



CONCERN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION  
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# COWACDI ANNUAL REPORT

January - December 2023



# ABOUT CONCERN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION.

Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI) is a woman-led organization born out of a passion for the well-being of Women and Children in Nigeria. It has a special interest in mitigating the suffering of vulnerable persons (mostly Women and children) in times of crisis. Due to the decade-old crises, the organization has focused its attention on the northeast of Nigeria with special emphasis on Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states (the BAY states).

COWACDI intervenes through a community-based approach in addressing gender-based violence prevention and response programmes, general protection, Non-food items (NFI), Housing land and property, peace-building programmes, and empowerment of youth and women. COWACDI operates with full respect for humanitarian law and works with concrete policies and principles of international standards such as humanity, impartiality, neutrality independence, and accountability to the affected population.

**COWACDI has served a total of 12,539 (Twelve thousand, five hundred and thirty-nine) beneficiaries from January - December 2023**



Total beneficiaries reached

# DONORS AND PARTNERS



## Executive Director's Remark

On behalf of the Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation, I am profoundly grateful for the unwavering support and dedication of our remarkable donors, Board of Trustees, local, national, and international stakeholders, and our extraordinary staff. Your tireless efforts and generous contributions have exceeded our expectations and played an instrumental role in our organization's success. Whether through financial assistance, volunteer work, or simply spreading awareness, trainings, workshops, seminars, on-the-job training, etc. you have made a difference and touched the lives of so many in need.



To our donors, you are the backbone of our organization. Your continuous belief in our cause and your unselfish contributions have been life changing. Your commitment to transforming lives is inspiring, and your unrelenting support humbles us. Please know that your generosity has significantly impacted and brought hope to those who need it most. To our exceptional staff, your dedication and steadfast commitment to our mission are exemplary. Your passion and expertise have

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made our vision a reality, and your hard work does not go unnoticed. You go above and beyond every day, putting the needs of others before your own. Your unshakeable determination and selfless service is a constant source of inspiration.

Together, as a united force, we have achieved remarkable milestones and touched countless lives, most especially people affected by various degrees of crisis precisely in North-eastern Nigeria. Your collective efforts make a difference, and we are immensely grateful for

your support, generosity, and commitment. On behalf of all those who benefit from your kindness, thank you for being true heroes and ensuring that hope continuous to blossom in the

hearts of many. We are privileged to have you by our side, and we applaud you for making the world a better place.

Thank you.

Dauda Saidu Balami  
ED, COWACDI



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# PROGRAM REVIEW OF COWACDI'S INTERVENTIONS IN 2023

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND PROTECTION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA).

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a pressing protection concern affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs), women, girls, and host communities in the North-Eastern part of Nigeria. The prolonged conflict has displaced millions, predominantly women, girls, and children, rendering them highly vulnerable. This situation perpetuates a cycle of violence, including Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), which often go underreported. Women and girls bear the brunt of these incidents, with boys also falling victim to sexual violence, leading to negative coping mechanisms like transactional sex, child marriage, forced marriage, and substance abuse.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) represents a fundamental failure of accountability within the aid system, neglecting the very people it is meant to protect – both beneficiaries and staff. Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is crucial in humanitarian response, demanding collective responsibility.

The project raises awareness through sensitization and psychosocial support activities, providing a comprehensive framework for coordinated efforts across various subsectors. This includes capacity building, educational empowerment, case management services for survivors of GBV/PSEA, and measures to mitigate the further spread of such incidents.

### Target Area & Beneficiaries:

The project targets Modusulumri, Jiddari, and Malakyariri Host Communities in MMC, Jere, and Mafa LGAs of Borno State. These areas house displaced individuals from LGAs such as Bama, Konduga, Damboa, Gwoza, Kaga, Mafa, Gamboru, Ngala, and Marte. The project aims to benefit two thousand (2,000) individuals (six hundred (600) women, four hundred (400) men, six hundred (600) adolescent girls, and four hundred (400) boys), sensitizing them on GBV risks, causes, reporting, and consequences while facilitating access to case management needs through referrals and psychosocial first aid.



### Specific Objective:

The project specifically focuses on awareness raising and sensitization/Psychosocial first aid activities which will provide an overarching framework for coordinated activities across various subsectors that promote capacity building, educational empowerment, GBV mainstreaming, case management services available to survivors of GBV/SEA and mitigating measures against the spread of GBV/SEA.

