

Protection Empowerment and Resilience Building of Women in North East Nigeria



**END OF PROJECT
REPORT 2019**



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BRTV	Borno Radio Television
BOSADP	Borno State Agricultural Development Programme
CSAD	Community Security Architecture Dialogue
FAO	Food Agricultural Organization
FIDA	International Federation of Women Lawyers
IPT	Improved parboiling Technology
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
LGAs	Local Government Areas
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MWASD	Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development
NTA	Nigeria Television Authority
NSAG	Non State Action Group
NSCDC	Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps
NUJ	Nigerian Union of Journalists
PAD	Peace Architecture Dialogue
PERD	Protection, Empowerment and Resilience Building
SEMA	State Emergency Management Agency
SFCG	Search for Common Ground
UN WOMEN	United Nations Women
YBC	Yobe Broadcasting Corporation
YSADP	Yobe State Agricultural Development Programme
YTV	Yobe Television

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Search for Common Ground (Search) partnered with UN Women to implement the **Protection, Empowerment and Resilience Building for Women in North East Nigeria (PERD) Project** with funding from the Government of Japan from **September 2018 to March 2019**. The project **empowered communities and built resilience through promoting socio-economic behavior change to address the root causes of gender-based violence (GBV) and improved access to formal and informal judiciary systems, as well as economic empowerment opportunities for women in two Northern States of Borno and Yobe.**

The project had two specific outcomes which were:

1. Women and girls' safety increased through community-based actions to mitigate risks and prevent and respond to incidents of GBV in Borno and Yobe states.
2. Targeted women in Borno and Yobe states have improved livelihood and access to income generating activities (IGA).

All project activities and milestones were successfully completed during the project time period in the target states of Borno and Yobe and the target LGAs of Jere and Mafa (Borno) and Bade (Yobe). Nearly **2000 vulnerable women** in the region were directly reached by a combination of trainings, platform meetings, events, and direct support to women's cooperatives and **thousands of other women and men** were reached through the media and He4She campaigns. While a relatively short intervention, success stories highlighted in the project showed the deep impact and sustainability of project activities: Women trained in the Improved Parboiling Technique (IPT) and Income Generating Activities (IGA) have already begun their own businesses using the techniques; The successful radio program had such a strong impact in Yobe State that the Commissioner of Women's Affairs decided to sponsor the program beyond the life of the project; and The Community Security Architecture (CSAD) platform in Geshua, Bade LGA is so relevant that members have committed to continue meeting and promoting women's access to justice after the project.

Accomplishments under the **first project objective** included the engagement of a consultant to carry out research on women's access to formal and informal judicial structures, which was used to inform the development of a training manual for a gender training for formal and informal judicial service providers in the three target LGAs of Mafa. This manual was used in a

About PERD

The project aimed to empower women and build resilience by increasing access to justice for cases of GBV through both informal and formal judicial systems and engage them in livelihood and income generating activities (IGA) to increase their financial independence. Although women were targeted in the project activities, local authorities and stakeholders were also engaged with at large to ensure the success of the activities and encourage positive behavior change among men and the promotion of male champions. Since Borno State has been the most affected by the insurgency, the project activities focused more on this state, while also working in Yobe State where the security situation has been more stable but the need for women's empowerment and community resilience was still high.

series of gender trainings that reached 85 legal service providers in March 2019.

During the project, the Search PERD team established multi-sectorial community platforms in the target LGAs known as the Peace Architecture Dialogue (PAD) and Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD) Observatories and continued in providing technical support towards the development of Action Plans with implementations led by the platforms at the community levels with support of Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and the Ministry of Women Affairs (MOWA). In *Borno*, the activities included Gender Sensitive Early Warning and Response Training for the CSAD platform members, coordination/case management meetings, advocacy dialogues with traditional and religious leaders in the two target LGAs, and Legal Education Training for women in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and host communities. In *Yobe*, the activities implemented by the CSAD platform in Bade LGA included GBV sensitization to selected communities and secondary schools, training of community women leaders on leadership, town hall meetings with community influential stakeholders and coordination/case management meetings of the platforms. Furthermore, the activities implemented by the PAD at the state-level included advocacy meetings with traditional leaders, media houses, and security agencies, gender training for selected security personnel, training for women on the dangers of drug use, town hall meetings with influential stakeholders, coordination/case management meetings, inauguration of peace clubs in five secondary schools and peace club facilitators training. The members of the peace clubs went further to develop an action plan with technical support from Search's PERD team and the leadership of the PAD and implemented a variety of GBV sensitization activities.

Following a curriculum development workshop, selection of media houses in the two target States and engagement of producers, Search began the production and airing of the radio program, "Muryoyin yana yiwuwa" (Voices of Peace). In the second half of the project, production and broadcast of the VOPs continued across the two states with increasing number of listeners evident by the text messages received after the broadcast of each production. To further consolidate on the achievements of the previous quarter, a media tour was organized in the two target states, where visibility materials (fliers/stickers) were produced with key messages to enhance protection and empowerment of women and girls.

Activities under the **second project objective** began with research on women's livelihood options (conducted during the previous quarter) and the finalization of the report that was used to inform modules for the Income Generating Activity and Entrepreneurship trainings in the three target LGAs, which were carried out in February and March. Additionally, Search in partnership with UN Women carried out a TOT for women on Improved Parboiling Technique (IPT) in the three target LGAs, with the beneficiaries further stepping it down to more women in the communities. Furthermore, in the second quarter, a documentary on the IPT training was produced, starter kits were procured and disseminated to the improved parboiling technology beneficiaries in the two target states and IGA equipment and milling machines were also procured.

Upon request from UN Women, Search supported to launch the "He4She" campaign in Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State. The launch which was preceded by the stakeholder's engagement workshop had the Permanent Secretary Political, Alh. Baba Ali representing the Executive Governor of Yobe State to pledge his commitment to achieving gender equality in the State. The event also recognized carefully selected men who ensured the inclusion of women in the course of their work as gender champions.

SUMMARY AND CONTEXT OF THE ACTION

The frequent attacks which occur almost on a daily basis by the non-state armed groups (NSAG) in the North East region of Nigeria have resulted in extensive displacement, violation of national laws, international humanitarian and human rights laws, and a deepening humanitarian crisis. According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the conflict is recorded to have killed over 33,096 persons in the three most affected states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe while also displacing over two million in the region. Although both men and women have been affected by the crisis, women have been uniquely marginalized due to the fact that the NSAGs have targeted more women and girls for abduction, forced and early marriage, rape, and denial of education. There are high incidences of GBV, which is perpetuated by NSAG security agencies and aid workers. Social services and access to justice are also weak and, women continue to be victims of GBV in their communities. The IDPs' host communities have reportedly exhausted their food stocks and have resorted to eating grain reserved as seedlings for the next planting season. Household food stocks are significantly below average and incomes are declining since the conflict has interrupted offseason livelihood activities and the seasonal increase in labor demand. Food access and markets have also been adversely impacted by the insurgency and the periodic border closings with neighbouring Cameroon

Search, in partnership with UN Women, implemented the PERD project which is focused on GBV while incorporating a component on empowerment of women to respond to these identified needs and gaps by providing vulnerable women in the two North Eastern states of Borno and Yobe with requisite skills to ensure their financial stability as well as partner with strategic stakeholders who will work towards their protection within the IDP camps and host communities.

Project Management Structure

The PERD project implementation unit was formed according to the organogram, to include a Project Manager and State Project Coordinators in Borno and Yobe States, Administrative and Financial Assistants as well as Admin and Logistics Officer. The Borno Project office is located in Maiduguri, North East Nigeria and the Yobe Project Office is located at Damaturu with overall supervision from the Country Office in Abuja, Nigeria.

