

2020

Annual Report



www.caritasnigeria.org

We are Caritas!

A glimpse of some staff of Caritas Nigeria in year 2020, working remotely in the heat of the COVID-19 pandemic.



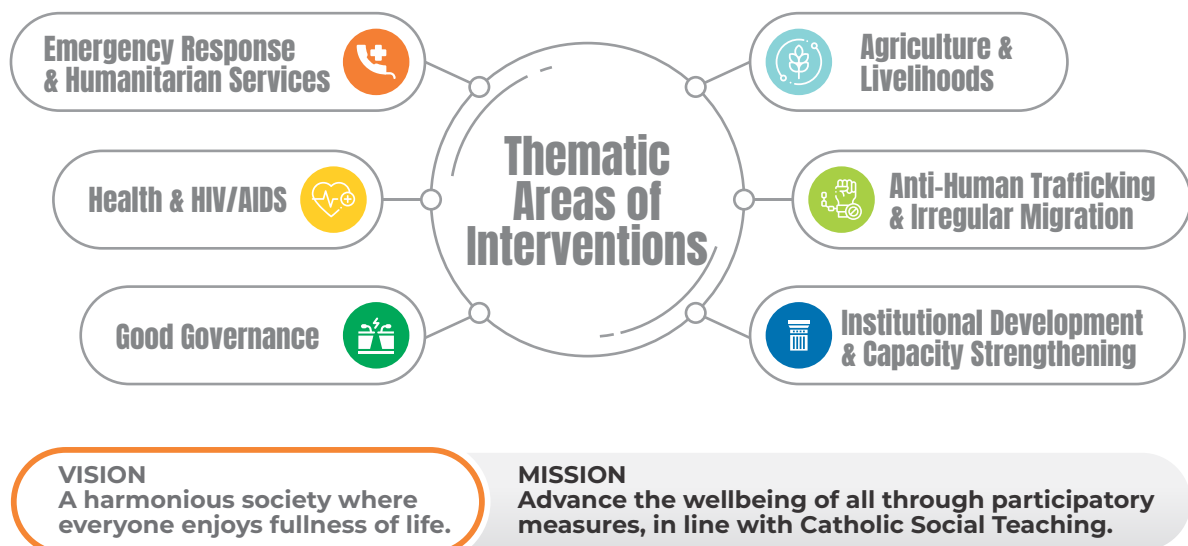
CARITAS NIGERIA

Caritas Nigeria was established in September, 2010, by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), as the specialized national development agency that coordinates relief and development interventions for the Catholic Church in Nigeria. **The legal name of the organization is Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN), however it is generally known as Caritas Nigeria.**

Caritas Nigeria is the special socio-development agency that fights hunger, disease, ignorance and responds to emergencies and humanitarian crises amongst others, in Nigeria, by mobilizing resources from within and outside the Church to meet the basic needs of affected persons regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, or political affiliations. Caritas Nigeria carries out this mandate in collaboration with relevant stakeholders locally and internationally. Caritas Nigeria is a member of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 162 countries providing relief and supporting human development around the world.

Headquartered in Abuja, Caritas Nigeria has seven regional offices in Adamawa, Borno, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Enugu and Imo States. In addition to direct implementation, Caritas Nigeria leverages the 57 Diocesan Caritas Offices that is the Justice Development & Peace Commissions (JDPCs), Catholic health facilities and educational institutions which partners with Caritas Nigeria. There are over 500 of such health facilities and close to 700 schools across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory in Nigeria to deliver its projects to target beneficiaries in hard to reach communities.

Over the past 10 years, Caritas Nigeria has progressively managed more than 50 complex humanitarian, health and other development projects, reaching over 12 million beneficiaries in Nigeria, these interventions are funded through the goodwill of philanthropists, the CBCN, Caritas Internationalis Confederation, bilateral and multilateral donors.



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Foreword

One year on the benefit of hindsight enables us to look back in both disbelief and thanksgiving to God over the year 2020, the year of the coronavirus pandemic with its devastating effects on all aspects of human life. It goes without saying that the pandemic caught the entire world pants down. No nation, including the so-called first or developed worlds saw it coming and thus no nation was prepared for it. In most of the developing nations including our dear country with poor and decayed medical facilities and preexisting food insecurity, the lockdowns enforced by various government to contend the spread of the pandemic made bad situations worst.

The socio-economic effect of the pandemic on people across the globe was incalculable. Life for many especially those on the periphery became almost unbearable. Many Governments across the world, including ours, were not able to provide the basic necessities of life for their people especially the vulnerable. In point of fact, life became unlivable for many households as hunger and disease became the order of the day. Life for many in most countries of the world was indeed at its lowest ebb with many despairing. In the midst of this desperation and hopelessness humanity got itself together and rose to the occasion of being keepers of each other through different international, national, institutional organizations and even individuals to provide palliatives to cushion the effects of the pandemics especially with the lockdowns that grounded and even wiped out many sources and means of livelihoods of hundreds of millions across the world.

Caritas Nigeria, the arm of our local church that endeavours to make the Gospel truly good news especially for the poorest of the poor and downtrodden was not left out of efforts to give hope and succour through relief materials and palliatives to the most vulnerable. Through the assistance and collaboration of its numerous funders, partners and benefactors, Caritas Nigeria was able to roll up her sleeves and hit the ground running from the North-East Nigeria to the South-East, South-South, South-West, North-Central and North-West. Particularly, in the BAY States

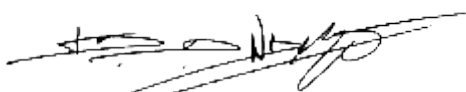
of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, it continued its intervention among the conflict-stricken population in these epic centre of the Boko Haram insurgency. Working in close collaboration with Diocesan Justice, Development and Peace Commissions (JDPCs) in the most affected areas, Caritas Nigeria continued its interventions, protecting and preserving the dignity of the people, supporting them with sources of livelihood such as provisions of food and non-food items, agricultural inputs, unconditional cash transfers, health services, entrepreneurial and internal lending mechanisms, amongst others.

Furthermore, Caritas Nigeria is also engaged in other parts of the country executing projects that promote integral human development. For examples, Caritas Nigeria has interventions in the health sector, especially in the area of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis in the South East Nigeria, the protection and safe guarding of Cameroonian Refugees in Cross River State, the Good Governance Programs in Kogi and Anambra States including the Anti-human trafficking in persons and irregular migration in Edo State.

Caritas Nigeria is able to carry out these interventions because of the continued support of its funders and partners in the service of humanity. On behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria, the Board of Directors of Caritas Nigeria, and the entire Management and Staff of Caritas Nigeria, I wish to thank profoundly all the Funders and Partners of Caritas Nigeria for their continued support. Without their solidarity and support Caritas Nigeria would not have done and achieved what is contained in the annual report you have in your hands. In this same vein, I wish to thank our dedicated and committed staff of Caritas Nigeria for what they are doing to make life worth living for many of our compatriots, who due to no fault of their own find themselves in very difficult and trying conditions.

I wish at this juncture to appeal to my brother Bishops, Priests and the Religious and, in a special way, our dear lay-faithful to give the needed support to Caritas Nigeria in her numerous areas of interventions, especially in her emergency responses. No one needs telling that emergency response preparedness has become an urgent matter in our country. We are all aware of the terrible situations of conflicts and anarchy around us. As we address the emergency situations we also need to pay close attention to the causes of these conflicts and social tensions among our people and set machineries in place for more social cohesion and solidarity. And this is what Caritas Nigeria in conjunction with Diocesan JDPCs endeavour to do. Consequently they need our support and cooperation mindful of the fact that there can be no meaningful development without justice and peace.

I am pleased to present this 2020 Annual Report of the activities of Caritas Nigeria to you, our esteemed readers and supporters for your kind perusal and possible action in solidarity for the common good of our people. May God proper the good works of Caritas Nigeria.



Most Rev. Mathew Man-Oso NDAGOSO
Archbishop of Kaduna and Board Chairman
Caritas Nigeria



The Year 2020 in Review

The world welcomed the year 2020 with an admirable ecstasy because, without a doubt, the year was particularly unique on the account that it ushered in a new decade. No sooner had the world begun to relish the joy of a new year and decade than a grave misfortune in the history of mankind – the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) – emerged. Like wildfire, the virus, which originated in China, rapidly spread around other continents of the world, bearing with it fears, panic attacks, depleted hopes, drastic economic and social changes, and uncertainties. As a rapid response mechanism, and in recognition of the fact that viruses and pathogens defy borders, governments of nations applied a complete lockdown on economic and social activities as new infections and deaths surged. Humans, who once enjoyed the companionship of loved ones and the simple pleasures of life, were forced into isolation, posing a risk for mental health.

In Nigeria, where the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed on 27th February, 2020, the Federal Government sought also to protect citizens from the wrecking public health threat by enforcing full and partial nationwide lockdown on activities as part of its containment efforts. Similarly, some State Governments imposed inter and intra-state lockdown to keep transmission down. This drastic, but necessary measure, was heralded by anxiety, crumbled livelihoods, increased poverty, starvation, malnutrition, recession, inflation, a new surge of domestic violence, armed conflicts, and displacement, grossly hampering project activities. On the brighter side, however, for certain categories of people who still had access to personal interactions, particularly families, the lockdown rekindled and strengthened their bonds with their kith and kin.

Amid the global crisis, the Church continued to demonstrate its social responsibility and support to exceptionally vulnerable persons. With more people needing humanitarian aid including food assistance, shelter, livelihood support, healthcare, and gender-based support services, the need to scale up efforts to reach struggling people whose living conditions had been exacerbated, became imperative. Seeing the gaps in Nigeria's health sector which were widely exposed by the pandemic, the Church, through the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), granted the Nigerian Government unrestricted access to its 435 health facilities nationwide for the management of COVID-19 cases. Although the pandemic placed overwhelming pressure on all segments of society, the national development arm of the Church – Caritas Nigeria – relentlessly continued to consolidate its response mechanisms and preserved her partnership with local and international donors, as not just pandemic recovery measures, but also sustained humanitarian assistance to the underserved and vulnerable. In a bid to mitigate the social, economic and environmental impacts of the pandemic, Caritas Nigeria promptly implemented outreach activities across the nation, while also implementing interventions targeted at enhancing food availability, facilitating access to quality health care, helping families achieve economic resilience, ensuring social justice and inclusion, and promoting peace and tolerance.

