

WOFAN

WOMEN FARMERS ADVANCEMENT NETWORK

Newsletter

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Empowering Progress Together



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As we reach the close of another remarkable quarter, I am both humbled and proud to reflect on WOFAN's journey and the profound impact of our work. This year, WOFAN ICON2 has reached new milestones in empowering communities, especially through our focus on dignified work, inclusive agricultural reforms, and sustainable water access. These initiatives have created ripple effects across our project states, uplifting lives and building stronger, more resilient communities.

In this edition, we celebrate the triumphs of those who've transformed their struggles into stories of hope and success with the support of WOFAN's projects. From women farmers who are inspiring a new generation, to PWD groups reclaiming their futures through dignified work, and to our dedicated extension workers fostering growth in agriculture, these stories exemplify the courage, resilience, and potential of the people we serve.

As we continue to celebrate days of unity and purpose—like International Day for Rural Women and World Peace Day—our commitment to inclusion, empowerment, and community-driven change remains at the heart of WOFAN's mission. Together, we are not only growing forward; we are growing stronger, creating a legacy of impact that will resonate for generations.

Thank you for journeying with us, and may this newsletter inspire each of us to contribute to the cause of positive change within our communities.

WHO ARE WE?

Women Farmers Advancement Network (WOFAN) was established in June 1993 and was incorporated with the Kano State Government as a Community Development Association in 1995 with 28 community members. The organization was later registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 2004 as **WOFAN Associates** and **WOFAN Enterprise** to engage in capacity development, consultancy and provision of corporate services and to develop the entrepreneurial skills and economic inclusion of the rural farming and processing communities, respectively.

With its headquarters in Kano, WOFAN partners and works with mobilized, registered multipurpose cooperatives, Community Based Organizations (CBO), community service groups, the private sector, and research institutions and other relevant national and international stakeholders towards achieving a holistic development of the people.

In 2017 WOFAN was upgraded to **"Women Empowerment Foundation"** by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) of Nigeria. The new outfit strengthens WOFAN to effectively collaborate with all arms of governments, the private sector, NGOs, traditional and community structures as well as donor agencies to achieve greater impact in development issues, nationally and regionally by bringing additional complementary strengths and shared responsibilities towards achieving its corporate goals and vision.

WOFAN works with women, men, and youth groups; currently working with 675,000 target beneficiaries across nine states of Kano, Jigawa, Kaduna, Benue, Nassarawa, Plateau, Bauchi, Adamawa, Gombe and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). To ease access and to achieve higher project impact on beneficiaries, WOFAN forms and engages collective and synergistic groups, each comprising 30 homogenous members.

WOFAN Women Processors





OUR VISION

To have a centre for providing quality service delivery and capacity building for various stakeholders, including giving a voice to community-based groups and strengthening participatory learning processes to secure improved livelihoods of deprived communities/populace.

OUR MISSION

To mitigate hunger and poverty among Nigerian and some neighbouring countries' rural women, children and youths through advocacy, information sharing, informal education, trainings/mentoring and access to quality drinking water, household sanitation, household nutrition through the promotion of nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and income generating enterprises.

OUR GOAL

To contribute to the sustainable improvement in the quality of life of rural populace through effective partnerships, sourcing and promoting innovative, demand-driven, and affordable technologies through training of trainers on skills and knowledge sharing at village and community project intervention levels.

OUR APPROACH

WOFAN is participatory and responsive in its approach and works at the community level, with self-selected groups. WOFAN, using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) /Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) exercises, assists rural groups to identify their needs and draw up action plans for intervention.

WHAT WE DO

WOFAN pursues several core activity areas in support of its mission statement, goal, and objectives. These core areas include:

- Training target groups across a wide range of subject matters, including leadership development, advocacy, business management, agriculture, value chain and food processing.
- Facilitation of group formation by smallholder farmers/entrepreneurs and the vulnerable and voiceless to create sustainable socioeconomic networks for strength and support.
- Facilitation of sustainable linkages to markets and financial opportunities for the formed groups.
- Promotion of improved family nutrition and food preservation.
- Promotion of water, energy, and soil conservation.

  Sustainable environment and climate change adaptation.
- Sourcing and promotion of improved agricultural technologies, including ICT and financial inclusion.
- Environmental health awareness and risk management.
- Childcare development and human rights around agricultural and environmental issues.
- Civic education and speak out forum to drive self-realization and self-esteem.

WOFAN Women Processors



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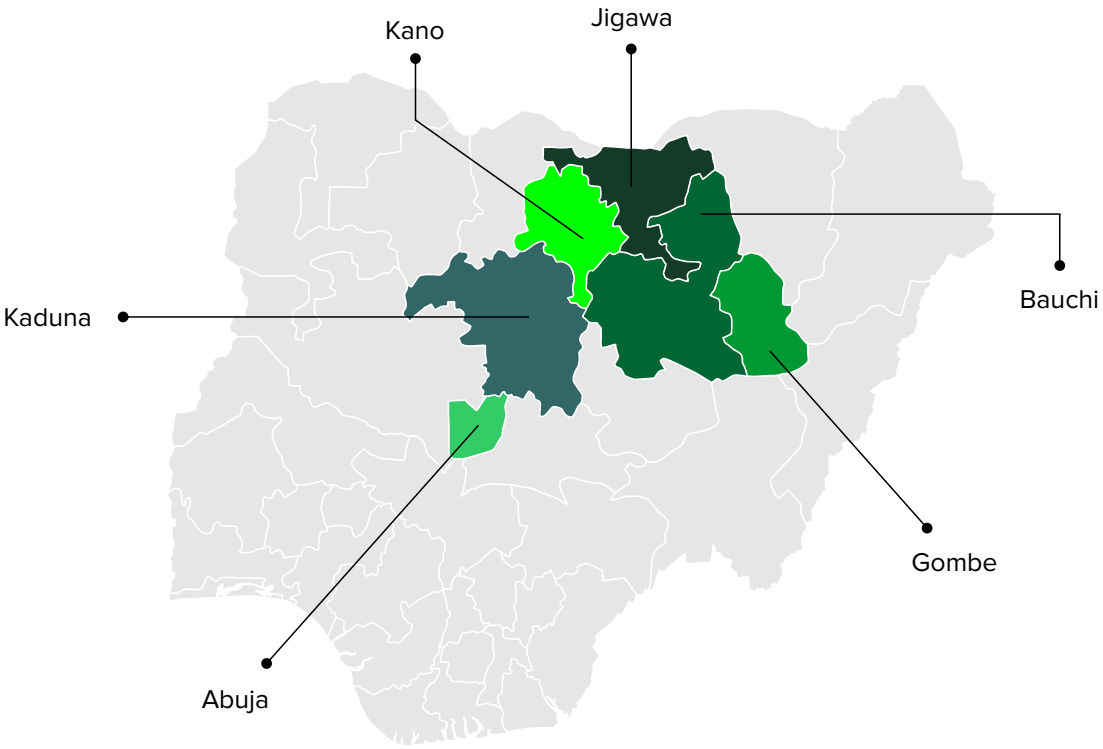
2024 International Youth Day Celebration by WOFAN ICON2



WOFAN Youth in Aujara during the International Youth Day celebration in Jigawa

Thousands of young agricultural produce loaders, transporters, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) across Northern Nigeria celebrated the 2024 International Youth Day, a powerful event showcasing the new avenues for sustainable work created by the WOFAN ICON2 Project. This mini project, designed to empower often-overlooked groups, aims to provide approximately 9,000 youth loaders and transporters and 57,750 young PWDs with decent job opportunities within the agricultural value chain.

