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Martawa Zuromaye

(Dignity and Security)

Project Brief

Implementing Partners



Background

Protracted armed conflict in Northeast Nigeria has deepened the vulnerability of women and girls to violence, particularly Early and Forced Marriage (EFM) and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C). Limited access to support services has worsened survivors' experiences.

With funding from the US Department of State's Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues (S/GWI), CARE Nigeria in September 2020 launched the **Martawa Zuromaye** project, meaning "Dignity and Security" in Kanuri. The project works with two partners: Trauma Healing Support Initiative (THSI) and African Youth for Peace Development and Empowerment Foundation (AFRYDEV).

Project Goal

To enhance survivor-centered efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in conflict-affected communities in Yobe State.

Where We Work

Nguru and Yusufari Local Government Areas, Yobe State, Northeast Nigeria



Objectives

Empower Individuals



Equip women and girls to understand, identify, and lead action against VAWG, especially EFM and FGM/C.

Strengthen Communities



Mobilize communities to challenge harmful social norms and provide survivor-centered response services.

Build Networks



Support and expand CSO-led advocacy and service networks at community, state, and regional level.

Our Approach

The project uses the Ecological Model

Individual Level

- Trained adolescent girls and women using CARE's Social Analysis and Action (SAA) methodology.
- Provided psychosocial counseling and multisectoral referrals.
- Established two Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS).

Community Level

- Formed Protection Committees of trained local men and women.
- Conducted 300+ awareness sessions on VAWG prevention and response.
- Addressed 308 real cases of violence at the community level.

Systems Level

- Supported the domestication of the VAPP and Child Protection Laws in Yobe.
- Enabled over 40 CSOs to engage in legislative processes and advocacy.
- Established referral pathways to health, legal, and economic support.

Theory of Change

If survivor-centered and informed organizations receive support to strengthen their capacities and networks, they will be better equipped to prevent and respond to VAWG in conflict-affected areas.

Implementation Period

2020 - 2025

Current Reach

36,000+ people,
308 survivors

Impact at a Glance (2020–2025)

01 Service Delivery

\$380
women received
vocational
training for
income
generation

300+

VAWG cases
supported with
comprehensive
services

500+

Dignity kits
distributed to
women and girls



2 WGSS established, supporting
7,945 women and girls

02 Community Change

83%

Participants reported a positive shift in
perception of VAWG.

90%

Community leaders demonstrated
sustained attitude change.



2 Protection Committee comprising of 24
members were set up to lead community
awareness on VAWG.



319 awareness sessions conducted
using SAA

03 Policy & Advocacy Wins



Supported
domestication of
the Violence
Against Persons
Prohibition
(VAPP) Act and
Child Protection
Law (CPL) in Yobe



40+

CSOs
participated in
state-level
legislative
advocacy



Local authorities
committed to
building 6
secondary
schools and
granting
scholarships to 30
girls

Project Participants Reached

Category	Female	Male
Youth (12–18)	11,493	3,281
Adults (18–65)	13,000	6,186
Elderly (65+)	1,194	719
Persons with Disabilities	105	66
Total	25,792	10,252



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Grand Total: 36,044 Participants

Key Learnings

Dialogue Drives Change: Social Analysis and Action (SAA) fostered open conversations, breaking taboos around FGM/C and EFM.

Localization works: Partnering with women-led CSOs ensured more culturally relevant and accepted interventions.



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Leadership Engagement Is Key: Involvement of religious and traditional leaders boosted project credibility and community buy-in.

Education is Protection: Community-supported girls' education is reducing child marriage rates.



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Voices from the Community

"I have learnt a lot from this project. Before their coming, FGM was common for our new born daughters but now we know better. I now stop FMG in my community as it leads to more harm"

— Female participant,

"Since the start of the project, people have come to understand that violence against women and girls isn't just about rape — it also includes issues like forced marriage, early marriage, and FM. The project has taught me that my four daughters have the right to an education, and with it, the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to their community and nation "

— Youth advocate



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Next Steps

- Continue scaling up sustained community led awareness sessions on VAWG and laws protection for women and girls in the state.
- Strengthen the VAPP/CPL dissemination groups across all zones in Yobe.
- Continue advocacy on increased access to education for girls through scholarship and vocational training opportunities.
- Advocate for sustainable funding for local CSOs and safe spaces.

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