



We Are Caritas!

ABOUT CARITAS NIGERIA

Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN), also known as Caritas Nigeria, is the specialized relief and development agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN). Caritas Nigeria is a member of Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 162 countries providing relief and supporting human development around the world.

THEMATIC AREAS



Agriculture and Livelihoods



Anti-Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration



Emergency and Humanitarian Response



Good Governance



Health & HIV/AIDS



Institutional Capacity Strengthening

For more information, kindly visit our website www.caritasnigeria.org and follow us via our social media platforms:

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VISION

A harmonious society where everyone enjoys fullness of life

MISSION

To advance the well-being of all through participatory measures in line
with Catholic Social Teaching

CORE VALUES



FOREWORD



The establishment of the Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN), otherwise known as Caritas Nigeria, by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN), was inspired by the Gospel passage wherein Jesus declared “...I have come that they may have life and have it to the full” (cf. Jn. 10:10). Fullness of life for humankind has remained the core vision of Caritas Nigeria, with particular cognizance of the poor, the marginalized and those on the periphery of life. In his 1991 encyclical, *Centesimus Annus*, St. John Paul II elaborately expounded on the need to care in a special way for those who need the most help, expressed in a popular theological jargon “preferential option for the poor”.

Since its registration twelve years ago, Caritas Nigeria has consistently striven to make the Gospel truly good news and a reality in the lives of Nigerians and beyond. Our local Church propagates this mission through the promotion of improved life for all by reaching out to the poorest of the poor and the needy with humanitarian interventions and development programs. By providing them with basic needs like food, water, health, and shelter, the specialized agency of the CBCN ensures that the common resources of the nation serve the Common Good. Conscious of the necessity of peace for the attainment of the fullness of life, therefore, Caritas Nigeria during the year under review, carried out, several activities as part of its mandate of helping the citizens to live dignified lives.

As will be seen in the report in hand which highlights several interventions of Caritas Nigeria across the country, the report equally emphasizes the activities and achievements of core thematic areas such as: Anti-Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration which reintegrated returnee migrants and prevented vulnerable youths from succumbing to the antics of human traffickers and dangers of irregular migration; Emergency Response & Humanitarian Services through which displaced and vulnerable persons had their immediate essential needs met; Good Governance which called attention to the need for inclusive governance by facilitating citizens' participation in governance, scaling up peacebuilding, and

conflict prevention and resolution efforts; Protection which addresses issues around sexual & gender based violence, access to justice and promotes educational support for persons of concern; Health & HIV/AIDS which ensured the well-being of target populations through life-long medications and sustainable income generating activities; and finally, institutional capacity strengthening for partners.

Caritas Nigeria is able to carry out its core mandate through professionals in her employ, in partnership with national and international humanitarian agencies as well as Church partners, as will be seen in each area of intervention. On behalf of the Board and Management Team of Caritas Nigeria, I sincerely appreciate our esteemed donors, partners, and stakeholders for their selfless support in reaching out to society at large.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Martins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins,
Board Chairman.

2022: YEAR IN REVIEW



The year 2022 was remarkable in many ways in our organization. Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria, through its humanitarian and development interventions, has continued to be an instrument through which God's message of love reaches the earth's end. We remain grateful to God for His unfading love. From the hard-to-reach terrains of North-eastern Nigeria through the rocky plains of the middle belt to the wetlands of Southern Nigeria, God's powerful hands of love have guided our steps to the paths of selfless interventions and altruism which are the hallmarks of our programmatic activities.

In the year under review, Caritas Nigeria implemented various programs, gained more donor-funded projects, and closed out some of her successfully completed interventions across our six thematic areas focus. For instance, the year 2022 saw the close-out of the 4GATES (Global Action Towards HIV Epidemic Control in Sub-national Units) project and the commencement of the ACCESS (Accelerated Control of HIV Epidemic and Sustainability Solution) project, both funded by the United States Government. Using the best innovations and practices, HIV testing, care, and treatment services were offered to about 91.4% of the target populations in the States of Abia, Delta, Enugu, and Imo. Likewise, the Global Fund-supported Public-Private Mix (PPM) Tuberculosis project reached and surpassed its targets of screening and managing tuberculosis cases in specific project locations. Resultantly, the Health & HIV/AIDS thematic area recorded landmark achievements that impressively contributed to Goal 3 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Through various humanitarian interventions, Caritas Nigeria has distinguished itself as one of the leading Non-Governmental Organisations in Nigeria in its proactiveness in disaster management and humanitarian interventions. In Adamawa and Borno States, our humanitarian unit is currently implementing several projects on providing life-saving food security and

livelihood support to vulnerable populations. There were also other projects on food security and protection for victims of the Lake Chad Crisis in Northern Nigeria, Northern Cameroon and Chad.

We also carried out activities around anti-human trafficking and irregular migration in Southern Nigeria and promoted good governance in Nigeria through our Good Governance unit.

The establishment of the Research and Development Unit was one of our landmark achievements in the year under review. Through this unit, Caritas Nigeria has carried out copious studies on the intersections of politics and the economy. One of the studies on National Pre-Election Study and Regional Risk Assessment Ahead of the 2023 General Elections in Nigeria examined the nation's preparedness for the forthcoming 2023 General Elections.

Most of these achievements wouldn't be possible without our resilient staff. The members of our staff are undoubtedly the vessels through which God's love is made manifest in the lives of the people we work for. We remain grateful to our spirited, docile and proactive staff in various states of our intervention and in the headquarter for their expertise, dedication and conscientiousness in carrying out their duties. Our board members have also continued to guide and direct our steps in the right direction. We remain grateful to them.

Our funders and partners across the dioceses in

Nigeria have played great roles in our intervention programs and our success stories are not complete without them.

In fulfilling our mandates as an organization, our core values of ensuring the dignity of all human persons and the enthronement of the common good of all remain at the centre of all our programmatic activities. It is at the heart of all we do.

Thank you and God bless you.