In six key regions—Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, Bauchi, Gombe, and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)—300 youth groups formed by loaders and transporters received cargo tricycles, improving both their income and job accessibility.





Tricycle distribution to the WOFAN Loaders Groups

Additionally, 3,850 PWDs were provided with tricycles to enable better access to workspaces under the ICON2 Project.

WOFAN's initiative goes beyond equipment provision. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by loaders, transporters, and PWDs in mainstream agriculture, WOFAN crafted targeted activities to address these gaps. These include the formation of business clusters, training in enterprise management, and the provision of workspaces and tools.



International Youth day: Tricycle Distribution to PWDs and Loaders Groups

Through these efforts, WOFAN has facilitated the formation of 300 business clusters, enhanced youth income with cargo tricycles, and established 385 seed production hubs and workspaces for PWDs engaged in diverse trades, including rice and groundnut processing and phone repairs. This initiative, part of WOFAN ICON2, has supplied over 3,850 tricycles, 385 modified motorbikes, and hundreds of cargo tricycles, empowering youth and PWDs with mobility, vocational skills, and pathways to dignified employment.



Cargo tricycle moving farm produce

Empowering Change Through Dignified Work: A Success Story of WOFAN ICON2 Mini Project Logistics Clusters



Logistics clusters in kano actively involved in transporting from farm to centres

Across communities of intervention, loaders who once toiled tirelessly without recognition are now experiencing a profound transformation.

Thanks to the tricycle carriers distributed on International Youth Day, these individuals are no longer bound by the limitations of inaccessible job opportunities—they are reclaiming their dignity and finding new purpose.

Each journey they make tells a story of struggle turned into triumph, as they build a future grounded in self-worth and economic resilience.

In Kano, our logistics clusters are actively involved in transporting onions from farms to drying centers, enabling families to diversify their incomes and restoring their hopes for a better tomorrow. This opportunity has reignited dreams and provided a platform for sustainable income generation. In Jigawa, the vital work of transporting fertilizers to warehouses and farms ensures farmers receive timely resources, which is critical to supporting their agricultural productivity and community food security. Across Gombe and Bauchi, as goods flow within these communities, so too does a sense of hope, spreading opportunities for empowerment and growth at every turn.



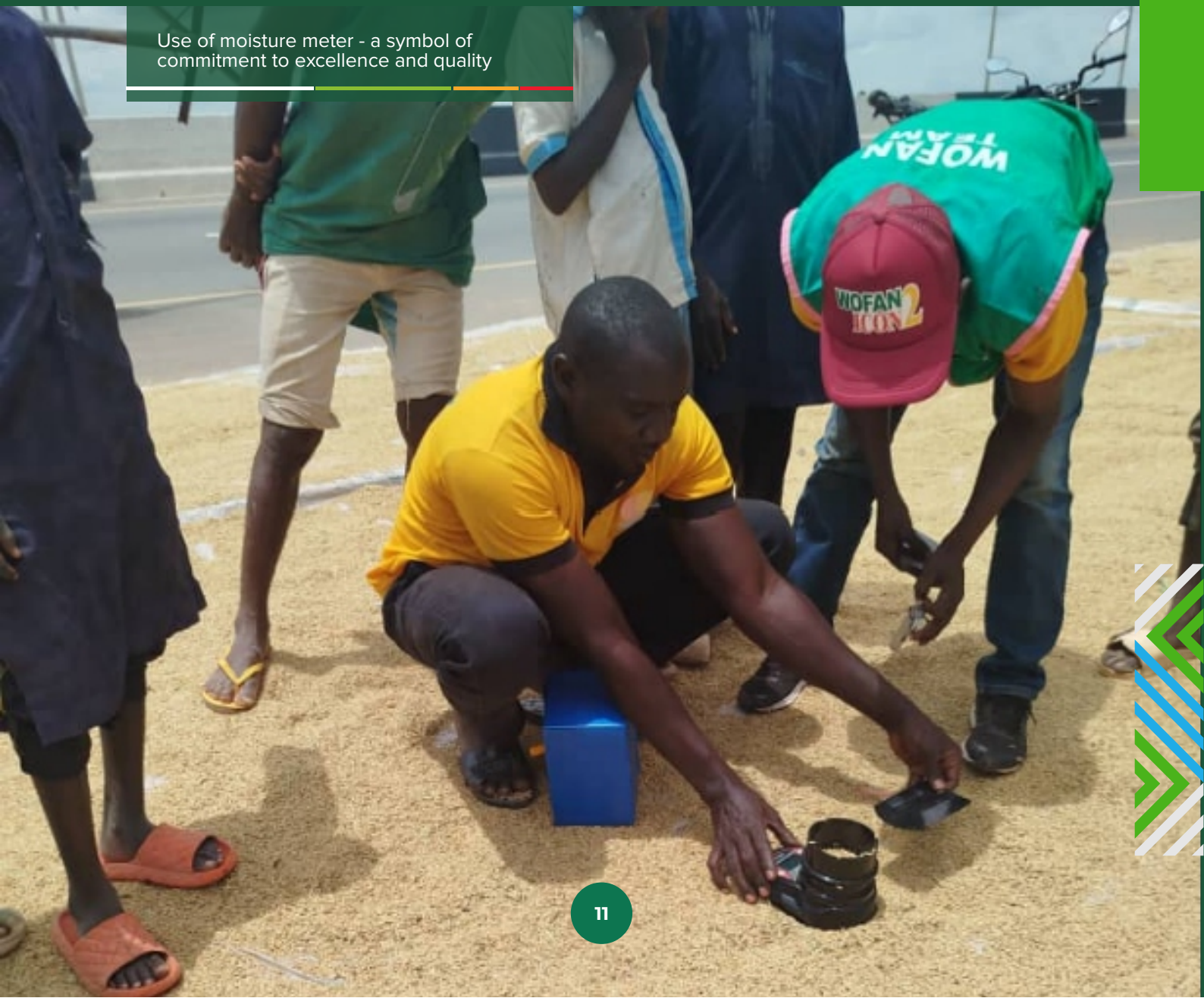
Logistics clusters in kano actively involved in transporting from farm to centres



Logistics clusters in kano actively involved in transporting from farm to centres

What unites these diverse efforts is the use of WOFAN-ICON2 moisture meters. These tools do more than measure moisture—they serve as symbols of our commitment to excellence and quality. By ensuring that each grain meets the highest standards, we attract more companies, aggregators, and off-takers who recognize the unmatched value of our produce, rewarding us with premium prices. This quality assurance benefits the entire value chain, creating a ripple effect that boosts local economies and uplifts community livelihoods.

