



## Centre For Community Development And Research Network (CCDRN)

# NEWSLETTER

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## Smiles as CCDRN Facilitates Redemption of WFP Cash Assistance to Targeted Vulnerable Households in Bade



Beneficiaries Happily counts Cash Received thanks to support from WFP

Targeted vulnerable households benefitting from the World Food Programme intervention to strengthen food security and improve livelihoods of affected communities in Bade Local Government area of Yobe state have commenced redemption of Cash assistance for both Conditional and Unconditional beneficiaries, expressing joy and willingness to utilize the money judiciously to improve their food security and wellbeing. The cash-out activity which started late December 2020 is

expected to reach about 2,794 beneficiaries who are in the position of their WFP Scope cards and the New UBA ATM cards to redeem their cash entitlement.

On a monthly basis, WFP supports each targeted households with N22,000 as part of its conditional and unconditional cash assistance.

Khadija Yakubu, one of the vulnerable women WFP is assisting via the unconditional cash transfer upon receiving entitlement expressed gratitude to WFP and CCDRN for their timely assis-

tance.

"I am very happy with this support I just received and I am thanking God for this opportunity, I must also say a big thank you to WFP and CCDRN, they have been helping us up till now they continue to help us and they are not tired" she said. "This money that I just collected, I will use part of it to buy food and solve some family needs that are necessary for our existence and some other things like that". Adds Khadija

## The outcome of CCDRN Commissioned Research Provides Insight on the state of the humanitarian crisis in Zamfara state



CCDRN Researchers meet with Zamfara State Emergency Management Agency to review Findings from study

The assessment, undertaken by CCDRN in collaboration with Zamfara State Emergency Relief Management Agency (SEMA) was aimed to systematically gather and analyze information relating to the needs, conditions, and capacities of the affected persons – women, men, girls, and boys of all ages, including those with specific needs – in order to determine gaps between a current situation and the required standards.

Conducted in three communities with a higher concentration of IDPs – Mada and Buluntu in Gusau, and Maradun town in Maradun LGA, the study deployed mixed methods of data collection – qualitative and quantitative methods, the assessment also engaged state-level actors such as NGOs and government officials through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews (KII).

The general findings of the assessment indicate that the living condition of the people affected by violent conflicts in Zamfara state is relatively similar across LGAs. “The IDPs living in the urban areas and those in the rural areas face similar challenges of lack of food, shelter, and means of livelihood” the research report states.

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A study conducted by the Centre for Community Development and Research Network in collaboration with Zamfara state Emergency Management Agency in Zamfara state has recommended that the state should seek a more systematic partnership with relevant organizations to make a short-term plan on provision of

food items in a consistent manner so that IDPs can be food secure, suggesting further that the most important intervention for the affected populations after arranging a short-term food distribution program is the development of feasible early recovery plan through viable livelihood intervention.

**Cont'd from page 1 ...**

In preparation for smooth cash out exercise, a total of 2,794 WFP CBT Beneficiaries in Bade Local Government Area of Yobe, state earlier collected their UBA Bank ATM cards which they will henceforth be using to claim their monthly assistance from WFP.

According to the World Food Programme, cash transfers have multiplier effects on the local economy. By enabling people to purchase food and other items locally, cash can help strengthen local markets, encourage smallholders to be more productive, and build national capacities.

CCDRN is managing the implementation of this intervention on behalf of WFP in Bade Local Government Area of Yobe state.



A section of beneficiaries counting to confirm cash they redeemed under the intervention

## How WFP Livelihood Initiative Is Empowering Vulnerable Farmers to Transform Their Own Lives



Nasiru Adamu , WFP Rain fed farming beneficiary is all smiles as he admires a panicle of sorghum from his farm

The insurgency in the Nigerian North-east has severely disrupted the lives and livelihoods of many families, affecting the availability of and access to food. For most of these families, especially those displaced, the conflict put a life-threatening burden on their means of sustenance. The insurgency has forced millions from their homes and hindered access to agricultural lands, snowballing food insecurity, and poverty. Bade Local Government Area of Yobe state is hosting many displaced families from neighboring Borno state and other conflict-affected communities around the Lake Chad axis most of whom are in dire need of support to help them cope and gradually recover from the shocks occasioned by their displacements

### The Intervention

In response to the food and livelihoods emergency, CCDRN with support from the United Nations World Food Pro-

gramme (WFP) implemented a robust livelihood project in 2020 to reach IDPs and vulnerable host communities. The Rainfed farming component of the intervention supported 506 targeted beneficiaries with training and provision of quality agricultural inputs which provided them with leeway during the 2020 rainy season to enhance individual and household access to adequate food and nutrition, increase agriculture production, income and employment..

