

Collective Action For Adolescent Girls Initiatives (CAAGI)

End of Project Report



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List of Acronyms

AG	Adolescent Girls
CA	Christian Aid
CAAGI	Collective Action for Adolescent Girls Initiative
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
FA	Faith Actors
FADF	Faith Actors Dialogue Forum
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
FOMWAN	Federation of Muslim Women Association in Nigeria
GEADOR	Gender and Development Organising Resource
JSS	Junior Secondary School
KSMC	Kaduna State Media Corporation
LGA	Local Government Area
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NTA	Nigerian Television Authority
VFM	Value for Money
V2P	Voice to the People

Executive summary

Following about 24 months of engaging, equipping and activating FA and FBO on AG issues, CAAGI has greatly increased community knowledge of the value of AG and this has in turn led to increased inclusivity of AGs within the family structure through community dialogue approaches and support to AGs in the community.

The project throughout its implementation phase targeted FAs as key stakeholders in achieving its objectives of enhancing the choices of AGs in all target communities and as a major outcome of this we have recorded commendable behavioural change towards issues concerning AGs especially as regards education and early marriages. In one of such many success stories, Fa'isa Shehu, an 18-year-old AGs who greatly benefitted from CAAGI implementation is now studying to become an Environmental Health Assistant at the Shehu Idris College of Health Sciences and Technology, Makarfi.

The project in the last two years have built the capacity of community members, FAs and AGs and has equipped them with the skills to discuss issues relating to adolescent girls in non-confrontational ways, using religious platforms and safe spaces created to enhance inclusiveness within the community to argue salient points on issues of adolescent girls. Following this enlightenment FAs now take the lead in advocating, admonishing, and supporting parents and AGs to rethink the choice presented to the girl child while the AGs have ridden this opportunity to their educational dreams. Today increasing number of AGs who were once out of school are being re-enrolled back to school.

The CAAGI project in a bid to deepen its sustainability potential built linkages and networks with CSOs, LGAs and other traditional structures within target locations has trained various stakeholders (FAs, Media, community members and some government officials among others) This was to leverage any existing resources within these structures to build a sustainable platform to drive AGs issues even after the project. One of such activities is the Formation of Faith Actors Dialogue Forum (FADF) at the community and state levels; The FADF is a formal structure of FAs from the two major religions in Nigeria and other faith groups, as a platform of action for faith leaders/actors to interact and map out strategies of engaging the different stakeholders on issues of adolescent girls.

The State level FADF provides guidance and Mentorship to community FAs, State FAs who have more capacity and knowledge on AG issues have through this platform continuously supported community FAs through review meetings, mentorship meetings and trainings to share and discuss strategies for improving opportunities of AGs.

This project adopted a learning component that encourages strategic collection of lessons to inform project planning and enhance innovative approaches to programming. As such several learning opportunities and activities were staged over the 2-year period of the project, these include a Learning

Visit to Anambra state where CA is leading the implementation of Voice to the People, V2P (V2P is a good governance project that also targets inclusiveness in decision making), the visiting team comprised of 5 CAAGI partners staff and 2 CA staff. This visit was key to the improvement of capacity of GEADOR facilitators/groups to facilitate social dialogue on AG issues, as it was a part of the lessons from this visit. During this visit practical experiences were shared by the Voice to the People (V2P) project staff and community members which informed the replication of the strategies that worked on the approach.

2.0 Impacts and Achievements

Following about 24 months of engaging, equipping and activating FA and FBO on AG issues, CAAGI have greatly increased community knowledge of the value of AG and this has in turn led to increased inclusivity of AG within the family structure through community dialogue approaches and support to AGs in the community.

The project throughout its implementation phase targeted FAs as key stakeholders in achieving its objectives of enhancing the choices of AGs in all target communities and as a major outcome of this we have recorded commendable behavioural change towards issues concerning AGs especially in education and early marriages. In one of such many success stories, Fa'isa Shehu, an 18-year-old AG who benefitted from CAAGI implementation is now studying to become an Environmental Health Assistant at the Shehu Idris College of Health Sciences and Technology, Makarfi.

