

Christian Aid Humanitarian Response in North-East Nigeria

Reaching the Unreached

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Christian Aid

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List of Acronyms

CA	Christian Aid
HH	Household
ICCO	Interchurch organization for development cooperation
IDP	Internally Displaced People
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
JDF	Jireh Doo Foundation
JPRM	Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Movement
NFIs	Non-Food Items
NRC	Nigerian Red Cross
SEMA	State Emergency Management Agency
UK	United Kingdom
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

Executive summary

The Integrated Food Security and WASH Relief Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and host communities in Adamawa and Gombe States Nigeria, was jointly funded by Interchurch organization for development cooperation (ICCO) and Christian Aid (CA). The project which was aimed at providing food, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and non-food items (NFI) to 10,000 IDPs was implemented by Jireh Doo Foundation (JDF) and Justice, Peace and Reconciliation Movement (JPRM) in collaboration with the Nigerian Red Cross (NRC) and State Emergency Management Authority (SEMA) of the project states. Over the 6 month implementation period, 10,040 IDPs in 15 host communities across 7 local government areas (LGAs) received relief items.

“We have had many NGOs that have approached us to register IDPs; none of them ever came back”.

- Executive Secretary Gombe SEMA

Host communities and IDPs assessed had no previous intervention or support from either the government or other NGOs. As part of the humanitarian intervention, Christian Aid/ICCO and its partners distributed food items using the **food basket model**¹. Food items distributed include: rice, maize, beans, vegetable oil, sugar and salt and mixed grains. Non-food items (NFIs) such as water disinfectant (water care) and soaps were distributed to 2118 households. In addition, female IDPs of reproductive age received sanitary pads, 7 clean water points were constructed/ rehabilitated and 5 WASH facilities such as toilets and bathrooms were constructed to promote good health and reduce the rate of illnesses related to poor hygiene. CA and partners adopted the paper voucher and cash for work in the distribution of the food and NFIs.

The project implementation was guided by the humanitarian principles.

Below: Food and non-food items ready at Food Fair for distribution to IDPs in Zangola Community of Adamawa State via paper food voucher



Below: Female IDPs fetching water from a newly constructed borehole by Christian Aid/ICCO and JPRM in Kwakwa community of Adamawa State



Background

The increased activities of Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East have crippled the economy and displaced millions of people from their home towns. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) over 2.1 million people have been displaced internally in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe, Nassarawa States and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The displaced people have been hosted in various communities with shelter provided by host communities. A rapid needs assessment conducted by Christian Aid partners (JDF and JPRM) in the host communities of Gombe and Adamawa states indicated food was the priority need for the IDPs; WASH was the second need identified in the communities. CA and ICCO concerned with alleviating the suffering of some of the unreached IDPs in Gombe and Adamawa state, in consultation with IDPs, host communities and partners designed a 6 month intervention programme to give succour to the unreached IDPs.

Project locations

The project was implemented in 15 communities across 7 LGAs in Adamawa and Gombe State.

In Adamawa State, 6 communities benefitted from the intervention: Guyaku, Tela Bala, Bwalhona, Sabon Gari, Dzangola and Kwakwa

9 communities in Gombe State benefitted from the intervention namely: Ketengereng, Denge, Mundah, Gelengu, Wadachi, Talasse, Agwan Yobe, Agwan Sangaro and Awak

Below: A traditional ruler/ward head showing his support and appreciation for the intervention at the flag-off event in Awak community in Gombe State



Below: This beneficiary received a food basket and WASH NFI at Tela Bala community of Gombi, LGA, Adamawa State



Below: Signpost at the rehabilitated water facility



Project Aim and Objectives

The specific objectives of the intervention were to:

- Improve food availability and access, through food assistance via in-kind/cash and voucher based assistance to vulnerable households (5,000 IDPs and vulnerable families in host communities) for food and nutrition
- Improve the WASH conditions of 10,000 IDPs and members of host communities in the 4 LGAs in Adamawa and Gombe states (2 per state) by 2016.

