

LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME

STORIES OF IMPACT

KADUNA STATE



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Ene Obi
Country Director
ActionAid Nigeria.



INTRODUCTION

The Local Rights Programme (LRP) has been a driving force in empowering the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities, endowing them with essential skills and capacities to demand their rights and engage with political and institutional power structures.

In 2003, the programme was initiated after a comprehensive baseline survey revealed an urgent need to address the challenges associated with poverty in eight communities. Uniquely designed to unleash the potential of community members, the LRP has enabled them to play pivotal roles in decision-making processes that affect their lives and collective well-being. Through continuous capacity building, LRP empowers community members to confront prevailing challenges head-on, transforming them from mere onlookers to active responders in developing their communities.

The 2006 baseline survey exposed the stark power inequality between men and women in many communities, highlighting the need to elevate the role of women in decision-making processes. Additionally, the survey identified challenges related to the lack of basic amenities and infrastructure, including schools, healthcare centres, governance systems, security architecture, youth empowerment, and agricultural support.

ActionAid Nigeria, in partnership with the Hope for the Village Child Foundation and YOTASCID have been instrumental in executing the capacity building and human rights interventions in the project communities. Participants from these communities were trained in various sectors such as governance, education, human security, and women's rights while equipping them to advocate for community services and developmental needs.

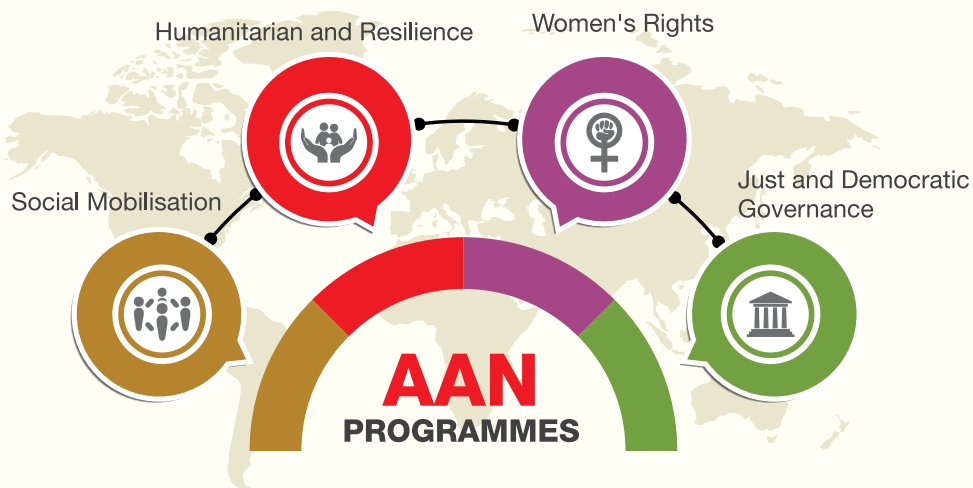
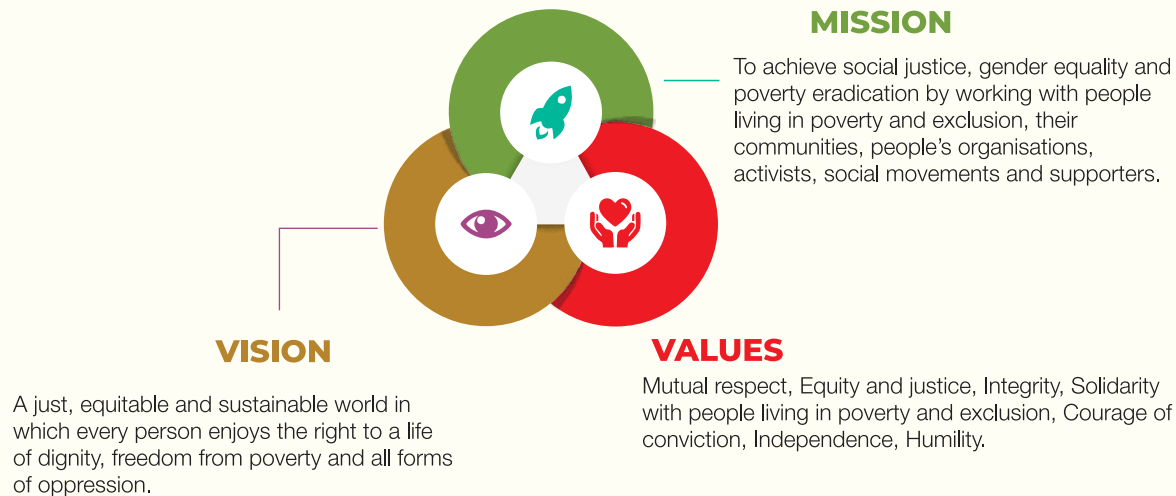
Furthermore, ActionAid Nigeria took concrete actions by building priority infrastructure in these communities, including schools, primary healthcare centres, and livelihood empowerment schemes for women and youths. These efforts were aimed at modeling and providing gender-responsive services and promoting the rights of women and children.

