

CONCERN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

(COWACDI)

Annual Report

Empowering communities,
restoring dignity, and building a
just world for all.



2025



ABBREVIATIONS

AAP – Accountability to Affected Population
 CFM – Complaint and Feedback mechanism
 CHC – Community Health Care
 CNM – Community Nutrition Mobilizers
 COWACDI – Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation
 FGD – Focus Group Discussion
 FLW –Field Level Worker
 GBV – Gender-Based Violence
 HLP – Housing Land and Property
 HR – Human Resource
 IDPs – Internally Displaced Persons
 INGO's – International non-Governmental Organizations
 IYCF – Infant and Young Child Feeding
 LGAs – Local Government Areas
 MAM – Moderate Acute Nutrition
 MEAL – Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
 MIYCN – Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition
 MMC – Maiduguri Metropolitan Council
 MUAC – Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
 NFI – Non-Food Items
 ORS – Oral Rehydration Salts
 OTP – Outpatient Therapeutic Program
 PHC – Primary Health Care
 PMC – Project Management Committee
 PSEA – Prevention Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
 PSS – Psycho-Social Support
 PWD – People with Disability
 SAM – Severe Acute Malnutrition
 SBCC – Social and Behavioral Change Communication
 SEMA – State Emergency Management Agency
 SGBV –Sexual Gender-Based Violence
 SNF – Specialized Nutrition Food
 TSFP – Target Supplementary Feeding Programme
 WASH – Water Sanitation and Hygiene



About COWACDI

The Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI) is a women-led, non-governmental, and non-profit organization committed to advancing peace, protection, and sustainable development in vulnerable communities. Founded on the principles of dignity, inclusion, and resilience, COWACDI works to create an environment where every person, especially women, children, and youth, can thrive free from violence, discrimination, and neglect.

Driven by its vision of “a just world in which every vulnerable person attains protection and development,” and its mission “to mitigate the impact of suffering of the vulnerable and protect their rights and dignity through the provision of developmental and protection programs,” COWACDI continues to demonstrate leadership in community transformation.

Through integrated programming in gender-based violence, peacebuilding, General protection, livelihoods, Housing, land, and property, and Non-food Items. The organization builds local capacity, strengthens social cohesion, and supports sustainable recovery efforts.

COWACDI’s initiatives are designed to promote self-reliance, amplify local voices, and ensure that communities take ownership of their own development pathways.

Guided by its Humanitarian core values of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, and accountability. COWACDI collaborates with government institutions, Local and international partners, and community stakeholders to deliver impactful, evidence-based interventions.

With an unwavering commitment to excellence and compassion, COWACDI remains at the forefront of community-driven change, shaping a future where protection, peace, and progress are realities for all.



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VISION

A just world in which every vulnerable person attains protection and development.



MISSION

To mitigate the impact of suffering of the vulnerable, furthermore, protect their rights and dignity through the provision of humanitarian and developmental programs.

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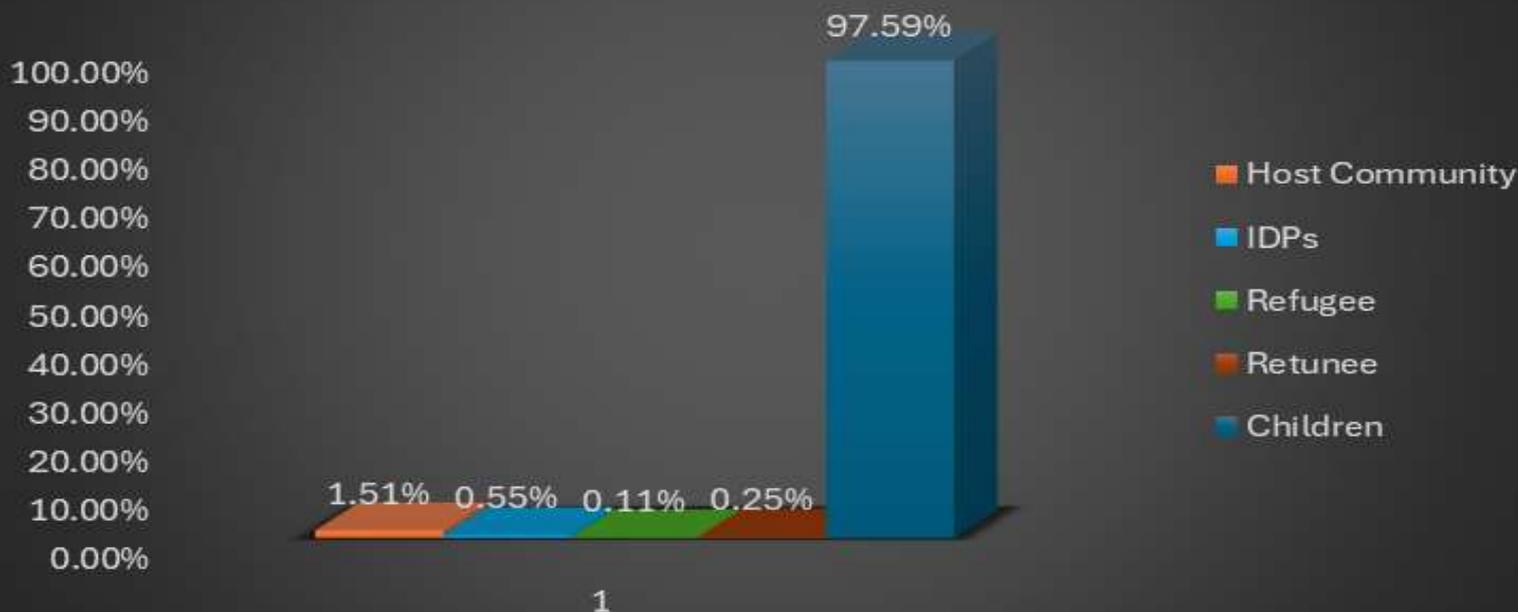


