



RED O!!!

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund Project Brings Hope to Benue Communities Affected by Conflicts



Story, Story!
CEA IN ACTION
Not Your Every Day Radio



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REACHING EVERY CHILD:

Red Cross Strengthens Volunteer Verification for Oyo State Immunization Drive

Gladys Oluwafemi - Oyo Branch Communication Officer



The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), in a crucial effort to improve child health, is continuing the implementation of its five-point plan to detect and immunize zero-dose children in the Onaara Local Government Area (LGA) of Oyo State. This vital initiative, launched in November last year (2024) with generous sponsorship from the American Red Cross, underscores a commitment to reaching every child in Ona-ARA LGA

Following the foundation laid by a detailed micro-mapping exercise involving supervisors, the NRCS successfully recruited volunteers from all 11 wards within the LGA.

On Friday, October 25, 2025, marks the First day of a three-day, volunteer verification process. This essential step ensures the integrity of the upcoming November exercise. The credentials of volunteers from four key

wards—Akanran, Araromi, Gbedun, and Gbadaefon—were successfully verified on the first day. This entire mobilization and preparatory phase is being executed in close partnership with the Oyo State Primary Health Care Board (OYOPHCB) especially at the LGA LEVEL, which is instrumental in harmonizing the project with the state's public health framework.

The verification activities are being led by a joint team, ensuring efficiency and high standards. Key oversight is provided by Mr. Musa Kaloma, Project Officer from the NRCS National Headquarters (NHQ), who is collaborating closely with the Branch Management team, headed by Miss Oladiti Oluwaseun, the Branch Health and Care Officer. This cohesive effort is ensuring a seamless and effective process as the project moves toward its goal of identifying and immunizing every zero-dose child.

Hope Restored: NRCS Adamawa and IFRC Support 3,000 Children Impacted by Armed Conflict

The Nigerian Red Cross Society Adamawa Branch, with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has successfully registered 3,000 children affected by armed conflict under the Children Affected by Armed Conflict Project Phase 2!

Additionally, we've identified 4 safe spaces, 2 each in Yola South and Fufere LGAs, to provide a secure environment for these vulnerable children.

This project aims to provide critical support and protection to children impacted by conflict, promoting their well-being and resilience.

#NigerianRedCross
#IFRC
#ChildrenAffectedByConflict
#ProtectionAndSupport"



NRCS Anambra Commissions Community Library and Teachers' Quarters in Obeagwe with Support from Italian Government

Joseph Ugochukwu Obidigwe (Anambra Branch Communication Officer)



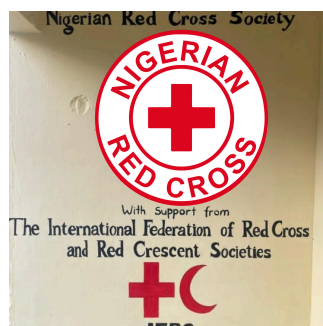
The Nigerian Red Cross Society, Anambra State Branch, on Thursday, 16th October 2025, visited Obeagwe Community for the commissioning of the Community Library and Teachers' Quarters at the Community Primary School, Obeagwe.

The project, sponsored by the Italian Government, marks another milestone in improving access to education and supporting local development in flood-prone communities.

The branch delegation was led by Engr. Kingsley Okoye, the Branch Secretary, alongside members of the branch management staff and representatives of the branch executive, including Prince Chika Ezedigbo, the Branch Vice Chairman, and Sir Charles Ilozor, the Branch Disaster Management Adviser.

Also present were key community leaders and members of the school management, who expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Red Cross and the Italian Government for their support. They offered prayers for continued partnership and the success of future interventions.

Although the commissioning event was a success, it was observed that the rising water level in the community has reached a concerning level, making access to areas previously reachable by land increasingly difficult.



Telling The Truth Better!

Our Communication Officers trained with ICRC in Kano to understand the Information Ecosystem – tackling misinformation and strengthening humanitarian storytelling

Danlami Iliyasu - Comms Officer, Niger Branch)



Cross Section of participants at the Information Ecosystem Training, Kano, Nigeria

What is Information Ecosystem Assessment and Media Landscape?