The full PERD team included:

- ✓ Country Director- Rajendra Mulmi/Charline Burton/Sher Nawaz
- ✓ Head of Office (North East)- Bryan Weiner
- ✓ Project Manager (PERD)- Tamwakat Golit
- ✓ State Project Coordinator (Borno)- Austin Agbanyi
- ✓ State Project Coordinator (Yobe)- Tobi Salawu
- ✓ DMEL Coordinator- Sunday Gadzama
- ✓ Grant & Finance Officer (Borno)- Winifred Aondozungwe
- ✓ Grant & Finance Officer (Yobe)- Albarka Haruna
- ✓ Project Logistics Assistant (Yobe) – Husna Ibrahim
- ✓ Media Officer- Adinieowo Eneyo

PERD Results at a Glance

- Establishment of multi-sectorial platforms 1 PAD, 1 CSAD in Yobe and 2 CSAD in Borno.
- Capacity building of platform members on Gender, GBV and case management.
- Capacity building training of platform secretariat staff on documentation of cases and donation of 3 laptops and 3 printers to secretariats of CSADs and PADs in Borno and Yobe States to enable data documentation of GBV cases.
- 23 minute IPT training documentary produced.
- IPT training for 360 women in Borno and Yobe states and establishment and registration of 18 cooperatives. The training gave the women access to market and also startup funds and kits for their businesses. (see attached starter kit list).
- Procurement of three 300kg/h rice milling machines with three 20KVA generators for the three target LGAs with shades constructed in each location.
- Procurement of over 1000 pieces of equipment and accessories as start up support for IGA women cohorts ranging from grinding machines, groundnut processing machines, sewing and knitting machines, bags of groundnuts, and soap making items.
- 399 women in Borno and Yobe underwent business skills training, numeracy training and vocational skills training which include tailoring, soap and perfume making, groundnut processing, knitting, throw pillow making, weaving of thread, local spaghetti and local spice making, baking and confectioneries, poultry keeping, cap making, grinding, and coconut oil processing. Some of the trained women have begun to produce the items and sell them, making profit.
- 37 already existing cooperatives strengthened with IGA skills and 22 women cohorts established in Borno state, drawn from IDPs and host communities.
- Equipping of socially excluded women living under poverty in Borno and Yobe with information, skills and support to improve their economic status.
- Gender training for 85 formal and informal judicial service providers in Borno and Yobe states.
- Community awareness activities which include production and dissemination of over 3000 visibility materials (i.e. stickers, fliers, t-shirts, bill boards) and press conferences in the two states. 64 episodes of radio testimonials promoting women empowerment and protection were produced and broadcast each in Borno and Yobe states. Community sensitizations and media tours were held in Borno and Yobe states, which was aimed at reaching out to the populace in the rural communities and also to distribute promotional materials and create awareness through the various testimonials already gotten. Key stakeholders including the commissioner of Women's Affairs Yobe state and Village head of Mafa in Borno state, Village head of Jere in Borno state, Secretary to the Chairman Jere LGA shared key message to promote women empowerment and protection. Listeners shared their feedback through the SMS platform setup to receive feedback from the audience.
- Assessment of formal and informal structures highlighting gaps and proffering recommendations and report produced.
- Research on livelihood options and IGA in the two states with report produced.
- In Yobe, the PAD established vibrant peace clubs in 5 schools (3 girls' school and 2 boy's school).
- Leadership, communication and advocacy training for 28 community women leaders impacting their behavior in effectively managing and expanding retail business, changing their attitude towards condoning acts of violence, giving them a voice and platform to collaborate with stakeholders within their communities.

- Activities of the project were given due publicity by journalists from TV and radio stations, online and print media. Below are links to online news that reported PERD activities:
 - <https://www.nigerianews.net/ngo-commences-three-day-women-empowerment-on-improved-rice-parboiling-technique/amp/>
 - <http://thenationonlineng.net/only-one-out-of-ten-rape-cases-are-reported-in-yobe-cp/>
 - <https://leadership.ng/2018/11/24/poor-evidence-stigmatisation-frustrate-prosecution-of-rape-perpetrators-fida/>
 - <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/ngo-to-empower-2000-women-in-rice-processing.html>
 - <https://www.blueprint.ng/un-initiative-on-women-dignity-in-yobe/>
 - www.blueprint.ng/gender-based-violence-ngo-seeks-security-partnership-in-yobe/
 - <https://www.blueprint.ng/counter-insurgency-group-inaugurates-peace-clubs-in-schools-unites-yobe-students/>
 - <http://africa.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2019/02/from-where-i-stand-i-fled-my-home-now-i-want-to-build-a-business>
 - <https://www.blueprint.ng/ngo-targets-100-students-for-special-peace-club-programme-in-yobe/>
 - <https://leadership.ng/2019/03/16/group-trains-lawyers-others-on-gender-based-violence>
 - <https://www.blueprint.ng/yobe-poverty-violence-among-women-cause-of-drug-abuse-un/>

ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

Activities under Outcome 1: Women and girls' safety increased through community-based actions to mitigate risks, and prevent and respond to incidents of GBV in Borno and Yobe states.

Assessment of Formal and Informal Judiciary Systems

The assessment of Formal and Informal Judiciary Systems was carried out in late 2018 and the report was finalized in March 2019. Key findings of the report showed that GBV was high and on the rise in Borno and Yobe States, frequently target young women and perpetrated by young men, and respondents frequently mentioned both NSAGs as well as security actors, IDP camp officials and *keke napep* (tricycle) drivers. Recommendations suggested increased awareness raising activities to prevent GBV, the use of GBV champions to reduce stigma against GBV survivors, the revision and enforcement of laws and penal code to support GBV, increased funding for sexual assault centres that provide victim protection and support, increased collaboration between key actors, and improved economic empowerment activities for women. Please find attached the finalized assessment report.

HeForShe Campaign Launch

The HeForShe campaign was launched by the government of Yobe State through the MWASD in collaboration with and organized by UN Women and Search. The launch was held on the 12th December, 2019 at the Hall of the National Open University, Damaturu, Yobe State. Due to abuse of women across the globe, and in North East Nigeria, former UN Secretary-General initiated and launched the HeForShe campaign as a solidarity movement for raising awareness in order to support women in 2014. The event was well attended by high level dignitaries in the state; Executive Governor of Yobe State His Excellency,



NSCDC Commandant being decorated by the UNHCR Yobe Field Coordinator, Mr. Gabriel, during HeForShe launch, December 2019.



Alh. Baba Ali representative of the Governor giving his remarks at the HeForShe launch, December 2019.

Alh. (Dr.) Ibrahim Gaidam represented by Alh. Baba Ali Permanent Secretary Political, the Permanent Secretary, SEMA, the Commissioner of Police, the Commandant NSCDC, the Emir of Damaturu, the Emir of Bade, the Chairman, Bade LGA, the Hon. Commissioner of Women Affairs, the Field Coordinator of UNHCR, Yobe state, the representative of UNFPA, UNOCHA and other development partners. The event featured traditional dance and drama on promotion of women's development and gender equality. Statements of commitment towards the support of women protection and empowerment were made by

key stakeholders who were identified and decorated as Gender Champions. The statements were evidenced by the appending of their signatures on the signature board. The HeForShe launch created a viable platform for partnership between the UN Women, Search and the government of Yobe state and actors have been following up on many of the commitments that have been made in the event through the subsequent project activities.

Gender Training for Legal Service Providers



Participants at the Borno Gender Training

This activity was organized for selected formal and informal judicial service providers from Borno (Jere and Mafa LGAs) from the **11th- 12th/ 14th- 15th March 2019** and Yobe (Bade LGA) on the **12th- 13th March 2019** States. The training focused on gender, GBV, evidence-based reporting, case management, human rights, and legal and institutional frameworks for preventing and responding to GBV. The **85 participants (40 female, 45 male)** who attended the training were

drawn from judicial actors, security agencies, MWASD, NHRC, FIDA, NBA, CSAD and PAD platforms, CSOs, community members, traditional and religious leaders, Human Rights Coalition members and judges (Magistrates, Area Court and Sharia court). These participants included those involved in both formal and informal judicial systems that are at the forefront of responding to GBV cases at the state and community levels. The training which held simultaneously in both states was facilitated by three gender experts: Isioma Kemakolam, Ann Darman and Prof. Patricia Donli. The training held for two days each in Mafa and Jere LGAs in Borno and Bade LGA in Yobe. At the end of the training participants' understanding were deepened on the concept of GBV and its link to human rights violations, with an average **32% increase in knowledge** from the pre-test to the post test as shown on the table below. The existing structures (i.e. the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), CSAD platforms, FIDA etc.) for preventing and responding to GBV were strengthened and participants were able to effectively network with other relevant role players by the establishment of networks in each LGA to facilitate coordination. The traditional leaders in the three target LGAs who attended the training were included on the CSAD Observatory platform which will lead to better collaboration in reporting and responding to GBV cases. This is evident for example in Mafa, where the Traditional leader mobilizes the Lawans and Bulamas who often receive reports of such cases to meet and discuss same with the CSAD platform members.