The overall objective of the intervention is to support self-reliance and resilience capacities of conflict-affected IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host communities and manifestly improve participants' food and nutrition security by increasing the potential of smallholder farmers to produce food and generate income.

### Nasiru's Story

55-year-old Nasiru Adamu, an IDP from Marte Local Government Area in Borno state on the western coast of Lake Chad

who now lives with his wife and six (6) children in Bade Local Government Area of Yobe state is one of the 506 vulnerable individuals who benefitted from the Rainfed farming Component of the intervention. Following his displacement by the conflict which has since forced over 2 million families out of their homes, Nasiru says his family lost all their belongings and means of livelihood to the crisis. With no income/means of income to survive, plus six (6) children to cater for, his situation was distressing. Narrating his near-death experience, Nasiru looked up and sighed as he recalls "We fled our community when a group of insurgents attacked us, they destroyed our home and burnt everything we had, my only means of livelihood, which was livestock production, & farming was destroyed, all my livestock were taken away by insurgents when they attacked our market"

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Nasiru and his family just like others who survived the attack fled his hometown in Martai and became an IDP in Azamkura of Bade LGA, Yobe State. "Life was very difficult for us, I sincerely wish I could reverse the whole situation, I could barely provide for myself or my family until help came through this WFP intervention, the situation was unbearable, seeing my children suffering and my wives helpless and they all depend on me for shelter and basic needs of life, I felt miserable," says Nasiru Adamu.

Since his displacement in May 2014, Nasiru said he never got any support to continue his farming even though some generous community members had given him land to farm on and help himself until in 2019 when WFP launched its livelihood initiative in Bade. Fast forward to 2020, Nasiru maintained that the farm inputs and training he received from CCDRN under the project brought him new dawn. Currently, Nasiru's life is witnessing a positive change. His life is taking shape after enrolling in the project.

"This intervention has helped me massively I can't even quantify. Before the intervention I and my family were hopeless. I couldn't provide food for myself

and family, I started working on people's farm to feed my family with the stipend I was paid" says Nasiru. "But today, I work for myself, I plant and harvest my own crops, keep some to be consumed by my household and sell the rest of my farm produce, so as to have money for other needs, my story took a new turn after becoming a beneficiary of this project. See now, I have just harvested my sorghum and we got ten bags. I will keep some for food and market the rest," said Nasiru

As part of the intervention, CCDRN with support from WFP distributed improved seeds, fertilizers and provided training on improved agricultural technologies and alternative farming methods, such as agricultural extension practices through monitoring and onsite mentorship as well as integrated pest management

"The training I acquired and the seedlings/fertilizer I received has put food on my family's table again, I'm now better at farming and I record no challenges with farming now, compare to when I haven't been trained by CCDRN. My harvest is healthy and good enough to compete in the market, this is all thanks to WFP and CCDRN." Said Nasir

Nasir has also been benefiting from WFP'S Cash assistance as part of the

project. While Nasiru uses the monthly stipends he receives under the Food Assistance for Assets Arrangement to meet his family's immediate food needs, he stated that he uses part of the money to buy other household items.

Beyond training, mentorship, and input distribution, WFP's implementing partner, CCDRN carried out effective supportive supervision and monitoring of all the beneficiaries to ensure proper utilization. Nasir was one of the beneficiaries whose venture showed a lot of promise during the monitoring process. Already, he is earning enough from his harvest to support his family as well as meet up with other needs.

Continuing he said, "I am grateful for the life-changing opportunity given to beneficiaries and IDP's like me by WFP and its partners. My life is different from before, I am now the man I needed to be to support my family, I earn, feed, and provide for my family without holding back. I am more responsible, I know the value of money and I have a focus on sustainability, my family now looks healthier, they now have access to food and basic needs of life because I provide all the food/money they would need to stay healthy and comfortable, without begging anyone for assistance".