At 17 Fa'isa had completed Senior Secondary education and had hopes and aspirations to continue her studies. But her father, on the other hand had a completely different expectation, as he was preparing her for marriage. In his opinion, getting the basic secondary education was enough for her. Culture (which had relegated AGs to the role of housewives) and economic reasons makes it almost impossible for AGs to receive basic education, not to mention going beyond that. In the first year of CAAGI implementation, Fa'isa was one of the AGs who was trained on leadership skills, self-esteem, decision making as well as the benefit of improved opportunities for AGs' education, economic empowerment, and the need to delay marriage till after the age of 18.

After this training, Fa'isa summoned the courage to approach her father and mention to him her desire to continue education. The Male GEADOR facilitator in the community (whom she was to be given to in marriage) also added his voice to the issue, by speaking to her father on the need to delay the marriage until she had gotten more education. He also mentioned his willingness to wait for her to achieve same. Following this tactful engagement with Fa'isa's father, he had a change of mind and gave his approval for his daughter to continue with her studies.

2.1 Outcome 1

FA as key influencers are better informed on AG issues of education, early marriage and economic empowerment and are advocating on these AG issues within their communities and their media

Activity 1.1: Strengthen and build capacity

The project in the last two years have built the capacity of community members, FAs and AGs and have equipped them with the skills to discuss issues relating to adolescent girls in non-confrontational ways, using religious platforms and safe spaces created to enhance inclusiveness within the community to

argue salient points on issues of adolescent girls. Following this enlightenment FAs now take the lead in advocating, admonishing and supporting parents and AGs to rethink the choice presented to the girl child while the AGs have ridden this opportunity to their educational dreams. Today increasing number of AGs who were once out of school are being re-enrolled back to school. As in the case of Felicia Danlami a 17-year-old Adolescent Girl from Nassarawan Doya community of Makarfi LGA. Felicia was withdrawn from school in 2014 because of limited family resources when she was in Junior Secondary School (JSS3) so her brother could complete Senior Secondary School and go on to the College of Education. This was her case before CAAGI intervention. Because she couldn't just sit at home and do nothing, her father considered and started making arrangements to marry her out.

When the project team engaged her father and asked why she was withdrawn from school, he told the team that girls usually just go on to get married and become housewives. Thus, in their communities, they do not see the need to educate girls.

Following CAAGI intervention, Felicia was trained on self-esteem, leadership skills and how to negotiate for better choices for herself, as well as inclusion in decision making. Felicia and the other girls who were trained spoke with their parents (who thought the training was aimed at re-enrolling them into school).



In total 859 community members including 219 M, 103W, 370Bs and 167AGs have benefitted from the capacity building activities of CAAGI.

Although Felicia has been re-enrolled into school, her father attributes it to the fact that her brother is done with the college of Education he was enrolled in. But he also mentioned that in the whole clan, no girl/woman has ever completed senior secondary education, the most they have done would be to finish primary education. Therefore Felicia Danlami, Jamila Yohanna (another 16-year-old in her community) will be the first sets of girls to have ever gotten into Senior Secondary school and eventually complete same.

In total 859 community members including 219 M, 103W, 370Bs and 167AGs have benefitted from the capacity building activities of CAAGI.

The project also targeted mothers in project communities with capacity building activities. During one of such trainings for Women on Advocacy, Gender and AG issues 85 mothers gained enhanced skills on how to advocate for their daughters to fathers and other wider community members; they were also trained on leadership skills and how to be good role models for their daughters. Building leadership skills was part of the training, as part of the AGs recommendation in one of their meetings that their mothers

do not mirror any skills they can pass on to their children. As a result of this training and other project activities Mothers have realised the need to support their daughters' education and have also learnt skills to improve their economic capacity so they can in turn support their daughters to continue schooling. Today we have a growing number of AGs enrolling to learn new skills that will improve their economic capacity and those of their families. This is particularly important for AGs who have had to leave school due to poverty. They have either been supported by male champions, GEADOR members or their parents. Some AGs have also sponsored themselves to acquire new economic empowering skills.