The Local Rights Programme has undoubtedly brought about transformative impacts in the lives of countless individuals. Through strategic partnerships with various government agencies at both state and local levels. The LRP has been instrumental in paving the way for lasting change and promoting social justice in Kaduna State.

Suwaiba Muhammad Dankabo
Director of Programmes
ActionAid Nigeria



OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

In the early 2000s, Kaduna and Nassarawa States became the trailblazers, the first beneficiaries of the transformative Partnership Against Poverty (PAP) now called Local Rights Programme, an initiative of ActionAid Nigeria (AAN). Specifically, the Kaduna State PAP chapter was established in 2003, marking the beginning of a remarkable journey towards positive change.

Within the state, the PAP Programme was driven by two dedicated partners: Youth Team in Action Supporting Community Initiated Development (YOTASCID) and Hope for the Village Child Foundation (HFVC). Of the two, YOTASCID emerged as the leading force, wholeheartedly committed to empowering the community and sparking progress. HFVC equally passionate, joined the cause later in 2006, doubling the impact of the LRP Programme and subsequently solely leading the newly introduced local rights programme in Kaduna State.

The operational zone of the LRP Programme in Kaduna State was more concentrated in Southern Kaduna, an area burdened by dire socio-economic indicators. The absence of basic social amenities, such as access to clean water, adequate health facilities, and well-developed road networks, weighed heavily on the communities' shoulders.

One of the most pressing issues faced by the region was the persistent denial of education to the girl child, stifling their potential and dreams. Child labor loomed large, casting a shadow over the innocence of childhood. Teenage pregnancies were prevalent, exacerbating the challenges faced by young girls. The high incidence of HIV/AIDS posed a grave threat to the community's well-being, leaving behind a trail of orphans. Drug abuse, driven by desperation and lack of opportunities, haunted the youth, robbing them of their future. Wife inheritance perpetuated an unjust cycle, denying women their rights and autonomy. Lastly, food insecurity casted a cloud of uncertainty over daily life, making the pursuit of progress seem almost unattainable.

Amidst these daunting challenges, the PAP Programme aimed to create a tide of transformation. Through advocacy, empowerment, and community-driven initiatives, YOTASCID and HFTVCF endeavored to lift Southern Kaduna out of despair and into prosperity. The unwavering commitment of these partners, the resilience of the communities and collaboration with all tiers of the Government would prove instrumental in overcoming the obstacles that plagued them.

Thus, Kaduna State's journey with the LRP Programme began achieving a lot of successes before it's transition to the Local Rights Programme.

The resounding impact of the Local Rights Programme in Kaduna State is evident across all 23 communities where the programme was implemented. This transformative initiative has led to a notable shift in the behaviour of individuals, communities, and government institutions. Particularly, the programme has empowered women, who were previously denied opportunities to participate in community governance and politics, resulting in a more balanced distribution of power.

The effectiveness of the LRP largely depends on addressing the specific priority needs of each community. Engaging the communities in decision-making processes has been crucial, allowing them to determine their most pressing needs. Dilapidated or non-existent school buildings and healthcare centres were among the primary concerns in several communities. Consequently, some communities like Rafin Kwarya, Kaso, Pambawa, Rafin Kara, and Kurmin Sata communities benefited from the construction of gender-sensitive toilets, while Rafin Kara and Kurmin Sata enjoyed the construction of blocks of classrooms, resulting in increased school enrollment and retention rates. Additionally, the Panzato community witnessed the construction of a Primary Healthcare Centre, greatly improving healthcare access, particularly for women and children, and empowering women to advocate for child spacing and birth control.

