Giving Hope to People in Conflict

Aisha Abdullahi is one of almost 2 million people displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency in Northeast Nigeria. The thirty-one-year-old mother of four escaped with her children including a four-month-old baby in 2018. Aisha and her family fled as Boko Haram insurgents attacked her village Marteri, a remote community on the outskirts of Abadam LGA in Borno State. Aisha and her children now live in El-Miskin Camp in Maiduguri, Borno State, as internally displaced people and are being supported by Christian Aid’s food distribution programme.

Sadly, Aisha husband died during the insurgency attack and so Aisha relies on humanitarian assistance to survive and feed her four children. As a mother with a small child Aisha was part of a supplementary food programme for women who are breast feeding. This is to prevent displaced women and children, and women and children from host communities, experiencing malnutrition and other health complications.

Christian Aid Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) project provided immediate life-saving food and nutrition assistance to breast-feeding and children under the age of five years. Children with acute malnutrition were referred and treated at designated clinics managed by Christian Aid partners.

During screening for malnutrition, Aisha’s son Bashir, who was now five months old, was discovered to be severely malnourished. Supported by a Christian Aid volunteer, Aisha explained that she was having problems breast feeding him. Aisha and Bashir were referred immediately to a center, managed by a Christian Aid partner, and continued to be supported by a member of staff. Bashir was admitted and treated for 9 weeks, and then later at 7 months old.

Thankfully, Bashir has now fully recovered, and is a healthy, happy and active child. Aisha expresses her appreciation and joy.

‘This food has helped my child greatly, he looks good and is now very healthy. I also prepare nutritious food from locally available sources to complement Bashir’s feeding.’

Aisha and her children remain displaced, but continue to receive support from Christian Aid and the World Food Programme (WFP).