



Centre For Community Development And Research Network (CCDRN)

NEWSLETTER

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55,585 Beneficiaries Reached with Food Assistance under 1st Phase of WFP COVID Scale Up intervention Across Gujba and Bade, Yobe State



Scenes from Food distribution across Bade, Gulani and Gujba

The Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) has distributed food assistance reaching no fewer than 55,585 internally displaced person and vulnerable host community members impacted negatively by the twin effect of Conflict and COVID 19 across 195 targeted communities in Gujba and Bade Local Government Areas of Yobe state as part of ongoing effort by the World Food Programme (WFP) to cushion the effects of the pandemic on affected households.

The intervention which is part of the World Food Programme's COVID 19 Scale up in the northeast Nigeria targeted the most vulnerable and food insecure households with no source

of income, household that depends on begging as a source of income, households whose bread winner is ill or died from COVID 19, households whose head/member of households is chronically ill/sick member, Female headed households (HHs) with no income support, Head of household with disability, HH's that have not been able engage in livelihood activities for an extended period of time, due to lock down or COVID restrictions, Elderly (above 60+) or child headed households, HH with one- or two-members elder (ages 60 and above), HH's heavily reliant on unskilled labour, handicraft, daily labour, petty trade etc., Newly displaced HH's, Farming HHs that have lost access to their farmland or would have

lower yield due to lock down and COVID-19 related restrictions as well as HH's with large number of dependents. Targeted beneficiaries were provided with E-vouchers which they used to redeem their entitlements from accredited vendors across their communities. The food items redeemed by beneficiaries includes rice, palm oil, semovita, spaghetti, Maggi cubes, sugar, flour, peak milk, bourn vita both tin and sachets, ground nut oil, among others.

The redemption/distribution which commenced on Monday 2nd November 2020 was concluded on the 5th November, 2020 in the two LGAs-Gujba and Bade.

CCDRN, Community Stakeholders Carry out Joint Monitoring of Livelihood Activities Across Michika and Madagali

Community leaders and stakeholders from Michika and Madagali have lauded the World Food Programme and CCDRN for bringing an intervention that is holding potential for increased resilience building and improved livelihood for conflict-affected community members across the two LGAs in Adamawa state. The community leaders who participated in joint monitoring of IGA beneficiaries alongside the CCDRN team thanked WFP and CCDRN for helping to transform the lives of their people. The joint monitoring visits which include community stakehold-

ers, community leaders, government officials, project support partners, and beneficiaries at the field level, were aimed at providing an opportunity for community stakeholders to engage with and see the milestones achieved as part of the project.

The visit is also evidence of CCDRN and WFP's commitment to a participatory approach, putting community members at the driver's seat of the whole implementation process. The joint monitoring provided the opportunity for the local population to directly raise their needs and concern with those ultimately responsible for addressing them.

The stakeholders that participated in the joint monitoring include the supervisory councilors representing the Executive Chairmen of Michika and Madagali LG, the staff of Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), the village heads, and PMCs. These stakeholders participated in monitoring IGAs under Tailoring, Poultry, Grinding mill, Oil extraction, recreational center at Yaskule, PHC Sukur among others.

During the process of monitoring, beneficiaries were encouraged by the CCDRN team and its communal stakeholders to take their business seriously and consider it as a lifetime opportunity. The in-charge of PHC Sukur during the visit expressed appreciation to WFP/CCDRN for the laudable initiative. According to him, the construction/renovation carried out at the PHC has greatly improved its service delivery.

The supervisory councilor in Michika also officially commissioned the recreational center at Yeskule and called on the youth to make good use of the center as sports is a unifying factor.



CCDRN Team in a briefing with community stakeholders in Michika

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As part of the intervention, CCDRN liaised with traditional institutions, security operatives, local government authority and community vigilante throughout the planning and implementation phase of the redemption. This was done to obtain their cooperation, consent, clearance and get updates on major security trends that can hinder successful redemption.

The Corona Virus (COVID 19) pandemic that is ravaging the world has exacerbated the economic hardship and further threatens the lives and livelihood of the people in the Northeast who are already under untold hardship from displacement due to the decade long insurgency in the Northeast. Apparently after the COVID-19 lockdown in Yobe state, many household experienced setback in their means of income and this if not prioritized, might lead to the loss of lives of vulnerable individuals in Yobe state, and this lead to the planning and preparatory activities for the COVID-19 scale-up intervention in Yobe state that commenced in July through November 2020.

In Gujba LGA a total of 2,881 households were selected based on the agreed selection criteria with average family size of 5 including IDPs, returnees and host communi-

ty members across four (4) wards comprising of twenty (20) communities benefitted from this intervention. In Bade LGA, a total of 8,236 Households were selected based on the agreed targeting criteria with average family size of 5 including IDPs, returnees and host community members Global health guidelines and WFP safety

precautions for preventing the spread of COVID-19 such as the use of face mask, social distancing, and use of hand sanitizers, and provision of key messages on COVID-19 are a core part of CCDRN 'Accountability to the Affected Population framework' and 'Safe implementation operational plan' were mainstreamed



A beneficiary happily going home with entitlement received under the COVID intervention in Gujba LGA of Yobe state

Rain Fed Farming Intervention Improves Productivity of Vulnerable Farmers in Adamawa Communities



Luka Terri, showcases some maize harvested from his farm thanks to support from WFP

In communities scattered across the Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa state, the Boko Haram conflict has exacerbated the downward spiral of food insecurity by impacting agricultural productivity, food production, and general livelihoods. These have led to changes in food systems and the emergence of new challenges in addressing the urgent needs of the most vulnerable. For most of the last 10 years, the deteriorating security situation in affected communities has taken a devastating toll on most households. Inability to access farmlands for fear of attacks and restrictions forces farmers to resort to farming close to their homes. These, including lack of access to farm inputs, food shortage, and lack of means of livelihoods have left affected households even more vulnerable. Through support from the World Food Programme, an estimated 1,134 farming households across Michika and Madagali in Adamawa, received support during the 2020 rainy season to grow Maize, beans, rice, and groundnut, including fertilizing and training on agricultural best practices as part of a livelihood/Food Assistance For Assets initiative implemented by the

Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) to provide the most food-insecure people with opportunities that build their resilience and contribute to productive opportunities over the long term.

CCDRN framed and implemented the rain-fed farming component of the livelihood project to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of conflict-affected smallholder farmers, whose yields have been systematically lowered largely due to the negative effect of the conflict which disrupted livelihoods systems and affected their ability to adapt and make a living towards reversing the rising trend in hunger and to offer a pathway for affected smallholder households to build sustainable agricultural systems that enable them to transition from continued reliance on food assistance and aid to self-reliance and improved livelihood.

75-year-old Luka Terri, a father of (fifteen) 15 children from Michika LGA of Adamawa State, is one of the beneficiaries of the WFP livelihood intervention, under the Rainy season farming component of the project's Income Generating Activities. Luka who was a Rain-fed farmer and businessman prior to join-

ing the intervention, his means of livelihood was destroyed, his home burnt, and everything he owned was destroyed, his personal experience with the conflict was unimaginable. It was his most trying moment as he lost one of his legs in the process.