One of the programme's remarkable achievements in Kaduna State is the significant reduction of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the Rafin Kara community. Through intensive training, sensitisation campaigns, and advocacy for women's rights, the LRP achieved notable success in challenging harmful cultural practices in Kaduna State.

Kehinde Arowosegbe

Manager, Partnership & Local Rights Programme



EMPOWERING AND CELEBRATING WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN PAMBAWA COMMUNITY

The significance of women's role in community development cannot be overstated. Yet, in Pambawa community of Igabi Local Government Area in Kaduna State, women were facing systemic marginalisation, with their voices ignored and their rights denied. This unfortunate reality was further exacerbated by gender-based violence and oppressive norms that stifled their potential.

In Pambawa community, the intervention of Hope for the Village Child Foundation in collaboration with ActionAid Nigeria (HFVCF/AAN) brought a beacon of hope, further strengthened by the active engagement of the community and village council in promoting women's inclusion and participation. This collective effort has become instrumental in driving positive change and fostering sustainable development. United in their mission to rectify the injustices faced by women, the community and village council recognised the urgent need to protect women's rights and empower them, leading to transformative initiatives that have uplifted the lives of women in Pambawa.

In a groundbreaking moment, Bayi Yonana, a remarkable 54-year-old woman from Pambawa, was bestowed with the traditional title of "Magajiyar Pambawa" (Women Chief) to represent the interests of women in her community, thanks to the intervention of HFVCF/AAN. Bayi's new role marked a significant shift in the power dynamics of Pambawa, giving voice to

women who were once silenced and ensuring their rights were protected. As a mother of 12, Bayi embodied strength, resilience, and determination, inspiring not only the women of Pambawa but also her own daughters to demand their rights and challenge prevailing gender norms. She said "Since I was conferred with this title, women's rights are protected. Anything they do in this town; they must get me involved. I am always there to safeguard the interests of women and girls."

Bayi's appointment as the women chief was not symbolic but a result of the trust and belief of her peers in Pambawa community. Her leadership became an inspiration, fostering a cultural shift towards gender equity and women's empowerment. With the collective efforts of HFVCF/AAN, women's perspectives were valued, and they began to actively participate in decision-making processes.

The transformation in Pambawa community serves as a testament to the power of advocacy and support in uplifting women's rights and advancing gender equality. Bayi expressed deep gratitude to HFVCF/AAN for their unwavering support and for giving her the privilege to serve a noble cause. This success story serves as a powerful reminder of the potential for positive change when communities come together to champion the rights of women and create a more inclusive society for all.





THE WINDS OF CHANGE: Eradicating Female Genital Mutilation in Rafin Kara

Meet Liyatu Bawa, a forty-year-old mother of six from Rafin Kara in Igabi LGA, Kaduna State. She bravely shares the harrowing journey her community once endured, where Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was once considered a fashionable trend. However, thanks to the massive awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts by HVCF/AAN, a powerful wind of enlightenment blew across Rafin Kara, transforming their perspectives and leading them to abandon this harmful practice. Liyatu Bawa reflects on the profound impact this newfound knowledge has had on her community, shedding light on the transformative journey they have undertaken.

Liyatu Bawa openly acknowledges the past ignorance that perpetuated the practice of FGM in Rafin Kara. Unaware of the devastating effects of female circumcision, the community unknowingly subjected their female offspring to this harmful act. However, with the arrival of enlightenment, driven by the relentless efforts of HVCF/AAN, the people of Rafin Kara underwent a profound shift in understanding. Liyatu Bawa affirms their transformation,

stating, "We were doing FGM out of ignorance, and since we became enlightened, we stopped because it affects the reproductive health of women. Over the past seven years, extensive awareness and advocacy campaigns have successfully eradicated the practice of FGM in the Rafin Kara community. The winds of enlightenment have blown away the shadows of ignorance, empowering the community to protect the rights and well-being of their daughters. As a mother of 3 girls, I am relieved at being freed from the burden of perpetuating this harmful tradition."