Well, our Communication Officers were initially confused. But by the time that they'd been put through their paces by the ICRC team, in Kano-it was a lot clearer.

The interactive training sparked lively discussions about Nigeria's changing media scene. Communication Officers looked at audience trends, challenges with misinformation, and strategies for effective media engagement.

The sessions focused on mapping media influence, building trust, and promoting ethical journalism. It was an inspiring discussion on how the Red Cross can help create a more credible and connected information environment.

EDO- Fighting Germs, One WASH at a Time!

The Nigerian Red Cross Society, Edo State Branch, continues to champion proper handwashing practices in schools across the state



Photo credit-Allinson O. Nafisat, Branch Communication Officer, Edo state

To mark Global Handwashing Day, the Branch Health and Care Coordinator, Mrs Efe-Iyamu Iyabo Elizabeth with support from the Branch Management, led school outreach activities across various local government areas.

Through collaboration with the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) departments, divisions sensitized students on the importance of proper handwashing in preventing germs and diseases.

Each school received Veronica buckets, soap, and hand sanitizers to promote sustained hygiene practices. School heads pledged to ensure proper use and placement of the materials for continuous handwashing.

SAFETY FIRST!



DANGER AVERTED AS GAS TANKER OVERTURNS

Busayo Abegunde-Comms Officer, Ekiti Branch)

A truck loaded with gas was involved in an accident along Bank Road, Ado-Ekiti. Upon receiving the alert, we, the Fire Service, and other stakeholders were promptly informed and mobilized for intervention.

Our volunteers took immediate action to ensure the safety of bystanders.

They secured the accident scene and maintained a safety standby until the affected truck was successfully evacuated.

The joint response efforts brought the situation under control, and no further risk was reported after the damaged truck had been removed.



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



Osun State Red Cross Youth Join Hands to Clean and Revitalize the Ilesha Correctional Centre in Honour of World Clean-Up Day



Photo Credit-Sam-Communication Officer, Osun

To mark World Clean-Up Day our volunteers in Osun State Branch- teamed up with the Southwest Zonal Youth Wing for an important environmental sanitation exercise at the Nigerian Correctional Centre in Ilesha, Osun State. The goal of this project was basic- to promote public health, hygiene, and a clean environment. Our volunteers and youth members came together to clean and beautify the premises of the correctional centre.

During the event, the team also donated hygiene supplies to the centre, showing commitment to helping those in need. The event highlights the Red Cross's dedication to community service, volunteerism, and humanitarian values.

Story, Story!

Not Your Every Day Radio...

By **Mofe Terah Amoma**

Senior Officer Community Engagement And Accountability, CEA, NRCS NHQ



Fig. 1. M & M setting the atmosphere for the show.

So, when I first heard the Disaster Management focal point handling the Population Movement project which we are implementing in Benue and Plateau States, Nigeria-say that a radio show would be conducted as part of the Community Engagement and Accountability, CEA activities for the project, during the inception meeting call, I almost screamed...like how come? Where is that idea coming from? Who thought about it? Good thing I am on this call. I waited patiently for him to finish talking and reacted by raising my hand. And he called on me to speak...’umunna clock it!’ (A trend in Nigeria meaning “extended family pay attention or get involved”)

I started by commending his department for hitching the project because of its relevance, following the situation of violence in both states mentioned above. But as the technical staff handling the CEA file, I advised that the radio show activity be struck out especially in Benue where most of the Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs are living in the settlement Camps. I said, this is because it does not meet the communication needs of our target audience.

Don’t get me wrong, I love radio, it is one of the best ways to share information and receive feedback. In fact, I used to work in a

broadcast station and I had a gossip show on the radio arm called Celebrity Gist. I was the Goddess of Gossip, GOG,..... umunna clock it!

Radio is easy, low maintenance, portable and hmmm...the reach is wide!

Radio is the Odogwu of communication. Just get a good phone, car, electricity, battery or probably the sets that are rechargeable and you are good to go. Oh, I forgot those bar soaps like small phones without cameras, yeah some of them have the radio feature.

