Rapid Assessment of Gender Based Violence in Tungushe and Gomari communities of Konduga LGA, Borno State.

October, 2018
Appreciation and acknowledgements

The management of Jireh Doo Foundation (JDF) acknowledges the valuable effort of the organization’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Team (MEAL) in coordinating this rapid needs assessment. These efforts are appreciated. The organization also sincerely appreciates in no small measure, the support and cooperation of the leaders and community members of Tungushe, Tungushe Ngur and Gomari communities and indeed, all participants and respondents to this rapid assessment. This cooperation and our existing relationship we do not take for granted and will continue to nurture with zeal and dedication, as we work to improve the lives of people living in distress in these communities.

It is important to highlight that the findings and views contained in this report are those of the MEAL Team who have authored this report and do not necessarily represent the view of Jireh Doo Foundation.

Coverphoto: Women in Gomari community undergoing skills acquisition training.
Photo credit: Miriam Inya. Sept 2018
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Background and humanitarian context
Northeastern Nigeria suffered from higher levels of poverty and marginalization prior to the current humanitarian crisis. Since 2009, the insurgency of Jamā'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihād, popularly referred to as Boko Haram, has exacerbated pre-existing challenges and caused widespread devastation to homes, livelihoods, and families. More than 2 million persons have been displaced as of 2018.

The proximity of Konduga to Maiduguri and its relative safety, makes many displaced persons from other locations continue to move into Konduga as it currently host large populations of displaced persons from deep LGAs. However, Konduga LGA itself is one of the LGA within Borno state that continue to record frequent incidences of insurgents attacks. Tungushe Gana A and B are communities situated in Konduga LGA about 22km away from Maiduguri. According to reports from the Shelter/CCCM, Tungushe accommodates a total of 3000 individuals which comprises of 600 (120HHs) host community members and 4700 (540HHs) displaced persons from surrounding villages across Magumeri, Marte and Jere LGAs respectively. Tungushe has recently recorded series of influx in recent past with its last recorded arrivals 2 months ago. Tungushe Ngur is approximately 1km away from Tungushe, situated in Konduga LGA. Tungushe Ngur has a total population of 3,500 individuals, this figure comprises of 1500 IDPs and 2000 host community members.

Stigma against former Boko Haram abductees, especially women and children in many communities is common. There are also some reported cases of rape and sexual abuse of girls and women in Tungushe community. There are no partners who are currently responding to the issues through support services to survivors, referrals, and awareness-raising and sensitization in Tungushe except for Gomari where JDF has presence. Less than 50% of the known GBV needs identified in the communities are covered. Additionally, national and local NGOs and actors have limited capacity to provide an ethical, substantive response to GBV survivors and stand in need of capacity-building and mentorship.

The larger proportion of the population in Tungushe Ngur which includes both IDPs and members of the community do not have access to proper shelter as a large population of the communities use thatch sheets as materials to set up an ideal dwelling place, with significant difference in materials used as wall between IDPs and hosting families. Many families cannot afford to purchase building materials for proper shelter and are therefore left with no option other than fetching local materials in far bushes, and a few purchase these items on credit on the basis of paying whenever they are able to do so. However, these adopted coping mechanism does not provide displaced families with the required physical protection and dignified dwelling space. Tungushe does not have any functional market and the huge gap with regards to Non-food items is quite alarming as both displaced families and members of the community do not have access to required essential household needs.

Overall Assessment objective
In conducting this rapid assessment, Jireh Doo Foundation (JDF) set out to achieve the overall objective to improve the quality and effectiveness in the design, implementation and monitoring of GBV programmes in Borno State.

Specific Objectives of the rapid assessment included:

- To understand the root causes of GBV for women, men, boys and girls of IDP especially new arrivals and other populations in distress conditions
- To understand availability of GBV services, the service providers and their intervening capacity.
- To provide Jireh Doo Foundation and other actors interveining on GBV issues within the LGA needed information that will lead to improved design, implementation and monitoring of GBV services and programmes.
Summary of Assessment
Due to ongoing fighting by insurgents and counter insurgency, efforts by the Nigerian military has given rise to humanitarian crisis and negative effects on various populations in the Northeast. Many people have lost their lives and properties have been destroyed as well as livelihoods. The impact of these is that many people have been displaced and are currently residing in camps for internally displaced persons or in host communities with varying degrees of distress. In recent times, due to gains made from the military counter insurgency efforts, newly liberated areas or recently attacked communities continue to throng into areas where normalcy has been restored. However, displacement has become prolonged and many households continue to face different challenges including sexual and gender based violence affecting mostly women and girls.

Gender-based violence and violence against women and girls in particular is quite prevalent within the communities and the severity has actually increased in some locations. Due to many INGO intervention targeting women as either heads of households or holders of beneficiary tokens, this has increased the voice of women within the household but sadly, also increased incidences of GBV. It is also important for humanitarian actors who are intervening in these communities to take note of this unintended consequence or fallout of the intervention with a view to mitigating them.

Key findings point to gender based violence occuring mostly in homes. Respondents agreed to have witnessed gender based violence in the home. Many of FGD said GBV occurs but is rarely reported due to lack of information on where to report while some choose not to report. The assessment identifies that GBV is frequently occurring among displaced persons but mostly underreported as a result of the heavy gender norms in the North of Nigeria. One will be considered going against cultural and religious norms as reporting will be deemed challenging the husband. Stigmatisation as well as ignorance continue to contribute to the perpetuation of GBV in communities. In Gomari, due to efforts by JDF and other organizations, there is increased awareness on GBV issues.