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COWACDI
CONCERN FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN
DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



Summary of Achievements for 2025



COWACDI's Commitment in 2025: Strengthening Lives, Expanding Impact

The 2025 achievement summary highlights COWACDI's strong commitment to delivering protection-centered and gender-transformative interventions across vulnerable communities. As illustrated in the chart, children represent **97.59%** of all individuals reached, reaffirming the organization's priority to safeguard those **most at risk**. Engagement with host community members, IDPs, refugees, and returnees further demonstrates COWACDI's inclusive, rights-based approach to humanitarian and development support.

Throughout the year, COWACDI strengthened community resilience by promoting gender equality, survivor-centered protection practices, and inclusive participation across all programs. The organization continued to create safe spaces for women, girls, and other vulnerable groups; fostered accountability to affected populations; and integrated gender-sensitive approaches into all thematic areas.

These achievements reflect COWACDI's unwavering dedication to building a just, peaceful, and dignified future—where every individual, regardless of status or gender, has the opportunity to thrive and contribute meaningfully to community development.



End-of-Year Remark by the Chairperson, Board of Trustees

As we draw the curtain on another transformative year, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for the incredible journey of the Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI). This year, more than ever before, has reaffirmed our shared belief that when compassion is paired with commitment, sustainable change becomes not just possible, but inevitable.

At COWACDI, our mission has always been clear—to build a Nigeria where women and children are protected, empowered, and given the opportunity to thrive. The year 2025 has shown that our mission is not only achievable but also gaining new momentum. Despite the challenging humanitarian landscape in which we operate, we have continued to break barriers, innovate, and bring hope to communities that have long been marginalized.

Among our most remarkable milestones this year was the successful launch of our Health and Gender Programs, which have reached over **10,000 beneficiaries** across different regions of Nigeria. These initiatives have provided access to essential healthcare services, psychosocial support, and gender empowerment programs, reinforcing our belief that empowerment is the foundation of resilience. Each beneficiary represents not just a number, but a story of renewed dignity and restored hope. We also made significant strides in strategic partnerships, welcoming collaborations with respected international partners.

These partnerships are a powerful reflection of the trust and confidence that the global development community places in COWACDI. Together, we are expanding our reach, enhancing our technical capacity, and amplifying our impact in ways that will continue to resonate for years to come.

As Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our Country Director, management team, and staff for their dedication and professionalism. Your work, often in difficult and unpredictable conditions, has demonstrated what it means to serve with integrity, courage, and compassion. The Board is immensely proud of your achievements and remains steadfast in its commitment to providing the guidance and oversight that will sustain COWACDI's growth and effectiveness.

We are also deeply grateful to our partners, donors, and friends whose trust and collaboration have been instrumental in driving our success. Your belief in our mission has empowered us to reach the most vulnerable, advocate for gender justice, and deliver life-changing interventions. Together, we are proving that collective responsibility is the cornerstone of lasting social change.

This year has not been without its challenges. The humanitarian context in Nigeria continues to evolve, marked by security concerns, economic uncertainty, growing social disparities, and funding constraints. Yet, through these trials, COWACDI has shown remarkable adaptability and resilience. Every challenge has strengthened our resolve to innovate, to advocate, and to lead with purpose.

As we prepare to embark on a new year, the Board's vision for COWACDI is both ambitious and inspiring. We will continue to build a stronger, more dynamic organization, one that prioritizes learning, accountability, and sustainability. We aim to deepen our impact through data-driven programming, expand our partnerships across borders, and strengthen the voices of women and children in decision-making spaces.

To all members of the COWACDI family—our staff, partners, volunteers, and beneficiaries, thank you for being part of this extraordinary journey. The progress we celebrate today belongs to all of you. Let us enter the coming year with renewed passion, unity, and optimism, ready to transform even more lives and communities.

Together, we can build a future where every woman, man, and child can dream, grow, and lead. May 2026 bring us greater collaboration, deeper compassion, and continued success in advancing the mission we all hold dear.