Nasiru happily bagging his farm produce

“In a few years from now, I see myself owning a bigger farmland, currently I employ people to work on my farmland, this I couldn't do a few months ago, and currently my community members have also benefitted from my harvest, I gave out some portion of my harvest to some of my community members, 10 families in my neighborhood benefitted from my harvest and they sincerely appreciate the gesture, to me, this is my little way of supporting humanity and also helping others just the way I have been helped via this project, I am grateful to WFP and its partners especially CCDRN for the support they have given me through this journey of mine, may Almighty Allah bless them abundantly,” Said Nasir

“Thanks to God for this intervention, At least this will sustain my household for the next four months considering the number of people in my household,” Nasir said

As part of the activities under the intervention, CCDRN raises nutrition awareness; sensitize beneficiaries on COVID preventive measures. Additionally, the initiative promotes and improves food processing, postharvest



Nasiru and family smile for the camera

technology, and storage further enhances targeted farmer's capacities to control and strengthen local food reserves.

Access to agricultural inputs Increased productive capacity of targeted farmers and contributed to increased and diversified agricultural production of 506 vulnerable smallholder farmers in

Bade thus leading to improved food availability

Additionally, the intervention help to respond to immediate needs, while acting as a starting point for longer-term activities that strengthen targeted farmers' resilience.

## Cont'd from page 2.....The outcome of CCDRN Commissioned Research Provides Insight on the state of the humanitarian crisis in Zamfara state

“Despite the notable efforts made by the government and non-governmental organisation to provide relief materials to IDPs – mainly as COVID -19 palliatives, the affected populations are still food insecure and face protection issues. State Government's source shows that only 3,387, representing 1.8% of the IDPs live in the formal IDP camps. All others 180,242 representing 98.2% live outside the camp with host communities. The only difference between IDPs living in the formal camps and those living outside the camp is the shelter.

“Unsurprisingly, food items remain the most prioritised emergency relief materials needed by the affected communities. Inaccessible farmlands due to fear of bandits' attacks coupled with the flood that destroyed farm produce in many parts of the state have made the affected communities be more food insecure” the document stated

Another key finding from the assessment is that despite the need for constant provision of relief materials for the IDPs, humanitarian activities state is still low and not well coordinated. Lack of up to date, reliable data is another major challenge of humanitarian activities in Zamfara state

The study recommended further that there is a need to provide effective livelihood interventions to the affected populations, adding that this should be sequel to an assessment to understand prospective livelihood activities for different

category of the affected populations such as men, women, young men and young women as well as IDPs and host communities.

According to the study, to avoid the risks of the aggrieved IDP children becoming violent, serious interventions are required to engage them in productive activities such as education, vocational skills and sporting activities so that they can develop positive thinking and be fully integrated back in the society.

It added that communities should be supported to establish early warning and early response mechanisms in collaboration with the appropriate security operatives with emphasis on the need to prioritize female and child-headed households for assistance, and that organized relief distributions should ensure they have full access and priority to items so they are not subject to exclusion.

The study also recommended strongly that Zamfara SEMA needs to be capacitated to develop a robust system of profiling the IDPs data and its management in a way that delivery of relief materials will be fair, transparent and systematic. This will lead to designing of beneficiary registration processes that includes vulnerable households currently at risk of exclusion, notably those headed by the elderly, women or children or those from smaller ethnic groups who have less support among gatekeepers.

## 3,278 Households Reached Under WFP's Phase 2 COVID Scale-up Intervention as CCDRN Distributes Food Items to Targeted Beneficiaries in Gulani, Yobe state



A CCDRN staffer taking stock of food items received prior to distribution to beneficiaries

The Centre for Community Development and Research Network has successfully distributed 295.700 Metric tonnes of food items to no fewer than 3, 278 vulnerable households as part of the effort to cushion the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in 16 communities across 8 wards in Gulani LGA of Yobe state

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions put in place by authorities to check its spread impacted negatively on already vulnerable populations in dire need. Nigeria, Africa's biggest economy and the most populous country is reeling from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Poor people living in low-income communities and conflict affected areas as well as the elderly, young children, pregnant and lactating women and the disabled are particularly vulnerable to the far-reaching impacts of this pandemic.

The twin impact of conflict and COVID is further pushing an already helpless population to the brink with families struggling to put food on their tables and the price of food, commodities have risen by more than twenty percent above the actual price due to pandemic leading to widespread hunger.

In response, WFP is using the COVID scale up intervention to cushion the effect of the pandemic. The COVID-19 phase 2 scales up registration was conducted from the 2nd to 4th December 2020 in 8 wards of Gulani LGA comprising of Dokshi, Bularafa, Bumsa, Gabai, Njibulwa, Bara, Tetta & Gulani wards. Meanwhile, the distribution was equally done

to the same communities between 11th and 12th December 2020.