"It all happened on 9th of September, 2014, this day, I can never forget, I still see me crying, running for help in most of my dream, I don't know if this memory can ever be erased, it was indeed a terrifying day for me and my family, when the attackers invaded our community, almost destroying the whole of Michika local government. On hearing them approaching, we ran to the mountain in search of refuge, in the process, I got injured and it triggered my blood pressure which also increased my sugar level, for, I was diabetic, this resulted in the amputation. My house was burnt, my animals were stolen, alongside the food stuff I stored for sale, and this left me with nothing, I was worse than a beggar on the street, for I didn't know where to start from, how to feed my large family and where to call home again" said Luka.

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Though Luka Teri is determined to succeed and was determined to give life another chance, despite his devastating experience and inability to raise funds to venture back into business after insurgent groups destroyed everything he has built. When the United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP) IGA opportunity presented itself, he applied and got enrolled. “I am a Rain-fed farmer under the WFP income-generating activity. I got selected through the thorough selecting process conducted by CCDRN, I was enrolled base on my disability and poverty level, Indeed I was lucky to become part of this life-changing and saving intervention under Rain-Fed Farming” said Luka.

After been enrolled as a beneficiary of WFP/CCDRN, Luka received, Training on the modern farming system, Seeds

portance of spacing as it affects my yield at the end of the day. It also helped me in the aspect of fertilizer application, now I’m better enlightened and I applied it very well and it worked for me, this training has taught and helped me correct the mistakes I have been making and this has improved my farming this year”. He said

Luka mentioned that by adopting several training received from CCDRN both field-based and workshop, his productivity level and yield increased exponentially and he is optimistic that it will help him and his family feed and beat hunger.

“My life has changed as a result of this project, I hardly have money to buy seeds to plant, this time around I was given free seeds, as for fertilizers, we hardly see fertilizer with our



Terri Luka, WFP rain fed beneficiary in Michika

(Maize, Sorghum, Groundnut, and Cowpea), he was also given a bag of NPK fertilizer, PICS bags for storage and he was also trained on fertilizer application and other procedures to an enabling high farming yield. All these he was given so as to build resilience and shake off all the shocks he has experienced, start living again, and also earn for himself and his family.

As part of the activities under the WFP’s FFA arrangement, CCDRN with support from WFP provided Luka and other participants with food on a monthly basis to ensure that immediate food needs are met including farm input, information, and knowledge with appropriate capacity development to adapt and improve their farming experience, working

with them to rehabilitate degraded agricultural land. The provision of agricultural inputs is combined with training, aimed at improving the capacity of farmers in using the inputs and adopting good agricultural practices to increase their productivity

“I received an interactive, educative and eye-opening training on farming with an emphasis on reducing cost and maximizing profit. This alone has helped me a lot because prior to this training, I had little knowledge of modern farming practices. For instance, on-farm spacing for planting I learned a lot. Before now, I always send my children to do most of the planting but the training is an eye-opener for me, on the im-

eyes talk more of having money to buy it but this time around, I was given a bag free which boast my production this year.

“Thanks to this intervention, I have seen a massive improvement in my farm produce as compared to how it was previously and I have every reason to smile and hope”

“I and my family are grateful to WFP/CCDRN, they have given us a means of surviving and revived our lost hope, at least my family now comfortably feed well and From the farming activities this year and yield harvested so far, I am certain that I will have more than enough foodstuff to eat and some surplus to sell and handle other needs”. Said, Luka

The initiative enables vulnerable smallholders to build sus-

“Thanks to this intervention, I have seen a massive improvement in my farm produce as compared to how it was previously and I have every reason to smile and hope”

tainable food production and economically benefit from their land. This is enabling them to invest in other assets that help them build resilient livelihoods.

CCDRN strengthened integration of activities that improved households’ capacities to better withstand shocks and build sustainable food production via continuous field-based mentorship, coordination with community-based project management committees, proper sequencing, and alignment of activities that engendered transformative changes in the lives of beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries Trained under Tie and Dye Vocation in Bade Empowered with Starter Kits for Business Takeoff

Beneficiaries empowered under Tye and Dye vocation as part of the WFP income generation activities of the 2020 Livelihood project in Bade LGA of Yobe state have received Non Food Items to kick start their business under the trade

A total of 26 House Holds (HHs) drawn across Dagona and Dallah communities each received the following items to support/provide them with a means of livelihood in tie and dye, including; 2kg Caustic Soda, 2kg Sodium Hydro phosphate, 2kg Starch, 1kg Blue Color, 1kg Black Color, 1kg Green Color, 1kg Yellow Color, 1 (60litre) Plastic Bowl, 10 yards Wire String, 1 Shovel, 1Pressing iron Stone, 1 Material yards, 1 Iron Drum. Additionally, other beneficiaries previously empowered across various trades including; Poultry farming, Leather-work, Rain-fed farming, livestock farming, food processing, grinding mill, tailoring, and Ice making across WFP/CCDRN implementing communities were monitored. These Monitor-



NFIs being distributed to beneficiaries under tye and dye trade in Dagona, Bade LGA.

ing activities took place in Garin Lami-do Abujan Amare, Katuzu, Bayan Government day, and Dagona Communities amongst Clustered people we serve under various IGA. CCDRN IGA team even while moni-

toring, keeps providing people we serve with mentorship and capacity building and support towards financial prosperity across all the IGAs, as well as how they can expand and diversify their business.

CCDRN Continues to monitor Beneficiaries' progress Across WFP's Income Generating Activities in Gujba and Gulani, Yobe state



Various Scenes from IGAs Monitoring in Yobe



In addition to the existing efforts of improving the Livelihood of the populace affected by insurgency, the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) with support from the United Nations World Food Programme continued to provide ancillary support through the Income Generating Activities (IGA) intervention geared towards the protection, restoration, and enhancement of livelihood asset to support self-reliance and resilience capacity of conflict-affected IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities in Yobe State.

As part of the resilience-building activities and effort to improve Income Generating capacity amongst the people we serve in Yobe state, CCDRN IGA team successfully

Monitored the people we serve under Oil Extraction, Barb-ing Saloon, Local pasta making, Tailoring and Carpentry across Gujba and Gulani LGA between 9th to 12th of November 2020.

This monitoring was conducted alongside sensitization on COVID 19, as well as buttressing on preventive and precautionary measures to curb the spread of the virus such as regular handwashing with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds, use of hand sanitizer, hand gloves, face mask and observing 2 meters social distance respectively especially when dealing with customers and clients in market places

How Viewing/Recreation Centre is Helping Build Resilience in Communities and Improving Livelihoods of Vulnerable Youth

YASKULE YOUTH PEACE CLUB
SUPPORTED & EQUIPPED BY
W.F.P./CCDRN
L.H PROJECT 2020



A group of community youth gather to watch a football game show at the WFP/CCDRN supported viewing center

The story

Yaskule Village is situated at the heart of Michika town in Michika Local government area of Adamawa state, Northeast Nigeria, located in the northern axis of the state and is bordered on the east by the Republic of Cameroon. On its northern border is the Madagali local government, while it shares a border to the west by the Askira/Uba local government area of Borno State.

