

## The cluster approach – maintenance of refurbished health facilities

Each cluster is composed of thirteen facilities: one Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care facility (CEOOC), four Basic Emergency Obstetric Care facilities (BEOC) and eight Primary Health Care facilities (24/7 facilities – open 24 hours a day, every day). In terms of refurbishment and maintenance, all states will be strengthened in at least five clusters.

By the end of 2011, Cluster 1 has been completed in all three states, Cluster 2 is largely complete and Cluster 3 is at the design stage.



General Hospital Birnin Magaji, Zamfara – renovated BEOC (cluster 2) – photo Emmanuel Sokpo

As the Programme has progressed it has become apparent that the issues surrounding building rehabilitation and improvement are more complex than might have been initially thought. In particular, the quality of regional and local contractors has been found to be such that regular and frequent supervision is required by the national building professional consultants appointed to oversee this work. Equally, it has been found that the national consultants, in turn, also need to be monitored and supervised if they are to provide the level of service required. This has led, in some cases, to poor quality of work – especially finishes.

In late 2011, the procedures and processes were reviewed and steps initiated to improve the rehabilitation processes.

As part of the refurbishment process, essential equipment has been delivered and installed. During 2011, it became apparent that training on equipment use was crucial as the basic understanding of the equipment was lacking. For example, it was discovered that none of the participants were able to correctly use essential equipment such as weighing scales and height meters, although they have been in use for many years. This finding alone confirmed the desperate need for adequate training on all equipment that was supplied. To complement the training, manuals and educational videos have been produced. As sterilisation of medical supplies was identified as one of the weak points, this was the first video produced (it can be viewed on the PRRINN-MNCH website - <http://www.prrinn-mnch.org/>).