

Interview with AIHA's Abdullahi Abubakar, ICHSSA 3 Project Social Work Advisor



Abdullahi Abubakar, AIHA's ICHSSA 3 Project Social Work Advisor During One of the Kids Clubs in Jigawa, Nigeria.

What are the 3 remaining challenges in your work?

- The project would benefit greatly from increased government political will to support the enrollment of government social workers into Kano State Polytechnic to enable them to undergo the ASW certificate course.
- There just aren't sufficient funds to enable AIHA to replicate our success in Kano to other states of implementation particularly as related to the ASW institutionalization process in Niger, Borno, Jigawa and Yobe States.
- Insecurity is also a challenge across most states where we implement our project.

Do you think kids clubs could be sustainable after project completion?

The Kids clubs are community driven. They are run by community members under the Community Child Protection Committees (CCPC). They focus on building children's resilience and ensuring their safety against all forms of abuse. To ensure sustainability of the Kids club, from the beginning of the project, we paid particular attention to the advocacy component of the project with relevant stakeholders including community/ religious leaders, policy makers, gatekeepers, and caregivers, to obtain their buy-in. We also selected community facilitators who have the interest of children at heart and trained them as facilitators. This community ownership structure will continue to exist even after the project funding ends.

What is most rewarding in your work?

The most rewarding aspect of my work has been the institutionalization of the ASW curriculum in Kano State Polytechnic after a long struggle. Not only will this strengthen the Social Workforce in Kano and the neighboring states but also it will improve the wellbeing of the most vulnerable in our society - That was a huge success for USAID, our donor, ICHSSA 3 Project, AIHA and myself.