### Planned Sensitization/Awareness and Psychosocial First-aid Activities

S/No	Ward	Total Women	Total Girls	Total Men	Total Boys	Estimated Total Population
1.	Modusulumri	350	325	150	125	1000
2.	Jiddari	350	325	150	125	1000
3.	Malakyariri	150	100	55	85	390

### Progress:

As planned, the sensitization and awareness exercises aimed to enlighten participants on GBV/PSEA, and Psychosocial Support (PSS) activities aimed to help participants overcome psychological distress and strengthen resilience. COWACDI conducted six (6) sensitization and awareness sessions and five (5) psychosocial support activities in Modusulumri, Jiddari, and Malakyariri throughout the year. The achieved outcomes are detailed below:

### Achieved outcome of community sensitization/PSS activities captured:

S/No	Ward	Total Women	Total Girls	Total Men	Total Boys	Total for each Ward	Estimated Total Population
1.	Modusulumri	80	133	19	66	298	796
2.	Jiddari	Nil	104	31	30	165	
3.	Malakyariri	173	94	12	54	333	



### Distribution Of IEC Materials Details:

During awareness and sensitization sessions, six hundred (600) IEC materials (two hundred and fifty (250) posters and three hundred and fifty (350) handbills) were distributed, featuring two hundred (200) copies in Hausa, one hundred (100) in English, and three hundred (300) in Kanuri. This distribution aimed to enhance understanding, engage participants, and promote further awareness and education in the community.



*Picture capturing during PSS activities.*



*Picture captured during the session.*

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*Sensitization session with girls' group*

## LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

Christian Aid in consortium with Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI) partnered with WFP to implement livelihood intervention in Malakyariri community of Mafa LGA, Borno State. The project targets one thousand six hundred and thirty-nine (1639) households among the vulnerable host community members, returnees, and IDPs in Malakyariri community. The main objective of this intervention is to improve food security and build the resilience of the affected communities to strengthen the household economy through the support for Income generating activities (IGAs), crop, livestock, and aquaculture production, Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) as well as contribute to increasing vegetative cover as part of natural resource management through increased afforestation and fruit tree planting among households.

This project seeks to directly support the one thousand six hundred thirty-nine (1639) households in the Malakyariri community in Mafa LGA with interventions that assist beneficiaries to meet both their basic short- and long-term food (including nutrition) security needs as well as kick start the process for livelihoods recovery.

### Crop Production Activities

Regular field visits were carried out to oversee crop production activities, which involved rainfed farming and backyard gardening. Their main focus was to assess the progress, challenges, and responses of beneficiaries, and provide recommendations to ensure the production of improved and nutritional vegetables, proper storage, and utilization.

**Rainfed Farming:** The implementation of rainfed farmers' crop production activities in Malakyariri for the strengthening of livelihood within the community. Where input of seeds was distributed to





the beneficiaries each person collected Ground nut 10kg, Cowpea 10kg, Sorrel 300g, Fertilizer 1 litre, and Pesticide 1 litre. They have put more effort into cultivating their various farmlands during this wet season for them to be able to gain sources of livelihood and nutritional food benefits. The beneficiaries under the backyard garden are 183 individuals. The team worked tirelessly to monitor the rainfed farming initiatives. The beneficiaries had cultivated various crops, including sorrel, groundnut, and cowpea. It was impressive to note that due to our training in diversified farming, the beneficiaries had also begun to plant millet, okra, and guinea corn. They explained how this diversified approach would improve the nutritional value of their crops, especially for children.



*Monitoring of rain-fed farming*

**Backyard Garden:** The vegetable garden is established in individual beneficiaries' households within the community for livelihood and nutritional benefit. Where input of seeds is distributed to each person such as Tomatoes 25g, Cabbage 100g, Onion 150g, Fertilizer 1 litre, and Pesticide 1 litre for them to be able to cultivate their garden. The beneficiaries under the backyard garden are 238 individuals. The beneficiaries have also engaged in backyard gardening, and the team observed their commendable dedication to this activity. The team witnessed the cultivation of various crops, such as tomatoes, sorrel, African spinach, and cabbage, from the planting stage to the harvest stage of the planting season. These backyard gardens were monitored throughout the FLA, providing valuable insights into crop production beneficiaries' active and diligent efforts in both rainfed and backyard gardening contexts.



*Monitoring of backyard garden*

### **Income Generating Activities (IGA)/VSLA**

Income Generating Activity and VSLA as one of the major components of the WFP Livelihoods project, seeks to improve household income and access to financial services such as savings and loans as well as build resilience of the conflict-affected population of Malakyariri host community of Mafa local government of Borno state and its environs. This is the continuation of the 2022 livelihood support with a caseload of 931 HHs, this year's interventions include training, supportive supervision of all the 85 VSLA groups, 20 IGA activities, and market linkages.