Despite the challenges encountered, such as switching to remote work, closing and opening the offices, adjusting to the changing needs of people of concern, and delayed

service delivery due to restrictions on movement and public gatherings, Caritas Nigeria excelled greatly in carrying out its mandate in the year 2020. The Anti-Human Trafficking & Forced Migration Unit, as well as the Emergency & Humanitarian Services Units of Caritas Nigeria committed to fighting hunger, malnutrition and boosting the livelihoods of returning migrants and displaced persons through various household economic strengthening interventions, by leveraging the magnanimity of her local and international partners, such as the National Humanitarian Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, the Foreign Affairs Ministries of Germany and Norway (through Caritas Germany and Caritas Norway, respectively), the Italian Bishops' Conference, and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ). From livestock management to agriculture and crafts-making, returning migrants, displaced persons and host communities in Adamawa, Borno, Cross River, Delta and Edo States largely benefitted from our humanitarian interventions. While strengthening the capacity of vulnerable persons, the Institutional Capacity Strengthening Unit of Caritas Nigeria also built and strengthened the capacity of diocesan structures through the support of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

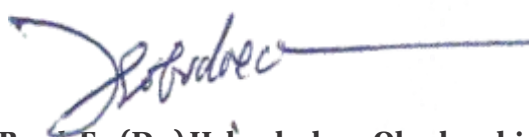
The Health & HIV Unit took giant strides and remained on the frontlines of ensuring improved access to quality HIV treatment services. The Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) Surge response – an effective strategy designed to identify and promptly treat undocumented HIV cases, and suppress the viral load of People Living with HIV took place in the States of Delta, Enugu and Imo. This was under the 4GATES program (Global Action Towards Epidemic control in Sub-national units in Nigeria) funded by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Nigeria. The Program, provides life-long saving HIV care and treatment services to thousands of people in the aforementioned states, especially those in hard-to-reach communities, while also intently following up to ensure adherence to treatment. Likewise, the Public-Private Mix Tuberculosis project of the Global Fund, which was being implemented by Caritas Nigeria (as a sub-recipient) in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Enugu, Imo, Kogi, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, and Sokoto States, successfully increased active tuberculosis case-finding in the year under review.

The Good Governance Unit of Caritas Nigeria also worked extensively with the diocesan structures and other key stakeholders to promote peace, ethnic and religious tolerance, inclusive governance and legislative accountability in communities located across Awka, Kaduna, Kogi, and Plateau States.

We sincerely thank the Nigerian Catholic Bishops whose unmatched support and fraternity have remained instrumental to our successes through the years. Our immense gratitude goes to our funders for prioritizing the interest of the needy in Nigeria; may your labour of love not go unrewarded.

As the world desperately yearns for a solution to the wrecking pandemic, we continue to look forward to better years with renewed hopes. On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of Caritas Nigeria, I congratulate you for pulling through what was a tough year for humanity. We hope you have a fulfilling read with Caritas Nigeria 2020 Annual Report!

Yours in the Service of Caritas,



Revd. Fr. (Dr.) Uchechukwu Obodoechina,
Executive Secretary / CEO,
Caritas Nigeria.



ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING & FORCED MIGRATION

PROJECT TITLE

Stable, Trained and Empowered Migrant (STEM)



■ An empowered poultry farmer feeds his birds

The STEM project supported by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), aims at providing socioeconomic reintegration to returnee migrants through the provision of vocational training and empowerment, temporary shelter inclusive of feeding, toiletries and psychosocial support, and one-year health insurance. In the year under review, 400 persons comprising 300 returnee migrants and 100 potential migrants in Benin City, were targeted for vocational training and empowerment. Out of the target population, 200 persons were offered accommodation, whereas 200 others were enrolled in medical health insurance.



■ A trained person of concern in her tailoring shop

Key Achievements

- Training of 435 returnee migrants and potential migrants on different skills, and provision of business start-up tools.
- Provision of psychosocial support services to 335 returnee migrants.
- Provision of shelter, daily meals and toiletries for 120 persons of concern, with the inclusion of toiletries and daily meals.
- Enrollment of 200 persons of concern on one-year medical health insurance.
- Continuous monitoring of project activities.

Innovations/Best Practices

- Provision of transportation stipends to the participants of the vocational skills acquisition training.
- Introduction of the use of verifiable guarantors as a prerequisite for disbursement of start-up tools.



- Participants of hairdressing skill training at the disbursement of start-up kits
- A man receives a haircut from a person of concern who was empowered with barbing skill



Lesson Learnt

- Sessions on mindset readjustment helped to reduce sharp practices by the benefitting population.



Challenges

- Prolonged halt of business activities due to COVID-19 lockdown.
- The lax and nonchalant attitude of beneficiaries towards monitoring visits.
- Insincerity and insatiability on the part of the benefitting population.



Recommendations

- There is a need for strengthened collaboration with relevant government agencies to provide additional support to returnees.
- The number of soft skills training sessions should be scaled up to aid mind readjustment.



Next Step

- Continuous monitoring of population reached.
- Provision of additional support to those affected by COVID-19.

PROJECT TITLE

Sustainable Measures Against Trafficking in Persons (SMAT-P)

As part of forced migration and human trafficking containment efforts, the Italian Bishops' Conference partnered with Caritas Nigeria in the year under review to support persons susceptible to human trafficking to live meaningful and productive lives. The SMAT-P project, designed for this purpose, was implemented in Cross River State (Yala and Bekwarra local government areas), Delta State (Ika North and Ika South local government areas), and Edo State (Esan Central, Esan Southeast, Ikboba Okha, Orhiomwon, Etsako West, and Owan East local government areas), in partnership with the diocesan Justice, Development and Peace Caritas in the respective project locations. Ultimately, the project sought to sensitize 10,000 individuals on the ills of human trafficking, to provide livelihood support to 500 vulnerable households, to provide educational support and vocational training to 350 out-of-school adolescents and 150 indigent youths respectively, and to provide shelter to 100 victims of human trafficking.



- Children protest against human trafficking and forced migration
- Traders listen as they are sensitized on the ills of human trafficking

Key Achievements

- Sensitization of 9,221 students spread across 121 schools, as well as 7,198 persons in communities and places of worship.
- Provision of educational support to 523 students, and training of 150 out-of-school youths in various vocational skills.
- Provision of cash assistance to 500 vulnerable households for economic activities.
- Establishment of 24 Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) clubs.
- Formation of 13 Victim Support groups.
- Formation of 48 Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) groups.

Innovations/Best Practices

- Active engagement of students of AHT clubs in research activities, which enabled them to enlighten their peers on human trafficking.
- Involvement of community youth leaders in communities in gathering relevant information which aided project implementation.
- Regular monitoring visits to people of concern to foster an improved relationship.
- The involvement of community heads generated a sense of ownership and commitment.



- Community leaders are sensitized on the ills of human trafficking and forced migration

Lesson Learnt

- Involvement of relevant stakeholders, such as community heads, in project implementation help to simplify tasks as project participants had high regard for local authorities.
- With the participation of community Field Agents, communication was effective in communities of project implementation owing to their role language interpretation.

Challenges

- Low literacy levels among right owners made grant accessibility and the use of the SILC ledger rather difficult.
- Despite the educational support provided by the project, some parents sent off their wards to the farms during school hours.
- Bad road networks across communities hindered project implementation.
- Communal clashes in some communities affected project activities.

Recommendations

- Adequate sensitization of communities yet to be reached.
- Adoption of informal means of communication with caregivers on the dangers of human trafficking.
- Engagement of interpreters in project communities.

Next Step

- Provision of business startup tools to 150 persons of concern in choice vocational skills across project locations.



- Children pose with the school bags provided as part of educational support



PROJECT TITLE

Scaling up Inpatient Services for Management of Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) Children with Complications in Borno State

The UNICEF-funded Management of Severe Acute Malnutrition project aimed at the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition in children under the age of 5, as well as reducing the mortality rate emanating from acute malnutrition. In the year under review, the project supported the inpatient management of children between 6 – 59 months, who were severely and acutely malnourished with medical complications. To ensure the project met the needs of children in the target locations, Caritas Nigeria ran stabilization centre (SC) services at two General Hospitals located in Shani and Bayo Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State.

Throughout the implementation of project activities, stakeholders were actively engaged and collaboration was established with the Borno State Hospital Management Board, as well as the State Primary Health Care Development Agency (SPHCDA), to ensure that the quality of care met the standard provided by the national guideline for the management of SAM. The project achieved this through increased availability of services to treat SAM cases across Shani and Bayo LGAs, by re-establishing stabilization centres and building the capacity of government staff who facilitated the provision of appropriate services in the centres.



■ A stabilization centre established by Caritas Nigeria

BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS OF A REHABILITATED SAM PATIENT



■ Godswill upon presentation at the facility



■ Godswill after some weeks at the facility

Key Achievements

- Prompt admission of 777 children (0-59 months) with SAM complicated cases for treatment.
- Stabilization and transfer of 726 children (less than 6 months) to OTP (Outpatient Therapeutic Program).
- Training of 55 healthcare workers on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, Community of Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Micro-Nutrient Powder (MNP).
- Establishment of two stabilization centres in General Hospitals in Bayo and Shani LGAs.
- Counselling of 2,989 caregivers on IYCF.
- Training of 1,478 caregivers on healthy food preparation.
- Multisector integration by Caritas Nigeria in collaboration with the German/Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the nutrition program.
- Use of Caritas Nigeria's E-Ranger ambulance for swift transportation of caregivers and children upon referral and discharge.
- Healthy food demonstration sessions at OTPs and consequent promotion of optimal maternal and child health nutrition through advocacy for Tom Brown pap (a complementary feeding prepared with locally available staples).
- Provision of protective equipment to mitigate new COVID-19 infections during project activities.

