

SEVEN YEARS OF HUMAN TOUCH

A REPORT OF DAILY TRUST FOUNDATION'S INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) INTERVENTION FUND IN NORTH-EAST (2015-2022)

Introduction:

Ali Abuna, 51, has seen the fire and fury of Boko Haram insurgency in Hausari community in Buni Yadi, Gudja Local Government Area of Yobe State. But beyond the violence, including an attack on the Federal Government College, Buni Yadi, on February 25, 2014, leading to the killing of 58 male students, this community has faced massive destruction of houses and infrastructure.



Ali Abuna, Hausari
Community Head

Abuna explained their predicament thus: "Apart from the tension in this community over the activities of Boko Haram, we have suffered from water scarcity. Our children have to trek for kilometres everyday to access water, but now we just walk over to this borehole and fetch water. This gesture from Daily Trust Foundation has brought a major relief to us."

Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, also affected by Boko Haram violence, is more than a hundred kilometres away from Buni Yadi. An educational institution, Future Prowess Islamic Foundation, Maiduguri, is like an oasis in the desert, as it provides subsidized educational opportunities for children

who lost their parents to the decade-long terrorist activities. At this Foundation, established by Barrister Mustapha Zanna, orphans attend primary, junior and senior secondary schools, to ensure they do not miss out in acquiring basic education, while widows are provided with the opportunity to acquire skills for living. Here, also, Daily Trust Foundation provides succour to these young minds with scholarship for about 300 of them.



Female students at Future Prowess Islamic Foundation, Maiduguri. Some of them enjoy scholarships provided by Daily Trust Foundation for their basic education.

Relief for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in North-East:

The campaign by terrorists in the North-East has caused thousands of deaths since it began over a decade ago. Data from UNICEF shows that apart from the killings, the protracted conflict has caused severe humanitarian crises, affecting 7.7 million women, men, and children, and an estimated two million of them have been uprooted from their homes and are now living as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria and refugees in neighbouring Niger Republic, Cameroon and Chad. Due to the brutal conflict, victims have lost families, friends and loved ones, and are surviving under harrowing conditions. They are in serious need of life-saving support for health and sanitation, food, education, and sustainability.

Daily Trust IDPs Fund

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, Media Trust Limited, in 2015, decided to launch the North-East Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Fund in order to respond to the needs of some of the displaced persons in the conflict zone. The Fund was launched on August 26, 2015, and the sum of N150 million was donated by well-meaning Nigerians, corporate organizations and Foundations. Of significance was the donation of N100 million to the Fund by Dangote Foundation. The intervention fund was deployed as follows: Borno State (40%), Yobe (30%), Adamawa (20%), Gombe (5%) and other IDP Camps across the North (5%).

In order to judiciously administer the intervention fund, Daily Trust Foundation set up a governing board, made up of the late Wada Maida (Chairman), while Dr Mairo Mandara, Chief Isiaq Ajibola, the late Muhammad Bello Ilyas Damagun, Dr Nur Yakubu, and the Chief Executive Officer of Dangote Foundation, Zouera Yousfoufou, were members. The Foundation partnered with Non-Governmental Organizations on ground in the North-East, providing humanitarian services in diverse

areas of needs. The NGOs include the following: Future Prowess Islamic Foundation; Centre for Integrated Development and Research (CIDAR); Gabasawa Women and Children Initiative (GWCI); 1-Ummah Initiative; Federation of Muslim Women Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN), Yobe; and Grassroots Environmental Support and Development Initiative (GESDI). Others are Project 3-CER Nigeria; Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Adamawa; Women in Daw'ah; Ummah Support Initiative; Shehu Usman Abubakar Foundation; and Girl-Child Concerns. These organizations, out of over fifty NGOs who submitted proposals to administer humanitarian services, received funding from the donations received by Daily Trust Foundation.



