

THE GCERF CAROL BELLAMY LEADERSHIP AWARD 2023 AWARDEE REPORT: **MURNA FOUNDATION**

AT A GLANCE: MURNA FOUNDATION

The Murna Foundation is a Katsina-based Nigerian civil-society organisation with a UN special consultative status. Its field of work is peace & security, with a focus on the prevention of violent extremism through Community engagement, the organisation aims at supporting the empowerment and skill acquisition capacities of women and youth, improving community policies and facilitating inter-community dialogue.

The Murna Foundation has recently implemented a PVE project in 4 localities of Nigeria, which impacted over 4000 community members, by advocating for stronger engagement in favor of PVE.



**MF has operated in
Nigeria since 2005**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Building on the foundation's experience in building community-resilience in Northern Nigeria, the project aimed at strengthening the economic autonomy of 100 women. To this end, a total of 2 million Nigerian naira was granted to 100 internally displaced women, who had lost their source of revenue following their displacement.

With a 1-day orientation on economic management, as well as a 6 months-long monitoring, the distributed funds allowed the selected women to get back to business, and increase the resilience of their family and their own against violent extremism.

The money attributed was mostly used to start food businesses (notably the production of oil). 6 months after receiving the money, the impact of the project clearly appeared, as many women and their families had better access to food and clothes, and many children were able to reintegrate school.



By limiting the beneficiary selection to women aged 18 to 35, the project focused on empowering vulnerable women, and increasing their resilience against violent extremism.

Most of the selected women being married with children (5 children in average, up to 10), the project leveraged the importance of women's action in community-resilience, and subsequently benefited the women's family members, as the children could then reintegrate school, have sufficient access to food, etc.



IDENTIFICATION OF 100 BENEFICIARIES

100 internally displaced women were selected across 34 government areas (representing over 9 million inhabitants).

The organisation made sure that the selected women were close to MF's area of operation (for ease of contact and monitoring), had been displaced following banditry, robbery & other insurgencies, that their unemployment was directly linked to their displacement, and that they already had experience in running a business before.

Each beneficiary woman was attributed 20,000 NGN.



1-DAY ORIENTATION & MONITORING

The Murna Foundation accompanied the beneficiaries by gathering them for a 1-day orientation on ways to spend the allocated money, providing them with economic management advice.

Later on, a 6-months monitoring process was conducted, which allowed to measure the positive impact that a modest amount of money coupled with an accurate selection of beneficiaries could have on the resilience of the communities.



FUTURE STEPS

The positive impact that the project had in a fairly short period of time demonstrated the capacities of the Murna Foundation to members of the community as well as to the government.

With this strengthened recognition and experience, the Murna Foundation will be able to implement further PVE projects benefitting women and girls, within its area of operation.