The town is one of the most severely hit by the over 10-years long insurgency with devastating effects on the people and their livelihoods. In communities directly affected by the armed conflict like Yaskule in Michika, many civil society institutions and recreational facilities stop functioning, critical health and education systems broke down, physical infrastructures were destroyed, agricultural activity was largely interrupted, food supplies became scarce, commerce and trade shrunk, poverty increased, populations were uprooted and made homeless only to return to ruins and devastation.

While returnees and survivors are left with permanent psychological scars with many deprived of their livelihoods including increasing food insecurity, enlivening social cohesion, recreation, and social inclusion becomes a necessary step for building resilient communities with both manifest and latent objective of

improving lives and helping affected persons to contribute to their own longer-term resilience and food security.

The Intervention

In response to these challenges the World Food Programme (WFP) via a Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) initiative launched in Michika LGA in January of 2020 is helping vulnerable groups especially youths in Yaskule community through Recreation/sports viewing Centre to build resilience and improve their livelihood by means of recreational income generation activities with an underlying goal towards social inclusion and peacebuilding.

Implemented by the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN), the livelihood projects in which targeted vulnerable conflict-affected individuals receive food assistance, vocational training, and livelihood Non Food Items as they build or rehabilitate community infrastructure and productive assets are strengthening self-reliance capacity, improving food security and reducing tension via recreation thereby providing an avenue for youth to engage, earn income and escape from hard realities of life via the leisure provided through the services rendered as part of the viewing Centre where community members meet to watch sports, discuss mutually beneficial topics, pay attention to news and play other games for relaxation.

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41-Year-old Whaya Stephen is the leader of a ten-member cluster who benefitted from the World Food Programme community Viewing Centre established in Yaskule village in Michika and like many other people living in Michika, Stephen witnessed first-hand the devastation and destruction occasioned by the activities of Non-State Armed group who captured the town in September 2014.

“Most of our houses were burnt down completely, Important belongings as motorcycle, Tricycle and bicycles were stolen, particularly I have a small poultry farm where I collect at least 2-3 crates on weekly basis, it was also destroyed too, this ugly incident left all of us with little or nothing to fall back to,” says Stephen. “Important infrastructures and businesses were destroyed by the attackers and everyone who survived the onslaught fled to seek refuge in Mundra hills and also nearby safer neighboring cities”.

90% of the populations in Michika are predominantly farmers. Fear of attacks and restrictions placed by the military has limited farming activities further worsening an already precarious situation with the Vulnerability and Essential Needs Assessment fact sheet indicating that 72% of IDP households and 68% of Host Community households in Michika LGA live in extreme poverty as defined by the Nigerian National Statistics Bureau (NBS) as at May 2020.

The World Food Programme via its 2020 livelihood project in Michika is helping some affected populations to find their way out of poverty via multiple pathways. Among some of the Income Generating Schemes and initiative aimed at improving beneficiary's livelihood, CCDRN established a viewing center in Yaskule While the viewing center was established to support targeted youths to earn income and sustain themselves, it is also providing a safe space for community members to come together, commute, and promote acceptance

“We are selected in a cluster of 10 being a resident at the heart of the town and being the center for youth gathering and socialization, so the birth of Yaskule Youth Peace Club was as a result of WFP/CCDRN Viewing and Recreational center activity,” says Stephen who doubles as a beneficiary and leader of the cluster.

“This trade has both economic and social Importance because we are generating income from three 3 sources of the NFI'S we received, 50% coming from Football airing (both champions league and other major leagues) 30% coming from Snooker game and 20% from Table Tennis,” he said.

Improving livelihoods and Fostering Cohesion

The Viewing center brings host and displaced children, youth, and families together to seek recreation and by extension, it is now serving as a community hub where communal issues of mutual interest are discussed and analyzed



A cluster member/beneficiary receives cash from a game watcher

“While we earn from the viewing center, we are also giving back to the community. There are times when we run free shows especially in the afternoon for both movies and news to foster cohesion among the youth and elderly around the community and this is seriously lifting the stress and burden after our daily farming activities, bringing us closer to the world through information we receive on news channels and also bringing us together to build a stronger community” says Stephen, “None of us was into viewing center business before, but our recent involvement set us on a new business level and we are enjoying it” he adds.

Stephen and the remaining 9 members of his cluster received dedicated training and mentorship from CCDRN on entrepreneurship, leadership, conflict prevention, and business management and were further empowered with starter kits to set up the viewing center including 2 sets of LED televisions, 2 units of DSTV Decoder, an Industrial FAN, a giant generator, Table tennis Board, Snooker Board, 10 unit of 5 sitter Bench and a take-off DSTV Subscription



A group of Youth enjoying a snooker game at the recreation club

Working Around the Impact of COVID 19

Stephen explained that the viewing Centre business was initially impacted by COVID 19 and subsequently by a hike in PMS. However found a way around it to stay afloat while the situation gradually normalizes.

“ Although, The Corona pandemic have really caused a setback in our business especially with Low turn up from customers, that patronize us on match days, and also a reduction in the number of spectators due to social distancing, thereby reducing our revenue from almost N7000-N1000/game to about N3000-N5000/game.

‘Hike in PMS Price during the pandemic also reduced our savings, which we have to suit the curve in order to remain in the business, but we are very optimistic that we will overcome this ugly period.

We will firstly open an account with a microfinance institution, and then intensify our savings by 45% so as to have enough funds to keep our equipment in good shape, improve our services, so as to operate on a minor premium basis, and take up a

new location at the neighboring community as a future plan.

“However, considering the seasonality of the business, we intend to divert the funds to agrochemicals and fertilizer sales on little interest to our cluster members during the off-season so as to keep the profit revolving.

Providing Respite in the Midst of uncertainties

Stephen remained grateful to WFP and CCDRN for the support. In his words, “Saying thanks is an understatement, but to be honest, I want to tell them that they have got our status lifted; they brought solace to our being and create respect for us in our community as a result of this timely intervention, thank you, thank you and we are indeed grateful.”

The project included repairs and rehabilitation of communal assets, capacity building for beneficiaries, and empowerment. Income-generating Activities were implemented including vocational training in addition to Non-Food Items distribution to empower participants to develop sustainable livelihood. With support from the World Food Programme

and in cooperation with community stakeholders and local authorities, the project assists targeted vulnerable host and displaced persons with food for work, capacity building, business startup, and COVID awareness interventions

The WFP Food Assistance for Assets CCDRN implemented in Michika is a program that feeds people and works through them to rehabilitate their communities. Through this program, CCDRN facilitated participants to engage in communal work such as building and repairing Market sheds schools, health centers, and communal toilets, etc. In return, they gain three things. First, they are given monthly food assistance so that they can feed themselves and their families, In addition, the work that they have done helps strengthen and develop their communities towards improved resilience, including IGAs vocational training and business starter kits to strengthen livelihoods. While this program may seem to only benefit individuals, it has helped the community as well.