1275 VSLA beneficiaries have access to financial services, and it has been utilized in boosting businesses and settling other basic household needs.

1,275 VSLA beneficiaries acquired knowledge of financial management, record keeping, and loan taken/repayment.

879 IGA HH participants acquired knowledge of financial management, record keeping, and documentation.

The team discerned a positive and transformative influence on the beneficiaries' income levels and overall well-being through their active participation in Income-Generating Activities (IGA). The beneficiaries, expressing heartfelt gratitude, shared how engaging in IGA empowered them to meet their families' daily needs and effectively mitigated the impact of poverty, thereby fortifying their economic resilience. The palpable enthusiasm displayed by the beneficiaries in their respective IGAs was striking during the implementation, showcasing not only the production of marketable goods but also the receipt of fair returns for their concerted efforts. The commendable and evident impact

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of these IGAs on the beneficiaries' livelihoods underscores their transformative nature.

Furthermore, the activity was closely monitored and supervised through Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) meetings to ensure adherence to documented rules and practices. This approach not only promoted consistency among all VSLA groups but also facilitated the collection of data on savings and loan trends throughout the FLA. The insights gathered through this monitoring process were instrumental in projecting savings trends over time, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the financial dynamics within the community.



*COWACDI team during a monitoring visit to the IGA activities in Malakyarirri community Mafa LGA, Borno state.*

### Livestock Activities

The livestock and hydroponics thematic unit has 193 (19 male and 174 female) household beneficiaries. The livestock beneficiaries were supported with 125kg of maize seed for fodder production. The main objective is to improve livestock production for both nutritional purposes and income generation at the household level, which will further provide purchasing power for food, inputs for crop production, manure for soil fertility, and purchase of household assets. The project had acknowledged the difficulty in accessing fodder for livestock feeding within the project location during its design. The activity noted a commendable level of effectiveness in the activities carried out by all the livestock beneficiaries surveyed across the FLA. The activity underscored the active and responsible care provided by the beneficiaries to their livestock. Notably, the livestock keepers demonstrated adept utilization of the community para vet services, resulting in a significant reproductive performance observed in the monitored livestock.

The positive impact of the livestock activities on both the livelihoods of beneficiaries and the broader community was evident throughout the monitoring period. The engagement of beneficiaries in



receiving inputs and cultivating fodder for their livestock, as envisaged by the project, remained consistently successful. This successful integration of inputs and understanding of fodder cultivation has contributed significantly to the overall well-being of the livestock.

Furthermore, the hydroponics system implemented for livestock management demonstrated success, with monitoring recommendations and feedback from beneficiaries being actively incorporated to refine the implementation process. This iterative approach to improvement ensures that the hydroponics system aligns seamlessly with the community's needs and preferences, further enhancing its efficacy in sustaining livestock health and nutrition.



*Livestock production monitoring*

## Natural Resource Management

### Tree Nursery Establishment:

The systematic process played a crucial role in guaranteeing the effective establishment of the tree nursery site and in promptly mitigating the likelihood of protection issues. During the distribution of tree seedlings to beneficiaries, a comprehensive education session emphasized the significance of proper care, accompanied by providing an appropriate quantity tailored to each household's size. Continuous monitoring was employed to verify that the seedlings were transplanted with precision and receiving sufficient care to maximize their survival rate.

Identification of any gaps in either the nursery setups or household environments was a key focus during the monitoring process. Subsequently, tailored recommendations were diligently formulated and provided, ensuring that corrective actions were implemented to enhance the overall success of the tree-planting initiative.

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*COWACDI team during a monitoring visit to the NRM site in Malakyarirri community Mafa LGA, Borno state.*

### **Aquaculture Activities:**

The activity affirmed that the aquaculture beneficiaries are actively engaged in their various activities. They maintained an effective record-keeping system, and their site is well-kept and adheres to food safety standards, with PPE usage being a notable practice. In addition to ensuring compliance to enhance fish production standards, regular monitoring and supervision were conducted to ensure the following:

#### **Tank Disinfection and Cleaning**

The aquaculture tanks underwent meticulous disinfection and cleaning as part of routine maintenance. This practice serves to minimize pollutants and mitigate potential disease outbreaks, ensuring a healthier environment for the fish.