Thank you, and congratulations to everyone for a truly remarkable year.

Lami Idris

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI)



End-of-Year Remark by the Country Director



As we come to the close of another impactful year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the progress we have achieved together at the Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI). The past year has been one of transformation, growth, and renewed commitment to our mission of improving lives through humanitarian and developmental interventions across Nigeria.

Our work this year has reaffirmed that collective action, anchored on compassion and professionalism, remains the most powerful force in driving sustainable change. Despite the complex humanitarian challenges facing our country—from displacement and food insecurity to health crises and gender-based inequalities—our team has remained resolute and innovative in delivering life-changing support to those who need it most.

One of our most notable achievements this year has been the successful launch of our **Health and Gender Programs**, designed to strengthen access to quality healthcare and promote gender equality across affected communities. Through these initiatives, we reached over **10,000 beneficiaries**, providing essential health services, psychosocial support, and gender empowerment training. These programs not only addressed immediate needs but also built resilience and long-term capacity among women, children, and vulnerable groups.

This year also marked a period of strategic partnerships and collaboration. We are proud to have forged new alliances with esteemed organizations, including the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **GIZ**, **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)**, and **Dimagi International**. These partnerships have expanded our operational capacity, enhanced our technical expertise, and strengthened our credibility within the humanitarian and development ecosystem. Working alongside these partners, we have been able to integrate innovative approaches, improve data-driven programming, and scale up our interventions for greater impact.

Our achievements would not have been possible without the dedication and professionalism of our exceptional staff and volunteers. Throughout the year, our teams have demonstrated resilience in the face of insecurity, logistical constraints, and resource limitations. Their unwavering commitment to the values of empathy, integrity, and accountability has been the driving force behind every success story we share today. To each member of the COWACDI family, I extend my deepest appreciation for your hard work, courage, and passion for service. Equally, I express profound gratitude to our BOT, donors, partners, and stakeholders who have trusted and supported our vision. Your faith in our capacity has enabled us to continue reaching marginalized populations and advocating for a more inclusive and equitable society. Together, we have shown that sustainable change requires partnership, perseverance, and shared purpose.

While we celebrate our milestones, we also recognize the challenges that have shaped our journey. The operational environment in Nigeria remains complex, with persistent humanitarian needs and emerging socio-economic pressures. However, these challenges have strengthened our resolve to innovate, adapt, and advocate for policies that prioritize human dignity and resilience. They have also reminded us of the importance of local ownership, community participation, and continuous learning in driving lasting impact.

As we look forward to a new year, our focus will remain on deepening our impact through evidence-based programming, stronger partnerships, and strategic advocacy. We will continue to prioritize the empowerment of women and children, expand our health and protection initiatives, and contribute to national and global efforts toward sustainable development. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability that define COWACDI's work.

The coming year presents both challenges and opportunities. We are determined to build on our achievements, enhance our organizational systems, and foster innovation in all aspects of our operations. With the continued support of our partners, government institutions, and the communities we serve, we are confident that we can reach even greater heights in advancing our shared goal of a just, safe, and prosperous society.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who has been part of our journey: our staff, partners, donors, and beneficiaries. Your collective efforts have made 2025 a year of hope, resilience, and measurable progress. As we enter a new chapter, let us remain united in purpose and steadfast in our mission to uplift lives, restore dignity, and build a future where every woman and child in Nigeria can thrive. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to another year of meaningful impact and collaboration.

Dauda Balami

Country Director

Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI)



Head of Programs

As we close the year 2025, I reflect with pride on our collective journey at COWACDI. Despite facing several challenges and funding constraints, we remained committed to empowering **vulnerable populations**, especially women and children, across Northeast Nigeria. Through strong partnerships with **CAID, UNDP, NRC, Dimagi, NHF**, and others, we delivered impactful programs in gender equity and social inclusion, Nutrition and Health, protection, WASH, livelihoods, peacebuilding and social cohesion, and community resilience.

One of our key achievements was the launch of the **Gender-Transformative TVET** initiative under the NRC partnership, which equipped women and youth with green economy skills and sustainable livelihood pathways. Also, the regional peacebuilding activities with **ACI** in Cameroon with **UNDP, LCBC and PBF**. Our protection services have reached hundreds of survivors of violence, offering psychosocial support and case management.

Internally, we strengthened our systems, improved program quality, and enhanced staff capacity, solidifying our role as a credible local humanitarian partner. I commend every team member, from field staff in remote LGAs to our support teams, for their unwavering dedication and professionalism.

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus will be on sustainability and consolidation: deepening community ownership, expanding programs to new LGAs, enhancing monitoring and evaluation systems, and fostering partnerships that promote localization and institutional growth. Together, we will continue to deliver hope and restore dignity to the communities we serve.



Jummai Risku Zawaya

Head of Programs

Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI)



Operations/Partnership Manager

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The year 2025 marked a period of significant progress and consolidation within the Operations and Partnership Unit of COWACDI. Throughout the year, I provided strategic leadership in strengthening operational systems, ensuring compliance with organizational and donor requirements, and fostering efficiency across all departments.