Faces of Nigerians in an IDP camp

Partnering NGOs	Amount (Naira)
LikeMinds	6,200,000.00
Shehu Usman Abubakar Foundation	5,600,000.00
Green Environment Support	11,200,000.00
FOMWAN Yobe	11,200,000.00
FOMWAN Adamawa	11,200,000.00
Future Prowess	11,200,000.00
Centre for Women & Adolescent Empowerment	11,200,000.00
Centre for Integrated Development & Research	6,200,000.00
I-Ummah	6,200,000.00
Girl-Child Concerns	10,000,000.00
Ummah Support Initiative	1,000,000.00
Women in Da'awah	1,000,000.00
Gabasawa Women & Children Initiative	8,000,000.00
TOTAL	N100,200,000.00

The outcome of the various interventions is presented below:

Water Projects:

Under this intervention, the IDPs funds were deployed for the construction of new boreholes and rehabilitation of broken down pump and motorized boreholes, in order to provide safe drinking water to various communities affected by activities of terrorists. To date the following communities in Borno States have benefited from the borehole project: Bulabulin Alajeri; Bulabulin Boriye 1; Bulabulin Boriye 2; Bulabulin Shuwari; and Jiddari Polo. Others are Wulari; Gamboru; Garannan; Fori; and Limanti Tansula.

Other successfully executed water projects are at Elbadawy IDP Camp, Alhaji Ahmed Grema Camp in Borno State, Hausari in Buniyadi town of Gudja Local Government Area of Yobe State, and Anguwar Mission Gulak in Adamawa State. As a testimony to the intervention, the Village Head of Hausari, Ali Abuna, said the project had eased the suffering of his people from the lingering water scarcity around the area. According to him, "access to water is very essential, particularly to a community like ours that is just recovering from destruction by Boko Haram. Before now, we used to send our children to fetch water from a far distance because we had no single tap water around here. We thank the donors immensely for this gesture." The Ward Head of Elbadawy Camp also said, "of all the boreholes constructed around here, that of Daily Trust Foundation stands out, in terms of water pressure." Similar testimonies have come from various areas where the Foundation has provided safe drinking water for displaced persons.

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Completed solar-powered borehole at Elbadawi Camp, Muna Garage

Contractors	Location	Amount
Lucky Infrastructure	Buni Yadi, Gujba LGA, Yobe State	11,505,744.80
Stross Resources Limited	Grema Mohammed IDP Camp, Maiduguri, Borno State	9,200,000.00
Stross Nigeria Limited	El-Badawi Camp Muna Garage, Borno State	11,059,000.87
Jali Drilling Company Limited	Anguuwan Mission, Gulak, Madagali LGA, Adamawa State	11,550,476.40
TOTAL		43,315,222.07

Table of expenses on boreholes constructed in the North-East

Scholarship for Orphans:

Working with Future Prowess Islamic Foundation, operated by Barrister Mustapha Zannah, Daily Trust Foundation has facilitated the training of more than 300 children made orphans as a result of the deadly and destructive activities of terrorists in Borno State. The children, between the ages of 5 and 13 years, were enrolled from nursery junior secondary school classes at Future Prowess. This scholarship involves the payment of basic school fees and the provision of breakfast, uniform, books, school bags, sandals, socks, trauma counselling, soap and detergent for each of the orphans. Under the scheme, the sum of N10,000 was paid per term for each pupil.

Apart from orphans, some less privileged children affected by the conflict in Borno State received various kinds of training with support from the Foundation to 1-Ummah Initiative, another Non-Governmental Organization. Under the arrangement, 1-Ummah Initiative enrolled about 100 children under in a scholarship scheme in the following schools in Borno State: Darul-Arqam Islamic School; Madarasatul li Tahfizul Quran li Kanz; An-Nahda College of Science & Islamic Studies; Ibrahim Islamic School; and Amina Memorial Islamic School. Other institutions where pupils were enrolled include Maiduguri Capital School; Madarasatu Darul Quran Wat-tarteel Islamic School; Darul Salam Islamic School; Al-Huda College of Science & Islamic Studies; and Darul-Arqam Islamic School.