The project's male champion strategy was another key leveraged by CAAGI in furthering the cause of improved choices for AGs in CAAGI target communities. The training of 118 Men and Boys on Positive Masculinity and Gender Sensitivity has improved their knowledge and capacity on the issues AG face and has triggered discussions around the vulnerability of AGs with these male champions leading efforts to seek practical ways of how communities can challenge discriminatory norms that reduces the development opportunities for AGs, while increasing the number of male champions who are willing to build a support base for AGs. This led to increased knowledge among these groups on issues affecting AGs and influenced their attitudes around the value of AGs, equipping them with the required skills to become male champions for the issues of AGs. Male champions in at least 3 project communities have taken initiative to enrol Adolescent boys and girls in various skill acquisitions available in their communities. 4 AGs in Kamaru Ikulu have been enrolled in skill acquisition, while 2 adolescent boys have also been enrolled. In Sabon Gayan community, Male Champions have mobilised resources and paid fees for 5 AGs as well as sewn uniforms for 10 AGs who re-enrolled in school.

Interactive session between AGs and Mothers at the LGA level, in all three (3) LGAs of project implementation. This was done to foster bond between AGs and their mothers as well as create a platform where AGs and mothers can have a common position in advocating for improved choices and opportunities for AGs, this was a rider to the first one held in the first six months of Year 2, which yielded results of improved coordination between AGs and their mothers for better opportunities for them.

To further build the capacity of AGs the project held series of capacity building activities to enable them to sustain effective advocacy for improved opportunities for them and their peers. 180 AGs (15 girls each from 12 communities) benefitted from these activities across project communities. Through these trainings Adolescent girls have gained practical skills in negotiating their welfare at the family front and are merging it with increased knowledge about what limitations they face and what options are available. This have led to closer relationships with their parents and caregivers at home and in schools and church/mosque. Having acquired more knowledge from CAAGI project activities with improved negotiation skills and self-esteem, Adolescent Girls in Kamuru Ikulu, Kujama, Rido Hausa and Zonzon

have advocated to community leaders, parents of AGs and other stakeholders respectively on improved access for AGs to education and economic empowerment.

2.1.2 Activity 1.2: Build linkages and networks

To further strengthen the FADF platform, a toolkit was developed, and all FAs were trained on how to use the toolkit, this led to improved advocacy by the Faith Actors on the issues faced by AGs with the help of the toolkit and the constant mentorship and support of the State Faith Actors.

To ensure its suitability to the local needs of all FAs, the Faith Leaders Toolkit was translated into Hausa Language, which is the local language spoken by majority of community Faith Actors, they can now read and have better understanding of the messaging in the Toolkit and can now communicate it better to their congregations and social groups. This has improved their capacity to advocate for AG issues to their congregations and social groups.

The FAs remarked that the messages of CAAGI are messages they should preach regularly in their messages especially now that CAAGI has given them more capacity. One FA remarked that they knew AGs faced these issues, but as FAs, they didn't have the capacity to advocate to either the parents of the AGs or their congregations. But with the FADF platform and toolkit they are better equipped with right messages to speak up about these issues. State FADF have continued to create awareness on AG issues amongst their social groups and religious gathering. One of the results of this is that one of the FAs reached who is outside Kaduna state has been able to intervene and stop a pending early marriage using his knowledge gained from the project.

Collaborations and partnerships for state advocacy: The project in collaboration with other CSOs participated in a public hearing on several bills, including the Child Right Act, organised by the State House of Assembly in Kaduna state. This has enhanced the relationship with other CSOs (expanding the network) to push for the domestication of Child Right Acts in the state. Adolescent girls from across the state were mobilized to participate in the public hearing of the Child Rights Act; thereby given them a voice on matters that concerns them. Following this and other sustained effort in the state the Child Right Acts has been passed into law in Kaduna state as the Child Protection and Welfare Bill. Partners are currently working to abridge the document and translate into the local language once it is gazetted.

In total 144 FAs currently enjoy capacity building support from the state FADF and 93 are taking action to improve the opportunities and welfare of AGs in the state.