In partnership management, I led efforts to deepen collaboration with key stakeholders, including government agencies, donor partners, and peer organizations. These partnerships enhanced program implementation, improved coordination in target communities, and expanded COWACDI's visibility and credibility within the humanitarian and development sector.

Operationally, I oversaw procurement, logistics, and administrative processes, ensuring transparency, accountability, and value for money. I also supported program teams with operational guidance, contributing to the timely and quality delivery of project activities. Emphasis was placed on staff capacity building, internal communication, and adherence to organizational policies and standards.

Despite challenges related to funding constraints and access limitations in some project locations, the Operations and Partnership Unit maintained stability through proactive planning, adaptive management, and strong stakeholder engagement. As the year concludes, the focus remains on sustaining operational excellence, enhancing partnerships, and strengthening institutional systems for greater impact in 2026.



Nathan Maina

Operations/Partnership Manager

Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI)



Human Resources and Administration

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At COWACDI, the Human Resources and Administration Unit stands at the heart of our organizational excellence, ensuring that our people, systems, and structures are fully aligned with the core mandate of the organization. In 2025, the HR/Admin Unit successfully achieved major milestones, including the onboarding and capacity development of new Field Level Workers (FLWs), compliance with safeguarding and PSEA standards, introduced automated timesheet and working on our manual. Guided by our Mission “To mitigate the impact of the suffering of the vulnerable, furthermore, protect their right and dignity through the provision of humanitarian and developmental programmes” and our Vision “A Just World in which every vulnerable person attains protection and development,” we remain deeply committed to cultivating a workforce that is ethical, empowered, and driven to deliver impactful humanitarian outcomes. Our role in the HR/Admin Unit is not limited to recruitment and administration. It is strategic, humanitarian-centered, and transformative. We ensure that every individual working with COWACDI demonstrates a high level of professionalism, accountability, and compassion toward those we serve.

We uphold a transparent, merit-based recruitment process that promotes diversity, gender inclusion, equal opportunity, and local talent development. This approach reinforces our localization agenda and ensures long-term sustainability within the communities we support.

We are dedicated to fostering a safe, respectful, and supportive working environment. Our department strictly enforces safeguarding policies, including Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Child Safeguarding, and Code of Conduct compliance. As custodians of staff welfare and organizational ethics, we ensure a zero-tolerance approach to misconduct while promoting a culture of integrity, transparency, justice, and accountability.

To enhance institutional capacity, we prioritize continuous staff development through structured training programs, mentorship initiatives, and performance management systems. These efforts empower our workforce with the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to respond effectively in complex humanitarian contexts. We recognize that investing in our people is fundamental to fulfilling our mission and realizing our vision. The HR/Admin Unit ensures sustainable efficiency and high standards of organizational governance.

From an administrative perspective, we provide efficient systems and structures that enable operational effectiveness. We oversee compliance with regulatory requirements, logistics coordination, resource management, and workplace safety to support seamless program implementation through innovation and policy optimization.

"In 2026, we aim to build on these gains by advancing full HR automation, Strengthen administrative systems to support expansion into new states or thematic sectors especially female professionals, strengthening staff welfare frameworks, and establishing COWACDI as a model humanitarian employer committed to excellence and accountability."

"At COWACDI, we believe that humanitarian impact begins with investing in people. Our commitment is to uphold integrity, promote excellence, and empower every member of our workforce to be an agent of change. The HR/Admin Unit will continue to lead with accountability and compassion as we collectively advance our mission and vision of a just and protected world for all vulnerable populations."

Abigail Daniel

Human Resources and Administration

Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI)



Staff Capacity Building

Throughout 2025, COWACDI strengthened staff capacity across multiple thematic areas to enhance organizational effectiveness, accountability, and program quality. A series of targeted trainings were conducted to equip staff with the technical and ethical competencies required to deliver impactful services to the communities we serve.

Proposal Writing Training

COWACDI held a Proposal Writing Training to enhance staff skills in developing high-quality and evidence-based project proposals. Facilitated by Country Director and technical experts, the training covered proposal structuring, needs assessment, budgeting, risk management, sustainability planning, and value-for-money principles. Staff gained practical experience through interactive sessions and exercises, improving their ability to design strong and competitive proposals.

Strategic Plan & Objectives Setting (2025–2026)

To foster organizational alignment, COWACDI conducted a Strategic Plan and Objectives Setting workshop. The session focused on clarifying strategic goals, operational priorities, and individual roles within the organization's long-term vision. Through scenario-based exercises and group discussions, staff strengthened their understanding of strategic planning, collaboration, and accountability.