Human Empowerment:

Working with Gabasawa Women and Children Initiative (GWCI), the Foundation has assisted women in conflict-affected communities in Borno State to acquire skills they would need to sustain themselves. Beneficiaries of this intervention are in three local governments: Askira Uba, Biu and Gwoza, who were exposed to the followings: computer literacy; bead making; bag and shoes making; hair dressing; catering; small scale agriculture; therapeutic pedicure; and how to produce snacks. A report by our monitoring group says, "little as the project seem to be, it has transformed the lives of some of the beneficiaries to the next level, in terms of income generation, self-sustainability, and even the provision of relief materials."

Types of Training	LGAs	Total
Computer Literacy	4	12
Bead Making	45	135
Hair Dressing	10	30
Catering (Kulikuli/groundnut oil)	30	90
Firewood	30	90
Agriculture Small Scale	30	90
Sewing	3	9
Cattle Fattening	20	60

Chart showing training activities conducted by Gabasawa Women and Children Empowerment Initiative (GWCI)



Some items being distributed to support women at an IDP camp in Maiduguri

Also, through the Grassroots Environmental Support and Development Initiative (GESDI), the Foundation gave support to widows in the following communities: Pompomari, Bulama Kyara, Gwange and Dadin Kowa, Dogo Nini. The beneficiaries submitted small scale business proposals, were trained in their areas of interest and provided with small take-off capital and/or equipment, like sewing machines. Our collaboration with Federation of Muslim Women Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN), Yobe has led to support for 55 widows in the following areas: groundnut oil production; tailoring; petty trading; animal rearing; mandawa; knitting, and small funding for petty trading. On its part, Women in Da'awah, through Daily Trust Foundation funding, trained IDPs in tailoring, shoe and bag making, soap making, GSM repairs, groundnut processing and bead making.

Health & General Welfare:

The Foundation, in collaboration with the Federation of Muslim Women Association in Nigeria (FOMWAN), Adamawa State, provided food stuff for about 100 IDP families in the following settlements: Mbamba IDP camp, Ka'e Jaule IDP camp, and Yolde Pate IDP camp. Apart from food stuff, FOMWAN conducted medical outreaches in the camps and provided nutritional training for women. Also, at Daware, Malkohi and Sangere IDP locations, Project 3-CER Nigeria conducted health outreach and economic empowerment training activities for women.

Furthermore, at IDP camps in Durumi and New Kuchigaro in Abuja, where displaced persons from the North-East are found, Ummah Support Initiative built a bathroom, distributed personal hygiene kits, took them through nutritional training for children, and provided clothing materials for pregnant women and children. In Gombe State, the Foundation worked with Shehu Usman Abubakar Foundation to provide relief materials for about 1,000 IDPs in that State in the form of the payment of school fees for some children in IDP camps, soft loans to traders, better makeshift accommodation for some, skills acquisition programme and healthcare support.

Focus on Girl-Child:

The girl-child is, perhaps, most vulnerable during conflicts. Therefore, working with Girl-Child Concerns, the Foundation provided support for them in several areas. About 20 of them in IDP camps were provided with funding to receive secondary school education, 100 women were provided with start-up capital to commence petty trading; another 100 were trained on peace education, peace building skills, de-radicalization skills, strengthening community vigilance and community support. Also, 10 families were relocated from IDP camps to permanent settlements.

Conclusion:

Seven years after Daily Trust Foundation launched the IDPs Fund project, many households and communities in the North-East have reaped its benefits in diverse ways. However, efforts to end the conflict, to ensure families relocate to their homes and begin to live their normal lives, have not yielded the desired results. It is for this reason that Daily Trust Foundation has kept the appeal for support open for contributions from kind-spirited Nigerians and corporate organizations. Donations to this Fund will be utilized with transparency and accountability.

Signed
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