2.2 Outcome 2:

Improved knowledge of men, boys, women, and AGs on AG issues and changed attitudes around the value of AGs

Activity 2.1: Institutionalise Interaction

As part of effort to enhance state and citizen dialogue on the welfare of AGs a Local Government Area (LGA) Forum was held in Zangon Kataf and Chikun LGAs, to foster effective collaborations between community structures and duty bearers at the LGA level. The forum brought together GEADOR facilitators/members, community leaders, FAs, Sole Administrators and other state representatives alongside representatives of the LGAs at State House of Assembly so as to improve their knowledge on the project as well as showcase achievements of the project. A training was also organised for selected staff of the Agency for Mass Literacy on AG issues and how the agency can support the education of married AGs through its literacy centres across the state.

These activities were not just designed to enhance the capacity of state actors but was also aimed at getting duty bearers to make commitments and take actions for improved opportunities for AGs.

State FADF have continued to create opportunities within their social groups for partner project staff to sensitize members (FOMWAN, Catholic Women Organisation, Northern Baptist Convention, ECWA Women Convention) on AG issues and distribute the Faith Leaders toolkit to Faith Actors at these gatherings. As a result of this, FAs from other states have improved capacity to advocate for AG issues in their states, which are not project communities. There is also improved visibility for the project amongst a wider audience.

Activity 2.2: Gender sensitive programming

Training of Women on Advocacy, Gender and AG issues, the capacity of 85 mothers was built on how to advocate for their daughters to fathers and other wider community members; they were also trained on AG issues and leadership skills. Building leadership skills was part of the training, as the AGs in the last interactive session stated that the mothers do not mirror any skills, they can pass on to them.

Mothers and girls in at least 2 communities (in Zonzon and Sabon Gayan) have taken the initiative of the Interactive session to hold similar meetings at the community levels, to include more girls and women in the community.

Activity 2.3: Set up safe spaces

The project has created safe spaces for AGs and other socially excluded groups to participate in decision making using the GEADOR strategy. GEADOR means Gender Empowerment and Development Organising Resource, it is strategy that fosters inclusiveness in decision making. GEADOR is implemented through circles, it constitutes of smaller circles of different gender groups of men, women, AGs, Boys etc, these groups meet in their circles to discuss development issues as it concerns them or affect their interest and then bring their resolutions to the larger GEADOR circle where all the community groups meet to take community development decisions. Each circle is facilitated by a trained GEADOR facilitator.

Adolescent girls leveraging this platform are now participating in development activities which are facilitated by GEADOR with AGs sitting in the same circle/forum with adult men to discuss community matters. Before this strategy was introduced in some focal communities, men and women were not sitting together to discuss community issues. Now, men and women sit to talk together on community issues. Furthermore, adolescent girls also can now also participate and contribute in matters relating to them. As much as men, women and adolescent girls might be sitting together to discuss community issues in some other places, it is a huge feat in some communities, and this is brought about by GEADOR.

Continuous GEADOR interactions in the project communities have improved the value placed on AGs in these communities. The result of this was seen in interactions with two mothers of married AGs and an Imam from the community, where they said that before girls were willing to be married off at any age, but now younger AGs are insisting on completing their education, while parents are making added effort to send their daughters to school. Community FAs have reported that following the sensitizations to parents and youth groups, there has been marked reduction in teenage pregnancy and early marriage in Kamuru Ikulu, the period before project implementation, the usually record 10 pregnancies of AGs in a year, but within the last year, there were just 2 AG pregnancies reported.

