

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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LifeHelpers





## AIM:

To inspire every individual to reach for their goals and aspiration in life through wholesome living.





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# INTRODUCTION FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# WHAT WE DO

Through our intervention we empowered



Children



Women



Youth



Communities



# OUR ACHIEVEMENT

Life Helpers as an organization has made striking milestones in this year under review as it continues with the implementation of the Integrated Health Program on Child Health using Low Dose High Frequency Approach project to build the competency of health service workers deliver quality services in the areas of Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), Malaria, Nutrition and Routine Immunization (RI) implementation in Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara states that gave it an edge to opened an office in Ebonyi state, in the South East part of Nigeria. UNICEF Child Protection on ending violence against women and girls in Tangaza and Binji LGAs through formation or leveraging on the existing structures, providing support to the survivors of violence in the communities. EU-ACT is a project meant to enhancing women participation in decision making and political processes through advocacy, mentoring and capacity building. PLAN BMW project in Yobe on adolescent girls and boys as well as young women and men have access to appropriate and timely sexual reproductive health right service and structures is a continue project that is been maintained as a result of the effective delivery and reporting of services to provide to its beneficiaries. Plan Show which increase demand for COVID 19 related messages, and ongoing demand for MNCH/SRHR services, gender-based violence and unpaid care work in Sokoto state. Partnering with ZOA in

Relief Cash and Livelihoods Recovery for selected beneficiaries in Jere LGA of Borno state. LHI supported Association for Reproductive and Family Health (ARFH) to implement Spotlight Initiative project in 14 schools in Binji and Sokoto North LGAs of Sokoto state in the area eradicating gender-based violence against women and girls.

# HEALTH



It is everyone's right to have a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of him/herself and family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security. The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. The lack of proper understanding of managing one's health, where to access services and the competency of the service providers has kept many in the position of ill-health.

The economy and educational growth of a society lies in the hands of management of individual, community and society healthy living. Due to illness many households' income has been impacted on negatively which has equally impacted on the education of the children in the house either dropping out of school or do not even venture into schooling. LHI within the year has engaged capacity building, community mobilization, advocacy and linkages and referral as strategies to reach out to the community structures, women, children and youth with aim of every one living wholesomely.

Partnering with different organizations especially donors such as PLAN BMZ, PLAN SHOW, Palladium/IHP has helped LHI to provide services in the areas of health. Having adolescent girls and boys as well as young women and men have access to appropriate and timely sexual reproductive health right service, strengthen the capacity of health service providers. In Sokoto 563 service providers from in 132 health facilities (12 public facilities and 10 private facilities) across 18 LGAs, in Kebbi 106, Bauchi 563 service providers in 130 HFs (87 PHC and 43 public facilities) across 16 LGAs, and Ebonyi 814 service providers in 198 PHC including private facilities across 13 LGA have their capacity strengthened in the area of delivering competency-based service in management of childhood illnesses to reduce child mortality and morbidity. LHI continue implementation of Plan BMZ in Yobe which goal is to restore the peaceful coexistence and social cohesion of the population affected by the conflict in Yobe state and improve the health outcomes of women and children in selected communities/wards of Nguru, Busari and Damaturu Local Government Areas of Yobe states and Plan SHOW which is creating demand for Covid-19 pandemic response in area of MNCH and SRHS, Gender-based violence and unpaid care work reducing the household burden on



women/girls in a home/ society in Tambuwal, Sokoto North, Sokoto South, Dange Shuni and Yabo LGAs of Sokoto state. All these were done and achieved through follow-up, community mobilization, capacity building, referrals and linkages, the use of and information, education and communication materials (IEC). LHI partnering with AFRH to implement activity 4.1.12 component of the Spotlight creating demand in accessing SRH services and campaign against violence against girls/ women using peer education sessions in schools

## **MNCH**

It is reported that communities in rural parts of Nigeria accounts for high maternal and newborn mortality rates in the country. This is due to a number of reasons and challenges that ranges from lack of skilled healthcare personnel at rural health care centers, lack of specialized equipment to inadequate knowledge on key maternal and newborn child health issues.

Thus, the availability of MNCH, knowledge for pregnant and lactating mothers and child health knowledge for health facilities service providers and engagement of relevant stakeholders in delivering quality services is of high importance as it reduces child and mother mortality and also improves health of both mother and child. LHI partners with Plan SHOW CE to strengthened the services providers and community structures in MNCH delivering services during the COVID-19 pandemic in Sokoto State, PLAN BMZ create awareness and empowering adolescent boys and girls, men & women on sexual reproductive health right in Yobe state. IHP/Child health LDHFA training was also conducted in Sokoto, Bauchi, Kebbi & Ebonyi States to deliver competency and skills of the health workers in the PHC and private clinics.

**Child Health Training:** Life Helpers Initiative (LHI) in partnership with USAID Integrated Health Program (IHP) implemented the onsite facility training of frontline healthcare workers from 563 primary health care centers and private health facilities across 59 LGAs in the states of Bauchi, Sokoto, Kebbi and Ebonyi which focused on enhancing the knowledge, skills, and competency of Health Service Workers in child healthcare service delivery using the Low Dose High Frequency approach. Areas covered include Integrated Management Childhood Illnesses, Malaria, Nutrition and Routine Immunization. The training was conducted in three (3) batches, before the commencement and after each of the batches, pre-planning, planning and review meetings were conducted to allow supervisors provides solutions to identified gaps during implementation of Low Dose High Frequency. All the needed training materials were distributed to trainers. 198 trainers and 13 supervisors were engaged after selection exercise and 8 days of rigorous training exercise was carried out to those who are newly selected and 5 days refresher training for the trainers and supervisors who trained in the first year to ensure that their capacity is strengthened to deliver the LDHF training to health workers in the PHC and private health clinics. A total number of **2,359** trainees were trained in these 4 states. A minimum of 4 and maximum of 6 healthcare workers per health facility were trained. The cadres of healthcare workers trained were Doctors, Nurses, Midwives, CHOs, SCHEW, JCHEW and Environmental Health in total 563 health care workers were trained (Males 276; Females 287)

The training has in doses from 1-3 which are

### **First Dose: Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) Package**

The first dose training was on Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) which comprises of 5 modules that was facilitated over 9 days at 3 – 4hrs per day and immediately followed with two days of clinical mentoring. The trainees were taken through the following:

- Assess and classify the sick child age 2months up to 5 years.
- Identify treatment and treat for the sick child age 2months up to 5.
- Assess and classify the sick your infant age from birth up to 2months.
- Counsel the mother and follow up.
- Review health registry/data collections and conduct IMCI clinical practice

**Second Dose: Malaria Case Management & Nutrition (first 1000 days of life)** – This package comprises of 6 modules and was facilitated over 5 days at 3-4 hours per day

Topics covered under **Malaria package** are

- Malaria case management – transmission mode, diagnosis and treatment
- How to perform mRDT and quality assurance
- Various methods of malaria prevention including MIP
- Data documentation

The **Nutrition package** includes:

- IYCF and essential steps to successful breast feeding
- Growth monitoring, nutrition assessment and reporting in the health registry
- Complementary feeding, essential Hygiene and Maternal Nutrition

### **Third Dose: Routine Immunization-**

This is made up of 4 modules delivered over 3 days at 3-4 hours per day. Topics covered under Nutrition includes:

- Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) targeted diseases, vaccines and vaccine handling
- Microplanning and community engagement
- Managing immunization sessions, waste management and provider attitude
- Monitoring and surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

In between the dose were onsite mentoring sessions which helped the mentors to mentored the mentee on the proper way of providing health care services to children of under 5 years.

**Onsite monitoring and supervision visit:** The technical team carried out monitoring and supervision visits to onsite step-down training on LDHF to selected health facilities to ensure quality delivery on essential skill by trainers and spot checked on client registers, recording forms, etc. Follow -up mentoring activity was carried out by trainers via phone calls, WhatsApp while in some cases personal visit to the facilities to have interactive discussion. This is to measure the impact of the training or application of the knowledge gained which include stepping down the training to other health workers at the facilities for the purpose of sustainability.

**Training of Referral Drivers on Impact of COVID-19 Response During Pandemic:** after the training of project staffs, SSPHCDA, Ministry of Health and LG Health Department officials (MCH Coordinator, Health Educator) by Plan International on the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on maternal child health and services, a one-day training was conducted for referral drivers in 11 LGAs of Sokoto state using the developed manual for the purpose of training the selected 234 drivers on referrals pathway during the Covid-19 pandemic. During the stepdown training the referral driver's knowledge was enhanced on impact of Covid-19 which includes the Current Situation on, COVID 19, Myths and Misconceptions about Covid-19, Impact on access to MNCH/ASRH, adolescent Services in HFs and provision of safe MNCH/SRH Services in the face of covid-19 pandemic.

