

Christian Aid Nigeria Humanitarian Action

Making a difference in 45 days



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List of Acronyms

CA	Christian Aid
CLTS	Community Led Total Sanitation
HH	Household
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
LGA	Local Government Area
JDF	Jireh Doo Foundation
JDPC Jos	Justice, Development and Peace Commission Jos
LLIN	Long Lasting Insecticide Nets
NFI	Non-food items
OCAG	Ohonyeta Care Givers
PWD	People with Disabilities
SEMA	State Emergency Management Agency
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Executive Summary

With the aim of improving the living conditions of the internally displaced persons in the North Central region of Nigeria, Christian Aid embarked on its second humanitarian intervention in the country. Offering lifesaving relief materials, the project was implemented in Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau states by Christian Aid's partners Jireh Doo Foundation (JDF), Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) Jos and Ohonyeta Care Givers (OCAG).

Located in the North Central region of the country, the three states are dominated by farmers and cattle herdsman. The conflict over land by both groups has contributed significantly to the occurrence of crisis in the region. Added to this, there has been a consistent influx of people fleeing terrorist attacks by Boko Haram in the North East into this region. These displaced people were found to seek refuge in these North Central states regardless of the state of the camps where they settled.

These displaced people were assessed as having no access to clean water, shelter, nutrition and other basic essentials. The project was therefore designed to provide immediate relief especially to vulnerable groups. The project was implemented effectively ensuring that the various standards of a humanitarian relief process were adhered to.

The project was facilitated by Christian Aid with support from START Network (START Fund) and implementation was guided by the humanitarian principles.

Below: Relief distribution awaiting distribution



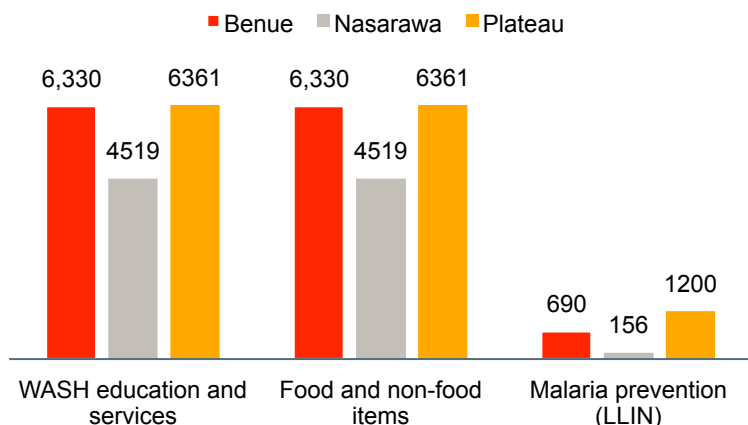
Humanitarian action at a glance

The increased incidences of terrorist attacks in Northern Nigeria and the series of clashes between indigent farmers and cattle herdsman around the North Eastern and Central regions of the country are continuously forcing individuals and families to flee to other parts of the country, creating a high number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

IDPs were assessed to present high levels of need for essential services for health and wellbeing. Living in overstretched host communities and poorly maintained make shift camps amidst hunger and poor sanitation and hygiene, they are at a high risk of deteriorating health outcomes. The 45 day project achieved the following outputs:

- 17,210 people - including men, women, children, the elderly and People with Disabilities (PWDs) – were reached with non-food items, nutrition, WASH and malaria prevention services in the three states.
- 2,583 displaced person’s households (HHs) were provided with food and non-food items (NFI) in 30 camps in the three states.
- 2,046 mothers and children benefitted from the Long-lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLINs) received by pregnant women and nursing mothers in addition to malaria prevention education.
- 8,564 children were reached with essential commodities and services including protective clothing, WASH and malaria education.
- 6 latrines were constructed in some of the locations in Benue and Nasarawa States to discourage open defecation and reduce the likelihood of illnesses like cholera.
- 2 clean water sources – boreholes were rehabilitated in addition to the water filters that were provided.
- 50 mattresses received by elderly people who had been sleeping on the bare floor.

