



Centre for Community Development and Research Network  
(CCDRN)

# CCDRN DIGEST

## SEVERE AND ACUTE MALNUTRITION ON THE RISE

- Experts score Nigeria low - children from 6 - 59 months are worst hit
- CCDRN intensifies effort against malnutrition

### Inside Story

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The trained CNMs preparing the grains for Tom Production

It is alarming to know that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO), has ranked Nigeria first in Africa and second in the world among countries with the worst malnutrition cases. This was made public in their report tagged: "Fed to Fail? The Crisis of Children's Diets in Early Life", where Nigeria was placed second in the global malnutrition burden with 17 million undernourished children.

As alarming as this report is, it can only reinforce humanitarian actors' commitment in their fight against malnutrition. Over the years, humanitarian nutrition interventions have incorporated sustainability strategies in order to maintain the gains made in rolling back malnutrition in communities. It is in the light of this that the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) in its continuous fight against malnutrition conducted a practical hands-on training for 13 lead mothers, 20 Community Nutrition Mobilizers

(CNMs), and 3 health workers from six communities in Gujba LGA on Tom brown production and programming for the treatment of Moderate Acute malnutrition (MAM) for children from 6 - 59 months being recorded in their routine active case finding activities.

CCDRN is implementing the United Nations OCHA NHF Nutrition project in 18 communities across Bade, Gujba, and Gulani LGAs of Yobe state with the aim of strengthen the quality and scale-up preventative nutrition services for the most vulnerable groups through community management of acute malnutrition for children from 6 - 59 months in the state.

The training was a precursor to the main activity which took place at the community level across the 3 LGAs. The lead mothers that were trained had a step down session with women in the community under the supervision of the CCDRN nutrition team on Tom brown production and how they can incorporate it into the daily nutritional provision of their children. At

the end of the process, 241 beneficiaries were given 6kg of Tom Brown for the month of July.

The training set out to equip the capacity of the community women to understand the Tom Brown production process, know the different methods of preparing it to help them in improving the diet of their children and fight moderate acute malnutrition.

Other activities of the month consist of active case findings of both MAM and SAM cases by the CNMs, Mother to Mother (MtM) and Father to Father (FtF) support group meetings where Infant and young Child Feeding (IYCF) messages are shared and mainstreamed.

Now more than ever, this is not only important but necessary because it goes beyond just an intervention for us, but we see it as a concerted collective effort in the war against malnutrition especially in the Northeast of Nigeria.

## Despite the risk, they still show up



The Adolescent Champions showed up despite the risk

In an event that may seem to be the last straw that broke the camel's back for these little ones to give up and not show up for their planned activity, it became more fuel for the Adolescent Champions of Shuwari community to not only show up but to intensify their effort in engaging their peers on the importance of education.

Shuwari is a community in Bunin Yadi ward of Gujba LGA of Yobe state; it is one of the communities the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) is implementing its project: "Education for the Crisis-affected Girls" (ECG) with support from Save the Children International (SCI) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC).

It was the mid-night of July 7<sup>th</sup>; everyone is fast asleep, hoping to wake to another peaceful day the following morning, when the insurgency broke the silence of the night, burnt down the staff quarters of the primary school and kidnapped one Mr. Umar malgwi, the headmaster of the school. This sent chill down the spine of all the people of Shuwari and left them with fears of what will happen next.

Despite this unfortunate incident that has made most community members to withdraw into the cocoon of fear, the **Adolescent Champions** of the community set out to mobilized their peers and colleagues to show up for their planned activity which was "Engagement with female and male Adolescent Champions on the implementation of activity plans" on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July.

Adolescent Champions are *in and out of school children* in the community who have been trained through life skills sessions organized in their respective communities and schools, and on the importance of girl child education, and gender equality. This will enable them to advocate to their peers and communities at large on the enrolment and retention of girls in school, as well as protection from GBV, influence the change among their reference groups through awareness-raising and sensitization to promote gender equality, positive gender norms and other norms in their community

The ECG project has the objectives of increasing attendance and retention of crisis affected girls in gender responsive and safe schools, improving gender responsive learning and teaching environments, and improving the enabling environment to support girls' education. Not only has it gone a long way in achieving these, from what these champions displayed, one can see that the ECG is also raising a set of resilient girls and boys who are willing to pay the price to be educated and change the course of their community,

## Fight Against Malnutrition – CCDRN distributes food supplements/ commodities to beneficiaries in Yobe state

In its continued support to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and the vulnerable to combat malnutrition, the World Food program (WFP) has supported 1718 women and 2086 children in 8 communities of Gujba LGA of Yobe state. For the month of July, BSFP supported these women and children with a total of 12.516MT of Corn Soya Blend [CSB++] for children under age 2, and 12.885MT of CSB+ and 1.289MT of vegetable oil. The children smiled home with 6kg of CSB++ and the women got 7.5kg of CSB+ and 0.75kg of vegetable oil.

