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Police Gender Reporting Desks (PGRDs) Learning Brief

BACKGROUND

Police Gender Reporting Desks (PGRDs) are specialized units within police stations designed to address gender-based violence (GBV) cases. The establishment of PGRDs by **CARE** represents a critical step toward improving access to justice for survivors by providing a safe reporting environment, enhancing investigations, and offering comprehensive support services. These desks play a pivotal role in strengthening law enforcement's response to gender-related crimes, ensuring justice for survivors, and fostering a gender-sensitive approach to policing.

CARE'S PGRD IMPLEMENTATION



CARE, through funding from the **UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)** under the "Strengthening Protection Services and Resilience in Northeast Nigeria through a Locally Led Approach" project, established GRDs in the following locations:

BORNO STATE
Jere LGA (Old Maiduguri
Police Division), Bama
(Bama Police Division)

ADAMAWA STATE
Yola North LGA (Jambutu
Police Division), Girei
LGA (Viniklang Police
Division)

YOBE STATE
Potiskum LGA (Potiskum
Police Division), Gujba
LGA (Buni Yadi Police
Division)

Additionally, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)-funded project titled "**Providing Complementary Protection Assistance through Sexual Reproductive Health and Access to Justice**," PGRDs were established in **Ngala LGA (Ngala Police Outpost and Gamboru Ngala Police Division)**, Borno State.

These efforts aim to bridge critical gaps in GBV response and access to justice, particularly in the following areas:

1. **Rising GBV cases:** The increasing prevalence of GBV necessitates dedicated law enforcement mechanisms.
2. **Underreporting of gender-related crimes:** Many survivors hesitate to report due to fear, stigma, or distrust in law enforcement. GRDs create a safe and supportive environment to encourage reporting.
3. **Need for gender-sensitive policing:** PGRDs to ensure professional and empathetic handling of cases, preventing secondary victimization.
4. **Compliance with legal frameworks:** International and national mandates require governments to establish specialized protection mechanisms.
5. **Police gender reporting desks (PGRDs),** support broader efforts to ensure justice and protection for all individuals, regardless of gender.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUPPORT FOR PGRDs

CARE has trained police gender desk officers—both male and female—on:

- GBV core concepts and guiding principles.
- Survivor-centred approaches and disclosure handling.
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH).
- Referral pathways for safe survivor support.

To ensure the effective functioning of the PGRDs, CARE provided:

- Secure cabinets with locks for case files.
- Consent, registration, and referral forms.
- Office furniture (tables, chairs, water dispensers, fans) to create a conducive reporting environment.
- Free service provision to survivors, ensuring no financial barriers to justice.
- Desktop computers for continued online learning.
- GBV pocket guides for survivor engagement.

CARE engages police gender reporting desks in conducting **monthly community sensitization** on GBV, the importance of reporting, and access to justice. Trained police officers work alongside paralegals, conducting joint sensitization sessions within communities to support survivors in accessing legal services.

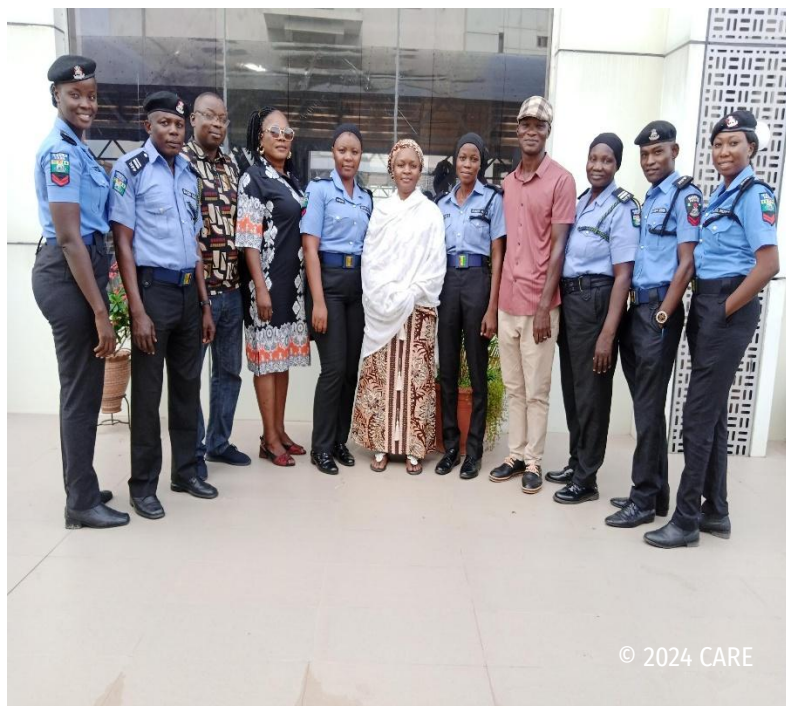
COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITIES AND STAKEHOLDERS

CARE, in collaboration with its partners and police gender desk officers, holds awareness sessions with Police Community Relations Committees (PCRCs), comprising:

- Community leaders
- Legal experts
- Teachers
- Youth and women representatives

These efforts build trust in law enforcement, encouraging community members to report GBV cases and access justice. Additionally, PGRDs facilitate referrals for survivors to specialized services, including medical and legal support. Survivors are also connected to CARE's Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS) for:

- Psychosocial support
- GBV case management
- Skill acquisition
- Multipurpose cash assistance
- Legal information



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CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD

CHALLENGES

1. **Lack of transport for survivors:** Some police divisions lack vehicles, while others face fuel shortages.
2. **Shortage of female police officers:** Locations like Bama and Ngala lack female personnel, affecting female survivors' comfort in reporting cases.
3. **Staff transfers:** Officers trained on GBV are often relocated to other police divisions or assigned to special duties.
4. **Interference from police leadership:** Some senior officers interfere in GBV case handling.

WAY FORWARD

1. Advocate for government and donor support to provide dedicated vehicles and fuel subsidies.
2. Engage police leadership to prioritize female officer recruitment and deployment in these areas.
3. Work with police authorities to develop retention strategies and periodic training for incoming officers.
4. Advocate for strict adherence to legal frameworks, and elimination of impunity of perpetrators.

FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON POLICE GENDER REPORTING DESK

Previously, police stations charged for registration forms, creating a barrier to justice. With CARE's intervention—providing necessary resources and ensuring free service—Both parents now feel comfortable reporting GBV cases, increasing access to justice for survivors.

Community members have acknowledged the positive impact of police gender reporting desks (PGRDs). Before the establishment of police gender reporting desks by CARE, male parents were reluctant to accompany their wives or daughters to report GBV cases due to financial constraints.

By strengthening police gender reporting desk (PGRDs), CARE continues to champion justice and protection for GBV survivors, fostering a more responsive and gender-sensitive policing system in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe State.



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