
STREET CHILD OF NIGERIA

2019 UPDATE

Forged in the heat and poverty of northern Nigeria, Boko Haram has been insurgent in the country and its borders for over nine years. Unopposed by a government stalled by corruption, Boko Haram is well-funded and brutal. The uprising has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions, creating a devastating domino effect with enormous human costs.

Entire villages have fled to areas of safety. Families are separated or children orphaned. Worst of all, children are held captive, sometimes for years and subjected to physical and mental trauma.

With little sign of the insurgency ending, Street Child made the decision in 2016 to respond to this crisis. With your support we have been able to help the local communities rebuild their lives, help children return to school, reunite families, and in the most extreme cases, provide psychological counselling. And none of this would have been possible without you.

Here is the story of Fatima, who is currently attending a Street Child Temporary Learning Centre (TLC) in Maidaguri.



“When we were running away from Boko Haram, they found us on the road. They killed my father in front of me and took me and my little sister.

We stayed with them for five years. They flogged me every day. All over my body. I was so afraid. There was not a day I did not cry.

Finally we were rescued by the army, and I just grabbed my sister and ran. They bought us here to the camp and gave us clothes to wear.

Life here is much better. I joined the TLC and I am doing crafts again like I did before the insurgency.

With my education it has helped me move on. It has helped me pick up my life. Thank you very much. One day, I am going to be a doctor so I can help people too.”

Fatima* - 16 years old

Fatima has received treatment from Street Child psychosocial counsellors. She has attempted suicide twice, and her time with Boko Haram has left her vulnerable to prejudice from her remaining family. She has said that the counselling sessions have helped her readjust to life after her experience with Boko Haram. It helped her “settle down, to face the reality of my life, to focus, to look forward. “

STREET CHILD

Working in collaboration with local organisations, Street Child has implemented major education and child protection programmes across the three worst-affected states in Nigeria (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe). We understand that the issues in these areas are incredibly complex, and our programmes reflect this; ensuring that child protection, education and livelihoods are at the centre of everything we do.

The programmes highlighted in this report have all been made possible by the initial £100,000 that you personally supported in 2017, and have been life changing for thousands of children and their families. They have ensured that the children living in these dangerous locations live in safer, more dignified conditions and have access to quality education in safe learning spaces.

CONTEXT

Education has been at the epicentre of the conflict in North-East Nigeria. An astounding 6 million of Nigeria's 10 million out-of-school children live in three North-Eastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, which is why Street Child have focussed our initial work here.

By the end of 2016, the conflict had led to the closure of 3 out of 5 schools and displaced 19,000 teachers, leaving 1.3 million children without access to education. 55% of the displaced population in the region are children, and the high numbers children that have been separated from their families are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Certain groups of children, including girls and children with disabilities, are more at risk and have different protection needs than others, which may not always been taken into account in rapid-response emergency relief programmes.

In North East Nigeria, Street Child has been working in 11 areas across the three states to implement child protection and education projects.

- **Borno:** Maiduguri, Jere, Dikwa, Mobbar, Biu
- **Yobe:** Damboa, Gwoza
- **Adamawa:** Michika, Mubi South, Gujba, Gulani

Partnering with local organisations to deliver programmes, our approach has always been to improve localisation and ensure stronger community involvement in humanitarian response.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW 2017-2018

Right to Learn Phase 1

(RTL1) was a UNICEF-funded project which aimed to increase access to and quality of education for 23,000 internally displaced (IDP) children. The main activities of the project were building and repairing classrooms, constructing additional temporary learning centres (TLCs) and training teachers to teach a curriculum appropriate to the emergency context. Children were taught literacy, numeracy and life skills such as landmine risk awareness and hygiene skills, and were provided with teaching and learning materials.



Right to Care Phase 1

RTC1 was a 6-month project funded by the Nigerian Humanitarian Fund (NHF), which supported 10,484 children in developing skills to cope with the psychological effects of ongoing conflict. It helped 24 communities to recover and move forward by providing social support and income-generating activities.

Activities included in this project included training community facilitators to deliver recreational activities and peer group discussions in after-school Child Friendly Spaces (CFS). It also established community Child Help Desks to provide counselling for children or refer them to dedicated mental health professionals, if needed. In addition, each community was supported to establish and train a Community-Based Child Protection Committee (CBCPC) to identify and respond to different forms of child abuse.

Below you can see the direct benefit of the Child Friendly Spaces, and how they have impacted Abba's life.



ABBA is a shy, softly spoken but sweet 7 year old who attends the Temporary Learning Centre in Texaco Bayan, Maiduguri.

He doesn't know the name of the village he is from, or when he got there.


Before he came to Maiduguri, he went to an Islamic school in his old village.

He enjoys going to the TLC, and loves reading the most, as well as biscuits.

