



Catholic Diocese of Makurdi.
**FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE,
DEVELOPMENT & PEACE**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2024

Delivery of Protection and Assistance to Refugees and
IDPs in Benue and Akwa-Ibom states, Nigeria

JULY *to* **2024**
SEPTEMBER



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FJDP NIGERIA

FJDP was established in 1971 and incorporated in 2013, FJDP is a none-profit Faith-based non-governmental organization that adopts rights-based approach to programming with a view to promoting and protecting in totality, the rights and dignity of persons especially those with extreme vulnerabilities. The organization has strong network of presence and a premium reputation for intervening in hard-to-reach communities with preferential option for the poor and extremely vulnerable.

FJDP has partnered with local and international agencies to implement different projects over the years.

- Women Empowerment
- EWASH (Environment, WASH)
- Poverty Reduction

Target groups of FJDP include survivors and persons at risk of violations, Persons With Disability and populations at risk of exclusion; with a preferential option for the poor.

The organization's core programmes include:

- Protection,
- Peace Building and Conflict Management
- Emergency Response
- Good Governance
- Human Rights
- Youth Development
- Agricultural Development



ADDRESS

**No 2 Ahmadu Commassie Road,
Wadata. Makurdi, Benue State
Nigeria.**



CRS Nigeria Visit

FJDP had the honor of hosting a high-powered delegation from Catholic Relief Services at our head office. The Coordinator, alongside the FJDP Programme Manager, warmly welcomed the esteemed guests and expressed sincere gratitude for their visit.

The purpose of their visit was to explore deeper collaboration opportunities with CRS to enhance assistance for displaced persons in Benue State. During the meeting, the FJDP Programme Manager highlighted existing gaps and challenges faced by IDPs, emphasizing the need to improve living conditions in the camps and empower residents with essential livelihood skills.

Following the meeting, the team visited Daudu Camp 1 for a post-distribution monitoring exercise and engaged directly with IDPs. The residents, who turned out in large numbers, welcomed the team warmly and expressed gratitude for the provisions of food items and sleeping mats through FJDP. The atmosphere was filled with joy as the IDPs appreciated the support received.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to CRS for their funding support and partnership, which continues to significantly enhance the living conditions of IDPs in Benue State.



Food and Non Food Assistance to IDPs in Daudu Camp 1

In our ongoing effort to provide relief assistance to IDPs affected by conflicts between herders and farmers in Benue State, FJDP is collaborating with CRS on a project aimed at assisting 3000 vulnerable IDPs in Makurdi, Guma, Gwer West, and Gwer East LGAs.

Recently, FJDP initiated the distribution of essential items to IDPs at Daudu Camp 1. The distribution included sleeping mats, mosquito nets, rice, oil, salt, and Tom Brown for malnourished children. These items were crucially needed and have been warmly received by the IDPs, who expressed deep gratitude to CRS for the timely support. Proper nutrition, which has been a significant challenge in the camps, is now more accessible thanks to these provisions.

We extend our sincere appreciation to CRS for their invaluable funding support, which has made this initiative possible



Essential Food and Non-Food Aid

In a continuation of our efforts, FJDP extended the distribution of food and non-food items to Gwer West Local Government Area in Benue State, a critical location for our projects. Led by the Administrative Manager, the distribution specifically targeted Agagbe community within Gwer West LGA, despite ongoing herders attacks and instability.

We successfully reached 200 households comprising 1,200 individuals in the Agagbe camp. The displaced persons expressed immense gratitude, noting that few organizations venture into the area due to persistent attacks, which often leave them isolated and in need. FJDP, in collaboration with CRS, was able to provide vital assistance that was deeply appreciated by the community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to CRS for their invaluable funding support, which made this humanitarian outreach possible.



UNHCR Country Representative familiarization visit to IDP Camps in Benue State

In our efforts to provide protection and assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Benue State, who have been severely affected by recurring herder crises resulting in widespread displacement and dire living conditions across various camps, we recently had the honor of hosting the UNHCR Country Representative for a familiarization visit to IDP camps.

The visit began at Ichwa IDP camp in Makurdi and continued with a visit to the Baka IDP camp, both located in Makurdi.