Rev. Fr. Uchechukwu Obodoechina (Ph.D)
Executive Secretary/CEO

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING & IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Project Title:

Stable, Trained and Empowered Migrant (STEM)

In the year under review, Caritas Nigeria partnered with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) to facilitate economic empowerment aimed at achieving sustainable financial independence for returnee migrants, internally displaced persons and at-risk population. The project – Stable, Trained and Empowered Migrant – was implemented in the Edo state, to ensure that returnee migrants were provided with temporary shelter, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), at-risk migrants and returnee migrants attained economic stability through relevant vocational/entrepreneurship skills of their choice.

Key Achievements

- 335 persons (228 females and 107 males) comprising 228 returnees, 100 IDPs, and 7 at-risk persons were trained in various vocational and entrepreneurship skills and thereafter, supported with relevant start-up measures. Close monitoring of these persons of concern revealed that 70% of them were still in business as of year-end.
- 32 persons were provided with temporary shelter.



STEM-supported beneficiaries who were trained and received trade start-up tools for various skills

Project Title:

Anti-Human Trafficking Mixed Movement Activities

With the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Caritas Nigeria worked in 10 LGAs across Ogoja, Cross River State, and Edo State to sensitize vulnerable persons on the ills of human trafficking and effective response mechanisms.

Key Achievements

- About 35, 000 persons across communities in Edo and Cross River States were reached with human trafficking awareness and sensitization activities, such as town hall meetings, community/market/school-based sensitizations etc.
- Anti-Human Trafficking clubs were formed in 14 secondary schools across 7 LGAs in Edo State and 6 secondary schools across

3 LGAs in Cross River State, with a total of 296 members (113 males and 183 females).

- 20 community watch groups were formed and activated in 7 LGAs of Edo State (14 groups in Edo State and 3 LGAs in Cross River State), with 230 members (127 males and 103 females).

Innovations/Best Practices

- Enhanced collaboration with relevant government agencies, such as the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and Edo State Task Force against Human Trafficking, facilitated the response to trafficking cases, referrals of victims and returnee migrants for onward support.



Sensitization on Anti-human trafficking and irregular migration at St. James Grammar School, Afuze in Owan East LGA, Edo State

- The introduction of an annual trade fair enabled Caritas Nigeria to facilitate access to market and networking opportunities for trained project participants.

- The formation of community watch groups led to an increase in local participation and ownership of anti-human trafficking activities in communities. The community watch groups also assisted in monitoring and community surveillance to identify traffickers and their agents, while reporting suspected cases of human trafficking to law enforcement agencies.

Lessons Learnt

- Community participation is key to sustaining anti-human trafficking activities at the grassroots level.
- Low educational level negatively impacts the young businesses of supported returnees.
- Human trafficking prevention activities are paramount in countering human trafficking and irregular migration.

Challenges

- The inaccessibility of some project locations due to poor road networks.
- The unwillingness of at-risk migrants to heed safe migration messages due to the prevailing socioeconomic realities.
- The difficulty of returnees to adjust to current conditions in their home country despite the empowerment they received from Caritas Nigeria.

Recommendations

- Enhance networking and collaborations with other actors in the sector.
- Increase opportunities for more funding to provide economic support for returnee migrants and at-risk populations.

Next Steps

- Improve community engagement on how to combat trafficking in persons.
- Source for more funding opportunities for the unit.
- Build the capacity of staff on emerging anti-human trafficking trends and reintegration processes in line with best practices.



A beneficiary of the STEM project attending to a client in her shop

PROTECTION PROGRAMS

The Protection Unit of Caritas Nigeria works to improve the protection, dignity, and well-being of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Returnees in Nigeria. In the year under review, the Unit, with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), implemented three projects across Adamawa, Borno, Cross River, Edo, and Yobe States as follows:



An interactive session on the effects of domestic violence in Gujba, Yobe State

Project Title:

Protection Monitoring in Northeast Nigeria

In Adamawa and Yobe States, Caritas Nigeria worked in Fufore, Madagali, Maiha, Michika, Mubi North, Mubi South, Yola North, and Yola South, Damaturu, and Gujba local government areas to conduct activities such as awareness-raising with persons of concern (PoC), sensitization, and advocacy with authorities to promote change and positively influence communities and policymakers on specific protection issues/concerns. In addition, the project ensured that the situation of PoC was regularly monitored, issues of concern identified, and appropriate responses provided (mostly through referrals for specialized services).

Key Achievements

Performance Indicator(s)	Site/Location	Performance Target	Actual progress
No. of people reached by advocacy and sensitization campaigns.	Adamawa Yobe:	60,000	88,603
No. of monitoring missions conducted and recorded	Adamawa Yobe:	4,500	5,098
No. of border monitoring visits conducted and recorded	Adamawa Yobe:	1,300	1,505
No. of advocacy interventions made for access to territory	Adamawa Yobe:	40	41
No. of advocacy interventions conducted towards leaders, authorities	Adamawa Yobe:	120	125
No. of opinion leaders & members of civil society trained & sensitized	Adamawa Yobe:	500	524

Innovations/Best Practices

- The project worked to build upon the capacities of affected individuals and communities with the objective of ensuring a safe and productive future.
 - Through Caritas Nigeria's self-reliance activities, individuals, households, and communities will develop the ability to prevent, absorb and recover from their experiences while continuing to function and adapt in ways that support long-term prospects for sustainable development, peace and security, and the attainment of human rights.
- There was a remarkable level of synergy between Caritas Nigeria and UNHCR implementing partners across the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. Caritas Nigeria coordinated with partners on the referral of cases for appropriate interventions, joint assessments, joint distributions, joint sensitization campaigns, and outreach sessions.



Sensitization on the importance of education in Maiha, Adamawa State

Lessons Learnt

- Breaking down the overall project targets into targets per location will not only ensure that the project performance is effectively monitored across project locations but, will also ensure that gaps/challenges capable of impacting the project's progress in specific locations are timely identified and addressed.
- Developing a plan at the commencement of the project and allocating resources for the commemoration of relevant international events will allow for adequate planning and proper execution, which will in turn lead to maximum impact.
- Certain developments in the operational context can be quickly taken advantage of for maximum project impact. For instance, the relaxation of the COVID-19 social distancing preventive measure helped in achieving the objectives of awareness-raising campaigns and sensitization sessions.

