



# 20th Edition Newsletter



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## Welcome Note

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the latest update from the Smiles for Mothers consortium. From building the capacity of front line health workers to strengthening health financing systems, our team has been hard at work advancing our shared goal of reducing maternal mortality in Nigeria.

We trained over 600 healthcare workers across the seven program states on improved postpartum hemorrhage care, conducted a re-orientation and co-creation workshop for the Drug Revolving Fund (DRF) Committee in Niger state, and welcomed the MSD for Mothers team to Nigeria to align with national priorities, explore opportunities for collaboration, and support the government's efforts to improve maternal health outcomes.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to create lasting impact.

Cheers!

## Scaling Capacity Building for PPH Care

Between April and May 2025, over 600 healthcare workers across the seven program states participated in a three-day training on improved postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) care, led by the CHAI team. The sessions combined Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), case discussions, practical demonstrations on Active Management of the Third Stage of Labor (AMTSL), use of the non-pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment (NASG), and the E-MOTIVE bundle. The training resulted in marked improvements in both knowledge and clinical skills across all cadres, including doctors, midwives, and community health extension workers.



*Participants at the training in Lagos State*



*OSCE session at the training in Kano State*

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## Strengthening Health Financing for Improved PPH Care

The HSDF team conducted a rapid assessment of State Health Insurance Agencies (SHIA), which highlighted opportunities to strengthen financing for postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) care, including improving Drug Revolving Fund (DRF) systems to ensure consistent availability of essential medicines.

In July, key stakeholders from Niger State's DRF Committee gathered for a three-day workshop in Minna to improve program oversight and accountability. Participants reviewed DRF principles, explored financial management best practices, and co-created practical solutions to strengthen governance and ensure sustainability.



*Adebowale Adedigba explaining the role of DRF in commodity availability*

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## MSD for Mothers Visit to Nigeria

During a recent visit to Nigeria, the MSD for Mothers team, engaged with key federal-level stakeholders at the Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) Coordination Office, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), and the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) as well as state-level stakeholders in Kano and Lagos states. The goal of this visit was to align with national priorities, explore opportunities for collaboration, and support the government's efforts to improve maternal health outcomes. In Kano and Lagos states, they engaged directly with health workers and stakeholders to assess progress on the rollout of the comprehensive PPH bundle. The visit sparked concrete next steps, including Kano's plan to include heat-stable Carbetocin in its health insurance benefit package and its adoption in delivery packs at Muhammad Abdullahi Wase Teaching Hospital.



*Jeffrey Jacobs with the team in Kano State*



*Jacquelyn Marie Caglia, Dr. Kahlan Taylor-Clark and Iyadunni Olubode with the team in Lagos State*

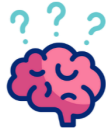
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## Insights from Research

Our work continues to inform the global conversation on maternal health. Explore two recent journal publications showcasing how the Smiles for Mothers program is driving innovation, strengthening health systems, and improving outcomes for mothers in Nigeria.

**Establishing Sustainable Access to Quality Uterotonics**

**Improving Access to and Delivery of Maternal Health Care Services to Prevent PPH**



## Smiles for Mothers Trivia Corner

We are excited to launch the Smiles for Mothers Trivia Corner! A fun way to test your knowledge about our program and maternal health.

**How it works:** If you can answer **all 3 trivia questions correctly**, you stand a chance to win a gift.

**Note:** The first person to submit all correct answers wins!

### What's in it for you?

The trivia winner will be formally announced in the next edition of our newsletter and will receive exciting rewards, including e-gift cards and airtime top-up.

[Click to Play!](#)

This newsletter is a collaborative effort of Hauwa Ahmad, Sarah Aligbe, Aisha Abdullahi, Femi Abraham, Adebawale Adedigba, Segun Oladipo, Oyindamola Koya, Naanma Kangkum, Chukwunonso Nwaokorie, Lola Ameyan and Emmanuel Ashandobe representing the views of the Smiles for Mothers consortium.

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