The Wind of Enlightenment has not only liberated the community from the chains of ignorance but has also safeguarded the health and future of their girls. With FGM now put behind them, Rafin Kara can embrace a new era of empowerment and progress, where the well-being and dignity of their daughters are upheld. Thanks to the tireless efforts of HVCF/AAN and the determination of people like Liyatu Bawa, positive change has swept through Rafin Kara, creating a brighter and more enlightened future for all.



From Reserved to **EXPRESSIVE AND SELF-SUFFICIENT**

The women of Pambawa were once burdened by their reserved nature, finding social interaction to be a daunting challenge. 'In the past, we could not express ourselves openly, but now we can,' says Madina Joshua, a member of the cooperative group in Pambawa. With the transformative partnership between Hope for the Village Child Foundation (HVCF) and ActionAid Nigeria (AAN), the women of Pambawa underwent a remarkable transformation. Through comprehensive training on hygiene practices and social skills, they have not only improved their ability to communicate but also fostered a sense of empowerment within themselves.

The establishment of the cooperative group, facilitated by HVCF/AAN, played a pivotal role in this positive change. The cooperative empowered the women to overcome economic challenges and take charge of their livelihoods. Madina Joshua, a proud member of the group, expresses her deep gratitude to HVCF/AAN for the life-changing opportunity. She highlights the cooperative's significance in preserving their farm produce and selling it when market demand and prices are favourable. "During harvests, we pool our farm produce together as an investment. When commodity prices rise, we sell, which helps ease our financial burden during subsequent

farming cycles," she shares. The cooperative's investment has alleviated Madina's economic difficulties, enabling her to contribute to the financial needs of her family.

In addition to economic empowerment, the women of Pambawa also received training on organic backyard farming. This invaluable knowledge has provided them with a convenient source of fresh vegetables, leading to improved nutrition for their households. Madina joyfully exclaims, "I can now step into my backyard to gather vegetables for cooking meals for me and my children. In fact, just yesterday, I planted some vegetables. It has significantly enhanced the quality of our diet."

The impact of HVCF/AAN's intervention extends far beyond economic and nutritional improvements. The newfound social skills and self-expression of the women of Pambawa have empowered them to actively participate in their community and break free from the constraints of their reserved past. They have embraced their voices and actively engage in conversations and decision-making processes. Their journey is a testament to the positive impact that comprehensive empowerment initiatives can have on individuals and communities as a whole.




TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES: The Power of Efficient Partnerships

The collaborative efforts between Hope for the Village Child Foundation (HVCF) and ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) in the Local Rights Programme (LRP) in Kaduna State have borne remarkable fruits. Mr. Sadiq Bako, the Programme Manager for LRP at HVCF, expresses immense satisfaction when discussing the partnership's successes in enhancing the lives of grassroots communities.

"One significant accomplishment of the HVCF/AAN partnership is the notable reduction of Female Genital

Mutilation (FGM) in the Rafin Kara community. Through intensive training, sensitisation campaigns, and advocacy for women's rights, the LRP achieved remarkable success in changing cultural practices". Mr. Bako explains, "We began with training and sensitising community members, especially women, including traditional birth attendants and local nail cutters who perpetrated the act. Now, FGM is rarely discussed or practised, and we can proudly claim an 80% reduction in this aspect."



Furthermore, the partnership's relentless efforts have transformed the position of women in the Pambawa community. Previously undervalued, women now hold a respected position represented by Bayi Yonana, a 48-year-old woman who was bestowed with the traditional title of Mgajiyar Pambawa. Bayi advocates for women's rights within the traditional council of chiefs, not only in Pambawa but also in neighboring communities. Mr. Bako expresses his elation, saying, "Bayi has become a champion for us. Thanks to her, women are now included in decision-making processes in multiple communities. It's truly a huge success, and whenever we visit these communities, we witness Bayi and other women actively engaging in discussions concerning women's issues."