This initiative aimed to gain firsthand insights into the challenges and needs of the displaced population, further strengthening our ongoing support efforts.



UNHCR Country Representative familiarization visit to IDP Camps in Benue State

Following the initial visits to Ichwa and Baka IDP camps in Makurdi, the UNHCR Country Representative continued his familiarization mission with visits to Ukipam IDP camp, Daudu 1, and Gbajimba IDP camp.

The purpose of these visits was to assess the humanitarian situation in Benue State and to interact with the residents of the camps, gaining a deeper understanding of their daily challenges and urgent needs.

We are committed to working closely with UNHCR to ensure that these vulnerable populations receive the support and protection they deserve. Together, we strive to improve the living conditions and provide hope for a brighter future.



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Students of Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi Visit to FJDP Head Office



FJDP is delighted to welcome postgraduate students from the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi to our head office. As part of their mandatory semester requirements, these students visited us on an educational excursion aimed at learning from our best practices and gaining insights into our operations.

We were thrilled to share our experiences and knowledge with the students, offering them a comprehensive view of our work and its impact. The visit included a series of meaningful lectures and interactive sessions, where our team provided detailed presentations on various aspects of our projects and initiatives. The students actively engaged in discussions, asking insightful questions and showing great enthusiasm for the topics covered.

This visit not only provided the students with valuable learning opportunities but also fostered a spirit of collaboration and knowledge exchange. We look forward to future interactions with academic institutions and continue to support the education and development of the next generation of professionals.

CRS Nigeria Representative's Visit to FJDP Head Office

FJDP had the honor of hosting the representative from CRS Nigeria at our head office. This visit marks a significant moment in our recent partnership, where CRS Nigeria has provided crucial funding to support vulnerable Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) with essential food and non-food items, demonstrating their continued commitment to humanitarian aid.

During their visit, the CRS team engaged with our management and staff, gaining valuable insights into the daily operations and challenges we face in delivering aid. They also reviewed the implementation of this critical intervention to ensure that the resources provided are effectively reaching those in need.

This collaboration emphasizes the shared dedication of both organizations to improving the lives of vulnerable populations in Benue State. We extend our heartfelt thanks to CRS for this impactful partnership, which is making a significant difference in the lives of the IDPs in Benue State.



UNHCR Senior Protection Officer (SPO) on a familiarization visit

At the Ikyogen refugee settlement, FJDP welcomed the new UNHCR Senior Protection Officer (SPO) on a familiarization visit. During the visit, the SPO received detailed briefings on project implementation status, identified gaps, and current challenges. The tour of the settlement was conducted by FJDP's own SPO, highlighting key areas such as the Income-Generating Activities (IGA), Food Processing Center, and the Ikyogen Resilience Magic Center. Welcome to Nigeria, and we look forward to your contributions in this important role.



Commemorating the Day of the African Child

FJDP, in collaboration with UNHCR, NCFRMI, the Ministry of Women Affairs, and SEMA, celebrated the Day of the African Child with IDP children at Ukipam and Daudu Camp 1 in Guma LGA, Benue State. The day was filled with joyful activities, including fun games that brought smiles to the children's faces.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to UNHCR for their steadfast commitment to ensuring that IDP children receive special attention and care. Let's unite to support and empower the children in these communities, ensuring their voices are heard and their dreams are nurtured..





Human Trafficking Prevention Campaign



FJDP proudly joined forces with NAPTIP, UNHCR, and other dedicated partners for a significant awareness walk.

This event aimed to educate our community about the dangers and signs of human trafficking. The walk began at IBB Square in Makurdi and culminated at Benue Links Park, where we engaged with the public to emphasize the importance of vigilance and awareness.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and supported this crucial cause. Together, we made a difference and took a stand against human trafficking.

Let's continue to work towards a safer world.



Human Trafficking Prevention Campaign at the Ichwa IDP Camp

In Makurdi, the Benue State capital, FJDP, in collaboration with UNHCR, NAPTIP, NCFRMI, and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the state, commemorates the World Day Against Human Trafficking with the theme: Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking.