My most favourite feature about radio is the reach, it has a very wide reach. You can clock it if you want, lol..

However, in this case the radio does not fit into the list of communication channels that would reach our target population, IDPs.

First of all, these people did not stroll out of their houses or had time to move their properties. They were chased out with most of their loved ones killed. They literally ran for their lives with nothing! All they have achieved in life, gone

Will this category of persons think of how to buy a radio set or listen to radio? These are people who are battling with getting a place to stay, food to eat and fear of the unknown coupled with the trauma of the attacks.

Yes, they have been assigned Camps to settle in but usually these camps do not have electricity supply. How about food and other daily supplies? Is it the money that they do not have to meet these daily needs that would be used to purchase batteries or radio sets? No way...



Fig. 2. Pictures of one of the IDP Camps

So, I told them right then on the call that we should change the strategy to Camp Radio, let's broadcast directly inside the Camp to the IDPs. But how do we do that without a transmitter? Nah...we do not need one. Remember OBS during NYSC Camp? Yea, that's the idea.

So, good sets of speakers, amplifiers and microphones will do, just like your DJbut this

time we would discuss topics relevant to the IDPs, play their kind of music and ask them to come speak on the microphones to share their feedback. We placed horn speakers at strategic points in the camps..

Awesome...



Fig. 3. Setting Up.

And awesome it was indeedwe radiated with joy after the first show when the IDPs stood up to dance...they danced and sang along to the TIV song we played....



Fig. 4. Dance, Dance, Dance!

“My body sweet me (I was excited).....My colleagues and I, the Benue branch team hugged. It was a sweet moment. A different kind of fulfillment. We did it! We used their preferred channel of communication.”

This is CEA!

After getting their attention with the music, we took turns to introduce ourselves as the anchors, Mofe and Mary. Mary is the CEA Focal Point in our Benue Branch Office. We adopted the name, M&M...I will say it now....Umunna Clooock it!



Fig. 5. The audience listening to the show.

We had already drawn out the flow of the show, so after the introduction and stating the aim of the show, a volunteer trained on the Protection and Gender/PSEA file spoke about safe space, what sensitive feedback is and how to report it while the another conducting tent to tent hygiene sensitization spoke about open defecation and its effects. Opportunities were provided for the IDPs to come into the studio (one of the class rooms..lol) to share their feedback..Swell right?...



Fig. 6. The PGI Focal in our Benue Office.



Fig. 7. Benue Branch CEA Focal Point and the Health Officer



Fig. 8. Benue Branch CEA Focal Point and one of the volunteers conducting tent to tent hygiene sensitization.



Fig. 9. One of the listeners shared feedback.



Fig. 10. One of the listeners shared feedback.

Though I do not understand the TIV language as I spoke Pidgin, while Mary interpreted and rattled in TIV at the beginning, to get her in the game, before stylishly slipping out, I was impressed when the IDPs lined up to share their feedback. It means the messages clocked!

And like the slogan we adopted two years ago (2023 CEA Workshop), whether North, South, East or West, we are indeed in the business of making COMMUNITY VOICE KEY!

Umunna clock it!

Helping Vulnerable Communities in Benue

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund Project Brings Hope to Benue Communities Affected by Farmer-Herder Conflicts



National Adviser-Communications and Advocacy-Chief Victor Achegbulu hands over a pack of essentials to a beneficiary in Makurdi, Nigeria

Photo Credit-(Photo credit: Mary Ikeh-Comms Officer, Benue Branch)

In Benue State we are taking action through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Population Movement Project to address issues from conflicts between farmers and herders. Thanks to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), 1,900 people in six local government areas are receiving essential items—like kitchen sets and mosquito nets—along with cash vouchers of ₦100,000 to help them rebuild their lives. This support not only meets immediate needs but also provides a way for people to get back on their feet.

The project goes beyond just providing essentials. It promotes clean water, sanitation, and hygiene in IDP camps, making health education part of everyday life. With support for mental health and safe spaces, the project helps people heal both their minds and bodies.

