

# Strengthening the Resilience of Conflict Affected Women and their Leadership in Humanitarian Action, Peace Processes and Socio-Economic Recovery in North East Nigeria

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Search has conducted several trainings to empower vulnerable women across both states and has reached 1785 women.

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Search for Common Ground is supporting UN Women to “Strengthening the Resilience of Conflict-Affected Women and their Leadership in Peace Processes and Socio-Economic Recovery in North-East Nigeria”.

The project is funded by the Government of Japan and is aimed at training women and girls in livelihoods and income-generating activities, leadership and conflict transformation skills. The project has increased access to productive resources and business development opportunities in Yobe and Borno States.

Yobe and Borno States





# These are their Stories



## Serena's Story

I'm Serena Solomon from Mafa Local Government Area. After my community was attacked by the insurgents. My family and I sought refuge in IDP camps in Maiduguri, but because the camp was already densely populated, we secured accommodation in town through the help of a relative. Ever since I have been struggling to feed my family because I did not have a steady means of income.

While in the new home, I got into this training program of Search for Common Ground through a women leader - Hajiya Bawa Gana I here in Mafa. During the training, we were taught various skills, including tailoring, rice parboiling, pillow making, cap making. We also received training on micro-enterprise, savings, business management, and bookkeeping. We were also given sewing machines, grinding machines, knitting machines, and soap making equipment.

I specialized in tailoring, with the new skills and sewing machine that was given to me and my group. I started by collecting children's clothing for amendments and gradually I improved my skills in sewing and started making clothes for children and adults.

Today, I have made several clothes for both children and adults in my community. Presently I'm mentoring two women in tailoring, I save as much as N3, 000 monthly. And I can afford three square meals every day. Thanks to Search for Ground, I'm truly grateful and will continue to practice tailoring and train more women in my community.



## Kau's Story

My name is Bawa Gana Abba Kua. I am from Mafa, which is where I was born and raised. Due to the conflict, I came to Maiduguri and stayed in the camp. I got support from Search for Common Ground, through their skill development program and training I can now process rice.

We wake up at about 9 am to begin the rice processing. We start by washing the rice, after which we dry it outdoors. The next morning, we take the rice to the machine for final processing. Collectively we were able to register our organization with a certificate from the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation.

I have trained other women in my hometown, as well as women from neighboring towns. There is an electric generator for us to use, and I have also taught the women in my group how to operate it. Thanks to God for the training and equipment we received from Search. This experience has made me self-reliant, and I can enroll my children in school. With this rice business, I can now feed my family, pay the house rent and my children's school fees.



## Halima's Story

My name is Halima Abubakar, I'm from Jere Local Government and I live in Elmiskin IDP camp. When I started this program, I didn't know how to make soap, perfumes or room freshers. Now through Search for Common Ground training, I've learned how to make soap and I have become very good at it, which is how I make a living.

During the training, we were taught how to live peacefully with one another, and how to resolve issues between us amicably. I also learned how to consult among ourselves and to channel our grievances accordingly. Before the training, I was very hostile, intolerant and unsociable. And now, I have learned acceptance and how to live in peace with others.

Thank you Search for Common Ground for teaching me tolerance and skills which has helped me in earning a living today.



## Bawa Gana Abba's Story

My name is Bawa Gana Abba, I am from Mafa Local Government Area. We came from Mafa to Maiduguri for Search training, we were trained for a month. During which we learned how to make throw pillows, body lotion, soap, perfume, and we were taught how to knit. We were also trained on how to operate the grinding machine and how to extract of groundnut oil.

We received training on micro-enterprise, savings and business management. We are now experts and self-reliance. I specialize in making throw pillows, today people are ordering packages from me, some order for five, six, seven, sometimes even ten, and this how I make a living.

I'm passionate about my work and I thank Search for Common Ground and UN Women for this training and assistance.



## Rebecca's Story

My name is Rebecca Ibrahim, from Maiduguri in Jere Local Government Area. We were invited for Search skill development training. During which we learned how to process rice, we also learned business management and leadership skills. We also received rice processing equipment, un-process rice, 3 pots, containers, and some stipends.

We came back to our communities and trained some women the same way we were trained. We are thankful for the opportunity because we have never received such training. This is a skill that can sustain one for a lifetime.

We really appreciate this entire program, because it has improved our livelihood. The women of Jere extend their gratitude to Search.



## Fatima's Story

My name is Fatima Mukaila, from Angwan Lawan Bade, Gashua. We were invited by Search for Common Ground to Damaturu for training on how to process local rice and how to manage our business. Each and every one of us was given some stipends and equipment after the training. Upon which I bought two bags of rice and engaged myself in business. I was part of those who received training in sewing and also how to sustain profit.

The way we carried out our activities is different from the training we received. The training taught us the right skills/expertise and how to be more organized. Now we have regular meetings with our team, where we contribute money every two weeks for savings. I received thirty thousand naira loan from my group. With the loan, I purchased a goat, and a few weeks later the goat gave birth to three kids.

As the business progressed I bought two sheep. Today I have domestic animals (sheep and goats) and I process rice. With the profit from the business, I can buy books for my children and give them Ten Naira to go to school. I have guided women in my neighborhood that always complain about profits loss, making sure they achieve success in their businesses just like me. I will start teaching them how to collaborate with others in doing business.



## Regina's Story

I'm Regina Akakohol from Gashua, a member of Bade Women Association Cooperative in Northern Nigeria. The women in my village are not very exposed when it comes to participation in governance or societal activities. But since the beginning of this program, we have learned that women can contribute to the welfare of their families, the cooperative they belong to, even to society. We were also taught how to live in peace with one another.

For the skills training, I learned tailoring after which we were provided with sewing machines. I established my tailoring shop and collaborated with other experts in the industries, to improve my tailoring skills and experience. I appreciate this program, as it has taught me how to start and manage my business. In the future, I want to expand and open more shops, so I can employ and train more women who are unemployed.

Thanks to the training from Search, we can now confidently express our views and know we are been heard. I have learned a lot from this program, including how to be mild-tempered. In the past, I have been known to have a quick-tempered. Now I have learned to control my temper and treat others with kindness and compassion.



## Aisha's Story

My name is Aisha Mustapha from Mafa LGA, and I currently reside in Maiduguri. I had the opportunity to be part of the Search for Common Ground training here in Maiduguri. We were trained for one month, on poultry, bed sheet making and sewing, baking and other skills. After the training, we were given some equipment and money to support our newly acquired skills.

Today I specialized in sewing. I am grateful for training and support because I can now afford to send my children to school and we eat three square meals daily. I am glad to have acquired these skills.



# Total Number of Women Reached **1785**

States:  Borno **1060** LGA: Mafa & Jere  Yobe **725** LGA: Bade



## TRAININGS

Training on Business Development and Supply Chain Management:

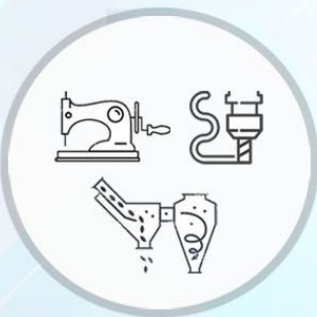
**118** Number of Women Trained

Leadership and Conflict Transformation Trainings:

**133** Number of Women Trained

Technical Trainings on Equipment and Supply Usage:

**90** Number of Women Trained



## EQUIPMENT

### Equipment & Supplies delivered to Women's Cooperatives

**118** Tomato Grinding Machines

**118** Knitting Machines

**59** Groundnut Grinding Machines

**82** Soap Moulds

**118** Sewing Machines



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