

MARCH, 2025

"I BROKE STONES WITH MY BARE HANDS"



MAISANDARI, DAMATURU – 7TH MARCH, 2025 RECOVERED AND HEALTHY, MUHAMMAD ADAMU SITS WITH HIS GUARDIAN, YA KARU REFLECTING THE IMPACT OF LHI'S SUPPORT UNDER THE BHA/SCI PROJECT.

ORPHANED BUT THRIVING

Muhammad Adamu, a 10 month old orphan from Maisandari in Damaturu LGA, Yobe State, was identified by LHI's Case Officer under the LHI/SCI BHA project. After losing his mother at just two months old, he was left in the care of his relative, Ya Karu, who struggled to feed him. **"I did not have the resources to get the child milk,"** she shared.

At the time of identification, Muhammad's MUAC was 10.8 cm classified as severe acute malnutrition. The team acted fast, providing NAN 1 formula and linking him with the Nutrition Team. He later joined the Tom Brown Program for continued care. With steady support, Muhammad's MUAC improved to 12.7 cm, placing him in the green zone. He is now healthy and thriving thanks to early intervention and ongoing care.

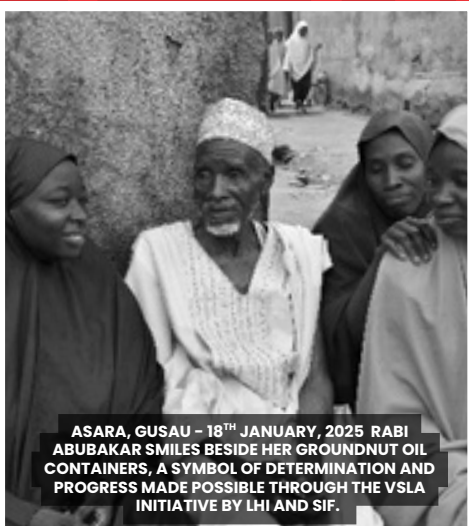
FROM DISPLACEMENT TO STABILITY

Displaced by insurgency in 2014, Binta Garba, a 40-year-old mother of seven from Kasalabata, Biu LGA, Borno State, faced years of hardship. **"I broke stones with my bare hands and braided hair just to survive,"** she recalled.

Through ZOA's 2302 project, implemented in partnership with Life Helpers Initiative (LHI), she received 10 rounds of cash support and a business kit. She began selling soup ingredients and expanded into household items, later buying a grinding machine. With her savings from two VSLA groups, she acquired a cow, goat, and poultry. Today, she feeds her family, pays school fees with ease, and lives in dignity. **"ZOA wiped my tears,"** Binta says. "This is the life I dreamed of."



KASALABATA, BIU – 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025 BINTA GARBA STANDS PROUDLY BY HER GRINDING MACHINE, A SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE AND GROWTH THROUGH ZOA AND LHI'S SUPPORT UNDER THE 2302 PROJECT.



ASARA, GUSAU – 18TH JANUARY, 2025 RABI ABUBAKAR SMILES BESIDE HER GROUNDNUT OIL CONTAINERS, A SYMBOL OF DETERMINATION AND PROGRESS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE VSLA INITIATIVE BY LHI AND SIF.

SMALL SAVINGS, BIG IMPACT

In Asara, Gusau LGA, 30-year-old Rabi Abubakar, a mother of six, faced serious financial hardship. Her husband, a phone technician, earned too little to cover food and school fees. Insecurity in the area had also disrupted farming, worsening their situation.

When Life Helpers Initiative (LHI), in partnership with Secours Islamique France (SIF), introduced the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), Rabi joined despite initial doubts. **"Contributing #300 weekly was hard, but I refused to give up,"** she said.

Rabi later took a loan to start a small groundnut oil business. Today, she earns up to ₦8,000 monthly profit, has savings, and looks forward to the group's share out. **"This project changed my life and that of my sisters. I am glad my father was part of the people that helped in encouraging women to join the group".** she said while thanking LHI and SIF for the opportunity.