Gender and Protection Mainstreaming Training

As part of its commitment to advancing gender equality and protection principles, COWACDI organized a comprehensive Gender and Protection Mainstreaming training for staff. The training deepened staff understanding of gender-sensitive programming, protection risk analysis, and inclusive approaches to project implementation.



fig 1. COWACDI's gender specialist facilitating protection mainstreaming training to COWACDI's staff.
Photo credit: Haruna Muhammad



Participants explored key concepts including protection mainstreaming, accountability, gender equality versus equity, and gender stereotypes. Practical exercises and scenarios enhanced their ability to identify, mitigate, and respond to protection risks in line with humanitarian standards.

This initiative reflects COWACDI's dedication to integrating gender and protection considerations across all interventions, ensuring that vulnerable groups—especially women and children—are supported with dignity, respect, and equality.

Finance Capacity Building

COWACDI continued to strengthen staff competence in financial management through a dedicated finance training session. The training covered supporting documentation, internal controls, compliance, budgeting processes, and the use of Excel for accurate financial reporting. Staff improved their skills in transparency, accountability, and proper financial recordkeeping, reinforcing adherence to organizational and donor financial standards.

PSEA Awareness Training

To uphold the highest standards of safeguarding, COWACDI conducted a PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) training. Staff were sensitized on recognizing exploitation, understanding power dynamics, and following safe and confidential reporting pathways. The session reinforced COWACDI's zero-tolerance policy and strengthened staff commitment to dignity, professionalism, and ethical conduct in all interactions with beneficiaries.

These capacity-building initiatives reflect COWACDI's firm commitment to cultivating a skilled, ethical, and accountable workforce capable of driving sustainable impact across all programs.



fig 2. COWACDI personnel are receiving practical training to improve service delivery.
Photo credit: Haruna Muhammad



Peace-Building

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1. Executive summary

From April to September 2025, COWACDI, with support from UNDP, LCBC, and the Peacebuilding Fund, implemented community-based peacebuilding activities in Bama LGA.

The project promoted social cohesion, economic empowerment, and gender inclusion through advocacy, dialogue facilitation, and skills acquisition.

Key Achievements:

- Conducted advocacy dialogues with government and security agencies to address local conflicts.
- Facilitated peace agreement signing between host communities, refugees, and youth clashed.
- Trained and graduated 40 vulnerable women in livelihood skills (Vaseline, perfume, soap, and shampoo production) and provided them with cash assistance to start businesses and sustain peace.
- Strengthened local peace structures and enhanced women's and youth participation in decision-making.

The project successfully improved cooperation, reduced tension, and fostered resilience across diverse groups.

2. Situation Background

Bama LGA continues to recover from years of insurgency that caused displacement and strained relations among host communities, refugees, and IDPs. COWACDI's interventions, in partnership with UNDP and LCBC, focused on dialogue, capacity building, and livelihood empowerment to rebuild trust and promote peaceful coexistence.

3. Project Objectives and Strategy

Overall Objective:

To strengthen local peacebuilding mechanisms and empower women and youth for inclusive community development.

Specific Objectives:

- Enhance peaceful coexistence through dialogue and advocacy.
- Empower women and youth with livelihood skills for self-reliance.
- Strengthen collaboration between the government and communities.

Strategy:

COWACDI adopted a participatory and gender-responsive approach, engaging key stakeholders, government institutions, CSOs, and traditional leaders to ensure sustainability.

4. Results and Achievements

The peacebuilding initiative achieved significant results across gender inclusion, empowerment, and conflict resolution. A total of 170 participants benefited from the interventions: 104 women and 66 men.

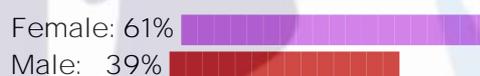


fig 3. Community members from refugee and host populations sign a peace accord in Bama LGA, supported by COWACDI and UNDP.

Photo credit: Haruna Muhamma



Case Study: Refugees vs. Host Community Conflict Resolution – Bama LGA

The Refugees vs. Host Community Conflict was one of the most pressing tensions in Bama LGA, primarily driven by competition over scarce resources, access to farmland, and livelihood opportunities. Through COWACDI's Peacebuilding and Dialogue Initiative, supported by UNDP, LCBC, and the Peacebuilding Fund, both groups participated in multiple engagement sessions and an eventual Peace Agreement Signing Ceremony.

A platform to monitor and sustain peaceful coexistence.

- Security actors and government officials pledged to provide continuous support and early warning mechanisms to prevent future tensions.

Impact:

The initiative significantly improved social cohesion, reduced resource-based violence, and empowered both refugee and host community members to collaboratively rebuild their livelihoods. It has become a model for community-led conflict transformation in the region.

Case Study: Youth Football Conflict in Bama LGA

Conflict Description:

Disputes between youth groups (Liverpool FC vs. Kasugula United) escalated over local football rivalry, leading to community division and tension among the youth.

Through peace dialogue and sports diplomacy under the Peacebuilding Project, COWACDI organized peace forums and later a friendly football match to promote unity and reconciliation.

Result:

Youth representatives agreed to live in peace and established a joint sports committee to sustain collaboration.



fig 4. Liverpool FC coach praises Bama/Kasugula peace via COWACDI.

photo credit: Haruna Muhammad



Fig 5. Peace match between Liverpool FC and Kasugula United.

