

SECRET

JUNE, 2018.

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**MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH, AKWA IBOM STATE ON INCREASED UTILIZATION OF ESSENTIAL PACKAGE OF CARE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS FOR IMPROVED ANTE NATAL CLINIC ATTENDANCE**

**1. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform Council that collaborating with traditional birth attendants can increase ante natal clinic attendance and delivery in the hospitals.

**2. BACKGROUND:**

A Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) according to the World Health Organization (WHO) is defined “as a person who assists the mother during childbirth and who initially acquired her skills by delivering babies herself or through an apprenticeship from other TBAs”.

They are often not formally trained but are usually respected elderly persons (mostly women) in their communities.

Accordingly to the Akwa Ibom State Strategic Health Development Plan I, 67% of our women attend ante natal clinic and only 44% go back to the facility for delivery.

**3. CONTENT:**

The various TBAs were registered through the help of their association with technical support from Management Science for Health (MSH).

Lectures were organized for the TBAs and the curriculum included basic anatomy of the reproductive system, physiology, Health Education and Promotional ante natal and post natal activities etc. This lasted for six (6) weeks.

Thereafter, the TBAs were placed on attachment at the ante natal clinic, labour ward and post natal clinic at the three general hospitals of Eket, Ikot Ekpene and Anua. This on-the-job training lasted for six weeks.

At the end of the training, a passing out ceremony was organized where the trainees were kitted by MSH.

**4. RESULT**

The training was conducted in 2016.

DATA FOR TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS IN 3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

***Before and After Intervention (2016 – 2017)***

LGA	ANC REGISTRATION		DELIVERY BY SKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANTS		REFERRALS	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
<b>Eket</b>	1105	4815	33	314	69	6
<b>Etinan</b>	1266	1570	330	535	81	42
<b>Ikot Ekpene</b>	895	1003	116	163	0	0
<b>Total</b>	3266	7338	479	1012	150	48

**NOTE:**

- The ANC attendance increased after the training because the TBAs were referring pregnant women to the health facilities.
- Deliveries by skilled birth attendants also increased.

- The referrals were mainly during labour, so after the training of the TBAs, they were better equipped to spot complicated cases during antenatal clinic attendance where they were referred to the hospitals.

**PRAYERS:**

**The council is hereby invited to note that** working closely with the TBAs with much supervision can have a positive impact on ante natal clinic attendance and deliveries in the health facilities.

**Honourable Commissioner for Health, Akwa Ibom State**

**JUNE, 2018**