



## How UNDP Start-up Cash Grants for Integrated Community Stabilization Project is Improving Lives and Livelihoods in Yobe Communities

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### Key Accomplishments

- 200 beneficiaries have so far benefited from various vocational skills thus, increasing the number of skilled labour in the targeted communities
- Exactly 199 out of 200 beneficiaries (22% women and 78% men) have so far benefitted directly from cash grant activity.
- All 199 beneficiaries who have accessed the cash grant have successfully set up their individual businesses
- Intervention has enhanced the resilience capacity of vulnerable young men and women captured in the programme
- The intervention has revived interest in entrepreneurship and deepened the self-sustenance capacity of targeted beneficiaries.
- The intervention has created direct jobs for 199 beneficiaries with the potential of creating additional job through apprenticeship
- Over 90% of beneficiaries now have the capacity for business plan Development, how to gather market information and strategies for setting up a successful business etc.
- Beneficiaries are now less dependent on humanitarian support and more focused on self-sufficiency

### Synopsis

In Yobe state, Northeast Nigeria, the United Nations Development Project UNDP's start up cash grant intervention is improving livelihoods of youths and women that have been affected by the Boko Haram Insurgency. The overall intervention is a response to the crisis in the Northeast of Nigeria which has tremendously escalated the poverty level in the region and disrupted means of livelihood, necessitating the startup grant activity by UNDP to reestablish the livelihood of skilled beneficiaries in Yobe state

With a view to cushion the escalating hardships occasioned by the Boko haram violence and make young men and women self-reliant and employers of labour, 199 out of 200 beneficiaries (44-female and 155 male) from Goniri and Ngirbuwa communities in Gujba LGA, who have been trained on various vocational skills such as plumbing and pipe fitting, carpentry and joinery, home economics, painting and decoration, tailoring/garment making, welding and fabrication, computer craft, electrical installation and maintenance, furniture making, bricks/block molding and motor vehicle mechanic have been provided with funding, a small grant of N150,000 with which they have undertaken and set up their various trades and business activities that is already making significant difference in their lives and communities.

Implemented by the Centre for Community Development and Research Network, (CCDRN), the intervention has facilitated the successful startup of businesses and trades with the potentialities of improving the livelihoods and general living standard of vulnerable members of affected communities including women and youth. The intervention which was strictly monitored by CCDRN is assisting targeted beneficiaries, mostly young men and women to get to the route of full recovery from the socio-economic nosedive that the insurgency, which is in its 10th year has wedged on the region and her people.



A section of UNDP beneficiaries Participating in a role play during mentorship session with CCDRN

### UNDP intervention has changed my life for Good -Mohammed Modu Kolo

Modu Kolo, a 26 years old student whose family was displaced in 2012, from Goniri in Gujba local government area, and lost all his means of livelihood following the violence by Non state armed group, the Boko Haram, explains how his life has changed since he enrolled for the UNDP vocational training and accessed a cash grant of 150, 000 to establish his tailoring business.

*“I received training in tailoring; focusing on female garment making during the vocational training and now I have established my tailoring business with many customers and patronage. I received a total of N150, 000 in two trenches. I utilized the fund in buying what I need for my business, a butterfly sewing machine, iron threads, 10 pcs of garments and other tailoring materials”*

Modu Kolo added that the UNDP cash grant changed his life for good. He is able to save and also reach out to his siblings when the need arises. From his account, he mentioned that he has earned an estimated amount of N11, 000 out of which he has saved N6000, and has used the remaining for transportation and other personal stuffs. It is a turning point as Modu Kolo describes:



*Modu Kolo Pictured in at his Tailoring shop in Damaturu*

*“Since I commenced this business at the beginning of June, I have been able to save up to N6000. This intervention has changed my life for good. Previously I was idle without anything to do but this has changed because I am now self-employed and most importantly I am now independent. I no longer rely on any one for help, rather through this business I am now helping and reaching out to my other family members. I am also a student. This is helping me with transport and other school runs. I have also gotten some apprentice with a potential of creating employment in the future.*

*“Honestly I see a lot of potential in this business and I thank UNDP because the way things are going now and with the level of patronage I am getting, I am hopeful that the future is bright. The mentorship we got from CCDRN also is playing an important role in my business management. Timely delivery and proper knowledge of the market is also helping us and we learnt all this during our interaction with CCDRN. I remain grateful to UNDP for providing this support but we plead for more because most of our younger once also need to be reached”* he adds.



However, Modu Kolo is not alone on this, a total of 59 beneficiaries were trained in tailoring-both male and female garment making. Just like Kolo, 20 years old Fatima Kachala also shared her thoughts on how the intervention has affected her life positively *“This intervention has helped me a great deal. I am in school and what I make from this business since I started is helping me to handle transportation to school and other small needs. This business is gradually making me self-reliant. I don’t have to beg for help before doing stuffs for myself. Now I am generating income that is helping me to meet up with some expense. I am now a business owner and this is helping me to become independent and I thank UNDP. I also applied the knowledge I got from CCDRN mentorship which has helped me to diversify by buying and selling wrappers as part of my tailoring business and things are looking very good and bright as I am now supporting myself gradually”* She said.

Fatima Kachala

## Stories from the field

### UNDP Made my Dream a reality– Maryam Usman

Maryam Usman is a 19 year old student from Ngirbuwa community in Gujba LGA of Yobe state. Maryam who now lives in Damaturu, the Yobe state capital, due to the activities of Boko Haram in her community-Ngirbuwa, has been financially dependent on her parents and other well-wishers. She has always had a passion and dream of owning a computer business. This did not materialize until UNDP came with its intervention helping Maryam to fulfill her dream of owning her a computer business Centre.

