

# Newsletter

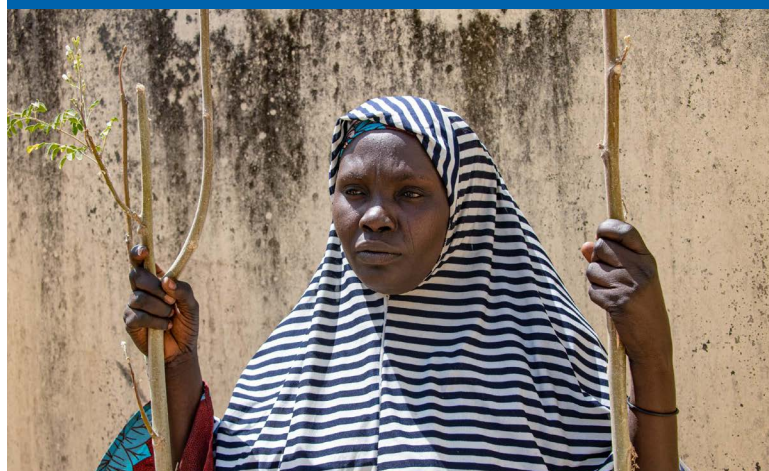
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## In this Issue



**Women in leadership on the frontlines of COVID-19**



**Mental health and psychosocial support in building community resilience**



**COVID-19: Ending violence against women and girls**



**Improving social contract through the rehabilitation of formal learning Centers**



## ECOWAS receives vital medical supplies from UNDP for second wave of the COVID-19 Response

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) received a shipment of COVID-19 test kits and other medical supplies procured by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the 24th of February, 2021, in Abuja, Nigeria.

The medical items are meant to support the continued fight against the pandemic which continues to increase in West Africa, necessitating urgent essential medical supplies to strengthen national capacities to cope with increasing cases.

Valued at \$14,154,756 million, these medical supplies include 549,600 test kits containing

sample collection items and reagents, all of which will enhance capacities of front-line responders providing care and treatment to people impacted by the virus as well as support the management of COVID-19 cases. In addition, 550,000 Qiagen extraction kits have been procured to increase testing capacity and early detection.

The supplies were handed over to ECOWAS at an event attended by high-ranking officials of the United Nations (UN), the West African Health Organization (WAHO) and the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Health in Abuja, Nigeria.

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## Government of Japan contributes \$5.7 million towards the UNDP Social Stability and Security of conflict affected communities

The Government of Japan has partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria with a contribution of \$5.7m (equivalent to N2.2 billion) towards the 'Support for Social Stability and Security of the Conflict-Affected Communities in North-East and Middle Belt of Nigeria Project'.

To improve social stability and security, and to mitigate the negative social effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in the two regions, the project aims

to support early recovery and peace building in conflict-affected communities in the states of Adamawa, Borno, Yobe in the North East, and Taraba, Nasarawa, and Benue in the Middle Belt.

Through support from the Government of Japan, the project will adopt an integrated resilience-based strategy that aims to enable community recovery and peace building.

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# Women in leadership on the frontlines of COVID-19

They are healthcare workers and innovators. They are nurses, doctors and caregivers administering vaccines and performing clinical testing. Regardless of their role in the COVID-19 response, they are leading us to a safer world and inspiring the next generation of females in healthcare and science.

The COVID-19 outbreak around the world has created a global health crisis that has disrupted the daily lives of nearly all global citizens, and Nigeria has not been spared. With sustained community transmission, the pandemic is exacting a heavy toll on health systems and the many healthcare workers who have been at the forefront of the global response, most of them female. Despite these demanding pressures, women are playing an outsized role in keeping their communities safe and resilient in the face of COVID-19.