When he is older he would like to be a doctor. He really loves the Child Friendly Spaces, especially playing ball and having his photo taken for Street Child.

His face lights up when he talks about playing in the school's Child Friendly Space and having his photo taken.

Finally, 346 vulnerable caregivers received start-up grants to start a small business, received business mentoring and advice, and were given the opportunity to take part in a weekly savings collection, which reduced the financial barriers these caregivers faced in caring for their children.



The key achievements from RTC1 and RLT1 are highlighted below:

- ✓ **115 formal classrooms** were renovated and **60 temporary classrooms** were constructed, providing safe spaces for **16,262 children** to learn, play and recover from trauma
- ✓ **23 000 emergency learning kits** and **520 emergency teaching kits** were distributed
- ✓ **400 state school teachers, 120 community volunteer teachers, 48 psychosocial support facilitators** and **32 caseworkers** were trained in pedagogical and child protection skills
- ✓ **24 community-based child protection committees** were established
- ✓ **30 000 children in 45 communities** were reached with targeted advocacy messages
- ✓ **239 unaccompanied and separated children** benefited from positive parenting training provided to foster carers
- ✓ **5,778 children** registered in TLCs (2,970 boys and 2,808 girls)
- ✓ **10,484 children** took part in recreational and counselling activities at CFSs
- ✓ **346 vulnerable caregivers** (278 female, 68 male) were enrolled in an income support scheme

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW 2019 AND BEYOND

The successes of RTL1 and RTC1 have been used as case studies to demonstrate the value of Street Child's integrated approach to education and child protection. They have formed the basis for new partnerships, the expansion of the programmes to new locations, and a growing scope of intervention for Street Child and our local implementing partners.

Both the Right to Care and Right to Learn projects were granted additional funding (through the GPEVAC and ECW funds, respectively) to continue with a second phase. On top of this, the below programmes were launched in 2019.

End Violence against Children

Our second large scale child protection programme, which was financed by the End Violence Against Children Fund, concluded in 2019. The programme provided psychosocial support to 14,886 children in the North Eastern region of Nigeria, and 1,492 of these children received one on one case management.

An integral part of this project was the Family Business Scheme element. An interesting find during the project was that there was evidence of non-biological children, that is, those whose care-givers weren't their own parents, received a higher benefit from the programme versus the caregivers own children. This helped address an even higher need of the most vulnerable children than was outlined at the project proposal stage.

We now head straight into our third consecutive child protection programme, the second one to be funded by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in two years.

Research for UKAID Community Partnerships Grant:



One of the biggest achievements for Street Child in 2019 the completion of two research projects funded by UKAID. The first focused on children with disabilities in urban centres and the other on Almajiri children, who are children that are looked after and taught the Qur'an by a religious leader.

Both pieces of work highlighted some of the acute protection and education concerns faced by these vulnerable children. We will now work to build a programme that meets the needs of these children in the most effective way.

World Food Programme (WFP):

Our WFP programme has now started and the preliminary activities are underway. We have worked closely with the communities and children that will benefit from the programme to ensure they are fully engaged. We have also established a programme management committee with members from within the community.

A large scale training session was held with all of the caregivers of the project, teaching them about business literacy, positive parenting and income generating activities (IGIs). These training sessions reached 700 caregivers in Borno State under the WFP livelihoods programme. They were shuttled daily to the training hall in large government school buses painted in the Nigerian colours; this was the first time that Street Child have worked directly with people living in the formal camp system in Nigeria.

The caregivers received their Street Child grant in October and their businesses have been monitored regularly with the support of our partner staff. The training consisted of several sections, which aimed to support the caregivers, mainly women, to acquire skills to set up businesses including practical sessions on making items including soap and air freshener to sell in the market. This includes women like Gaji, below.



Gaji, 55, was living in Muswa until 2014 when Boko Haram entered her village.

“It was every person for themselves. They all ran for their life. I took nothing with me! No money, no nothing!”

Her daughter and her son-in-law both died from the stress of the crisis and the resulting displacement, leaving her as the sole carer for her four grandchildren.

Her youngest grandchild, Mohamad (pictured left), is six and is attending the Street Child TLC. Gaji was selected for a Family Business Grant by Street Child.

“Now my grandchild is in school. They had never been to school! Before I was eating once a day, but now I can eat twice a day! Before there was none of this. Thank God!”

CONCLUSION

Street Child is a fast-growing organisation with the experience and capacity to quickly scale-up our programmes and adapt them to different contexts. This is underpinned by our commitment to design programmes grounded in evidence-based learning.

We have a commitment to the children and families in North Eastern Uganda, and with your support we will work harder than ever to ensure that some of the most vulnerable children in the world are getting access to a quality education.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