TEST	AVERAGE TRAINING 1	AVERAGE TRAINING 2	AVERAGE TRAINING 3
Pre Test	40%	49%	38%
Post Test	62%	83%	78%
Percentage change in knowledge	22%	34%	40%

CSAD OBSERVATORY ACTIVITIES

Reports from Borno State

Gender Sensitive Early Warning Early Response Training

The Gender Sensitive Early Warning Early Response Training was organized for strategically selected stakeholders/ members of the CSAD Observatory committees in both Mafa and Jere LGAs. The training activity took place on the **6th- 8th February 2019** at the Women Development Centre in Maiduguri. The methodology of the training was participatory using group work, case studies, question and answer sessions and plenary presentation. The topics treated in the course of the three days include:

- Early Warning Early Response
- Conflict
- Conflict analysis
- Gender
- Gender Based Violence

A total of **Forty-four (44) Participants** were present at the training made up of 34 females and 10 males and these include Community leaders, Government agencies, security, FIDA, CSOs, representatives of Mafa and Jere LGAs. The training was aimed at increasing awareness on early warning mechanisms, capacity building in interpreting and taking suggested proactive measures and also to promote the mainstreaming of Gender in Early warning Early response in communities.



Tamwakat Golit facilitating a session at the training



Cross section of participants during the training on Gender Sensitive Early Warning Early Response Training for CSAD Observatory members from Mafa and Jere LGAs

Awareness Dialogue

The Awareness Dialogue was a one-day activity held on the **14th March 2019** which brought together key Community stakeholders comprising traditional leaders, religious leaders, youths, women, security and the media in both Mafa and Jere LGAs to brainstorm and proffer solutions on the way forward particularly as it relates to reducing the cases of Gender Based Violence in communities. A total of **Eighty-two (82) participants** were in attendance comprising 40 males and 42 females in both LGAs. The activity also enabled the Observatory group to secure commitment from the relevant stakeholders to promote a collaborative approach towards ending the scourge of GBV by reporting. Additionally, the activity enabled the group to follow

through cases using the established platform of the CSAD Observatory Committee aimed at improving the engagement of communities towards the protection of women and girls.

There were goodwill messages from the Village heads of Mafa Central, religious leaders, the bulama of old Maiduguri and stakeholders present. The facilitators of the activity who are also members of the platform reiterated the need for everyone to collaborate in reducing the cases of GBV in communities and this can only be done if communities and their leaders continuously speak out against such atrocities. Participants present at the training include Community leaders, FIDA, CSOs, traditional/ religious leaders, representatives of Mafa and Jere LGAs.



Pictures of participants at the Awareness Dialogues held in both Mafa and Jere LGAs

Legal Education for Women

The Legal Education for Women was a one-day activity in form of legal awareness for mainly women participants in both Mafa and Jere LGAs. The activity which was one of the action plans designed by members of the Observatory that took place on the **15th March 2019** and was facilitated by some members of the CSAD Observatory Committee in the two target locations. The **100 participants** were made up of **Eighty-eight (88) females** and 12 males and had their capacities enhanced in the area of human and women's rights, women's domestic rights, domestic violence and other forms of Gender Based Violence. The women were also enlightened on how to report and monitor cases of GBV and how to seek redress when confronted with violations of domestic rights using the available channels of both the formal and informal judicial structures.

The activity also had in attendance community leaders and traditional leaders who commended the facilitators and organizers especially for enlightening not just the women, but also the male folk. They promised to take the message to others and called on the women to also spread the message. There were sessions of questions and answers from the women and most of the questions were centred around what human rights are and how to know if your rights have been trampled upon. Women were encouraged to speak out when there are cases of any form

of Gender Based Violence and also to use the appropriate channels to access justice. The activity will bring about increase in the collaboration between local authorities and formal/informal judicial structures through reports and documentation.



Cross section of women during the legal education activity for women

Coordination meetings

The Coordination meeting for the two target locations were held on the **19th March 2019** and provided an environment for members to brainstorm on various issues especially as it relates to Gender Based Violence and also the next steps for the platform in moving forward. Members also used the opportunity of the meeting to highlight challenges faced as a platform and also in the areas of proper referrals and documentation of cases. The meeting had in attendance members of the platform from the two target locations of Mafa and Jere and also the PERD Project team. A total of **Thirty-eight (38) Participants** were present comprising 16 males and 22 females who were mainly members of the platform and included Community leaders, Government agencies, security agencies, FIDA, CSOs, traditional/religious leaders, representatives of Mafa and Jere LGAs. The platform through the coordination meetings will help to strengthen institutional capacities to prevent and respond to GBV and also mobilize and network role players for an effective, efficient and coordinated multi sector response to GBV.

The highlight of the meeting was the establishment of two secretariats for the platforms in the target locations which will serve as a data bank for the recording of Gender Based Violence cases and also ensure proper documentation. The secretariats were also equipped with Laptops, printers and laptop bags to further boost their work.





Pictures from the Coordination meeting of the CSAD Observatory platforms in Mafa and Jere LGAs and presentation of equipment to the secretariats of the platforms

Reports from Yobe State

Peace Architecture Dialogue (PAD) Activities

On the **8th of November 2018**, a stakeholders' workshop was held in Damaturu, Yobe state where the PERD project was introduced to stakeholders in the state. The stakeholders at an action planning session came up with action plans aimed at improving the formal and informal judicial system aimed at increasing community engagement on the protection of women and girls in Yobe state. At the workshop, the PAD platform was constituted. The platform is made up of 20 members, 12 males and 8 females. It is the state-level dialogue platform established by Search that seeks to coordinate monthly problem-solving discussions between security actors, civil society, government officials, women and youth groups and key community leaders to focus on coordinated responses to address the identified threats facing primarily women and girls in Yobe state. Below are the activities implemented by the PAD as drawn out in the action plan:

Advocacy visits

The PAD carried out advocacy visits to the commandant of NSCDC and media houses on the **29th of January** and to traditional leaders on the **11th of February, 2019**. The visits were aimed at soliciting support of the stakeholders for the activities of the platform. The visited stakeholders were adequately briefed about the PAD platform and expressed commitment to support the platform. The Commandant of the NSCDC expressed commitment to partner with the platform to achieve its objective. He noted the Search had commissioned him as a gender champion during the HeForShe launch and he was obliged to support the initiative. The General Manager of Yobe Television committed to give PAD 30 minutes airtime on their already existing programs and to also cover the activities of the platform. The General Manager of Yobe Broadcasting Corporation also committed



Waziri of Damaturu speaking to the trad. leaders on the issues for advocacy

to giving the PAD **an hour worth of airtime on their already existing programs and to also cover the activities of the platform.** The media houses kept their commitment and covered the activities of the PAD like the Peace Club inauguration, sensitization program and Peace Walk.

The PAD met with district and village heads at the palace of the Emir of Damaturu. The Waziri addressed them on behalf of the PAD. The issues for advocacy were for the traditional leaders to support the PAD in ending violence against women and girls in their localities and related issues: reporting cases of violence against women to the PAD, hawking among girl children, forced/early marriage, rape, drug abuse among women and girls, etc. The traditional leaders committed to supporting the PAD by reporting cases of GBV and referring girls to the platform for onward referral to the Girl Child Education Center. This they said will reduce girl child hawking in the metropolis. The girl child center is yet to be equipped with requisite items for the training of girls referred. This has impaired the referral of girls to the center. However, the management of the center assured the PAD of improvement so as to facilitate the intake of more girls.