Challenge

- The insecurity in the northeast region impacted project implementation.

Recommendation

- Routine mental health support to the field staff.

Next Steps

- Strengthen the capacity of national/local authorities/civil societies to prevent and respond to situations of internal displacement.
- Build the capacity of security personnel to strengthen their knowledge of human rights and international laws.
- Empower affected communities by ensuring their active participation in all aspects of programming.

Project Title: Child Protection



The project team with children in the displaced persons camp in Gubio, Maiduguri Metropolitan Council

To improve the protection and psychosocial well-being of children in Bama, Monguno, Banki & Maiduguri local government areas of Borno State, Caritas Nigeria deployed the following strategies:

- Strengthening community-based child protection systems/structures and participation, and increasing/promoting the psychosocial well-being of children.
- Conducting awareness and sensitization

sessions on child protection, children's rights and psychosocial well-being.

- Providing material support to 500 unaccompanied, separated, orphaned and other vulnerable children based on identified need(s).
- Increasing the capacity of duty bearers to prevent and respond to abuse, exploitation and violence against children.

Key Achievements

Performance Indicator(s)	Site/Location	Performance Target	Actual progress
No. of community-based Child Protection Committees and alternative care structures established and strengthened.	Bama, Banki, Monguno and Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC)	10	11
No. of children and caregivers accessing activities at Child-Friendly Spaces.	Bama, Banki, Monguno and MMC	1600	3626
No. of children reached with safe school initiatives/activities (kids clubs).	MMC	500	687
No. of persons reached with awareness and sensitization sessions on child protection, children's rights and psychosocial wellbeing.	Bama, Banki and Monguno	40000	55011
At least 1,000 unaccompanied, separated, orphaned and other vulnerable children receive material support based on identified needs.	Bama, Banki, Monguno and MMC	2000	1207
No. of identified/referred children with vulnerabilities, receive individual case management services.	Bama, Banki, Monguno and MMC	2000	2359
No. of psychosocial sessions conducted for children and caregivers conducted (including individual and group sessions).	Bama, Banki, Monguno and MMC	1400	1623
No. of vulnerable children placed under alternative care.	Bama, Banki, Monguno and MMC	50	73
No. of duty bearers (Police, Nigerian Army, CITF, etc.) trained on child protection, children's rights and related issues.	Bama, Banki, Monguno and MMC	120	58

Innovation/Best Practice

- Caritas Nigeria established, trained, and mentored community-based structures for child protection and promotion of children's rights. The composition of these structures included women, men, girls, boys, persons with disabilities, minority group members, the elderly, and adherents of Islam and Christianity. The community structures helped in identifying and reporting child protection concerns at the community level, supporting sensitization and awareness creation on child protection and children's right, and identifying suitable caregivers for alternative care placement for vulnerable children.

Challenges

- Team deployment to deep field locations was done in trickles due to limited flight seat availability.
- There were difficulties in the identification of foster parents in some of the camps as there were no existing Alternative Care Structures in the camps.

Recommendation

- Routine mental health support to the field staff.

Project Title:

Protection Assistance to Cameroonian Refugees

As the UNHCR Protection and Education partner for the Cameroonian Refugee Operation, Caritas Nigeria implemented activities in the areas of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection, General Protection, Legal Aid (Access to Justice), Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and Anti-Human Trafficking. These interventions were carried out in Akamkpa, Bakassi, Boki, Calabar Etung, Ikom, Obanliku, and Ogoja LGAs of Cross River State, and Uhumwode, Orhionmwon, Ovia North East, Ikpoba Okha, Egor, Estako West, and Owan East LGAs of Edo State.

Innovations/Best Practices

- To prevent violence against women and girls in the 3 refugee settlements in Ogoja, the project implemented the “Engaging Men through Accountable Practice” (EMAP). This led to a drastic reduction in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Ukende and a moderate reduction in 3 settlements in Adagom.
- To increase the participation of children in Protection activities, Caritas Nigeria conducted age-appropriate child protection and GBV sensitization sessions during assembly periods in primary and secondary schools. As a result, children gained more confidence to report cases of abuse against them or other children.

Key Achievements

Performance Indicator(s)	Site/Location	Performance Target	Actual progress
Child Protection	Cross River	60,000	88,603
Gender -based violence	Cross River	4,500	5,098
General Protection	Cross River	1,300	1,505
Education	Cross River	500	1653
Access to Justice (Legal)	Cross River	120	125
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support	Cross River	500	524
Anti -human Trafficking	Cross River & Edo	22,000	22,802



Age-appropriate sensitization of school children on Child Protection & Abuse at St Peters 1, Adagom in Ogoja

EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Project Title:

Rainy Season Agricultural Inputs Distribution to Crisis-affected Populations in Northeast Nigeria



A practical session (farmer field school) on good agricultural practices in Bama LGA of Borno State

In 2022, Caritas Nigeria partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to address the livelihoods and food security of individuals affected by the crisis in northeast Nigeria. The program targeted 4,826 households in Bama and Gwoza local government areas (LGA) of Borno State and enhanced the population's capacity to cope with the Boko Haram crisis.



Persons of concern in Bama LGA of Borno State receive agricultural inputs for planting

Key Achievements

- Training of over 4,800 households on good agricultural practices, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), risks of mines, and improved household nutritional feeding.
- Training of individuals on organic fertilizer and pesticide production.
- Provision of extension services to 1,206 households, formation of 20 farmers groups, and establishment of demonstration plots.
- Implementation of an innovative climate-sensitive approach.
- Training of pregnant and lactating mothers on therapeutic food production.

Challenges

- Delays in signing agreements, which negatively impacted the project timeline.
- Poor network access in the target communities and consequent communication glitches in certain project locations.