The project in partnership with the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) achieved this through the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) where nutritious food supplements are distributed to prevent malnutrition among Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and children under 2 years.

For Gulani LGA, General Food Distribution (GFD) reached 60, 226 beneficiaries

and BSFP reached 3614 of children under age two and 3011 PLW with food commodities such as sorghums, beans, vegetable oils and salt for the month of July and August.

As a preparation to the distribution, awareness were carried out to sensitize beneficiaries on entitlements, content, and proper use of nutritious food given to them, the need to stop the sale of commodities, issues of gender, male/female power relations and all forms of exploitation/abuse, the misuse of entitlements by caregivers as this may have implications on the health and nutritional well-being of the child.

The importance of this support cannot be over emphasized, seeing that the rate of malnutrition is on the rise and it will go a long way in helping to improve the diet of these children and women. To ensure successful distribution, the Monitoring and Evaluation of CCDRN team were on ground to guarantee that the beneficiaries were given fair and equal treatment and they were not exploited in any way.



A beneficiary smiling with her monthly ration



Food items ready for distribution

## Another kind of insecurity beyond insurgency

One may say the only major challenge humanitarian actors face in carrying out their daily activities in the northeast Nigeria is the extremist and highly violent insurgent group (Boko Haram), limiting information and movements, making implementation of interventions a herculean task. However, there are other natural disasters that constitute a great threat to humanitarian actors beyond insurgency, and the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) has encountered such in the month of July.

The 16<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022 will go down history in Gulani LGA of Yobe state when a heavy downpour engulfed the area leading to displacement of communities, the flooding and loss of 5 lives and properties. As a result of the flood, sources of livelihood were affected such as the destruction of farmlands, infrastructure, and livestock which are the livelihood mainstay of the LGA, and even the collapse of bridges that connect the LGA to other parts of the state,

The destruction of the bridge which is the main access and entrance to the area has affected various humanitarian and develop-

ment activities in the LGA within the period, especially the ongoing food distribution by World Food Programme (WFP) being implemented by CCDRN in ten (10) communities: Bara, Yelwa Makera, Yelwa Kasuwa, Tetteba, Dokshi, Bursari, Njilbulwa, Gabai, and Bumsa with a total beneficiary caseload of 42,516 beneficiaries.

Knowing how essential this intervention is to our beneficiaries, the CCDRN distribution team was proactive by organizing an emergency consultative meeting with the community leaders to re-strategize how the people will receive their entitlements for the month of July and August as planned. As a result of the meeting, the food commodities to be distributed was kept in a store in Bumsa, a safer and closest community to the affected communities where they will subsequently be distributed, ensuring that no beneficiary is left out.

Yes, we may face different kind of challenges, but together with our partners and stakeholders, at CCDRN, our passion leads us where our commitments are without borders – bringing succor to people facing hardship.



The collapsed bridge linking the LGA with other parts of the state

## Our intervention helps children live normal life – the story of Hassan

**“Baby Hassan is now a healthy child thanks to your great intervention; my baby can now live a normal life, grow up and become something in the future” - Khadija Audu**

Khadija Audu is a caring mother of twin babies; she is originally from Buni-Yadi, currently married to Mallam Audu Ya'u of Katarko Community in Gujba LGA of Yobe state. The two communities have in the past and recently been experiencing insurgent attacks that resulted in massive relocation of people, a high rate of malnutrition due to food shortage and insecurity, and loss of lives and livelihood, among other.

Khadija was initially benefiting from the WFP - Covid 19 intervention in Buni Yadi until the intervention ended last year. Following this development, she noticed that Hassan one of the twins was turning pale and losing weight due to malnutrition, so she took the child to Katarko health facility for a check-up. During active case finding at the health facilities

by one of the Community Nutrition Mobilizers (CNMs) engaged by the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN), the child was referred to be enrolled in the BSFP program after being discovered to be Moderately malnourished.

As a result of that, Hassan was enrolled on the nutrition project in February with a MUAC reading of 12cm, and by March, his MUAC readings had improved to 12.5cm and subsequently during follow-up visits, grew to 12.8cm. Hassan is constantly monitored by the CNMs and the mother has been enrolled in the Mother to Mother (MtM) support group to receive IYCF messages and counselling to help prevent relapse.

Now more than ever, we are more committed in our intervention and fight against young infant's malnutrition to ensure that these children grow up healthily and full of life, this is because CCDRN delights in giving hope to people.