CCDRN Livelihood Team Pay Assessment Visit to Newly Constructed Market Sheds in Michika, Madagali Adamawa State



On the spot assessment of market activities in Michika

The Livelihood team of the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) has visited the newly constructed market shed handed over to communities in Michika and Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa state.

According to the livelihood team, the visit is to ensure proper utilization of the market shed and equally to assess the performance of the ongoing marketing activity or market interaction between the customers and the market shed beneficiaries.

During the visit, beneficiaries of the market shed appreciated WFP and CCDRN for the intervention. They declared that the shed has changed the business outlook in their communities and helping to boost the trading and livelihoods of community members.

Some of the beneficiaries also revealed that the construction of the market's sheds has greatly helped them and also attracted more customers to the market. According to them, the market which was operational just once a week is now being flooded on a daily basis after the construction of the market shed which has greatly boosted business activities.

Some of the customers interviewed during the visit believed that Because of the

proximity of the market to the road farmers easily convey their goods to the market because of the high availability of customers in the market that are readily available to buy the farm produce.

“This market is booming with activities now more than ever,” said Kesia Dauda a market shed beneficiary who sell women clothing, “after the construction of this market, my daily income and sales increased drastically”

The intervention has led to the creation of useful and sustainable asset (Market shed) with the capacity to help communities to better prepare to handle future shocks that compromise their food security and livelihoods, thus providing foundations for flexible and longer-term resilience planning

In Madagali, one of the beneficiaries of the market shed who sells raw and roasted beef attested to the benefits of the newly constructed sheds. He shared that before the market shed was constructed for their use, they had only a temporary thatched roof which was used to provide shade and this was not effective to neither protect them nor withstand the destructive effects of heavy rainfall. He added that the newly constructed sheds have so far shielded them from rainfall,

which has been hampered or stalled their activities in the past.

The construction of a market stall is already playing a critical role in the livelihood of the affected population. The constructed market stall is assisting community members to buy and sell, obtain inputs and consumption goods at low prices. The market sheds are serving as a location at which farmers can meet with traders. It is increasing retail competition by providing a convenient place where farmers in the community can meet with consumers and obtain goods at a cheaper rate

The constructed market shed has improved the business environment for local traders including health and hygiene, doing away with existing makeshift markets where activities are carried out in an insanitary manner and it has reduced the exposure of local merchants to the effects of sun and rains. Community members can now trade, buy and sell in a more comfortable environment

Business activity is thriving making marketing a more pleasurable activity as well as providing a focal point for community members to conduct their livelihood activities

PHOTO NEWS: General Food Assistance Distribution in Bade, Yobe state



PHOTO NEWS: COVID Scale up intervention in Adamawa



PHOTO NEWS:



Training of additional beneficiaries on Small Ruminants rearing in Adamawa



Distribution of Small Ruminants in Michika and Madagali



Distribution of NFIs to vegetable irrigation farmers in Adamawa



CCDRN trains 150 WFP beneficiaries on Vegetable Irrigation farming, Distributes Farm tools and Seeds

The Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) has conducted training for 150 beneficiaries' on vegetable irrigation farming and liquid fertilizer application under the World Food Programme 2020 livelihood initiative in Michika, Adamawa state.

The beneficiary who includes women and men selected across project communities were trained on modern vegetable irrigation, management system practiced, and liquid fertilizer application for vegetable crops, field considerations such as soil type, drainage, potential location, water requirement e.g availability, quantity, and quality. More so, other topics such as use and maintenance of equipment, irrigation scheduling method for vegetable crops, and marketing of vegetable crops were covered.

This was followed by a one-day refresher's training and afterward, CCDRN distributed irrigation farm tools and vegetables seed to the beneficiaries across the communities of



Beneficiaries showcasing NFIs they received

intervention with support from WFP. The farm implements distributed include; 1 Watering can for each beneficiary, 2 hoes, 1 liter of NPK liquid fertilizer, and 1 liter of UREA fertilizer. The vegetables distributed to beneficiaries include Amaranths, Onions, Sorrels, Okra, Pepper, and Lettuce.

At the end of the training and distribution of farm implements and seeds, the beneficiaries were advised to utilize and make good use of all that was given them for the improvement of their livelihoods.

Commendations as WFP, CCDRN Team Conducts Joint Visit to Inspect Livelihood Project in Bade

A combined team of CCDRN and WFP livelihood staffs visiting various livelihood project sites in Bade to inspect the level of work done and to ascertain its impact on the communities have been commended by community stakeholders for bringing development and lifesaving interventions to their

communities.

During the visit to Lawan Musa Central Primary school where CCDRN rehabilitated various blocks of classrooms and toilets for both 2019 and 2020 livelihood intervention, the Headteacher explained the impact of the toilet facility which was constructed as well as the rehabilitated ones to the

health of the pupils. He further added that about 25% of the population of the school are children of IDPs who are mostly beneficiaries of the WFP livelihood intervention in Bade. He further stated that the school (LMCPS) now stands as the best government-owned Primary Schools in the whole of Bade LGA.

The team proceeded to the Lawan Musa Maternity to inspect the waiting area for the BSFP beneficiaries constructed in 2019 which was seen to be in a good condition. The team equally visited some of the people we serve under various IGAs which include the clustered poultry farmers, phone recharge and repair, carpentry, and Ice making across the implementing communities.

The people we serve expressed their appreciation and delight with the life changing support from CCDRN/WFP as the team further provided guidance on ways to boost their businesses as well as their livelihood as a whole.



CCDRN and WFP team inspecting a PHC in Bade LGA

Rehabilitation of Community Health Infrastructure Improves Access to Health Services, lays Foundations for Long-lasting Resilience building in Adamawa Communities