Project Achievements

- Using the **Food Basket Model**, 10,040 IDPs were reached with food items which include: rice, maize, beans, vegetable oil, sugar and salt. In addition, mixed grains were distributed specially to nursing mothers, parents of malnourished children and elderly people (65years above).
- 10,040 IDPs reached with WASH-NFIs including plastic buckets, water storage, drinking cups, water disinfectant (water care), soaps and toilet papers. In line with gender sensitive programming, sanitary pads were included to the items distributed to females of reproductive age.
- 2118 households assessed and reached with both food and NFIs
- 5679 (3104 male, 2573 female) IDPs and host communities were sensitized on WASH. In addition, there was sensitization on Lassa fever in Gombe State where there was a reported case in the State.
- 2 hand-pump boreholes were constructed in Wadachi, Gombe State and Kwakwa Community in Adamawa.
- 5 dysfunctional boreholes were repaired and are functionally serving the community thereby reducing the long distance walked in search of safe water.
- 6 toilets constructed in Wadachi, and Ashaka geri and Dzangola to reduce the practice of open defecation by IDPs as a result of no facilities. The toilets were constructed with consideration to gender i.e. specific for male and female
- 17 humanitarian actors (4 IDPs, 2 staff each from Gombe and Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), 5 JDF and 4 JPRM staff) trained on better humanitarian response in the North-East using SPHERE Standard and Cash Transfer Programing (CTP).

The toilet constructed within our community will curb open defecation as I usually go into bush to defecate before construction of the toilets. Water was also a huge challenge for my family and me, as we travelled a kilometre for to 2 to 3 times a day to get water. But with the borehole being drilled, it will save their water woes. This will also reduce stress especially for women and children who mostly scout for water”.

Mr. Garba Audu

Below: Mr Garba Audu, from Wadachi community, Balanga LGA, in Gombe State is happy to have toilet facilities and running water close to his home.



The intervention exceeded its expected targets which were to:

- Reach 2,000 households (10,000 people) in Adamawa and Gombe states with emergency WASH
- Reach 5000 with food by May 2016
- Strengthen the capacity of local partners to respond to similar emergency situations effectively if and when the need arises while using both in-kind and cash programming methods.

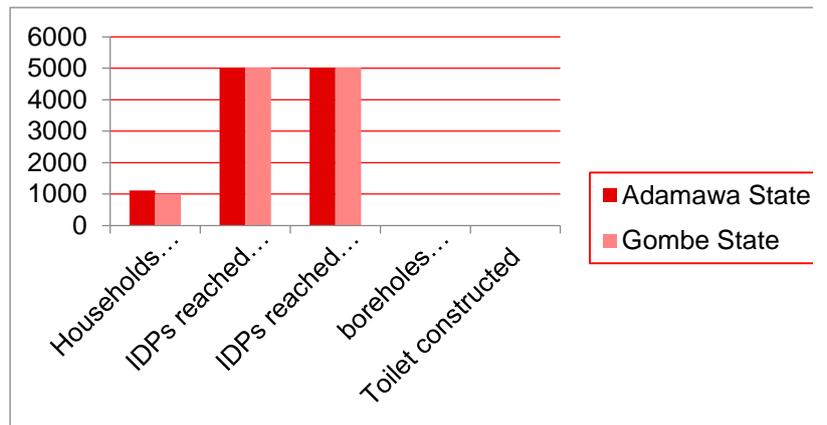


Figure 1: Breakdown of project outcomes

Case Study

Mr Abdullahi Dududu, a husband and father of seven (7) children has stayed within the community for a year and 8 months. He and his family were displaced from Yobe state as a result of the insurgency.

Dududu became a project beneficiary after he was registered by JDF during the needs assessment and profiling. He got food and none food items from JDF during distribution. Dududu said the items received were very useful to him and his family. He said, ***“For 10 days, we did not look for, beg or buy food”***.

Below: Mr Dududu an IDP in Gombe State is happy about the food received from the intervention



He and his family survived on items they were given. He stressed that feeding before the intervention was not easy. On the WASH NFIs provided, Dududu said ***“the buckets are also useful; at least we use them to store water and other natural drinks (Gruel)”***. He was also happy about the toilet constructed and said that he and his family no longer go to the bush anymore to defecate and so would not be bitten by scorpions or snakes in the process. Mr Dududu expressed gratitude for the intervention which he said has improved his life. He acknowledged that the intervention has paved the way for other organizations like Red Cross to come to their aid.

