Background

Christian Aid, a UK-based international NGO, partners with like-minded organizations to end poverty in Africa. Christian Aid works in more than 30 countries and has been operating in Nigeria since 2003. The Nigeria Country programme focuses on Community Health and HIV, Accountable Governance, Gender Equity and Humanitarian Response.

A Christian Aid (CA) humanitarian response programme funded by the European Union’s Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations has reached more than 40,000 people affected by the conflict in Konduga area, within Borno State. Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) are the major response areas which has targeted the most vulnerable persons.

Food Security and Livelihoods

ECHO has empowered Christian Aid to support access to food for the most vulnerable persons in Konduga through Cash based interventions.

The food security response targeted 18000 people through a cash transfer intervention to help the vulnerable access food. Those reached through food assistance are spread across five communities within Konduga Local Government Area, in Borno State.

Since September, this year, recipient households received monthly amounts that ranged between 17,000 and 34,000 Naira.

The cash support intervention has reached 2660 households in these five locations:

760 households in Galtimari
752 household in Jakana North
499 households in Jakana South
410 households in Mushimari A
239 households in Mushimari B
Water Sanitation And Hygiene - WASH

CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF WATER SOURCES
Under the WASH project, Christian Aid has helped to improve access to water sources through construction of boreholes and rehabilitation of water points in eight communities.

17 Boreholes have been constructed in these locations:
9 handpump boreholes in Mushimari A
1 handpump borehole in Mushimari B
3 handpump boreholes in Sallari
2 handpump boreholes in Kalari Abule
1 handpump borehole in Fulatari
1 handpump borehole in Fannamari
Number of Boreholes repaired: 7

The project has also supported the construction of 140 latrines/showers in 13 locations.

35 latrines/showers in Auno North and South
25 latrines/showers in Jakana North and South
16 latrines/showers in Galtimari
24 latrines/showers in Mushimari A
11 latrines/showers in Sallari
12 latrines/showers in Kalari Abule
2 latrines/showers in Chalumari
5 latrines/showers in Fannamari
8 latrines/showers in Gayakofa
2 latrines/showers in Fulatari

When Bintu Isa arrived Jakana from Abaram, she was very depressed.

“I lost my sanity the day I lost my husband to the Boko Haram sect. My children and I abandoned our decent livelihood and escaped to Jakana where it was difficult to survive”.

Recovery from the trauma has been slow for Bintu and her young family. She says she can’t thank Christian Aid enough for rescuing them from ruin.
She gets cash for food assistance and other non-food items from the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations through its implementing partners, Christian Aid.
The unconditional cash provision supports Bintu N34,000 (£70) monthly. She purchases food items in bulk from a market located twenty kilometres from Jakana.

“I buy maize, onions, oil, beans in reasonable quantities and spread the food stuffs across the days of the month”

She has also benefited from the Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities which supports highly vulnerable households with non-food items and hygiene kits like blankets, water purifying tabs, cooking utensils, cutleries, water storage containers, detergents and other important household items.

Bintu says she has saved about ten percent of the cash received so far because she needs to buy clothes for her nine children at the end of the month.
DISTRIBUTION OF NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)S AND HYGIENE KITS

Non-food items and hygiene kits that include mats, jerrycans, sanitary pads, detergents, kettles, blankets, water purifying tablets, cups, soaps, cutleries, mosquito nets and pots were distributed to 2,400 households in five communities.

Galtimari
Jakana North
Jakana South
Mushimari A
Mushimari B

HYGIENE PROMOTION

Several communities in Konduga have been supported through hygiene promotion awareness, to improve hygiene standards. The hygiene awareness activities have reached 5,785 households and 40,500 persons in these communities.

Jakana North and South
Auno North and South
Galtimari
Mushimari A and B
Sallari
Kalar Abule
Gayakofa
Chalumari
Fannamari
Fulatari

- The Hygiene Promotion team have recruited and trained 130 Hygiene Promotion volunteers from affected communities
- Recruited 20 Inhouse volunteers to support the communities
- Developed Information, Education and Communication materials (IECs) used for awareness
- Conducted awareness sessions to demonstrate the importance of Personal & Environmental Hygiene practices such as handwashing practice, waste disposal etc
- Household level training – Community sensitization sessions, hands-on sanitation dramas etc.

Transparency And Accountability

Ensuring accountability to benefitting communities is one of the key concerns of Christian Aid programmes in North East Nigeria. Information sharing is an important tool for accountability. Christian Aid has installed transparency boards in all project locations which displays all activities implemented in the community and the associated cost. This allows communities to verify the information and hold Christian Aid accountable for the programmes implemented in their communities. Towards the end of the project, social audits will be conducted in project locations to ensure downward accountability. Christian Aid aims at empowering communities through such accountability mechanisms.

For beneficiary complaints and feedbacks, Christian Aid has put in place several mechanisms. There are suggestion boxes in all communities. Furthermore, there are focal points in each community with whom beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries can register their complaints. There is also a dedicated telephone line through which beneficiaries can raise concerns and give feedbacks.
Mainstreaming Of Gender, Inclusion And Protection

Mainstreaming of gender, inclusion and protection is the highlight of CA’s emergency response programme in Northern Nigeria. Beneficiary selection emphasizes on vulnerable women such as pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, widows and elderly. We deploy more female volunteers at the distribution points so that women beneficiaries are more comfortable and confident in providing feedbacks. Our WASH activities focus on specific needs of women. To highlight that, we construct gender segregated latrines, include sanitary pads in the hygiene kits etc.

Community level management structures such as Community Humanitarian Committees, WASH Committees, Community Hygiene Promoters etc; have significant number of women representatives which provides opportunity for women to be part of the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Special needs of people with disability have been considered while designing the programme. Sites for latrines were decided based on the needs of PWDS and elderly. There are designated latrines for PWDS and elderly with accessibility features.

Protection needs of vulnerable groups have also been considered while designing project interventions. Physical safety of beneficiaries was of utmost concern while selecting the sites for distribution of cash and other relief materials.

Project Locations In Konduga

Galtimari
Jakana North and South
Mushimari A and B
Auno North and South
Sallari
Kalari Abule
Gayakofa
Chalumari
Fannamari
Fulatari

Displaced person in Mushimari counts his cash after receiving his monthly stipend from the cash transfer programme

Displaced persons in Jakana South pose for a shot before heading home with their bag of NFIs
A cross section of women waiting under the canopy for verification on a distribution day. Dignity and physical safety of beneficiaries was of utmost concern while selecting the sites for distribution of cash and other relief materials.

With support from ECHO, Christian Aid has helped to improve access to water sources through construction of boreholes and rehabilitation of water points in eight communities.

The European Union visits project sites periodically to monitor progress of activities. EU has backed Christian Aid to reach more than 40,000 people affected by the conflict in Konduga area, within Borno state.

School children lead awareness parade in Jakana South, Konduga – Borno State. The ECHO team dedicated the 2017 global hand washing day, to increasing awareness on the importance of hand washing with soap and water.

NFis kit distribution day in Galtmari. On a day like this, it is almost impossible to find a woman who isn’t filled with laughter. Non-food items and hygiene kits have been distributed to over 2,500 households in five communities.

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