Recommendations

- Early preparation and signing of agreements.
- Issuance of provisional approvals via email to commence key activities while awaiting formalization of agreements.

Project Title:

Scaling Up Assistance for Hard-to-Reach Areas (SAHaRA): Providing safe, accessible, dignified and inclusive humanitarian food and water assistance to the most vulnerable IDPs and host communities

The ECHO SAHaRA project is a humanitarian program aimed at providing food and water assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities in Kaga and Magumeri LGAs of Borno State. The project's objective was to improve the living conditions and dignity of those affected by armed conflict in the area. The approach is community-based and participatory, with an emphasis on empowering beneficiaries and working with faith-based leaders to spread conflict prevention messages.



Disbursement of cash grants to representatives of vulnerable households in Borno State

Key Achievements

- Provision of cash assistance to over 2,500 households to address their food needs.
- Drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes.
- Distribution of sanitation packages and menstrual hygiene kits.
- Training of Protection monitors and field officers.

Innovations/Best Practices

- Separate budgeting for new arrivals and protection concerns.
- Timely execution of water and sanitation activities.
- Proper selection of vendors with the capacity to deliver excellent services.
- The use of Picture-enabled Community Targeting (PECT) increased transparency and accountability in the aid distribution process.

Lessons Learnt

- Timely beneficiary targeting and engagement with financial institutions aided project implementation.
- Effective communication with communities contributed to the project's success.

Recommendations

- There is a need to implement food security programs in line with the project design and objectives.
- Bills of quantity should be prepared based on technical needs assessments.
- There should be adequate budgeting for unforeseen situations.

Project Title:
Protection and Assistance to People of Concern through Livelihood Support



A Caritas Nigeria staff with an active person of concern who was supported with a cash grant of 30,000 NGN for an income-generating activity (IGA) in Vuragwadla community, Madagali LGA, Adamawa State

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) project aimed at improving protection and assistance to persons of concern internally displaced persons (IDP), returnees and vulnerable host community members in locations across Adamawa state through livelihood support. The project targeted 2,830 vulnerable IDPs, returnees, and host community members across Michika, Madagali, Yola North, Yola South, Mubi North, and Mubi South LGAs in

Adamawa state. The support provided included agriculture and farming initiatives, such as livestock production and empowerment, self-employment through grants for income-generating activities, and vocational training, literacy, and entrepreneurship for unemployed youths and vulnerable persons.



People of concern, who completed the tailoring component of vocational skills training in the Njabore community, Yola North LGA of Adamawa State, pose with their certificates and start-up kits

Key Achievements

- Training on best agronomic practices and livestock management for registered persons of concern.
- Training on financial literacy and business management for persons of concern.
- Vocational skills acquisition training for 1,300 persons of concern and provision of seed capital for business start-ups.

Innovations/Best Practices

- The use of homemade organic fertilizers and pre-emergence herbicides.
- The use of pre/post-distribution community dialogues to ensure beneficiary satisfaction.

Lesson Learnt

Conducting market viability assessments and supporting field workers to conduct targeted sensitization increased the synergy between Caritas and community leaders



A monitoring visit to the store of a person of concern who received a cash grant in Vuragwadla in Madagali LGA

Project Title:
**Food Security and Humanitarian Protection
for Victims of the Lake Chad Crisis in Northeast
Nigeria, Northern Cameroon, and Chad**

The German Federal Foreign Office-funded project aims to reduce the impact of conflict-related food insecurity and improve the protection of the most vulnerable groups affected by the Lake Chad crisis in Northeast Nigeria, Northern Cameroon and Chad. The project, which is in its second phase, achieved its aims and objectives through food security, protection and nutrition-focused approaches, with a focus on Borno and Adamawa states in Nigeria.



A Caritas Nigeria staff measures the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) of a child formerly diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition in Camp D, Gwoza LGA of Borno State

With a target of 2,845 households in food security, 2,000 children in nutrition, and 1,200 persons in protection for the year 2022, the project provided a mix of cash transfers and in-kind assistance to the most vulnerable households, as well as screening for malnutrition and providing training on nutrient-rich foods and sustainable agricultural practices. The intervention equally addressed the protection needs of those affected by sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse, and trauma, as well as child protection concerns, through identification, treatment and referral services in the project locations.

Key Achievements

- Disbursement of cash for food in six intervention locations.
- Training on climate-smart farming techniques.
- Screening of children and pregnant/lactating women for malnutrition.
- Referral of severe malnutrition cases to specialized services.
- Advocacy visits to communities.
- Identification and referral of vulnerable protection cases.

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



A sensitization session in one of the project communities

Through Caritas Norway, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is funding a humanitarian program to provide emergency food assistance and protection to 5,000 conflict-affected, vulnerable persons in Adamawa and Borno States in Northeast Nigeria. Implemented by Caritas Nigeria, the program reached out to the targeted populations in six (6) LGAs of Borno and Adamawa states as follows; Michika and Madagali (in Adamawa state), and Askira Uba, Biu, Gwoza and Kaga LGAs (in Borno state), to

address food insecurity, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, and protection needs.



Cross-section of beneficiaries during the distribution of improved seeds and vegetables for planting

Key Achievements

- Provided cash for food to 500 households.
- Repaired and drilled water sources.
- Provided seeds and grains for planting.
- Provided environmentally-friendly stoves and solar lanterns to vulnerable women.

Innovations

- Training of young school girls on the production of hygiene kits.
- Training of lactating mothers on the production of therapeutic food.

Lesson Learnt

- Community participation and the use of mobile money vendors for cash transfers were instrumental to the success of the project.

agricultural inputs, building their capacity on best agronomic practices which are climate-smart inclined to increase farm yields, as well as providing selected households with eco-friendly stoves. The project has the following activities for the year 2023; partners mapping, community identification and selection, community entry visit and stakeholder engagement, identification of enumerators, identification of community mobilizers, identification and formation of Community Project Implementation Committee (CPIC) groups, and advocacy for the provision of five demonstration farms.