Peace Club Facilitators Training

One of the action plans of the Stakeholders for the PAD in Yobe state was the **establishment of Peace Clubs in five selected secondary schools¹ in Damaturu.** On the **4th of March** the



Some of the Peace Club Facilitators at the training

facilitators drawn from the selected schools were trained on expectations from the clubs and their roles in achieving the aims of setting up the clubs. The clubs were set up as an intervention to young adolescents to inculcate in them the culture of peace and the value of protecting the rights of women and girls. The **11 facilitators** present (10 males and 1 female) left the training with an improved knowledge of gender and gender roles. Facilitators came up with action plans for the peace club in their respective schools. Facilitators understood their roles in administering the peace clubs in their schools including using the training

manual which is a compendium of selected topics from the NSRP Peace Club manual and Go Girls Manual.

¹ Government Girls Unity College Damaturu, Government Girls Secondary School Buni Gari, Government Girls Secondary School Buni Yadi, Government Day Secondary School Damaturu, Government Secondary School Damaturu.

Peace Club Sensitization



Club members after the peace rally held in GGUC, Damaturu

The sensitization program is one of the action plan activities developed by the peace club facilitators during their training on the 4th March 2019. The program was aimed at creating awareness on the issues of peace and protection of the rights of women and girls. It was also aimed at promoting women empowerment and ending violence against women. The sensitization programs held colorfully at the different participating schools where students led by their facilitators held rallies within their school premises telling everyone the need for peace and protection of the rights of women and girls. The sensitization held simultaneously in all of the schools on the **7th of March** and started at about 9am.

The activities lasted for about two hours. The facilitators singlehandedly coordinated the activity which demonstrated strong will and commitment to the clubs. The club members are becoming peace ambassadors and can talk to other people about peace as evidenced during the activity.

Peace Club Special Program

The Peace Club special program was a joint program held by the five participating schools at the Government Girls Unity College on the **13th of March 2019**. In attendance were about **150 students**. The activity featured drama presentations, paper presentations and poetry. The central messages in the presentations were the need to support the protection of women and girls in schools, homes, communities and the society at large. The benefits of peace were also extolled through the various presentations. The activity helped the club members to understand the issues of peace and gender equality better.



Peace club members making presentations

Peace Walk

The walk which held on the **18th March 2019** started at 10:00am from the premises of the Government Girls College, Damaturu. The students and facilitators were all beautifully dressed in the peace club t-shirts and well organized in rows and well guided and began on the steps to the Emir's palace. The students were seen holding different cardboards with write ups that called on supporting women and girls, ending violence against women and embracing peace both within schools' environments and the communities at large. The entourage was ably supported by a band that played different musical tunes which called the attention of everyone in and around the places the students passed



Club facilitators leading the walk and holding the banner

through. The team arrived at the palace and was received by the Waziri of Damaturu on behalf of the Emir. Two students made brief presentations on peace and the need for the Emirate to strive to end GBV and violence in Yobe state. The Waziri warmly welcomed the team and committed to ending GBV and fostering peace. He said the Emir recently received an award for peace and so he was committed to fostering peace which is what the clubs represent.



cross section of club members during the walk

Training of Security Personnel on Gender

This activity was designed and implemented by the PAD. The activity held on the **14th March, 2019** and was meant to empower the security actors in Yobe state to mainstream gender in



Participants at the training for security personnel

their operations and to be sensitive to the issues that concern women and girls in the state. The security actors were also charged during the training to implement the laws on rape already enacted by the Yobe State House of Assembly and assented to by His Excellency the Executive Governor of Yobe state, Alh. (Dr.) Ibrahim Geidam. The training was facilitated by DSP JAFIYA ZUBAIRU AND MIJINYAWA ALI. **Twenty-three (23) security personnel** (19 males, 7 females) in Damaturu were trained on topical issues regarding GBV. Following the training, a synergy was built among the participating

security actors and participants also had better understanding of GBV.

Training of Women on Harmful Effects of Drug Abuse

This activity was also initiated by the PAD. The training was organized on the **15th of March 2019** for women and young adolescents who were drug users in different communities within Damaturu. The training was to provide awareness on the impact of drug abuse and substance use and the possible remedies for the menace. Over **20 women** were empowered within Damaturu to see the ills of drugs use and substance abuse. These women have accessed counseling and rehabilitation services. The participants now see themselves as vanguards of anti-drug abuse campaigns in their communities so as to reduce women and girls' vulnerability to violations from



Participants at the training for women on drugs, Yobe state.

drug use and substance abuse and pledged to report violations to the PAD. The activity was highly successful as the women took turns to narrate their ordeals and made commitments to refrain from the abuse of drugs and harmful substances. They also expressed their need for psychosocial support which is largely absent in the state. This is evidenced by their verbal commitments, for instance, Sadiya, one of the participants said:

“I want to change, I make a commitment to change, but how can this be effective until am supported by professionals like the counselors, and again, one day is not enough for this training, I wish there was sufficient time for the facilitators to explain in more details, I really like the way the facilitators handled the various sessions”

Town Hall Meeting

The town hall meeting was held on the **16th March 2019** at the NUJ Hall, Damaturu. The meeting was aimed at briefing stakeholders on the activities of the PAD and listening to GBV cases happening at the community levels. The meeting was attended by about **27 participants** (15 males and 12 females), members of the PAD, and led by the Waziri of Damaturu, Lawan of Maisandari, traditional leaders, FIDA, NUJ, the Chief Imam, NAWOJ, Women’s groups, Youth groups, CSOs and security agencies. The issues of referral of cases to the PAD or closest agency to the communities was discussed. Some of the participants noted that rape cases have been reported in the past but no logical conclusions were made to them and so many people are discouraged. The PAD members assured the participants that with the PAD platform, it is easier and more collaborative to address cases of GBV reported to them. Participants were also encouraged to treat evidences carefully, as no rape case can be logically concluded without evidence(s). At the close of the meeting phone numbers of 3 PAD members (Ministry of Women Affairs, Waziri of Damaturu and FIDA) were given for reporting cases directly to the platform.

PAD Meeting

The PAD meeting held on the **19th of March 2019** at the SFCG Office, Yobe. The meeting was the last of the PAD outlined activities. The meeting was chaired by the Director of Women, Ministry of Women Affairs, Fatsuma Yusuf. She led the members to review the activities of the PAD in the past months. The meeting noted that a lot of progress was made by the PAD through the implementation of the action plans which included advocacy visits, trainings for women on drugs, trainings for security personnel on gender, town hall meetings and establishment of Peace Clubs in selected secondary schools in Damaturu. The meeting also discussed



Attendees at the meeting

also discussed

sustainability of the platform and chose executive members that will coordinate its activities moving forward beyond the PERD project.

Community Security Architecture Dialogue (CSAD) Activities

On the **26th of November 2018**, a stakeholders' workshop was also held in Bade LGA, Yobe state where the PERD project was introduced to stakeholders in the LGA. The stakeholders at an action planning session also came up with action plans aimed at improving the formal and informal judicial system to increase community engagement on the protection of women and girls in Bade LGA. At the workshop, the CSAD platform was constituted. It is the LGA-level dialogue platform established by Search that seeks to coordinate monthly problem-solving discussions between security actors, civil society, government officials, women and youth groups and key community leaders to focus on coordinated responses to address the identified threats facing primarily women and girls in Bade LGA. Below are the activities implemented by the CSAD as drawn out in the action plan:



A student asking a question after the sensitization

Community Sensitization & Sensitization to Secondary Schools

The community and schools sensitization was a **three-day program** which took place at Garin lamido, Sabon gari and Zango as well as GDJSS Umar Suleiman, GDJSS Ramat JSS, YUSAD secondary school, Bade LGA where members of the CSAD comprising of religious leaders, traditional leaders, security personnel (Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil

Defense Corps), NAWOJ, youths leaders, community women at Garin lamido, Sabon gari and Zango as well as students of secondary schools of the schools were in attendance.

