

# PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS’ PERSPECTIVES ON THE ROLE OF SUPPORT IN IMPLEMENTING A MULTI-COMPONENT INTERVENTION IN URBAN SLUMS OF NIGERIA

Iheomimichineke Ojiakor · Pamela Ogbozor · Chinazom Ekwueme · Joy Ozughalu · Eunice Enabulele · Chinyere Mbachu · Obinna Onwujekwe  
Health Policy Research Group, University of Nigeria

## Key messages:

- 1. Sustaining improvements in service quality and referral practices among patent medicine vendors requires continuous, hands-on supportive supervision from multiple actors.
- 2. Complementary support from PHC workers, community leaders, project mentors, and regulatory officers collectively strengthens PMV accountability, clinical judgement, and record-keeping.
- 3. Long-term gains depend on institutionalising ongoing mentorship, access to essential tools, and community sensitisation to reinforce referral uptake.

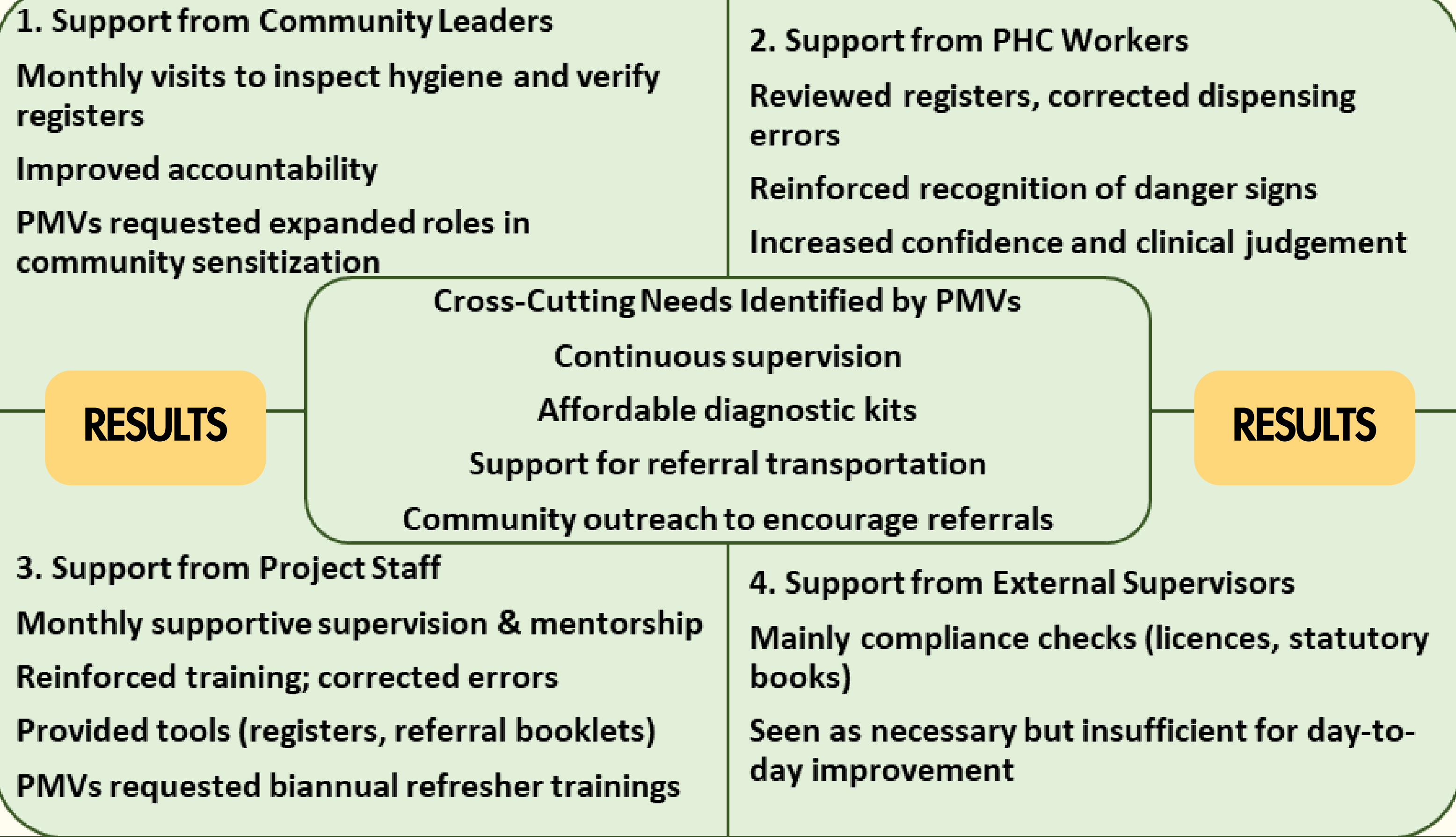
## INTRODUCTION

- Patent Medicine Vendors (PMVs) provide most primary care in Nigeria’s urban slums.
- Weak linkages with the formal health system raise concerns about quality.
- A multi-component intervention was implemented to strengthen PMV service quality, referral practices, and collaboration with PHC workers.

**Objective:** To explore PMVs’ perspectives on the role and impact of support received during intervention implementation.

## METHODS

Design: Qualitative process evaluation  
Participants: 22 PMVs  
Data collection: In-depth interviews  
Focus: Perceived role of support from community leaders, PHC workers, project staff, and external supervisors  
Analysis: Inductive thematic analysis of translated and transcribed interviews



## CONCLUSION

Continuous, multi-layered supportive supervision is vital to improving PMV quality of care and strengthening linkages with formal health facilities. Sustaining these gains requires consistent mentoring, essential diagnostic tools, community sensitization, and referral support mechanisms.