Another noteworthy achievement took place in the Ungwan Mainisara community, where HVCF/AAN provided a rice milling machine to alleviate the burden faced by women who had to travel long distances to process their rice produce. Previously, women had to spend nights away from their families to make a living. Mr. Bako explains, "We provided them with a milling machine because the community has a swampy area for rice cultivation, and the women were involved in rice processing. Previously, they had to travel to Kujama to process and sell their rice, causing family issues due to the long distance. Now, the milling machine enables them to process their rice locally, eliminating the need for extended separations from their families."

Education has also experienced significant advancements in the Rafin Kara community.

HVCF/AAN successfully constructed a three-classroom block, providing a school for the community. Previously, children had to cross the dangerous River Kaduna to attend school in the neighboring community, leading to unfortunate incidents of children being lost during these journeys. Thanks to the partnership's efforts, Rafin Kara now has its own school, and children have transitioned to higher institutions of learning, opening up new opportunities for their future.

In addition to these efforts, the HVCF/AAN partnership has made notable contributions to education in communities such as Ungwan Mainisara, Panzato, and Rafin Kara. The partnership has renovated schools, trained teachers, provided instructional materials, and supplied desks for school children. Furthermore, the capacity of School-Based Management Committees (SBMCs) in these communities has been enhanced, empowering them to advocate for the needs of their schools and fulfill their roles as custodians.

The partnership between Hope for the Village Child Foundation and ActionAid Nigeria in the LRP Kaduna has made a significant and remarkable impact. It has transformed cultural practices, empowered women, improved education infrastructure, and fostered community engagement. The successes achieved by this partnership serve as a testament to the effectiveness of collaborative efforts in creating positive change in communities. Through dedication and efficient partnership, HVCF and AAN continue to inspire brighter and more promising futures for the people of Kaduna.



FROM OPEN DEFECATION To Improved Hygiene and Health

Asibi Ayuba, the Secretary of the Women's cooperative group in Pambawa, vividly recalls the deplorable state they once endured as individuals and as a community. Open defecation plagued their lives, affecting both adults and children. Even when children attended school, they had no alternative but to venture into the bushes to relieve themselves. The consequences were dire, as Asibi describes, "In the past, we faced serious problems. Children would excrete all over the place, attracting flies that contaminated our food and water. Cholera outbreaks were rampant during that time."

Recognising the urgency of this social problem, Hope for the Village Child Foundation and ActionAid Nigeria (HVCF/AAN) launched a transformative initiative to address the issue of open defecation in Pambawa. A key component of their intervention was the installation of Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilets in schools, serving as a model for the entire community.

The impact of these new toilets was profound and far-reaching. Asibi shares the positive transformation that followed, "When they introduced these toilets, everyone began to adopt them, and people now have convenient places to relieve themselves. The outbreak of cholera is no longer a concern." Through the visionary WASH project implemented by HVCF/AAN, the community witnessed a significant reduction in the problem of open defecation.

The benefits of this transformation extend beyond the eradication of open defecation. By improving sanitation practices, the risk of diseases like cholera has diminished, ensuring a healthier community overall. As the community adopted the modeled approach of the WASH project, they demonstrated a collective commitment to the well-being and hygiene of their children, fostering a culture of cleanliness and good health. HVCF/AAN's intervention has not only provided a practical solution to a pressing problem but has also empowered the community to take ownership of their health and well-being.

Asibi Ayuba and the members of the Women's Cooperative group in Pambawa are filled with gratitude for the life-changing impact of the HVCF/AAN partnership.

Yammalo Ayuba, a 15-year-old student of Government Girls Secondary School in Pambawa and Asibi's daughter, expresses her happiness and relief at the changes that have taken place. She no longer has to venture into the bushes to relieve herself; her school now has a nearby toilet to serve her and her friends. Yammalo reflects, "If a defecation system hadn't been implemented, there could have been fatalities." As a Junior Secondary School Student, she is grateful for the improved facilities that have enhanced the safety, health, and dignity of students like her.

