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This month, we share updates from the field as Longitudinal Study 2.0 gets underway across Kaduna State, alongside efforts to strengthen supervision and data quality. We also highlight how data-driven microplanning is shaping immunization delivery in Kano, and reflect on conversations from our International Women's Day event on building more inclusive tech systems.



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Editor's Note



NFTI Kicks Off Longitudinal Study 2.0 Fieldwork Across Five LGAs in Kaduna State

NFTI has officially commenced fieldwork for the Longitudinal Study (LS) 2.0, marking a key shift from preparation to real-time data collection across five Local Government Areas in Kaduna State.

Now underway in Kaduna North, Kaduna South, Chikun, Makarfi, and Kubau, the study is designed to generate continuous, facility-level insights that will support evidence-based decision-making and strengthen primary healthcare service delivery.

This phase builds on earlier training sessions where Data Champions from the NFTI Community of Practice were equipped with the tools and skills needed to carry out standardized facility assessments. These teams are now actively visiting Primary Health Clinics and Health Centres, capturing critical data on service readiness and operational performance.



Behind the scenes, a dedicated Situation Room is coordinating the exercise, ensuring that incoming data is reviewed, validated, and aligned with quality standards. This real-time oversight allows for quick feedback to field teams and helps maintain the integrity of the data being collected.

A longitudinal study is a research approach that tracks the same subjects, systems, or locations over time, allowing for continuous observation of changes, patterns, and trends.

Unlike one-time assessments that provide only a snapshot, longitudinal studies offer a moving picture of reality. They show not just what is happening, but how and why things change over time.



Geo-ST4R Consortium Supports Kano State to Advance 2026 PHC Microplan

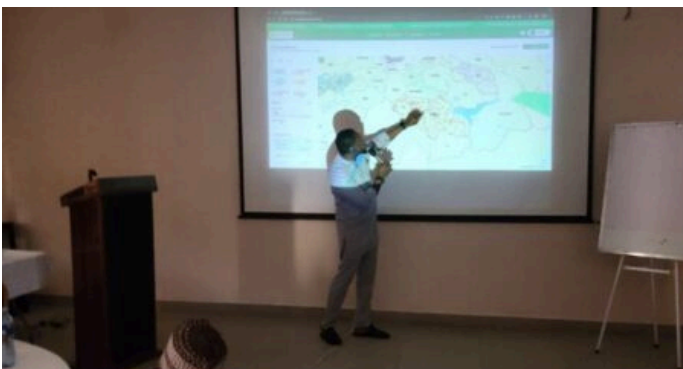
NFTI, as part of the Geo-ST4R Consortium, joined health sector stakeholders in Kano State for the official dissemination of the 2026 Primary Health Care Integrated Routine Immunization (REW) Microplan, marking a key step from planning to implementation.

Held at Bon Hotel Kano and convened by the Kano State Primary Health Care Management Board, the one-day session brought together programme managers, immunization teams, and partners to align on the rollout of the microplan across the state.

More than a routine meeting, the dissemination signaled a transition into coordinated action.

The microplan provides a structured roadmap for service delivery, mapping settlements, estimating target populations, and scheduling outreach activities to ensure vaccines and primary healthcare services reach both urban and hard-to-reach communities.

Discussions during the session highlighted the importance of integrated data systems, harmonized reporting, and coordinated supervision in improving programme efficiency. A key focus was the shift toward targeted service delivery, using verified community data to identify zero-dose children and underserved areas, rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach.



NFTI contributed to conversations on data harmonization and system integration, emphasizing the need to strengthen the link between data collection and decision-making. When frontline data informs planning, resource allocation, and outreach strategies, health systems become more responsive and effective.

With the formal adoption of the microplan, implementation now moves to local government and facility levels, where improved coordination and data use are expected to strengthen routine immunization coverage and overall primary healthcare delivery.