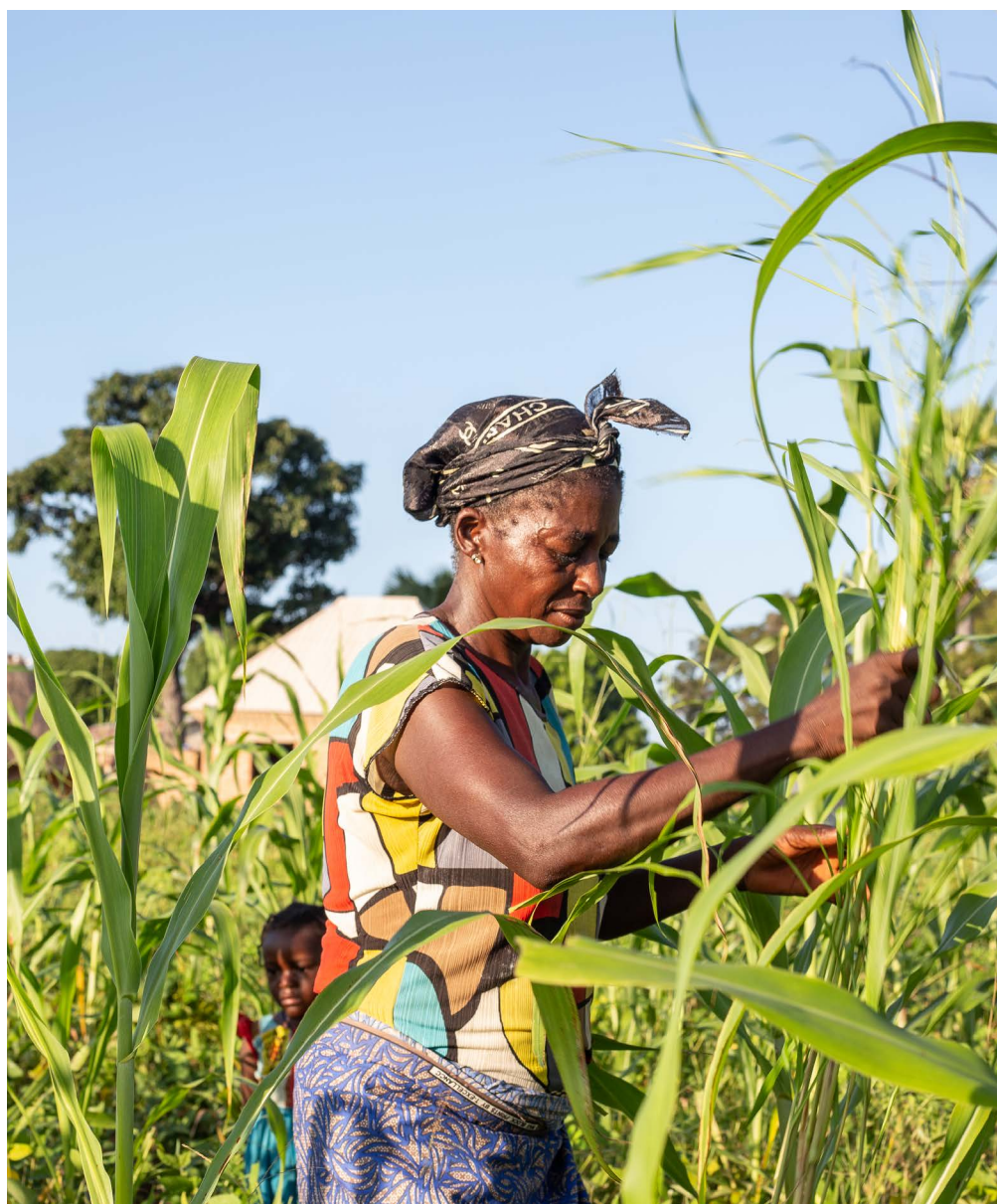
Since the inception of the UN Severe and Acute Respiratory Isolation Treatment (SARI) Centre, on 28th of April 2020 in Abuja, Nigeria, women have made up 90% of the work force, from testing to the treatment and discharge of patients.

This team of dedicated medical personnel is made up of 19 healthcare workers ranging from doctors, nurses and medical laboratory staff. With the Clinical Team and The Rapid Response Team led by two female doctors, staff work in shifts up to 24-hours providing around the clock care to patients in need.

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## Improving local food production in conflict affected communities



The prolonged crisis in North-Eastern Nigeria has resulted in a drastic decline in the region's agriculture capabilities and capacities. The over decade long insurgency has, in many instances, led to either complete loss or limited access to farmlands as well as displacement of countless farmers and their communities. Added to it all is the environmental factor — the variability in climate which continues to affect food production leaves the North East Nigeria more vulnerable than other regions across the country. The consequences are evidenced in communities through high unemployment rate, low economic productivity, pervasive famine and sprawling abject poverty.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through its Early Recovery Programme with support from the Government of Japan, has been responding to the immediate livelihood needs of these communities. Focusing on three states, Borno, Yobe and Adamawa respectively, the programme helps to restore and boost local food production, economies, and livelihood opportunities. In this commitment towards the revitalization of conflict affected communities, UNDP and the Agricultural Development Project (ADP) are providing professional training on sustainable agriculture including best farming techniques and practices, with an added focus on support for female farmers.