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EMPOWERING AFANA COMMUNITY: Bridging the Gap

In the heart of Afana, a small rural community, the prospects of progress seemed distant until the timely intervention of ActionAid Nigeria's Partnership Against Poverty - PAP (now known as Local Rights Programme) This programmes implemented in partnership with YOTASCID breathed life into a once dormant landscape, leading to the emergence of a vibrant secondary school, a symbol of hope and opportunity for the community's children.

The PAP's intervention materialised in the form of two blocks housing eight classrooms each, an administrative block to manage affairs efficiently, a sturdy concrete well to quench the thirst of the school's inhabitants, and modern toilets catering to the needs of both students and teachers. With the school's foundation laid, the community embarked on an advocacy journey that bore a testament to their

collective strength and determination.

Their advocacy efforts resulted in a multitude of achievements, each serving as a stepping stone towards progress:

1. An access road now bridging the gap between Afana and other communities
2. The flicker of electricity brought newfound light to the lives of the community, transforming their nights from darkness to illumination.
3. Through persistent pleas, the government dispatched seven dedicated teachers to the school, their salaries consistently paid to ensure quality education.
4. Encouraged by their achievements, the community rallied together to initiate the construction of a multi-purpose hall, a beacon of unity and shared aspirations.

In 2003, ActionAid Nigeria joined hands with Afana, igniting a spark of transformation. The community's population held onto dreams, yearning for progress and empowerment. They soon witnessed their aspirations manifest into reality.

Investing in the education and economic empowerment of women and girls was pivotal to their growth. YOTASCID, a partner of ActionAid supported 15 women cooperative societies, with a total of 32 dedicated members each. These societies, having obtained legal registration through the state cooperative financing agency, embarked on various economic activities that directly benefitted the women.

From engaging in trade to fostering arrangements like thrift and microfinance, these cooperative societies ushered in a wave of financial empowerment for the women. The economic status of the women underwent a transformation, elevating their livelihoods and bringing prosperity to the community.

With a mission to strengthen the network of women

across eleven communities, sensitisation meetings became the platform for empowerment. As a testament to their dedication, Katsit and Fadiya women's associations, numbering 85, were offered valuable support in the form of ginger seedlings, 10 bags of fertilizers, and 30 basins of beans.

The ripple effects of these empowering initiatives were profound. Today, women occupy positions on the Community Development Committees (CDCs), positions once deemed unattainable. The barriers that once stifled their voices have crumbled, replaced by newfound confidence and the ability to participate actively in their community's administration.

The journey of Afana community is a testament to the transformation that advocacy, empowerment, and education can bring. With women and girls at the forefront, their collective efforts have paved the way for a brighter and more inclusive future for all. As the sun sets on the horizon, Afana stands tall, resilient in the face of challenges, and embracing the winds of change that carry them towards progress and prosperity.





Balkisu Bashir

A PATH TO PROGRESS: The Kurmin Sata Education Evolution

Education used to be a distant dream for the people of Kurmin Sata community, as their children had to embark on a long and arduous journey to the neighboring town of Dokan me Jama'a just to attend school. Murjanatu Bashir, a member of the women's cooperative group in Kurmin Sata, recalls the challenges they faced, saying, "We had to send our children to another town, which we could not afford. Our girls often ended up getting married without ever setting foot in a school."

The situation was even more dire for the people of Kurmin Sata, as cultural norms and financial constraints prevented girls from accessing education. Parents, struggling to afford transportation costs, were left with no choice but to marry off their children without providing them with educational opportunities. Murjanatu emphasises the financial burden, stating, "Two hundred naira for a single child may not seem like much, but for struggling rural people

with multiple children, it was a daunting task."

Hope for the Village Child (HVFC) and ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) recognised the urgent need to bring educational opportunities closer to the people of Kurmin Sata. Thus, constructed a primary school in the community, marking a significant turning point for its residents, particularly the girls.

The establishment of the primary school brought foundational education within reach for the children of Kurmin Sata. Many students who attended the school have successfully transitioned to higher educational institutions, opening doors to a brighter future. Murjanatu Bashir gratefully expresses her appreciation to HVFC and AAN, acknowledging the privilege their children now have to conquer illiteracy. She says, "If we hadn't received the establishment of this school, we would have been living in darkness, without enlightenment."

