

Growing up in
Emergency Situations

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towards improving
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Nigeria

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SAVE THE CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS , IMRAN MATIN VISITS LAGOS OFFICE, NIGERIA



The Lagos State Office of Save the Children International, Nigeria hosted the Country Director- Ben Foot and Imran Matin SCI's-Director of International Programs on a 2-day visit.

The visit presented a prime opportunity for the Lagos field office staff to showcase projects operating out of the field office. It also provided a platform to discuss and strategize with the visiting directors on how to strengthen and improve the effectiveness of programs, from the design stage through implementation stage.

The trip boasted visits to 3 different project sites, and interactions with various stakeholders in the state. For the School Health and Nutrition (SHN) project, Imran visited Tinubu Methodist primary school, 1 of the 10 model public primary schools benefitting from the SHN project. He met and interacted with the head teacher, pupils and government officials alike. He also got a chance to observe first hand the Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) renovations that have happened in the school through the project.

For the Stop Diarrhea Initiative (SDI), Imran visited one of the project communities in Shomolu/Bariga LGA with leaders, members and local

government officials. He also visited the Ilaje fish market, where he interacted with the local fish traders as they worked, and got their perspective on the SDI project.

With the Quality of Care (QoC) project team, Imran visited Ojodu Primary Health Center. During the visit, he was taken on a tour of the facility including the consulting room, delivery room, HIV department, and pharmacy. The QoC project had supported the facility with renovations, delivery equipment, curtains for privacy, and other supplies. Imran also interacted with the officer in charge, who affirmed that she had been trained by Save the Children, and that the trainings on "helping babies breathe" and "active management of 3rd stage labor" has been extremely beneficial to them in maternal and newborn care.

Mr. Matin's visit came to a close with a debriefing session with the Lagos Team. Imran shared his observations from the field, provided feedback, and listened as project leads shared challenges encountered in the execution of their projects. Imran took notes, and affirmed that such visits and exchange of ideas will serve as pointers for improving our operations within Nigeria and globally.



GROWING UP IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS..

One of the things that gives me joy is playing with my friends every day after school. Being the last child in the family, I had the luxury of inheriting my siblings' toys to add up to the ones my parents bought for me. I remember a bicycle I got from my brother that became one of my best possessions then.

Every morning before I go to school, I ensure I clean up my bicycle and take a little "rush ride" in the garage. Running errands was quite fun as it gave me an opportunity to ride, especially when the distance is a bit long. My friends will also tag along so they get to have a ride. It made my childhood really fun. Abba*

As I try to reflect on my childhood days and all the fun I had with my friends and my bicycle, the thought of 13-year-old Abba, the last born, and the only son in a family of 6 who tells me how much he misses his home, and can't wait to go back, comes to my mind.

Abba is one of the estimated 855,555 children out of about 1.5 million internally displaced people as a result of the crisis in Northeast Nigeria. He had to be disguised to escape from his comfortable home that fearful night, after his uncle and 8 of his cousins were killed by the insurgents.

"I miss watching TV, playing with my friends and riding my bicycle"

His family had to travel through 5 communities after their house and properties were raised ablaze. It was a journey some of the victims did not survive.



"There was no food or water for most part of the journey. They found themselves in a refugee camp in another state where they stayed for some time before they got a place that cannot be compared to their home.

Now I go to school without a lunch pack, and I have to ride motor cycle to school which cost my parents a lot of money. I miss watching TV, I miss my bicycle; I used to ride on it to school back at home. I just miss home; I want to go back soon".

This is the sad story of several other children who had to leave their home in Northeast Nigeria as a result of the crisis that started since 2009. A lot of them are not just hungry for food or clamoring for shelter which have been identified as the top basic needs of the displaced, but longing for their homes, the comfort it gives, the security they feel, and their friends.

Abba is one of the few fortunate ones that happen to be at locations where Save the Children is doing an intervention through the Child Protection sector by providing "Child Friendly Spaces". According to him, since the inception of the CFS, he now goes out to play football with other children and now he has made new friends even though they can never be as fond of each other as with his friends back home.

The other children also talk about how much they miss home and their greatest hope; "is to go back home soon"



ENSURING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CASH TRANSFERS

The Child Development Grant of N3500 (Three Thousand Five Hundred Naira) accompanied with nutritional education and sensitization given to pregnant women in Jigawa and Zamfara state is aimed at reducing infant mortality and tackling malnutrition with its underlying causes. In addition to this, the cash transferred to these women has helped to improve the sustainability of households.

