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I am a communications development specialist. Of course, this will not be my first time of monitoring in the field. And this is my country. And I'm from this part of the nation.

I have worked for UNICEF for over 13 years. This year that I'm talking about and this particular incident. I've monitored health services in the South, in the west, in the east and the north. So, it's a very familiar terrain for me, and I've worked in this state before. I moved from the state and the people here accept her services from the government and from my organization. So we were there to monitor again.

It was in the morning. It was very cold. It was during Harmattan period and the weather was very cold. The temperature was less than ten degrees Celsius. Very unusual temperature. I had my money. Praise to open heavens! I was in high spirit despite the weather condition. I had my first walk of 6000 steps each day around the hotel ground the morning. Carry my dumbbells. Four kilograms. 2kg in each hand. And so I was set for the day, confident that day was going to be great. I decided to wear a blue and purple gown. Blue and purple are my favorite colors. So I left my hotel room singing and high spirits. Everything gonna be all right. Everything gonna be alright. Feeling energized.

I've picked my bag and my communication materials. I entered the car. And the first street that I get into, I saw a crowd in front of me. And many more people were joining the crowd. And then. It was in front of a brown old house. It has two mango trees. I said, in my mind, 'This is unusual. What could be happening and what people were joining the crowd?'. With apprehension and anxiety, I made effort to get near the place. Then I saw an old woman. I'm in the crowd. Laughing hysterically and shouting. 'They are here again. They're here again. The last time you people were here, six children disappeared after they were given the polio drops'.

Then I got what was happening. The vaccination team were in the midst of the crowd. There could be hesitancy. And like I said, this is a place where people take immunization. And there could be misinformation about immunization like, probably they would say it's causes HIV. It causes infertility. And so on, but not this very gross misinformation that this woman is spreading this alimony.

In my mind, I need to do something fast. I didn't know what to say. I wanted to say 'big liar'. And if I had said that. She's in her home crowd and she's an old woman. And I will say. 'Young woman, Don't you want to grow old like this?' Because it would be a taboo in my place. You can't just accost an old man like that.

I was transfixed. And the polio vaccination team, too. They were like chicken dipped in cold water. I was perplexed. I was dumbfounded. I didn't know what to do. Then, in the middle of everything, I just praid. I say, 'Holy Spirit, help me'. Then, I said, 'woman', I said. 'Hey, woman. Hey, woman, What you are saying is not true. It cannot be true. No child disappeared. No child disappeared'. I looked at the vaccination team. They were not saying anything. They couldn't say anything. Then the older one too gathered herself, held her wrapper, adjusted her wrapper (That's the dress that she was wearing). And then she disappeared. Behind the houses. Walking as fast as she could with her legs. She jingle jangle, jingle jangle.

And then one woman, in the crowd with wet hair, said 'No, I gave my children polio vaccination and none of them died. They are good and they're fine and they're healthy'. So I seize that opportunity to add to what I have said before. I said 'Polio vaccination is a global Initiative'. And then, after I said that, the people started going away one by one, after they saw that the old one too had disappeared.

So I explained to them, it's just the same way that smallpox was eradicated. That the Ministry of Health, the Nigerian government and international organizations want to eradicate polio so that our children, they will be well, they will be okay. They will not be paralyzed. I show them the pictures of polio victims. I say, 'look at this picture. Look at a polio victim. It shows that polio has affected. You will not be able to play football. I mean, people like football', you say, 'Oh'. So this has them disappearing one by one. The crowd dispersed and then we now continued with the immunization.

I followed the team from one house to the other. That day was a day I will never forget in my life. Yes, some people wanted to listen to what I had to say to them. And the others went away. The vaccination team thanked me. And then, well, I was doing my work. I went from one house to the other vaccinating all the children that were eligible. Thank God it was the first day of the vaccination.

I like my job. I was happy that I was able to resolve the issue. And the children in that community are protected against polio. As I come to this experience, I'm not only joyful. I'm ecstatic. I'm very happy. Because polio is eradicated in Nigeria today. I'm happy to be part of the team that eradicated polio, not just from that town, not just from that local government or state, but from our nation, Nigeria. I'm happy. Thank you.