The awareness campaign began at the Federal Housing First Gate and continued to the Ichwa IDP Camp. Along the route, participants engaged with the community, distributing informational materials and speaking about the critical issue of human trafficking. The campaign aimed to educate the public on the importance of vigilance and the necessity of reporting any suspected cases of trafficking to the appropriate authorities.

various speakers who also highlighted the dangers and signs of human trafficking. The importance of community involvement in combating this crime, emphasizing that everyone has a role to play in protecting vulnerable individuals from exploitation.

Mrs. Beatrice Shomkegh, the UNHCR representative, elaborated on the significance of the day and emphasized the need for the public to desist from the barbaric act of human trafficking. She encouraged everyone to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activities to help combat this heinous crime.

FJDP condemned the act of human trafficking as a severe violation of human rights and called for a collective effort to eradicate it



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Commemorating the International Day Against Human Trafficking

FJDP, in collaboration with UNHCR, NAPTIP, and NCFRMI, commemorated the World Day Against Human Trafficking at the Ikyogen Refugee settlement in Kwande LGA. of Benue State.

The day's activities included a presentation by refugee children who defined human trafficking, discussed its forms, and outlined various methods to combat it.

Representatives from NACTAL and CSO NETMADE highlighted the dangers and signs of human trafficking, stressing the importance of community involvement in combating this crime. They emphasized that everyone has a role in protecting vulnerable individuals from exploitation. An anti-human trafficking committee was inaugurated to strengthen the fight against trafficking.

Grace Kironcho, the UNHCR representative, elaborated on the significance of the day, emphasizing the need for the public to desist from the barbaric act of human trafficking. She encouraged vigilance and the reporting of any suspicious activities to help combat this crime, urging the newly inaugurated committee to be steadfast in their duties. Together, with our collective efforts, let's unite to eradicate human trafficking and strengthen the fight against this crime



Commemorating the International Day Against Human Trafficking in Logo LGA

In Ugba Logo LGA, the FJDP commemorated World Day Against Human Trafficking. The IDPs received sensitization messages about human trafficking and expressed their commitment to combating all forms of trafficking. Various speakers, including representatives from BSEMA, IOM, and the DSS, highlighted the signs of human trafficking and emphasized the need for community involvement in combating this menace, stressing that everyone has a role in protecting vulnerable individuals.

The day's activities included a dance presentation by the IDP children, which amazed many attendees



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UNHCR Head of Sub-Office Ogoja Visits Ichwa Camp

FJDP had the privilege of hosting the head of the sub-office Ogoja during her visit in preparation for the upcoming high-level mission.

Her visit aimed to follow up on the progress and preparations made by FJDP for the impending mission. She also visited the IDP camp to assess the preparations for the children's parliament and the income-generating activities (IGA) groups for men and women.

Later, a meeting was held with the management and staff of FJDP to address any gaps identified and to commend the efforts made so far in preparation for the mission.





The Ichwa IDP Camp in Benue State, Nigeria, is one of the many camps where FJDP is currently working in partnership with UNHCR. This camp now serves as a home for thousands of IDPs displaced from their ancestral homes. To offer protection services, FJDP has carried out activities aimed at safeguarding and supporting the well-being of these displaced children, promoting their psychosocial health and overall development.

The children participated in dance and various sports activities such as skipping, board games, and sack races, all under the guidance of FJDP staff. These activities are crucial in rebuilding the lives of these displaced persons, with women and children being the most affected. Additionally, FJDP staff conducted the Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) program, teaching men the essential practices needed to ensure the camp is free from all forms of violence against women and girls.



Protection induction training at the Refugee settlement

We held a protection induction training targeting the community outreach facilitators at the Ikyogen refugee settlement.

The session enhanced understanding on protection principles, child protection, gender-based violence, prevention from sexual, exploitation and abuse, the rights of refugees and displaced persons as well as provided practical skills for identifying, assessing, and responding to protection concerns, including reporting mechanisms and referral pathways.



Empowering IDPs at Ichwa Camp with Sustainable Livelihoods



FJDP, in collaboration with UNHCR, visited the BIPC factory, where six vulnerable IDPs and one refugee have been enrolled for training. These individuals will receive hands-on experience in bread and water production, as well as packaging, which will equip them with valuable skills.