Following increased capacity for participation 87 adolescent girls and 10 women in GEADOR groups across Zangon Kataf, Chikun and Makarfi LGAs are speaking out about issues affecting them and working with the men and boys to identify stakeholders that can address such issues. For instance, in Rido Hausa, Women GEADOR group members have been able to negotiate the time for hawking and schooling with some parents. This has made more AGs stay in school during school hours and hawk after closing from school. Also, a women GEADOR facilitator in Makarfi Gari sensitized other women during FOMWAN Executive meeting to give more girls opportunity to attend school and delay the time of marriage

Following the activities of CAAGI in the last years Adolescent girls across project communities have not only become aware of their rights but they have as well gained practical skills in negotiating their welfare at the family front coupled with increased understanding of the various limitations they face in the society and what options are available. This has led to stronger ties within families especially between AGs and their parents and caregivers at home, in schools and places of worship. The projects GEADOR strategy have been key in achieving this, using the knowledge gained from the various project activities, these AGs leverage the safe spaces created by GEADOR to negotiate their choices and voice their opinions in community development decision making and this have led to improved self-esteem for the girls and enhanced inclusiveness in the communities. Leveraging this platform Adolescent Girls in Kamuru Ikulu, Kujama, Rido Hausa and Zonzon have led girl-issue driven advocacies to community leaders, parents of AGs and other stakeholders respectively on improved access for AGs to education and economic empowerment. And today we are beginning to see parents re-enrolling their wards who were once

withdrawn from school to hawk back into school. One of such cases that of Mariam Musa in Rido Hausa community of Chikun LGA. Miriam was withdrawn from school by her parents in 2016, after she had just finished JS3 but following the activities of the project was re-enrolled in secondary school, in 2017 and today she has regained once denied access to education.

Adaptive learning

This project adopted a learning component that encourages strategic collection of lessons to inform project planning and enhance innovative approaches to programming. As such several learning opportunities and activities were staged over the 2 year period of the project, these include a Learning Visit to Anambra state where CA is leading the implementation of Voice to the People, V2P (V2P is a good governance project that also targets inclusiveness in decision making), the visiting team comprised of 5 CAAGI partners staff and 2 CA staff. This visit was key to the adoption of the GEADOR strategy as it was a part of the lessons from this visit. During this visit practical experiences were shared by the Voice to the People (V2P) project staff and community members which informed the replication of the approach; thereby creating social dialogue on issues of adolescent girls

The project leveraged the quarterly review meeting of Faith Actors Dialogue Forum to review activities, learn and plan way forward. These meetings avails Faith leaders/actors the opportunity to further reflect on their activities on adolescent girls' issues in their communities and renew their commitment to engage more with their religious communities on some misconceptions around cultural and religious practices. The Quarterly Steering committee meeting was another learning and reflection platform for the project team.

The bi-Annual Reflection Meetings also provided a platform for GEADOR facilitators and some members to learn from the experiences and best practices of other GEADOR circles and adapt in their own circles. Monitoring visit to gather success stories as a result of project implementation, it was also used as an opportunity to follow up on stories that have been reported from previous visits. M&E Officer and PO from CA project team joined/supported partner staff on this activity, validating reports as well as providing support to probe for more information and resolve issues. CA staff also supported partners on another activities/sensitization.

Following the commitment of the project to learning CAAGI funded a research on "The Role of Faith Leaders in Advancing the cause of AGs in Kaduna state". This study was conducted across project and non-project communities in Kaduna state to understand the role of faith leaders in improving the empowerment of adolescent girls (at community, state, and individual levels) in Kaduna state. The specific objectives of the study included:

- Exploring how faith leaders have been influencing change in attitudes and behaviours of their congregation/community towards adolescent girls' time of marriage
- Finding out how faith leaders have been influencing and supporting other faith actors and parents towards addressing adolescent girls' time of marriage.
- Exploring opportunities and barriers to Faith Leader's action on adolescent girls' time of marriage and identify the different levels of intervention by faith leaders
- Identifying practical suggestions and recommendations on how to harness the positive potential of religious teachings to promote positive behaviours and practices in ways that will ultimately benefit adolescent girls, exploring opportunities and barriers that exist.

The study analysed opportunities beyond the Project, with the aim to inform faith actors interventions in a more holistic way. The findings from this study has since ...