Women's Conflict (Cap making rivalry)

Conflict Description:

Economic rivalry among women groups (Women Update Group vs. Women 7 City Group) caused tension, limiting collaboration in community business (cap making and selling) and decision-making. COWACDI organized women-led dialogue and peace forums focusing on cooperation in small business ventures and leadership inclusion.

Result:

Women agreed on joint procurement and co-selling caps models, building trust and shared economic growth to sustain peace in Bama.

Cultural Conflict (Kanuri tribe and Mafa tribe)

Conflict Description:

Cultural misunderstandings between displaced persons of Mafa and host communities of Bama (Kanuri) over marriage customs and leadership roles led to discrimination and social tension.



COWACDI conducted community sensitization and cultural exchange sessions with traditional leaders and youth representatives to promote mutual respect and understanding.

Result:

Community representatives signed a peace agreement and established collaboration, fostering unity and tolerance.



Fig. 6. Signing of the peace agreement between the Maffa and Kanuri tribes.
photo credit: Haruna Muhammad

Skills Acquisition Program, Empowering Women for Peace and Livelihood Sustainability

The Skills Acquisition Program was designed to equip 40 vulnerable women, including refugees, host community members, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), with practical livelihood skills aimed at promoting economic resilience and social cohesion in Bama Local Government Area (LGA), Borno State.

The training focused on four key product lines:

- Liquid Soap Production
- Shampoo Making
- Vaseline Jelly Production
- Perfume Creation



Objective of the Program

The primary objective was to build the self-reliance of vulnerable women through sustainable livelihood opportunities while fostering peaceful coexistence and community recovery after conflict. By empowering women economically, the project contributes to increased empowerment and social inclusion for women and youth in the Lake Chad region.



Fig. 7. Participant training during Shampoo formation.
Photo credit: Solomon Tiyaku

Implementation Process

The program began with an orientation workshop, where participants were introduced to protection principles, training expectations, and the importance of peacebuilding through economic engagement. Practical sessions were facilitated by skilled trainers, emphasizing hands-on learning, product packaging, and basic marketing techniques.



Fig. 8. Participant training during Vaseline formation.
Photo credit: Solomon Tiyaku.

COWACDI, with support from UNDP, Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and LCBC, provided start-up in-kind support to help participants launch small-scale businesses after training.



Fig 8. Participants displayed the shampoo and liquid soap products to COWACDI's CD and the elders of Bama LGA. photo credit: Haruna Muhammad

Impact

The program fostered unity among women previously divided by displacement and economic hardship. Through group production and cooperative marketing, women from different backgrounds now collaborate, symbolizing a model for peace through economic empowerment.



Fig 9. Participants displayed the perfume and vaseline jelly products to COWACDI's CD and the elders of Bama LGA. photo credit: Haruna Muhammad

5. Sustainability

COWACDI ensured sustainability by building community peace structures (peace platform committee), strengthening partnerships, and promoting local ownership of peacebuilding outcomes.

Through continued engagement with local government, CSOs, and security agencies, communities are now equipped to resolve disputes peacefully and maintain stability.

The skills acquisition program provided women with long-term livelihood opportunities, reducing economic vulnerability and dependence.

These actions collectively ensure that peace and progress achieved in Bama remain community-driven and lasting.

6. Lessons Learned

- Continuous engagement with stakeholders strengthens ownership.
- Integrating empowerment with peacebuilding sustains community stability.
- Gender mainstreaming promotes inclusivity and resilience.

7. Conclusion

The peacebuilding project implemented by COWACDI, with support from UNDP, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), has made a remarkable contribution to social cohesion, gender inclusion, and local development in Bama LGA.

Through advocacy, community dialogue, women's empowerment, and youth engagement, the project successfully reduced tensions and strengthened relationships among refugees, IDPs, and host communities.

COWACDI's continuous presence and collaboration with local actors ensure that these gains are not temporary but form the foundation for sustained peace and resilience in the region.



NUTRITION

Child Health Campaign in Bolori 1

This chapter presents an overview of the Child Health Campaign (CHC) conducted in Bolori 1 Ward. Implemented by COWACDI, dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children in Bolori, Maisandari ward of MMC, Borno state, North-East Nigeria. The campaign took place in Maiduguri from May to October 2025. The CHC focused on improving child survival through key interventions, including the administration of Vitamin A supplements, distribution of ORS/Zinc co-packs, and MUAC screenings to identify and refer malnourished children for proper care. Data collection was carried out using the CommCare CHC App, enabling real-time reporting and ensuring accountability throughout the campaign.

Brief Project Description

As part of COWACDI's ongoing Child Health Campaign in Maiduguri, Borno State, COWACDI's frontline workers (FLWs) have been conducting house-to-house visits, community outreach, and malnutrition screening to improve child health outcomes with a target of 50,000 in Borno State. The campaign provides Vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6–59 months, distributes ORS/Zinc co-packs to caregivers, and screens for malnutrition using MUAC, with referrals for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases to primary healthcare centers.