#### **Water Management**

Beneficiaries engaged in fish farming ensured the cleanliness and safety of the water by promptly changing it when deemed dirty. This proactive approach guarantees that the water remains conducive to fish survival, providing readily available dissolved oxygen for optimal growth. Regular checks of dissolved oxygen and pH levels were performed to maintain a safe aquatic habitat.

#### **Sorting and Grading**

Beneficiaries meticulously carried out sorting and grading based on the weight and body size of the fishes. This precautionary measure was implemented to prevent cannibalism and enhance the overall well-being of the fish population.

#### **Feeding**

Fish received nutritious food three times daily—morning, afternoon, and evening. Feeding sizes of 3



mm and 6 mm were carefully administered according to the size of the fish. This systematic feeding regimen contributes to the health and growth of the fish population.



*Fish farming activity monitoring*

### Nutrition Activities

A total of 181 individuals, pregnant and nursing women and caregivers of children 6-23 months were selected for the IYCF Mother to Mother support group.

12 IYCF support groups were formed. An impactful Social and Behavioral Change Session (SBCC) took place in the Malakyariri community. The SBCC session drew the participation of five thousand five hundred and seventy-seven (5577) individuals, comprising 3792 women, 696 men, 600 girls, and 396 boys.

A total of two hundred and forty (240) people (48) participants from each monthly cooking demonstration participated in the cooking demonstration. The project team also conducted visits to evaluate the progress of Nutrition activities. The findings from these visits revealed that both the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and Mother-to-Mother Support Group meetings were consistently held as per the schedule. A noteworthy aspect was the commendable attendance of mothers at these sessions, indicating a high level of interest among beneficiaries in participating in the nutrition activities. The activity demonstrated impressive participation, with the team observing active involvement during the sessions.

Furthermore, it is laudable that all identified cases were meticulously documented. The activity affirmed that Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) or Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases were accurately and consistently recorded in the duplicate booklet, with referrals made to the OTP site in Malakyariri community. The level of engagement witnessed during these meetings was notably impressive, and it is worth emphasizing that beneficiaries consistently attended all planned sessions.

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This success can be attributed to the inclusive approach adopted by the nutrition team. The team allowed beneficiaries to choose meeting times and days that aligned with their schedules, promoting a flexible and accommodating environment. This adaptable arrangement was particularly noteworthy and significantly contributed to the overall success and effectiveness of the nutrition activities.



*CNM measuring MUAC of a Child*



*During the cooking demonstration.*

### LIVELIHOOD COWACDI-FUNDED PROJECT

The project sought to promote social cohesion and reconciliation while also strengthening the resilience of target beneficiaries for improved livelihood opportunities. The project team commenced activities by establishing committees to build conflict mitigation and leadership skills within Jiddari kuka-biyu-based decision-making bodies to engage stakeholder groups to identify and implement complementary reconciliation and social cohesion activities that address local conflict stressors. Psychosocial support (PSS) activities also supported the participation of conflict-affected populations. Within target areas, COWACDI also provided sensitization and awareness to implement reconciliation-related policies, improve gender-sensitive service delivery, and better engage with all identity groups in their community. **Participatory Action for Community Enhancement (PACE) methodology for peacebuilding, which was adapted to the local context for community-driven development for the establishment or reactivation of inclusive community decision-making platforms such as the Coexistence Societies and community stakeholders.**



*COWACDI staff having a session of livelihood  
Community engagement in social cohesion  
disorderliness  
And peacebuilding.*



*Community Stakeholder in Jiddari expressing  
concerns on high rate of crime and  
Within the community.*

## **NHF NON-FOOD-ITEM (NFI) PROJECT**

A total of eight hundred (800) beneficiaries were reached with NFI kits across camps and host communities in all three locations i.e Monguno, Bama and Ngala. While in Monguno, the majority of beneficiaries were those affected by a fire outbreak at that time (based on the sector's recommendation), in Bama majority of the beneficiaries were IDPs new arrivals, and returnees from Minawawo in Cameroon, and host communities. Similarly, in Ngala, returnees and new arrivals in IDP camps were majorly affected during the intervention.

Through rigorous monitoring and evaluation, we've gathered information that demonstrates the positive changes brought about by this intervention while also informing our plans for future engagements to amplify the impact of our services and reach even more people in need.





Picture showing verification point at Bama LGA before distribution of NFI items.