The project also hosts a radio program titled "Mahada". Mahada is a radio drama series aired on 2 radio stations across Northern and Central Kaduna. It depicted the various issues faced by Adolescent girls in the communities and how they (with the support of the more knowledgeable community members) have been able to address and mitigate the challenges they face. The objective of this radio drama is to sensitize listeners and continue to seek ways to reach a wider audience both within and outside target project communities. This radio drama ran for a period of 14 weeks on Nagarta Radio station (having a reach to Northern Kaduna) and Freedom Radio (reaching Central and parts of Southern Kaduna).

3.0 Challenges

In the beginning of project implementation, there was limited understanding of the aim of the project, therefore there were some initial resistances to project acceptance.

3.1 Lessons learnt

Engaging with FAs to chart the course for AGs cannot be over emphasised. The involvement and commitment made by the FAs by way of supporting the CAAGI project has demonstrated the fact that working with FAs is indeed the key to chart the course for AGs issues in Kaduna state. FAs were also key in gaining community entry into project communities and this reinstate their relevance as community gatekeepers.

Findings from the baseline study cleared the assumption that AG issues were all anchored by religious beliefs and practices. The baseline revealed otherwise as respondents attributed AG issues to cultural practices and not religion. The role of mothers in the advancement of AGs was also emphasised in the study report, thereby leading to the inclusion of mothers and part of the target groups.

Working with partners with knowledge of the local context and with influential Faith Leaders is key to avoiding backlash. This contributed to the huge success recorded by the project. For instance, in certain communities, addressing early marriage as a direct issue might have led to some resistance against the project but working with FAs in the community made it easier to communicate the issue to community members. In addition, in advocating for AGs to get to the age of 18 before marriage, the team speaks to parents on the importance of letting AGs finish secondary school before they are given off for marriage. This approach has prevented backlash against the project.

There are cultural practices that people thought were religious due to ignorance and misconceptions. Going forward on with programming, CA might have to support partners to conduct stakeholders' analysis and adopt the "Power Analysis strategy" to identify influential community/state FAs and harness the power they wield to influence positive changes for the AG and the issues that affect her. This will ensure that when these FAs get the buy-in of community leaders, community members and the local/state government such that they would both gain audience and influence decisions for improved choices and opportunities for AGs regarding their issues on education, economic opportunity and early marriage.

Giving Faith Actors the opportunity to take the lead on advocacy has created more platforms for the project team to sensitize different groups of Faith Actors and Media on the rights of AGs. For instance, the FAs secured time slot for sensitization to the Catholic Women Organisation, they have also led the courtesy visits to 2 media houses (KSMC and NTA), Local Government Authority in Chikun and Zangon Kataf LGAs. This is affirming the assumption that Faith Actors as key influencers when better informed on Adolescent Girls issues of education, early marriage and economic empowerment and are advocating on these AG issues within their communities and the media.

Direct interventions on the AGs have improved their self-esteem, leadership skills, assertiveness and capacity to advocate for issues affecting them thereby improving their choices and opportunities. In four communities, AGs are already engaging in quality engagement with stakeholders on influencing identified issues and they are getting support of these stakeholders.

In educating community Faith Actors on the education and early marriage of AGs, community members are more open to both listen and change their behaviours from what it

If given the opportunities, AGs are willing to seek economic opportunities to improve the choices available to them. This is seen in their willingness to learn skills that will improve their economic standing and give them the resources to pay their fees, in the event they are asked to leave s used to be to one where AGs are valued, thus buttressing the fact that FAs are key influencers in the community and amongst their social groups

In Islam, dowry is meant for the bride. It is meant to be given to the bride to help empower herself and not meant for the family's use. The use of dowry to solve family issues is a cultural practice and not Islamic. Therefore, Faith Leaders are intensifying efforts to raise awareness about this fact among their congregation and community members.

The practice in Zonzon is that if an AG gets pregnant, she is sent out of home to go and join the person responsible for the pregnancy which leads to forced marriage. This practice was supposed to deter other AGs from teenage pregnancy; instead teenage pregnancy is on the increase. As a result of the GEADOR circle advocacy to religious and traditional leaders, parents have seen that sending the AGs out of the home has not stopped teenage pregnancy. Now, parents are helping to reform the AGs so as to ensure they continue their education after delivery.