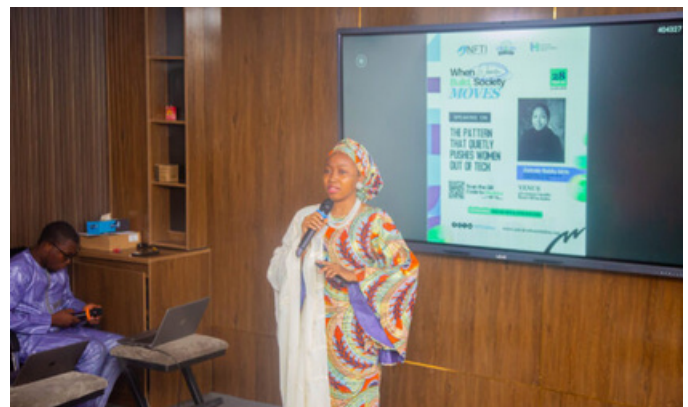
NFTI Collaborates with WomenTechMakers and Click-On-Data Campus for IWD 2026 Event

NFTI, in collaboration with WomenTechmakers and Click-On Data Campus, hosted an International Women's Day event themed "When Women Build, Society Moves." The event brought together professionals, community leaders, and tech enthusiasts for a series of thought-provoking conversations on building more inclusive systems in technology and beyond.

Through TEDx-style talks, speakers explored the realities of women's participation in tech and the structural changes needed to support it.

Naomi Akpikie opened the session by highlighting the importance of intentionally designing tech communities where women can thrive. She emphasized the need for structured support systems, including clear re-entry pathways for women returning to the workforce, and encouraged women to confidently value and price their skills.

Zainab Saidu Idris reflected on cultural patterns that quietly limit women's participation in tech, particularly in Northern Nigeria. She called for safer, more inclusive spaces that allow women to grow, collaborate, and find their voice without fear.



Mohammed Bayero Yayandi challenged the idea of passive allyship, urging men to move beyond support and actively contribute to building systems that enable women to succeed. He emphasized that inclusion must be embedded into the design of communities, not treated as an afterthought.

Closing the session, Joy Victor spoke on the relationship between technology and its creators, stressing that the systems and datasets shaping society reflect those who build them. She highlighted the need for more women to step into decision-making roles and actively shape the future of technology, including AI.

Why Data Specialization Matters for Government Innovation



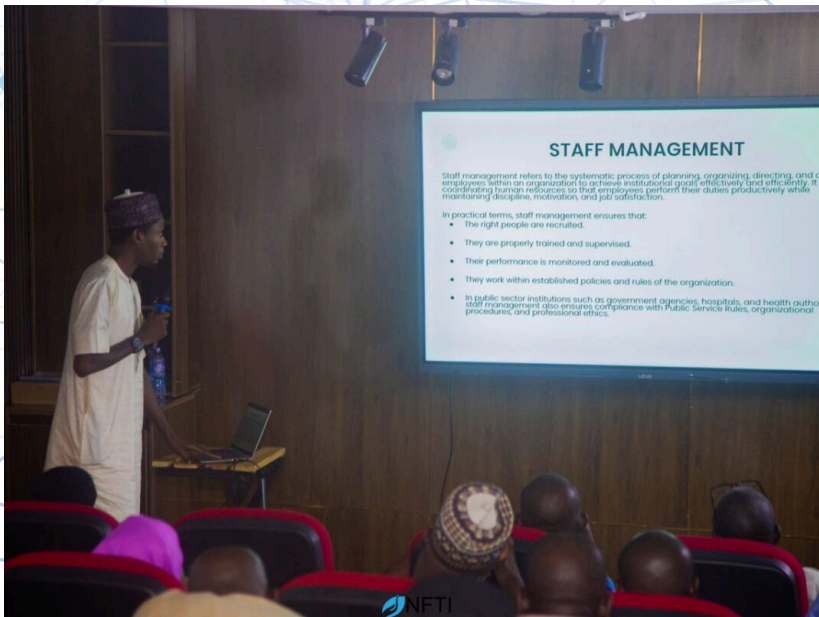
As the implementation partner for the prestigious Data Science Fellowship Programme (DSFP), we have always asked a simple but important question: what would the DSFP's long-term sustainability and impact truly look like? Would it mean training young people who go on to build careers in data? Yes. But more importantly, could it mean something more ambitious?