▼ Food demonstration at Shani LGA, Borno State

Innovations/Best Practices

- The significant increase in the recovery rate and transfer of patients from SC to OTP, motivated mothers with SAM children to embrace such life-saving practices.
- Daily feeding of caregivers by the project prevented chances of default amongst caregivers and reduced the mortality in SAM children.
- Program sensitization and health awareness creation at OTP sites helped to promote cooperation and strengthening of referral systems.



Challenges

- Limited human resources for essential duties.

Recommendations

- The need for more collaboration with the Hospital Management board to locally support the SCs in running some laboratory blood samples, as key findings would enhance a better and informed diagnosis, especially for children presenting with anaemia and severe oedema.
- The program should be provided with PCV test kits, blood bank bags and other needed reagents that can foster diagnostic screening and emergency procedures.
- The need for the program's continuation is expedient, as there still exist significant case presentations.
- There should be a progressive plan for motherless SAM children under 6 months, to mitigate the impact of relapse of children in the program.
- There is a need for reprogramming through continuous case management at presentation and inclusion of targeted supplementary feeding programs (through cash for food or voucher systems).
- Engagement of a more essential workforce.



Next Step

- Advocacy to donor agencies to support nutrition program activities in the target LGAs.



PROJECT TITLE

P.131-005/2017 Relief Aid for Victims of Boko Haram Crisis in the Northern regions of Nigeria, Cameroon and the West of Chad, 2018 – 2020

The project, P.131-005/2017 Relief Aid for Victims of Boko Haram crisis in the Northern regions of Nigeria, Cameroon and the west of Chad, 2018 – 2020, funded by the German Foreign Ministry through Caritas Germany, was a three-year food security project, which targeted communities in selected Local Government Areas (LGAs) across Borno and Adamawa States. The project sought to address the emergency food needs of 2,950 beneficiaries in Askira Uba, Hawul, MMC, and Jere LGAs in Borno State; and Mubi North, Mubi South, Michika, and Madagali LGAs in Adamawa State. The project was carried out through beneficiary capacity building sessions on best agronomic practices and cash-based transfers, to the most vulnerable households. The goal of the project was to improve the living conditions of people affected by the Boko Haram crisis in the region of Lake Chad.

The year under review targeted a total of 780 beneficiaries for funds disbursement in three separate tranches in select IDP camps in Maiduguri and Jere LGAs, Borno State.

Key Achievements

- With each beneficiary receiving NGN168,825 in six separate tranches, the 780 targeted households in Sulumburi camp, Mashdumami camp, and Polo/Jiddari camp received a cumulative of NGN131,683,500.
- 1,120 persons were trained on improved household economic practices through training sessions on Income Generating Activities, surpassing the initial target of 780 persons.



▲ Beneficiary validation in Sulumburi camp



▲ Distribution of e-Wallets in Railway camp



▲ Household targeting in Railway camp

Innovations/Best Practices

The use of a financial institution as a vendor for funds disbursement has increased organization accountability to the community and openness. Beneficiaries preferred the medium of cash transfers to their e-wallet because it afforded them the dignity of withdrawing only when the need arose.



Lesson Learnt

- The provision of cash to the majority of female beneficiaries led to an increase in participation and household food purchase.



▲ Step-down training on petty trading, funds and livestock management in Mashdumami camp



Challenges

- Pressure from the Community Project Implementation Committees (CPIC) to be enrolled as beneficiaries.



Recommendations

- There is a need for increased sensitization on the roles of CPIC and the multiplier effect of the intervention in the camps.



Next Step

- Following the excellent results of the German MFA project in the initial first three years (January 2018 – December 2020), the Foreign Ministry approved a project partnership extension to the year 2021 with an additional target of 1,205 households in Askira Uba and Chibok LGAs of Borno State and Madagali LGA of Adamawa State.

PROJECT TITLE

Emergency Food Assistance and Protection to Vulnerable Persons in Adamawa and Borno States

The four-year strategic partnership project funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through Caritas Norway, which is currently being implemented in Adamawa (Michika and Madagali LGAs) and Borno (Shani, Hawul, Askira Uba and Gwoza LGAs) States, focuses on five (5) major components:

a) Food Security:

This component aimed at providing unconditional cash support to beneficiaries for food, and improving and certifying seedling and grains for environmental-friendly agriculture. In the year under review, the project provided support to 1,200 households (HHs), especially those with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) or Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), with cash transfers to improve their food security. 1,200 HHs also received agricultural inputs for nutritional home gardening (Perma garden) – an innovative method of cultivating vegetables in homesteads. Recognizing that water could pose a serious limiting factor, nurseries would be established on movable raised beds lined with polythene bags to



▲ A happy beneficiary of farm input distribution in Kwaski community

conserve moisture and maximize the use of available water.

b) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

This involved the repair of hand-pump boreholes and subsequent conversion of a motorized borehole to solar. It also involves hygiene promotions and the distribution of aqua tabs for water treatment. The year under review saw the distribution of, and capacity building sessions on, reusable sanitary wares for vulnerable school girls of reproductive age. Similarly, there were hygiene promotion sessions and water purification exercises targeted at populations most affected by untreated and sub-optimal water points, which expose them to possible diseases and medical complications.

a) Nutrition:

This component deals with the screening of children between 6 months and 5 years for malnutrition. While severely malnourished cases with medical complications were referred to the Outpatient Therapy Program (OTP), those without medical complications were referred to a stabilization centre. The nutrition component supported the screening of

- ▼ An elderly member of Kwaski community jubilates under reticulated water points of a newly constructed solar-powered borehole in the community.



2,500 infants/young children between 6 – 59 months and pregnant/lactating women, who were also counselled on Infant/Young Child Feeding (IYCF) at primary healthcare facilities and mobile outreaches. Furthermore, this component built and strengthened the capacities of health workers on the program and in health facilities to ensure quality delivery of nutrition and healthcare services in the communities. In addition, Caritas Nigeria conducted 20 food demonstrations for sustained healthy behaviour and practices, leading to the total eradication of acute malnutrition in the communities.

b) Protection:

With the support of its partners, the project provided clinical and non-clinical services to survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). To effectively achieve this goal, Caritas Nigeria mapped out organizations and health facilities where survivors were successfully linked to, established protection committees that held monthly meetings, and conducted cohort

sessions on gender-based issues. Effectively, SGBV cases were identified and reported for immediate support services; gatekeepers were identified to establish a Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) mechanism; toll-free lines were introduced for reporting, and feedback boxes were installed for confidential reporting.

c) Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC):

Target communities were encouraged to form internal savings groups which could lend funds to members. This also fostered social cohesion in the communities. In the year under review, SILC groups were formed, comprising beneficiaries across all components of the project, while field agents were trained on SILC methodologies for onward step-down in communities. This component provided a safe means to save and access loans for income-generating activities at the community level.

Key Achievements

- 1,542 beneficiaries were supported with cash for food as against the initial 1,200 beneficiaries proposed.
- 6 budgeted hand-pump boreholes were repaired, while one unbudgeted hand-pump was drilled for the Gworjombo community in Shani LGA of Borno State; prior, the community lacked access to potable water. Likewise, a new solar-powered borehole was constructed in the Kwaski community in Hawul LGA, Borno State.
- 1,200 beneficiaries across the six LGAs of Adamawa and Borno States were trained on best agronomic practices, with a focus on the use of organic fertilizer. Thereafter, they were supported with certified seeds and grains for planting.
- 1,200 women were supported with environmental-friendly stoves.
- 3,000 young school girls were supported with dignity kits.
- 1,000 women benefited from solar lanterns and liquid soap.
- 54 SILC groups were formed in target communities.

Innovations/Best Practices

- Introduction of Perma garden which encourages the use of organic fertilizer as an alternative to inorganic fertilizer.
- Prior activation of debit cards ahead of distribution to project beneficiaries.



Lesson Learnt

- The introduction and award of borehole construction contact to vendors within the project locality were cost-effective.
- Prior activation of debit cards for accessing cash transfers relieved beneficiaries of the stress of over-the-counter or ATM activation.



Challenges

- Mobility challenge due to inadequacy of project vehicle.



Next Step

- Needs assessment in four project locations ahead of a new project commencing in 2021.

PROJECT TITLE

Provision of Wet Feeding for Displaced Persons in Borno State

The Wet Feeding project supported by the Nigerian Humanitarian Fund (NHF) through Caritas Nigeria, is a life-saving and healthy one. Wet Feeding, also known as On-site Feeding or Wet Ration, is the daily distribution of cooked food/meals to displaced persons at designated feeding centres situated in both Bama and Gwoza Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State. Although the number of meals provided is location-specific, the maximum number allowed by the project is three meals daily; these meals must meet the needed amount of energy required for returnees and the survival of their children/wards.

In the year under review, Caritas Nigeria ensured beneficiaries were accorded equal treatment without prejudice or consideration of gender, age, religion, creed or clan. The principal goal of the project is to prioritize life-saving assistance by providing timely and integrated multi-sectoral assistance and protection intervention to the most vulnerable persons in Bama and Gwoza LGAs. It is worth noting that local vendors within the project locality were engaged to supply basic condiments for food preparations, supply of bio-degradable/disposable food packs for feeding new arrivals, as well as the productions of banners as visibility in the locations of implementations and feeding.



▲ A migrant washes her hands in line with COVID-19 preventive measures

Key Achievements

- Registration of 200 new arrivals comprising 19 males and 181 females, and provision of wet feeding to them within two months.
- Caritas Nigeria's involvement in Bama and Gwoza coordination meetings where partners and relevant community gatekeepers were kept abreast of activities in project locations.
- Identification and construction of an emergency kitchen near the quarantine facilities.
- Successful completion of the registration of new arrivals and rapid assessment to validate stable food choices in targeted locations.
- Leveraging the skills of beneficiaries of vocational skills training conducted by Caritas Nigeria, for the production of face masks and liquid handwashing soap.
- Provision of kitchen utensils, food items, water and firewood.
- Supply of 800 pieces of Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) testing strips for investigation of malnourished children and monitoring of their progress.
- Supply of 100 pieces of surgical gloves and 6 hand sanitiser auto-dispensers to support reception centres in compliance with COVID-19 protocols.
- Provision of 6 pieces of foot-operated hand wash station machine constructed to support the reception centres in compliance with COVID-19 protocols.
- Provision of 2 packs of special protective face masks and 2 pieces of weighing scale for beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries alike.