Training on sensitive agricultural climate-smart home gardening practices in Yamarkumi community, Biu LGA of Borno State



Distribution of farm inputs to persons of concern in Mildo Community, Madagali LGA of Adamawa State

Project Title: **Providing Life-saving Food Security and Livelihood Support to Vulnerable Populations in Adamawa and Borno States**

The National Humanitarian Fund (NHF) program, which was implemented by Caritas Nigeria in the year under review, aimed to save lives by providing timely and integrated multi-sector assistance and protection interventions to the most vulnerable populations in targeted communities and camps in Borno and Adamawa states. In the year under review, the program focused on providing support to 2,000 vulnerable households with cash and small ruminants, empowering rural farmers with improved

Project Title:
Building Sustainable Livelihoods in Vulnerable Communities (B-SLiC)

The Building Sustainable Livelihoods in Vulnerable Communities (B-SLiC) program is a two-year intervention (September 2022 – August 2024) currently implemented in four (4) local government areas in Lagos and Ekiti States, Southwest Nigeria. Funded by Conrad Hilton Foundation, the Program aims to improve the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable communities through training in climate-smart agriculture and vocational skills. In Ekiti State, B-SLiC is implemented in Ado-Ekiti and Ikere local government areas in partnership with the Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel and Sisters of St. Louis, while in Lagos State, Caritas Nigeria partners with the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus (EHJ) and the Daughters of Charity Congregations to implement the project in Ikorodu and Epe local government areas of the state.



The Deputy Executive Secretary of Caritas Nigeria, Rev. Fr. Peter Babangida Audu, formally introduces Caritas Nigeria to participants at the project inception meeting

The project targets 4,000 households in selected communities and aims to build capacity and empower women, men and youths in agricultural production, vocational skills acquisition, and access to markets and financial inclusion. The project also aims to train farmers on climate-smart agriculture for increased productivity, sustainability, and resilience. The project also aims to support the use of energy-saving cook stoves to reduce deforestation and protect women and girls from exposure to harm in their search for fuel.

Key Achievements

- Conducted partners' organizational capacity assessment to identify gaps and areas of strengthening.
- Engaged and signed a memorandum of understanding with the project partners namely, Sisters of Saint Michael the Archangel, Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Sisters, and Sisters of St. Louis congregations
- Completed a project inception workshop with partners.
- Trained project team members and partner congregations on Safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- Identified target communities in the four project local government areas across Lagos and Ekiti States.

The project targets 4,000 households in selected communities and aims to build capacity and empower women, men and youths in agricultural production, vocational skills acquisition, and access to markets and financial inclusion. The project also aims to train farmers on climate-smart agriculture for increased productivity, sustainability, and resilience. The project also aims to support the use of energy-saving cook stoves to reduce deforestation and protect women and girls from exposure to harm in their search for fuel.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Project Title:

Action for Religious and Cultural Pluralism

The Action for Religious and Cultural Pluralism in Nigeria and the Niger Republic (*Zaman Tare*) project was funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Caritas Nigeria and CAFOD from February 2018 to May 2022. The project was implemented in Kaduna and Plateau States and centred on the facilitation of activities that promoted religious and cultural tolerance in Nigerian communities.

Key Achievements

- 14 functional mediation centres earlier created in the target communities settled 40 intercultural/interreligious disputes.
- 300 youths were built into a network and engaged by 10 different organizations.
- Women's groups were established within women's livelihood savings schemes.
- Interfaith youth/security groups were formed in project communities. These groups mobilized for vigilance during major religious feasts in the communities.
- The resilience of the 14 project communities was built to help with conflict prevention and resolution

Innovation/Best Practice

- The training on indigenous dispute resolution mechanisms led to the establishment of 14 mediation centres in the project communities.

Next Step

- In the coming year, Caritas Nigeria will work in conjunction with the Muslim Peace Network and CAFOD to finalize a peacebuilding proposal from the European Union.



Caritas Nigeria and JDPC Ekiti team participate in the Situation Room of the Ekiti State Governorship Elections

Project Title:

Legal and Data Protection Unit Support Services

The Federal Government of Nigeria in February 2022 established the Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB). Among other functions, its job was to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Nigeria Data Protection Regulations 2019. Thus, the office of Legal Adviser/Data Protection Officer was created in Caritas Nigeria on June 1st, 2022 to handle the daily legal and data protection issues relating to Caritas Nigeria, to ensure that all the organization's activities are carried out in compliance with extant laws, and not in breach of the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation of 2019. The Officer is to support all the other units of Caritas Nigeria and the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria concerning legal and data compliance issues.

Key Achievements

- Produced several legal agreements and contracts between Caritas Nigeria and her clients.
- Produced a service performance agreement between the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria and Vigilante Group of Nigeria on the provision of security services at the Secretariat.
- Produced Caritas Nigeria's Data Protection Policy to guide all corporate activities in adherence with the Data Protection Law.
- Provided legal consultation for all Caritas Nigeria activities.
- Handled all aspects of Caritas Nigeria's compliance issues, especially as they concern

the amended Company and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) and the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation (NDPR).

- Reviewed business transactions between Caritas Nigeria and third parties to ensure they aligned with the policy of the organization and other relevant laws.

Next Steps

- To design and produce a data protection training manual for the training of all Caritas Nigeria Staff.
- Organize training on data protection and compliance procedure for all Caritas Nigeria Staff.
- Supervise and draft project agreements between Caritas Nigeria and third parties for the new project year.
- Continue to provide Caritas Nigeria with legal support.



HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS

Project Title:

Global Action Towards Epidemic Control in Sub-national Units in Nigeria (4GATES)

In 2017, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), awarded Caritas Nigeria a five-year HIV care, prevention and treatment project named the Global Action Towards Epidemic control in Sub-national units in Nigeria (4GATES) for implementation in southeast Nigeria. In the year under review, Caritas Nigeria partnered with the government of Abia, Delta, Enugu, and Imo states to achieve the project goal (HIV epidemic control in sub-national units) by:

- Ensuring increased uptake of HIV testing and prevention services.
- Creating increased access for people living with HIV (PLHIV) and their families to quality HIV and tuberculosis (TB) care and treatment services.
- Supporting faith-based organizations and the Government of Nigeria (GoN) to deliver optimum delivery of HIV and TB services.