Imagine a public sector where civil servants are not only data consumers, but highly skilled specialists, capable of competing with the technical depth and problem-solving ability found in startups and leading technology organisations. It may sound far-fetched, but this is exactly the direction DSFP is moving toward through its focus on data specialization.

Each year, civil servants make up a significant portion of the fellowship, often close to 40% of participants. As these individuals move beyond general training and begin to specialise in areas such as machine learning, data engineering, and geospatial analysis, something important begins to happen. They return to their ministries with new skills and a different way of thinking about problems, systems, and decisions.

Arguably, retaining highly skilled technical talent within the civil service has always been seen as difficult, if not unrealistic. The pull of the private sector is strong, and the incentives are often misaligned. However, the DSFP is testing a different possibility as we embed advanced technical capabilities within public institutions and align them with real governance challenges. Since the introduction of the specialization tracks, the programme has shown that impact does not always require moving talent out of government. It can also mean strengthening the talent that already exists within it. This is where the conversation about data in government must evolve.

In recent years, governments have begun to recognize the importance of data. The language of data-driven governance, evidence-based policymaking, and digital transformation now appears frequently in policy documents and development strategies. Across many public institutions, there remains a gap between data enthusiasm and data expertise. [Read More Here.](#)



NFTI Strengthens Field Supervision for Longitudinal Study 2.0 Through Targeted Training

NFTI recently conducted a Supervisory Plan Training for State and Local Government Area (LGA) teams as part of efforts to strengthen oversight and data quality in the implementation of the Longitudinal Study (LS) 2.0.

The training brought together field supervisors responsible for monitoring data collection across selected health facilities, providing them with the tools and practical guidance needed to ensure consistency, accountability, and high-quality data.

Participants were introduced to the study's structure, including its objectives, key indicators, and the role of continuous data tracking in supporting evidence-based decision-making. A major focus of the session was the Supervisory Plan, which outlines clear roles, reporting expectations, and accountability structures for field supervision.



Technical sessions also equipped participants with practical skills in Supply Chain Management (SCM), including vaccine stock monitoring, consumption reporting, and requisition processes. In addition, hands-on training on the Open Data Kit (ODK) tool enabled participants to effectively collect, validate, and synchronize data across field locations.



The training concluded with a walkthrough of the field deployment plan, ensuring alignment on facility assignments, timelines, and supervisory responsibilities ahead of implementation.

Why Evidence **AND** Stronger Systems Must Decide Nigeria's Path to **SDG 2030**



As Nigeria and the wider development community move closer to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals deadline, one reality is becoming increasingly clear. The challenge is no longer the absence of data. It is the ability of institutions to use that data effectively.

In this edition, we reflect on a central question shaping development today: why does evidence so often fail to translate into impact?

Drawing on insights from the Wilton Park Evidence-Led and Impact-Driven Development report and our practical experience at NFTI, we wrote an article that explores the missing link between evidence and outcomes. It argues that the real constraint is not weak data, but weak systems. Systems that are unable to absorb, interpret, and consistently apply evidence in decision-making.

At NFTI, our work continues to focus on strengthening these systems from within. From integrating operational data across critical domains in Kaduna State to building institutional routines, accountability structures, and technical capacity, we have seen that when systems are deliberately strengthened, evidence works as intended.

As you read through the article here, we invite you to reflect on a simple but important question, what immediate system improvements can Nigeria prioritize today to accelerate progress toward the SDGs by 2030?

– Editor, TSGN

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