At the places visited, the facilitators enumerated the effects of drug abuse, street hawking and the need for women and everyone to report GBV cases to appropriate authorities assuring them that cases reported to the CSAD will receive appropriate case management and justice gotten for the survivors of the violence while perpetrators will be equally punished to mitigate future occurrence and rid the society of such people.



Sensitization to the schols on rape, drug abuse and reporting GBV cases

The Chief Imam of the LGA who also represented the Emir of Bade at the sensitization visits, assured the people of the emirate the commitment to ensure that all forms of violence against women and girls will be brought to a stop citing from the holy quran where it is stated that women should be treated with love and respect and any form of violence done to one is accounted for in the hereafter. He maintained that women and girls have rights to acquire both modern and Islamic knowledge which will enable them bring up good families and by extension a safer and progressive society. He said Bade LGA is in support of the PERD project which he highlighted a lot of benefits to the area especially to women and the community in general as testimonies from the families of the PERD empowerment beneficiaries indicate that the intervention has greatly assisted their families economically, thus the protection of women becomes imperative for sustainability.

Training of Women on Leadership

The CSAD carried out a 2-day capacity building for **28 community women leaders** in Bade LGA on the **6th and 7th of March 2019**. The training was an activity in the action plan developed

by the CSAD aimed at building the capacity of women on leadership so they can be effective leaders and also be inspired to aspire for different political offices in the near future. The training was facilitated by three women from Damaturu; Halima Ali-Buratai (a lecturer with the Yobe State University), Fati Makintami (FIDA) and Husna Ibrahim (SFCG Program Logistics Consultant). The training was opened with brief remarks by the Chief Imam who welcomed the



Chief Imam giving welcome remarks on behalf of CSAD

participants on behalf of the CSAD. He also gave a little positive background

on women in leadership from the religious point of view which helped the participants be at ease to learn. The training content included: leadership, self-esteem, awareness and confidence, advocacy, mediation, mobilization and public speaking. The training was highly interactive and participatory. Participants expressed joy over the new things they learned. Training ended with an action planning session through a group activity.



Participants in a group activity

CSAD Coordination Meetings

The Bade CSAD held 4 coordination meetings in 2019. The meetings which held at the government lodge, Gashua have been well attended by the members. The meetings have been to discuss the progress of cases reported to the platform and to entertain new cases reported by the members. A total of 6 cases have been reported by members to the platform. The cases



Members at a CSAD Meeting

ranged from rape to negligence and spouse beating. The cases have all been reported to the security agencies and some of them are in court. One of the cases has been resolved. At the last coordination meeting held on 14th March, the planning of the town hall meeting was done by the members with guidance from the State Project Coordinator who was in attendance. The meeting also discussed

sustainability of the platform as the

PERD project was coming to an end. Some of the sustainability items discussed included- opening a bank account for the platform to receive payments/funding for its activities, membership monthly dues collection of N500, appointment of EXCO to run the affairs of the platform (Secretary, Assistant Secretary, PRO and Treasurer). The members agreed that the meetings will always hold at the government lodge and the Emir of Bade, the convener of the platform would be adequately briefed after each meeting. The platform has an active WhatsApp platform for ease of communication.



Members at another CSAD Meeting

Town Hall Meeting

The town hall meeting was the last activity of the CSAD platform. The meeting attracted members of the CSAD platform as well as other traditional leaders and stakeholders. The CSAD Secretary gave an overview of the activities of the CSAD so far according to the action plans drawn on the 26th of November 2018 during the stakeholders' workshop. The facilitator thereafter coordinated the session on collaboration and synergy among stakeholders present and the CSAD platform in addressing cases of GBV in the LGA. He also mentioned the fact that a few of the traditional leaders will be added to the platform to expand it to include other communities represented. The stakeholders consented to collaboration and said it was a good way to address GBV issues. The CSAD members successfully planned and held the town hall meeting which signaled a positive attitude towards sustainability. The membership of the platform was expanded through the meeting incorporating additional traditional leaders. Participants were also able to know the channels through which cases could be reported. The meeting ended



Participants at the meeting



Group photograph of participants at the town hall meeting

also able to know the channels through which cases could be reported. The meeting ended

with participants making commitments towards the welfare women and girls in their communities.

Activities under Outcome 2: Targeted women in Borno and Yobe states have improved livelihood and access to income generating activities (IGA).

Research on Preferred Livelihood Activities of Women

Research on preferred livelihood activities of Women was conducted in late 2018 and a final report was produced in December 2018 (please see attached the final report). Some of the key recommendations included the need to undertake multiple value chains of IGAs, the importance of focusing on agribusiness, a suggestion that start-up funds to cooperatives should be given in the form of starter kits and in-kind gifts rather than cash, ongoing coaching, capacity building and training is needed for beneficiaries, and the need to create Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) or other savings mechanisms.

IPT Dissemination Workshops

The Dissemination Workshops on Improved Parboiling Technology (IPT) in Rice Processing held on the 31st January in Yobe and 4th February 2019 in Borno. The activities brought together **400 women beneficiaries** made up of women who have been trained on the improved parboiling technology and grouped into **18 cooperatives across the two LGAs of Jere and Mafa in Borno state and Bade LGA in Yobe state**. Cooperative Bank accounts have also been opened for the registered cooperatives with each having two signatories introduced to the banks and funds transferred into same to enable them buy consumables such as the rice paddy and firewood.

The dissemination activities brought together other invited guests and dignitaries who witnessed the women beneficiaries receiving their starter kits to commence rice processing. Notable participants at the Borno launch who witnessed the event included representatives of the Commissioners of Women Affairs, Justice and Agriculture; Traditional leaders of Jere and Mafa LGAs, representative of the Chairman of Mafa LGA, security agencies, religious leaders and the media. Notable dignitaries at the Yobe launch were the Commissioner of Women Affairs alongside two Directors from the ministry, the representative of the Emir of Bade, the Secretary of Bade LGA, religious leaders, and security agencies. Women beneficiaries at the event were encouraged to use the skills gained to better their lives and also empower others. The event provided an opportunity for the women



Cross section of participants during the IPT Dissemination workshop in Borno state



Commissioner MWASD presenting the IPT Kits to the women leaders

cooperatives to be presented with the basic parboiling equipment and also support in linking the cooperatives to markets. The **IPT Starter kits were given to the women according to their cooperative groups/communities**. The Borno and Yobe state governments acknowledged the immense contributions of Search to the economic empowerment of women in the states.

The presence of the Honourable Commissioner in Yobe and other top government functionaries in Borno demonstrates a cordial relationship between Search and relevant stakeholders in the states and an unprecedented acceptance of the PERD project in the states. The list of registered cooperatives and their leadership is as follows.

