

Additional OR Studies

The objective of the **Universal Anesthetic Machine (UAM)** OR study is to determine the impact of creating safe, reliable and consistent access to anesthesia at hospitals currently offering surgical services without such access. Two Nigerian Consultants (an Anesthetist and Obstetrician) are leading the study (**funded by Simon and Simon**). The draft protocol is being finalized with comments from stakeholders.

The **McArthur Foundation** is sponsoring OR studies for alternate funding mechanisms for the **Emergency Transport System (ETS)**.

Jigawa is piloting access to selected existing centrally located vehicle service centres by ETS drivers with redeemable service vouchers who meet set criteria as a performance linked incentive. Five service centres have been identified for use by the pilot study. Women groups have been constituted in each community to liaise with the ETS drivers and mobilize women to use the ETS services. Scheme monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools have been developed.

In **Yobe** the OR study interrogates the effect of vouchers (cash) provided to ETS drivers on completed trip referral rates. It also explores the best voucher delivery system (savings group versus NURTW) in terms of larger impact on increasing completed trip referrals. A fund holder committee and M&E committee were set up, draft tracking tools developed, and vouchers developed after revising the existing ETS monitoring tools.

Katsina is exploring the effect of providing existing community volunteers, who are expected to facilitate referrals for emergency obstetric care, with mobile phone recharge cards and solar battery chargers on the rates of ETS referral from the communities to the facilities.

Zamfara is exploring the effect of providing financial incentives to health workers (Nahuca health centre) and ETS drivers on the outcomes of emergency maternal care services. The baseline qualitative studies recommended non-monetary/monetary incentives to the ETS drivers, provision of adequate delivery kits and other medical supplies to the HF, and no monetary incentives to the community volunteers.