This initiative is designed to empower them, providing a sustainable livelihood that reduces their dependence on aid from NGOs, individuals, and the government.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to UNHCR and the state government for this incredible opportunity to support these displaced persons



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Empowerment Training for IDP Women at Ichwa Camp

FJDP is dedicated to enhancing valuable skills and livelihoods for vulnerable IDPs in Benue State. We recently conducted a hands-on training session on making Groundnut Cake (Kulikuli) at the Ichwa IDP Camp in Makurdi.

This initiative aimed to empower displaced persons with practical skills. The session was engaging, and the IDPs showed enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. They expressed their gratitude for the training and the ongoing support they receive. Together, we are creating opportunities and building a brighter future!



Honoring Humanitarian Efforts: World Humanitarian Day



On World Humanitarian Day, FJDP stands with UNHCR, NCFRMI, IOM, UNICEF, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, and other partners to honor the efforts of humanitarian workers globally. This day emphasizes our shared responsibility to alleviate suffering and protect the dignity of those impacted by crises. Our collaboration reflects a strong commitment to supporting vulnerable communities, ensuring no one is left behind in the pursuit of a safer, more hopeful future.



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UNHCR Delegation Visits Ichwa IDP Camp: Strengthening Humanitarian Efforts in Benue

FJDP, in partnership with UNHCR, welcomed a high-powered delegation to Benue State, Nigeria.

The visit aimed to provide a firsthand experience of the displacement situation in the state.

The Governor of Benue State led the delegation to the Ichwa IDP camp. The delegation included Mr. Raouf Mazou, Assistant High Commissioner (Operations) for UNHCR; Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, Assistant High Commissioner (Protection) for UNHCR; Mr. Abdouraouf Gnon Konde, Regional Director, Bureau for West and Central Africa, UNHCR; Ms. Annett Günther, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Nigeria; Ms. Liz Ahua, Former Director, UNHCR; Mr. Arjun Jain, UNHCR Country Representative for Nigeria; Ms. Paola Pace, IOM Chief of Mission; Ms. Irene Omondi, UNHCR Head of Sub Office for Ogoja, Nigeria; and Ms. Lara Scholterbeck, Senior External Engagement Coordinator, Bureau for West and Central Africa, UNHCR.



The delegation was surprised by the conditions faced by the IDPs due to displacement. Highlights of the visit included an exhibition of Income Generating Activities (IGA) such as Sweet Mama Meal, Sweet Mama Kulikuli, and beads made by the IDP and refugee women.

The UNHCR delegation interacted with the IDPs, encouraging them to remain calm and assuring them that help would arrive soon. As a gesture of appreciation, the refugee women presented gifts to the UNHCR delegation, acknowledging their ongoing support for the refugees and IDPs in Benue State.



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FJDP AND NDE EXPLORES VISTAS OF PARTNERSHIP FOR LEI



FJDP through the SCORE Programme conducted an Advocacy Mission to the Private Residence of the Director General of National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Hon. Silas Ali Agara in his Private Residence in Akwanga, Nasarawa state to Advocate for Livelihood and Economic Inclusion (LEI) of Pastoralists and Farmers across Benue and Nasarawa states on the 24th August, 2024

Team FJDP and the DG of NDE, Hon. Silas Ali Agara interfaced as the Programme Manager, Valentine Kwaghchimin gave the advocacy message highlighting the pitiable situation of the affected populations. He specifically appealed and requested for partnership with NDE through training and empowering pastoralists and farmers which in the opinion of the SCORE Programme, will help them in bouncing back to reconnect and rebuild their lives.

The PM further requested for another meeting which will discuss details and specifics of the partnership. In conclusion, the Administrative Manager, Blessing ADZAAGEE handed over advocacy products to the DG.

Responding, the DG appreciated team FJDP for the advocacy visit and the initiative which is aimed at reducing unemployment and the sufferings of pastoralists and farmers whose livelihood has been impacted negatively by the prolonged conflict. He expressed the readiness and willingness of his office in supporting populations in rebuilding their lives through economic empowerment.