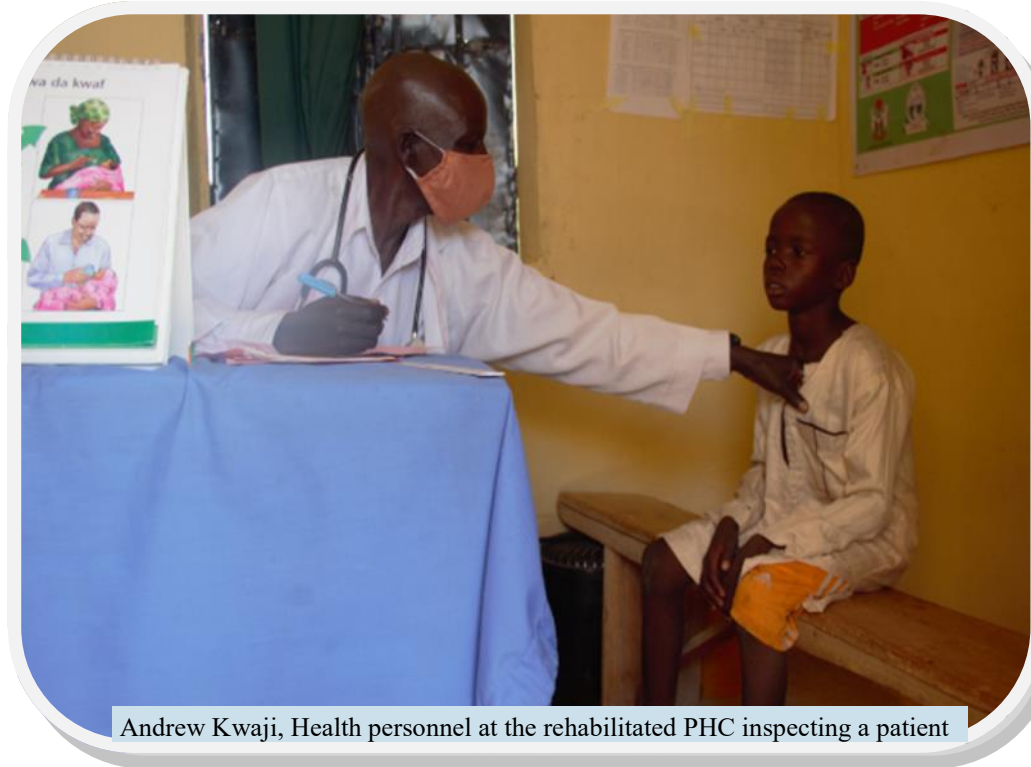
The insurgency in the Northeast of Nigeria had far-reaching consequences on lives and livelihoods, leaving a legacy of serious difficulties in accessing health services especially in affected communities across Adamawa state. The conflict which is now over a decade, adversely impacted the community health care system and infrastructure through multiple pathways, leaving a devastating toll on Local community assets and infrastructure such as health facilities, schools, roads, etc. which are either damaged or otherwise inaccessible and dilapidated.

Sukur Primary Health Care Centre is one of the many health facilities and infrastructures impacted negatively by the insurgency that ravaged most parts of Northeastern Nigeria. Located in Madagali local government area of Adamawa state along Nigeria/ Cameroon border, some 290 km from Yola, the Adamawa state capital, the facility is the only health Centre available to the local population who are still battling with the twin effect of conflict and now the novel Corona Virus. Thus, rehabilitation of these assets as part of early recovery becomes critical to improving the health of the affected population and their livelihoods.

In 2020, the United Nations World Food Programme as part of a larger effort to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable conflict-affected communities and strengthen their resilience capacity began rehabilitation and reconstruction of key community productive assets via a Food Assistance for Asset (FFA) initiative. The effort was implemented by the Centre for Community Development and Research Network across targeted communities in Madagali.

Following a community based participatory planning process facilitated by CCDRN; community representatives discussed and singled out Sukur health facility as one of the priority community infrastructures in urgent need of intervention. The health Centre which was incomplete, dilapidated, and barely operational prior to the intervention is now bustling with life-saving activities

Andrew Kwaj, 54-year-old health per-



Andrew Kwaji, Health personnel at the rehabilitated PHC inspecting a patient

sonnel has been working in Sukuri Primary Health care Centre since 2016 as the deputy head of the health center. He has witnessed how the rehabilitation facilitated by CCDRN with support from WFP has transformed the way staff work and how patients benefit from these changes. Before 2020, the health center was incomplete and in very bad shape and this was made worse after a makeshift building used as a temporary health Centre to attend to community health needs was destroyed by invading insurgents. There was no toilet and patients were exposed to poor services due to the poor state of the facility.

“The old facility was initially constructed to serve as an Adult and non-formal education center before it was later converted into a health facility in 2001 given the absence of a health center in the community and since then, it has been operating with only three beds. When the facility was attacked by insurgents in 2014, most parts of it were destroyed. Our drugs were carted away and other consumables destroyed and the main health facility was incomplete and abandoned” says Kwaji

“The old building, we were using is a

single apartment which we demarcated using cartons to serve as an outpatient department (OPD), laboratory, pharmacy, and delivery room for convenience and confidentiality. It was not a palatable experience working under such condition but this intervention you brought that led to this completion and renovation of the abandoned center has now given us respite

“Before this intervention, the facility has received little or no support from the government over the past years,” says Kwaji. “I believe insufficient funding in the health sector and insurgency is partly responsible for the neglect of the facility by the government.” He adds

The main health facility prior to the intervention was incomplete and abandoned at a lintel level. CCDRN facilitated the completion of the project in collaboration with project participants who under the FFA arrangement received food on a monthly basis to address their immediate food needs while contributing to their long-term food security and ability to adapt through the building and rehabilitation of productive assets.



PHC in use before the intervention



PHC in use after the intervention

With technical support from the CCDRN infrastructure team and community project management committee in Madagali, the project participants saw to the construction of lintel and overhead course, Construction of the rafter and fixed roofing sheets, Noggin and fixing of the ceiling in the Wards and office, Concrete capping of exterior walls, Fixing of windows and doors, Plastering of interior and exterior walls, Flooring, Dressing and Painting of the completed facility.

The completed facility is now improving patients experience in the community and improving health care services to the affected population

“As soon as the renovations are completed, the whole community was in a joyous mood. There has been an exponential increase in Patient turnout. There seems to be a sense of trust and ownership by members of the community” Kwaji said, adding that “the renovation has eased our work in terms of service delivery. With the provision of the OPD which at the same time serves as a Consulting room, we’re able to establish Patient confidentiality, we can now admit patients in the wards, and if not for insurgency we would have been keeping them overnight.”

“Patients now have much faith coming to the facility to get proper care and medication as they tend to correlate good service delivery to a befitting structure. The issue of Patients trekking long distances to Madagali to access care has drastically reduced and on the contrary, we’re witnessing Patients coming over from nearby communities such as Vemgo and Mil-do to access care

“As a Health care provider, I feel proud to be associated with this renovation work and I can fully attest to the fact that it has eased my work considerably” Kwaji continued.

The renovated health facility has changed the face of health care delivery in Sukur community. Health status affects the ability of an individual to carry out their livelihood, affecting their source of income. Poor health can lead to poverty through loss of livelihood and income and loss of livelihood can adversely affect health through increased poverty especially in affected communities where livelihood systems have been disrupted due to haunting conflict. Before this intervention, local people in Sukur village face a lot of challenges in gaining access to household and community assets and this has been constraining their strategies to cope with the disease. The story is now different; the health facility rehabilitation has changed a lot for this community and increased their hopes of survival

Kwaji reiterated that the completed facility has led to an increasing number of patients visiting the facility. “After the completion of this facility we’ve experienced a surge in the Patients turnout to as high as 100 Patients on a weekly basis and this is incomparable to what it was before where on the average, 40 Patients do come to this facility weekly”

“I will attribute the surge to this befitting structure as it is the first of its kind and our Patients now see the facility as capable of providing the best health care for them. To these people, the nature of a facility translates to the standard of service delivery being received, so a dilapidated structure will mean poor service delivery.”