Special consideration was given to the needs of nursing mothers, pregnant women and women of reproductive age who received additional relief items which included sanitary pads, toilet paper, protective clothing and underwear.



Intervention process

1. **Camp identification:** 30 makeshift camps/host communities (2 in Plateau, 21 in Benue and 7 in Nasarawa State) were identified for intervention. Visits and discussions with IDPs during the period provided information for detailed actions for response.

2. **Household identification and assessment:** These were conducted in all 30 locations to identify and register affected households and their needs which ranged from food items to WASH and protective clothing. This level of assessment ensured that the response action was needs-based.

3. **Procurement and distribution of Relief Materials:** Using the beneficiary registration cards provided to each household during the household listing, relief materials were distributed to 2,583 households in the three states.

Food items included guinea corn, maize, cassava flour, rice, salt, beans and mixed grains. The non-food items ranged from buckets and jerry cans to cups, mattresses and protective clothing. Water care products and soap were also supplied and LLINs were provided to the most vulnerable groups.

4. **Health Education:** IDPs received information and demonstrations on good Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practices, which covered environmental cleanliness, hand washing and importance of ending open defecation. There were also practical sessions on hand washing, how to use LLINs and water care, including treatment using water purifiers which they also received.

Below: Shulumshima with her two month old baby



‘The net will be helpful as I will sleep with my child inside now that the rain is coming and will prevent him from different diseases ’

Shumlumshima Terna

Case study

Food for the baby

After losing her husband and provider for the young family of three, Felicia Iororlun who is now displaced struggles to feed her baby and find suitable living space for them.

Felicia whose husband was killed during an attack by Fulani herdsmen while attempting to harvest crops from his farm is particularly happy over the mixed grains she received.

“I am very happy because now that my husband is not around, the baby’s food has been difficult to get but now I will prepare this for him”.

Now the HH head, she received mixed grain, nets, mats and other food items for her HH.

She and others had recently been sent out of the school building which had been turned into a makeshift camp by the IDPs and as a result she says they have little protection from the mosquitoes. She added that the mosquito net she received would help as her baby has had a number of mosquito bites where they sleep.

Below: Felicia from Goo community in Logo LGA, Benue state is happy to have grains to feed her baby



Project intervention

The goal of this short term intervention was to provide lifesaving support to IDPs in identified locations in North Central Nigeria. It specifically aimed to provide food security, WASH services, non-food items and shelter support to the people.

With funds accessed from the START Fund, Christian Aid in Nigeria provided technical and financial support to three of its implementing partners – Jireh Doo Foundation, Ohonyeta Care Givers and Justice, Development and Peace Commission, Jos – to implement the project.

The activities of the project included fact finding visits to State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA) in the three states and a refresher training on humanitarian response and management for i Christian Aid and partner staff, SEMA officials and representatives of IDPs from the different locations. Other key activities conducted were a rapid need assessment and household registration and the convening of a procurement committee which included IDPs for openness, transparency and inclusion. The distribution stage included promoting health enhancing behaviours through education of best practices on WASH and demonstration on the use of mosquito bed nets in addition to distributing relief materials

Intervention location

The project was implemented in 13 local governments in Benue, Nasarawa and Plateau States.

Benue LGAs: Apa, Agatu, Logo and Ukum

Nasarawa LGAs: Karu, Obi, Lafia, Nasarawa Eggon

Plateau LGAs: Jos North, Jos South, Riyom, Barkin Ladi and Kanke

Coordination

Playing a key role in ensuring coordination of efforts in the response to the on-going crisis, Christian Aid Nigeria and its partners reached out to the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the government agency responsible for humanitarian response in their respective states, for information sharing to ensure proper and adequate planning and to also share information on the changing context and humanitarian needs. Some of this took place during the refresher training.

In addition, being part of the UNOCHA coordinated platform - Inter-Agency Early Response Working Group (IAERWG)-, Christian Aid contributed to the body of existing data on WASH in Nigeria.