Innovations/Best Practices

- New arrivals were mentored by the Caritas Nigeria team and other Protection & Nutrition partners on the need to adhere to COVID-19 safety guidelines.
- The Community Project Implementation Committees (CPIC) in both locations were responsible for conveying and distributing breakfast, lunch and dinner to the new arrivals in an orderly manner.
- Implementing partners, such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and World Food Programme (WFP), sensitized the new arrivals on COVID-19 protocols and ensured orderliness during food distribution.



Lesson Learnt

- The Wet Feeding program met the immediate food need of the target population as they felt revitalized and promptly engaged in income-generating activities within the camps.
- The use of registration cards by beneficiaries to obtain meals ensured that food distribution processes were orderly.



Challenges

- New arrivals were fed under trees owing to the inadequacy of shelter.
- Insufficient hygiene items for women who constitute about 80% of new arrivals.
- It was a challenge keeping up with the daily distribution benchmark because of the high influx of new arrivals.



Recommendations

- There is a need for further registration of new arrivals. This will not only mitigate starvation but will also reduce migrants' exposure to attacks and exploitation when they go in search of food in nearby bushes.
- Additional shelter facilities should be provided to accommodate new arrivals.
- Introduction of self-reliance programs. It is necessary to empower beneficiaries with vocational skills acquisition and income-generating activities programs at the project locations.
- There is a need for economic empowerment of women and youths, particularly widows, through sustainable agricultural practices.



Next Step

- Continued provision of wet feeding to 200 registered new arrivals from Minawao camp in Cameroon and other hard-to-reach areas in Bama LGA.
 - Improved sensitization and awareness creation on COVID-19 preventive measures.
- ◀ An elderly beneficiary receives her lunch pack in the camp in Bama LGA

PROJECT TITLE

Protection and Assistance through Livelihoods Support to People of Concern in Adamawa and Borno States

In the year under review, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) funded a project aimed at improving protection and assistance to people of concern (PoC): internally displaced persons, returnees and vulnerable host community members in Yola North, Yola South, Mubi North, Mubi South, Michika, and Madagali LGAs in Adamawa State, as well as Gwoza LGA in Borno State, by providing them with livelihoods support.

Across the aforementioned project LGAs, a total of 4,900 vulnerable persons and host community members were targeted for improved access to self-employment, business, food security and livelihoods through agricultural inputs distribution, start-up grants using e-wallets, and start-up kits for agriculture and livelihoods upon completion of a vocational skills training.

Key Achievements

- 500 PoC (136 males and 364 females) benefited from the cash grant.
- 500 PoCs (174 males and 326 females) were trained on livestock management and further benefited from livestock distribution.
- 700 PoC (local farmers) received 5 pieces of Purdue Improved Crop (PIC) storage bags.
- 700 PoC (243 males and 457 females) were trained on best agronomic practice and afterwards, received agricultural inputs, such as knapsack sprayers, liquid fertilizers, pesticide and herbicides, protective kits, shovel, watering cans, and seedlings (maize, groundnut, cowpea, amaranthus, sorrel, and okra),
- 500 PoC (136 males and 364 females) were trained in business management and record keeping.



- PoC in an ongoing training on PIC bags
- PoC pose with their skills acquisition training certificates and business start-up items
- 2,952 PoC successfully underwent a two-month training on different skills, such as tailoring, beads and bag-making, carpentry, shoe-making, and soap-making, and were provided with the requisite business start-up kits.

Additionally, as part of self-reliance and sustainability plans beyond the life of the project, 43 Savings and Internal Lending Community (SILC) groups were formed across the LGAs of project implementation, with a total membership of 1,095. With this development, PoC were able to access loans from their groups to improve their livelihoods.

Innovations/Best Practices

- Linkage of trained PoC to local markets to boost their income.
- Leveraging the acquired skills of PoC to produce face masks and hand wash.
- Subsidiarity was demonstrated in the year under review; field officers were actively involved in project activities.
- In compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures, project activities were conducted in batches with fewer PoC in each.



▲ A PoC SILC group



▲ A person of concern receives a business grant



Lesson Learnt

- Women involvement interventions are beneficial to households and society at large.
- Community participation is key in project implementation.
- Engaging skilful PoC in the production of essential items improves livelihoods.



Challenges

- The COVID-19 nationwide lockdown affected project implementation as activities took longer periods to complete due to the restrictions on public gatherings.
- Scarcity of food, lack of food support, and reduced farm activities emanating from insurgency, especially in Gwoza LGA, resulted in depleted attention on livestock management and altered sales of livelihood assets.



Next Step

- Sustained monitoring of PoC's progress with the interventions received.

PROJECT TITLE

Protection and Assistance to People of Concern in Adamawa State through Livelihoods Support

To ensure that migrants' return was sustainable and durable, a quick assessment was conducted by Caritas Nigeria, through the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in which Returnees, as well as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and members of host communities, prioritized skill acquisition as the most pressing need that would boost their standard of living. To that effect, the UNHCR funded livelihood interventions that were implemented by Caritas Nigeria for vulnerable persons in Madagali and Mubi Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Adamawa State, in the year under review.

An appendage of this project was a three-month Quick Impact Project (QIP), which is a small integration project that sought to create sustainable conditions for durable solutions, to ensure the active participation of refugees and IDP returnees to take ownership of the development programs in their areas of the original residence. The project also built community resilience and strengthened peaceful co-existence between the returnees and host communities thereby leading to a safer and more protective environment for them.



- Conversion of a traditional borehole to solar borehole in Mubi LGA
- A constructed solar borehole in Madagali LGA

Key Achievements

- Construction of a 6.5m over-head tank and 20,000-litre tanks (4 pieces of 5,000 litres, each fitted together to reticulate water to fetching points). This intervention currently serves two parts of the immediate community and one point located at a Vocational Training Centre (VTC).
- Completion of a VTC building in Madagali LGA.
- Procurement of training kits for the VTCs in Mubi and Madagali LGAs.
- Construction of two latrines easily accessible by people with special needs at Madagali VTC.
- Supply of 12KVA generators in Mubi and Madagali LGAs.
- Construction of a carpentry shop in Mubi LGA.
- Completion of a block of classrooms for tailoring tutorials.
- Conversion of an analogue borehole to solar in Mubi LGA.



1. Tailoring training centre in Mubi LGA 2. Carpentry training centre in Mubi LGA 3. Latrine in Madagali LGA 4. Vocational training centre in Madagali LGA



Lesson Learnt

- The construction of VTCs in localities is instrumental to livelihood sustainability.
- Engagement of local vendors within project communities facilitated community acceptance and seamless implementation of the project.



Challenges

- Scarcity of construction materials in project LGAs.
- Delayed transportation of building materials to construction sites due to insecurity.



Recommendations

- There is a need for validation of Caritas Nigeria's security clearance as a means of admitting non-indigenous vendors into a project community.



Next Step

- Furnishing of the vocational training centres and subsequent hand-over to the donor.

PROJECT TITLE

Agricultural Inputs Distribution to Conflict-affected Population in Borno State

In the year under review, Caritas Nigeria partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to distribute varieties of agricultural inputs to conflict-affected populations in selected locations in Askira Uba, Chibok and Gwoza Local Government Areas (LGAs). The project aimed to increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises, and to building the capacity and food security of crisis-affected populations namely; internally displaced persons (IDPs), host communities and returnees. The dry and rainy seasons, therefore, saw the distribution of agricultural inputs, such as maize, millet, sorghum, cowpea, groundnuts, sesame, vegetable kits and fertilizers to vulnerable persons in the target LGAs.

Innovations/Best Practices

- Active engagement of community-level stakeholders along with the project communities.
- Sensitization, training and mobilization of beneficiaries on best agronomic practices before the distribution of agricultural inputs.
- Collaboration with security operatives to ensure the safety of beneficiaries and a seamless process.
- The adoption of a three-module approach for the distribution activity was a transparent and orderly structure that provided entry and exit routes protocols for beneficiaries.
- Following the completion of the training on good agronomic practices and household nutritional feeding, farmers were offered extension services, which enabled them to identify gaps in the old farming system and adopt new technologies. This further led to increased farm yield and improved household feeding.



Training on best agronomic practices and household nutritional feeding

Key Achievements

- A total of 8,128 households (HHs); while 3,200 HHs were reached in the dry season, 4,928 HHs were reached in the rainy season).



Beneficiaries receive agricultural inputs



Lesson Learnt

- Active engagement of community-level stakeholders along with the project communities led to their ownership of the project and the overall success of project activities.
- Agricultural inputs should be distributed during the off-peak period of farming activities to avoid a delayed process and ensure active participation by farmers.



Challenges

- Parlous security in project communities. Insurgent attacks and the imposition of curfew resulted in fear and prolonged delay of project activities.
- Limited accessibility to project communities as a result of dilapidated roads.
- Abysmal network connectivity hampered communication during project implementation.
- Recurrent pest infestation on farmlands.



Recommendations

- Early commencement of interventions is expedient to allow for more time to plan for activity days and distribution modules.
- Subsequently, personal protective equipment and hygiene materials should be made available to beneficiaries.



Next Step

- Implementation of the Dry Season 2020/2021 Farming project.

PROJECT TITLE

Protection Assistance to Cameroonian Refugees in Cross River State

Through this project, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in partnership with Caritas Nigeria, committed to improving the protection, dignity and wellbeing of Cameroonian Refugees in Cross River State, and enhancing the protection environment, through the development and implementation of community-based protection monitoring activities, protection by presence, and border monitoring in affected zones through the following activities:

- **Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) identification, prevention and response services**
- **Child protection**
- **Assistance PWSN (persons with specific needs)**
- **Access to quality education**
- **Access to justice**
- **Border monitoring**
- **Community system strengthening**

In the year under review, the project, which was implemented across eight sites namely; Calabar, Akamkpa, Ikom, Ogoja, Etung, Obanliku, Boki and Bakassi, offered protection assistance services to 32,000 Cameroonian refugees and asylum seekers taking shelter in Adagom 1, Ukende and Adagom 3 settlements in Ogoja, Cross River State.