“The joy of members of the community and other stakeholders cannot be overemphasized, as they keep applauding the efforts of WFP/CCDRN for such magnanimous gesture. I would want to appreciate WFP for coming to our aid. Truly, as a community we have never envisaged this, I will also beg them to do more for

us. This facility that has been upgraded is helping us to save lives in this community.

“We now have enough space to attend to our people, including two pit latrines which were also constructed for us and I can assure you that there is a positive outcome because we are able to address life-threatening situations before it goes out of hand,” says a visibly elated Kwaji.

Corroborating Kwaji’s position, Mary Simon a patient who was receiving treatment at the Centre says of her experience, “The truth is that this completed structure has removed the need for us to travel to Madagali town for minor treatment. Since this facility was completed, I and my children have been receiving treatment here and the whole place has been made comfortable as compared to the old building we were used to.

“Now I believe that coming here, I am bound to get good medical care for my children and me and we don’t need to go far.

I cannot explain how overjoyed we are as a community, as it has given us all a sense of belonging, trust, and faith in the quality of care we are bound to receive in the facility.

The intervention has addressed a major problem of accessibility and eliminated the need for community members to walk long distances to the nearest health center, especially in the context where scarce public transport and lack of means continued to be a major barrier, thereby increasing access to care and improved care coordination in the community. Since March 2020, the facility staff says they have performed more outpatient procedures and reduced patient reliance on opioid therapy and self-help. The facility is drawing patients from other neighboring communities

19,365 beneficiaries Reached with Livelihood Food Assistance in Michika and Madagali Adamawa state

The Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) has facilitated the distribution of Livelihood food assistance to targeted beneficiaries under the WFP 2020 Food Assistance For Assets Initiative in Michika LGA of Adamawa state.

The distribution which kick-started in Michika LGA in early November reached a total of 7,185 beneficiaries of the livelihood project across Yamwe, Kasuwan Naira, Kubi, Kuda and Dzurok, Zaibadari, Yaskule, and Sen gere communities respectively while a total of 12,180 beneficiaries from

Madagali town, Gubla, Sukur, Maggar and Sabon gari communities were served equally reached in Madagali local government area

The World Food Programme (WFP)'s Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) initiative in Michika addresses immediate food needs via food transfers, while at the same time promoting the building or rehabilitation of assets that will improve long-term food security and resilience for the affected population



CCDRN Intensifies Monitoring of IGAs Beneficiaries Across Michika and Madagali

Building on the existing efforts to improve the livelihood and recovery process of beneficiaries through the World Food Programme Income Generation Activities (IGA) intervention, the center for community development and research Network engaged in continuous monitoring and mentor-

ship of beneficiaries in Michika and Madagali LGA, Adamawa State, in a bid to track the progress and provide handholding support where necessary.

Through the month of November, beneficiaries cutting across various trades such as soap making, crop production, leatherwork and shoe mak-

ing, poultry farming, tailoring, carpentry, local pasta, etc. were monitored by the CCDRN livelihood team. The monitoring visit is to assess the performances of the business and to ensure all beneficiaries are on track to make critical changes in their lives via the intervention.

CCDRN's livelihood team encouraged beneficiaries to ensure due diligence and dedication to their various trades. Beneficiaries were also encouraged to adopt the culture of saving as that will give the opportunity for business expansion and sustainability.

"We are following up with the beneficiaries to provide them with support where necessary as part of the intervention," says Clement Enoch, CCDRN's livelihood Manager in Adamawa. "this monitoring process is helping us to track progress and advice the beneficiaries where they have challenges and what we have seen so far holds a lot of promise for improved resilience building and food security" he added



CCDRN Field team and ADSEMA staff assessing quality of eggs from Beneficiary;s poultry

7, 290 Pregnant, Lactating Women, Children Under 2 Reached Under WFP Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme in Gujba, Gulani and Bade for The Month of October

As part of an effort to tackle and prevent malnutrition occasioned by a decade long insurgency in northeast Nigeria, no fewer than 7,290 vulnerable women and children under the ages of 2 have received nutrition-sensitive packages under the United Nations World Food Programme's Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programming (BSFP) across targeted communities in Yobe state.

The BSFP is the standard intervention aimed towards preventing acute malnutrition in young children and women during an emergency situation where a high prevalence of Acute Malnutrition and high food insecurity exists. Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) is implementing the programme on a monthly basis in Bade, Gujba, and Gulani LGAs of Yobe State.

The distributions of the commodities were conducted with strict adherence to the Standards of Operation (SOP)



issued by WFP to prevent the spread of COVID-19. CCDRN conducted massive sensitization and awareness to the people we serve as well as put in place preventive and precautionary measures to curb the spread of the virus such as hand washing area, use of

Personal Protective Equipment's (PPEs), maintaining a social distance of 2 meters, temperature checks among others.

For the month of October, CCDRN reached a total number of 4141: under 2 years and 3149: PLW people we

CCDRN Concludes WFP's COVID intervention With Media Flag-off in Abuja.

The Centre for Community Development and Research Network has concluded the implementation of WFP's COVID 19 intervention across 3 area councils in Abuja, Nigeria's capital.

CCDRN a National Non-Governmental Organization pioneered WFP's first-ever urban intervention, facilitating the delivery of food and cash assistance directly to beneficiaries in their homes using last-mile delivery services.

The food and cash intervention which targets the most vulnerable households impacted negatively by the pandemic reached over 12,000 households with support from WFP

and the federal government of Nigeria.

According to WFP, the intervention is aligned with national priorities contained in Nigeria's National COVID-19 Multi-sectoral Pandemic Response Plan, developed by the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, with a focus on the security, logistics, and mass casualty components of the Government's response plan

Speaking during the media event to officially flag off the intervention, Dr Paul Howe, WFP representative in Nigeria, commended the Federal Government for providing food from the National Strategic Grains Reserve. He said that the Nigerian Government is providing cereal food support, adding that "Switzerland's assistance via cash transfer to the beneficiaries is complementing Government's efforts."

"We want to acknowledge also the contribution of the Government of Switzerland, which is our key contributor to the funding of this project."

"COVID-19 has grown beyond a global health crisis into a global 'food pandemic' of historical proportions.

"Over 90 million people with 46 percent of the population in Nigeria live on less than US\$2 per day, the urban poor depending on daily wages have been very hard hit.

"In communities in Kano, Abuja, and Lagos; the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 has hit hard," he said.

He stated that WFP is supporting the Government in assisting affected people through a combination of cash-based transfers and food distributions.



Dr. Paul Howe, Briefing the Press during media flag off

Market Shed Construction Boosts Livelihood Activities in Adamawa Communities

For the most part of the last ten years, vulnerable communities in northeast Nigeria have been battling with the domino effect of a protracted insurgency campaign launched on the Nigerian state by Non-state armed groups, a crisis that has bequeathed affected households with a legacy of severe destruction characterized by a devastating effect on the lives and livelihoods.