**Distribution of COVID-19 IEC Materials:** Creating platform for knowledge update and enhancement was part of Plan SHOW target, 12,857 IEC materials on Covid-19 was developed and printed by Plan International, LHI distributed these IEC materials to 54 health facilities, 32, 804 flyers, posters and banners were given to schools (Public and private Schools) and hygiene materials such as hand sanitizer, face mask, liquid soap and face shield to CBHV and referral drivers. The purpose of all these is ensure that the service providers, students and teachers had the required and correct information on Covid-19 to educate other community members and those that comes to the HF for service. The materials were distributed in 12 LGAs (Sokoto North, Sokoto South, Yabo, Dange Shuni, Sabon Birnin, Isa, Rabah, Kware, Shagari, Bodinga, Tureta, and Tambuwal).

**Training of Community Health Committee on impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on MNCH/ SRHs:** with the support of Plan International, LHI trained 378 CHC members across 11 LGAs and latter had a day refresher training for 5 LGAs (Tambuwal, Dange Shuni, Sokoto South, Sokoto North & Yabo). The training was done in clustering to achieve the trainings objectives. The participants were empowered with knowledge for provision of adequate services in the health facility to reduced maternal mortality during the Covid-19 pandemic; pregnant women access ANC service, delivery and PNC and children also have access to health services. Capacity of the CHC members was enhanced on the unpaid care worker and gender-based violence against women and girls in the community. The community health committee comprises of People Living with Disability, adolescent boys and girls, women, service providers, WDCs, youths, and male champion across 5 implementing LGAs.

**Refresher Training for CBHV/ CHIPS Agent on IPC, Case Detection, Referral, Contact Tracing, Orientation on Covid-19 Vaccine:** The step-down training of 540 Community Base Health Volunteers (CBHVs) & 33 CHIPS Agent was a day refresher training organized with the aim of building the capacity of the volunteers on unpaid care work, COVID-19 vaccine, GBV, roles and responsibility of CBHV/CHIPS Agent. The training was facilitated by two facilitators per LGAs within the space of 7-days in Yabo, Tambuwal, Dange Shuni, Sokoto South and Sokoto North. The participants were grouped into

clusters of (40, 40 & 30) for 11 ward and for 10 ward is (40, 30 & 30) to curtail COVID-19 set protocol, the training was clustered in three days per LGA, except Sokoto South which was conducted in a day with three clusters. The training provided a capacity strengthen to the 573 participants on the importance of COVID-19 vaccines and community members' need to receive covid-19 vaccine, understanding the concept of Unpaid Care Work and why household chores should be shared among family members (male and female), sensitizing community members on the need to stop Gender Base Violence (GBV) against women and girls and roles and responsibilities of CBHVs and CHIPS members in the community.

**TRAINING OF 100WG, MC, VSLA ON COVID-19 Impact, Unpaid Care Work & GBV:** The one-day stepdown training was meant to refreshed the knowledge of the 100 women group leaders/VSLA and Male Champion (MC) in the 5 implementing LGAs; Tambuwal, Yabo, Dange Shuni, Sokoto North and South, 20 Women and 10 MC per each LGA. The aim of the training was to strengthen the capacity of the participants in the areas of Unpaid Care Work, Gender Based Violence and Covid-19 Vaccination.

The training provided the 300 participants the right knowledge on the benefits of sharing household chores among male/boys and women/ girls in the family which promotes happy and healthy family. Women involvement in decision making, being assertive, and have healthy family relationships.

**Training of Service Providers on Sexual Gender-Based Violence case management and referral, provision of mental health - PHCs health workers:**

The stepdown was 2 days training where the capacity of 108 service providers across 54 wards of 5 implementing LGAs was strengthen on sexual and gender-based violence, how to manage GBV cases, referring of health cases where such services are not available in the HFs. Counselling of patients in the area of Covid-19 to ensure the community members has the accurate knowledge and are vaccinated.

**Community Base Health Volunteers (CBHVs) Monthly Review Meetings:** in Yobe state 75 community health volunteers (16 – Male, 59 – Male) were supported during monthly review meetings at various community level, where feedbacks from their weekly activities (referrals, identification, and counselling sessions) received, the avenue was also used to identify challenges and addressed gaps identified. Due to the 2 days refresher training conducted on SRHR, harmful practices, FP, STI, nutrition and referral mechanism has enhanced the knowledge of the CHVs on data input and as well addressed the referral issues. The community health volunteers were supported with new counselling cards, referral cards for; Deliver, PNC, ANC and Child spacing, these materials were distributed to each of the CHVs. To increase demands and access of services to the Health Facility, Community Health Volunteers conducted house to house visit to mobilize and refer pregnant women for Per Natal, Ante Natal care (ANC) and post-natal care (PNC, Family Planning, Sexual Transmitted Infection (STI) and also counseled households on good personal and environment hygiene as well as create demand for adolescent boys and girls by informing them on the available services in Plan supported Health Facilities across the implementing communities.

**Monitoring Of Adolescent Groups, 100WG, MC, VSLA'S Weekly Sessions on UPCW and Disseminate Message on Covid-19, Mental Health, SGBV & ASRHR:** Following the implementation plan developed during the stepdown training conducted for the WRO and Facilitators to conduct bi-weekly session together with the identified members of the group from each ward of the LGAs. The schedule sessions started from 1<sup>st</sup> October and ended on

30<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The bi-weekly sessions were monitored to ensure the objectives and manual for the sessions are duly followed. The men had 7 sessions while the women had 6 sessions, facilitation, experiences sharing, role plays and group works with local language (Hausa) were medium used for effective learning throughout the sessions. 250 persons were reached with rightful knowledge on the following areas:

**Monitoring of IEC Materials in the Health Facilities:** to ensure accountability and the impact of the IEC materials distributed to the HFs, market, District Palace and religious places calls for closed monitoring. Joint monthly monitoring visit was conducted in the implementing LGAs of Sokoto South, Sokoto North, Dange, Yabo and Tambuwal with the objective to monitor and ensure the Hygiene and management, PPEs, Staff Capacity on Covid-19 Triage and IEC materials are in use, well placed in a good location. Monitoring checklist was developed to collect and collate data for Covid-19, analyze and shared with PLAN. A total 64 location, 129 Schools and 54 Health facilities were monitored in all the 5 LGAs.

**BI-ANNUAL SENSITIZATION SESSION WITH LOCAL & RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND TRADITIONAL HEALERS:** Sensitization session for 5 traditional leaders (Lawal), 5 women leaders (one from each community), 5 religious' leaders (Imam), 10 traditional healers (5 Wanzamai and 5 Ngozoma), 3 LGA representatives, on SRHR, harmful practices and engage them to support positive norms that promote SRHR for adolescents in their communities. The methodology used for this session was facilitation, and discussion, majorly to address the harmful practices and norms.

## **HIV/SRH**

**Adolescent Peer Educators Activities:** in Sokoto state, a 1-day stepdown training was conducted for 20 adolescent girls and boys at the secretariat of 5 implementing LGAs (Dange Shuni, Tambuwal, Yabo, Sokoto South & Sokoto using Hausa Language. The training provided a capacity strengthen to 100 adolescent boys & girls on the importance of COVID-19 vaccines and community members' need to receive covid-19 vaccine, understanding the concept of Unpaid Care Work and why household chores should be shared among family members (male and female), sensitizing community members on the need to stop Gender Base Violence (GBV). In Yobe state there was formation of 9 groups to add to the existing groups making 42 with 408 members (134 Male, 255 Female); the age range of the members is from 12 to 21 years. The enrolled peers had the consent of their parent/ guardian monthly review meeting with 50 peer educators (34 – Female, 16 – Male) across the 5 implementing wards of 3 LGAs. The peer educators from various communities shared their experiences on any of sessions facilitated and the topic discussed. Some of the gaps are low facilitation skills and lack of understanding of some topics. The gaps noted were bridged for the peer educators and more explanation was done on the topics covering SRHR to enhance their knowledge and facilitation skills.