Intervention Process

IDP Profiling and Needs Assessment

A rapid needs assessment was conducted by JDF and JPRM staff in Gombe and Adamawa States respectively and 2118 IDP House Holds were assessed. HH assessment and IDP profiling tools were developed and adopted during the assessment. Focus Group discussions, key informant interviews and observations were used as key methodologies during assessment and profiling. At the end of the assessment, food emerged as the highest need of IDPs; WASH conditions were also discovered to be very poor.

Distribution of Relief Items

To fast-track the distribution process, vouchers were pre-distributed to IDPs a day before the distribution of items. Items to be received and quantity to be received were clearly stated on each voucher. For gender sensitive programming, nursing mothers and pregnant women were attended to before other IDPs.

WASH Sensitizations

1179 IDPs were sensitized on the importance of: good hygiene, environmental sanitation, hand washing and proper water and food storage. Practical demonstrations and information, education and communication (IEC) materials (in Hausa Language) were used to pass information relevant in reducing the high rate of hygiene related illness such as cholera and diarrhoea which were recorded as prevalent during the assessment.

Case Study

Saratu Ali a female IDP and mother of eight (8) children who has been displaced for 2 years lives in Wadachi community of Balanga local government area. Saratu received both food and other WASH materials during the humanitarian intervention in the host community.

Below: Saratu Ali no longer has to buy water daily because of the borehole rehabilitated by CA/ICCO and JDF in Wadachi community in Gombe State.



When asked how impactful the project had been to her, she said ***“the borehole is more of benefit to me than every other thing; in a day, I buy water N20 per 25 liters (3-4 jerry cans). My children do fetch water from the borehole which is a kilometer from the community”***. She also mentioned the importance of the toilet constructed and said she would no longer go to the bush to defecate.

Although Saratu declared the constructed borehole was of more benefit to her, she was quick to mention that the food items were also important to her and her children as before the intervention, they both depended on the host community and neighbours to survive. The supply of food items provided relief for her as her children no longer had to sleep hungry as they used to.

Recommendations and Learning

The intervention was a learning opportunity for Christian Aid (UK) Nigeria and ICCO as well as the two local partners (JPRM and JDF), the Nigerian Red Cross (NRC) and the State Emergency Management Authority (SEMA) in Adamawa and Gombe. It provided an opportunity for capacity building in various areas. Several lessons were drawn by all involved stakeholders during the period of implementation; some of the recommendations and learning from the project are listed below:

- The use of vouchers for the distribution of items is a good option as it reduces the level of cheating and doubles redemption of relief items. The voucher security curbed the chances of IDPs collecting items twice.
- Involvement of IDPs in the start-up/planning meeting of the project was strategic as the IDPs present were able to support in mobilization and organization of other IDPs. This made the entire registration and distribution process a lot easier.
- Service areas should be expanded to cover other NFIs like cooking utensils and health service provision which were identified as high need during assessment.
- In planning for humanitarian response, unconditional and conditional cash transfer should be considered to aid displaced persons regaining their means of livelihood.
- The presence of security personnel is highly recommended during distribution to forestall crisis especially from host community members who will want to force their way to receive support.
- The provision of markets within reach of communities hosting IDPs should be considered by state and local governments. This will facilitate project success as IDPs will not have to travel far distance to redeem their vouchers or buy other items needed for consumption.
- Peace and security (early warning and early response) training is needed in these areas. Such training will enlighten community members and IDPs on how to resolve issues via dialogue.
- There is need for trauma healing therapy as most of the community members especially children are still traumatized from the insurgency activities.

Below: Construction of WASH facility in Dzangola community, Adamawa State



Below: Completed of WASH facility in Dzangola community, Adamawa State



End Notes

¹ Food Basket Model: This is an all-in-one food assistance package which includes: energy, protein, fat/oil, mineral and vitamins