



## BUK Researchers Empower 325 Healthcare Workers with Remote Consulting Skills

In a significant stride towards improving access to healthcare, researchers from Bayero University, Kano (BUK) have successfully trained 325 healthcare workers in remote consultation. The innovative approach is part of the REaCH program, aims to bridge the healthcare gap, especially for marginalized populations, by leveraging technology to deliver quality care across the state.

The programme, is part of the ongoing research collaboration between Kings College London, University of Warwick, Bayero University, Kano, University of Ibadan and University of Ghana, under the REaCH health project.

Speaking on Monday when he led team members to a courtesy visit to the Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, the Co-Investigator and onetime Provost of College of Health Sciences, Professor Ibrahim Adamu Yakasai,, explained that the program, had equipped a total of 325 medical personnel in Kano state.

He gave the breakdown of those trained to include 94 final year medical students, 84 final year nursing students, 119 primary healthcare workers in 17 selected PHCs from six metropolitan LGAs of Kano Municipal, Fagge, Nassarawa, Gwale, Tarauni and Kumbotso, as well as 27 volunteers. They were given training with the necessary skills to provide remote consultations. He also disclosed that the program will be expanded to cover additional local government areas thus, it is poised to revolutionize healthcare delivery in Kano State and beyond

“This strategic move is in line with the global push towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), ensuring that everyone, regardless of location or socioeconomic status, has access to quality healthcare”, he said.

Professor Ibrahim Yakasai, reaffirmed the significance of remote consultation in addressing the challenges of healthcare delivery in resource-constrained settings. “By leveraging technology, healthcare providers can connect with patients remotely, reducing the burden on overcrowded healthcare facilities and improving patient outcomes”.

The training will enable healthcare workers to provide timely and efficient care, especially for patients with chronic conditions who require regular monitoring," Professor Yakasai further explained that "by reducing the need for frequent physical visits; we can alleviate the financial burden on patients and improve their overall quality of life."

According to him the scheme achieved the development of skills and confidence in the PHC workforce for delivering safe and trustworthy remote consultations for persons living with long term conditions and other chronic diseases, it also supported in building remote consulting techniques into curriculum for pre-service training of various cadres of healthcare professionals.

He appealed to the Management of BUK to support the incoming submission of incorporating the programme of in-service training into the curriculum of healthcare workers as proposed by the College of Health Sciences for the promotion of primary healthcare workers in Kano State.

Also, giving an overview of the project, Professor Akinyinka Omigbodun, from College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, explained that the project was initiated for about a decade ago in Tanzania, aimed at promoting primary healthcare services especially in the remote areas/. He disclosed that the programme enhanced easy access to users from their respective places of work and in other places including shops, markets, farms and other remote areas to have access to healthcare service delivery.

Professor Omigbodun said the project was supported by Global Health Partner to upscale the training of healthcare workers in Nigeria and Ghana, focusing on the incorporation of the programme into curriculum by institutions, healthcare centres and government as a whole for a wider coverage.

In her remarks, the team lead, Prof. Jackie Sturt, from Kings College London, disclosed that the project had succeeded in the training of thousands of healthcare workers across Nigeria, Ghana and Tanzania. She said the team was proudly meeting the stakeholders, visiting and promoting primary healthcare centres in Kano and happy to be in BUK to strengthen its collaboration.

The REaCH program, supported by the United Kingdom Global Health Partnerships, is a collaborative effort involving researchers from five universities in the UK, Nigeria, and Ghana. This international partnership has been instrumental in developing and implementing innovative healthcare solutions tailored to the specific needs of low-income countries.

In his response, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sagir Adamu Abbas, who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Development, Professor Abdullahi Sule-Kano described the team's impartible and collaborative efforts with part of the world as a fragment of the manifestation of Bayero University, Kano. He vowed to support the programme for a wider coverage in Africa.

**Signed:**

**Lamara Garba *mnipr*,**

**Head of Public Affairs Directorate,**

**For: Registrar**