Driven by the success of WOFAN ICON2, the project's reach has extended beyond initial targets. The logistics clusters have laid the groundwork for enduring change, as community members, including women and youth, embrace this journey toward dignified and fulfilling work. Every tricycle distributed, every load transported, and every grain quality-checked reinforces the collective drive for a brighter, more prosperous future for all.



Use of moisture meter - a symbol of commitment to excellence and quality

The Ripple Effect of WOFAN ICON2's Impact: Inspiring a New Generation of Women Farmers



Women visit to WOFAN seeking inclusion in innovative farming

The remarkable progress of the WOFAN ICON2 project has sparked a transformative ripple effect across communities in Kano and Jigawa states, inspiring a new wave of enthusiasm for agriculture among women. What began as a focused intervention in the Bagauda community of Kano has quickly spread, reaching far beyond its original boundaries and drawing widespread interest from women eager to enhance their livelihoods through innovative farming.

In Kano State's Tudun Wada Dankadai community, WOFAN representatives were honored with a powerful show of solidarity. Over 4,800 young women visited WOFAN's project sites to learn more about the initiatives underway, expressing a keen desire to adopt the modern agricultural techniques introduced by WOFAN ICON2. These young women, inspired by the success they have witnessed in their neighboring communities, are determined to become active participants in this transformative journey, seeking not only to secure their incomes but to uplift their families and communities as well.



2,500 women from surrounding communities journeyed to visit WOFAN's initiatives

In Jigawa's Aujara project area, the impact has been similarly profound. Approximately 2,500 women from surrounding communities journeyed to visit WOFAN's initiatives, fervently advocating for their own inclusion in the project. Their desire to join the ICON2 initiative demonstrates the widespread appeal and trust that WOFAN has cultivated, as well as the urgent need for economic empowerment in these regions. These women are not just spectators but are ready to be part of a new generation of empowered, capable, and self-sufficient farmers.

This growing movement is drawing interest from not only the women themselves but also from traditional leaders, local officials, and other community stakeholders, who recognize the initiative's potential to uplift entire communities. Every week, more leaders and community members reach out, requesting support to join WOFAN ICON2, underscoring the initiative's role in fostering an inclusive, community-led approach to agricultural development.

Through WOFAN ICON2, women are gaining access to knowledge, resources, and sustainable farming practices that were previously out of reach, empowering them to break barriers and realize their potential. The initiative's success has become a beacon of hope, not only for individual farmers but for entire communities, illuminating a path toward financial independence, food security, and a sustainable future led by empowered women.



2,500 women from surrounding communities journeyed to visit WOFAN's initiatives

WOFAN Women's Centres Empowering Communities Through Sustainable Water Access



WOFAN establishes water point to support women centres and community at large

The WOFAN Women's Centres have become an essential lifeline for sustainable water access across numerous communities, transforming lives and fostering resilience. Initially envisioned as a resource for the Women's Centres themselves, the water point established by WOFAN has evolved into a critical communal asset, now extending its reach to over five neighboring communities. This water source has quickly grown into a pillar of support, providing consistent, clean, and safe water at a time when access to government-provided water facilities has been increasingly unreliable.

The importance of the WOFAN water point goes beyond merely fulfilling a basic necessity; it is also reinforcing the value of local, sustainable solutions in addressing longstanding infrastructure challenges. In areas where communities often face recurring water shortages, WOFAN's commitment to creating accessible and sustainable water solutions has given new hope. By alleviating reliance on inconsistent government sources, WOFAN empowers residents with a reliable and locally managed alternative, reducing time spent fetching water from distant locations and enabling them to focus on other essential activities.

This dependable access to water has brought visible social and economic benefits. Families in these communities now have the necessary water supply to grow small gardens, ensuring access to fresh produce and improving local nutrition.



WOFAN establishes water point to support women centres and community at large

For women and young girls who traditionally bear the burden of water collection, the local water source has dramatically reduced the hours spent on this task, freeing up time for education, family care, and economic activities. For small-scale farmers, having access to a nearby, stable water source has provided an unprecedented opportunity to diversify and improve crop yields, directly benefiting household income and food security.



WOFAN ICON2 water project

Moreover, WOFAN's initiative has catalyzed a deeper sense of community ownership and collective responsibility. The water facility has become a shared resource, bringing people together in its management and upkeep. In fact, neighboring communities have formed volunteer groups to oversee the water point's maintenance, showing a level of commitment and solidarity that speaks to WOFAN's broader impact. This cooperative approach not only strengthens community bonds but also provides a model for self-sufficiency and sustainability, laying the groundwork for future locally driven initiatives.

The WOFAN Women's Centres exemplify how targeted infrastructure, when aligned with community needs, can generate broad and lasting benefits. This sustainable water access initiative highlights the power of community-based solutions in addressing infrastructure gaps and creating resilient, empowered communities. As WOFAN continues to expand its initiatives, the water project remains a powerful testament to the role of innovative, locally focused solutions in addressing fundamental needs and building a foundation for lasting progress.

CATALYST OF CHANGE: WOFAN's Commitment to Empowering EWs



WOFAN Empowers extension workers (EWs) with modern motorbikes

WOFAN's dedication to transforming lives shines through in its unwavering support for the hardworking extension workers (EWs) who serve as bridges between farmers and resources. By equipping these EWs with fully registered, modern motorbikes, WOFAN is doing far more than providing transport—it's empowering them to reach even the most remote farms, bringing knowledge, support, and hope to communities in need.

In Kano and Jigawa states, 10 committed extension workers recently received these motorbikes, a symbol of WOFAN's confidence in their ability to inspire meaningful change. For these EWs, each journey to a farm represents an opportunity to connect, teach, and mobilize, creating ripples of positive impact across their regions. These motorbikes enable them to cover more ground, engage with more farmers, and support sustainable agricultural practices, which ultimately benefits entire communities.



Moved by this life-changing gift, the extension workers expressed profound gratitude to both WOFAN and the Mastercard Foundation. Their heartfelt words reflected the deep commitment they feel toward their communities and the renewed motivation they have to drive progress. The motorbikes represent a powerful tool in their mission, and their determination to uplift their fellow citizens has only grown stronger with this invaluable support.

Through these efforts, WOFAN and the Mastercard Foundation are setting a powerful example of how thoughtfully invested resources can empower individuals, catalyzing real change and fostering resilient, self-sustaining communities.



WOFAN Empowers extension workers (EWs) with modern motorbikes

World Peace Day Celebration across project states

World Peace Day, observed annually on September 21st, is a global reminder of the importance of fostering peace, understanding, and harmony among individuals and communities. This year, WOFAN ICON2 commemorated the day across its project states with a vibrant series of activities aimed at demonstrating how the organization's efforts are creating not just job pathways for youth but a foundation for lasting peace.



WOFAN observes World Peace day accross projects state

Through the WOFAN ICON2 Project, young people across Northern Nigeria have found meaningful employment opportunities, reducing unemployment and creating stability within their communities. The celebration emphasized that when youth are gainfully and purposefully engaged, social unrest diminishes, and peaceful coexistence becomes achievable. With profitable avenues to build their futures, young people are naturally deterred from negative activities and instead become champions of positive change within their communities.