Registration of households was conducted across 16 communities of Gulani LGA. Identification of vulnerable households was achieved through a consultative process with representatives of the established community targeting committee (CTC) after review and agreement on the WFP targeting criteria.

At the end of the targeting exercise, a total of 3278 most vulnerable households were selected across the 8 wards of Gulani LGA. The beneficiaries were issued a token which they presented at the verification center and their information verified through the CCDRN/WFP database before they proceeded to the FDP's final point area to collect their entitlements.

However, at the end of the activities, 3278 households were registered by CCDRN and received food commodities in 16 communities of the LGA which included Zango, Dofarga, Dokshi, Kukuwa, Shishiwaji, Bularafa, Bumsa, Gabai, Bursali, Bara, Dutchi, Njibulwa, Tetteba, Gulani, Yelwa Makera, and Yelwa Kasuwa.

CCDRN, WFP's cooperating partner implementing the intervention ensured that the entire process satisfied the standard operating procedure set aside under the COVID guideline for such activity ensuring proper sensitization of communities in the process. The food items distributed included: Sorghum & Beans

## GCERF Engages CCDRN to assess Impact of ActionAid-led Effort to Establish Community Action Response Team in Kogi State

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund GCERF has engaged the Center for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) to conduct research aimed at understanding the impacts of the Action Aid-led efforts to establish Community-Action Response Teams (CARTs) in four communities across two Local Government Areas of Kogi State, Nigeria.

From 2016 to 2018, The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) funded a Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) project in Kogi State implemented by ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) in consortium with other NGOs.

One of the activities within this project was the establishment of four Community-Action Response Teams (CARTs), in four Local Government Areas in Kogi State by ActionAid and its partners.

These CARTs are composed of different types of community members, such as traditional and religious leaders, women leaders, and youth leaders. The members were trained on conflict resolution, hazard mapping, conflict analysis, advocacy to local governments, and paralegal training (through mentorship). This training helped them to support alternative dispute resolution, recognize early



CCDRN Research Team Facilitating Focused Group Discussions

signs of violence and report to local authorities, and become community mobilizers.

As part of the Assessment, the CCDRN team carried out a perception survey, CARTs members' assessment, Key informants interview and Focused group discussion in the targeted communities.

## CCDRN Intensifies Monitoring of Livelihood Project Activities across Yobe and Adamawa

In a bid to track progress, identify the gaps, and to provide handholding support to beneficiaries of WFP livelihood project, CCDRN Monitoring team across Yobe and Adamawa intensified monitoring to ensure that the project goal and set objectives are achieved. Monitoring forms an integral part of the livelihood intervention as this is used to track the achievements and progress while providing support to the beneficiaries.

As part of this activity, CCDRN monitoring team visit beneficiaries location to measure the impact of the intervention on the lives of the people we serve, to ensure that the NFIs are put to proper use and are also in good working conditions, to ascertain the financial management capacity of the people we serve and to know the challenges, they face and provide technical support in order to help improve and sustain their liveli-



CCDRN Monitoring team interacting with a beneficiary

hoods.

Through the month of December, CCDRN visited all accessible Income Generation Activities beneficiaries including all the infrastructures constructed/ rehabilitated across targeted communities.

Onsite assessments indicate progress and where necessary, CCDRN monitoring team provides support and solutions to problems encountered by beneficiaries during the monitoring visits

## Construction of Market Sheds Presents Opportunity to Restart the Engine of Economic Activities in Vulnerable Adamawa Communities

For many years, even before the insurgency that affected millions of lives and livelihoods in the Northeast of Nigeria, vulnerable communities battle with the effects of unimproved and muddled markets which usually lack any form of shelter making buying and selling difficult and chaotic for many traders.

Michika Market is located in Sukwa-Dakwa village of Tudun Wada district, the center of Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa state. It is an informal market that sprouted on public land with a makeshift market shed largely consisting of wood sheet shacks and cabins used as stalls and little shops selling basic goods.

Access is difficult, hygiene and sanitation are poor, and security is problematic. The market space is located in a conflict-affected neighborhood that lacks numerous other social services.

At this market, the local community members gather every Friday, the official market day to display their goods and deliver services and in most cases, businesses and merchandise are displayed and stored in the sun. Apart from conditions being very difficult for those using the markets, the lack of protection from the sun can have a major impact on the life of fresh farm produce and on its nutritional value, thus affecting the income generation potential of vulnerable traders and farmers and by extension their livelihood and food security.