Key Achievements

- A total of 269 SGBV cases were handled and 8 survivors received legal assistance.
- 4 ongoing cases of rape and child defilement in Court.
- A total of 37 SGBV sensitization exercises were conducted.
- A total of 56 survivors received livelihood assistance.
- A total of 397 cases of child protection were handled.
- A total of 642 National Population Council-approved birth certificates were issued.
- Facilitation of access to justice for 43 refugees in detention.
- Establishment of gender-based violence reporting desks in two Police stations in Ogoja and Calabar respectively.
- Sensitization of 12,101 refugees on legal rights and access to justice, sexual & gender-based violence, child protection etc.
- Enrolment of 2564 pupils and students in schools.
- Facilitation of 135 sensitisation exercises.
- Completion of 218 school assessments/visits.
- Renovation and equipping of Early Childhood Care & Development Centres in three schools.
- Facilitation of after-school tutorials for 215 students in examination classes.
- Provision of study-related needs to 1961 students/pupils.

Innovations/Best Practices

- Establishment of an adolescents' social club in the three Refugee Settlements in Ogoja. This further evolved into sub-groups: football, drama, art, literary and debate, music, dance, and performance arts. A total of 226 adolescents were reached through these meeting media.
- Establishment and adequate equipping of a book library at the Adagom 1 Refugee Settlement for adolescents and young persons. This not only promoted reading culture among the target group but also provided an avenue to keep them constructively preoccupied and out of trouble while curbing risky behaviour.
- Caritas Nigeria field staff in Ogoja personally funded arts and crafts creative classes for children after school hours in Adagom 1 Settlement. This enabled the kids to explore their creativity positively in a safe space, thereby improving their emotional resilience and drastically reducing incidents of child abduction.



Challenges

- Frequent friction between the host communities and refugees.
- Lack of diligence and objectivity on the part of the Police in investigating rape cases.
- An unreasonable sense of entitlement to humanitarian services by the host community.



Next Step

Following the signing of a Project Partnership Agreement, Caritas Nigeria will continue its protection services in Cross River State in the coming year.

PROJECT TITLE

Protection Assistance to Displaced Persons in Adamawa & Yobe States

With the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Caritas Nigeria provided protection services to internally displaced persons and returnees in Fufere, Madagali, Maiha, Michika, Mubi, Yola North/Girei, and Yola South LGAs in the year under review. The project sought to improve the protection, dignity and well-being of the targeted groups, as well as to enhance the protection environment in the project states, through the development and implementation of community-based protection monitoring activities, protection by presence, and monitoring of returnees in targeted affected zones. The following activities were undertaken to achieve the project goals:

- **Protection and return monitoring**
- **Border monitoring**
- **Identification and referral of SGBV cases**
- **Assistance to PWSN (persons with specific needs)**
- **Referrals to appropriate service providers**
- **Community system strengthening**
- **Advocacy intervention and sensitization campaigns**

Key Achievements

- **A total of 26 SGBV cases were identified, with 11 survivors receiving different services.**
- **A total of 3418 individuals were reached through awareness and sensitization sessions.**
- **A total of 158 child protection cases were identified, with 59 ultimately referred for services.**
- **A total of 227 PWSN cases were identified, while 40 have been referred for services.**
- **A total of 31 advocacy visits to government authorities and traditional/community leaders were conducted.**
- **A total of 3473 protection and return monitoring missions were conducted and recorded. Likewise, a total of 55 border monitoring missions were conducted and recorded.**
- **A total of 8 Protection Action Groups (PAGs) consisting of 80 members from 80 communities, were established.**
- **A total of 104 cases were referred to appropriate service providers.**

Innovations/Best Practices

Development of Referral Directory: Since the project was mainly focused on the identification, prevention and response by way of referrals, cases identified by Caritas Nigeria were referred to external actors providing relevant services for management. While a lot of protection cases abound on the field, finding appropriate service providers to respond to them was a major challenge. Therefore, the need to address this challenge resulted in the initiation of a service mapping exercise to identify the services rendered by different actors on the field and their focal points for each location. The exercise culminated in the development of a referral directory for the project, which greatly simplified the referral of cases. It is pertinent to note that the funder found the directory an initiative worth adopting at the sector level.



Lesson Learnt

- Envisaging emergencies and the corresponding response in a work plan is an effective response mechanism.
- Splitting large tasks into smaller actionable steps helps to ensure the timely execution of project activities.



Challenges

- Increasing insecurity in the region.
- Impact of COVID-19 safety guidelines on project activities.
- Lack of cooperation by the Nigerian Immigration Service on information sharing as it concerns returnees, who got into the country through unofficial entry points.



Next Step

- In the coming year, Caritas Nigeria will continue to implement the Protection services in Adamawa and Yobe States, following the signing of a Project Partnership Agreement.



PROJECT TITLE

Legislative Advocacy and Inclusive Governance for Improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Lokoja Diocese

To increase citizens' participation and inclusion in the governance structure, Caritas Nigeria partnered with the Justice, Development and Peace Caritas (JDPC) of Lokoja Diocese, Kogi State, through the support of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), to enhance interactions between citizens and their elected representatives, and to improve access to potable water supply in target communities of intervention. Through adequate sensitization and awareness sessions, target communities demanded accountability from their legislators. For instance, the JDPC organized a phone-in radio program that allowed constituents of Omana and Dekina communities to engage their representatives in issues regarding their welfare, while Obangede, Idoji and Ege communities successfully put forward their charter of demands for rehabilitation of the communities' water service points.

Key Achievements

- Establishment of liaison offices in Dekina/Okura, Dekina/Biraidu, Olamaboro, Ankpa I and Ankpa II, Kabba, Lokojo I and Lokoja II, and Idah constituencies by lawmakers representing the areas.
- Completion of a water project in Adogo, Idoji, Ejule, Adankolo and Okene communities, and commencement of Osara community water project.
- Initiation of Okene mega water facility rehabilitation project.
- Joint declaration by development associations in target communities to protect public infrastructures in their communities through community development.

PROJECT TITLE

Community and Legislative Members Interactive Platform (CLIP) in Awka Diocese

In the year under review, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) supported Caritas Nigeria to facilitate the entrenchment of effective communication between legislators from twelve project constituencies in Awka Diocese and their constituents, through town hall meetings and advocacy visits. The CLIP project, which was implemented by the JDPC Awka, also sought to ensure the establishment of functional constituency offices by legislators, to promote good governance and accountability using radio, and to assist communities in channelling their charter of demands to the appropriate quarters. Additionally, the project sought to build and strengthen a strong network of vanguards across all communities who would help to sustain the impacts and benefits of the project.

Key Achievements

- Hosting town hall meetings in all twelve project constituencies.
- Establishment of functional constituency offices across all project locations.
- Formation of vanguards across the constituencies.
- Advocacy visits by vanguards and selected community members to targeted legislators.
- Development of community charter of demand and its inclusion in state's budget.
- Establishment of a functional interactive live radio program on citizen-legislator engagement in the state.

PROJECT TITLE

Gender Mainstreaming in Social Accountability in Kogi State

As a gender-conscious organization, Caritas Nigeria consistently integrates gender-inclusive activities and gender activities across its program areas. With the support of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), Caritas Nigeria collaborated with the JDPCs of Idah and Lokoja Dioceses to improve the balance in the percentage of women in active politics, by strengthening their access to a politics-friendly environment. Activities implemented in the year 2020 included community dialogue sessions, phone-in radio programs and policy change engagement. A major achievement was the election of women into the offices of Local Government Councils' Vice-Chairpersons and leaders.

PROJECT TITLE

Development and Deployment of Election Monitoring System (EMS) for the Church

Before the 2019 General Elections, Caritas Nigeria launched an electronic application system for the coordination of feedback from election observers deployed to polling stations across the nation. The Election Monitoring System, a simple electronic system designed to collate and analyze data from the field (polling stations), remains part of the Church's efforts at ensuring transparency and accountability of Nigeria's electoral processes.

In line with its purpose of ensuring accurate and unbiased analysis of reports on electoral processes, Caritas Nigeria equipped the diocesan structures with the requisite skills for the efficient use of the Election Monitoring System. It is pertinent to note that the development of the EMS is currently ongoing in JDPC Abuja Diocese, after which a step-by-step training on the use of the application would take place, ahead of subsequent elections in Nigeria.

PROJECT TITLE

COVID-19 Emergency Intervention in the FCT and Kano State



Presentation of COVID-19 palliative to a special needs person

Following the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Nigeria, the Church, through the diocesan structures, swung into prompt interventions aimed at mitigating the impact of the global threat on citizens. On that account, CAFOD supported Caritas Nigeria to carry out interventions targeted at addressing the nutrition gap, food insecurity, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs of vulnerable persons in the Federal Capital Territory (Orozo-Gidan Mangoro, Idu-Karimo, Gidan Mangoro and Sabon Lugbe communities) and Kano State (Sabon Gari, Bompai, Dakata and Ungogo/Tudun Murtala communities).

Among the activities implemented through the JDPC were the dissemination of COVID-19 awareness and prevention campaign, advocacy and sensitization on cash programming, recruitment and training of hospital casual staff and volunteers, identification and registration of project beneficiaries, validation of selected vulnerable households and individuals, identification of target locations, identification and engagement of vendors, procurement and distribution of food items to persons of concern, the conduct of baseline surveys, and advocacy visits to community gate-keepers and religious leaders. Items distributed to needy households included rice, maize, garri (granulated cassava), seasoning cubes, vegetable oil, protective equipment, while selected faith-based facilities and worship places, such as Cornelian Maternity and Rural Health Care Centre, Gidan Mangoro and St. Joseph Mukasa Catholic Church, Gidan Mangoro - FCT, bottles of hand wash, hand sanitisers, water guard, personal protective equipment, trash bins, cartons of latex hand gloves, and foot-operated handwashing stations.