HIV testing service at St. JohnMary Vianney Parish in Asaba, Delta State

Key Achievements

- In Abia State, the 4GATES project recorded outstanding achievements, some of which are highlighted. 38 supported-treatment facilities were transitioned from the Nigeria Medical Record System (NMRS) enterprise to the NMRS Point of Care (PoC); two facilities are fully operational with PoC. Also, Community-based Organizations (CBOs) partnering with Caritas Nigeria in the state enrolled 10,286 (4,866 males and 5,423 females) orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), out of which 686 children living with HIV were linked and enrolled in the OVC comprehensive program. Equally, the program provided food security support to 27 OVC with emergency nutritious food needs. Furthermore, to ensure their treatment adherence, Caritas Nigeria activated and funded the activities of the Operation Triple Zero (OTZ) club – a support group for adolescents living with HIV – across 8 supported facilities in the state. While 624 adolescents and young people were enrolled on OTZ within the review period, 281 pediatrics and adolescents received partial and full disclosure services. Additionally, to improve Caritas Nigeria's HIV intervention in the state, over 60 verbal autopsy interviews were conducted and the data was used to ascertain the causes of death among PLHIVs.

- Among other achievements, in Delta State, Caritas Nigeria worked with key partners to carry out Advanced HIV Disease (AHD) interventions under the 4GATES project, which helped in the detection of 1,188 clients with CD4 less than 200 cells/mm³, while about 14% of cases were diagnosed with tuberculosis and started on treatment to reduce co-infection effects. By the end of the year under review, Caritas Nigeria had placed 59,315 out of 73,320 people living with HIV on multi-month dispensing (MMD) of antiretrovirals (6-month supply).
- In Enugu State, Caritas Nigeria tested a total of 387,678 persons for HIV, with children and adolescents constituting 13% of those tested (49,276). Of those tested, 14,271 positive clients (1,022 children and adolescents) were identified and placed on treatment, with a positive yield of 3.2%. A total of 70,441 clients were maintained on treatment while treatment monitoring services (viral load tests) were provided to 99% of eligible clients, with 98% of them virally suppressed. Also, as part of Caritas Nigeria's capacity strengthening activities, several technical assistance visits and joint supportive supervisory visits were undertaken to supported facilities while a series of training using the TeleECHO platforms was conducted to build the capacity of healthcare workers, GoN, and other stakeholders. Likewise,

Caritas Nigeria provided various equipment such as 30 units of printers, 6 pieces of 1.5 HP Air conditioners, 2 generating sets, 2 double doors refrigerators, and 15 standing fans to service delivery facilities in the state, as part of health systems strengthening. In addition, the OVC program enrolled a total of 36,630, served 44,040, graduated 57 households, and provided them with start-up kits for different vocational skills. On the other hand, Caritas Nigeria leveraged the 4GATES project to scale up COVID-19 vaccination services by partnering with the Primary Healthcare Development Agency in the state; this led to increased COVID-19 service uptake across the 17 LGAs of the state.

- In the year under review, the 4GATES project expanded HIV testing coverage across LGAs in Imo state, with 100% linkage of all newly identified positives to lifelong antiretroviral therapy. Also, the project recorded an increased number of patients on treatment with a progressive reduction of interruption in treatment rate. Similarly, the year saw an improved uptake of COVID-19 vaccination. To improve adherence to ARVs and viral suppression, the project supported 290 beneficiaries (51 males and 239 females) with cash transfers and empowered 911 beneficiaries (88 males and 823 females) with income-generating activities to assess treatment and cater for their households' needs.

Targets and achievements of the 4GATES project across the states



264,403

HIV patients on treatment
131.3% of the Target



2,119,076

Persons tested for HIV
91.4% of the Target



83,472

Persons diagnosed with HIV
118.8% of the Target



277,949

Pregnant women tested for HIV in antenatal
clinic settings
142.4% of the Target



3,321

HIV+ pregnant women commenced on treatment to
prevent transmission to their child
86.6% of the Target



3,726

Infants for whom Early Infant Diagnosis (EID) test was
done and results received
95.7% of the Target



84,632

New HIV patients started on treatment
130.1% of the Target



190,511

Viral load lab results that showed viral suppression
(96.8% of 196,910 all tests received in project)



2,884

Cases of sexual and gender-based violence that were
reported and for whom medical and psychological
support was provided
154.0% of the Target



139,002

Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Served
113.3% of the Target

Innovations/Best Practices

- Automation of the Electronic Medical Record/National Data Repository (EMR / NDR) concurrence analysis using Python Pandas to create a simplified dashboard of thematic indicators.
- Building strong collaborations with CBOs and GoN structures at various levels.
- Activation of proxy drug pick-up (with an emphasis on the Hub-spokes approach) and establishment of a dedicated community testers model for family index testing to complement the efforts of service delivery facilities.
- Introduction of integrated community medical outreaches to reduce HIV testing apathy.
- Introduction of a Google template for facilities' weekly reporting of recency testing activities to ease data reporting.
- Improved planning and participation of stakeholders for program ownership.
- Establishment of evaluation, feedback and follow-up with facility teams and communities to strengthen the quality of activities. This ensured continuous improvements in the quality of interventions rolled out in the year across

the states.

- Introduction of community case-finding strategy to access hard-to-reach communities.
- Introduction of the facility-community strategic mix for viral load coverage to facilitate group and home viral load sample collections. Similarly, the introduction of the facility-community case management strategy ensured a continuum of care for identified clients.
- Decongestion of facilities through the multi-month drug dispensing (MMD3 & MMD6) for all treatment-adherent patients.
- Adoption of the Differentiated Service Delivery Models (DSDM) and weekly monitoring of appointment compliance.
- Use of cluster-led model and weekly scorecard tracker to improve program performance across Healthy, Safe, Schooled and Stable domains of OVC programming.
- Introduction of Clinical Mentors to support capacity building and mentoring of healthcare workers.