To commemorate World Peace Day, project states hosted activities such as educational lectures, dramatic presentations on peace, and solidarity walks, all reinforcing the message of unity and inclusion. These events created a platform for youths to learn, express themselves, and share their visions for a peaceful world. The engaging lectures and drama performances highlighted the vital role that each person plays in promoting peace, encouraging participants to embody these values daily.

A significant highlight of the day was the distribution of hand-operated tricycles to persons with disabilities (PWDs) with limited mobility. These tricycles are more than just a means of transportation—they're a gateway to independence and dignity, enabling PWDs to access job opportunities created through WOFAN's programs. By empowering all community members, including those often overlooked, WOFAN is fostering a more inclusive society where everyone has a role in building peace.

Through the celebration of World Peace Day, WOFAN ICON2 not only reaffirmed its commitment to youth empowerment but also reinforced the idea that sustainable peace is achievable when everyone has an opportunity to contribute to society's development. The event underscored how local actions, like providing tools and creating employment pathways, can have a far-reaching impact on fostering peace and stability across communities.



WOFAN observes World Peace day accross projects state

WOFAN SUCCESS STORIES

Reviving Hope: WOFAN Lights the Path to Government Action

The collapse of a critical bridge in Kadawa Community, Garun Mallam LGA, Kano State



In Kadawa Community, Garun Mallam LGA, Kano State, the collapse of a critical bridge over five years ago brought hardship to the lives of over 3,000 local farmers, nearby villages, and schoolchildren. This bridge had been a lifeline, connecting people to farmlands, schools, and essential services. With its destruction, the community found itself cut off, isolated from resources that were vital to their livelihoods. Despite relentless pleas for government intervention, they were met with silence.

Refusing to accept defeat, the people of Kadawa turned to the Women Farmers Advancement Network (WOFAN) for help through their participation in the ICON2 project. Known for its dedication to community support and empowerment, WOFAN recognized the gravity of the situation and immediately deployed a team of engineers to assess the site and explore solutions. Their swift response gave the community a renewed sense of hope and the belief that, despite past disappointments, they were not forgotten.

WOFAN's intervention went beyond mere technical assistance; it was a beacon of hope and a catalyst for action. Images of the WOFAN team assessing the collapsed bridge spread across social media, amplifying the urgency of the situation and capturing widespread attention. The powerful message was clear: WOFAN and Kadawa's residents were united in their determination to restore the community's essential infrastructure.

This public display of WOFAN's commitment acted as a call to action for local government officials, compelling them to take notice. Seeing WOFAN's involvement, the state's legislative team and the executive governor moved swiftly to launch an emergency response. Acknowledging the community's resilience and WOFAN's unyielding support, government resources were mobilized, and building materials were delivered to kickstart the reconstruction of the bridge.



WOFAN Advocacy and Leadership in Kadawa

WOFAN's advocacy and leadership did more than just repair a bridge; it reignited a sense of dignity and agency among Kadawa's residents. This collaboration between WOFAN, the community, and the government serves as a testament to the transformative power of grassroots action and the profound change that can emerge when communities are empowered and supported. Together, they are paving the way for a sustainable future where local voices are heard, and communities can thrive.



The construction of bridge in Kadawa Community, Garun Mallam LGA, Kano State

From Struggle to Prosperity: The Transformation of the Zumunta PWD Group in Dumaji

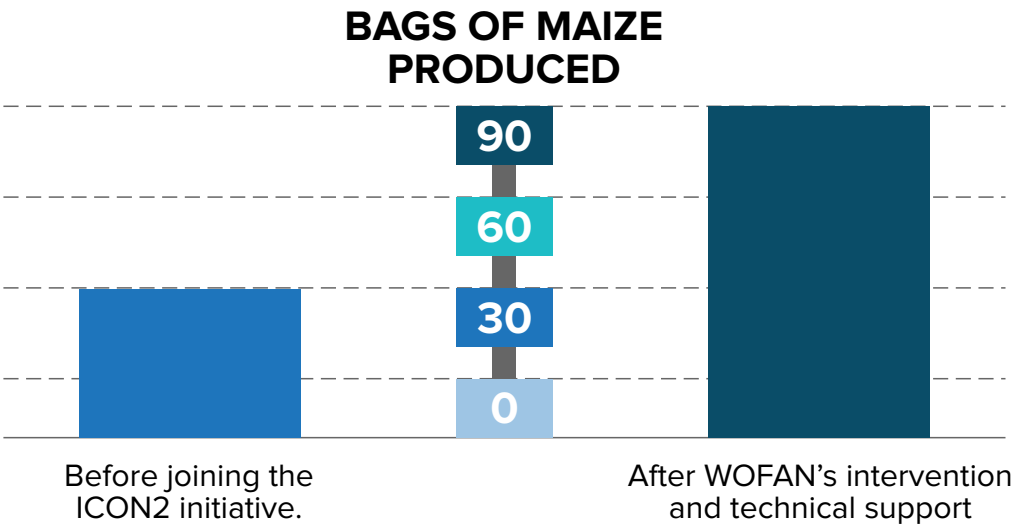


Harvest season arrived soon for the Zumunta group

In Dumaji community, Garun Malam LGA of Kano State, the Zumunta Persons with Disabilities (PWD) group has experienced a remarkable transformation. Once striving to sustain their livelihoods, the group is now a respected and integral part of the local economy, thanks to the support and capacity-building initiatives provided by the WOFAN ICON2 Project. Through the guidance of traditional leaders, the encouragement of community members, and the invaluable resources from WOFAN, the Zumunta group has successfully become one of the key seed producers in the region.

This journey of empowerment began with critical support from the WOFAN ICON2 Project, which provided the group with training and input grants. These resources enabled the group to produce high-quality seeds that were immediately sought after by the community in anticipation of the 2024 dry season and beyond. The transformation has elevated the group's status within the community, showcasing their capability and establishing them as a trusted source of premium seeds.

With the arrival of the 2024 harvest season, the Zumunta group achieved a milestone they had never imagined. Previously, they had managed to produce only 30 bags of maize from a single hectare before joining the ICON2 initiative. However, with WOFAN's interventions and technical support, they saw an astonishing increase in yield, producing 90 bags from the same area. This remarkable success was celebrated during the 2024 ICON2 Brown Field Day, where the group processed their harvest using a threshing machine provided by the project.





The Zumunta group and PWDs now contributing significantly to the community's economic landscape

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The Zumunta group and PWDs now contributing significantly to the communty's economic landscape

The quality of the maize produced by the Zumunta group was exceptional—free from aflatoxin contamination. This distinction allowed them to sell their harvest at a premium price, generating an impressive income of 4.8 million Naira. This substantial revenue has not only transformed the group's economic standing but has also become a source of pride and inspiration for the entire community. For the first time, the Zumunta PWD group members are seeing tangible returns on their hard work and resilience, reinforcing their dedication to farming and community-building.