Similarly, with the support of CAFOD, Caritas Nigeria provided livelihood support to women in the Lamingo community of the Archdiocese of Jos through the JDPC. The Livelihood Support project increased COVID-19 awareness and prevention campaign in the project community and reduced the economic effects of the pandemic by making available food and non-food palliatives to selected health facilities and struggling families in the Archdiocese of Jos.



Presentation of COVID-19 handwashing station

Key Achievements

- Provision of food support for 2,500 vulnerable households.
- Distribution of hygiene kits to 3,000 households.
- Capacity building for 110 JDPC staff and volunteers on best practices of the project.
- Training of hospital staff on infection control and prevention.

Innovations/Best Practices

- Teamwork and collaboration with the JDPCs and volunteers
- Support of local ordinaries during the period of project implementation.
- Involvement of Muslim women and youth groups, particularly in Kano State, in project activities.



Lesson Learnt

- Efficient organization of palliatives distribution ensured transparency of the process.



Challenges

- Inadequacy of available supplies due to an overwhelming number of needy persons.
- Absence of security apparatus for project team during project activities.
- Inflation grossly affected the project budget.
- Delayed disbursement of funds affected project work plan
- Lack of items storage facilities for items hampered distribution activities.



Recommendations

- There is a need for improved communication and coordination among CAFOD and Caritas at the national and diocesan levels.
- Timely reporting of project activities by partners.
- Prompt feedback from the Finance Unit.



Next Step

- Project progress report to partners.
- Monitoring activities on project interventions.



PROJECT TITLE

The Global Action Towards Epidemic control in Sub-national units in Nigeria (4GATES) Project

The Global Action Towards Epidemic control in Sub-national units in Nigeria (4GATES) project is a five-year comprehensive HIV prevention, care and treatment intervention funded by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Caritas Nigeria is one of the four CDC Nigeria's lead implementing partners with the mandate to support HIV care and treatment services in health facilities across four states: Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo. Caritas Nigeria currently supports comprehensive HIV care and treatment services in over 150 health facilities: Service delivery Facilities (SDF), 25 Community Based Organizations (CBO), and 5 comprehensive One-Stop Shops (OSS) across the four states.

The 4GATES project generally seeks to identify, enrol and provide Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) care to identified HIV cases, in line with the goal that epidemic control is achieved during the 5-year project period. This project is being implemented through an Umbrella Grants Mechanism (UGM) whereby SDFs, ART pick-up sites, and CBOs receive sub-grants to identify, enrol and provide ART care and other forms of support and quality services delivery to deserving clients, including orphans and vulnerable children in the society. The project also works towards epidemic control by partnering state actors



namely; Ministry of Health, National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA), State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA), State Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development (SMWASD), Local Action Committee on AIDS (LACA), and Social Welfare departments of targeted Local Government Areas, to enhance their coordination and monitoring capacity at local, state and federal levels.

Key Achievements

Following the outcome of the 2018 Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS), the ART Surge response was launched in April 2019, with the ambitious intention of achieving epidemic control in the 3 'red' states (which connotes states with high HIV infection rate/burden) namely; Delta, Enugu and Imo. In Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20), the 4GATES program recorded an intensified number of patients receiving care in the states to over 103,738 persons (as at end of December 2020), an unprecedented increase of over 55% within twelve months. The ART Surge response was officially launched by the different state governors, with a landmark pronouncement of funds earmarked for case-finding and provision of HIV care and treatment services across the states,



Clients receive HIV testing service

including the hard-to-reach areas in each state. The success of the Surge response, much as it resulted from the dogged commitment of staff and management support, was also due largely to the immense support and cooperation received from the state actors.



Representatives of the US Government and Caritas Nigeria with the Governor of Delta State and the Bishop of Bomadi Diocese, Most Rev. Hyacinth Egbobo, at the official launch of the ART Surge response in Delta State

- The project was also able to provide Differentiated Models of Care (DMOC), suiting treatment uptake and continuation to the particular needs of the individual patients. The Patient Satisfaction Survey (PSS), which allows frontline care and treatment providers to tailor their services to fit patient needs in terms of age, sex and drug refill points and ultimately, quality service delivery, were all parts of the achievements of the project in the year under review.
- Despite the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was able to leverage remote conferencing technologies to ensure that capacity building and engagement of frontline stakeholders continued. This was to ensure that people living with HIV (PLHIV) in the four states were provided with the best standards of care wherever they were located.
- Weekly ECHO (eLearning platform for facility staff education) sessions were facilitated across all supported facilities, and Continuous Medical Education (CME) sessions held at regular intervals. Web-based platforms, such as WhatsApp and others, were also leveraged to ensure that constant communication, reporting and feedback mechanisms were kept vibrant and operational.
- Commodity management and availability of ARTs and drugs for the treatment of opportunistic infections (OI), and commodities for integrated testing activities were all in constant supply, a feat admirably and efficiently achieved by our Pharmacy and Supply Chain team members. Transitioning patients to optimized regimens appropriate for their age enabled the achievement of the required suppression rate for patients in care. The overall project suppression rate, a critical indicator on the project, stood at 91%.

Innovations/Best Practices

a) The Spoke and community testing strategy for case identification:

The concept of Spoke (Independent private hospitals, laboratories, PMVs, Pharmacies, TBAs) engagement was conceptualized due to the observation of the pattern of health-seeking behaviour of the residents of our project locations. It was observed that sick persons patronized private laboratories and other health service points not supported by PEPFAR in their communities, especially those in the interior communities. This gave rise to the engagement and activation of spoke facilities for case-finding and referral services. Consequently, Caritas Nigeria carried out advocacies were to health/medical professional bodies, which included the guild of directors of medical laboratories, patent medicine vendors, the association of private medical practitioners, and community health workers' union, to secure their buy-in for collaboration. The community testing model focused on targeted testing to increase case-finding while working with the community stakeholders. The three major approaches adopted included:

- **Integrated Testing Approach:** Projection and inclusion of other health services (blood sugar test, blood pressure checks, provision of hematinic and Vitamin C to all persons).
- **Widows' Approach:** Medical outreaches leveraging on the community cultural norm of high sexual activity in widows of reproductive age.
- **Traditional Healers' Approach:** High patronage of herbal homes and traditional medical doctors due to cultural beliefs in roots and herbs.

b) The daily report and documentation update:

The daily reporting across all thematic areas, coordinated by the Strategic Information team, ensured a realistic real-time picture of the project's activities and achievements, and enabled immediate and timely intervention and addressing of challenges. This innovation went a long way in promoting prompt and informed project decision making; addressing very many impromptu donor demands and other stakeholders' information requirements. Worth mentioning is the fact that all patients with documented unsuppressed viral load

results were promptly informed of their results and placed on enhanced adherence support. The advanced adherence support was designed to identify the causes of their non-adherence and to ensure that they received practical support to improve their adherence, leading to their viral suppression and ultimately improving their quality of life. This innovation also boosted the viral suppression rate.

c) Involvement of beneficiaries in livelihood support decisions:

So that they might have improved livelihoods, Caritas Nigeria supported indigent beneficiaries to set up businesses of their choice by providing them with various business start-up items. Similarly, some other beneficiaries were empowered with their selected skill set.

d) The HIV self-test initiative:

This initiative eliminated the need for health workers to conduct HIV screening for clients. It also eliminated wait times and the need for HIV tests to be conducted in a laboratory using laboratory consumables. For beneficiaries, it reduced stigma and promoted privacy as the test could then be conducted at their convenience, thereby leading to enhanced case identification.

The project deployed many more innovative approaches that yielded great results and aided the quantum achievement of targets in the year 2020. A few more of these innovations include:

- Dispatch of drugs to patients who could not access their medications due to the nationwide lockdown instituted to curb COVID-19 infection rate.
- Daily dissemination of bulk SMS appointment reminders to patients.
- Deployment of community Phlebotomists for viral load sampling.
- Involvement of stakeholders in decision making across all areas of intervention thereby leading to program acceptability and ownership.



Lesson Learnt

- Inclusion and engagement of key stakeholders are of paramount importance for the successful implementation of new program strategies and policies
- Pediatric and adolescent programming needs to be tailored to suit their specific needs if they are to be effective. Late clinics, peer educators and providing disclosure and adherence messaging to eligible adolescents and their caregivers are key to improving the indices for the younger spectrum of PLHIV
- The 4GATES Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) team's co-facilitation of all step-down training (along with other partners) for community volunteers proved to be more impactful
- The lockdown period, despite its attendant challenges, was also a blessing in disguise as the program achieved a lot more amid the COVID-19 pandemic
- Multi months drugs dispensing helps treatment outcomes, decongests clinics, reduces patient waiting time and improves treatment retention
- Prompt payments motivate and improve program effectiveness, including community case-finding.
- Incentivizing program activities has attendant risks that must be mitigated. It was observed that sometimes some people get tempted to indulge in the falsification of data and sharp practices to make gains to the detriments of the program because of incentives attached to such program activities. Appropriate risk mitigation mechanisms must be put in place to address this
- Instituting a program accountability mechanism was beneficial. Adopting measures, such as ensuring accountability on the part of individuals, as well as tying payments of identified cases within the communities, addressed retention issues
- Integration of the OVC component of the project into the treatment component.
- Intensified community-based approach positively impacted program implementation.



Navigating the creeks and waters of Oporoza community, Delta State with HIV care services



Challenges

- Frequent security challenges, such as communal clashes, kidnappings, and random violence.
- High cost of programming in hard-to-reach areas with several water-locked communities that are only accessible by boats.
- Limited funding to address all program requirements.
- Shortage of rapid test kits for maximal testing and covering of the hinterlands.
- Confidentiality issues by positive beneficiaries and caregivers; most bear pseudo names at the facility thereby leading to a negative impact on programming since they bear other names in the community.
- Abysmal power supply in some communities.
- Poor network connectivity in some locations where the spokes are located, hence making communication feedback inefficient.
- Insistence on user fees in some facilities before clients can access care.