In Madagali local government area of Adamawa state, the conflict impacted affected communities through multiple pathways. Communities and households who are still struggling to recover years after their displacements are faced with multiple challenges. Apart from the rising food insecurity, critical community and household assets that are instrumental to resilience building and livelihoods such as markets, health facilities, schools, roads lands, etc. remain damaged, weak, degraded and inaccessible. These households and communities urgently need their assets base to be restored and increased to improve their access to food and strengthen their ability to withstand and quickly recover from shocks.

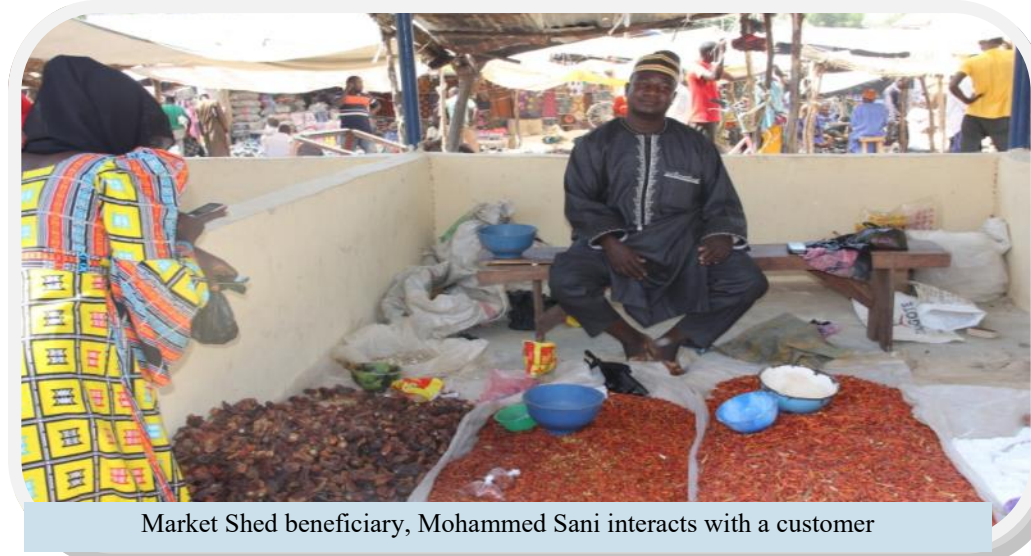
Hence, in a bid to support resilience-building efforts of affected communities towards improving livelihoods, tackle some of the underlying causes of vulnerability and help them recover, the United Nations World Food Programme responded via a robust livelihood/Food Assistance For Assets (FFA) Initiative aimed at strengthening the food security and capacity of affected households and communities to manage risks by investing in livelihood assets.

As part of the intervention, the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) a local partner who implemented the project facilitated the construction of 4 units of 20 standard market shed in collaboration with community members to boost livelihood activities across Madagali communities.

The need for a standardized market shed was identified during a community Based Participatory planning process where community representatives voted in favor of a standard market as part of the needed assets in Madagali.

“This market shed that has been constructed is indeed a great blessing to our community” explains Mohammed Sani, a trader and a beneficiary of the World Food Programme livelihood Project in Madagali. He goes on to explain that through the project, the community now boasts of a well-constructed market shed that would help business and livelihood activities to thrive in Madagali.

“The insurgency affected us a lot. We fled



Market Shed beneficiary, Mohammed Sani interacts with a customer

this community leaving all our belongings behind only to return to nothing. I have been a petty trader all my adult life but things became difficult after my return from displacement because some of us don't have the means to rent shops for our business. We naturally resort to using the makeshift thatched shed for our business every market day and this is not palatable” says Mohammed

“As you can see from the things we do sell here, it requires an optimum amount of shade and as such the temporary shed that was initially here had always exposed us to harsh conditions thereby affecting our sales” he continued.

In most of the conflict-affected communities in northeast Nigeria, affected families are finding it hard to pick up their lives again. The WFP's livelihood intervention CCDRN is implementing in Madagali and Michika LGAs of Adamawa state is empowering vulnerable communities to move away from dependency on food assistance and lead in the creation of assets that increase their resilience to future food security shocks. Essentially, the market sheds were constructed as part of an effort to establish and rehabilitate community infrastructure—including markets as a way to ensure that communities have access to serene and safe market infrastructures where livelihood activities could take place so that farmers and other beneficiaries of the project empowered via various income-generating ventures could also ply their trade and thrive.

When asked about his previous experience and situation of community market prior to the intervention, Mohammed revealed: “We have always not been finding things easy, both we the traders as well as the buyers

because the harsh sun and sometimes rain does affect our transactions negatively as it tends to discourage some of us from staying longer in the market, some of our products do get wet from the raindrops while on a day with heavy rainfall or wind we often close shop. This has been affecting our income. Most times we lose our goods, sometimes it gets soiled by the wind and after losing everything to the insurgency we are only managing. There is no money to rent any major shop. Without choice, we just have to continue like that until this help came from you people”

With no organized market setting to sell their goods and with many still struggling to feed and survive the aftermath of the conflict, it was difficult for Mohammed and other affected traders to make enough money to support their families. This has been the situation of the majority of the affected population especially in worst-hit areas such as Madagali who are still struggling to recover with continued dependence on relief and humanitarian assistance for survival.

Thanks to the WFP 2020 livelihood intervention in Madagali, Mohammed and many other community members have reasons to hope for a better future. Through the FFA initiative, target beneficiaries are able-bodied yet chronically vulnerable, receive food in exchange for their services to help rehabilitated productive assets in targeted communities.

The market shed which is an outcome of this effort is already boosting livelihood activities and helping affected community members to earn more income and conduct their business in a more dignified manner free from the effects of rain, sunshine, and other elements

Cont'd on the next page



Market shed before the intervention



Scene from market shed in use after the intervention

Explaining how the constructed market shed has turned things around and changed the business outlook in the community, Mohammed said, “As you can evidently see, these newly constructed sheds have made the business a bit more bearable now. Our customers are always assured that they are bound to always meet us here even in times of harsh weather conditions and this has translated into improved income. We are now making more money daily as compared to before when we were under the sun or within a makeshift thatched shed”

“There tends to be a remarkable increase in our volume of transactions. Business on a normal market day before now is skeletal, with transactions not at the optimum level. We do make more sales now because we tend to stay longer and in all weather conditions and our customers tend to access us easily

“There is obviously an increase in my income now because of these befitting sheds. Now, on every market day, I do make about 15,000 naira, which is a remarkable improvement from what I do make in the past.

“As a community, we can now boast of a thriving market here, and this has encouraged people from nearby communities who were not used to shopping here on market days. They are now visiting this market and this is increasing sales.

This is not unique to Mohammed alone, hundreds of traders also share the same sentiment on how the newly constructed market shed is improving their business and income generation capacity. The market has become a major business hub for traders and farmers who come out to sell their farm produce. The constructed market is helping poor conflict-affected households to find a pathway out of poverty.