Samayyah Yusuf 27, of Garin Chiroma in Gagarawa LGA in Jigawa State was enrolled into the Child Development Grant Program (CDGP) during the pilot phase in April 2014. She makes the Hausa traditional caps for a living. Prior to being enrolled in the program, she makes a profit of N500 in a month. Out of that profit she supports her husband in feeding her household and cares for her children including taking them to the hospital whenever they were sick. But with the support she currently receives from the CDGP program which has lasted for over 8 months, she is now able to support in feeding the family with nutritious meals, pay for her children's hospital bills when her husband is not around conveniently without using the profit from her business.

“Over the months, I have been able to save and invest the money I get from my business because of the support I get with this cash transfers. With the grant, my children and I can feed properly as we ought to and I still get to increase my business because I save more and invest more now.

Tagari Dantashe, 32, in Turabu district of Kirkasamma LGA engages herself in petty trading. She also admits that the CDGP program has helped her to expand her business as she is now able to save and re invest the proceeds she makes out of the business.

With the cash transfers I get from the CDGP program, my family and I can eat a nutritious meal conveniently without being scared of ruining my business as I don't take out of the capital anymore but invest it. *Says Summayyah Yusuf*

While striving to meet the nutritional needs of families, the CDGP program has simultaneously empowered these women by giving them the opportunity to expand their business as well as take proper care of their family.

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DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD CELEBRATION

To celebrate the Day of the African Child, the Action 2015 Coalition worked in partnership with the Nigerian Stock Exchange to have fifteen 15 year olds participate in the ringing of the opening bell as a way of recognizing them as future leaders.

These 15 fifteen year olds also participated in a Press Conference where they were opportune to inform and educate members of the private sector on how they can help secure the future (they children) they want through their Corporate Social Responsibility projects.

The children were led to the Stock Exchange by notable Nigerian Television Personality and Media Mogul, Mo Abudu and other musical celebrities such as Timi Dakolo, Marvelous etc who were there to show their support to the future generation.



STAFF IN ACTION STORY

BY OLAYINKA ADEKUGBE



My name is Olayinka Adekugbe fondly called “Yinka” by colleagues and friends.

I joined Save the Children International (SCI) Nigeria about two and half years ago as the advocacy advisor. As an advocate I speak for and on behalf of children. Prior to joining SCI, I never liked speaking in Public, in the last 2.5 year I have learnt to be a voice for the voiceless. It has not been easy, but I guess it’s worth it..

I have also participated in a variety of projects ranging from Nutrition, health financing, family planning, human resource for health to immunization. Unique to Save the Children approach is the diversity and innovation of programme implementation which I really like and enjoy!

One of the key lessons I have learnt in the past 2 years of working with SCI is that a strong policy and political commitment are key essential for long term sustainability of any human development intervention or programming.

While I am not at work, I enjoy meeting people, hanging out with friends and experiencing new things.

Stop Diarrhoea Initiative, Reducing Preventable Child Deaths (Health)

The Stop Diarrhoea Initiative aims to reduce preventable deaths from diarrhoea in children under the age of five. The inception phase which ran from May 2014 to October 2014 focused on conducting baseline and formative assessments to inform the design and strategy of the project as well as developing partnerships with strategic stakeholders. Save the Children is tackling the leading causes of under - 5 deaths through a unique model that comprises Behaviour Change Communication, Innovation and Research. The model is being piloted in Lagos State, Nigeria. The goal of this project is overall reduction in common childhood disease burden and under-five mortality rate in 4 LGAs in Lagos State by the end of 2015.

Child Development Grant Program (CDGP) - Social Protection

To tackle some of the key causes of malnutrition in Northern Nigeria, CDGP transfers a grant of 3500 NGN (local currency equivalent of £14 a month) each to 60,000 pregnant women and women with children under the age of 2 in Jigawa and Zamfara states accompanied by nutritional education and counselling. This transfer contributes to increased food security and, therefore, it is expected to lead to improved child nutrition in 60,000 households so that 420,000 people will benefit. The project outputs are;

- Secure payments mechanism providing regular, timely cash transfers to 60,000 pregnant women and women with under-2s
- Effective system for mobilization, targeting and complimentary interventions
- Enhanced government capacity for managing

Humanitarian Emergency Response

Build communities' resilience to future emergencies, support children and their families to cope with disaster, make sure children are better protected from harm and give children psychosocial support during crisis.



Save the Children

Dear Colleagues and Friends

Welcome to the April-June 2015 edition of the Save the Children - Nigeria Country Programme Newsletter. This is an



opportunity to share updates of the country programme activities which are focused around Health, Nutrition, Education, Child Protection/OVC & Livelihoods across Nigeria. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the entire Nigeria Country Programme staff for their contributions towards this edition. We hope the stories in this issue will inspire you to continue giving children a chance to survive and thrive to their fullest potential.

Benjamin Foot

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