Recommendations

- Continuous collaboration with key stakeholders.
- Uninterrupted scale-up of HIV testing, care and treatment services in remote areas.
- Improved private-public partnerships.
- Provision of alternative power supply to all service delivery facilities.
- Solicitation of the GON support.
- Strengthened security in volatile areas.
- Collaboration with relevant stakeholders to eliminate user fees.



Next Step

- Development of a strategic plan to improve the enrollment of pending positive vulnerable children.
- Strengthened partnership with relevant stakeholders to aid patient retention.
- Scale-up of community services to identify unknown HIV positive cases and commence them on treatment.
- Continuation of advocacy visits to the state governments to increase support for healthcare-related challenges.
- Introduction of strategies and programs that will reduce stigma and discrimination and increase patient retention.

PROJECT TITLE

Public-Private Mix Tuberculosis

The Public-Private Mix Tuberculosis (PPM TB) project supported by the Global Fund, which sought to increase active tuberculosis (TB) case-finding, was implemented in 253 communities across twenty states namely, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Enugu, Imo, Kaduna, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, and Sokoto, through Hub and Spoke facilities. Some of the activities carried out in the year 2020 included stakeholder engagement with partner states' Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control program, assessment mapping and training of faith-based facilities providers on TB prevention, identification, treatment, engagement and training of linkage coordinators for successful sputum samples' shipment and linkages, TB screening intervention in 300 facilities out of 463 engaged facilities, house-to-house TB screening, and community outreaches.



Outreach activity in Imo State



Caritas Nigeria project focal person for Benue State with Most Rev. William Avenya, Bishop of Gboko Diocese, and staff of St. Anthony's Hospital, Zaki Biam, Benue State.

Key Achievements

- **Assessment mapping and training of 463 faith-based facilities on TB prevention, identification and treatment as well as training of 4,163 Spoke facilities.**
- **Supporting 463 faith-based organizations in twenty states to contribute to the national TB cases identification and notification.**
- **Diagnosis of 15,950 TB cases and commencement on treatment of 15,457 notified cases.**
- **Provision of incentives to 43 Gene Xpert platforms (for TB diagnosis) for optimization.**
- **Engagement and training of 116 screening officers to ensure screening of 100% of the General Out-Patient Department (GOPD) attendees in the faith-based health facilities.**

Innovations/Best Practices

- Successful integration into the partner states' TB and Leprosy Control programs.
- Free Chest X-ray services for children with suspected TB infections.
- Active community TB case search in collaboration with formal and informal health care providers.
- Integration of TB screening into faith-based health facilities' routine services provision.
- Adoption of e-payments to address l, ds of payment requests, given that the project is incentives-driven.



Lesson Learnt

- Decentralization of states' technical support led to the establishment of Caritas Nigeria's presence in twenty states of the federation.
- Commencement of Hub/Spokes-initiated outreaches for active TB case-finding in the communities was effective for programming.
- Collaboration with traditional medicine practitioners on outreach to the clients of the informal health sector contributed to successes recorded in the year under review.
- Engagement of Linkage Coordinators for contact tracing.
- Leveraging on Church structure helped to secure the acceptance and cooperation of project communities.

▶ Mobile TB microscopy service



Challenges

- High rate of staff attrition in faith-based health facilities.
- Lack of a project vehicle.
- Unavailability of funding for some key activities and personnel.
- Insecurity, especially in Northcentral states.
- Limited office space due to the fire disaster in a quarter of Caritas Nigeria headquarters.



Mass transportation support for children X-ray service



Recommendations

- There is a need for harmonization of staff emoluments with public facilities.
- The capacity building of faith-based health care workers should be prioritized.
- Engagement with the funder through the grant's principal recipient for a project vehicle and reprogrammed funding is needed.



Next Step

Following the three-year renewal of the PPM TB project, Caritas Nigeria shall support faith-based and private-for-profit health facilities in Abia, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo States, in the coming year.



PROJECT TITLE

Clean Energy Cookstove

The project sought to sensitize rural and most vulnerable women about climate action, with the ultimate goal of reducing the amount of firewood used for cooking, through the provision of alternative and efficient cooking methods that help to preserve forests and reduce carbon emissions, in line with Goal 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the year under review, the project targeted women in the nine ecclesiastical provinces and the League of Women Voters of the Federal Capital Territory Chapter. Accordingly, the project, funded by Sun24 Inc. USA, aimed at enhancing the air quality of the environment and improving the health and well-being of citizens, by popularizing the idea of adding rocks to open-fire cookstoves in Nigerian communities, through trained women groups in parishes.

Key Achievements

- Training of 112 women across 54 Dioceses on the inclusion of rocks to firewood, for onward step-down of knowledge to women leaders across all the parishes.
- Further training of 19,402 women in 54 Dioceses on the innovative methods of cooking, which produce less smoke, consume less firewood and prevent the emission of carbon dioxide into the environment.
- Disbursement of a grant of NGN525,000 to each parish for a step-down of Cookstove training.

Innovations/Best Practices

Addition of rocks to firewood curbs air pollution and reduces the amount of wood used for cooking.



A representation of the League of Women Voters after a practical session



Hands-on session with Catholic Women of Awgu Diocese



Lesson Learnt

- The project helped to strengthen JDPC structures and to achieve inclusivity.



Challenges

- Mobilization of women was initially difficult due to COVID-19 protocols.
- Non-recommended use of stones from the river in some project localities due to scarcity of rocks in some project localities.



Next Step

- The successful outcome of the Clean Energy Cookstove project earned Caritas Nigeria more funds from the donor, to sensitize rural farmers on alternative methods of fertilizer creation in the coming year.



COVID-19 INTERVENTIONS

In the year 2020, the world was plagued by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) which resulted in the halt of economic and social activities, food insecurity and extreme challenges for several people and organizations around the world. To stem the effect of the ravaging pandemic and its attendant containment measures in Nigeria, Caritas Nigeria, with the support of sister agencies, reached out to vulnerable persons, whose living conditions had been exacerbated by the pandemic, with food and personal protective items as narrated below.

PROJECT TITLE

Food Assistance to Vulnerable Persons to Mitigate the Effect of COVID-19

Delivering on its commitment to advance the wellbeing of all, Caritas Nigeria implemented outreach activities to reduce

the threat of food insecurity posed by a reduction in economic activities particularly on those who rely on daily micro-enterprise activities for subsistence. Consequently, Caritas Nigeria carried out community food drives in three tranches and reached 1,800 families whose livelihoods were affected by COVID-19 and the nationwide lockdown in Durumi and Gudu communities in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The persons of concern were selected on the basis of need not creed, and received essential food and non-food items. The first tranche of essential food items distributed benefitted 500 vulnerable households. While a total of 700 households were reached during the second tranche distribution, a third tranche of food items benefitted 500 persons.



Some of the food items distributed during the food drives

PROJECT TITLE

Integrated Emergency Response to Persons Affected by COVID-19 Pandemic

Supported by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Caritas Internationalis, this project aimed to contribute to the reduction of mortality and morbidity emanating from COVID-19 pandemic, by ensuring that preparedness measures were in place to rapidly implement control measures.

Implemented in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Kano, Lagos and Osun States, the project sought to achieve COVID-19 awareness creation and prevention, behavior change, building of health workers' capacity on prevention, identification, treatment and referral of COVID-19 cases.



A training session with health workers

Key Achievements

- Active media campaign on COVID-19 infection prevention and control.
- Training on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and the distribution of personal protective equipment to health workers.
- Building the capacity of 19 healthcare facilities for the identification, management and referral of COVID-19 cases.
- Training of 241 community healthcare workers in primary healthcare facilities in the project states.
- Establishment of standard prevention, treatment and care protocols in facilities.
- Testing and profiling of over 5,945 cases in communities.
- Strengthened capacity of 200 community healthcare workers for active surveillance, early investigation, detection, diagnosis, contact-tracing, and effective case management of COVID-19.
- Formation of rapid response teams and supervisory networks.
- Improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for vulnerable persons in communities and healthcare facilities in the project states.
- Provision of personal protective equipment and sanitary materials.
- Household sensitization and counselling visits to 4,525 households.
- Distribution of 2,000 hygiene promotion leaflets in high risk locations.

PROJECT TITLE

▼ Participants at the national training-of-trainers workshop in Abuja



Strengthening the Capacity of Frontline Health Workers for COVID-19 Rapid Response

To stem the spread of COVID-19, Catholic Relief Services partnered with Caritas Nigeria to support interventions which included the training of frontline workers, distribution of personal protective equipment, community awareness creation, and advocacy to stakeholders. The four-month project was implemented in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Cross



▲ Presentation of sensitization materials and protective equipment to a representative of a host community in Calabar



▲ Practical session on hand hygiene at Catholic Maternity Hospital, Moniya, Ogoja

River State through four selected facilities namely, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Hospital, Bwari, Daughters of Nativity Hospital, Jikwoyi, St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital, Ikot Ene and Catholic Maternity Hospital, Moniya, Ogoja.



Key Achievements

- Training of 42 persons at a national level training-of-trainers workshop, 131 participants at diocesan level trainings and 286 frontline healthcare workers drawn from the four project hospitals.
- Training of the health facilities on Infection and Prevention Control (IPC) for enhanced identification, treatment and referral of COVID-19 cases.
- Formation of IPC committees in the four project facilities.
- Sensitization of 2,013 persons from Christian and Muslim faiths.
- Production of information, education and communication materials, as well as media sensitization in the project states.
- Supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the four facilities stated above. The PPE included foot-operated handwashing station, footwear sanitation, hand sanitizers, liquid handwash, hand gloves, face masks, overalls, gumboots, cleaning and disinfecting detergents, plastic water containers and infra-red thermometers.



▲ Presentation of personal protective equipment and hospital equipment to management of St. Mary's Hospital, Gwagwalada

PROJECT TITLE

Italian Bishops Conference (CEI)-funded COVID-19 Emergency Response

The project sought to address misinformation in the response to COVID-19 in Nigeria and provide immediate support to selected health facilities to enhance their disease detection capacities. Funded by the Italian Bishops of Conference, the project targeted the three most affected Catholic provinces namely, Abuja, Kaduna and Lagos, with awareness campaigns on the prevention and control of COVID-19 and protective materials for selected communities.