Yobe Registered IPT Cooperatives

Azbak Women (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD		
RABI MAMMAN	CHAIRPERSON	08145800379
MURJANATU ABUBAKAR	ALH SECRETARY	07082124575
Katuzu Women (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD		
PATIENCE OBIEKWU	CHAIRPERSON	08036905679
GLORIA IFY STEPHEN	SECRETARY	08065355721
Sabon gari (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD		
STELLA ADA OZAH	CHAIRPERSON	08067266409
NAOMI MAINA	SECRETARY	08062845604
Agwan Lawan Musa Women (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD		
YANBIYU ABUBAKAR	CHAIRPERSON	07038414176
FATSUMA DANJUMA	SECRETARY	07081560715
Usur Women (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD		
MAIRAMU GAMBO	CHAIRPERSON	08169488838
HALIMA SULEH	SECRETARY	09061274198

Borno Registered IPT Cooperatives

Farm Centre Women Cooperative Society		
Falmata Mala Falta	Chairperson	07088549947

Ankwaya Jugudum	Secretary	
Mafa Town 'A' Women Cooperative Society		
Abba Kau Bawa Gana	President	08171255247
Bukar Mary	SECRETARY	08107070616
Custom House (IDP) Women Cooperative Society		
Abatcha Zara	CHAIRPERSON	08083055177
Bukar Falmata	SECRETARY	
Muna (IDP) Women Cooperative Society		
Ya boso Goni	CHAIRPERSON	09052566080
Falmata Gambo	SECRETARY	09068553728
Mafa (IDP) Women Cooperative Society		
Yagana Karube	CHAIRPERSON	08171255247
Abbar Amina	SECRETARY	08039667578
Mafa Town "B" Women Cooperative Society		
John Victoria	CHAIRPERSON	08171255247
Modu Aishatu	SECRETARY	08037924535
Fillin Ball Women Cooperative		
Bana Babakura	CHAIRPERSON	
Ibrahim Rabi	SECRETARY	
Dusuman Women Cooperative Society		
Mustapha Hajja Kaltu	CHAIRPERSON	
Kontu Bintu	SECRETARY	
Jere (Old Maiduguri) Cooperative Society		
Bani Bintu Assafa	CHAIRPERSON	09070208922
Ibrahim Rebecca	SECRETARY	08123045668
Hurso Bashir Camp Women Cooperative Society		
Ali Kaltima	CHAIRPERSON	07010104344
Abacha Hauwa	SECRETARY	
El- Miskin Camp Women Cooperative Society		
Boram Yanna	CHAIRPERSON	08126335971
Hamid Ajide	SECRETARY	

Koshebe Women Cooperative Society		
Mohammed	CHAIRPERSON	08081791373
Bashir Falmata	SECRETARY	
Gongulon Lawanti Women Cooperative Society		
Modu Falmata	CHAIRPERSON	09070209960
Ahmad Sulaman Ruqayya	SECRETARY	

Feedback from IPT Extension Agents

The project engaged **6 extension agents** who supervised the IPT Step Down trainings in Jere and Mafa LGAs of Borno and Bade LGA of Yobe state. The extension agents are Angar Jibrin, Umara Mele, Zanna K. Sanda, Babagana Aisimi, Ayuba Kaigama (Borno state) and Samaila Babo Alakaka (Yobe state). The extension agents testified to the successful step-down training by the women in both states. They reported that the women expressed high interest in the IPT training and highly appreciated the sponsors. Some of the beneficiaries said:

‘Our rice can now compete in the international market. I am so glad I learned this improved technology of parboiling rice. We thank the people of Japan, UN Women and Search for Common Ground for this programme.’- Yanbiyu (Bade LGA, Yobe)

‘This training has opened my eyes to how to make more money because the rice is neater and will increase my patronage.’- Rabi Mohammed (Bade LGA, Yobe)

‘The PERD project has helped me to have the knowledge of a new technology of rice processing. This new method is different from what we are used to because it does not take as long as it normally will take and it makes the rice to come out very clean and polished. I have been able to train a few women on the new improved technology and I use it to process rice from my farm. I have never heard of this method before until Search for Common Ground through the PERD project’. – Bawa Gana Abba Kau (Mafa LGA, Borno)

The extension agents recommended that the number of participants need to be increased due to their higher population in the areas, the interest they have in the training and the fact that rice farming is their major means of their livelihood especially in Bade LGA.

Yobe extension agents with a group of women trainees of IPT in Bade LGA



UN Women and Search project team in a group photograph with the IPT Consultant and Yobe Extension Agents during the IPT TOT Training in Yobe



Income Generating Activities (IGA) and Enterprise Training

One of the major resilience elements under the PERD project is the economic empowerment of women in the two project states of Borno and Yobe. The Training on IGA for women beneficiaries took place in a period of four weeks from **February 20 to March 20, 2019**. A total of **399 women, drawn from IDP camps and host communities**, participated in the training. They included 99 women from existing cooperatives in Bade LGA of Yobe State, and 180 from IDP camps and 120 from host communities in Mafa and Jere LGAs, with 13 existing cooperatives in Mafa and one in Jere. Those drawn from IDP and host communities without existing cooperatives were grouped in cohorts of 20 women each.



Making of local spaghetti in Bade, Yobe state

The women were trained on income generating skills as recommended by the findings of the research conducted in the first quarter of the project. These skills include tailoring, soap and perfumes making, groundnut processing, knitting, throw pillow making, weaving of thread, making local spaghetti and local spices, baking and confectioneries, poultry keeping, cap making,

grinding, and coconut oil processing. The women were grouped into different skills sets and enthusiastically participated in the trainings. The skills training lasted for four weeks for all skill sets in both states.

In Borno state, Search partnered with the State Agency for Mass Literacy to conduct the IGA trainings for women from Jere and Mafa LGAs. In Yobe state, Search worked with the Business Entrepreneurship Skills Training Centre to conduct the trainings. The beneficiaries also were provided with business management classes to enable them to sustain their livelihoods after the training. The business management classes comprised topics to include financial literacy, savings and loans, bookkeeping, and entrepreneurship. The beneficiaries attended these classes three times in a week in both states. The training was aimed at increasing knowledge for women on financial literacy skills and business management and also support for the women to develop business plans for their businesses.



Figure 1 IGA Trainees learning fashion designing in Borno

List of Cooperative Societies trained on IGA (Borno)

LIST OF EXISTING COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN MAFA

1. Turaran Wuta Group Association
2. Food sellers Association
3. Cap making Group Association
4. Women in Tailoring

5. Matawa Women Initiative Group

6. Women in Trades

7. Rice Farmers Association

8. Talia Making Group

9. Ground oil milling Group

10. Women in Agriculture

11. Mafawu Women Traders

12. Women Initiative

13. Soap and Cream Making Group

LIST OF EXISTING COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN JERE

1. Turaren wuta

2. Cap Making Association

3. Groundnut oil sellers

4. Women in Groundnut sellers

5. Women Traders Association

6. Women in Tailoring

7. Lambu Farmers Association

8. Food Sellers Association

9. Rice Farmers Association

LIST OF IPT COOPERATIVES IN MAFA

1. Muna IDP Cooperative Society

2. Custom House Cooperative Society

3. Farm Centre IDP Cooperative Society

4. Mafa IDP Women Cooperative Society

5. Mafa Town "A" Women Cooperative Society

6. Mafa Town “B” Women Cooperative Society

LIST OF IPT COOPERATIVES IN JERE

1. Dusuman Women Cooperative Society
2. Hurso Bashir IDP camp women Cooperative Society
3. Jere (Old Maiduguri) Women Cooperative Society
4. Gongulong Lawanti Women Cooperative Society
5. Elmiskin Camp Women Cooperative Society
6. Fillin Ball Women Cooperative Society
7. Koshebe Women Cooperative Society

List of Cooperative Societies trained on IGA (Yobe)

S/N	EXISTING COOPERATIVE SOCIETY IN BADE
1.	Dakisibi Women Development Cooperative Society
2.	Zango Women Cooperative Society
3.	Baderi Women Cooperative
4.	Aijabaza Women Cooperative Society
5.	Madamuwa Women Cooperative Society
6.	Alheri Women Cooperative Society
7.	Katuzu Bakingogi Women Cooperative
8.	Women & Girl Child Cooperative Society
9.	Bade Women Cooperative Society
10.	Sugum/Tagali Women Cooperative
11.	Gabarwa Women Cooperative Society
12.	Bade Women Cooperative Society
13.	Adalchi Women Cooperative Society
14.	Quintesses Women Cooperative Society
15.	Malam Saleh-Mai Tamsiri Women Cooperative Society
16.	Bizi Women Cooperative Society
17.	Dawayo Women Cooperative Society

18.	Jolly Women Cooperative Society
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LIST OF IPT COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

1. Azbak Women (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD
2. Katuzu Women (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD
3. Sabon gari (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD
4. Agwan Lawan Musa Women (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD
5. Usur Women (Bade) Multipurpose Cooperative Society LTD

Support Women with Startup Funds for Businesses

Following on the recommendations of the Livelihoods research and in consultation with UN Women, the PERD project team decided to give the above-listed cooperatives in-kind gifts and starter kits based on the skills built in the IGA trainings described above. These items were procured and distributed to communities in the final month of the project and included the following:

- **Three 300kg/h rice milling machines** with three 20KVA generators for the three target LGAs with shades constructed in each location.
- Procurement of **over 1000 pieces of equipment and accessories** as start up support for IGA women cohorts ranging from grinding machines, groundnut processing machines, sewing and knitting machines, bags of groundnuts, and soap making items.