Hon. Agara concluded by informing the team that NDE will soon roll out LEI programmes across the country and would definitely welcome partnership such as the one proposed by FJDP. He reiterated the need for FJDP to visit him in no distant time to discuss the specifics of the partnership as NDE also requires partnership/support in mapping and profiling of beneficiaries as the existing register is considered to be grossly defective and FJDP may come in handy

Creating Lasting Impact: The Gbajimba IDP Shelter Project



We had the opportunity to visit the Gbajimba 1 and 2 camps, situated in Nzorov, Gbajimba LGA of Benue State. These camps are among the locations where FJDP has been actively implementing programs since 2019 to support internally displaced persons (IDPs).

In 2020, FJDP, in partnership with UNHCR, the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), UNDP, and FAO, embarked on a significant project aimed at providing more sustainable living conditions for the IDPs in Gbajimba. As part of this initiative, 49 semi-detached pilot shelters were constructed, offering much-needed stability and a sense of permanence to the displaced families.

The project, titled "Transitioning From Humanitarian Relief to Long-Term Development," was designed to go beyond immediate relief efforts by focusing on the long-term needs of the IDPs. The construction of these shelters not only provided safer and more dignified living conditions but also played a crucial role in promoting a sense of community and hope among the displaced persons.



The impact of this project has been profound. The IDPs who benefited from these shelters now enjoy a level of security and comfort that was previously unimaginable in their makeshift camps. These shelters have become a foundation upon which they can begin to rebuild their lives, offering them protection from the elements and a stable environment to raise their families.

The success of this project would not have been possible without the invaluable support of UNHCR and our other partners. Their commitment and collaboration were instrumental in turning this vision into reality. We are deeply grateful to all the organizations involved for their dedication to improving the lives of those who have been displaced by conflict.

As we continue our work, we remain focused on providing both immediate relief and long-term solutions to the challenges faced by IDPs in Benue State. The Gbajimba project stands as a testament to what can be achieved when organizations come together with a shared commitment to making a difference.

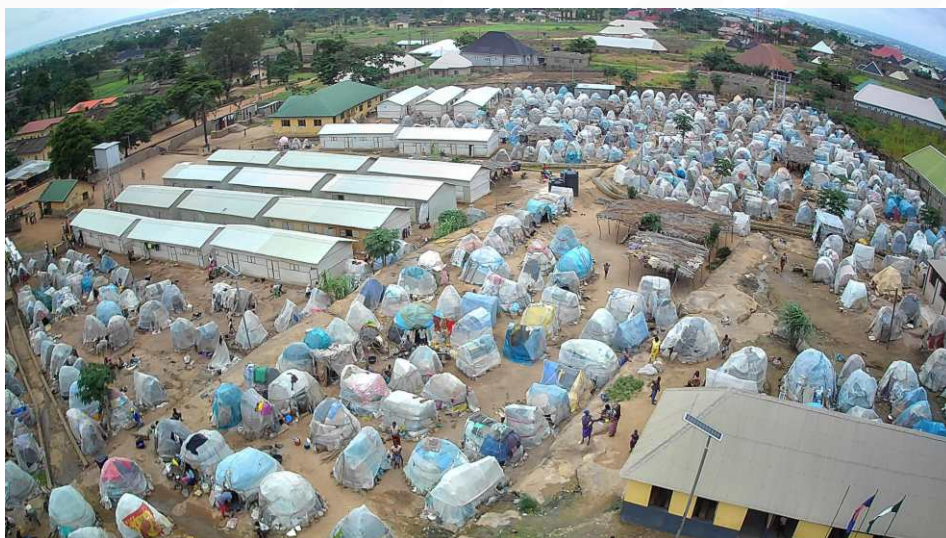
Support Needed

The Ichwa IDP Camp, located in Makurdi, the Benue State capital, is home to 1,107 households and 3,523 displaced persons living in makeshift tents. FJDP has been actively working to offer protection and assistance to the residents of this camp, one of several where we collaborate with UNHCR to provide vital support.

The situation in the camp is dire, with the IDPs facing numerous challenges daily. FJDP, in partnership with UNHCR, strives to provide essential assistance to alleviate their suffering and help them find some relief despite their difficult circumstances.



However, the needs of these IDPs are vast and ongoing. We call on individuals and organizations to join us in meeting the urgent needs of these vulnerable people. With your support, FJDP, alongside UNHCR and the government, can continue to work towards sustainable solutions for the displaced families in Ichwa Camp.





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