



MARTAWA ZUROMAYE (Dignity and Security) Project: Mid-term evaluation/Learning Workshop Report.

11th -14th October 2022. REIZ Continental Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria.

OVERVIEW

The MARTAWA ZUROMAYE ('Dignity and Security') project has been in implementation since September 2020 in Niger and Nigeria respectively. The project goal is to enhance survivor-centered and informed efforts to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence (GBV), particularly Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM/C) and Early Forced Marriage (EFM), in communities affected by conflict and violent extremism in Southern Niger (Diffa) and NE Nigeria (Yobe). The peculiarities of the project, especially its cross-border composition offers rich learnings and opportunities to influence actors in the respective countries and beyond.

After two years of implementation, the two projects team and partners met in Nigeria to take stock of the project implementation thus far, re-energized efforts towards achieving the goals, and strategized for more effective implementation in the years ahead.

GOALS

To review the project implementation from inception to midline, review the advocacy joint activities, learn from best practices of co-country office implementation of project since inception.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The Objective of this workshop is to wholistically look at the project goals, objectives, deliverables and rejuvenate collaboration among both country team members and partners to meet their expected goals, share experiences of the project implementation and learn from best practices, troubleshoot their challenges, and proffer solutions where applicable. This workshop also provided a platform where synergy is built across the two countries, to leverage on their strengths, review project progress so far and develop an effective plan for the next 2 years of the project and overall review the indicators of the project, and its' overall linkages to overall CARE indicators.

DAY 1.

The opening remark was given by the Humanitarian team lead and Disaster risk reduction: she welcomed all participants and wished everyone a fruitful discussion during the event.

Workshop expectations:

The facilitator asked the participants to write one expectation each and one contribution. The facilitator summarized the expectations and contribution into the following bullet points.

Expectations:

- Deep dive into our learning from program and how we can improve towards quality impacts and synergy between CARE Niger and CARE Nigeria
- To be able to have a broader perspective on the project and learn from each other's approach towards the implementation of the project.
- To understand learning and experience on the project so far, understanding the connection between two countries and putting the learning into practice in the next phase of the project.

Contributions:

- To be able to provide technical guidance to CARE implementing partners on project inter and intra collaboration.
- Should be able to support in bringing other partners' need and perspectives for CARE consideration.
- To contribute to experience sharing lesson learnt from other intervention around the two countries.

REVISITING THE PROJECT:

The Niger team took the team back to memory lane of the project, where the project objectives and goals were elaborated and discussed at length with the plenary after a power point presentation.

GALLERY WALK

The gallery walk provided an opportunity for the workshop participants to learn about the success, challenges, inspiration, and lesson learnt so far in the project. CARE staff and Partners staff provided a pictorial representation of the project implementations and approaches used.

The gallery walk took a turn for each country to take participants through their activities in their location of implementation. The first two posters are from Niger who



works in the Diffa region. One of the posters represents the works of the 2 implementing partners while the other poster represents the works of CARE Niger.

Photo: Gallery walks during the sessions.

The gallery walk provided description of how the two

countries have been engaging with the community through her partners using various approach to reach the project goal and objectives. Success recorded so far includes.

- Creation of 6 protection committee groups in the 6 communities where we worked
- Training of the protection committee members on Gender Based violence (GBV), its form and types, consequences, and referral pathways.
- Engaging the protection committees in creating GBV awareness and sensitization in the community.
- Formation and training of youth groups (called FADA) to be agent of gender transformation to address harmful social norms that exposes women and girls to GBV.
- Training of women's group (Mata Masu Dubara {MMDs}) who engage the community on ending GBV and form platform in empowering women through savings so that they can participate in politics and become decision maker in their society and homes.





The project from Nigeria side had the following approaches in place, which leads to realization of the achievement so far in the project. This includes.

- Creation of 2 protection committee groups in the LGAs of our implementation (Nguru and Yusufari) which comprises of 12 members each.
- Training of partner staff, protection committee, community stakeholders on Gender based violence (GBV), legal frame works, referral pathways and SAA to be able to engage with the community on ending female genital mutilation,

early force marriage and other forms of GBV.

- Identification of advocacy course and training the stakeholders which include CSOs, FIDA, MoWAs to take course on achieving the goal of the advocacy.
- Community engagement using the social analysis and action (SAA) approach.
- Mobilization of women led CSOs
- Strengthened the capacity of the state level advocacy technical working group to lead GBV advocacy campaigns at the state level.
- Training of community structures on GBV and legal frameworks.

APPROACHES APPLICABLE TO BOTH COUNTRIES:

- Working with community structures at the grassroots level
- Advocacy with local and international stakeholders on GBV issue.
- Coordination with GBV actors in the location of our implementation.