Hassan being identified with MAM case (Before)



Hassan gleeful with an improved health (After)

## CCDRN distributes PPEs to PHCs in Yobe state

As part of efforts to support front line health workers and health facilities in carrying out their duties, CCDRN has distributed Non Food Items (NFIs) to 6 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC) in Gujba, Gulani and Bade local governments of Yobe state.

The support is geared towards ensuring that health personnel are well equipped to effectively provide good service delivery curb the spread of COVID-19. These health care centres were drawn from Dalah and Dawayo of Bade, Goniri and Gotala of Gujba and Ruhu and Gargure of Gulani LGAs.

The personal protective equipment (PPEs)

distributed include 5 packets of face masks, 2 packets of surgical hand gloves, 12 pieces of hands sanitizers and 5 pieces of liquid anti-bacterial hands wash.

It will be recalled that CCDRN with the support of the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (NHF) is implementing a project in these local governments aimed at prevention and management of acute malnutrition through screening and identification of children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and supporting them with nutritious supplement as well as screening and referral of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).



CCDRN team presenting the PPEs

## Education is life: Out-of-School Children given passport into the future

*"I want to be a doctor but because of the conflict, I could not go to school. I grew up seeing people around me sick, and that made me aspire to become a medical doctor. Now I am in school because of the NHF Education project, I will study to become a doctor" – Fatima Mohammed*

*"My dream in life is to become a teacher to shape minds. This program has increased my love for education, and I see myself paying more attention to my studies. I will study hard so that I will become a teacher to help children like me gain access to education" – Bukar Kolo*

It is the dream of every child to grow up and become something in life, it is the aspiration of all parents to see their children grow and fulfill their dreams, and it is the desire of every community to watch with utmost satisfaction their sons and daughters become useful members of the society. One of the surest ways of achieving this is through education; this is beautifully captured by Malcolm X when he said: "education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today" One can't but ask, what happens to children who do not get the chance to dream because of conflict? How do their parents feel knowing they can do little or nothing to help their children live their dream? What happens to such communities that their children do not have access to education? Think about these. Most of the children in communities of Bade, Yunusari, and Geidam LGAs in Yobe state have their right to basic education shattered due to the protracted Boko Haram conflict in the state, leading to closure of schools in many affected communities in the state.

Fatima Mohammed is an 11 year old girl from Dakizibi, Lawan Musa of Bade Local Government of Yobe state Nigeria. Bukar Kolo is also an 11 year old boy from Mazogun, Yunusari Local Government of Yobe state Nigeria. Both children benefitted from the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund's (NHF) education project implemented by the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN). Their story is that of despair to hope.

**Fatima:** "Before now, I was not in school because of the conflict that affected my community. Even after the situation calmed down, I could not go to school because my parents could not afford to send me to school. But today I am in Umar Suleman Central Primary School because I have been enrolled with the help of the NHF education project. This project did

not only help me alone but my fellow girls too, and it will help us to study and fulfill our dreams in the future. We were enrolled into non-formal school, and we were given writing materials such as exercise books, biros, pencils, cleaners and sharpeners. Now that I am in school I want to study to become a doctor"

**Bukar:** "The crisis affected my educational life because schools were closed for a long period of time and people were scared. This therefore stopped me from going to school and my parent could no longer afford to send me and my siblings to school. I had given up on school after the crisis, but this project made me believe again. I was an Out of School Child but now a beneficiary of the NHF Education program and have now been mainstreamed into the formal primary school here in Mazogun. I now know the importance of education and the need for me to continue learning to become something in life; I believe this will help me to be a teacher".

NHF Education project has brought transformation to the lives of my people; children now know and value education. The Project has sharpened the knowledge of my people and what they have learned is capable of making them become good citizens of the country and discourage out of school children from joining any Armed Opposition Groups (AOG). The children can now compete with their peers which are in formal schools within their communities because their zeal for education has improved, they now have focus, vision and direction in life which will empower them to be independent and better citizens of the community and country at large. – **Saleh Mustapha, Education Secretary, Geidam LGA**

For conflict-affected out of school children, their enrolment in transitional/temporary learning spaces where they will be prepared to be mainstreamed into formal school is not only providing them with the education they had missed but also restores their hope to become something in life. It is in the light of this and with the purpose of improving access to safe and quality education opportunities for these crisis and conflict-affected children that the project has established 47 non-formal learning centers across Bade, Geidam, and Yunusari LGA, each of these centers has 45-50 pupils. The project also provided the children with literacy and numeracy teaching guides including



Fatima sharing her story in Bade LGA Yobe State



Bukar sharing his story Yunusari LGA, Yobe State

writing materials such as exercise books, pencils, cleaners, and sharpeners. As a result of this intervention, 1645 children have been mainstreamed into formal learning schools to enable them to continue their learning and pursue their dreams in life. 481 children have been mainstreamed in Geidam LGA, 559 children in Yunusari LGA, and 605 in Bade LGA.