**PEER GROUPS GRADUATION CEREMONY:** The peer groups graduation ceremony was conducted across the 5 implementing wards. It was an avenue to identified and graduate the young adolescents' boys and girls who undergo the peer group sessions conducted by peer educators who acquired the

necessary knowledge that they were provided through the manual. The graduands were awarded with certificates, also Hijab for the females and T-shirt and P-caps for the males. A total of 357 peer group members (95 – Male, 262 – Female) were graduated.

**Monthly Onsite Supervision:** the onsite supervision is monthly supervision activity conducted by State Focal Person and the Local Government Inspectors and bi-monthly with the Ministry of Education FLHE desk officer. During the activity the stepdown training conducted by the trained teachers to the peer educators were monitored, topics treated are in line with project topics especially on gender based violent against women and girls, sexual reproductive health and linkage and referral, review all MIS tools for documentation purposes. Corrections were made where necessary. The activity covers both Sokoto North and Binji LGA respectively.

**Capacity building for Selected Teachers on ARFH / Spotlight Project:** The training of teachers in Binji and Sokoto North LGAs of Sokoto State which aimed to build the capacity of teachers to run effective Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH) program was conducted for selected 14 schools with each school represented by 5 teachers 1 NYSC Corps member making a total of 84 teachers who in return stepdown the training to at least selected 30 peer educators from each of the school. The participants were selected from the following schools. Several teaching methodologies (Brain storming, Discussion and group work presentation by the participants etc.) were adopted during the training in addition to the teaching aids (Flip chart, Handouts) that were provided by ARFH were fully utilized during the course of the 5-day training. Pre and post-test, micro teaching was used during the training to evaluate the knowledge and understanding of the participants.

**Interschool quiz competition:** Increase students' knowledge on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG); Harmful Practices (HP); Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and Life Building Skills through engaging in an interschool quiz competition. The interschool competition took place in the 2 LGA of ARFH/ Spotlight implementation where 12 schools participated. This quiz evaluated the knowledge of the students on the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health (ASRH). From Sokoto North Sokoto Science College took first position while in Binji Government Days Secondary took first also.

## **NUTRITION:**

**FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** The effect of the continuous insurgency has put a very deep strain on many of the displaced persons living in host communities and in IDP Camps in different part of the metropolis under MMC Borno. FAO in its programming, from time to time has brought critical food support to these communities to provide needed succor for their household nutritional needs. And much more, the advent of COVID-19 put additional strain on an already sour situation. Therefore, FAO, in partnership with LHI with on-the-ground support from IFAD officers, whose agency is charged with the duty and responsibility of providing us with a comprehensive list of beneficiaries within the selected communities to work with. In order to achieve the purpose of this activity without chaos, advocacy visit to the leaders in order to support and participate in the selection process. **2,520** beneficiaries benefited from the food distribution.

**Training and sensitization on good nutritional practices:** A session was held for the lactating mothers, women and community members on good nutritional practices. The areas covered include classes of food, balancing local food diets to achieve optimal nutritional value, local recipes that easily available and cheap, good nutritional hygiene looking at storage, sourcing and cooking with cleanliness

## WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

# EDUCATION



Even though primary education is officially free and compulsory, about 10.5 million of the country's children aged **5-14 years** are not in school. Only 61 percent of 6–11-year-olds regularly attend primary school and only 35.6 percent of children aged 36-59 months receive early childhood education. Out of the percentage of children that do not have access to basic education 69 percent of the children were from the northern part of Nigeria. This development is attributed to some obsolete cultural practices and religious misinterpretations in the region and this has also increased the rate of poverty in this part of the country. The other factors contributed to this includes inadequate teacher preparedness and low motivation; lack of quality teaching and learning materials; insufficient funding to education; and inadequate parental and community support. LHI with the support of different donors especially UNICEF KFW in Yobe and NEI Plus in Sokoto state seek to bridge the gap confronting access to basic education which includes enrollment, retention and transition by empowering Women, Youth, Children and community led structures such as SBMC/CBMC with the adequate knowledge and tools needed to strengthen the educational need of the school aged children within the households and community at large.

LHI as an Organization after the successful completion of the NEI PLUS project, seeks to improve access and quality of education for out of school children by creating and thereby sustaining three new NFLC/AGLC with 50 learners enrolled in each centers, One center in Kadassaka and Two at Tunga community. LHI has been working in Gada LGA for the past five years to improve the learning capacity of children using non-formal centers to enhance literacy, Numeracy and Life skills.

## **EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES**

Providing adequate support services in the area of education is a very crucial services that could aid in school enrolment, retention and transition. Regard this, series of activities were carried out by LHI to strengthen the quality education services within the community with the support of partner like UNICEF

## **ADOLESCENT PROGRAM (AGP)**

Adolescent program aimed at providing life skills knowledge, sexual reproductive skills, and vocational skills for both in and out of school youths especially ranging from age 10-18 years. This program is coordinated by facilitators, community volunteers, case workers, and mentors across Sokoto and Yobe supported by projects such as UNICEF KFW, Plan International (SHOW-CE) and LHI itself as an organization.



Adolescent Girls Program is a platform which provide Psychosocial support, counseling and vocational training for 35 girls from ages 10 – 18 on different skills including beads, sewing, knit-ting, tie & dye, hyena design and plaiting which is organized by LHI on a weekly basis in Dange Shuni LGA of Sokoto state.

**CLUSTERED MONTHLY REVIEW MEETING WITH G4G MENTORS:** For effective implementation of G4G component, we conducted a clustered monthly review meeting with 145 G4G mentors at Fune and Bade, the mentors were provided with G4G manual to guide the mentors on how to form G4G groups and conduct weekly session for the G4G girls in their schools. Creativity education such as using imaginative thinking to create new and meaningful ideas, developing their ability to find various solutions to problems as regards learning activities were discussed in Yobe and Zamfara States.

**Spelling Bee Drill, Inter G4G Reading Festival and Drama at G4G Group at School Level:** As part of the activity for promoting the effective implementation of G4G program, UNICEF put in place reading hub for the G4G girls whose focus is to enhance literacy and inculcate reading habit in the girls. For the purpose of strengthen the reading habit of the G4G girls in their various school, drilling was being facilitated by the G4G mentors to prepare the G4G girls ahead inter-school spelling Bee competition. LHI carried out visit to schools to witness Girl's participation and provide supportive supervision for Reading Hub Facilitators at the School level. In Support of the implementation, the He4she and G4G were supported with Life Skills such as citizenship and transferable skills in the G4G Schools. The life skills encourage the children. Thereafter spelling bee competition, debate inter G4G reading festival and drama among the G4G schools at the clustered level was conducted 2 G4G girls participated in each of the competition from 145 G4G schools at Fune and Bade LGAs. 4 G4G girls with outstanding performance from each of the competition were selected to sum up the total of 62 from the 7 clusters from each competition from the 2 LGAs. Each participant that participated in both spelling, debate, drama and reading festival were given gift.

**Mentoring and Hands-On Supportive Supervision in the Selected G4G Schools:** The mentoring and hands-on supportive supervision is quarterly activity conducted focusing on, G4G Group session activities, Mentors' activities and the participation of the Girls and documentations and possible correction on how relevant documents were filled in Yobe while in Zamfara the he4she were able to mobilized their friends and colleague back to school.

**Inaugural Session for the G4G Formed Groups at the Selected G4G Schools:** The activity was conducted at each of the selected G4G schools in Fune and Bade LGAs. During the session, an overview of the project was given by the facilitators, the overview is simply what the project G4G is all about and how UNICEF/LHI tend to carry out the activities in the targeted locations of implementation areas in Yobe State. The goal and objectives of the G4G program was explained to the understanding of the participants that were present for the inauguration session.

**Random Supportive Supervision to the He4She Boys Stepdown Training:** The activity was conducted at the school level where the He4she boys that were trained on positive masculinity step down the training with their fellow boys. During the step down, the he4she boys display positive attitude towards supporting girls' education; the reasons why the girls should be given equal access and right to education. Also, it is not only for the girls to be enrolled in school, but for them to be retained and complete their studies in primary, secondary, and even tertiary institutions if they wish to further. They backed up their explanations with several stories of girls who went to school and became better persons in life, and they were of great use to their families and the community at large. Some of the trained he4she boys encourage the fellow boys in support of their sisters at home, school, and community at large. Refresher training was also conducted for the boys. At the end of the supportive supervision, 89 G4G schools were visited.