With renewed confidence and resources, the group has already secured two hectares of farmland, setting their sights on an even larger harvest for the 2025 dry season. The Zumunta PWD group's story is a testament to the power of inclusive support and sustainable agriculture to drive prosperity and change lives. They are no longer just farmers; they are now agents of economic empowerment and symbols of hope for the Dumaji community.



The Zumunta group and PWDs now contributing significantly to the community's economic landscape

FROM STREET BEGGING TO DIGNIFIED AND FULFILLING WORK: How 150 PWDs Reclaimed their Future with Dignity in Ikara

In the serene yet determined community of Ikara in Kaduna State, a story of resilience and transformation is unfolding. For 150 Persons with Disabilities (PWD), divided into five groups, the streets of begging have been replaced with the fertile soils of progress. Once marginalized and overlooked, these individuals are now at the heart of a community-driven initiative that has not only uplifted them but also inspired everyone around them.

The turning point came when the traditional leader of Ikara donated five hectares of land to the PWD groups under the WOFAN ICON2 Project. This gesture, a symbol of inclusion and hope, laid the foundation for a new beginning. With unwavering enthusiasm, the groups embraced maize seed production, pouring their energy and determination into their newfound work. This shift from dependency to independence became not just a livelihood but a source of dignity.

Habiba Ibrahim, one of the PWD members, emotionally shared her experience with a WOFAN extension worker:

> **This intervention has given us value. Instead of begging, we now have a farm—our farm—and it is a sign of hope.**
>
> **- Habiba Ibrahim**



PWDs moved from begging to now owning their own farm



PWDs moved from begging to now owning their own farm

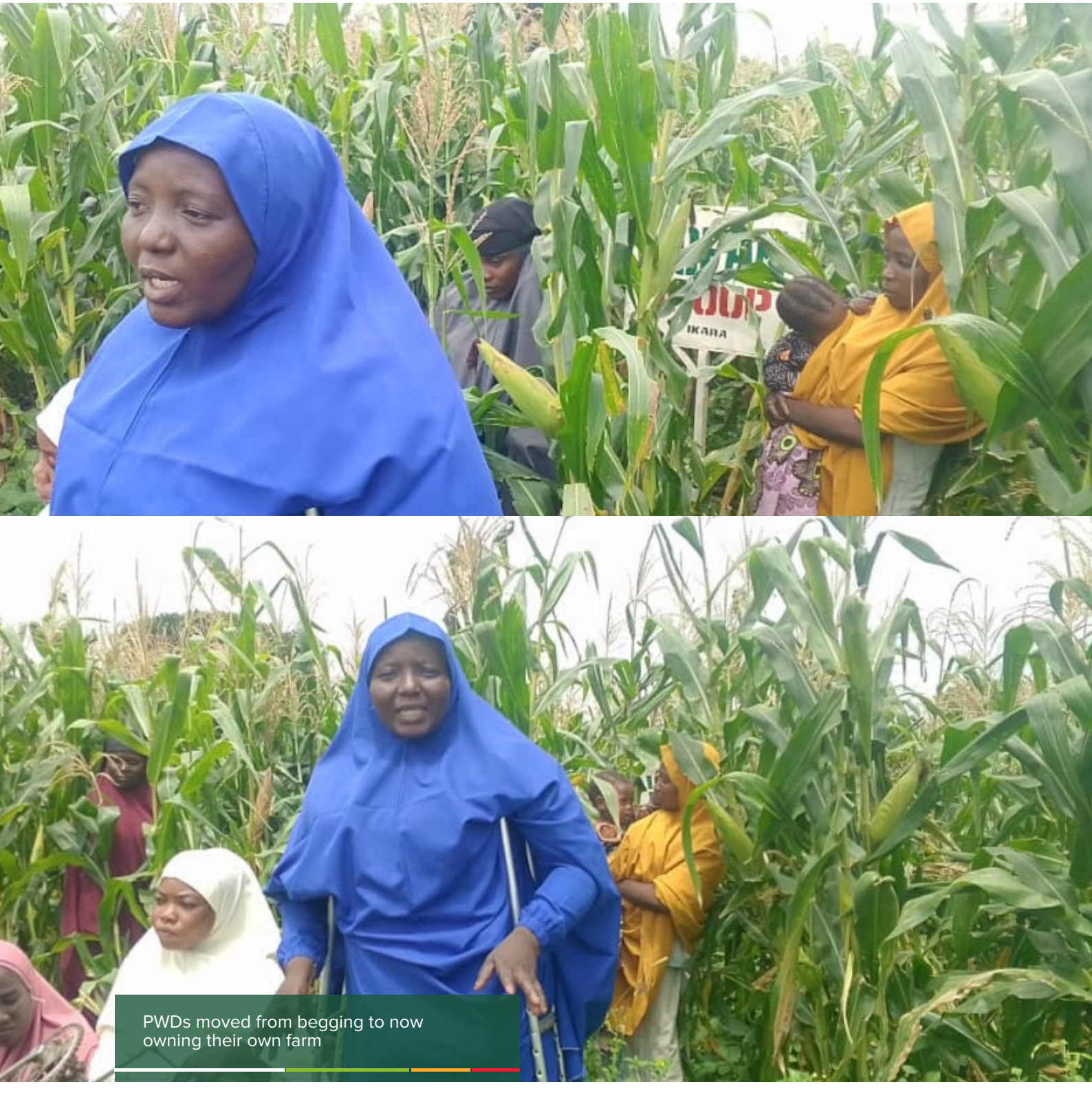
Her words encapsulate the profound transformation taking place in Ikara, where self-worth and purpose have replaced the despair of the past.

The journey has also brought families closer together. Spouses and children of the PWD group members have rallied to support the initiative, participating in key farm activities and sharing in the collective optimism. Guided by the expertise of WOFAN's extension workers and facilitators, the groups have adopted Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) to ensure the success of their efforts.

As the harvest season approaches, the energy in Ikara is palpable. The farm, nurtured by the collective hands of the PWD groups, their families, and supporters, stands as a testament to what determination and community support can achieve. The fields are lush and promising, a reflection of the hard work and commitment poured into them.

The anticipated bountiful harvest is more than just a measure of agricultural success; it is a promise of economic empowerment and a source of immense pride for the PWD groups and the entire Ikara community. This transformation demonstrates how inclusion, opportunity, and determination can create pathways from hardship to hope, from marginalization to respect, and from despair to fulfillment.

The Ikara PWD groups' story is a powerful reminder that with the right support and opportunities, anyone can reclaim their future with dignity and purpose.