Building the capacity of Faith Actors on the AG issues is a great platform through which to bring about desirable change for AGs. Faith leaders mentioned that although they knew these are issues faced by AGs, they didn't have the capacity to either discuss or address these issues, without being viewed as going against religious teachings. But the toolkit which has faith messages on the issues being discussed has been valuable in giving them capacity to discuss these as key influencers when school because of fees, and/or take care of their children and ensure they have better choices (for the married AGs)

4.0 Project Management.

The CAAGI project which was a pilot project hinged on the basic principle of adaptive learning. Christian Aid supported partners to develop activities that aligned with the two project objectives set out. CA supported partners' capacity building at all levels, this started with a session on CA expectation at a start-up meeting, support training on reporting guidelines, project management training and other support visits to partners and project communities. Routine monitoring assessment visits held during the two-year period of implementation, which provided CA team ample opportunity to provide on-the-spot support to the partners' project team.

CA team facilitated programme steering committee meetings on a quarterly basis, to discuss programme and partnering issues. This meeting fostered improved understanding between CA and its partners, which in turn resulted in improved programming and implementation of activities. CA also supported and encouraged partners to meet and plan project activities together, making it easier to jointly implement project activities.

4.1 Monitoring and Evaluation

The importance of Monitoring and Evaluation cannot be over emphasised in any programme/project implementation. CAAGI adopted a robust monitoring plan for tracking programme implementation

aimed to strengthen the M&E systems of partners on the project. Another key aspect of the monitoring plan of the programme was targeted at improving Knowledge management by systematically documenting learning and lesson sharing by encouraging frequent meetings and learning engagements among all partners.

M&E monitoring assessment and support visits formed an integral part of CA's support to implementing partners to build and strengthened their M&E capacity for effective programming. Within the period of the project implementation, series of monitoring/ assessment visits were conducted to partners and project locations. The objective of the visit was to assess the M&E capacity of partner organisation, provide technical support and strengthen the ability of partners to effectively monitor, document and report program activities, thereby making quality information available for program decision making while monitoring visits to project locations helped CA to collect data for tracking performance.

Driven by effort to improve data management, a database was developed to improve data management of the project; the database contains project information on progress capturing both quantitative and qualitative information on results. This was made assessable to all partners as it is an online tool supported by Google doc for real time access. Partners were trained on how to access and complete the tool from their offices by connecting online.

4.2 Value for Money

As part of Christian Aid policy CAAGI adopted a VFM approach in all its implementation strategies. Activities were vetted to ensure maximum productivity but in terms of efficiency and effectiveness. This was approached under the following aspect of CA's VFM policy:

Economy: Value for money was promoted across the programme through partnerships and leveraging on the capacities and resources of existing networks and structures, made possible through the design of the programme. Partners were encouraged to adapt cost effective strategies in all project activities with a lens on sustainability. Existing platforms were used for meetings and partners' key into existing meetings to share information on the ideals of the project as the need arises. Collaborations with the LGAs and MDAs led to free use of their spaces for meetings and joint monitoring activities with community members.









Efficiency: CA believes delivering the project through indigenous partner organisations will ensure efficiency and foster sustainability of project outcomes. Till end of the project, CAAGI has delivered outputs that at least commensurate with the inputs. A very important factor in this strategy is the relationships the local partners has established with the target communities, though difficult to capture, but it is reflected in the successful implementation of all planned activities across all targeted communities even in the face of violent ethnic clashes.

Effectiveness: CA's approach to quality programming promotes effectiveness, which continuously requires partners to submit Activity Profiles in advance of the implementation of key activities, to ensure that they are planned effectively, are aligned to the project objectives with clear outputs, and value-for-money. An assessment is made by the programmes staff about whether budgeted costs are accurate and whether the methodology helps to ensure that the greatest numbers of people are reached, or that the greatest outcome is achieved at the lowest cost. CA has a rapid grant making process, which has ensured prompt disbursement of funds to all partners and no shortfall in funding for project implementation at any time.