COWACDI staff handing over NFI items to a verified beneficiary in Bama and Monguno LGA

## RRF NFI PROJECT

The RRF-NFI project adopted a cash based intervention approach. To commence its activities, COWACDI conducted a stakeholders’/introductory meeting which resulted in the establishment of a project management committee under the technical guidance of COWACDI’s project team. The project management committee, made up of ten members (5 males and 5 females) selected by the project’s key stakeholders, community members, and other participants immensely contributed to the success of the project. Also, a market assessment was conducted and a sample size of one hundred and twenty-four (123 males and 1 female) individuals, including persons with disability was reached. Furthermore, having keenly observed that a significant number of market suppliers possess the capacity to supply NFIs to target beneficiaries in Yusufari LGA, this information played a vital role in securing the commitment of two (2) suppliers/vendors and two (2) major banks functional in the project location to work closely with the team and community in ensuring the optimal utilization of cash for the purchase of NFIs. Five hundred (500) beneficiaries including persons with disability,



consisting of three hundred forty-three (343) males and one hundred and fifty-seven (157) females were also successfully identified, registered, and verified to receive cash for the purchase of NFIs.

The communities reached demonstrated a better position to overcome challenges and work towards long-term development and their general well-being. Similarly, involving community members in the selection and distribution of NFIs empowered them in the decision-making process that affected their lives and safety. This participatory approach resulted in greater community ownership and self-reliance while also building their preparedness to handle future emergencies. It is also worth mentioning that, COWACDI tailored all activities to address cross-cutting issues such as hygiene, gender, and disability inclusion to ensure the dignity of beneficiaries, enhance their ability to actively participate in community activities, and also reduce the risk of illnesses and spread of diseases.

Lastly, a total number of five hundred (343 males and 157 females) direct beneficiaries and 1,892 indirect beneficiaries have been reached with sensitization messages with IEC materials, and a total number of three hundred and forty-six beneficiaries (139 males and 77 females) have so far received the sum of NGN65,373.5 each.



*Picture showing Awareness Session in progress with beneficiaries*



*Picture showing Door-to-door Sensitization to*

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Picture showing Registration of eligible beneficiary at Yusufari LGA

## COWACDI FUNDED NFI PROJECT

In light of the multiple vulnerabilities identified, COWACDI plays a key role in NFI interventions in Borno state of Northeast Nigeria to enhance the physical well-being and dignity of the affected population. Several methods developed by the sector for a more coordinated response that includes, the sector SOPs, the coordination mechanism the RRM activation mechanism, and more which COWACDI were adopted in implementing NFI activities. This project, funded by COWACDI, provided emergency NFIs to address the immediate need and future needs of vulnerable persons while also promoting their dignity through an equal and fair provision of household items that are contextually applicable to the emergency settings.

The project's target location is Kusheri Informal Camp and Host community, Galtimari Ward Jere LGA, Borno State.



Picture showing Verification of eligible beneficiary and NFI distribution at Kusheri.

## GENERAL PROTECTION

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The project was designed to mitigate protection issues facing the target beneficiaries including denial of access to assistance, separation from family members, restricted freedom of movement and harassment, increased food insecurity, widespread violence, theft, rape, gender-based violence, forced and child marriage, unaccompanied and separated children, rights of persons formerly associated with armed groups and the fragile livelihood condition prevalent in the target location leading to negative coping strategies. This was to enhance their safety and security while ensuring voluntary return in safety and dignity.

The target area is Jiddari Host Community, which is located in Galtimari ward Jere LGA, Maiduguri Borno State, and comprised of displaced persons from various LGAs including Bama, Konduga, Damboa, Gwoza, Kaga, and Kalabalge. The project targeted 1000 beneficiaries (women, men, adolescent girls, and boys) with sensitization and awareness raising messages on protection risks and concerns as well as ways to cope with the issues. Beneficiaries also had access to referrals to relevant service providers as well as provision of psychosocial support to those who are traumatized by the crisis and its aftermath effects.



*COWACDI Protection Officer and ED in a participatory session with the women, girls, and men at Kuka Biyu Jiddari community*

## NUTRITION/WASH COWACDI-FUNDED PROJECT

The " **Integrating Wash and Nutrition Action in Borno State** " is an intervention aimed at addressing the intertwined challenges of malnutrition and inadequate access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in Zanari community. It is a project designed by COWACDI to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable populations, particularly children, pregnant and lactating women, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and community members through a multifaceted approach that addresses both nutrition and WASH-related issues.



The project was designed for 200 HH beneficiaries (Pregnant and breastfeeding women, Caregivers men, adolescent girls and boys) and 1000 community members with hygiene promotion awareness.