### The Intervention

In Response, the Centre for Community Development and Research Network through a United Nations World Food Programme's 2020 Livelihood intervention in Michika constructed ten (10) blocks of fifty (50) Market stalls, a block of two (2) toilets as well as the completion of another block of 2 toilets with the idea of

restarting the engine of economic development in Michika, an area whose livelihood and infrastructure was largely disrupted due to insurgency. The market is well placed to act as a hub of community activity and to contribute to the establishment of a public space that is inclusive, safe, resilient, and therewith mark a turning point for the whole area towards economic growth, improved social services, and better security.

"We thank God for this intervention because, selling under the rain and sun in Michika wasn't a great idea, in most cases, we lose our customer and even our goods and return back home hopeless, and that might cost us our dinner for that day, for, most of us depend on our daily sales to put food on our table," said Hussaina James, a 21-year-old Host community member who is now benefiting from the newly constructed market stalls.



State of market infrastructure in Michika before the WFP intervention that led to construction of modern market shed





Current state of market sheds in Michika with a beneficiary (Hussaina) comfortably carrying out her business

Hussaina, a returnee who lives close to the market in Tudun Wada is one among the many traders who have had to keep up with the previous bad condition of shelter in Michika market over the years and its impact on their livelihoods. Continuing she said “A market without a shed, is like a diminishing success, you rise and fall and most times you only keep falling. Direct rainfall and sunlight, became an impediment to traders in recording profit, Customers gave preference to the only market with shed, and this made myself and other poor traders record more loss by the day”

“Customers used to complain of direct sunlight on our goods, saying it devalues the goods, especially cosmetics and when it rains, the water get into some of our product and they get drenched from shopping directly under the rain, and this is driving customers away especially when it is about to rain. These cus-

tomers are not far from the truth, because most of us traders without a market shed, only survive trading with continuous intake of paracetamol, sitting directly under the sunlight for hours to sell, we managed/suffered from persistent headache and fever” she added

Testifying further on the effects of the poor nature of market shed on businesses, Hussaina said,

“Before this intervention, our businesses in the market are mostly on hold when it’s about raining, we quickly take our goods to nearby shed for safety. I can remember a day, a heavy wind took away my temporary shed, I lost some of my goods, and my means of livelihood and income alongside other traders were affected. I felt terrible and wish, there could be a permanent market shed, where myself and other traders can sell

our goods peacefully and now I really thank God for this intervention”

Markets are important for pro-poor development and poverty alleviation, for many reasons. The livelihoods of most rural communities depend directly on their involvement in markets. As part of the response to improve livelihood affected communities in Michika LGA, the United Nations World Food Programme via a Food Assistance For Assets (FFA) initiative in partnership with the Centre for Community Development and Research Network has successfully eliminated these market barriers, and now traders record successes. With funding from WFP, CCRDN worked with targeted participants of the FFA who received food in return for their services to construct the market shed with technical guidance from CCDRN’s infrastructure unit and consultants.

## A new Lease of Life for a Market Community

This intervention has long turned the market in Michika into an epicenter of activity attracting communities around the LGA, acting as sustainable drivers of community development and resilience building.

“The market sheds constructed has impacted my life personally, and that of other traders positively. Patronage by customers has increased, and traders appear healthier, evidently, we now have a shed to carry out our market activities including a toilet. Says Hussaina

For Hussaina and other traders benefitting from the intervention, the 50 market stalls generate economic benefit for the sellers, as well as the local communities. Not only do they create employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, but they also provide social and cultural services that facilitate social interaction for the wider community. Affirming this position, Hussaina says, “The market shed has improved my standard of living in the community and the local government at large. People come here to discuss and even meet beyond buying and selling and this is improving the relationship and building trust in the community” Hussaina said

Hussaina whose family was gravely affected by the conflict that affected the Michika community says the Market presents her an opportunity to start strong all over again

“Now my weekly income has increased. Before this intervention, when I come to this market I barely sell up to 2000 every Friday. But now this has changed drastically. Every Friday which is the official market day I now sell more cosmetics and my income on the average is around 7000 to 9000 weekly and this is thanks to this shed which enable us to stay longer and shield us from rains and sun.” says Hussaina. “This is due to high patronage of customers. The market shed motivated me into improving my business and I can now say, I’m currently at a financial phase I never thought I would be. From my income, now I can take care of my needs and even help my mother and siblings”

The newly constructed market shed provides many opportunities for members of the communities, such as boosting the significant role of the market in the rural economy, providing a common ground for both genders to engage in income creation, fostering development, providing a sustainable means of livelihood, providing horizontal and vertical linkages with other communities.