The story of Fatima and Bukar are 2 among many of the mainstreamed children in Bade, Yunusari and Geidam that have been given light to embark on their journey to a brighter future.

# ...PHOTO NEWS...



SCI/GPE distribution of learners kit in Jere LGA, Borno state



SCI/GPE distribution of learners kit in Jere LGA, Borno state



Female /Male Adolescent Champions who showed up in Gujba



Beneficiaries with their GFD entitlement in Gulani LGA



Verification of beneficiaries before the BSFP distribution in Gujba



Verified beneficiaries during the BSFP distribution in Gujba LGA

## CCDRN commences biometric of livelihood/nutrition beneficiaries in Bade LGA



First verification point



Real-time biometric information capturing



Facial identity capturing

The Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) has started the scope registration and data capturing of beneficiaries who will benefit from the Resilience and Social Cohesion (Peace) in Northeast Nigeria project funded by the German Government BMZ.

The scoping that is ongoing started with community leaders' engagement meeting, communi-

ty sensitization and awareness, census data capturing, community wealth ranking, spot check of individuals and the scope registration proper.

CCDRN will work with WFP to implement the livelihood and nutrition component of the project in Bade LGA. 3250 people will benefit from livelihood activities which consist of crop production, livestock production, and Income Generating Activities. 5600 people will

benefit from the nutrition aspect of the project which is designed to promote nutrition practices, dietary diversity, and demand for health and nutrition services, among mothers, caregivers, and families.

This intervention will empower families and communities to improve their nutrition with locally available foods while enabling an understanding of the extent to which integrated nutrition and livelihoods contribute to reducing malnutrition.



Final verification point

## A chance to dream again – the story of Adama

*"I used to be very timid and withdrawn, but now I can boldly talk to my friends and colleagues on the need for education for all and why it must be taken seriously"*

These were the exact words of Adama Yusuf, an 11 year old IDP from Biu Town of Borno state but now residing in Sabon Garin Maimala of Gujba LGA of Yobe state.

The Education cannot wait project ECW which is being implemented by the Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) in Consortium with Save the Children International (SCI) and Education Cannot Wait (ECA) proposes to increase access to quality, inclusive, holistic education for crisis-affected girls and boys through formal and non-formal education, and facilitate transitions to formal education from alternative provisions. This will ensure that

learning environments (existing and new ones to be set up) are child-friendly, gender-responsive, equitable, disability-friendly and inclusive, safe and protective for all children and adolescents.

A Temporary Learning Space (TLS) was constructed in Sabon Garin Mai Mala to provide an enabling environment for the learners to achieve their full potential as designed in the project. As a result children like Adama can now have a safe space to learn, interact and even become advocates for girl child education in their communities.

CCDRN would continue to work and support communities in driving positive change and development through human capacity development and building their resilience through education and other areas of life so that children like Adama will have a chance to dream again.



Smiles beaming all over the face of Adama



Adama in class during one of the learning sessions

## ABOUT US

Centre for Community Development and Research Network (CCDRN) is a local Non-governmental organization, with registration number: CAC/IT/NO 91160, under the Nigerian Corporate Affairs Commission Act. Our head office is located in Kaduna state with field offices across Yobe, Borno, Zamfara, Kano, and Adamawa states. CCDRN envision a society in which governance and development are communities driven. Our overall mission engenders partnership with communities/groups to achieve recreation and rebuilding on the principles of self-reliance, self-management, and collective peace. By this we mean, collaborating with key stakeholders to foster development and advancement by equipping the society with the requisite knowledge, information, and skills to champion their own course.

### OFFICE ADDRESS

Centre for Community Development and Research  
Network (CCDRN)  
Ground Floor, Hamza Zayyad House  
No. 4, Muhammadu Buhari Way, Kaduna

Facebook: Center for Community Development  
and Research Network - CCDRN

Twitter: @ccdrnNigeria

Instagram: @ccdrn\_nigeria

[www.ccdrn-nigeria.com](http://www.ccdrn-nigeria.com)

## OUR VISION

A society in which governance and development is community driven.

## MISSION

To partner with communities and groups to achieve recreation and rebuilding on the principles of self-reliance, self-management and collective peace. By this we mean, collaborating with key stakeholders to foster development and advancement by equipping the society with the requisite knowledge, information and skills to champion their own course.

### COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Guteng Walnshak Solomon

Aryhel Shadrach Ayuba

### CONTRIBUTORS

Mercy Maisamari

Saidu Murtala

Daleen Shamaki

Auwal Bello

Mariam Alidu

Inuwa Adam