

2024 1st Quarter Newsletter

Executive Director's Message.

It is with great pleasure that Grow Strong Foundation (GSF) welcomes you to the first quarter of our 2024 newsletter magazine. We are excited to embark on another year of impactful initiatives and achievements.

As a women-led organization, GSF has dedicated substantial efforts to serve the larger communities of northeast Nigeria and parts of northwest Nigeria (Kaduna) in various areas including general protection, child protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, gender-based violence, reintegration, peace-building, and Nutrition and Hygiene (WASH) during the first quarter of 2024.

Furthermore, we conducted 4 Positive Parenting sessions for 150 parents and caregivers across three implementation locations in Nganaram, Old Maiduguri, and Tsanayuwa on MMC in Borno state, under the ECHO/NRC project. These sessions aimed to enhance parental skills, improve relationships with children, and discourage practices such as corporal punishment and child labor.

In addition, GSF participated in a workshop organized by UNMAS in Maiduguri, Borno state, discussing essential training materials

on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and other explosive items. These materials are intended to educate and raise awareness among beneficiaries in all project-implementing locations throughout the year.



Thanks to the generous funding from our donors, the Nigerian Humanitarian Fund (NHF) and UNICEF, we were able to recruit experienced professionals to continue our engagement with vulnerable children in the communities we serve.

These achievements represent just a fraction of our successes in the first quarter of 2024. We are immensely proud of the positive impact we are making in the lives of vulnerable children and families in Borno, Yobe, and Kaduna states. At GSF, we understand the importance of community engagement and will continue to work closely with communities to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of our interventions.

We extend our gratitude for your continued support and partnership in achieving our mission.

Best regards

Head Of Communication Message

We are delighted to present the inaugural edition of the Grow Strong Foundation's quarterly newsletter for 2024. Your

unwavering support and generosity continue to drive our organization's efforts in aiding our communities.

In this issue, we are excited to provide updates on our recent activities and highlight the impact of your contributions on the individuals and communities we serve. From emergency relief to long-term recovery initiatives, our programs are designed to alleviate suffering and uphold human dignity.

Furthermore, we are pleased to announce our upcoming events for the next quarter. These events are instrumental in uniting our community, raising awareness about our mission, and garnering support for those in need.

We invite you to deepen your involvement with our organization. Whether through donating your time, skills, or financial resources, there are numerous ways to make a meaningful difference and support our mission.

Thank you for your continued support and for taking the time to engage with our newsletter.

Warm regards,

Wayas Kenneth

GSF Communication Team.

Some Amazing Stories



GSF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT ON MHPSS VICTIMS OF KIDNERS IN KADUNA STATE

During this period, a significant accomplishment was achieved through the provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services in three Local Government Areas (LGAs) within Kaduna state. These services were targeted towards children and parents who had experienced trauma due to kidnapping incidents. In collaboration with esteemed partners such as UNICEF, our organization mobilized a dedicated team to traverse the identified LGAs and deliver crucial mental health and psychosocial assistance to the affected



GROW STRONG FOUNDATION ENHANCES EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS AWARENESS IN BORNO STATE THROUGH UKAID-UNMAS WORKSHOP

On March 6th - 7th, 2024, Grow Strong Foundation (GSF) participated in a workshop organized by the UKAid in collaboration with United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Maiduguri, Borno State. Held at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) guest house (Red roof), the workshop aimed to address the imperative training needs concerning Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and other

populace. Spearheaded by specialists in MHPSS from our organization “Tanimu Inusa Ishaku and Haddasa Adams”, this initiative yielded notable success and made a meaningful impact on the wellbeing of the beneficiaries.



REINTEGRATION TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (RTWG) MONTHLY COORDINATION MEETING

On March 19, 2024, Grow Strong Foundation (GSF) hosted the Coordination Reintegration Technical Working Group meeting at its head quarter office in Maiduguri.

In accordance with the decisions made in previous sessions involving various implementing partners, it was agreed upon that each participating organization would nominate a singular representative on a voluntary basis. These appointed representatives would play a pivotal role in shaping the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Reintegration Technical Working Group



MEETING WITH THE ALTERNATIVE CARE COMMITTEE FOR YOBE STATE.