“As a beneficiary of the market shed, individually I have been able to increase my goods due to an increase in sales and patronage; I thank you and WFP for putting smiles on our faces. I am now able to generate income that is sustaining me and now I don’t have to depend on anyone. As Christmas is approaching, we are making more sales. This intervention can only be

divine and we thank God for bringing your organization to help us”

The newly constructed Michika market shed was handed over to the community with great success in May 2020, with the market operating at full capacity. Sellers and buyers from all over Michika LGA filled the market, buying and selling various goods. The successful handing over of all 50 stalls in the market is a small but necessary step towards revitalizing and expanding the local economy towards improved livelihoods.

As communities return from their displacements following attacks by insurgents who devastated already fragile community infrastructure, communities struggle to cope. The insurgency also had a devastating impact on the ability of incumbent authorities to provide public services. The intervention is providing leeway for once distressed communities to build resilience and find their way out of poverty.

The inclusive participation of targeted beneficiaries, particularly women, from the vulnerable communities surrounding the market underlines the role markets can have in the broad-based engagement of people in the economy by creating an enabling environment for income generation. With a bustling market now in the heart of Michika, other traders from neighboring towns are now flooding the market

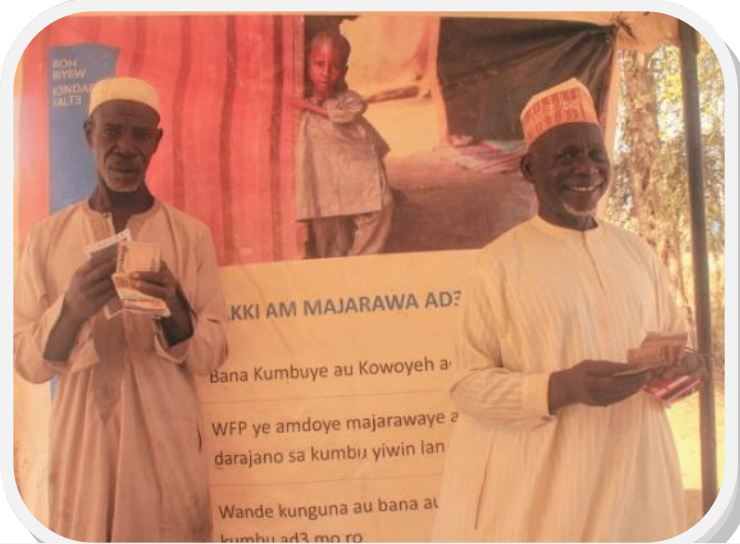


A traditional musician serenades the public on market day

## PHOTO NEWS:



CCDRN Research Team during assessment of GCERF/ActionAid project in Kogi, North central Nigeria



WFP Cash based assistance beneficiaries happily counting and confirming cash after redemption in Bade LGA, Yobe state



Beneficiaries complying with COVID SOP during food distribution

# PHOTO NEWS



CCDRN staffs taking feedback from beneficiaries at the Complain desk



CCDRN monitoring team with beneficiaries to track progress and provide support



CCDRN researcher engage with a respondent in Zamfara



CCDRN Christian colleagues hosts Muslim counterparts to a lunch after Christmas

## Nutrition Assistance: Targeted Vulnerable Women and Children Receives Double Ration for November and December

CCDRN with support from the World Food Programme has distributed nutrition sensitive packages to targeted women and children as part of a WFP monthly nutrition assistance-Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) in Yobe to prevent and manage malnutrition amongst the most vulnerable population

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. In implementing the programme on a monthly basis across twelve (12) wards which include Lawan Musa, Dagona, Zango, Usur Dawayo and Lawan Fanami in Bade LGA, Buni Lawanti, Gujba, Dadingel, Wagir and Mandunari in Gujba LGA and Bara and Gulani wards in Gulani LGA of Yobe State, WFP engaged Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) as its Cooperating Partner (CP).

The distribution of the commodities to all 17 FDPs across the 3 LGAs was slightly different as beneficiaries received two (2) months ration to cover



Stockpile of food items meant for distribution

for both November and December. The distributions 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. Some of these measures include compulsory

hand washing, use of Personal Protective Equipment's (PPEs), maintaining social distance, and temperature checks among others.

For the month of November/December, CCDRN reached a total number of 4162 children under 2 years and 3153 pregnant and Lactating Women respectively.