PWDs moved from begging to now owning their own farm

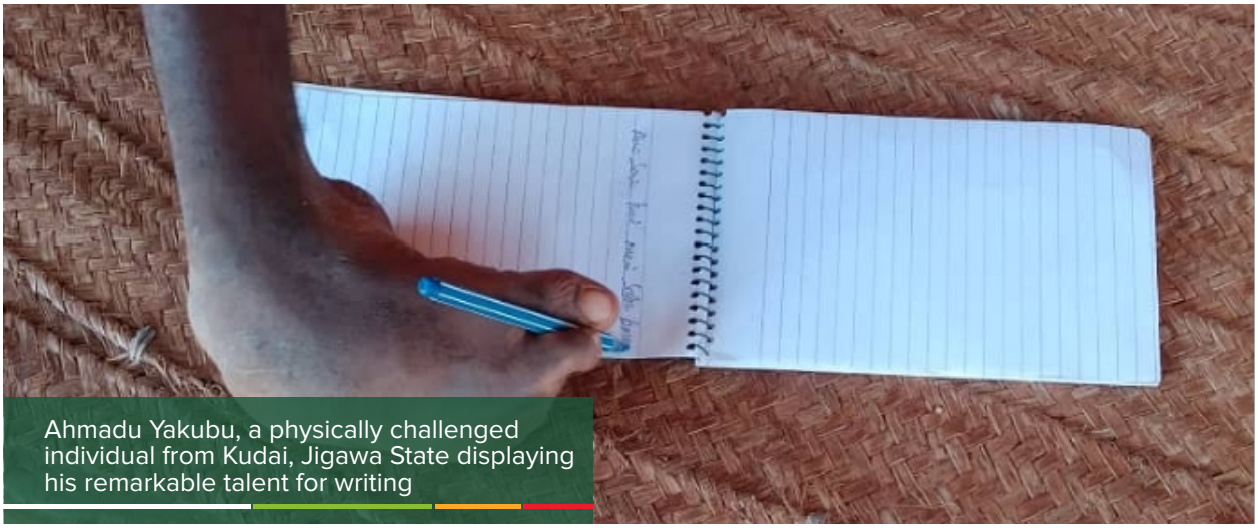
FROM INDIVIDUAL STRUGGLES TO COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT: The Journey of Ahmadu Yakubu



Ahmadu Yakubu, a physically challenged individual from Kudai, Jigawa State displaying his remarkable talent for writing

Ahmadu Yakubu's story is one of profound resilience and transformation. Born with physical disabilities that affected his hands and legs, the talented and determined individual from Kudai, Jigawa State, overcame daily challenges that most would find insurmountable.

Despite his ability to write with his toes—a testament to his determination—fetching clean water remained an arduous and almost impossible task for him and many others in his community.



Ahmadu Yakubu, a physically challenged individual from Kudai, Jigawa State displaying his remarkable talent for writing

Kudai faced a broader challenge: access to potable water. The entire community depended on a dilapidated, contaminated well for drinking and other essential uses, endangering their health and overall well-being. Ahmadu's struggles became a symbol of the hardships faced by residents of Kudai, catching the attention of the WOFAN ICON2 Project.

Mobilizing for Change

Recognizing the urgent need for intervention, WOFAN, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, stepped in through its Community Growth Initiative under the ICON2 Project. Their approach was holistic and inclusive, addressing the immediate water crisis while empowering the most vulnerable, including Ahmadu and other persons with disabilities (PWD).

- **Clean Water for All:** A solar-powered borehole was constructed, bringing clean, reliable water access to the entire community and surrounding areas. This innovation not only resolved the pressing water issues but also brought immense relief to the daily struggles of the people, including Ahmadu.

- **Empowering Women and PWD Groups:** WOFAN mobilized and organized groups within Kudai, including five women's processing groups, PWD groups, and loaders and transporters groups. Training on leadership skills, group dynamics, and income generation activities was provided, creating a structured and cohesive framework for collective progress.



Community Open Well

Building Infrastructure for Empowerment

The transformative impact of the WOFAN ICON2 Project extended beyond water access. The initiative introduced a solar-powered women's center, equipped with state-of-the-art food processing facilities. This center significantly enhanced productivity and the quality of food produced by the women's groups, turning them into efficient processors and entrepreneurs.

For individuals like Ahmadu, the women's center offered new opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. The center included solar-powered shops where PWDs and others could run small businesses such as phone charging stations and barbershops. These stations, equipped with 80 charging points, now generate daily savings of ₦4,000 to ₦5,000 for the PWD groups, charging ₦100 per phone.



Solar-powered borehole, which now provides clean water to the residents of Kudai and environs.

New Customers

The loaders and transporters group and the PWD groups also benefited from the provision of logistics tricycles. These vehicles have become a valuable source of additional income generation, enabling group members to provide transport and delivery services for goods within and beyond the community.



PWD loaders and transporters group receives Tricycles for additional income generation

A Day of Celebration

The commissioning of the solar-powered borehole and women's center on World Peace Day symbolized a turning point for Kudai. The event not only marked the beginning of a new era of clean water access and sustainable livelihoods but also highlighted the transformative power of community-driven initiatives.



Launch of Solar-powered borehole, which now provides clean water to the residents of Kudai and environs.

From Survival to Prosperity

For Ahmadu Yakubu and the people of Kudai, the intervention by WOFAN and the Mastercard Foundation has been nothing short of life-changing. From relying on unclean water and facing the hardships of marginalization, the community now thrives with access to clean water, structured economic opportunities, and a sense of pride in their achievements.

This journey from struggle to empowerment underscores the importance of inclusive and sustainable development, proving that with the right support, every community can rise above its challenges and achieve prosperity.



Solar-powered borehole, which now provides clean water to the residents of Kudai and environs.

A Partnership for Progress: WOFAN and JONAPWD Championing Inclusion

WOFAN, in collaboration with the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), has embarked on a transformative partnership to champion the inclusion and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in Kano State. This collaboration represents a monumental step in breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for individuals like Aliyu, a young man with physical disabilities, and his family.

Through this initiative, WOFAN and JONAPWD are ensuring that PWD are not just seen but heard, valued, and supported in meaningful ways.



WOFAN and JONAPWD took significant steps to support PWD in Kano State

The partnership focuses on equipping PWD with critical skills, particularly in Information and Communication Technology (ICT). These trainings are designed to broaden their horizons, foster independence, and position them for active participation in the digital economy.

Aliyu Habibu, one of the target young PWD in Kano State, is a testament to the life-changing impact of this partnership. Born into a challenging environment that limited his mobility and opportunities, he now stands at the threshold of a brighter future, thanks to the intervention. With access to ICT training, he and others like him are gaining the tools needed to pursue education, explore entrepreneurial ventures, and access employment opportunities that were previously out of reach.

This collaboration goes beyond skill acquisition. It is about shifting societal narratives and creating an environment where inclusion is the norm. WOFAN and JONAPWD are working hand in hand to address systemic challenges and provide resources that empower PWD to contribute actively to their communities and the economy.

Families of PWD, like Aliyu's, are also experiencing a ripple effect from the partnership. By providing skills and opportunities to PWD, the burden on caregivers is eased, fostering a sense of collective progress and shared success. Community leaders have commended this initiative as a groundbreaking model for inclusive development, calling for its replication across other states.

The WOFAN-JONAPWD partnership is a powerful example of what can be achieved when organizations come together to champion equality and inclusion. It is a blueprint for creating pathways where every individual, regardless of their abilities, has the chance to thrive, lead, and make meaningful contributions to society. This initiative is not just about progress—it is about dignity, empowerment, and the shared belief that everyone deserves a seat at the table.