Key Achievements

- Production and airing of radio jingles and television spots on COVID-19 infection prevention and control.
- Production and distribution of information, education and communication materials in the project communities.
- Procurement and supply of personal protective equipment, hospital equipment and sanitary items including essential drugs to selected health facilities to address COVID-19 cases where detected.



▲ Presentation of personal protective equipment and hospital equipment to management of St. Mary's Hospital, Gwagwalada

PROJECT TITLE

Emergency Assistance to Vulnerable Persons at Risk of COVID-19 Infection

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable persons in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Caritas Nigeria, with the support of Caritas Germany, collaborated with key stakeholders to conduct awareness creation sessions, community engagement, and distribute personal protective items to selected communities and internally displaced persons camps (IDP) in the FCT. Following a vulnerability assessment of five communities and IDP camps in the FCT, Caritas Nigeria selected the New Kuchingoro and Wassa camps for the

implementation of the intervention because of overpopulation and increased number of female and widow headed households. The activities carried out included COVID-19 awareness creation, hygiene promotion and safety measures sessions, community identification, targeting, validation and registration of households, formation of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) committees, focus group discussions, and the distribution of sanitation kits to identified beneficiary households.

Key Achievements

- Distribution of personal protective equipment such as handwash, face masks and hand sanitizers to a total of 1,315 persons.
- Identification of additional beneficiary groups – Kabusa Primary Healthcare centre and Durumi Primary Healthcare centre – and provision of high-quality foot-controlled hand washing stations, cartons of surgical gloves and automated sanitizer dispensers with refillable sanitizers to each of the facilities.
- Production and distribution of information, education and communication materials.
- Production and airing of infection control and prevention radio jingles and television spots.

PROJECT TITLE

Messages of Hope (MoH)



The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which has ravaged the world for many months now, has transformed the landscape of normal living and lifestyles around the world. The rapidly changing global nature of the pandemic requires a responsive approach that matches the dynamics of the change in order to get ahead of the epidemic. Risk communication and conveyance of messages of hope, mitigation measures, and on vaccine acceptability, access and equity are a pivotal strategy that must be given consideration in this drive.

In Nigeria, a major challenge in the response to COVID-19 has been misinformation, which in turn has caused panic and fear in most communities. In this context, effective communication is needed to clearly clarify and present the facts and to allay people's fears as much as possible by communicating messages of hope. This is particularly true for children and young people who need comforting information, and for vulnerable groups such as the elderly.

The Messages of Hope, is a United States Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) supported initiative, implemented by Caritas Nigeria in collaboration with the Nigerian Interfaith Action Association (NIFAA). This initiative is aimed at reinforcing the WHO, NCDC and CDC guidance on the COVID-19 disease, clarify myths and beliefs about COVID-19, promote community and family support for infected individuals and survivors, reduce associated stigma and discrimination and promote acceptability of COVID-19 vaccines. The Messages of Hope uses key strategies to address specific topics which Faith Based Organizations and Faith Leaders from different countries have identified as missing in the behavior change messages being communicated so far, to promote healthy living, reduce stigma and bring hope to all.

The Messages on COVID-19 are elaborated around 7 key areas that have been identified by faith leaders engaged in the Faith and Community Initiative:

1. **Life** - not death; focus in COVID-19 must change to survival
2. **Hope** - not fear; physical distancing works to reduce COVID-19 spread
3. **Connection** - not isolation; calls, texts, WhatsApp, for quarantined
4. **Positive Role model** - general prevention, avoid large gatherings
5. **Caring** - safely; for those affected by COVID-19, in our homes, congregations, and community
6. **Celebration** - not stigma; for those who improve, recover
7. **Influence** - builds hope, gratitude, compassion; as faith leaders can use virtual sermons/ meetings, messages/radio/TV.

The Messages of Hope works with faith leaders to reach their congregants with the right messaging around prevention and mitigation. Nigeria can be classified as a very religious country and faith leaders provide the necessary guidance to their respective communities, through their various platforms they can bring about the right behavior change. Therefore, the Messages of Hope works through a Steering Committee, made up of leaders of key faith groups from the Christian and Muslim blocks, who interface with the project team and convey the relevant messages to their different congregations.

Target Location: the intervention is being implemented across select states in the six geo-political regions (Lagos, Kaduna, Rivers, Plateau, Gombe, Enugu and the FCT). These locations were selected based on the number of cases as identified by NCDC, as at the time of project design and the funding available, however, Caritas Nigeria hopes that through the different religious congregations and platforms, the Messages of Hope will be cascaded across the country eventually.

In the coming months of year 2021, the Messages of Hope will continue to interface with religious leaders and relevant stakeholders such as the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC), to design, produce and disseminate information, education and communication (IEC) materials such as posters, banners, flyers, billboards, jingles & TV spots, WhatsApp broadcast. Also, talking points and sermon guides referencing the Holy Books (Bible and Quran) on the acceptable behavior that people should adapt to reduce the spread of COVID-19, while caring for those affected, will be produced for faith leaders. These messages will be disseminated through the Steering Committee members of the intervention, to their different congregations (Christians and Muslims) at the National and State levels.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

PROJECT CODE NAME	SUMMARY	INCOME (N)	EXPENDITURE (N)
CORE	Caritas Nigeria CORE funds are received through the Diocesan Lenten collections, Parish collections, donations from individuals and corporate bodies.	63,063,666.82	49,674,399.24
4GATES	The Global Action Towards Epidemic control in Sub-national units in Nigeria (4GATES) project is funded by the United States Government through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The project aims at implementing comprehensive HIV care, treatment and prevention services in target States of Delta, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo.	5,551,528,237.50	5,551,528,237.50
CAFOD	This is an Institutional Capacity Strengthening project funded by the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).	7,148,000.00	7,148,000.00
E.C. Zaman Tare	The European Commission-sponsored project through CAFOD is for peace building. The project is implemented in Kaduna and Plateau States.	30,000,000.00	29,165,886.24
PMD Pro	The Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro) is a training facilitated by Caritas Nigeria in collaboration with APMG Group.	14,399,635.00	12,307,791.98
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) funded Caritas Nigeria for the implementation of some humanitarian interventions in the North-East Nigeria.	17,086,080.50	15,421,018.62
German MFA	The German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Building Cash-Readiness of Local and National Humanitarian Responders project in Lake Chad Basin.	189,329,700.00	163,244,720.68
Norway MFA	The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Emergency/Early Recovery Food Security and Livelihoods project for communities affected by insurgency in Borno and Adamawa States.	101,698,947.72	23,482,075.01
UNHCR	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Emergency Response and Humanitarian Assistance for the Cameroonian Refugees in Cross River State.	337,016,491.02	337,016,491.02

PROJECT CODE NAME	SUMMARY	INCOME (₦)	EXPENDITURE (₦)
UNHCR	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sponsored Caritas Nigeria on Emergency Response and Humanitarian Assistance in the North East of Nigeria.	116,015,575.91	116,015,575.91
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported Caritas Nigeria on the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition in children under the age of 5, and also reducing the mortality rate arising from malnutrition.	150,813,960.12	150,813,960.12
SMAT-P	With the support of the Catholic Bishops of Italy, Caritas Nigeria successfully completed the first year of an Anti-human Trafficking project titled Sustainable Measures Against Trafficking in Persons (SMAT-P).	135,600,000.00	58,041,161.63
GLOBAL FUND	This Project is from the Global Fund where IHVN (Institute of Human Virology) is the Principal Recipient of the award while Caritas Nigeria is a Sub Recipient. This is a funding for Tuberculosis Public Private Mix Partnership (TB PPM) in 20 States of the Federation. The States are Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Enugu, Imo, Kaduna, Kogi, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers and Sokoto. PPM TB Project is the first of its kind in Nigeria. Caritas Nigeria is to work with the key strategy of increasing TB case notification working with Faith Based Facilities.	340,978,716.00	340,978,716.00
GIZ STEM Project	The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is the donor of the project. Stable, Trained and Empowered Me (STEM) project. This project is implemented in Edo State. The primary objective of the project is to assist returning migrants' economic and social reintegration into their communities thereby contributing to the overall goal of preventing irregular migration from Nigeria.	59,816,459.78	59,816,459.78
PEOPLE project	This is a Project sponsored through CAFOD for Capacity Building. This is Preparing for Emergencies through Organisational Procedure, Leasing and Exchange.	2,515,159.16	2,515,159.16
CRS-COVID-19 Project	Catholic Relief Services sponsored Caritas Nigeria to carry out COVID-19 prevention and control interventions in the Federal Capital Territory and Cross River State.	18,000,000.00	18,000,000.00
CEI-COVID-19 Project	With the support of the Italian Bishops Conference, Caritas Nigeria conducted awareness creation initiatives, procured and distributed personal protective equipment and essential hospital equipment to selected facilities in the Federal Capital Territory, Kaduna and Lagos States.	98,103,771.60	98,103,771.60

PROJECT CODE NAME	SUMMARY	INCOME (N)	EXPENDITURE (N)
CI- COVID-19 Project	The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Caritas Internationalis sponsored Caritas Nigeria to implement COVID-19 interventions such as training of health workers, capacity building of health facilities, sensitization activities, media campaigns, and distribution of personal protective equipment.	45,187,796.00	45,187,796.00
Caritas Germany COVID-19 Response Project	Caritas Germany supported Caritas Nigeria to scale up COVID-19 prevention awareness creation, procure and distribute personal protective equipment to vulnerable households in the internally displaced persons camps in the FCT, and distribute COVID-19 response equipment to selected health facilities in the FCT.	6,780,000.00	6,780,000.00
TOTAL		7,285,082,197.13	7,085,241,220.48

Note: Some of the income have a cross cutting period spanning into the next year 2021.

Conclusion

Caritas Nigeria is grateful to her Trustees, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), donors and partners for their enormous support, as she continues to work assiduously to ensure that more persons in need, are reached with the necessary services in remote communities, so that everyone can enjoy fullness of life!

2020 Report



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