## CCDRN Christian Colleagues Hosts Muslim Counterpart to a Luncheon as Work Resumes for the New-year

Christian Colleagues at the Centre for Community Development and Research Network's Head office in Kaduna Hosted their Muslim counterpart to a Luncheon to celebrate Christmas and New-year.

The lunch which was organized by all the Christian staffs at the headquarters of the organization on the first day of resumption provided an opportunity to catch up in the spirit of oneness and camaraderie.

In a brief address before the luncheon, CCDRN's Head of Programmes, Nkechi Lawson who appreciated the effort of those that came up with the idea stated that the 'get together pro-



Christian and Muslim staffs of CCDRN having lunch together to celebrate new-year

vides an opportunity to appreciate each other and work in unity towards the growth of the organization. "we hope that this year will be even

more wonderful for the organization and may this unity translate into the work we do for vulnerable communities" she said

## Saving Livelihoods and Supporting Vulnerable conflict Affected Youths to Build Back Better: Buba's Story

Over ten years have elapsed since the insurgency in the Northeast of Nigeria that has led to massive displacements and disruption of lives and livelihood of the population who were already battling with poverty and a plethora of other socio-economic malaise. Violence orchestrated by activities of Non-State Armed groups amplified the food and nutrition insecurity of vulnerable Adamawa communities already distraught by poverty and general lack of development. The conflict severely interrupted the lives and livelihood of a substantial number of people.

In Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa state, just like many other locations in Northeast Nigeria, the ferocity of the violence triggered an abysmal humanitarian crisis. Many affected households lost all their means of livelihood to the crisis

27-year-old Buba Mai Sale is one of those affected gravely by the crisis. Buba like many other youths caught up in the crisis on the Madagali corridor felt the full brunt of the conflict in many unimaginable ways. He had his life shattered with traumatizing effects when, in late 2014, the insurgent group, invaded Madagali communities in Adamawa, a town located adjacent to the Nigerian border with Cameroun and situated on the fringes of the dreaded Sambisa forest.

"I lost everything I had during the attack. I returned after spending some time in Yola only to face a new reality. I had nothing left and life became really terrible as I was depending on people to survive" says Buba

Before the insurgency, Buba was involved in commercial motorcycle riding but lost everything he had including his Motorbike to the insurgency. He returned from his place of displacement after normalcy was restored in Madagali and found things very difficult. Buba says he was feeding on hand to mouth until he sought a loan of N50,000 from a relative which he used in setting up a phone charging shop to start over again. In his words "I got a loan of N50,000 from my relative and started selling recharge cards, phone accessories, provide phone charging



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

services and carry out minor repairs of GSM phones. This was how I was managing my life before I was enrolled in this intervention which has now improved my life significantly"

### The Intervention

In January of 2020, the United Nations World Food Programme started implementing a livelihood initiative to address the challenges faced by vulnerable conflict-affected populations in Madagali. Buba was one of the 25 youth supported under one of the Income Generating Activities components of the intervention through Phone charging and repair business. Implemented by the Centre for Community Development and Research Network, the project seeks to support the self-reliance and resilience capacity of conflict-affected IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable host communities to help them recover and regain their lost sources of livelihoods. Increasingly, these interventions have helped to re-

verse the lives of populations once on the brink, aiding them to gradually recoup their livelihood and occupation.

As part of the response, CCDRN provided Buba and other targeted beneficiaries with training on phone repairs, phone charging processes and general business and financial management. Though Buba had already started the business, it provided him an opportunity to consolidate, gain better skills, and access to needed tools and items to strengthen his income generation potential. Buba as part of the intervention was given a GSM charging board, set of screw drivers, soldering led, charging point, soldering iron, pick tool, hand re-work station, spirit, soft brush, table, bench, and airtime worth N10,000. In addition to the training on basic phone repairs and maintenance, Buba learned the importance of record-keeping and understood market dynamics which has aided his business setup, market affluence, and hopeful sustainability.

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Buba is now one of many youths who have made positive changes in their lives through the WFP livelihood intervention in Madagali. Telling his story, Buba recalls how things were even after gradually starting his phone charging business. He had no formal knowledge of the process and had no training on basic phone repairs. He remembers being unsure of his own capacities.

“I really never knew how to repair phones and had no basic tools needed, I was just scrambling to survive but this intervention has now grounded me and strengthened my business.” Says Buba. “This training and tools I have been given has changed my life for good” He adds.