**Support Implementation of Life Skills Such as Citizenship, Transferable Skills in G4G Schools:** The activity was conducted to support the boys and girls with life skills. We were able to reach out to 130 schools at Fune and Bade to build the capacity of the head teachers, boys, and girls in the school on inclusion of life skills into mainstream teaching and learning plans. Some of the followings were explained. Critical thinking, Creativity and innovation, Leadership skills, Decision making, Self-esteem and Empathy. Facilitation of transferable life skills into 130 schools plan through interaction session at various schools.

During the activity, the pupils were taken through the meaning of Citizenship, duties of a good citizen as well as the basic human rights we have in Nigeria.

**Random Mentoring Session with MA Members During Monthly Meetings:** The activity was conducted at the community level with Mothers Association to mentor and monitored the MAs session during their monthly meetings and provide refresher for them where necessary. During the monthly meetings, The MAs were able to display their leadership roles in support for G4G girls. Some of the mothers' association are engaging community and visiting schools in their various communities to monitor the activities of children in school, especially the girls. One of the major challenges identified is the lack of commitment of members in making contribution towards assisting and enrolment of girls into school.

**Quarterly review meeting with G4G Reading facilitators:** The review meeting was a quarterly activity conducted basically for G4G Reading facilitators to share update on the reading culture in their various schools and how the program has improved the reading skills of the girls.

**Review Meeting with He4She Boys at a clustered school Level:** The activity was conducted at cluster level with the selected 2 He4she boys from the 145 G4G schools. In the subsequent meeting, some of the things done was sharing of experience on how they had been supporting the girls in school, home, and community. And also, stepdown training for other boys on positive masculinity in various G4G schools band shared the deep knowledge on how to support the girls by the selected and trained he4she boys.

**Conduct a regular G4G Mentoring session at the school level using G4G Effectiveness tools:** The activity was conducted at various G4G schools in the two implementing LGAs of Yobe State (Fune and Bade). The activity centered on checking the effectiveness of the program using G4G effectiveness tools. The tool was section into 4. In each section, the mentor or Head teacher provided the information needed.

**Community Outreach for Parents of G4G Girls on PSEA and GBV on Standard and Protocol:** The community outreach for parents of G4G Girls on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) was conducted in both Fune and Bade LGAs. During the activity, the parents of the G4G girls were sensitized on SEA, GBV on standards and protocol. The parents understood the form of sexual abuse and reporting mechanism.

**Training of Trainers for G4G Leadership and life skills:** The selected G4G girls who are from Junior secondary schools' capacity was enhanced on leadership and life skills (Education, gender, Life & leadership Skill, Child protection, Hygiene promotion and Adolescent and reproductive Health. 45 girls across the six GEP3 LGAs were trained.

#### **Non-Formal Learning Center**

Non formal learning center is a means that LHI working to enhance the knowledge of the children that are out of school as a result of cultural, traditional believes that is a strong challenge to girl child accessing basic education in the Northern Nigeria. This challenge has brought early/ force marriage to adolescent and this has left a clear gap both in education, health and socio-economic development of a household. To this LHI sustained 3 learning centers from NEI+ in Gada 150 learners. LHI continued with 3 Facilitators whom provides services to selected beneficiaries. Community Base Management committee were not left out as they are channel to bring transformation into the life of their community members

The following activities were carried out within the reporting year

**Monitoring of teaching and learning process:** This is a monthly activity that was carried out within the space of 6 months; the monitoring of the learning process is to ensure that the three facilitators are working adequately. At course of the monitoring, POs & M&E officers ensured that the Facilitators from the 3 centers in 2 wards (Kadassaka and Tunga), taught the learners both Basic literacy and Numeracy at the various centers, learners are equally learning under a good and conducive environment and that all required learning materials are available and in use.

**Palace Visit:** The main purpose of the visit is to inform the community leaders on the progress of the program, to convey the messages on Importance of Education to the children and the community through enrolment, retention and reading, as well as let the leaders know of the challenges and suggestions on how to solve the issues. This activity is carried out every month. Where the team deliberates with the community head and in cases where he's absent, his deputy represents him.

**Community outreach and support to community structures:** The community outreach was conducted to different groups and individual to achieve the objective of the program. In order to make sure that learning activities are going on at all the 3 centers as expected, there is need to distribute TLM (Teaching and Learning Materials) to the 3 sustain center, which was successfully carried out. Ensured Learners were fully equipped with the required materials. A quiz was conducted to test and evaluate the capacity of the learners; there was also a presentation of scholastic materials to the best performing learners to encourage them. Teaching and learning activities are properly managed across the three learning centers, the facilitators were guided through the use of the following: The use of visitor's book, center's attendance register, lesson note/plan using cardboard paper as part of the instructional material.

**Women group/ monthly Report for House-House Visit:** The Women groups in both communities are to spread messages from house to house, to encourage learners, and their parents to allow them attend their various learning centers, and also encourage them to enroll the children in school. The team ensured they report any case of dropout to the CBMC for actions that will bring the learner back to the centers. A total number of 162 houses were visited from June to December. The Women Group participants were giving N2, 000 for their transport and N4, 000 for their monthly allowances making it a total of N6, 000.

**International Day of the African Child:** A one day of the African Child held at kotorkoshi in Zamfara state, the G4G and H4S were gathered together to check their general knowledge, interacted with them on their career choices and they were also enlightened on Gender Based Violence and how to take precautions.

## **Education Governance**

**One day meeting with key stakeholders on dissemination of the findings from G4G rapid assessment:** the meeting took place at Karma Guest Inn Hotel in Zamfara, the finding about the Assessment conducted to G4G school was shared; the success from inception of the program, the sustainability, G4G activities should be included in the primary school time table because of securities. Male champion and He4she component should be strengthened by the Government and Development partners. The total of 35 male and 15 females were in attendance.

**One Day State Level Meeting with Traditional Leader on Establishment of Local Community Accountability System.** The one-day meeting aimed at securing the commitment of the traditional system on maintaining community support to girls' education, and to be accountable for the continuity of the inventions at the community level. Agreed on a reporting line for monitoring of the program. Continuity at the community level. Finally, the ES request that HILWA members should be selected from the LGAs to serve as LGA HiLWA

**Training of SBMC and MA Leaders on Resource Mobilization and Advocacy:** To Strengthened Community and state systems for G4G Initiative, 2-days training was conducted for the 145 SBMC leaders at 5 clusters of Fune and Bade on resource mobilization and advocacy. The training was conducted using templates and drafted resource mobilization manual. Topics treated includes roles of SBMC, community engagement, school improvement plan and resource mobilization and advocacy. Introduction of LHI to the SBMC has the implementing partner with UNICEF on the G4G project was done during the training.

**Orientation for Head Teachers, SBMC Leaders, G4G Leaders and Mentors on PSEA and GBV Standard and Protocol:** in order to improve the knowledge and understanding of the community structures on PSEA, GBV, and reporting mechanism, 1-day orientation was conducted for 145 G4G girls, 145 Mentors, and 145 head teachers in implementing schools in Yobe state. Presentations were made around sexual abuse, reporting mechanism, forms of abuse and the position of UNICEF/ LHI on PSEA which is zero tolerance

**Training of Selected MA Leaders on Resource Mobilization and Advocacy:** in a cluster, a 1-day training was conducted for selected MA leaders on resource mobilization and advocacy which is to enable them to support the pupils who are not in school or who dropped out of school to return to school.

**Random Supportive Supervision to The Male Champion Orientation:** Random supportive supervision to the male champions conducted aimed at supporting the male champions while they step down the training on PSEA and GBV standard and protocol to members of their respective communities.

**Advocacy meeting with the LGA Chairman and council:** An advocacy meeting was held with the LGA Chairman and his council alongside LHI Staff, representatives of G4G girls, MA leaders and also mentors where the organization was introduced and also the overview of the project was stated. Lastly, support from the LGA Chairman was solicited for and he in turn gave his maximum support and a green light for the activity to be conducted in his LGA.

**Quarterly MA Leaders Peer Learning meeting at the clustered level.** This activity was conducted at the 5 clusters of the 2 LGAs (Fune and Bade) with the purpose of sharing experience among the MA leaders and the peers in order to fill knowledge gap. Role plays were strategies employed to pass adequate information to one another during the peer learning session.

**Facilitate MA Radio Program:** The talk show was done with the MAs from the respective communities of Fune and a representative of Fune LGA. At the meeting, we were able to get feedback from the beneficiaries on how the UNICEF KFW in collaboration with Life Helpers Initiative as an organization as touched and impacted the life of the G4G girls, and how the MA had been supporting the girls in their communities. 8 MA leaders 2 LGEA official participated. Interaction on girl child education to increase level of female professionals and even birth attendance in their communities.