Community Awareness Programs

After a **radio program curriculum development workshop** held in Abuja on the **October 31st to November 1, 2018** a structure was set for the radio program and the radio program, the program commenced simultaneous in the two target states.

In Borno state, the 2 -3 minutes radio testimonials aired on **Radio Nigeria Peace FM 102.5** on **Monday, Wednesday Friday and Sundays** by **8:05am** and a repeated broadcast by **4:30pm**. The same radio program aired in Yobe state on **Yobe Broadcasting Corporation (YBC)** in prime-time morning at **9:55am** and prime time evening at **4:55pm**. A total of **128 testimonials** were aired in Borno state, 64 unique episodes and 64 repeated broadcasts.

Muryoyin yana yiwuwa Testimonials were collected from a good number of key stakeholders in Borno and Yobe states. In Borno state, these included the District Head of Jere, District Head of Mafa, the Secretary to the Chairman of Mafa, members of the NHRC, staff of the MWASD, Bulamas, etc. In Yobe state among others there were representation from the Commissioner of Women Affairs, Village Head of Kukerata, Directors of Women Affairs Commission, FIDA, and other citizens and people of all walks of life.

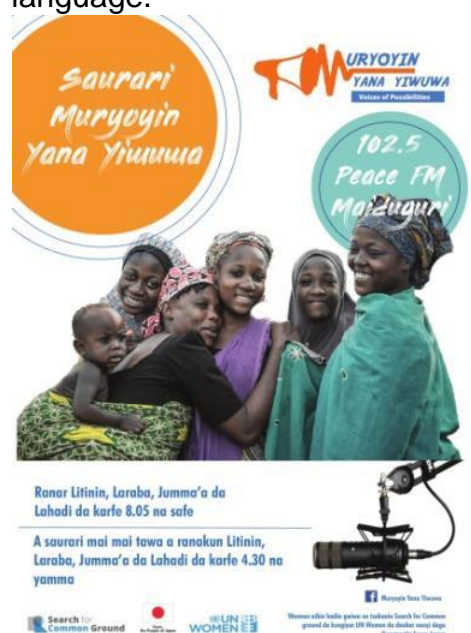


Yobe Radio Producer conducting an interview

Table 1: “Muryoyin yana yiwuwa” (Voices of Possibilities) Episodes aired, Borno State

Months	Male testimonials	Female testimonials	Number of episodes
November	5	1	6
December	16	1	17
January	14	3	17
February	10	6	16
March	7	1	8
Total	52	12	64

Out of the 64 testimonials produced in Borno states, 52 were taken from men and 12 from the females, highlighting the He4She efforts of the program. Majority of the respondents preferred to speak in Hausa, hence 62 episodes were produced in Hausa and 2 episodes in English language.



Testimonials were taken from both Christian and the Muslim faith with the highest number from the Muslim faith. Testimonials were a mix of messages promoting the protection and empowerment of women.

Testimonials were collected across different locations in Borno states, examples 202 area, Old Maiduguri area, Shagari lowcost area, Wulari area customs area etc.

In Yobe State, a greater number of the testimonials produced promoted women’s empowerment, other promoted the protection of women. All 64 testimonials were produced in Hausa, 48 episodes were taken from men and 16 from the females. Majority of the respondents shared their testimonials in Hausa.

Borno state flyer for MYY radio program

Table 1: “Muryoyin yana yiwuwa” (Voices of Peace) Episodes aired, Yobe State

Months	Male testimonials	Female testimonials	Number of episodes
November	3	3	6

December	10	7	17
January	14	3	17
February	14	2	16
March	7	1	8
Total	48	16	64

Media Tour (Road Show)

The activity was used to campaign for and promote women protection/empowerment through the distribution of flyers and stickers and roadside orientation of individuals in Borno and Yobe states.



A group of volunteers during the media tour

The activity also organized and played audio testimonials aired weekly on radio stations across the states with the aim to improve the public perception about women protection and empowerment. Facilitated by the media officer with support from the project team and 25 campaign volunteers (youths), who doubled as the supporters, the campaign team march around Gashua in Bade LGA, Yobe state and Old Maiduguri area of Borno state. The Campaign supporters were selected from youths between the

ages of 18 – 30 drawn from tertiary institutions and members of the National Youth Service Corps and were given orientation prior to the road show.



A campaign volunteer giving out flyer and telling the receiver the message on the sticker

SUCCESS STORIES

- A man named Mohammed from Yobe state listened to our radio program titled “Muryuyin Yana Yuwa” on Peace FM. On the need for women empowerment, his perception changed and now he sees the need to empower women and as a result of the program he opened a shop for his wife close to their house.
- The Commissioner of Women Affairs in Yobe state listened to the radio program and seeing how important it is for women to be empowered in the society, got excited about the program and decided to also sponsor the radio program beyond the life of the project in order to promote women capacity building and empowerment.
- A widow from El-Miskin IDP camp in Borno State, who was affected by the insurgency and who lost her husband through it, listened to the radio program and was motivated to call. She called and asked for help, wanting to be involved in our program. She was part of the women trained in IGA training where she was taught how to bake and make a business plan. Now, she makes and sells her snacks and is able to take care of her seven children.
- A trader who was of the opinion that women empowerment is not important listened to the radio program “ Muryuyin Yana Yuwa “ and heard about how important it is to empower women. He got convinced and became an advocate for women empowerment. Moving a step further, he opened a business for his wife and by so doing he influenced his friend’s opinion on this women empowerment.
- A woman through the IGA training started a business of selling baobab leaf powder (kuka). From the weekly transport allowance she gets, she took 300 naira which she used to purchase her goods daily and made a profit of 200 naira. She saved the profit and made a turn over with the 300 naira purchasing goods for the next day’s sales. She made an average weekly profit of 1,200 naira which she saw as a great motivation. Currently, she has scaled up and now makes an average profit of 2,000 naira weekly.
- A beneficiary from the IPT training said she learnt the new method of parboiling rice in the IPT training, and when she got back home she was able to replicate the process and sold it to her neighbors but the interesting thing here is that they women around her community became aware of new method and want to be trained too. She shared that, *“I have boldly trained 30 women on rice processing”*.
- The PAD and CSAD platforms will become the hub of GBV data base in Borno and Yobe states as a result of the donation of a laptop computer, laptop bag and a 3-in-1 printer to the platforms for GBV data entry and analysis. The platforms have been equipped with relevant template for the purpose and trained on how to use same

Stakeholder Feedback

Just our short time of meeting UN Women and Search for Common Ground, we have benefited a lot from them. I don't even know how to express our gratitude towards Search for Common Ground and UN Women. We lack words to express ourselves. We know that now our work is being carried forward because GBV is something that is concerning women generally, the children and the elderly. MOWA is supposed to be the Secretariat of the state GBV Sub-working Group but we are handicapped. We don't have a computer to be maintaining the data. Even the meetings we have been holding, there are no minutes on the system only hard copy but now we can put everything in the system for anyone coming to see and even to print the hardcopy. We are very grateful. It is now our hope that GBV activities will be carried forward in Yobe state by this data collection system you have given us. Our meeting with you is very short term and the benefits are uncountable. Such NGOs as Search that does what the community needs are very rare. Thank you.

-Hon Commissioner, Women Affairs, Yobe State

Building the capacity of women through training in skills acquisitions and income generating activities as strategic approach to curbing poverty with a view to empower women and girls and lead them to self-reliance will directly impact on their livelihood as well as the education of their children. This is an idea most welcomed in Yobe state.