The Alternative Care Committee for Yobe State convened to address the critical need for standard operations procedures (SOP) in alternative care.

explosive items within the BAY (Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe) states.

The primary objective of the workshop was to develop and disseminate essential training materials designed to educate and raise awareness among beneficiaries in all project-implementing locations throughout the year. By focusing on enhancing knowledge and understanding of explosive hazards, the initiative seeks to mitigate the risks associated with such threats in the targeted regions.

GSF's participation in the workshop underscores the organization's commitment to collaborative efforts aimed at providing sustainable solutions to mitigate the risks posed by explosive hazards, particularly in the BAY states. As a dedicated partner, GSF is actively engaged in supporting initiatives that contribute to the safety and security of communities within conflict-affected areas.



REFRESHER TRAINING OF STAFF ON CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICIES

In a proactive endeavor to maintain the highest standards of child safeguarding, GSF recently organized refresher training sessions for its personnel. The primary objective of these sessions was to ensure that all staff members remain vigilant and well-prepared in their interactions with children under the organization's care.

The training sessions were meticulously crafted to reinforce existing policies and procedures concerning child safeguarding while also updating staff members on any recent advancements or alterations in best practices. Through the provision of this refresher training, GSF showcased its unwavering dedication

Grow Strong Foundation (GSF) stands as the sole National Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) tasked with crafting a preliminary plan aimed at facilitating the formulation of SOPs for alternative care within Yobe State.

During the meeting, GSF presented a draft plan designed to serve as a foundation for the development of SOPs. The proposal delineates key areas such as admission procedures, care protocols, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and transition planning. Each section aims to address the multifaceted aspects of alternative care, ensuring a holistic approach to the well-being of vulnerable populations.

Moreover, the proposal emphasizes the importance of stakeholder collaboration and community engagement in the SOP development process. By fostering partnerships with governmental agencies, local authorities, and community leaders, the committee endeavors to garner support and input from diverse perspectives.



BORNO STATE DATA MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR PARTNERS

We are pleased to highlight a significant achievement in our partnership with the Borno State government, where we participated in a data management training alongside other humanitarian partners and stakeholders in the first quarter of 2024. This collaboration reflects our commitment to supporting the state government and our dedication to making a positive impact on vulnerable

to prioritizing the safety and welfare of the children it serves.

The training emphasized the critical importance of upholding

confidentiality and promptly reporting any suspicions or concerns regarding child abuse or neglect in strict accordance with established protocols. By equipping staff with the requisite knowledge and competencies to identify and address potential safeguarding issues, GSF aims to cultivate a secure and nurturing environment for all children within its purview.

The initiative undertaken by GSF to conduct refresher training on child safeguarding for its staff underscores the organization's steadfast commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of the children under its care. Through the provision of ongoing education and support, the organization endeavors to empower its employees to effectively fulfill their roles as custodians of child welfare.



NRC VISIT TO GSF OFFICE AND PROJECT LOCATION.

In collaboration with the NRC, GSF hosted a visit from the NRC team at their office on New GRA Bama Road, adjacent to the Kashim Ibrahim House, under the auspices of the ECHO project.

During the visit, the monitoring team observed several noteworthy aspects of the project's execution:

GSF demonstrated commendable adherence to established project guidelines and protocols, ensuring

children, families, and the community at large.

At GSF, we recognize the significance of community engagement and remain steadfast in our efforts to collaborate closely with communities. This approach ensures the efficacy and sustainability of our interventions, further solidifying our commitment to creating lasting change

consistency and quality in service delivery.

Effective collaboration and engagement with relevant stakeholders were evident, facilitating a coordinated approach to addressing child protection issues within the community.

Preliminary assessments indicated positive impacts on the target beneficiaries, particularly in terms of access to essential services and support systems such as PSS services to children.

The monitoring and evaluation visit conducted by the NRC team provided valuable insights into the progress and impact of GSF's initiatives in Old Maiduguri. By addressing identified challenges and leveraging recommendations, GSF remains committed to advancing its mission of promoting child protection and welfare in conflict-affected communities.

Events & Int'l Days Celebration



GSF COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WITH MASS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON GENDER EQUALITY.

On the 8th of March 2024, GSF, a woman-led organization, seized the occasion of International Women's Day to underscore the significance of fostering a community that embraces and values diversity. With a firm emphasis on gender equality, GSF endeavors to cultivate an environment wherein the achievements of women are duly recognized and celebrated.