Inclusion

Representatives of the target population were involved at all stages of the project, enabling Christian Aid and its partners have robust and accurate information for implementation. The inclusion of IDPs in the process was a key factor in the success of the project.

The representatives played key roles during the needs assessment process as they disseminated information and mobilised households

Fifty-four year old Adegwa Ahulegwa who was displaced from his home in Sev-Av in Logo LGA of Benue State with his wife and 7 children was grateful to receive a sleeping mat as all his properties were burnt during the crisis in his village.

In addition, he received food and non-food items. Although he weaves and sells fish nets, his income is still not able to feed his family as he could when they resided in their home in Sev-Av.

Below: The project reached 17,210 people with relief materials and services including WASH and malaria prevention



for assessment in each camp. The project was able to provide support to the most vulnerable groups, reaching its intended target group as a result of the inclusion of IDP representatives in the processes as they supported the identification of IDPs within the host communities.

Their participation in the procurement process also helped influence the choice, type and specification of relief materials for particular groups/target such as some locally preferred food items. Support from this group in packaging relief items in all the locations, contributed to timely delivery of the items to the IDPs as there was a reduction in man hours used for the process. Finally, over five hundred IDPs participated and shared their feedback on the project during the end of project evaluation discussions held across the 3 states.

Case study

Added value of IDP inclusion

The project has been able to meet the needs of the displaced persons especially the Olochologba IDPs whose displacement was very fresh at the time of the intervention.

Pastor Oloje James, who was the procurement committee chairman in one of the meetings, expressed excitement at the inclusion of materials such as blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets and buckets.

'As I left home this morning, I was not sure how my people would survive as I saw some of them drinking Kunu as breakfast, and most of them have been sleeping on the bare floor as they couldn't carry anything when the fight started. Also, we have not been having water to drink, as there are no jerry cans'

Pastor Oloje James

Below: An IDP receiving a food item for his family



Recommendations and learning

The following were some of the recommendations and learning from the evaluation of the project:

- Involvement of IDPs throughout the project life cycle was key to achieving the successes that were recorded during the implementation. It is essential to continue to use IDPs / beneficiaries themselves in facilitating the needs assessment, ensuring their understanding of the process - This strategy was very helpful as there was hardly any challenge on the field as a result of their input and it ensured transparency.
- Consideration should be clearly given to the needs of other vulnerable adults and gender in assessments, and triangulate findings from different sources, where possible.
- Real time documentation is very essential during emergency responses like this. An IDP register was created after the IDP registration and was shared with the IDP leaders and was used to plan the packaging of items which made the whole process transparent.
- Numbering of packaged relief items per household with guidance from the IDP register ensured that the IDP focal persons could check with his register and verify the arranged numbered materials before distribution.
- Provide adequate information to beneficiaries on the selection process, criteria for targeting certain items / support, and rationale behind package contents.
- Ensure messages and information about the timing of all intended activities reaches all beneficiaries, using various different channels and methods of communication.
- Assessments and activity planning should be informed by a gender and power analysis, and humanitarian actors should ensure that female beneficiaries are actively sought for their participation, i.e. given key roles in implementation.
- Measures should be taken to protect the most vulnerable members of the community, and their needs advocated for within the wider humanitarian community, where appropriate.
- Space should be created within the beneficiary community to engage with and participate more in the project. This includes working with more IDP coordinators, both male and female, encouraging the formation of groups with a common understanding or need (e.g. women's groups, elderly groups), ensuring inclusive versus parallel operations, and making use of volunteers and community workers.
- Simple complaints and response mechanisms should be established, offering simple tips. Ensure that the right to give feedback and ask questions is communicated with beneficiaries.

'We thank God for using you to help us. You have seen our situation; please project it to the world. We cannot go back to our homes and even our farms, because everything has been destroyed'

Irmiya Yohana, from Kwi Riyom LGA.

Christian Aid recommendation for government and CSO action for on-going humanitarian situation in Nigeria

Humanitarian Relief agencies including government should move into the north central states and give lifesaving materials as well as engage in rehabilitation and restoration support and services

End notes

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