-Hajara Lawan, Hon. Commissioner, Women Affairs, Yobe State *(At the IPT Dissemination Workshop, Yobe)*

Before now, the people in my community will always bring food stuff in the form of royalty to my palace, it was so much that I usually give out some. But operations of insurgents in Mafa have since reversed that case causing most of the responsibility of catering for the displace populations to rest on my shoulder.

With this project implemented by Search and UN Women, I feel a great sense of relief that part of the population are empowered. This is indeed the first time Mafa is benefitting from such and I commend you all greatly. However, we have fertile land in Mafa that can be used for irrigation. So I solicit more support for our youth, in the areas of irrigation machines and water pumps seeing that most of them are not engaged this post electioneering period. This will help curb any intended acts of rural banditry and harassments of the community populace and I commit to personally reaching out to the military to provide us land for same purpose I also commit to mobilizing all the Lawans and Bulama's anytime you need to meet with and discuss issues of GBV as they are reported almost on daily basis.

-District Head of Mafa, Borno State

The CSAD platform has strategically selected key stakeholders that are necessary and relevant for case managements of GB. We receive not less than 3 to 4 cases of GBV on a daily basis, but are not properly managed, therefore thrown out. This platform when effectively coordinated will reduce incidences of GBV cases been thrown out of courts due to lack of substantial evidence. However, proper coordination of these platform needs to be achieved - **Police PPRO Borno State** *(At the Gender Training for formal and informal judicial service providers in Borno)*

With the IPT training done for our women and the milling machine donated to my community, I will ensure that Jere becomes a rice milling hub. I will erect bill boards that will direct all and sundry to the new and best rice processing community, which is Jere. And the world will hear about our women. Thank you Search, thank you UN Women and May Allah bless the Governmentt of Japan – **District Head of Jere LGA in Borno**

BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

The following best practices and lessons learned have been put together from the six months project implementation in Borno and Yobe states:

- Women economic empowerment reduces their vulnerability to structural and physical gender-based violence
- Women are better trained and organized in cohorts of cooperative societies. This is very sustainable as they have been equipped with necessary skills and resources and strong networking lines established
- Carrying out a gender analysis for similar kinds of projects before implementation helps in mainstreaming gender, strategizing for greater impacts, minimizes risks and ascertains the impact of the project viz a viz what was on ground as revealed in the assessment of household livelihood options. It also further confirmed the importance of engaging men in gender programming to achieve greater success
- Carrying men along in women economic empowerment will encourage the men to support women in learning income generating activities
- There is value in regular convening of stakeholders in communities for problem solving and addressing issues of security of women and girls.
- The transformation women undergo during trainings translates to improvement in earned income, happy family relationships, thriving businesses and healthy lifestyles.
- The platforms also create an improved communication between leaders in communities and women.
- The platforms are an avenue for continuously checkmating incessant cases of violence against women and girls.
- The project provided safe havens for women in cohorts of 20, bonds of sisterhood were formed, where they share experiences, encourage one another and act as emotional support systems.
- The cooperatives established which will serve as a savings and loan association will serve as a financial support structure that will propel women to achieve their dreams acquiring property.
- The platforms being strategically convened by the emirs gives credibility to the platforms and commitment on the side of the stakeholders and communities.

PROJECT VISIBILITY

Throughout the period of PERD project implementation, banners were displayed at the venue of meetings, trainings and events. The opening statement “this project is funded by the government of Japan and implemented by UN Women, in partnership with Search for Common Ground with support from the State Ministries of Women Affairs” was always the opening. Behavioral Change and Communication (BCC) materials which included billboards stickers, fliers, gele, hijab, t-shirts and face caps also carried all the four logos of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, UN Women, Search for Common Ground and the Government of Japan in this order as evident in the pictures attached beneficiaries wearing some of the items. Project documents including letter heads, attendance sheets, and payment reimbursements sheets, reports all had logos of the partners and credit lines as captured above.



DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS

- ❑ The electioneering season posed great difficulty to the activity timeline. The initial dates for the elections were cancelled and this grossly impacted on project implementation. However, this challenge was overcome by rescheduling activities closely so they could all be carried out consecutively within a short period.
- ❑ The security threats in Borno and Yobe states impacted field trips and activities' implementation. The team, guided by the Search's Security Manager, made field trips on needs basis.
- ❑ The patriarchal nature of the North Eastern states posed a threat to the project implementation. This meant that the project team had to maneuver typical traditional male mind sets in order to achieve the successes recorded in both states through constant advocacy and dialogue throughout the lifetime of the project and capacity building.
- ❑ Some state actors/gatekeepers posed difficulty to the initial take off of the project especially in Yobe state. This was because this was Search's first direct project implementation in the state and it needed to a lot of ground breaking to get ahead. This challenge was overcome by deliberate courtesy visits to such stakeholders and debriefing on progress made on the project. This made the stakeholders at ease and felt carried along.
- ❑ Defiance encountered by some men at intervals with regards to issues of gender equality and protecting the dignity of women
- ❑ Very short project implementation period without a post project monitoring plan which posed a challenge to our capacity to measure and track results as well as other issues. The short period also made it impossible to disseminate procured IGA equipment's and install procured rice milling machines. Thereby making the project inconclusive
- ❑ Insincerity on the part of some selected beneficiaries, government agencies and community mobilizers

RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSION

- ❑ More awareness needs to be created around gender equality and human rights and religious tolerance targeting religious and traditional stakeholders.
- ❑ More time should be allocated to subsequent media programs i.e. it should be in the form of radio discussions so as to achieve concrete behavioral and attitudinal change.
- ❑ Gender trainings and programs should be cascaded to men in communities, targeting them as allies.
- ❑ Jingles should be aired advertising the commencement of radio programs so as to increase community interest. Other range of community outreach activities should be included such as community theatre this will not only increase the profile of the project among local communities, but also their level of engagement. Community outreach activities could also include opportunities for feedback or opinions from community members to facilitate involvement and ownership of the program.
- ❑ Subsequently capacity trainings opportunities in project technical areas should be made available to project team members.
- ❑ More technical engagement opportunities should be created between Search team and UN Women team.
- ❑ In depth trainings should be organized for established cooperatives on savings and loans and managing cooperatives.
- ❑ IGA women cohorts yet to be fully established as cooperatives, should be established and also registered
- ❑ Procured equipment for IGA should be disseminated immediately to avoid beneficiaries forgetting skills they have learned.
- ❑ The program should be extended to avail time for monitoring effective and efficient use of funds and equipment.
- ❑ Subsequent similar programs should consider conditional cash transfers and effective monitoring of same.

APPENDIX 1- NEWSPAPER CLIPS

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

BLUEPRINT

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Feature

The UN initiative on women dignity in Yobe

The United Nations is in partnership with some non governmental organisations in Yobe state to restore the dignity of some women lost either to drugs or violence as MUSA M BUBA reports.

In many parts of the world, drugs abuse has been the order of the day with many having mental and psychological disorder while a good number of others die as a result.

In Nigeria, many people profit from the business of hard drugs because on a daily basis, the consumption rate is on the increase, therefore to the suppliers, it's a lucrative business but to the unsuspecting consumers, it is lethal.

Before now, drugs abuse was known among the male folks, but today, women, especially married ones, are into it. That is why it has now become a global burden.

Investigation therefore reveals that governments alone cannot tackle the scourge alone as non-governmental organisations, religious associations and parents need to work hand-in-hand to address the menace.

It was also in this regard that the Protection, Empowerment and Resilience Building of Women in Northeast (PERB) project team leader, Lamwakat Golit, said the organisation was working to regain the dignity of women in different aspects of life.

The initiative

In order to reduce the number of women taking any substance known as drug, the United Nations (UN) has trained 200 women and ladies who cut across Yobe state. The organisation also...



Students at a peace club rally in Damturu

APPENDIX 2- PICTURE GALLERY

IGA Training in Bade, Yobe State



IPT Step down in Bade, Yobe state



Peace Club Members and Facilitators in a group photograph with the Waziri of Damaturu



IPT Step Down Training in Borno



IGA Training in Borno