It is palpable that Buba’s life has been positively impacted and changed because he stated that “this project has impacted on me a lot as the NFIs received came in timely”. He added saying “Life has been unbearable before the involvement of this project because I could not go back to my commercial motorcycle riding as I had lost everything and more so due to the ban on a motorcycle in Madagali.”

Buba reiterated that he had just begun the business of phone charging and repairs though on a skeletal level when he enrolled into the WFP livelihood project and in view of that, he had this to say “my involvement with this project has greatly improved my business”.

On average, the income he realizes varies based on services rendered. For instance, “I make an average of N10, 000 daily and N20, 000 on market days from the sale of recharge cards while making an average of N70, 000 on a weekly basis with an average profit ranging from N7,000 – N10, 000 weekly”.

“My phone charging business is also giving me a lot of income and I can make up N5, 000 weekly depending on patronage. This in addition to my income from phone repairs and other accessories I sell has positioned me well and I no longer depend on anyone for help and with this income, I am taking care of myself and my siblings. I have also paid back my N50, 000 loan I took from my relative and doing some ‘small small’ savings.

“I am now engaged in a rotational savings scheme with my fellow traders where we save N5, 000 on a weekly basis and I intend to expand my business with it” Buba affirmed

With the advent of the Corona Virus Pan-



demical and the looming effect it had on businesses and business owners in Madagali, beneficiaries like Buba experienced little or no activity during the lockdown but life is gradually returning to normal with businesses beginning to thrive. As part of his sustainability measure in the light of the project and the pandemic, Buba shared that “All things being equal and with the availability of more capital I intend to scale up and venture into the sales of phone and other accessories. “I am grateful to WFP and CCDRN for coming to my aid at the time I needed them the most”. He said

The intervention contributed to reducing poverty and improving livelihoods of affected by expanding and strengthening income generation potential; increase affected people’s ability to deal with emergencies; cope with shocks; maximize the outcomes of necessary for resilience building.



## CCDRN Distributes Two Months Food Ration to 1,509 Vulnerable Households in Yobe Communities

The center for community development and research Network (CCDRN) have reached no fewer than one thousand five hundred and nine (1509) vulnerable households with food assistance comprising Sorghum, Beans, Vegetable oil, and Salt on behalf of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) across Gujba, Gulani and Bade Local government Areas of Yobe state for the month of November and December.

Two month's food ration was given based on the household size of the beneficiaries.

As part of the effort to address food insecurity among the vulnerable people affected by the insurgency in the Northeast of Nigeria, the World Food Programme (WFP) is implementing a Food and Nutrition Assistance program in Yobe State, and another part of the troubled region through the General Food Distribution (GFD) intervention created to support Internally Displaced Persons, new arrivals and vulnerable host community members across targeted communities in Gulani, Gujba and Bade LGAs.

Center for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN),

with support from the United Nations World Food Programme, distributed the food items as beneficiaries receive double ration to cover for November and December respectively.

In a bid to ensure that affected communities are carried along in the entire process, CCDRN carries out advocacy and sensitization to bring the communities up to speed on a monthly basis prior to the distribution.

During distribution, sensitization continues onsite at the food distribution points especially on precautionary measures to curb the spread of Coronavirus, quantities of food to be received by each benefitting household. Prioritizing Protection

Protection of the vulnerable persons is integral to CCDRN's programming and as such, special attention was given to the People Living with Disability (PLWD), aged and sick people, pregnant and lactating women, GBV survivors, etc. They were the first group of individuals to be screened and allowed to collect their food ration. This was done to ensure strain from long waits was averted, and also ensure the Do no Harm principle of protection was strictly adhered to. Women and men

were given equal opportunity to be screened and collect their food items. Separate canopies were provided for men and women at each FDP taking into consideration the cultural sensitivity of the communities, to guard against any form of sexual harassment onsite the FDPs and protect them from exposure to sun rays. Water was provided for the people we serve to quench their thirst while waiting to receive their entitlements. Adequate measures were also taken to ensure that the people we serve were not maltreated or intimidated throughout the distribution process.

As part of the activities for the month of November and December, CCDRN conducted a review process scorecard to provide a quick, on-the-spot overview of the progress made towards mainstreaming the minimum protection standards and integrating gender, get feedback from beneficiaries, to understand whether there are any aspects of the operation that may need amendment, improvement and ensure compliance to all the key areas of protection (safety, dignity, integrity, meaningful access and accountability to the affected population).

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