What seems to have worked well and we need to hold on to?	Where could we have done better, changed course, or improved?	What were the critical things that led to success?	What else are we not thinking of?
Mentorship Programs (Peer to Peer) with the FADA groups in Niger. It enhances ownership of the process of change	Better Synergy between the two countries to get better outcomes on project indicators	Collaborative efforts of different actors and stakeholders in Nigeria led to the successful Advocacy actions	Response to GBV survivors (No response component)

Working with CSOs for Advocacy engagements	Harmonized approach to project implementation in both countries	Survivor (girl-led) Advocacy Approach got the buy-in of the government in Niger and led to success	Leverage on other project/develop response projects to complement the MZ project
Using SAA approach for community engagements	Nigeria team to learn from the Niger's Mentorship programs	High-level engagement (US-embassy through the donor) proved very effective and efficient especially in Nigeria	How to manage people's expectations especially at the community level
Involvement of community/traditional leaders as an entry point on GBV prevention and response issues gives the leadership a sense of ownership to play their parts well		Engaging the community/religious stakeholders to be frontline responders/actors has supported the project to gain acceptance at the community level	Motivation to project participants is a vital point not to ignore
			Skill acquisition programs for marginalized women
			Mechanism to improve reporting needs to be considered (IPV cases are under reported).

PROJECT APPROACHES USED

- Working with community networks to improve access to quality GBV services and information in Both countries (Niger/Nigeria).
- GBV prevention and community engagement using SAA approach through protection committee members in (Nigeria).
- Advocacy and collective actions (Nigeria/Niger).

LESSON LEARNT

- Strengthening collaboration to all levels to get better advocacy outcomes.
- Community led actions to address social norms and strengthen communities' resilience.
- The similarities in the activity of the two country was very spelt out and speaks to the quality of martawa zuromaye project.

- Women empowerment through the VSLA and MMDs created independence for the women and ensure that they are included in household/society decision making.

CHALLENGES INCLUDES:

- One of the challenges faced by the project is the restriction from the community where we serve, Niger worked uphold 3 laws which includes the sharia law, the national law, and the international law.
- The community do not agree on the existence of female genital mutilation.
- Communication barriers between the two countries.

DAY 2

BEST PRACTICES TO END CHILD MARRIAGES, EXPERIENCES FROM NIGER, AND NIGERIA.

The Martawa Zuromaye project (Dignity and security) which is implemented in two countries Niger/Nigeria have 4 partners who directly implement the project in the two countries.



The partners were asked to share their experiences on how they have been supportive in ending child marriages in their country. Below were the responses summarized from the experience each partners shared. There were not many differences in the approaches partners uses in engaging with the community on ending early marriages in the

location of implementations in both countries (Niger/Nigeria).

On martawa zuromaye project in differ they are implementing in 6 community out of which each community have 1 protection committee, the project empowered women through MMD, strengthened the local community and build networks. In Diffa region, the team collaborate with the GBV working group, child protection subsector working group, international NGO and NNGO, usually have meeting by the end of the month. Through these meetings actions are usually discussed on the best way in ending child marriage which is our focused area in Martawa zuromaye project. In Nigeria Yusufari and Nguru LGA, protections committees are also engaged to conduct sensitization and awareness raising on the effect of early or child marriage, these protection committee members comprise of stakeholders that are highly influential in their circles in the communities they work. They also refer GBV cases using the referral directory to the appropriate channels available in their locations.

Challenges faced in addressing the child marriage through our work were resistance from some of the religious leaders who are not aware of the consequences faced by the child and by the family of the child. They usually based most argument on the verses of Quran and Bible.

In mitigating these challenges, the partners engage these religious leaders as allies in ending child marriages by building their capacities on international legal frameworks, the consequences of early child marriages and the advantages of promoting the girl child education as well as the female genital mutilation and cutting, the health implications and consequences.

Actions that lead to success includes

- Using legal approaches
- Institutional approach (action on VAWG)
- Everything which concerns behavioral changes, engaging the civil society organizations.
- Holistic approach by all partners so that actions developed can be executed.
- Mapping of different women organization, key stakeholders' capacity building, and other support from UNFPA to CSOs to help curb child marriage.

Through the community engagement, some norms were reduced as they became aware of the consequences faced by the girl child when given out for marriage and the consequences on the parents of the girl child.

As some of the parents in the community were consulted to understand the reasons why they marry their girl out at early age, they mentioned that because they could not cater for the girl child and as such, they become promiscuous. Action taken by the partners were to provide women and girls with skill acquisition program and empower them by giving them income generating activities.

One of the ideas that helped tackle some of the root causes of the child marriages, include not just involving the leaders but they were made to lead the course or process for sustainability. in addition to the above, an advocacy was also carried out to ensure that the community leaders are aware that if a girl is raped and consented, it is still statutory rape and should be communicated to government to help raise awareness. One Major challenge identified is the bureaucratic process of prosecuting the perpetrators, that mostly frustrates the survivors.