Equity: At the project design phase, CA and its Partners ensured that project activities aligns with the individual needs of target communities rather than a one strategy suits all approach to community issues. This ensured that the project is able to demonstrate an equitable set of solutions that meet specific needs of target groups. Additionally, CAAGI incorporates a strong gender element, with the voice and representation of women and adolescent girls being one of its driving forces. For example, the capacity of 85 mothers was built on how to advocate for their daughters to fathers and other wider community members; they were also trained on AG issues and leadership skills. The project has also positively sought to engage people with disabilities.

Annex

1. List of materials produced during the project implementation period

S/N	Name of Publication	Type of Publication	Year of Publication	Status	PDF Document	Online location
1	End of project evaluation report-documentary	Video Documentary	Jun-18	E-copy available		link
2	Religion and Time of Marriage: <i>The role of faith leaders in advancing the cause of adolescent girls</i>	Research	May-18	Soft & hard versions available		link
3	Improving the Choices and opportunities for adolescent girls: A toolkit for faith leaders	Toolkit- Hausa Language	Jun-17	Soft & hard versions available		link
4	Infographic- English	Summary of project	Feb-17	E-copy available		
5	Infographics- Hausa	Summary of project	Feb-17	E-copy available		
6	Info Sheet	Summary of project	Feb-17	Soft & hard versions available		link
7	Improving the Choices and opportunities for adolescent girls: A toolkit for faith leaders	Toolkit- English Language	Jan-17	Soft & hard versions available		link
8	Religion and the Adolescent girl: A formative study in Kaduna state	Baseline	Jan-17	Soft & hard versions available		link
9	Religion and the Adolescent girl: A formative study in Kaduna state	Baseline summary sheet	Jan-17	Soft & hard versions available		link

2. General information about the CAAGI project

Project name:	Collective Action for Adolescent Girls Initiatives (CAAGI)
Partner(s) name:	Gender Awareness Trust (GAT) and Development and Peace Initiative (DPI)
Project Summary	Collective Action for Adolescent Girls Initiative (CAAGI) is a two-year transformational change project, tackling underlying cultural and perceived religious and structural causes of gender inequality and exclusion of adolescent girls. The project aims to improve significantly the choices and opportunities available for adolescent girls in Northern Nigeria to live productive and meaningful lives. It seeks to change individual and societal behaviours, attitudes and perceptions that hamper the opportunities of girls, using the strong influence of religion through religious leaders as strong influencers to facilitate this change. Another objective is that Faith Actors as key influencers are better informed on Adolescent Girls (AGs) issues of education, early marriage and economic empowerment and are advocating on these AG issues within their communities, congregation and the media. Improved knowledge of men, boys, women and adolescent girls on the 3 AGs issues and changed attitudes around the value of AGs is also sought.
Project Start and End dates:	April 2016 to March 2018
Reporting period covered:	April 2016 – June, 2018
Project location:	Kaduna State, Nigeria Four communities in Chikun Local Government Area (Sabon Gayan, Rido Gbagyi, Kujama and Rido Hausa communities)- Kaduna Central Senatorial District, –; Four communities (Fadan Kamanton, Zonzon, Kamulu Ikulu and Ramai-Daji Zonkwa communities), Zangon Kataf Local Government Area, Kaduna South Senatorial District –, and Four communities (Mayere, Gimi, Makarfi Gari and Nasarawan Doya) in Makarfi Local Government Area – Kaduna North Senatorial District.
Person(s) responsible for project:	Temitope Fashola
Total target beneficiaries for the project:	19,000 (including Faith actors and Adolescent girls, members of faith communities, families of adolescent girls across the targeted (3) LGAs in the state

Where to find us

Plot 802, Ebitu Ukiwe Street,
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Jabi, Abuja

State offices

- Anambra:** No 7/24, House Type B7/03 Udoka Housing Estate, Awka.
- Kaduna:** No 13, Road H, Barnawa GRA, Barnawa.
- Mafa:** No 1 opposite local government secretariats along Dikwa gamboru road, Mafa, Borno State
- Maiduguri:** No 14 Tafawa Balewa Road, Old GRA, Maiduguri, Borno State.

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