Help Desks and Hotlines are available to ensure that everyone's voice is heard, showing the Red Cross's commitment to standing strong with vulnerable communities, guided by compassion and accountability.



Gallery of Trainings Across NRCS Branches



The Nigerian Red Cross Society Kwara Branch held a training that equipped volunteers with skills in data collection, vital signs monitoring, and bandaging—strengthening their readiness to serve as effective first responders in their communities.



The Nigerian Red Cross, with partners, launched a pioneering micro-mapping effort in Oyo State to find and immunize zero-dose children, ensuring every child gets a chance to thrive.



The ICRC trained 32 volunteers and staff from Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe on Economic Security operations to strengthen humanitarian response and support conflict-affected communities.



With UNOCHA's support, the Nigerian Red Cross trained 130 Adamawa volunteers to enhance skills in data collection, protection, and community engagement.

Service to Humanity

"Discipline and commitment to serving humanity must be our guiding principles; they can change lives and make a lasting impact."

An interview session with Veteran Humanitarian, Ahmed Babaolori by Taiye Afolayan



Mallam Ahmed Baba Olori, a veteran humanitarian of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, Kwara Branch, shares his insights with Taiye Afolayan, Branch Communication Officer, about his humanitarian work and experiences within the Red Cross.

BCO: Good morning sir. Could you please introduce yourself?

Baba Olori: I'm Mallam Ahmed Baba Olori, the Mogaji of Idiagbon Compound.

BCO: What year did you join the Nigerian Red Cross Society?

Baba Olori: I joined in 1963 at United Primary School Taiwo-Isale, Ilorin, during the establishment of a Red Cross unit. I was the first to sign up. I received training until 1966, but when the civil war began, the trainers stopped coming. Despite that, I continued to serve, and my commitment is reflected in my testimonial as a responsible Red Cross member.

BCO: How has being a Red Cross member impacted your life and the lives of others?

Baba Olori: It's had a profound impact. For instance, in my community (Idiagbon), I am the first point of contact in emergencies, and I keep a first aid box at home. In 1978, while working in the Post & Telecommunication service, I established Red Cross Detachment 44. My colleagues would call on me for first aid during football matches. I once resuscitated a coworker who fell from a ladder. After a fire incident near our office, I rescued five people, which inspired others to join the Red Cross. The fire department even commended my efforts in saving lives.

BCO: What positions have you held before becoming an elder statesman?

Baba Olori: I started as Quartermaster and became Commandant of Detachment 35 in 1977. When there was no state executive, I helped establish the Ilorin Officers Council, serving first as Vice Chairman and later as Chairman. I've also served as Prison Adviser, Divisional Adviser, and Training Adviser.

BCO: Can you share your educational background?

Baba Olori: I attended United Primary School, Taiwo-Isale Ilorin, from 1959 to 1966. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to pursue further education beyond that level.

BCO: Were you guided by the 7 fundamental principles of Red Cross while serving?

Baba Olori: Absolutely. The 7 principles resonate deeply with me, even as a devout Muslim. They fuel my empathy and sympathy for the vulnerable and guide me in my leadership role as Mogaji.

BCO: What challenges have you faced as a Red Cross member?

Baba Olori: In 1984, while at a first aid competition in Kaduna, I got lost due to a language barrier. For hours, I roamed the streets until other Red Cross members spotted me. They helped me return to camp, where I faced disciplinary action for leaving without permission. Thankfully, the National Headquarters intervened, and I was pardoned.

BCO: How has humanitarian work shaped your life?

Baba Olori: It has enriched my life in numerous ways. For instance, when my name was mistakenly omitted from a promotion list, my superior corrected it instantly because of my humanitarian contributions. My work has also allowed me to travel to various places across the country.

BCO: What advice do you have for the youth in Red Cross?

Baba Olori: I encourage the youth to embrace discipline and commitment to serving humanity. I've noticed a decline in discipline among young people, and I urge them to adopt acceptable behavior and the right attitude.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN KEBBI

Building Safety Together: NRCS and IFRC Strengthen Flood Preparedness in 12 Kebbi Communities



Photo credit: Abbas Hassan Diri- comms officer kebbi

The Nigerian Red Cross Society, with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and European Civil and Humanitarian Operations- ECHO, is empowering communities against floods.