Empowering Women Through Innovation: Launching Y2 Women's Makeshift Centers Across Project States

In a groundbreaking stride toward empowering women and fostering community development, WOFAN, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, officially launched the Y2 Women's Makeshift Centers across various project states. This milestone represents a critical step in WOFAN's ongoing efforts to create sustainable opportunities for women and strengthen their roles within their communities.

The launch ceremonies, held with great enthusiasm, brought together influential figures, including traditional and community leaders, women's groups, and other stakeholders. Their presence underscored the importance of this initiative, and their speeches were filled with praise for WOFAN's vision and unwavering commitment to driving change at the grassroots level.



WOFAN and its partners officially launched the Y2 women's makeshift centers across project states.



Young agricultural produce loaders, transporters PWDs celebrated the 2024 International Youth Day

The Y2 Women's Makeshift Centers are not just physical structures; they are hubs of opportunity. Each center is equipped with:

- **Modern Food Processing Units:** Allowing women to enhance the efficiency and quality of their production, from processing grains to packaging finished goods.
- **Training and Leadership Spaces:** Providing a venue for capacity-building sessions on entrepreneurship, leadership, and cooperative dynamics.
- **Solar-Powered Shops:** Offering facilities for small businesses, such as phone charging, tailoring, and other services, ensuring sustainable income generation for women entrepreneurs.

During the ceremonies, women and community leaders expressed heartfelt gratitude to WOFAN and the Mastercard Foundation for their transformative intervention.One woman remarked,

> *"This center has given us a chance to dream bigger. We now have the tools and support to not only provide for our families but also contribute meaningfully to our community's growth."*



WOFAN and its partners officially launched the Y2 women's makeshift centers across project states.

Community leaders emphasized the long-term impact of these centers, highlighting their potential to reduce economic disparities and foster a sense of pride and independence among women.

The launch of the Y2 Women's Makeshift Centers signals a new chapter for communities across project states. By empowering women with the resources and platforms they need to thrive, WOFAN and its partners are not only addressing immediate economic needs but also laying the foundation for a future where women can lead and inspire lasting change.

This initiative is a testament to the power of collaboration and the belief that when women are empowered, entire communities rise.



WOFAN and its partners officially launched the Y2 women's makeshift centers across project states.

Enhancing Education and Health through Access to Water

Access to clean water has proven to be a transformative force in Dumaji, thanks to the installation of six water points connected to the main solar-powered borehole by the WOFAN ICON2 Project. Serving over 8,000 community members, this intervention is not only meeting essential water needs but is also driving significant improvements in education and health within the community.

Two weeks after the water points became operational, Dumaji Primary School has witnessed a remarkable increase in school attendance, particularly among young girls. Reports show that attendance among female students has risen by more than 30%, a testament to the profound impact of reducing the burdens associated with fetching water.

Previously, young girls faced the challenge of trekking long distances to fetch water for their households, a task that often kept them away from school or caused them to miss vital lessons. The availability of nearby water points has dramatically changed this narrative. Now, they can access clean water close to home and still make it to school on time, ensuring they can focus on their education without compromise.



Young school girls have access to clean water in Dumaji

The benefits extend beyond the classroom. Access to safe and reliable water sources has improved hygiene practices, reducing the prevalence of waterborne diseases among schoolchildren and their families. The time saved from long treks for water is being redirected towards productive activities, further enhancing the well-being of the community.

The WOFAN ICON2 Project's provision of these water points represents more than infrastructure—it is an investment in the future of Dumaji. By addressing a fundamental need, the initiative is creating opportunities for young girls to thrive in their education, empowering them to envision a brighter future while promoting better health and community resilience. This achievement underscores the power of targeted interventions in transforming lives and unlocking potential in underserved communities.

Empowering Talents: WOFAN's Support for PWD in Bauchi



Vocational training center of the Special School for PWD in Bauchi

WOFAN ICON2, under its transformative Community Growth Initiative, has breathed new life into the vocational training center at the Special School for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) in Bauchi. By providing state-of-the-art vocational equipment, the project is unlocking opportunities and empowering talented youth to harness their potential and achieve independence.

This impactful support ensures that students at the center can pursue training in diverse fields tailored to their interests and aspirations. From tailoring, welding, and carpentry to ICT, farming, and beyond, the range of vocations equips these individuals with practical skills to secure dignified livelihoods.

The upgraded vocational center is more than just a facility—it is a beacon of hope and empowerment. By creating an enabling environment where PWD can thrive, WOFAN ICON2 is not only fostering self-reliance but also challenging societal perceptions about the capabilities of persons with disabilities.



Vocational training center of the Special School for PWD in Bauchi

The students, energized by this intervention, now see a pathway to achieving their dreams. The skills they acquire will not only improve their personal lives but also contribute to the socio-economic growth of their communities. This initiative is a testament to WOFAN's unwavering commitment to inclusion, talent development, and community-driven progress, ensuring that no one is left behind in the journey toward prosperity and empowerment.

International Day for Rural Women and World Food Day Celebrations across 9 project states



2024 International Rural Women's day & International Food Day

The International Day for Rural Women and World Food Day were celebrated with enthusiasm across nine project states, with WOFAN ICON2 community partners spearheading activities that underscored the essential role of women and youth in agriculture, food security, and economic development.

In Jigawa State, the celebration took a monumental step forward with the inauguration of the WOFAN Women Processing Centre in Yakasawa by WOFAN's Director of Strategy, Innovation, and Sustainability, Dr. Maimuna Lawal. The event also saw the distribution of 40 umbrellas to support roadside vendors in Ringim LGA, ensuring they have a protective environment against the sun and rain, enabling them to work with dignity and comfort.

In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Nasarawa States, women proudly displayed an array of products processed in their women's centers, showcasing their skills, resilience, and contributions to local economies. The exhibitions were a testament to the transformative impact of WOFAN's initiatives in empowering rural women through capacity-building and access to resources.

Community leaders across the states highlighted the critical contributions of women and youth as farmers, processors, and logistics service providers in addressing food insecurity and feeding the nation's growing population. They emphasized the need for continued investment in rural women, whose efforts are at the heart of agricultural production and sustainable livelihoods.

These celebrations underscored the collaborative spirit of the WOFAN ICON2 initiative, bringing communities together to honor the indispensable role of rural women and youth in fostering agricultural innovation, economic empowerment, and food security.



2024 International Rural Women's day
& International Food Day

WOFAN ICON2 is Championing Agricultural Reform in Nigeria

WOFAN ICON2 is at the forefront of driving agricultural reform in Nigeria, evidenced by its recent organization of a validation forum for the Draft Agricultural Extension Service Delivery Bill, which has successfully passed its first reading in the National Assembly.

The forum brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including legal practitioners, government officials, NGOs, private organizations, media representatives, and agriculture-driven businesses. This collaborative gathering underscored the shared commitment to advancing agricultural extension services across the country.



