to reduce maternal mortality in Kano state."

Other speakers at the symposium speak on Contribution of KSCHMA on Improving Maternal Health in Kano (delivered by the Executive Secretary, Dr. Rahila Aliyu Mukthar): Maternal & Perinatal Child Death Surveillance and Response (MPCDSR) in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity (Ramatu Jibrin, SMCH Co.) and contribution of KHETFUND to health care system in Kano, opportunities for improving maternal health, (delivered by Dr. Lawal who represented the Executive Secretary).

There was Motherhood Awards Ceremony which witnessed the distribution of 500 Mama Kits and lunch to mothers at Murtala Muhammad Specialist hospital, Kano. It was supported by ACEPHAP and UNICEF with view to encouraging facility delivery and reducing out of pocket expenditure.



ACEPHAP Deputy Director, Dr. Taiwo Amole (right) and Dr. Fatima Mahmoud



Hon. Commissioner, Dr. Abubakar Labaran Yusuf and Prof. Hadiza Galadanci distributing the kits



Ramatu Jibrin, the State Maternal Child Coordinator before the distribution of the kits

## 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.