### **Advocacy Visit to Zannari Primary Health Care**

The Nutrition/WASH team went on an advocacy visit to the primary health facility/OTP site in Zannari to solicit its support and facilitate the referral of patients to the OTP site. The team met with the focal person (HAUWA M GANA) in charge of the OTP site and the targeted supplementary feeding program (TSFP). Matters around referral and admission into the OTP site and TSFP as part of the collaboration were discussed. It was then agreed that all children identified with severe acute malnutrition and moderately acute malnutrition should be referred to the OTP site by our CNM to be enrolled in the program.

### **Sensitization to the Local Leaders on IYCF MTMSG, Hygiene Promotion, and Active Case Finding.**

The IYCF support group meetings were conducted to scale up high-impact nutrition practices and improve maternal and child nutrition outcomes in the entire Zannari community with a focus on pregnant and lactating women, the first 1,000- days of a child's life are the time to prevent undernutrition and ensure healthy growth, Losses during this period cannot be recovered as the child develops.

Active case finding was also conducted as an important approach to timely detect and refer children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) from their communities to primary health care units to the OTP sites within their community before the onset of life-threatening complications.

Also, Hygiene promotion activities were carried out in a systematic attempt to adequately promote personal, domestic, environmental, and food hygiene practices that prevent or mitigate the transmission of diseases.





*Picture captured during the meeting with the community leaders*

## SUCCESS STORIES

**Kellu Zanna**, is a resilient 47-year-old mother who has faced the challenges of caring for her ten (10) children with grace and determination. Kellu recently experienced a transformative journey marked by the compassionate support of IOM-RRF, USAID, and their implementing partner COWACDI, providing her and her family with much-needed Non-Food Item (NFI) support.

In a heartfelt expression of gratitude, Kellu shares, "Following the receipt of NFI Support, I was deeply moved and expressed my heartfelt gratitude, with tears in my eyes, to IOM-RRF, USAID, and their implementing partner COWACDI for the invaluable support and assistance they have provided to me and my entire family." Kellu goes on to emphasize, "I am grateful for the kindness and generosity shown to me and my family during these difficult times. The support we have received has made a significant difference in our lives, and we are truly thankful for the assistance provided by IOM-RRF, USAID, and COWACDI."

With the newfound support, Kellu has been able to address the essential needs of her large family and overcome some of the challenges that they have faced. The impact of this support, according to Kellu, cannot be overstated. She acknowledges, "The impact of their support cannot be overstated, and we will always be grateful for the compassion and assistance."



**Aishatu Modu**, a 45-year-old widow with five (5) children living in the GSSSS camp of Monguno LGA was affected by the fire outbreak and lost all her basic NFI, which made her and her children more vulnerable. "I have lost track of sleep as I have been thinking about how to survive with my children,

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ever since the fire outbreak, life has not been easy for me and my children, we have been having longer days and shorter nights due to high rate of mosquitoes and exposure to cold. I couldn't afford a jerrycan for fetching water, so I had to borrow it, also I had only one dish which I used for cooking at the same time as a plate to eat from. During the winter season, I had to use my old wrapper to at least cover my kids which in most cases is not long enough for them, talk more of myself, we had no blanket, or anything worthy of body coverage, so we ended up catching cold and flu due to high level of chills." "But now I don't need to borrow a jerrycan, use my single dish for both cooking and eating, use my old wrappers for covering myself and my children from cold and mosquitoes and many other challenges I and my children were facing, all thanks to NHF and their implementing partner COWACDI. We thank you so much and pray Almighty God provides more for you so that you can remember us again"



## LESSONS LEARNT

- Expect the Unexpected What you plan and anticipate may not always come to pass. This is what happened during the Climate Resilience project.
- Building the capacity of community structures helps to alleviate the lack of access to our intervention areas because community structures can handle some responsibilities with little or no supervision, such as awareness raising and case management follow-up.



- Support for disabled children can be improved by incorporating it into the project system.
- We can only increase our power, progress, and long-term change with improved service provision if we continue to improve community voice in project design, build community capacity for implementation, and strengthen intersectoral integration, including continuous evaluation/tracking outcomes/impacts rather than output of our programming.
- The intentional inclusion of people with disabilities in our activities has aided in identifying concerns and risks associated with them, as well as proposing solutions.
- The involvement of community volunteers in carrying out community-based activities allows for timely intervention, and when communities are inaccessible, the Protection Action Group carries out activities in the team's absence.

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