**Facilitate Media dialogue with all key stakeholders:** The activity which was conducted with the key stakeholders at the LGA level. The dialogue has in attendance SBMC chairman, Fune LGA, LGEA officials, traditional, religious leaders, and Head teachers. The dialogue session was on the state of

education in Fune LGA especially girls' education. Female education is undoubtedly important because an educated nation depends on an educated mother. In conclusion, the stakeholders promise to continue to provide a strategic support for the intervention and discharge their duties as key stakeholders.

**Interactive Sessions with MA, SBMC ES, LGEA on Status of Transited Girl at the LGA level:** The interactive session was conducted at the LGA with the Education Secretary, LGEA officials, School Based Management Committee and Mothers Association of the selected communities. The relevant stakeholders present discussed and analyzed on the following.

- Roles and responsibility of the key players of the G4G intervention.
- Benefit of G4G intervention to the girls such as:
- Improvement of the G4G academic performance.
- Increase in enroll of girls
- Capacity building of the girls.

**Review Meeting with Male Champions' Leaders at Cluster Level:** The review meeting with the 145 male champions was conducted at the cluster level of the two implementing LGAs. The activity was centered on reviewing the effectiveness of the program with the traditional leaders, religious leaders, and parents of the G4G girls. Some of the points discussed are

- Review for the activity of the male champions in the community concerning G4G effectiveness.
- Celebrate successes such as Increase in enrolment especially girls, Reduction in early marriage and improvement in the academic of the children.

#### **Access to Basic Education**

**Monitoring/supportive supervision on the enrolled children by Federal Ministry of Education:** The children enrolled by the Federal Ministry of Education were monitored to measure progress and performance children enrolled by the Federal Ministry of Education. The outcome of the visit shows that the children are doing well and 90% of them are in attendance.

**Quarterly Review meeting on SBMC G4G effectiveness with Chairpersons/Secretary.** Meeting with the SBMC leader's quarterly was to measure the impact, progress and achievement of the program which includes increase in enrolment and improve the learning skills of the pupils. The leaders provide update on the enrolment of children especially girls into school and learning skills improved.

**Girls Camp for Digital Literacy and Transferable life Skills:** The training was 3 days held at teachers training and development centre Gusau, which aimed at building the capacity of selected Girls from junior secondary school on transferable life skills and digital literacy. During the camping, the participants (girls) were trained on various life skills which include, Education, Important and benefit of education, Effective Communication, Refusal and

Assertiveness, how to operate computer (Microsoft office, Power point) and how to upload and download videos, etc. Total number of 45 girls were in attendance.

**G4G Local Government support group meeting:** G4G Local Government support group meeting was held in Bugundu LGA where all the Local Government heads, leaders, Emirs, Police Inspector, Civil Defence representative and representative from the media house {Zamfara state radio station} were in attendance to deliberate the way forward on how to help and support already in school children by:

- Coordinate and support programme continuity and ensure its ownership at the school and community levels.
- Monitor implementation of G4G intervention at school level.
- Provide financial and technical support to all G4G groups and their mentors for the learning of skills
- Support and monitor government policies that seeks to increase girl's enrollment retention and completion of basic education.
- Advice government of better ways that girls will be kept in schools.

**Support to CBMCs activities:** Reactivating community-based management committee has become imperatively as it will not only ensure effective running of the centers but also provide both kind and in-kind support which will further promote good teaching and learning environment. This enabled us to facilitate setting up the committee in the three LHI learning centers. Setting of CBMC for the members of the community is vital in creating sense of belonging and commitment for effective centers management's which was a right decision for making the learning system a collective ownership. Every month there is a CBMC review meeting with members selected; each of the three centers has ten CBMC members; they were made to understand the simple meaning of CBMC as an administrative setting at micro learning center and also as a system of governance/leadership or management of learning centers.

# GENDER & GOVERNANCE



Nigeria runs a system of government that only give more attention to men in decision making, women and other marginalized groups are been silent by not given recognition to participate in decision making process where issues such violence against women and girls, lack participation in political process that concerns the marginalized group can discussed even though the policies support them to participate but were not given the equal opportunity. Women and girls are prone to different kinds of violence like domestic violence, rape case and those that are victim of such do not get justice.

All these challenges are of great concerns to LHI, in its capacity and support from other project using high level of advocacy, governance education, gender mainstreaming and mobilization of women in political participation LHI is working round to bridge this gap and ensure gender issues are been addressed in the state.

LHI, implementing BMZ project through the financial support receiving from Plan International aimed at improving the protection of young girls and boys from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, promote economic rehabilitation and empowerment and promote effective participation empowerment and leadership in Mairi and Maisandari of Damaturu LG, Dumsai and Dabule of Nguru LG and Dapchi of Bursari LGAs of Yobe State”. In Sokoto state implementing UNICEF Child protection component of Spotlight Initiative project aiming at ending violence against women and girls in Tangaza and Binji LGAs through formation or leveraging on the existing structures, providing support to the survivors of violence in the communities. Through EU-ACT implementing a project on enhancing women participation in decision making and political processes through advocacy, mentoring and capacity building in Sokoto state.



## **BASIC PARTICIPATION FOR MARGINALIZED GROUP**

**Open Government Partnership (OGP) conference:** the conference aimed at engaging CSOs in all aspect of Government strategy for them to have a clear understanding of what government are doing to its citizens. To have more commitment of the entire people to participate in process of input and output and to improve tax system. The area of focus includes Budget, Procurement, Revenue, Freedom, Citizen engagement, Technology, Inclusion, Security and Goal Mining. The conference has in attendance representatives of different Government Agencies, CSOs, CBOs etc.

**Awareness And Sensitization on the Importance of Non-Violent Conflict Resolution and Peaceful Co-Existence:** This is a quarterly activity carried out in the implementing wards namely; Dabule, Dumsai, Dapchi, Mairi and Maisandari in Yobe state, the Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) members were supported to organize awareness creation that will facilitate peaceful coexistence between community members. The activity was either in form of town hall meeting or street campaign. During the activity discussions centered around (**working together to ensure a peaceful society or community and building peace together**). Women, men and children were reached as well as demand creation was done to community members informing them of the roles and responsibilities of the CRC in their various communities. It helped community members to understand non-violent dispute resolution, also youths are equipped with the right knowledge to prevent them from joining force with adversaries.

**PEACE BUILDING ACTIVITIES:** The activity was designed to support CRC/community members to organize activities/event that will address issues that causes conflict in the community and amongst community members. Within the year Dialogue session was conducted with community members, in on the topic **“Effect of Drug Abuse/Substance Among Community Member and Its Consequences in the Society”**, the participants where actively engaged in other to facilitate interaction during the meeting. The beneficiaries understood what drug and drug abuse is, consequences of drug/substance abuse. Other topic treated was on **“Preparing for the Raining Season”**, this topic was treated to enlighten Farmers and Herders of their importance to each other in their communities and society, also to enable them to put some things in order before the farming season in other to address the issue of farmers and herders’ clash. Football match was organized for the purpose establishing peaceful relationship between community members. Action point were drawn at the end of each activity.

**Conflict Resolution Committee:** the committee was formed in the implementing communities in Yobe state create awareness and sensitization on peaceful coexistence. The committees were supported technically to developed and implementation of action plan. During the activity feedback was collected from each of the committee (Men, Women and Youth committee), most of the action plan are still ongoing. The conflict register is retrieved from the CRC quarterly and uploaded on the database.

## **GOVERNANCE EDUCATION**

**QUARTERLY SUPPORTIVE SUPERVISION MALE CHAMPIONS/FEMALE ROLE MODELS:** LHI staff provided a technical support to the trained Male Champion/Female role model (5 per communities 10 females, 15 Males with the total of 25) to conduct courtyard sessions. During their courtyard session with their respective groups' topics treated were on positive parenting skills, non-violent parenting practices, positive parent-child interactions, alternative strategies for conflict resolution, parenting for adolescents, gender equality/gender roles between parents, sexual and reproductive health, and rights as well as gender equality. Some of the identified gaps, likes of uncoordinated session, proper ways to approach/present each topic to the group and participants participations, these were addressed, and corrections were promptly affected. The staff also noticed irregularity in some of the communities which was addressed as well and the Community Health Committee in various communities were encouraged to visit some of the courtyard session to provide support to the champions. The Male group in Mairi ward was not formed and follow up is ongoing on.