Progressively, the early recovery programme in North East Nigeria is restoring livelihoods and fostering socio-economic recovery for targeted population that has been affected by the crisis in the North-eastern Nigeria. For UNDP, the livelihoods and economic recovery efforts are the first critical steps towards systematically addressing underlying vulnerabilities and inequalities inherent among the populace of the conflict-affected communities. [>> Read more](#)



# Mental health and psychosocial support in building community resilience

The initiative is linked with support provided to the community members to establish locally appropriate livelihood schemes. The EU supported project aims to enhance stability through provision of alternatives to violence and enhanced social cohesion

## UNDP-GEF Project promises rewarding activities for 2021 farming season

UNDP-Global Environment Facility GEF, Project on Climate-Smart Agriculture has promised farmers in beneficiary communities of an exciting outing in 2021.

The new programmes activities for this year will include Bee-Keeping, a continuation of livelihood support, distribution of water pumps and sprayers for youths as well as special training on nutrition and energy-saving stoves.

Farmers would be particularly taught to use the available foods in the area to produce nutritious foods. For the Extension Agents in the beneficiary communities, they hope to redouble their efforts in the year 2021, but require the early provision of seeds and early acquisition of the lands for demonstration.

Through the project, Smallholder farmers and agricultural workers are being empowered by providing them with the knowledge and skills that they require both to enter the market and to improve their terms of participation.

The objective of the project is the adoption of integrated approach on fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in the Savannah Zones of Northern Nigeria, so as to enhance food security in the country.



In contributing to community mental health wellbeing and linked to supporting them to rebuild their systems for local livelihoods, the Support to Reconciliation and Reintegration Project, which is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by European Union, provides mental health and psycho-social support sessions for victims of insurgency in Northeast Nigeria.

During insurgency driven conflict, loss of life, abduction, the threat of recruitment into armed groups create trauma and

mental challenges. Many people are cut off from fundamental services like clean water, health care and education, especially as towns are raided and communities divided.

Mental health and psycho-social support enables the community to cope with the effects of the conflict. It has been provided to individuals that are participating in a livelihoods strengthening intervention as a precursor and is also linked to building community engagement in actions entrenching social cohesion at the community level. [>> Read more](#)

## COVID-19: Ending violence against women and girls

In a targeted effort to empower women and girls and eliminate GBV, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with support from the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, provides livelihood support and life-building skills to enhance self-reliance for women and survivors of GBV. Over 20 women in FCT have been enrolled at the Red Dish Chronicles Culinary School where they are learning to be seasoned, professional chefs.

Elizabeth (not real name), is a single mother of 3 children and a resident of the FCT, struggling to provide for herself and her children with no support in a severe economic crisis aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Speaking, she recounts how she lost her cleaning job which made her unable to support her children after escaping an abusive relationship. In her words “I struggled and could barely feed after I lost my job. I had to send my children to go stay with their grandparents”.

Through this initiative, UNDP and its partners aim to improve strategically, the economic and living standards of GBV survivors in Nigeria. [>> Read more](#)





# Sports for social cohesion and sustainable peace



In the camps in Bama community, people of different tribes, origins and backgrounds are living together. With a lot of unknowns about each other's cultures and way of life, tensions and misunderstandings have sparked frequently between both the host community members and the IDPs and within the IDP community itself, preventing groups from interacting and building mutual trust and respect. The volatile security situation remains a predominant concern, with the risk of outbreak, escalation, or recurrence of inter-community conflicts.

In this context, UNDP under the Support to Reconciliation and Reintegration

Project funded by European Union initiated a community led Peace through Sports Engagement in locations hit hardest by the insurgency. The aim of this engagement is to strengthen social engagement and rebuild intercommunal trust, which is foundational to community healing and peaceful co-existence.