WOFAN organized a validation forum for the Draft Agricultural Extension Service ' Delivery Bill



Young agricultural produce loaders, transporters PWDs celebrated the 2024 International Youth Day

Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture, Senator Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi, commended WOFAN and the Mastercard Foundation for their unwavering dedication and pivotal contributions to the reform process. He acknowledged the WOFAN ICON2 project as a key driver in progressing the Agricultural Extension Bill, highlighting its importance in transforming agricultural practices, empowering farmers, and enhancing food security in Nigeria.

This initiative reflects WOFAN's enduring commitment to fostering systemic change, ensuring that farmers have access to the support and resources needed to thrive in an evolving agricultural landscape.



WOFAN organized a validation forum for the Draft Agricultural Extension Service ' Delivery Bill

A Success Story of Y1 Golden Eagles of WOFAN

The Y1 Golden Eagles of WOFAN from Gidan Lado, Kurmin Kogi, Ikara LGA in Kaduna State, are an inspiring testament to community-driven development and the power of collective action. Comprising two men's groups and one women's group, they have leveraged the Y1 inputs distribution program to not only improve their farming yields but also transform their community.

Through shared profits and a vision for the future, these groups have embarked on constructing a much-needed classroom and office block for their children's education. Their progress so far is commendable:

- **Laying the Foundation:** Last year, they successfully completed the foundation, marking the beginning of their transformative journey.
- **Reaching New Heights:** With continued farming success this year, they allocated profits for flooring materials and reached the roofing stage. Their dedication aims to see the roofing and plastering completed by year's end.
- **Furnishing for the Future:** Looking ahead to next year, the groups plan to involve local youth in carpentry and furniture-making. This initiative will provide essential classroom furniture such as chairs, desks, boards, and other learning materials, fostering a thriving educational environment.

The Y1 Golden Eagles exemplify the spirit of empowerment and self-reliance, turning agricultural success into sustainable community impact.

Y1 Golden Eagles of WOFAN from Gidan Lado



Annuri Women's Group Thrives as Mechanization Service Providers, Earning N30,000 per Day and Uplifting Their Community

The Annuri Women's Group from Rimin Gado Local Government Area (LGA) in Kano State has become a beacon of progress and empowerment, inspiring their community through dedication and innovation. Primarily made up of young, married women who once relied on their husbands for financial support amidst tough economic times, these women have united through the WOFAN-ICON 2 Project, transforming their roles from dependents to leaders in farming and mechanized services.

Equipped with extensive training from WOFAN and guided by agricultural extension workers, the Annuri Women's Group achieved a major milestone in the 2024 wet season, harvesting an impressive 7 tons of maize. This accomplishment is largely due to the adoption of sound agronomic practices and mechanized equipment provided by WOFAN, which has not only lightened the physical workload for rural women but also boosted productivity.

The maize-threshing machine they received from WOFAN has revolutionized their harvest process and turned them into valuable service providers in the community. Previously, threshing maize by hand was a laborious task that took up to a week to complete. Now, with the mechanized equipment, the group can process an average of 70 bags of maize per day, either on-farm or off-farm. In addition to handling their own harvests, they now offer threshing services to neighbouring farmers at subsidized rates, generating additional income and fostering stronger community connections.

Upon finishing work on their own farms, they extend these services to others, earning an average of N30,000 daily. This income boost has positioned the group as active players in the agribusiness value chain, and their transformation stands as a testament to the power of empowerment and community cooperation.

Their progress has earned the Annuri Women's Group respect and recognition, with community members viewing them as role models in gender and financial inclusion. The integration of tricycle carriers into their operations has further fostered collaboration between young men and women in the community, creating a harmonious and efficient agribusiness environment.

Through these efforts, the Annuri Women's Group is not only strengthening their own economic resilience but also inspiring other women to explore new opportunities in mechanized farming. Their journey exemplifies the potential of community-driven development, where empowerment and economic growth move hand in hand.



Annuri Women's Group Thrives as Mechanization Service Providers, Earning N30,000 and Uplifting Their Community

WOFAN Empowers 9 Persons with Disabilities for Multiplier Effect in Economic Growth in Ikara LGA



The Women Farmers Advancement Network (WOFAN) has taken a transformative step in empowering nine Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) by providing them with nine modified PWD motorbikes. These motorbikes are not just mobility aids; they are platforms for economic empowerment, enabling Community Partners to engage in various vocations and serve as hubs of innovation in their communities.

The PWDs are actively involved in vocations such as phone charging, selling agrochemicals, and managing solar-powered systems provided by WOFAN. These initiatives are expected to have a ripple effect, as each empowered PWD is equipped with the tools and skills to train at least 10 additional community members.

The Profiles of the 9 Persons with Disabilities for Multiplier Effect in Economic Growth in Ikara LGA

Profile



Abdullahi Ahmed
Ang. Rimi/Jamfalan

- Age: 27 years
- Qualification: Higher National Diploma
- Skills: Tailoring & Teaching
- Types of disability: Leg impairment

Profile



Magaji Yaro
Ikara Town

- Age: 34 years
- Qualification: Primary Certificate
- Skills: Welding & fabrication
- Types of disability: Leg impairment

Profile



Wasila Yahaya
Ang. Rimi/Jamfalan

- Age: 28 years
- Qualification: SSCE
- Skills: Plaiting (Kitso)
- Types of disability: Leg impairment

Profile



Yahaya Ismael
Ang. Rimi/Jamfalan

- Age: 29 years
- Qualification: SSCE
- Skills: Agro-chemicals
- Types of disability: Leg impairment

Profile



Mohammed Ibrahim
Ang. Rimi/Jamfalan

- Age: 34 years
- Qualification: SSCE
- Skills: Tailoring
- Types of disability: Leg impairment

Profile



Dalhatu Abdulhamid
Ang. Rimi/Jamfalan

- Age: 25 years
- Qualification: SSCE
- Skills: Phone charging
- Types of disability: Leg impairment

Profile



Habiba Ibrahim
Ang. Rimi/Jamfalan

- Age: 30 years
- Qualification: NCE
- Skills: Teaching
- Types of disability: Leg impairment

Profile



Mohammed Sani
Ikara Town

- Age: 24 years
- Qualification: SSCE
- Skills: Phone repairs
- Types of disability: Leg impairment

Profile



Victoria Ishaya
Ang. Shawai/Jamfalan

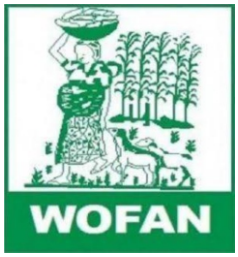
- Age: 25 years
- Qualification: National Diploma
- Skills: Health Practitioner
- Types of disability: Leg impairment



The solar-powered systems, in particular, have been designed as a sustainable solution, ensuring uninterrupted service delivery and offering a learning opportunity for 10 more others. By transferring knowledge and skills to more individuals, the initiative fosters entrepreneurship, broadens community access to essential services, and creates new streams of income for marginalized groups.

This approach aligns with WOFAN's commitment to driving inclusive economic growth by focusing on the multiplier effect. Through these efforts, not only are the lives of the PWDs transformed, but entire communities stand to benefit from enhanced services, improved livelihoods, and shared prosperity.





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