## **HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY**

**Selection of State and Federal Project for Monitoring:** The selection was done randomly with other CSO's and the Director from Ministry of Budget and Economic. The following projects were selected from each ministry:

Ministry of women, children and social welfare:

- Construction of day care Centre at Gusau
- Construction of new structures and upgrading the new one's

Ministry of Health:

- Expansion of existing facilities and development of 7-year clinic within Yerima Bakura specialist hospitals.
- To provide additional structures and facilities in women and children hospital.
- Renovation and equipping of clinic in Zamfara state ongoing.
- Renovation of Kaura Namoda general hospital Zamfara north senatorial district.

Ministry of water Resources:

- Constructions of Dam in Zamfara state ongoing.

Ministry of Environment:

- Erosion control with drainage at Furifuri town {Bungudu LGA} Zamfara state.

Agency of Nomadic Education:

- Renovation of three {3} zonal nomadic schools.

SRRBDA:

- Renovation of abattoirs in Gummi/Bukkuyum Federal constituency Zamfara State.

The selected projects were monitored and during the monitoring activity some projects are ongoing while some are abandoned.

## **GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

There is a prevalence of gender-based violence in the society, reports shows that 1 in 3 women will experience violence in their lifetime. Gender based violence, such as sexual violence and harassment, child marriage, intimate partner violence, emotional abuse, female genital mutilation etc. poses adverse effect on individuals who have experienced it or are at risk of experiencing it

Gender based violence is also a real phenomenon that often prevents children from learning. Girls are likely to be absent from schools because of sexual harassment and boys likely because of bullying, emotional and physical assault.

Working to create awareness and sensitize communities including school children is an essential part in preventing gender-based violence. Communities and school children need to be aware of the dangers of gender-based violence, how to prevent and also respond to cases of gender-based violence when posed with it.

**CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING ON MEAL:** the training was facilitated by Save the Children MEAL department. During the training an overview of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) was discussed, how M&E measures a program/implementation were divided into five categories namely: input, process, output, outcome, and impact. Presentation on safeguarding which is a collective or individual responsibility to make sure that our people or program do not harm children, adults in the community where activities are carried out.

**Celebration International Day for Rural Women:** The celebration of the International Day of Rural Women is a yearly celebration. The activity does take place every 15<sup>th</sup> of October of every year. The theme of this year's celebration was "Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All".

The objectives are

- To engage the Rural women and community on concerns of women especially in areas of Economic, environmental and social change.
- To enlighten them on the importance of women to the society, gender norms that dictate the role of women and environmental protection for women in the rural arrears and Unpaid Care Work.

To mark this year celebration, Plan International in collaboration with Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and supported by Life Helpers Initiative carried out the activity in Sokoto metropolis. 120 rural women from the LGAs participate in the rally from WDC to the Sokoto government house to create awareness on Equitable distribution of gender roles, negative effects stereotypical social norms, UPCW and GBV as these are important aspect of every rural woman's life, which has been neglected or over looked over the years.

**Lesson learnt**

- Community members with the support from Plan/LHI understand how to identify key issues affecting them in their community and act accordingly for the benefit of every member of the community.
- Community members sense of belonging enhanced in addressing issues that will cause conflict in other to embrace peace and unity that will cause them to experience development in their communities.
- With constant mentorship and support to the CRC has made community members own up to their responsibilities in their community.
- The dialogue session with was an eye opener to the community leaders/community members as they are willing to adopt things that will help develop their community and live-in peace.
- There was huge level of acceptance of the dialogue sessions in all communities of intervention.

**Referral & Linkages –**

Depending on the needs associated with their conditions of beneficiaries, LHI as an organization where able to provide for them.

# SOCIAL ECONOMIC



There are various challenges facing different households in the North West and North East part of Nigeria, as a result of poor income generating activities; many households especially children, women and youths are experiencing poor health system, many have children mostly girls are out of schools due to financial constraint. With the trend of insecurity issues, most displaced families still rely on vulnerable host communities for basic needs like food, shelter, clothing. This great income challenges came as a result of insurgency, kidnapping and herdsmen clashes within these regions. On these LHI, in its program activities developed key activities around life skills capacity building, vocational skills, financial education, cash transfer, training and provision of livelihood to group savings and loan activity to combat the financial challenges confronting the households. In partnership with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, LHI conducted series of activities to improve the livelihood and enhancing the resilience to Humanitarian Crisis, climate variability and change of vulnerable in various identified communities in Borno State.

The Village Savings & Loan Group is one of the sustainable, efficient common ground and cost-effective platform, supporting and improving the vulnerable, very poor, low-income earners and small holder farmers in many inner, rural and per-urban communities. Averagely, each group, were self-selected between 15-25 members and runs on an agreed time-cycle in which members saves an agreed fee on a weekly basis, collect loans to either or improve their income generating activities and support the well-being of one another, socially. In support of the Food and Agriculture

Organization beneficiaries, Life Helpers set up 50 GSLAs in Bakassi IDP, Agric village and Gongulong communities with existing beneficiaries of FAO. And also, LHI partnering with Save the Children International (SCI) on the EU funded project (Support to Early Recovery from Conflict and Resilience Building) aiming at enhancing state government capacity to lead, develop, strengthen and expand its social protection system to address basic needs. In implementing these activities, LHI modulated and tailored specific activities to meet their peculiar needs and situation of each class and group of beneficiaries.

## **LIVELIHOOD**

Improving the livelihood of beneficiaries' households is one of the focused of LHI. Capacity building, formation of VSLA group, linkages are key strategies LHI is using to strengthen household economic. LHI partnering with Save the Children International (SCI) on the EU funded project (Support to Early Recovery from Conflict and Resilience Building) with two specific objectives aimed at enhancing state government capacity to lead, develop, strengthen and expand its social protection system to address basic needs and critical deprivations, alongside increased state and community capacity to facilitate reconciliation and social cohesion and Vulnerable households. The communities in Yobe state are more resilient to recurrent shocks and have diversified livelihood through effective support for market recovery, skills development and enhanced state capacity to provide technical assistance gave birth to Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA). In Borno, activities are centered on establishment of Groups Savings & Loan Association across 7 locations Teachers Village, Shuwari IDP Camp, EYN Can center, Gongolong, Bakassi, Agric Village and Bama LGA. In support of the Food and Agriculture Organization beneficiaries, Life Helpers initially set up 133 GSLAs. For the reporting period, LHI in Yobe, Borno and Kebbi implemented the following activities.

### **Group Savings**

**Village Savings & Loan:** VSLA is a self –selected group of 10-25 members (usually unregistered) who received IGA materials and others who did not who pull their money into a fund from which members can take loan, the money is paid back with interest causing the fund to grow. LHI supporting SCI implementing this project activities in 3 LGAs; Damaturu, Potiskum and Gujba LGAs of Yobe State. These VSLAs undergoes a one-year savings cycle after which the groups will undergo share-outs activity for accumulated savings and profits amongst members according to the amount they have saved. These groups have minimum and maximum share prices of NGN100 and NGN400 respectively. 40 groups were formed and sensitized on project and VSLA purpose, methodology and process and understanding economic and social issues that may influence the project and overall approach.

As part of efforts towards ensuring sustainability SPSPs continually supervised groups formed in Kebbi state. A total of 53 SILC groups are functional with membership of **1, 325 (male 125, female 1,200)**. These groups were able to save the sum of **N26, 159, 300** and **8** groups had share out that amounted to **N4, 563,245** while the total social fund amounted to **N2, 043, 220** from the 53 groups. While in Borno weekly and bi-weekly savings activities were

monitored to ensure that members contributed and there is transparency. The 20 groups savings for the year under review is **1,373,900**, **Social fund is 299,480** while loan was given out and loan repay, the total net worth is **1,775,700**

**Formation of 20 VSLA groups:** The formation of VSLA group took place in Gongulong community on the with Male 3 and Female 1003 beneficiaries mobilized by ZOA/LHI who benefited from the ongoing cash base transfer program. The opportunity was leveraged on by LHI team to orient the selected beneficiaries on VSLA concept. The activity which lasted for a week had all beneficiaries from the sixteen villages from Gongulong community who were sensitized on the importance of VSLA and its methodologies. The beneficiaries were registered according to their locations (Gabdori, Bulamadori, Biriri, Bololo, Umarti, Ngonari, Goniri, Madochelluri, Gongulong 1, 2, 3 and 4, Gremari, Gumsiri, Yerimari and Bulabulin) as they were issued their cards individually after been verified with their thump prints using the bio data. Some locations that are not up to fifteen were merged with other locations to form a group like Ngonari village and Goniri village were formed to make one VSLA groups. At the end of the activity 20 VSLA were formed reaching the targeted group withing the project design. During the period of implementation in Borno, distribution of GSLA kit to all the 72 groups in the project implementing locations was carried out, the materials which include 4purse, 4powls, 1 ledger, 1pen, 1 mental box, 1 ink stamp, 1 stamp pad, 1 pencil, 3 padlock, 1 rule was given to each of the groups.