Ramatu Dauda, the PRO of the women's cooperative group, further highlights the holistic empowerment they have received from HVFC/AAN, including training in areas such as hygiene, farming, and handcraft. However, she emphasises the profound impact of adult literacy education, allowing them to stand tall among their peers. Ramatu shares, "The adult literacy programme has been highly beneficial to us. We can now write our names and attempt reading some words, something we couldn't do before."

The impact of the educational intervention extends beyond the students themselves. Balkisu Bashir, a JSS2 student at GSS Marraba, is a testament to the remarkable transformation brought about by the establishment of the primary school in Kurmin Sata.

Having graduated from the primary school, she has successfully transitioned to secondary school. Balkisu exudes pride in her education, recognising its significance for a girl-child even in her future marital home.

The impact of education in Kurmin Sata is profound and far-reaching. The establishment of the primary school has brought hope, empowerment, and enlightenment to the entire community. The people of Kurmin Sata are grateful to HVCF/AAN for their unwavering commitment to education and their enduring support in nurturing a generation of confident, educated individuals who will shape a brighter future for their community





A PARTNERSHIP For Education


Collaboration is truly invaluable - when two parties join forces in a mutual partnership, goals are achieved with greater speed and the resulting achievements become more solid, complementary, and sustainable. Such a powerful synergy is precisely what we have witnessed between the Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and HVCF/AAN. Their strong partnership has yielded remarkable and positive outcomes in education, specifically with classroom construction, school enrollments, teachers' training, sanitation projects, and the empowerment of School Based Management Committees (SBMCs) in the host communities.

Kabir Lawan, the Director of Social Mobilisation at Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), takes great pride in acknowledging the profound impact of the collaboration between SUBEB and HVCF/AAN. He affirms, "This partnership has facilitated the construction of classrooms in hard-to-reach communities like Pambawa, Gwaraji, Panzarto, Poko, and others. Additionally, it has empowered the School Based Management Committees (SBMCs) with training, enabling them to assume ownership of the schools within their communities." The collaboration

goes beyond physical infrastructure, as it fosters a sense of community ownership and responsibility, leading to positive outcomes.

As a result of this effective collaboration, Lawan further emphasizes, Local Government Areas (LGAs) can now allocate more teaching staff to these intervention schools, thanks to the availability of more classrooms. As a consequence, people have responded to HVCF/AAN's efforts by enrolling their children in these schools.

To ensure the sustainability of these remarkable achievements, SUBEB has included provisions for the regular renovation of constructed infrastructure, teachers' training, and the procurement of instructional materials in its annual budgetary allocations. Kabir Lawan expresses heartfelt gratitude to HVCF/AAN, stating, "I am genuinely thankful to ActionAid and Hope for the Village Child for their invaluable support." The continued collaboration between these organisations not only brings immediate benefits but also lays a strong foundation for continuous growth and development in the education sector of Kaduna State.

A portrait of Dunga Bawa, an elderly man with grey hair and a goatee, wearing a light-colored, button-down shirt. He is sitting in a white plastic chair and looking slightly to the right of the camera with a gentle expression. The background is a bright, out-of-focus outdoor setting with warm, golden light.

Dunga Bawa

A RAY OF HOPE FOR RAFIN KARA: Transforming Lives through Education

For far too long, Rafin Kara, a remote community in Igabi LGA of Kaduna state, has struggled with its isolation, hindering access to education for its children. Dunga Bawa, a devoted member of the School-Based Management Committee (SBMC), vividly remembers the hardships dating back to 1976 when the community lacked a proper school. Determined to break the cycle of illiteracy, they tried to establish a school under two big trees, funded by taxing parents, but their efforts proved futile. Teachers eventually left due to some parents' inability to pay, adding to the community's frustration.

The absence of a school had dire consequences for the children of Rafin Kara, forcing them to resort to hunting in the bushes or swimming in the treacherous River Kaduna, which separated the community from its

neighbors. Dunga Bawa expresses deep concern, stating, "The children either go hunting in the bush or swimming in the river—sometimes, we hear that a child gets drowned."