The Kebbi team, supported by NHQ, conducted Early Vulnerable Capacity Assessment-EVCA activities in 12 communities across 6 local government areas in Kebbi State. Through interactive sessions and field observations, the team gained valuable insights into the community's challenges and strengths in the face of flood hazards.

Engaging with community members, they listened to stories and experiences, identified flood-prone areas, and documented community-led adaptation strategies. This information will inform resilience-building initiatives, creating a safer community for all.

A Ray of Hope in Ya Maira's House The Story of Hauwa and Adamu



BORNO



Ya Maira's 8-month-old twins, Adamu and Hauwa, were struggling with severe malnutrition in Borno State. Nigerian Red Cross volunteers intervened under the Malnutrition Emergency Appeal Project, providing lifesaving treatment and nutritional support. Today, the twins are recovering, and their mother is grateful. Ya Maira now actively participates in the Mothers Club, inspiring others to prioritize their children's health. Her story showcases the impact of timely intervention in fighting malnutrition.

Photo Credit-Yabintu Ali-Communication Officer, Borno



With support from the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), we reached out to stakeholders, correctional facilities, schools, and hospitals, distributing handwashing essentials and spreading awareness. Let's make clean hands a habit!

ADAMAWA

Be a Handwashing Hero!

The Nigerian Red Cross Society-Adamawa marked Global Handwashing Day with the theme 'Be a Handwashing Hero'!

Strengthening Readiness: NRCS Conducts Flood Response Drill in Kogi state



The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), in collaboration with IFRC, ECHO, and other emergency agencies, conducted a flood simulation exercise in Akpaku and Shirtaku communities in Kogi State. The activity, part of the EU-funded humanitarian project implemented across Kogi, Kebbi, and Bayelsa, aims to strengthen community resilience and improve flood preparedness.

Residents participated in practical drills including search and rescue, evacuation procedures, and First Aid demonstrations. At the riverside, trained volunteers showcased techniques for saving drowning victims, while divers carried out simulated underwater searches. Ambulances and a triage point were positioned to manage mock casualties.

According to Ms. Charity Nwaoha Ekeoma, Disaster Management Officer at NRCS headquarters, the exercise is designed to enhance early warning, early action, and inter-agency coordination—ultimately helping communities save lives, protect livelihoods, and reduce flood-related losses.

Inspired to Save a Life: Amina Mohammed's Journey to Her First Blood Donation



Photo Credit—Barnabas Asoloko—Communication Officer, Nasarawa

A proud Amina Mohammed thanks the Red Cross after donating blood for the first time ever.

In Nigeria, the non-availability of blood accounts for 40% of maternal deaths and 30% of accident-related deaths. The country needs over 2 million units of blood annually, yet collects less than half of that.

Against this backdrop, the Nigerian Red Cross Nasarawa Branch organized a blood donation drive in August at the Federal University Teaching Hospital, Lafia.

Among those present was Amina Mohammed, a journalist with Voice of Nigeria (VON) in Lafia and a mother of two. She had come to cover the event, but what happened next became her own inspiring story.

For years, Amina had wanted to but for some reason had been afraid of donating blood—even when her child was once hospitalized and in need of blood. She chose not to donate, leaving her husband to do so.

But during the sensitization lectures at the drive, she listened closely as Red Cross volunteers explained the life-saving importance of blood donation—not only for recipients but also for donors. That moment changed her perspective.

With courage, Amina took a bold step: she rolled up her sleeve and donated blood for the very first time—to help save the life of someone she may never know.



Afterward, she shared her joy:

"I want to thank the Nigerian Red Cross for this privilege. I was always afraid to donate blood. But having donated today, I feel fulfilled and happy. The Red Cross helped me overcome my fears. I am calling on everyone to donate—blood donation has no side effects."

Her story is a reminder that one act of courage can give hope to another family, and one unit of blood can make the difference between life and death.



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