### **Business/Financial Education Counseling & Training**

**VSLA TRAINING:** This activity was conducted in Damaturu, Potiskum LGAs where community members were visited trained on VSLA, introduction of the implementing organization; SCI funded by EU and supervised by LHI, what services the Project offers to communities; Loan and opportunity to invest, types of services to be developed and expected impact which is, at the end of the cycle, members would have learnt how to save money no matter how little, Step-by-step description of how the methodology works ranging from self-selection of members to election and drafting of group constitutions.

**Sensitization of Stakeholders on VSLA:** LHI in partnership with ZOA conducted a one-day stakeholders meeting at the kick off of the project in Borno state. The meeting was to give an insight into VSLA and enlighten them on the need for Extension workers and business volunteers who will monitor the VSLA and Agriculture activities, where LHI was introduced as the implementing partner to the stakeholders. 11 males and 3 females were in attendance.

**Orientation of extension workers and business volunteers:** In order to ensure the volunteers are well equipped with the ZOA project implementation, a one-day orientation was conducted for them. The orientation was held different sessions where the micro garden extension workers were enlightened on their roles and responsibilities. Also, the project overview was given to them for better understanding. For the business volunteers, they were taken on how to fill the GSLA ledger and sum up the Net worth.

**Formation of Micro Garden beneficiaries:** The selected beneficiaries who are under the cash base transfer and benefited from start-up kits for macro gardening which are 700 in number were formed into 30 groups, categorized and piloted under an extension worker to enable them learn the techniques of home gardening using the demo plots under the supervision of the extension workers.

**MENTORING & MONITORING:** monitoring VSLA group meetings were carried out to all the groups. During the monitoring, the log book, box to check on the savings at hand and loan issued this help the group to maintain a proper record, takes meetings seriously, take correction and work on perfecting all VSLA methodologies and practices. During these activity, one on one correction, supervision is done in all the communities monitored.

**AGRO POST DISTRIBUTION MONITORING:** LHI staffs were trained on data collection and understanding SCI policy to (Zero tolerance to fraud, Child safeguarding and Child Protection policy). The staffs were taking through community entry stages, (Perpetration stage, Activity stage, Post activity stage), also, Data quality was explained as it is important in data collection. The staff were team up for the data collection exercise, which was successfully done to the implementation of Save The Children International

**SEED GRANT DISBURSEMENT:** One of the aim of seed grant is to build and strengthening the resilience of the affected population through protection sensitive livelihood support, the intervention surrounds as micro gardening, livestock restocking, clement smart agriculture and safe and fuel-efficient energies. Seed grant distribution was conducted for 49 groups; the groups were clustered into 8 groups to ensure each group has strong capital to be able to procure items that will be beneficial based on their business plan. The group has developed a cluster business plan which was agreed by all group members. The clustered groups received the seed grant and have procured items according to their business plans. LHI supported the groups to ensure they all have profit yielding business. Some groups ventured into Cow fattening, milling machine, and grains.

**Assessment of Demo plot:** LHI supported ZOA tam to assessed the demo plot for the purpose of show casing the varieties of farm produce that will be nutritious to their daily living. So far, two Demo plots were assessed in Gongulong community.

**Distribution of farm tools and seedlings:** HI team supported ZOA in conducting a distribution of farms tools to the micro garden beneficiaries and 8 extension workers such as water can, hoes, rake, boots, spinach seedling, okra seedling etc. Also, mosquito nets were distributed to the extension workers in order to surround the demo plots to prevent animals trespassing.

**Market survey:** In order to set up a micro business for the selected vulnerable beneficiaries, thorough verification was conducted after sorting out the names, 305 business beneficiaries were identified and captured after which a market survey was carried out by ZOA/LHI team to enquire about prices of items needed by each beneficiary. Petty business items such as flour, sewing machine, grinding machine, salt, pepper, maggi, local soup items, frying pan, make up kits and lots more were priced and documented.



## LESSONS LEARNT

- IGA plays a key role in member's retention in savings as it allows participants to have sources of income.
- Proper sensitization and mobilization continue to remain key to the implementation of VSLAs and community acceptance.

# AGRICULTURE

## LHI BASED ACTIVITIES



## **HEALTH**

**MNCH Sensitization:** Life Helpers Initiative recognizes that MNCH is one of the highest impact areas of development aid and thus for the year 2021, it conducted an MNCH sensitization targeting rural communities of Adamawa state. The activity was conducted in total of 14 communities in Demsa, Girei, Fufore, Song, Yola North and Yola south LGAs of Adamawa state. The sensitization activity was focused on educating pregnant women, lactating mothers and community health care workers on key MNCH topics that includes the benefits of attending antenatal care visits, benefits of good nutrition for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children, use of LLIN, regular checks of Blood Pressure, weights & height measurements why living a healthy lifestyle is important and some basic healthy lifestyle practices, good hygiene practices, family planning, exclusive breastfeeding and the importance of immunization. A total of 557 women including health care workers with 53 in Demsa, 231 in Girei, 30 in Fufore, 28 in song, 135 in Yola-north and 80 in Yola-south LGAs were reached while in Bauchi the communities reached were Durum, Kofa Ran, Doya in Bauchi LGA, Gital, Tafawa Balewa LGA, and Gokaru in Alkaleri LGA

**Community health outreach:** LHI conducted health outreach aimed at sensitizing and enlightening the community members on health-related issues such as MNCH, Nutrition, WASH, Malaria and Reproductive Health in the communities of Makera, Degere and Matankari, Birni Kebbi LGA where a total of 331 (women 234, men 97) reached. Having calculated their BMI 52 are under weight, 249 have normal weight while 32 are above normal weight. The underweight are encouraged to eat balance diet to be able to recuperate and overweight ones were counselled and reoffered to health facility for further attention.

**Nutrition Education Sessions:** Household Nutrition education sessions were conducted in Demsa and Fufore LGAs. The activity focused on providing nutrition education to households and was aimed at improving the nutritional well-being of members of households in the selected communities. Through the house-to-house visit, 43 individuals were enlightened on the importance of food diversification and the use of locally available food crops to improve the nutritional intake of household members. They learnt on making soya beans to prepare soy milk, soy sauce and tom brown for children amongst other nutritious meals.

## **GENDER**

**Training of peer education on gender-based violence:** Life Helpers Initiative in Adamawa state trained 47 secondary school students in 4 secondary schools of Demsa and Girei LGAs to become GBV peer educators and in some selected communities in Kebbi state. The trainings were conducted in collaboration with teachers in Government Day Secondary school Demsa, government girls' secondary school Demsa, Government Day Secondary school Bajabore Girei and Government Day Secondary school Vinoklang Girei. The training aimed at building the capacity of secondary school students to be champions in the fight against gender-based violence in their schools and communities. At the end of each training, the students made a commitment to sensitize their peers in their schools and communities through focal group discussions, press club meeting, school gathering amongst others. The school teachers also made a commitment to support the students through collaborations to sensitize, organize and coordinate sensitization meetings. 36 students and 11 teachers were trained

**Distribution of relief materials to saminaka IDP camp:** in order to provide support to the internally displaced persons LHI in Zamfara state provided some relieved materials such as one bag of rice, 30 buckets and 20 mats for 137 beneficiaries in the camp in the presence of the village head.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Education Governance:**

Conducted awareness and sensitization visit to community in Durum, Kofa Ran, Doya in Bauchi LGA, Gital, Tafawa Balewa LGA, and Gokaru in Alkaleri LGA in Bauchi state and Jega and Argungu LGAs of Kebbi state where women, LGA stakeholders and community leaders were sensitized on the importance of basic access to education (enrolment, retention and transition). The community-led structures were sensitized on the importance of resource and community mobilization which will assist in basic access to enrolment, retention, completion and transition.

## **CROSS CUTTING ISSUES**

LHI Participated in IHP FY21 stakeholders quarterly program review meeting (Pause & Reflect) where program implementation is reviewed, challenges encountered, results achieved, lessons learnt from these activities are used to modify approaches to program implementation accordingly across the state.