SWOT ANALYSIS

The two countries were able to identify their strength, weaknesses, opportunities, and threat as related to the implementation of the project.

Opportunity identified include:

Strength	Weakness	opportunity	Threat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience Sharing between the two countries. • Capacity built on advocacy. • SAA approach to gender transformative programs is one of CARE Nigeria's biggest strengths • Community led processes in activities (establishment of protection committees) • Women lead at communities (MMDs and VSLAs) • Engagement of stakeholders at all levels (local, state, national and international). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate learning exchange between the 2 countries. • Poor commitment to joint activities • Gaps in communication • Barriers in language (English/French) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint advocacy between the countries • Experience and data sharing • Frequent sub-regional workshop • Capacity building for staff and stakeholders • Women participation in politics • Women and girl's empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insecurities movement restrictions among partners e.g., differ to Borno. • language barrier English to French • Distance, hard to reached area • funding



Group work session in discussing the SWOT

HOW DO WE STRENGTHEN OUR PARTNERSHIP:

What Should we continue doing	What we should stop doing	What we should start doing
Continue our visibility in the existing in the existing advocacy and coordination platforms	Working in Isolation and start better coordination	Organize and facilitate virtual learning exchange with Local networks between Niger/Nigeria
Working with and strengthening local and national partners' capacities	Stop making plans and not committing to them	Start to consciously work on better coordination between the 2 countries
Working with community leaders/traditional leaders as key influencers	Engaging in other assignments besides the project activities	Integrating GBV response components/leverage on other existing GBV programs in our areas of implementation
Synergizing our efforts with other partners/actors that have a common goal.	Using unreliable translation machines as it distorts the original/intended message	Have beneficiaries on the project to participate in such workshops to get their perspectives
Staff/Stakeholders capacity building		Have regular progress review meeting
Participating in state level coordination/leading LGA level coordination		Improve communication between the two countries
		Prepare hybrid meetings with GJT/Donor

DAY 3 &4

The two project leads from each country presented the activities implemented so far in the past two years following the result indicator table. For both countries some of

the targets have been reached, while some are still in progress that are to be achieved at the end of the project. The team had worked on the project indicator to ensure all activity objectives is in line with the project and reported accordingly.

Action point

- To share the learning exchange coming up on the summit 2023
- Put together data sources for the learning brief including monitoring report, activities report, learning brief, quarterly report, and action planning.
- Identify existing platforms or establish platform for collaboration and joint advocacy networking. This involves the need to define the joint work for all network members familiar with the action point plan.
- Need for the MEAL team to develop a simple template and harmonize English and French on the same sheet where partners can report on quarterly basis
- MEAL team to create a sharing platforms like teams where ongoing activities can be shared.
- On advocacy there is need for publications that shows that advocacy is progressing. For instance, Nigeria had a win on the VAPP and CPL in Yobe State that should be published.
- Need to revisit target reached and align with the right figure in the beneficiary reach table.
- Nigeria and the Niger team should consolidate Indicator tracking table to share with Joya and the donor for approval.
- Needs to develop an advocacy tool to measure success. (The AIIR tool has already been used by the Nigeria team) this will be shared with the Niger team to use to document their advocacy wins.
- For every activity the two countries should ensure there is better coordination and information sharing. Platforms for information sharing should be created (Microsoft Teams and WhatsApp) to enhance proper communication and information sharing.
- Explore options for research in Yobe on FGM by engaging with institutions to partner.

Recommendation/ Way forward.

- Have a timeline and a follow up plan for resource mobilization advocacy for activities that are been implemented by the platform.
- Carry out research on FGM prevalence in Yobe state to build an evidence base for advocacy. As a harmful practice of FGM exists but not recognized as a harmful practice by the community.
- Nigeria team to continue focusing on FGM advocacy as Niger focuses on early and Force marriage.

- Identify a network/platform for joint advocacy plan that works to end FGM and Early/Force marriage.
- Continue resource mobilization for donors that can give a complementary funding to support the project especially on GBV response.
- Create a virtual platform to learn from each other e.g., Nigeria learning from Niger on women empowerment MMD group and Niger learning from Nigerian on SAA approach.

Workshop Evaluation:

Find below, link to the post- evaluation workshop.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=lku0DyiOD8GTiCCR5hII0SLimWY2Jmvi&id=tzMy6BNI9U-JP_YPQAv8uoabwxzASTZDhGRTiH6ifzJUMFdRRzIKMUw3RklwQURUSEJOOExLSURRSS4u

ANNEXES

- Workshop Agenda
- Presentation from Niger/Nigeria on the Project so far
- Presentation on Where we are in terms of implementation from both countries (Nigeria/Niger)
- Review of Workplan and activities to carry forward
- Introduction to midline evaluation session presentation
- Revised/Harmonized project indicators with CARE's Global 2030 Indicators