Sa’adu Godiji is another trader whose business has been positively impacted by the market. He says of his past experience “The

meat sellers stand I was using as my business spot was like the ones you can see opposite here, we usually make use of temporary thatched roofs, sacks and in some cases make use of old zinc to serve as shelter.”

“The honest truth is that, whenever it rains, the roof usually leaks and so we have to migrate to other shelters that are in good condition, I can categorically tell you that all of us in the meat line usually close shops when it rains and this has grossly affected sales in the past” Sa’adu said

“You will bear me witness that our kind of business demands visibility and as such our positioning in the market has to be strategic, so in the event that we can’t make sales in bad weather we normally end up with little or no sales thus grossly affecting my household income”

“These newly constructed shed has provided me with the much-needed convenience for my otherwise dwindling business, I make more sales now as I am able to withstand the adverse weather conditions and my customers who are usually farmers have better access to me here.”

“There tend to be more economic activities in the market now since the construction of the Sheds, this is evident from the improved cash flow in the market now”

“Before now, business on a normal market day is basically conditional in the sense that, we are open for business when the weather is good and close shop when it rains but as it is now, business is thriving well because I am now able to sell at all times and there is obviously an improvement in my income given the fact that I can attend to more customers now.”

“This newly constructed shed has given the entire market a much presentable outlook, not just this line but the entire constructed sheds in the market, our customers now have much faith in us that each time they go to the mar-

ket they are bound to meet us there.” Says Sa’adu

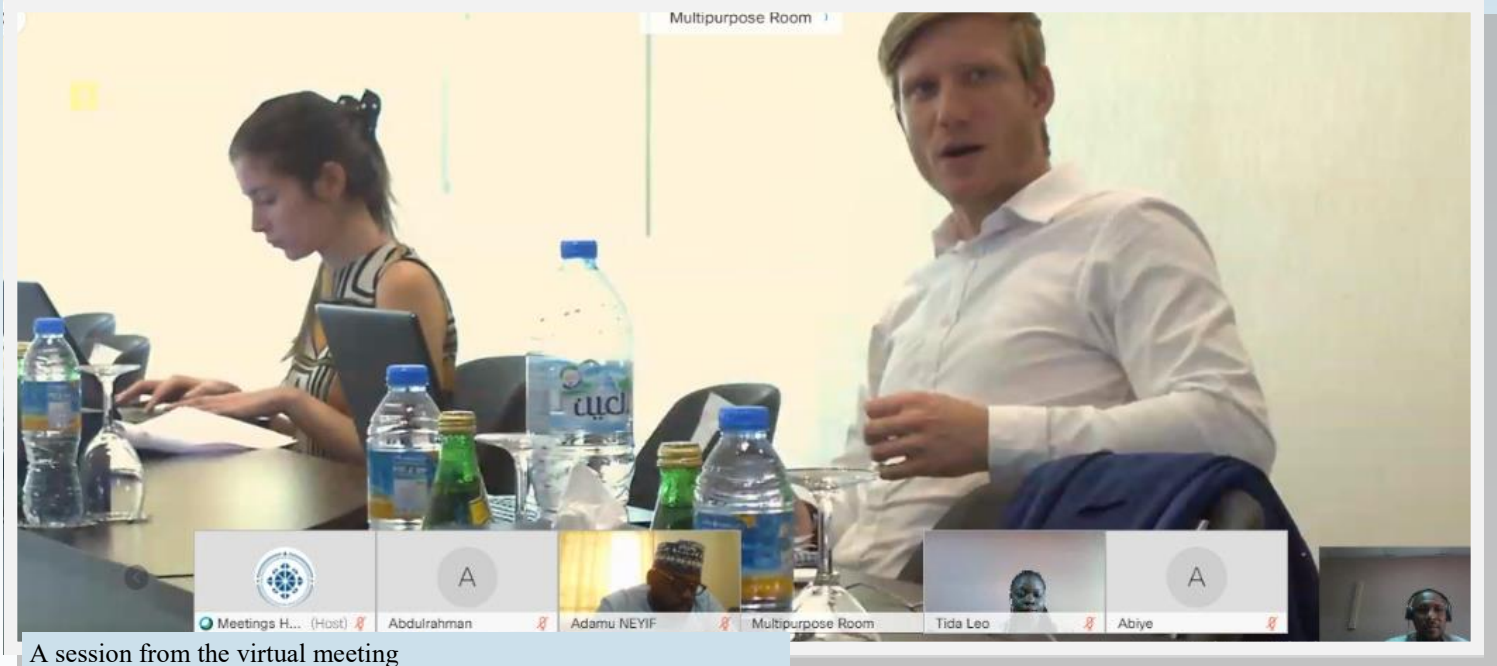
Other community members share the same opinion on the newly constructed market shed. Shuaibu Abubakar, a beneficiary empowered under the rain-fed farming component of the intervention says the market provides him an opportunity to easily sell his surplus farm produce. “Although I don’t have space in this market it has given me an opportunity to come and market some of my maize I reserved for sale after keeping the one I needed for my family use,” he said. It is really satisfying because before now when we harvest, we just sell at the spot and don’t make enough money. Now we can keep and store our farm produce and take it to the market at any time and make good money from it because we are sure of meeting people now that they have a permanent place to stay”

Asabe Danladi a community member who came to purchase some household items also testified to how the market shed has improved the overall business outlook in the community. “Now we are sure of coming here any day to get what we need as foodstuff and other things for our family use and things have now become cheaper because we have the opportunity to choose from whom we want to buy. We thank WFP for bringing this intervention to us” she said.

The livelihood activities being facilitated by the expansion of market activity, is showing potential for community poverty reduction.

Thanks to supporting from WFP, CCDRN coordinated project participants under the FFA activities to create and rehabilitate productive assets that are now improving local food and nutrition security, income security, livelihood opportunities, building resilience and adaptive capacity for vulnerable people including women and young people in Madagali.

CCDRN Team joins other Development partners on PVE Virtual Meeting with Hedaya



A session from the virtual meeting

The Centre for community Development and Research Network has joined other development and peace building partners in Nigeria to attend a virtual meeting organized by Hedeya, a premier international organization dedicated to CVE in all of its forms and manifestations through dialogue, communications, capacity building programs, research, and analysis to assess the level of work partners are carrying out towards helping families to prevent violence through education in Nigeria.

The meeting was largely focused on assessing the impact of an earlier training in January 2020 to assess whether the participants have used the knowledge/skills shared during the training to reach out and effect change in communities vis-à-vis its impact on their work. The Hedayah team present at the virtual meeting includes; Joseph Gyte – Senior Program Associate, Cristina Mattei – Program Manager and Julien Domergue – Junior Program Associate. While Partners includes; Centre

for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN), Hope Interactive, Taimako Community Development Initiative, African Youth for Peace Development and Empowerment Foundation, NorthEast Youth Initiative Development, Association of Youth for Peace and Development. The Hedayah team facilitated sessions on General Program Assessment, Impact of the program, Needs, Gaps and Current context, Needs and Recommendation for upcoming training.

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