Fig 10. FLW during house to house screening for MAM and SAM



Fig 11. Administer of ORS/Zinc co-packs to caregivers by COWACDI staff



Training of Frontline Workers (FLWs)

A two-day intensive training was held from 29th–30th April 2025 at Amada Hotel Annex, Maiduguri. The training equipped 50 FLWs with practical knowledge on Vitamin A administration, distribution of ORS/Zinc co-packs, MUAC measurement and referral pathways, protection mainstreaming, and data entry using the CommCare CHC app. The sessions incorporated demonstrations, group exercises, and simulations, ensuring field teams were well-prepared for implementation



Fig 12. The Country Director is explaining the CommCare app during the induction and training of FLW.
photo credit: Haruna Muhammad



Fig 13. The government partner welcomes the FLWs during the induction and training.
photo credit: Haruna Muhammad

Community Entry and Engagement

On 15th April 2025, the COWACDI Nutrition Team held a community entry meeting in Bolori 1 with key stakeholders, including four community representatives and one traditional leader. The meeting introduced CHC objectives, emphasized community participation, and ensured stakeholder

collaboration. An advocacy visit to Mala Kachalla PHC was conducted on 14th March 2025, engaging the facility in-charge, Hajiya Zarah Ma'aji, on collaboration and referral pathways for SAM and MAM cases.



Fig 14. COWACDI Nutrition Officer during the Community Entrance at Bolori 1 with the community leader.
photo credit: Joel Jushua

Implementation Overview (May–October 2025)

COWACDI's Frontline Workers conducted a house-to-house Child Health Campaign in Bolori 1 Ward, reaching 50,014 children aged 0–59 months. Activities included administration of Vitamin A supplements, distribution of ORS/Zinc co-packs, and MUAC screening to detect malnutrition early. A total of 253 MAM and 207 SAM cases were identified and referred to Sulumri PHC for further management



Fig 15. COWACDI CD during monitoring visit Bolori 1.
photo credit: Joel Jushua



Methodology

The campaign adopted a door-to-door strategy to ensure comprehensive coverage. Methodologies included MUAC screening, ORS/Zinc administration with caregiver education, Vitamin A supplementation for children aged 6–59 months, and real-time data entry using the CommCare App.

Referred SAM cases were followed up through coordination with Mala Kachalla PHC to ensure

Affected Persons						
Unit of Measurement:						
Age Group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0-5	25000	499%	25014	501%	100	%
15-69						
70+						
Total	25000		25014		100	%
Planned	25000		25000		100	%
Variance	0		14		100	%

Result
S

Green	Yellow	Red	Total
49,554	253	207	50,014

Challenges

- Limited access to some delivery units inside military barracks, warehouses, graveyards, and secured compounds.
- CommCare App lockouts occasionally hindered FLWs from submitting reports.
- Data synchronization delays due to weak network connectivity.

Recommendations

- Strengthen coordination with local authorities and military units to gain access to restricted areas.
- Introduce offline data collection options to reduce CommCare disruptions.
- Conduct refresher training for FLWs on adaptive outreach strategies.
- Establish mobile outreach points for inaccessible areas.

Lessons Learned

- Community collaboration is essential for achieving coverage and acceptance.
- Early identification and referral of malnutrition cases improve outcomes.
- Technical support and refresher training help overcome digital reporting challenges.
- Technical support and refresher training help overcome digital reporting challenges.



NFI

COWACDI implemented a self-funded distribution of essential Non-Food Items (NFI) and ORS supplements to vulnerable individuals in Mulai Kura, Gwazari, and Jiddari communities of Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC). The intervention aimed to provide immediate relief and strengthen household wellbeing.

Beneficiaries Reached

A total of 250 individuals were supported, including:

- 180 women
- 70 men

Items Distributed

- Basic NFI items (such as clothes, kitchen utensils)
- ORS supplements to reduce health risks related to dehydration and illness.

Implementation Summary

- Beneficiary identification was done with support from community leaders.
- Priority was given to women, elderly persons, and individuals with high vulnerability.
- Distribution took place across Mulai Kura, Gwazari, and Jiddari community points.



Fig 16. COWACDI distributing NFI items and ORS supplement to the Vulnerable community in MMC, Borno state.
photo credit: Joel Joshua

GENDER

Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, responsibilities, and attributes that a society considers appropriate for women, men, girls, and boys. Unlike sex, which is biologically determined, gender is shaped by social, cultural, economic, and political contexts and can vary across communities and change over time.

Historically, gender norms have influenced how individuals participate in social, economic, and political life, often resulting in unequal access to opportunities, resources, and decision-making power. These inequalities have been reinforced through cultural practices, institutional systems, and policies that favor one gender typically men over others.

Globally and in Nigeria, women and girls continue to face significant gender-based barriers, including limited access to education, health care, economic resources, and leadership positions. Gender inequality also manifests through practices such as gender-based violence (GBV), early marriage, and discriminatory labor practices, which undermine social, and economic development.