Assessment Methodology
The rapid assessment employed a tool for Focus Group Discussion prepared by JDF MEAL Team. Primary data collection took place in two communities (Tungushe and Gomari) of Konduga LGA. 2 IDP settlements and host communities were covered in the rapid assessment. Four (4) Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with separate groups of women and girls, men and boys were held. JDF MEAL team members with the appropriate skills and language for effective communication engaged in the facilitation of the Focus Group discussion. Data collected from the Focus Group Discussions was analysed by JDF MEAL team (Borno) and reviewed by National MEAL Coordinator of JDF.

Limitation of assessment
Due to the limitedness of time, the assessment was conducted within a relatively short period of time that may not have taken proper cognizance of the scope, complexity of the crisis and the sensitivity of the subject matter. Also, only Focus Group Discussions were conducted even though the assessment initially set out to conduct Key Informant interviews and individual interviews as part of the methods for data collection. However, these were not feasible during assessment implementation. Moreso, the qualitative nature of the assessment and the sensitivity of the subject required considerable amount of time in ensuring translations were accurate.
Assessment participants

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<th>Girls</th>
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Participants by community

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<tr>
<td>Gomari</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
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Current Actors Present in the communities

Findings from the assessment on current humanitarian actors in the locations shows that, Christian Aid (CAID) is carrying out food distribution in Tungushe, Save the Children International (SCI) runs an OTP, Danish Refugee Council and Norwegian Refugee Council are implementing WASH. In response to the Cholera outbreak, Medicines San Frontier (MSF) runs a Cholera response center in the community. In Gomari, JDF and SCI are implementing protection in the community for GBV, Nutrition screening, FSL and WASH.

Gender roles in the household

Findings from the participants of the focus group discussions showed largely two patterns in the division of labor for households. Pre and post displacement. Before displacement, the women largely engaged in household chores, looking after children, fetching firewood and water for family use, handled small businesses such as crop cultivation on small or medium sized areas of land and rearing of small ruminant animals. The men on the other hand engaged in commercial agricultural activities, petty trading and fetching firewood or water for commercial use. With displacement, these have been distorted to a great deal as farm and commercial activities have either stopped or are in a small measure. While women have continued household chores in the household, they have been also added the task of looking for food or other household needs as according to them, NGOs prefer to register women thus transferring the burden of care to the women. Most men are now idle with no livelihood activities and use their spare time to discuss or spend time with their friends. Some men have travelled out of the communities to Lagos and other cities in search of economic activities. The men feel bad and angry that they are unable to provide for their families and are now disrespected with some of their wives divorcing them.
Decision making and household income
In the household, the men have the decision making powers. They generally decide what happens in the household. Some participants revealed that their husbands consult them especially when it concerns them, the children and food. However, the husband has the final say in deciding what happens in the home. This also includes how household income is utilized.

Gender based violence
Participants in the focus group discussion agreed to the existence of gender based violence in both communities. They identified the forms of violence prevalent in the communities to include Physical Violence, Emotional Violence, Forced Marriage and Child/ Early Marriage, with the most heard of/experienced as Forced Marriage, domestic violence etc. Participants in Tungushe were shy of acknowledging Sexual violence but further probing established that there were also occurrences within the community. When asked who is affected most by gender base violence, participants identified all categories of women but when prompted further in relation to new arrivals, they agreed that they were more vulnerable as they might be displaced with no household asset or income and may be more vulnerable to GBV or other forms of exploitation. In Tungushe, the participants stated that new arrivals may have limited knowledge of the community thereby further exposing themselves to violence.

Availability of Women and Girls Friendly Safe Space
The assessment found that there was no Women and Girls friendly space in Tungushe but there was a make shift safe space in Gomari currently being managed by Jireh Doo Foundation. Some Focus Group Discussion participants, mostly men in Gomari said they were aware of the existence of the space but did not clearly know the programme and what the space activities stood to achieve. In Tungushe, when asked if such a space will be useful, the participants roundly accepted that the presence or availability of a women and girls safe space will go a long way in supporting and helping the women in the community.

Existing structures for curbing Gender based violence:
The participants identified relatives and the community leaders as people they can turn to in the event of being abused, however they acknowledge that this is largely informal and for domestic violence, the spouse is under no obligation to listen to these people as this is merely advisory. In Gomari, the participants identified the intervention of JDF in the community to greatly contributing to a reduction of GBV cases in the community.

Other Support Desired
After interacting with respondents in Tungushe, the participants chose intervention support they would most prefer. From the results below, the most desired support is Food, Money, and WASH, Housing Upgrade, Clothing Soap in order of priority.

Assessment recommendations
- The humanitarian actors while providing valuable services to people affected in crisis of the North East must also add a strong component of do no harm to ensure that their intervention are not exposing women to violence both in and out of the home.
- Actors working in the communities must work with the communities in establishing/or strengthening community systems for addressing gender based violence issues. This will seek to reduce the cases of GBV that go unreported.
- Support for new arrivals is important and actors need to prioritise new arrivals especially with needs such as Non Food Items, dignity kits etc
There is need to scale up GBV intervention programmes in both locations to cater for the identified gaps in both locations, paying particular attention to new arrivals or other vulnerable populations who may not have access to services or service provision points.

Conclusion
Gender-based violence is widespread among women and girls in Borno state but it is vastly under-reported. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by GBV due to pre-existing gender inequalities in northern Nigerian society that privilege men in the economic, political, and social spheres. Women and girls in Borno are also largely unaware of existing specialized services or may have difficulty accessing these services due to stigmatization surrounding GBV as well as lack of safe transport or means of access. Medical staff and facilities within Borno are not well-equipped to properly treat GBV survivors. To address the issue of GBV, there is need for a multi-sectoral approach to addressing the concerns as they are hugely interwoven.