The EU supported project aims to enhance stability through provision of alternatives to violence and enhanced social cohesion and is implemented as a partnership between the UNDP, IOM and UNICEF in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. [>> Read more](#)

## Banki: Laying the foundation for stabilization and strengthening COVID-19 response — brick by brick

Straddling the border between Northeast Nigeria and Cameroon, the garrison town of Banki has witnessed the destruction of essential infrastructure, a decrease in trade, the loss of livelihoods, and displacement of entire families since the start of the insurgency in Lake Chad Basin Region.

As one of the communities in Borno State targeted by the Regional Stabilization Facility for Lake Chad (RSF), Banki is the recipient of a set of support packages which include the building of protection fence wall which aims to prevent attacks from outside and improve the community's security.

The current rate of spread of COVID in Nigeria increases the risks of mass infections in settings like Banki. As decongestion of the IDP camps is one of the most urgent and efficient ways to prevent this, the Borno State Government has designated the expansion of the IDP camps as a top priority for its COVID-19 response.

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# Improving social contract through the rehabilitation of formal learning Centers

As part of its commitment to rapidly re-establish basic services, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with Adamawa State Government, has initiated stabilization interventions aimed at rehabilitating essential infrastructure under the Regional Stabilization Facility (RSF) project.

One of which included the rehabilitation of damaged secondary school in Gulak community, Madagali Local Government Area (LGA). As a result of the rehabilitation, the pupils of Gulak's Government Day Secondary School now attend a newly refurbished and functional learning environment which includes: seven (7) blocks of classrooms, one Admin Block, one Computer Centre, one Introtech Lab and two newly constructed toilets.

The Government Day Secondary School in Gulak, Adamawa State was one of the many learning centres that had been destroyed by insurgent attacks from

2014 to 2016. The impact of its destruction has resonated throughout, as students and teachers were forced to stay at home while conditions remained unsafe. Even when studies resumed, students had to endure learning in an inconducive environment not only because of the physical destruction to the school itself but also because of the trauma and psychological impact it left on the community.

During the two-year period that the town was controlled by insurgents, nearly all public service infrastructure was looted and destroyed including schools, hospitals, local government offices and police barracks. Even the infrastructure that did remain, continued to worsen under harsh weather conditions and recurrent looting, leaving inadequate access to public services. This vulnerable condition has further been exacerbated by the absence of electricity, water, personnel, equipment, medicines, furniture, and other necessary supplies.

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# Photos News



The Resident Representative, UNDP Nigeria, Mohamed Yahya paid a visit to the UN Isolation centre for COVID-19 patients in Abuja, to meet with the frontline doctors, nurses and caregivers to learn about their work within the response and to thank them for their excellent and selfless service.

This team of dedicated medical personnel is made up of 19 healthcare workers ranging from doctors, nurses and medical laboratory staff. With the Clinical Team and The Rapid Response Team led by two female doctors, staff work in shifts up to 24-hours providing around the clock care to patients in need.

UNDP Nigeria RR, Mohamed Yahya welcomed Kim Young-Chae, the new Ambassador Designate of South Korea to Nigeria to discuss partnership opportunities to advance the achievement of the SDGs.



Mohamed Yahya attends the food tasting and exhibition by beneficiaries of the Spotlight Initiative Livelihood Programme who have undergone several months of training to become professional chefs to rebuild their lives.



Mohamed Yahya, accompanies the visiting UNAIDS Executive Director, Winnie Byanyima who paid a courtesy visit to see President Buhari



UNDP Nigeria RR, welcomes Mindy Roduner, the new Director of INTERSOS Nigeria to discuss future opportunities for collaboration and partnership







We hosted a workshop to increase the capacity of law enforcement officers on key concepts of human rights, humanitarian law and SGBV to promote its practical application in our six Regional Stabilisation target communities.



Our Resident Representative, Mohamed Yahya hosted the Southern African Development Community Heads of Mission in Abuja to present on UNDP's work in Nigeria. He spoke about our flagship initiatives & discussed innovative partnership approaches to increase support for the Government of Nigeria.



We recently handed over to the Borno State Government heavy equipment to facilitate the construction of basic amenities as part of our Regional Stabilization Project as well as vehicles to support the EU Waste Management project in Maiduguri.



UNDP Nigeria's Resident Representative inaugural mission to Benue State where he met with Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom and other key stakeholders to explore avenues to address key development challenges including improving human security, finding sustainable solutions to the issue of displacement and how best to position the State as the food basket of Nigeria.



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