Recognizing gender as a key dimension of social justice, many organizations and governments have integrated gender equality into their programs and policies. Gender mainstreaming ensuring that both women's and men's concerns are considered in all stages of policy and program development has become a core strategy for promoting equality and inclusion.

Achieving gender equality is essential for sustainable development, peacebuilding, and human rights. It empowers individuals to realize their full potential, contributes to more resilient communities, and promotes equitable participation in decision-making processes that shape societies.

Target Area & Beneficiaries:

The target areas are Shuwari Bayan Bakassi host community and Dala yajiwa host community, Maisandari ward, MMC LGA and Mashamari Host Community and Galtimari fori Mashamari ward, JERE LGA of Borno State. These locations comprised of displaced persons from various LGAs including Bama, Konduga, Damboa, Gwoza, Kaga, Mafa, Gamboru, Ngala, and Marte respectively. The project is designed for 1200 beneficiaries (780 women, 420 Youth) for sensitization and awareness on Gender, Green Job, Women's empowerment and leaderships, Gender equality, cultural norms, barriers to women employment, transformative approach.

Objectives of the projects

1. Enhance gender awareness and transformation among youth, community leaders, and stakeholders to challenge discriminatory norms and promote equitable participation of women and men in green economic sectors.
2. Increase access to green livelihood opportunities for young women and men through vocational training, mentorship, and entrepreneurship support in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste management.
3. Build the capacity of women and girls to take leadership roles and actively participate in decision-making processes related to environmental sustainability and community development.
4. Engage men and boys as partners and advocates for gender equality and women's economic empowerment, promoting shared responsibilities and positive masculinities within households and communities.

Strengthen institutional and policy support for gender-responsive and inclusive green economy initiatives through advocacy, partnerships, and integration of gender perspectives in local development planning.



6. Promote social inclusion and resilience by ensuring that youth from marginalized, displaced, or conflict-affected communities have equitable access to resources, training, and employment in the green economy.

Purpose of Activities:

The project activities aim to promote gender equality, women's and youth empowerment by increasing awareness, changing harmful norms, and fostering inclusive participation in the green economy.

- Gender awareness sessions build understanding of gender equality and challenge stereotypes.
- Community dialogue sessions encourage open discussions and collective action toward positive gender norms.
- Gender transformative training strengthens the capacity to integrate gender equality into programs and community initiatives.
- Mentorship programs support youth, especially women, to develop leadership and employment skills in the green sector.
- Radio jingles and media campaigns raise public awareness and reinforce positive gender and social behavior change.

Together, these activities drive attitudinal, behavioral, and structural change toward a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable society

ACHIEVED OUTCOME OF COMMUNITY GENDER AWARENESS SENSITIZATION

Community	Host com		IDPs		Returnee		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Mashamari	39	79	1	24	0	17	40	120
Galtimari	16	76	3	37	0	7	19	120
Dala yajiwa	57	37	2	3	0	0	59	40
Bayan Bakassi	19	64	1	85	0	11	20	160



Activities pictures



INTERNATIONAL DAYS

In 2025, the Concern for Women and Children Development Foundation (COWACDI) reaffirmed its commitment to advancing protection, inclusion, and community empowerment by actively commemorating a series of key international days. These observances served as strategic opportunities to raise awareness, strengthen community engagement, and promote critical dialogue on issues affecting women, children, youth, and vulnerable populations. Through these events, COWACDI demonstrated its ongoing dedication to fostering safer, more informed, and resilient communities.

World Humanitarian Day

COWACDI marked World Humanitarian Day by honoring the dedication of frontline workers and reaffirming its commitment to principled, people-centered service delivery. The commemoration highlighted the efforts of staff and volunteers who support vulnerable populations in affected communities.

International Youth Day

To celebrate International Youth Day, COWACDI and NRC engaged young people through interactive sessions, empowerment discussions, and awareness activities aimed at promoting youth leadership, innovation, and positive community impact. The event emphasized the role of young people as drivers of peace, development, and social transformation.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

As part of the global campaign, COWACDI and NRC jointly commemorated the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Activities included a one-day Town Hall Meeting with community stakeholders and relevant government agencies. The event featured cultural performances and a short drama themed “Unite to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls.” These engagements reinforced collective responsibility in ending violence and promoting safer, more inclusive spaces for women and girls.



Fig 17. Discussion with stakeholders at the town hall meeting regarding reporting channels for GBV cases.
photo credit: Haruna Muhammad



Fig 18. Dialogue with community stakeholders regarding harmful norms affecting women.
photo credit: Haruna Muhammad



Appreciation to Our Donor/Partners

COWACDI extends sincere appreciation to our esteemed donors/partners for their unwavering support and collaboration.

Your commitment continues to advance our shared values of protection, dignity, empowerment, and sustainable development for vulnerable individuals and communities.

COWACDI 2025 Annual Report

