

**Building the capacity of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) in Bauchi and Sokoto states Northern Nigeria in outcome monitoring of MNCH/FP/RH interventions using the Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) Technique. Poster presented at Evaluation 2014: Visionary Evaluation for a Sustainable, Equitable Future, the 28th annual conference of the American Evaluation Association, Denver, Colorado USA**

**Abstract**

Involving health and local government MDAs in evaluation and ensuring ownership of their MNCH/FP/RH interventions has been one of the challenges of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) in developing countries. The focus of most projects is on internal information needs, and satisfying funding agencies' needs excluding the MDAs responsible for providing strategic oversight as well as funding and implementing health interventions. Recognizing the need for local stakeholders to conduct their own evaluations, USAID Targeted States High Impact Project (TSHIP) in Bauchi and Sokoto state, Northern Nigeria adopted the LQAS technique to empower MDAs to monitor health outcomes. This presentation will discuss how local stakeholders were trained and involved in carrying out household survey including conducting manual tabulation and data analysis, and data use using the LQAS technique. Also the presentation will cover the challenges and lessons learned by adopting such an approach to build MDAs capacity to assess their health interventions.

**Keywords:** Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS) Technique, ownership,

**Acronyms:**

MNCH/FP/RH – maternal, newborn, & child health/ family planning/ reproductive health  
 MOH – ministry of health  
 SPHCDA – state primary healthcare development agency  
 TOR – terms of reference  
 LGA – local government area  
 DHS – demographic health survey

Contact: ✉ takomolafe@tshipnigeria.org  
 ☎ +234-803-917-0138

**Background**

TSHIP, a USAID-funded project, strengthens the health systems in Bauchi and Sokoto states, Northern Nigeria, to deliver high impact maternal, newborn, child health interventions. TSHIP also empowers health agencies to monitor and evaluate health interventions.

**Previous practice in the states:** non-involvement of health agencies in survey design, data collection, analysis, and use.

**Why LQAS?**

LQAS originated from industrial sector as quality control method and has been adapted to public health and other sectors due to its:

- Ease of use
- Small sample size
- Flexibility as both a monitoring and evaluation tool
- Participatory approach
- Cost effectiveness
- Availability of information at the lowest level
- Good alternative to other sampling methods

**Methodology**

- Protocol review, selection of indicator and sampling carried out and approved by MOH and SPHCDA
- Managed by MOH-led survey committee with TOR
- Trained 218 MOH, LGA staff and volunteers on LQAS methodology for 17 days
- Data collected, manually tabulated and analyzed by team led by LGA Chairpersons

**Achievements**

- First-time tracking indicators using population-based methodologies by MDAs and local authorities
- Increased commitment to results through participation of MDAs and local politicians in tabulation analysis

**More Achievements**

- Increased resource allocation and political commitment for health
- Adopted for outcome monitoring of state performance pending the DHS
- Triangulation with cluster sample surveys such as the DHS and social audit shows no major difference between some results
- Carried out twice with MDAs participation with plans for a 3rd in 2015

**Lessons Learned**

- Sharing survey costs with state increases ownership and participation
- Creating a pool of trained personnel at community level reduces cost and saves time during future surveys
- Learning experience is enriched by pairing of local health authorities with experienced data collectors
- Setting up of state committee working side-by-side with TSHIP staff builds trust between implementing partner and key stake holders

**Considerations**

- Low statistical precision
- Not intended to measure incremental change over time

**Other applications of LQAS:** Education, Agriculture, Democracy and Governance etc.

Contact: ✉ takomolafe@tshipnigeria.org  
 ☎ +234-803-917-0138

**Toyin Akomolafe, Nosa Orobato, Masduq Abdulkarim, AbdulAkeem AbdulGaniyu**