Clinical Mentors' training in Enugu State

Lessons Learnt

- Computer systems with high-capacity work more efficiently & daily upload to NDR eliminates the concurrency gaps.
- Health system strengthening was a major project strategy that led to the achievement of objectives.
- Physical Enhanced Adherence Counselling (EAC) proved to be more effective than Tele-EAC.
- Differentiated Service Delivery Models (DSDM) led to improved client-centred care, reduction in treatment interruption and improved adherence to ARVs and retention in care.
- Viral load collaboration with the national clinical mentors and State Multidisciplinary Planning Teams (SMPT) strengthened program sustainability and ownership. Also, QI interventions helped close documentation gaps.
- Dispensing drugs for multiple months improved treatment outcomes, decongested clinics, reduced patient wait times, and improved treatment retention.
- Optimizing collaboration and engagement with key stakeholders and community involvement are critical to program implementation and success.
- Incentives can also be a disincentive, as some individuals may be tempted to falsify data and engage in unethical practices to gain an advantage at the expense of the program.

Challenges

- Recurrent strike action by government facility staff and non-payment/delayed payment of salaries in some states. This situation affected work hours, monthly retirements and supply chain activities in the states.
- Insecurity in the eastern region and the sit-at-home orders grossly affected project deliverables.
- The user fees charged by some facilities deterred indigent clients from accessing healthcare.
- Commodity shortages hindered program achievements.
- Staff attrition at some service delivery facilities affected program deliverables.

Recommendations

- Improved capacity-building for all cadres of healthcare workers and administrative staff.
- Internalization of SIMs assessment across all facilities in the states.
- Provision of more Points of Care (PoC) in the states for early infant diagnosis (EID) assay.
- Establishment of a reliable PCR hub to ensure optimum turnaround time for viral load results.
- Improved state-championed joint supportive supervisory visits as an avenue to strengthen ownership and sustainability.

- Efficient power supply to service delivery facilities to ensure real-time performance updates and reporting of activities.
- Continued collaboration with state actors to improve ownership and sustainability and help address issues of stigma and discrimination.
- Continued dialogue with the GoN for the total eradication of all forms of user fees.

Next Steps

- Training and capacity building for all levels of facility staff.
- Continuous engagement of the GoN and faith-based facility management to eliminate user fees.
- Continuous data review meetings, technical assessment visits and mentoring engagement.
- Strengthen the operations of the OVC technical working groups across the states.
- Scale up HIV recency testing.
- Introduce collaborative learning sessions within the thematic unit and facility equivalent.
- Improve cluster lead model for effective service delivery.

Project Title:
Public-Private Mix (PPM) Tuberculosis



TB Screening at Nkwerre LGA of Imo State

Since 2020, Caritas Nigeria has co-implemented the Global Fund-supported Public Private Mix Tuberculosis project with the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN). Currently, the project is implemented in 550 public-private Mix facilities spread across Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo States. Targeting private facilities, Caritas Nigeria adopts the HUB and Spoke models to carry out active tuberculosis (TB) case-finding. Whereas the HUBs are the facilities while the Spokes are the informal health sectors like patent medicine vendors, traditional birth attendants (TBAs), and religious and other healing homes. Project activities carried out with a focus on community tuberculosis testing included house-to-house TB case-finding, targeted outreaches, contact tracing of index cases, TB screening at herbal homes, TBAs and traditional child clinics, and TB screening in religious settings.

Scope of Implementation:

Strengthen Active TB Case finding; Diagnosis and Treatment in private sector



- Increase Adult/Childhood case notification
- Contact Tracing and TPT Initiation
- Active TB Case finding through the HUBs and spokes method
- Demand Creation, PPM Stakeholder Engagement
- 100% FBO Saturation

• Increase community case finding, Case holding and diagnosis



Sample Shipment Logistics

- Coordinate sample shipment for both public and private facilities in the four project states
- Analysis of sample shipment outcomes and provide outcomes



Optimizing the Use of a digital Platform “MATS APP”

- Ensure MATS app are used for real-time TB Screening
- Ensure results are entered on MATS APP

The project has tremendously impacted the case-finding activities in the project states. As of quarter 3 of 2022, the PPM had contributed 65% of the TB cases identified in Ebonyi and Imo States, 59% in Abia State, and 46% in Enugu State – all above the national target of 25% PPM contribution. Key achievements recorded in 2022 are captured below:

Screening of Hospital Attendees for TB

Total Attendance: 261224
Total Screened :260813
98% screening coverage

Presumptive
Identified
and Tested
:41622

Total Diagnosed DSTB: 5065

Total Notified DSTB: 4933

97% Notification rate

Total DRTB identified :43

Total DRTB: 34

Childhood TB proportion: 367 (7%)

Project Title:
COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out Support in Nigeria.

To mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic and related negative social and economic impacts, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, through Catholic Relief Services, partnered with Caritas Nigeria for the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination in Nigerian communities. Intending to increase vaccine demand by combatting vaccine hesitancy and misinformation and improving access to vaccines through existing health system efforts, Caritas Nigeria worked in 12 communities spread across Kaduna, Plateau, and Rivers States, namely, Kawo, Kakuri, Naraguta, Jenta Adamu, Lamingo, Zawan B, Bukuru, Mangu 2, Rumuibekwe, Setari, Firisika Polo and Bishop Jonson.