Staffs attended a 3 days capacity building training for CSOs, community structures and media on health budget analysis, advocacy, transparency and accountability and one-day Bauchi State Health Sector Stakeholders quarterly accountability forum.

Participated in a book lunch, organized by Ministry of Health Bauchi State. Titles ***“Bauchi State Task Shifting and Task Sharing for Essential Health Services.”***

**Consultative Meeting between IHP, LGAs Directors and LHI Team:** Conducted consultative meetings with the 59 LGA PHC directors for their buy-in and maximum cooperation during implementation of LDHF and to ensure service providers availability in the health facilities.

**Data Collection & Reporting Tool:** During the year under review, the M&E unit witnessed a review of the project's data collection and reporting tools, in line with donor reporting requirements. The project updated the open data kits (ODK) to accommodate private health facilities, data analysis and cleaning.

Verification exercise was conducted for the health facilities and service providers across 130 PHC, the outcome necessitates redistribution and deployment of service providers. With the aforementioned, the organization was able to meet its target for the number of beneficiaries to be trained across the LGAs

**Organizational Assessment on Gender Base Violence from TRIM project:** the LHI Zamfara office capacity was assessed by TRIM through the use of questionnaire and citing of document like Child safeguarding Policy, Gender Policy as well as Code of conduct and Ethics.

**Participated in CSOs meeting with Youth Africa on Child Right Act:** For quite sometimes now there has been a push for domesticated Child Right Acts in the State. The meeting was aimed at mapping out strategy to conduct high level check to the State House of Assembly for passing/Domestication of Child Right Acts bill into law.

## **STAKEHOLDERS FORUM**

**Participated in Open Governance Partnership sensitization meeting:** The government of Kebbi state signed on to open governance partnership (OGP) in 2021 as a way of ensuring good governance – inclusiveness, accountability and transparency in service delivery to the citizenry. Non- state actors (CSOs) were mobilized and sensitized on Open Governance Partnership so as to track service deliveries as budgeted by the government. The program was formally launched by the Governor of Kebbi State and inaugurated state steering committee championed by Ministry of Budget and Planning for implementation. The State work plan was equally validated

**CBN awareness campaign:** in partnership with CBN, LHI mobilized its beneficiaries through the field volunteers from villages of the four project communities in Birnin Kebbi Local Government to participate in the two days program. A total of 54 (34 females, 20 males) were sensitized on the banking system and other relevant interventions, also to bring bank closer to the rural communities.

**Collective meeting at COALITION of NGOs:** The meeting location was in Zamfara which aimed to brief the invited CSOs on the forthcoming step-down training on World Food program. There was briefing on the 4-month program that have been conducted at Anka LGA by the world food program. CSOs to register with CS-SUNN and to also support IDPs in Zamfara with relief materials.

## **CAPACITY STRENGTHENING**

In order to ensure quality implementation of project activities there is a need for capacity development and building up of synergy between LHI as CSO and donor partners to effectively reach out to the beneficiaries. The following key highlights were the training and meeting activities either participated or led within the reporting year across the states where LHI offices are sited.

**Training on Proposal Writing:** EU-ACT conducted 3 days capacity building training for the CSOs who submitted expression of interest on enhancing women participation in decision making and political processes on proposal writing and how to make use of their proposal template.

**Capacity Building on Public Procurement:** State2State in conjunction with Social for Justice conducted 3 days capacity building to selected CSOs to enhance their knowledge on the public procurement processes which has to do with the bidding, selection, working in line with the code of conduct.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TRAINING:** the training was organized by Save the Children International, facilitated by Centre for Dry Land Agriculture (CDA). The training aimed to educate Yobe state government and implementing partners on how to assess environmental and Social Impact and ways to mitigate it across Yobe state together with partners and stakeholders.

**Youth capacity building training on Democracy and civic Engagement:** The training held at Tahir Guest Palace Kano aimed at strengthening the capacity of the selected youth activists from 5 states of Jigawa, Kano, Kauna, Katsina & Zamfara on democracy and civic engagement. The participants understood the concepts of youth Democracy drivers, Concepts of CSOs, Advocacy and Media Engagement, Concepts of Democracy and political Party development in Nigeria, Election and electoral process, Concepts of Human Right, Rule of Law and Concepts of Good Governance and Open Government Partnership.

### **Linkages and referrals**

A total of **10 women** who were found with blood pressure (BP) issues were referred to health facility for medical attention from health professionals.

### **Linkages and referrals**

Providing adequate service delivery is a great concern, and this can't be complete without identifying and establishing an external relationship with some key service providers whom beneficiaries that need their kind of service could be refer and link to.

In order to get adequate support for Fatima Bawa and her baby, LHI made a link to ZAKAT and Central Bank who provided support to her.

## CHALLENGES

Inadequate of project limits the organizational coverage where many areas were left with improper attention.

## LESSONS LEARNT

- The level of engagement and support received from the LGA team and Directors of health is unprecedented. Deployment of eligible participants, accommodation of trainers and physical presence during the training sessions show deeper sense of commitment to project sustainability

## ANNEX

### SUCCESS ON PROJECTS

#### Child Health LDHFA

The training conducted in the four (4) states (Bauchi, Sokoto, Kebbi & Ebonyi) strengthen the capacity of **2,359** to deliver competency clinical skills in the area of management of childhood illness in 4 doses; Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, Malaria, Nutrition & Routine Immunization. This is was the story of most of the trainees We have adopted the use of young infant recording form for 0-2month and sick child recording form for age 2months to 5 years. This has started yielding more positive result for our facility and more importantly our staff knowledge has been enhanced on how to assess, classify, treat and refer appropriately. Patients and better informed using the IMCI packages to improve the delivery of health care services in our facility.” Before the training we clerk patients/client's especially children without weighing them, which is an important thing to do because most of pediatric drugs need to be calculated using their weight, we have been using estimate for children weight, Prompt referrals were delayed, non-use of sick child recording form and young infants recording, no follow up care but with the knowledge received we will make sure to use them to ease our work and increase quality care to our clients.

#### LHI Based Activity-Adamawa

One of the participants showed that a tremendous impact has been made. The student was so happy to have learned about these key issues of GBV and topics particularly on how to prevent and report all these forms of GBV that are eating deep in the school and community. He mentioned that in his community, there's a traditional practice where boys and girls who reach the age of 20 are taken to the bush to be physically assaulted which is being claimed to make them stronger and resilient to hardship. He thought this was normal but with his new knowledge on GBV, he now understands that it is a harmful traditional practice. He also mentioned that in his school, girls and boys are being shamed for not involving in sexual activities, there is a lot of sexual harassment ongoing which has led girls to be raped and they think it is a normal thing. He said that this training has made him understand about the danger and consequences of GBV and the negative effects of not reporting cases of GBV and with that he can now sensitize his peers on the danger and consequences of GBV and how important it is to report such cases to avoid further harm and occurrences.

## Plan BMZ

- Dumsai is a community dominated by Badawa, people who believe in their old culture of not visiting the facility but rather taking local herbs. They delivered many of their babies at home without accessing the facility to take medical treatment. PLAN International in partnership with LHI has brought a positive change to our community through the formation of Peer Educators, Male/Female Champions, Community Health Committees and Community Base Health Volunteers. Structural system of Community Health Volunteers, their home visit and counselling had brought a good change to community where there is increase in the use of the facility, community now have delivery in the facility, they go for family planning among other services. The record of adolescent boys and girls going to the facility for counseling and treatment is growing by the day. Plan International is constructing a facility in the community with Adolescent Youth Service friendly centers, which is yet to be completed.
- Zakariya Muhammad Garba 20years old boy who lives in a community called Dapchi , he attended junior secondary school and was unable to further to senior secondary school because his parents were not financially buoyant to take care of his school fees. His classmate furthered to senior secondary school and even graduated with good results while Zakariya was home stranded and idle. With time he began to associate and mingle with bad companies who thought him a lot of bad things including drug abuse. He wallowed in that act for a while because he believed that it was the only solution to his problem.

With the intervention from Plan international {BMZ} project in collaboration with Life Helpers Initiative (LHI) who established Adolescent and Youth friendly center to enable then access counseling, a male CHV counsel and referred an adolescent (male on the issue of substance abuse where he was given the appropriate service and with constant follow up the adolescent has stopped the use of substance as his friends were able to raised fund to enroll him back to school.

## FAO Project

