

# STUDY SUMMARY

## ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT SYSTEM TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY STIGMATISING NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES AFFECTING THE SKIN IN KADUNA AND KWARA STATE, NIGERIA.

### BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) affect around one billion people, many living in the poorest parts of the world. Many NTDs lead to serious long term physical impairments which affect people's health and wellbeing. Restrictions to livelihood activities, social, family and community interactions resultant from associated stigma and reduction in participation often lead to a disabling impact.

Impacts of chronic impairment and potential disability as a result of NTDs, and their negative implications on mental health, has gained increasing recognition in NTD research. However, there is still a significant lack of research that focuses on the holistic health and wellbeing of persons affected by NTDs.

Research has prioritised the causal links or associations between NTDs and changes in physical or mental condition, with little exploration of how to translate knowledge of the

links into integrated packages of physical and psycho-social support for affected individuals and their families.

This study seeks to partner with affected persons, caregivers, community health workers (CHWs) and programme implementers to support in addressing this gap - through the co-design of integrated support interventions that focus on facilitating improvements to both physical and psycho-social health and wellbeing.

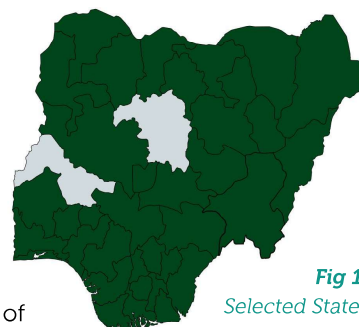


Fig 1: Selected States

### STUDY SITES

Kwara and Kaduna states have been selected because of their geographic variance, they are both endemic for two or more of the NTDs affecting the skin, there are established case detection processes in both states.

### AIM

TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT SYSTEM TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY STIGMATISING NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES AFFECTING THE SKIN IN KADUNA AND KWARA STATE, NIGERIA.

### METHODS

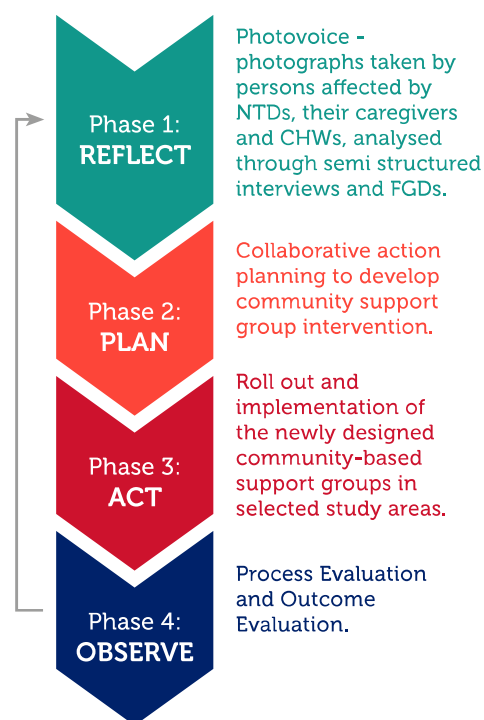
This study will use Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) to design an intervention in collaboration with people affected by stigmatising NTDs. The study is split into **four phases**.

**PHASE ONE (REFLECT)** seeks to understand experiences of health and wellbeing of people affected by stigmatising NTDs, their caregivers and CHWs using photovoice. Peer researchers will be recruited, including persons affected, caregivers and CHWs, to photograph and document their perspectives to identify areas to improve.

**PHASE TWO (PLAN)** Participatory action planning meetings with peer researchers and health system stakeholders to co-design community-based peer support groups aimed at addressing core health and wellbeing challenges identified from phase one. Priority issues for support groups to address will be identified by affected persons but will include components of disease management and psycho-social support.

**PHASE THREE (ACT)** will be implementation of intervention over 6 months.

**PHASE FOUR (OBSERVE)** Evaluation based on pre and post intervention findings. Including survey data as well as participant observation, key informant interviews and photovoice.



More information on the study is detailed in the protocol. Please contact the following for further information:

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Calling time on Neglected Tropical Diseases