By advocating for inclusivity and equity, GSF strives to contribute towards the construction of a society where every individual, regardless of gender, is empowered to flourish and make positive contributions.

The commemoration of International Women's Day by GSF serves as a testament to its steadfast dedication to championing gender equality and inclusivity. Through its advocacy efforts and awareness initiatives, GSF endeavors to nurture a community that embraces diversity and honors the



CHILD PROTECTION AoR MONTHLY COORDINATION MEETING.

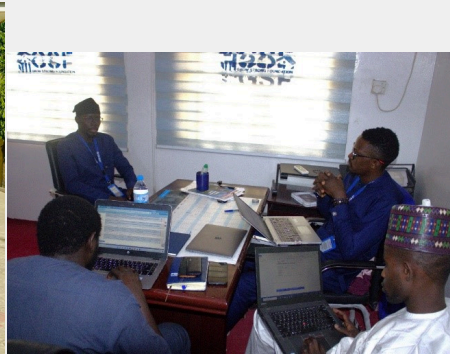
On March 12, 2024, the Grow Strong Foundation (GSF) convened its inaugural Child Protection Coordination Meeting for the first quarter at its headquarters in Maiduguri, Borno State. The meeting brought together 20 partners representing various organizations within the humanitarian sector.

During the session, pertinent issues pertaining to the Child Protection Working Group were

This event served as a pivotal platform for GSF to initiate mass awareness campaigns within the Nganaram community, shedding light on the imperative need to eradicate prejudices and stereotypes that impede the progress of women.

accomplishments of women.

deliberated upon, with a focus on enhancing collaborative efforts and addressing emerging challenges in safeguarding children in conflict-affected areas.



INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS (RED HAND DAY)

On February 12, 2024, in observance of the International Day against the use of Child Soldiers, also known as Red Hand Day, GSF, a child protection organization, undertook the responsibility to raise mass awareness across all our project locations, advocating a firm stance against the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

The primary objective of the Red Hand Day campaign is to amass one million "red hands," symbolizing the global campaign's stand against the exploitation of children in armed conflicts. GSF actively participated in commemorating the anniversary of the treaty's entry into force, which prohibits the use of child soldiers.

In support of the Red Hand Day Campaign, GSF utilized red paint to imprint handprints on sheets of paper and banners, accompanied by personal messages denouncing the use of child soldiers. Furthermore, GSF encouraged individuals within the communities we serve, as well as our schools, to join us in this initiative.

NHF/UNICEF PROJECT INITIATION AND STAFF ONBOARDING IN BORNO & YOBE STATE.

During the initial quarter of 2024, GSF has successfully executed various activities with the invaluable support of the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (NHF) and UNICEF. These activities, outlined below, were instrumental in furthering our mission and objectives:

Utilizing funding provided by NHF and UNICEF, we conducted comprehensive recruitment efforts to attract qualified candidates for various job positions within UNICEF (Jere/MMC, Bama, and Gwoza) Borno and NHF (Potiskum, Fune, and Gujba) Yobe State initiatives. Our recruitment strategy included posting advertisements on reputable platforms such as Job Mag, social media channels, the GSF website, and notice boards.

Following the advertisement phase, our recruitment team meticulously long-listed and shortlisted candidates based on predetermined criteria. Subsequently, qualified candidates underwent rigorous testing and interviews tailored to their respective areas of expertise.

In addition, GSF also facilitated the procurement process by conducting vendor recruitment exercises. Vendors meeting the stipulated qualifications were awarded contracts after thorough assessments. Prior to engagement, vendors were required to review and sign contracts, as well as adhere to the policies set forth by GSF and the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) guidelines. Non-compliance with these policies would result in contract termination.

JOIN US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

At Grow Strong Foundation, our mission is to protect and improve the conditions of vulnerable children, women, and adolescents in the community. However, we cannot achieve that without your generous support and dedication.

We invite you to take action with us by donating or volunteering your time to make a difference in the lives of those who need it the most.

Join us today to help protect and improve the lives of vulnerable populations.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME



Grow Strong Foundation | Maiduguri, Borno State

Questions or partnerships? Email us at info@gsf.org.ng

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