A man is administered the COVID-19 vaccine on his farmland Distribution of cold boxes to Comprehensive Health Centre, Jos

COVID-19 vaccination data from project communities in Kaduna, Plateau, and Rivers States

Key Achievements



263,678
Persons vaccinated



2,757
Religious Leaders using the Sermon Guide to promote/sensitize COVID-19 Vaccine messages



2,665
Local and Community Leaders who routinely promote/sensitize COVID-19 vaccine messages



47,817
Door-to-door Sensitization for COVID-19



629,048
People sensitized directly by the project



Over 8,000,000
Persons were reached, indirectly through the radio jingles (the number reached were obtained from coverage reach of the Radio Stations)

Innovations/Best Practices

- Collaboration with many faith groups, youth leaders, people with special needs, and women's associations allowed for inclusion in the project.
- Recruitment and training of mobilizers and staff from diverse faith and community platforms improved the trust of the populace in sensitization and vaccination activities.
- The religious leaders facilitated the promotion of COVID-19 vaccine sensitization and vaccination in the churches and mosques, which further enabled acceptance among the worshippers.
- The adaptation of information, education and communication (IEC) materials to project communities' languages aided understanding among the target populations.
- Caritas Nigeria created a close working relationship between the vaccination teams and the Primary Health Care Management Board. This also trickled down to various supported facilities.

- The purchase and distribution of cold chain items like solar-powered freezers, vaccine carrier boxes, and 5000 KV power regulators to the facilities in project communities addressed certain project implementation gaps and allowed for in-facility storage of vaccines.
- The involvement of key community stakeholders was instrumental to the success of COVID-19 sensitization and vaccination.

Lessons Learnt

- Collaboration with government agencies and other relevant stakeholders while leveraging on existing structures to effectively create demand and scale up COVID-19 vaccine uptake.
- COVID-19 vaccine uptake is best achieved when other service delivery packages are included as an integral part of the activities.
- The use of natives or residents as community mobilizers contributed to the success of similar interventions.
- The production of radio jingles helped in creating awareness and eliminating wrong assumptions and myths about COVID-19 vaccines.

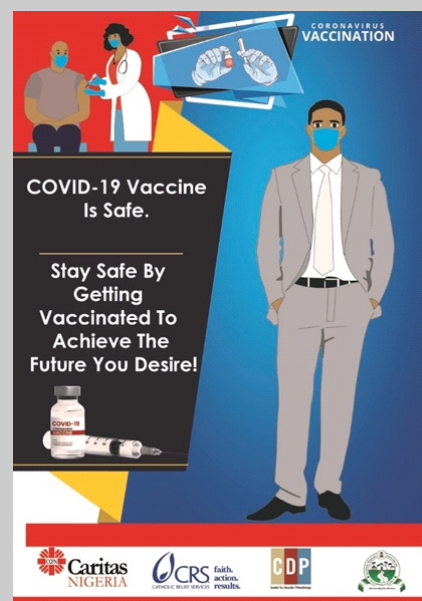
- The weekly monitoring of state and local government vaccine stock levels helped to mitigate vaccine stock-out or expiry issues.
- Early and regular engagement of all stakeholders provided the much-needed support to achieve project targets.
- Harnessing the huge influence that faith leaders have on their followers was at the centre of the project's successes.
- Enlisting revered and trusted religious and community leaders as vaccine champions helped to dispel COVID-19 myths and combat vaccine hesitancy.

Challenges

- The lack of protective equipment such as raincoats for the project teams hampered community sensitization during the rainy seasons.
- The conflicting work schedules of state vaccination teams impacted project implementation.
- The lack of transportation support for town criers affected community sensitization.
- The stock-out of some vaccine brands at the state store and inadequate vaccines in some cases slowed down vaccination.

Recommendations

- The project should be expanded to other parts of the country, particularly states where Caritas Nigeria implements other interventions.
- More supportive supervision and monitoring visits to sites should be undertaken to enable the tracking of gaps.
- Communication and meeting support should be included in the project budget.
- The end of the project cycle should be marked with a close-out meeting.



A poster designed to ramp up COVID-19 vaccination in project communities

INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

Project Title:

Organizational Capacity Strengthening Activities

In line with its mandate to coordinate development programs on behalf of the Catholic Church in Nigeria, Caritas Nigeria, through its Institutional Capacity Strengthening (ICS) thematic area, provides institutional and technical capacity-building services to the Church's local partners, as well as local and international development organizations. In 2022, the Unit, with the support of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), strengthened partners' skills in organizational assessment tools development, proposal-writing, report-writing, project management, resource mobilization, needs assessment, and strategic plan development. Similarly, the unit conducted several assessments across some dioceses, such as safeguarding, baseline, and needs assessments.

Key Achievements

- Improvement of Jos and Abuja Archdioceses' organizational capacity in the development of organizational policies.
- Review of Jos and Abuja Archdioceses' strategic plans.
- Disbursement of 2 million NGN to Jos and Abuja Archdioceses for the implementation of micro projects in communities within the Archdioceses.

- Training of 249 staff of Caritas Nigeria's 4GATES project on Project Management for Development Professionals (PMD Pro), with 230 of the trained staff passing the certification exam.
- Coordination of Caritas Internationalis Management Standards (CIMS) assessment on Caritas Nigeria, which earned Caritas Nigeria a high score for its effective systems and accountability mechanism.



Participants at the CRS-supported workshop on Collaboration for Visioning for Awka Diocese in Anambra State

Activity	Number of Participants		
	Male	Female	Total
Organizational capacity strengthening activities	11	8	19
Baseline assessment for Jos and Abuja Arch dioceses	8		8
CIMS assessment of Caritas Nigeria	10	4	14
Caritas Nigeria Safeguarding assessment	5	3	8
Endline assessment for Jos and Abuja Archdioceses	10	6	16
Advanced personal security training	12	5	17
Training Activities			
Project cycle management training	9	6	15
Resource mobilization training for dioceses	14	4	18
Project management training for Caritas Nigeria Staff	170	79	249
Needs assessment and report writing training	12	5	17
Organizational assessment tools design training	2		2

Next Step

- The project will continue to implement CRS-funded capacity-building interventions in dioceses.



PMD Pro training session with Caritas Nigeria Staff in Imo State

Caritas Nigeria will continue to create positive environments that help members of Nigerian communities to enjoy the fullness of life. We sincerely appreciate all our funders, partners, and stakeholders who supported our mission of improving the well-being of the poor and needy in the year 2022. Their support strengthened our commitment to seeing vulnerable populations across Nigeria smile and thrive in diverse interventions.