*“I received computer training from Best Centre in Damaturu courtesy UNDP. Though I have always had passion for computer knowledge, but UNDP made my dream a reality. After the training and subsequent mentorship by CCDRN, I received N150, 000 in two tranches with which I used to buy a laptop, printer, colored ink and printing papers”.*

Though, Maryam is set for the business but not without a little challenge, after she had exhausted her cash grant on items she needed to kick off, she was faced with the challenge of renting a shop for her business. With little or no cash left to foot that bill, she improvised and entered a partnership with a neighbor who has an existing computer business with enough space to accommodate her. Maryam received mentorship at CCDRN on entrepreneurship and strategies on how to identify and utilize opportunities for a successful business. She recalled how she put that knowledge into use by entering into a partnership:

*“Honestly I am happy about this intervention. In fact, I had to go into a joint venture with a family friend in form of partnership because the fund I was given couldn’t get me a shop. So, the partnership is working because I also have my space in the shop where I carry out my own business”.*

According to Maryam, she started her business in June of this year after receiving her cash grant. She has savings from the business to the tune of N5000 and has used part of the money she made from the business to pay for her Islamic school registration and other needs such as transportation to school.

*“Before now, I have nothing I can hold on to or rely on but all this has changed. Previously I couldn’t do a lot of things on my own. As a woman, that was a very difficult situation to be in because you don’t know how to get money to get things you will need. However, this intervention has changed all this for me. I generate enough cash to take care of myself buy my make-up and other women stuffs as well as even reach out to my mum who is now old. This business is now giving me a sense of confidence and self-reliance”*



Maryam Usman

Cont. from page 2...UNDP Made my dream a reality-Maryam Usman

Maryam adds that the opportunity created through the intervention has restored her confidence because she considers herself as gainfully employed thanks to UNDP. *“What I consider as the significant impact of this intervention is that it has alleviated idleness and created a path for decent livelihood opportunity for me. You know I am a woman. It is frustrating to have to ask for things you need. At least as you can see, I am now gainfully engaged with hope of expanding this business with the proceeds that I will generate from the business. The prospect is bright because I am having good patronage”*.

Recalling the knowledge she gained during her mentorship with CCDRN, Maryam said; *“I have learnt a lot from this programme. During our training at CCDRN, the teachers taught us how to get market information and advertise our business through social media and other channels, I have been reaching out and those in my network are patronizing me and I intend to reach out further to make myself more established”*

Just like Maryam, 33 years old Abubakar Modu from Goniri who also own a computer business Centre thanks to UNDP intervention says of his experience: *“This intervention is helping my life. On a daily basis I am able to raise up to 3000 because as you can see I am in a strategic location where this service is needed. As a person I am really benefiting from this intervention, it has alleviating my poverty because now get income on a daily basis. See, I have employed other assistants and I am gradually creating jobs. Through the money I am getting from this shop, I am feeding my family. I am saving and hoping to raise capital that will help me expand beyond this I have on ground. you can see how busy my shop is. It is this interview that has interrupted what I am doing. You can see the customers waiting. I thank UNDP for providing me with this help and remain grateful to the organization that gave us mentorship and sound advice on how to set up a successful business I really used all that I learnt from the vocational training to the mentorship. I am in their debt”* an elated Modu Kolo said

*“What I consider as the significant impact of this intervention is that it has alleviated idleness and created a path for decent livelihood opportunity for me”*



Abubakar Kolo Pictured at his Business Centre during visit by CCDRN Communication team in Damaturu

### This Intervention by UNDP has Changed my life –Mohammed Ibrahim

MOHAMMED IBRAHIM is a 34 year old internally Displaced Person (IDP) from Ngirbuwa in Gujba and now resides in Damaturu. Mohammed is one of the 200 beneficiaries who have made positive changes in their lives through the UNDP start up cash grant. Telling his story, Mohammed recalls how things were before the UNDP intervention. He particularly remembered being unsure about life. "I came here (Damaturu) without anything and was lucky to be captured as a beneficiary from Ngirbuwa, as part of this

*Since I started this business, I have been able to make up to 25,000. This intervention by UNDP has changed my life, Before now, I go for days without a dime. But this has now changed.*

UNDP intervention after which I was enrolled in the vocational training to learn furniture making and this has been my saving grace". He said.

Through the UNDP start up cash grant intervention implemented by CCDRN, beneficiaries enrolled for various craft and trade. Mohammed himself intended to go for computer knowledge but was offered furniture making. "I intended to enroll for computer craft but was given furniture making. But thankfully this is helping me now. I have so far received 75000 the first trench of my payment. I already used the money I was given to buy other tools I needed such as saw, hammers and chisel and also paid for working space. Since I started, I have made benches, stools and other small furniture for people. this has helped me to generate income for my daily ends meet. Honestly the patronage is high; however, I am intending to get screwing

machine with my second trench to make the work easier for me".

Mohammed is already maximizing the benefits of the intervention which he said has changed his life. "Since I started this business, I have been able to make up to 25,000. This intervention by UNDP has changed my life. Before now, I go for days without a dime. But this too has now changed. On a daily basis I now raise enough to handle my needs and to also reach out to family members. I have seen significant changes because I am now a business owner. In fact, even if I get nothing else, this knowledge I have gained is enough and has the potential to sustain me".

Nine beneficiaries were trained in furniture making as part of the intervention. CCDRN monitoring team reports that they are all practicing at their various business location.



Mohammed Ibrahim pictured at his furniture shop in Damaturu