Thankfully, a ray of hope emerged when two organisations, Hope for the Village Child and ActionAid Nigeria, stepped in to construct a primary school, fulfilling the community's long-standing aspiration. "Over a decade ago, HVCF/AAN established the school with just 50 pupils, and now it proudly enrolls over 175 students. Many children have completed their primary education successfully, with some advancing to secondary schools, and a few even pursuing higher education, like my son Rueben Bawa."

Dunga Bawa wholeheartedly appreciates the support and acknowledges the pivotal role played by ActionAid in transforming their community. "The school's presence not only ended the dangers faced by the children but also opened doors of opportunity that were previously out of reach. If ActionAid had not brought this school, we couldn't have had this opportunity. Our children no longer go missing from hunting and swimming." Dunga Bawa remarks.

As a member of the SBMC, Dunga Bawa emphasises how the training received from HVCF/AAN, particularly in advocacy, has empowered the community to stand up for teachers and secure the school's sustainability. Looking ahead, he shares their plan to utilise the skills acquired from ActionAid, stating, "After the exit of ActionAid, we will put into practice the training we have received to assist ourselves. For instance, we can contribute to fixing broken desks."

Reuben Bawa, a 21-year-old student of Computer Engineering Technology at Nuhu Bammali

Polytechnic, stands as a shining example of the transformative power of education. Attending the primary school constructed by ActionAid in Rafin Kara, Reuben experienced the convenience and accessibility of education within his own community. Previously, he faced challenges attending primary school in Kawo, often arriving late or missing classes due to the distance. Thanks to ActionAid, Reuben's foundational education paved the way for his successful transition to a higher institution of learning, where he now proudly pursues his passion for engineering.

He noted that "Our journey to having a school in Rafin Kara shows the profound positive change that can be achieved when organisations like ActionAid partner with local communities to address educational disparities. By bringing education closer to our doorstep, a ray of hope has ignited a transformational path for the children of Rafin Kara, empowering us to realise our full potential and contribute to the development of the society."





THE RICE MILLING MACHINE: Empowering Women Farmers in Ungwan Mainisara

Ungwan Mainisara, a picturesque countryside located in the Chukun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, is known for its lush landscapes, hardworking women, and fertile swampy lands, particularly suited for rice farming. However, reaching Ungwan Mainisara is not an easy feat, as the roads are lonely and in a deplorable state. Jummai Bawa, a 49-year-old women leader of the cooperative group and a farmer in Ungwan Mainisara, has experienced both hardship and relief due to the challenges of accessing a rice mill.

The people of Ungwan Mainisara community are seasoned rice farmers, benefiting from their location in a swampy terrain. However, after the harvest, the arduous task of accessing a rice processing mill becomes a significant hurdle. The women of Ungwan Mainisara have to undertake a long journey to the neighboring town of Kujama to mill their rice, often

spending nights away from their families. Jummai Bawa shares her experience, saying, "In the past, before the milling machine was provided, we traveled to Kujama to mill our rice, and we often couldn't return the same day due to the distance and long queues."

Recognising the plight of the community, ActionAid, in collaboration with Hope for the Village Child (HVCF), stepped in to alleviate their suffering by providing a rice milling machine. Having the rice mill within their reach not only eased their burden of traveling long distances but also improved their economic situation as they operated the mill as a cooperative. Jummai Bawa expresses her gratitude, saying, "Eventually, HVCF provided us with a milling machine, and we started using it. We began making gains from it and could contribute towards the needs of our children, such as their school expenses."

After benefiting from the mill for many years, rice processing mills have become a common business venture in Ungwan Mainisara, leading to increased competition. In order to sustain their income, the women's cooperative group made a collective decision to sell the mill and use the proceeds as a revolving loan for members of the cooperative. This loan would help ease their farming expenses for the upcoming farming season. Jummai Bawa explains, "When we sold the machine, the proceeds were shared among us as loans, and we used the money to buy fertilizers and cover other farming expenses."

Jummai Bawa, the women's cooperative group leader and farmer, expresses her heartfelt appreciation to HVCF for the years of support they have received. She also acknowledges the series of capacity training they

have undergone in areas such as social skills, hygiene, and children's education. She reflects, "In the past, I couldn't stand to express myself in front of people. If it weren't for the series of training, we wouldn't have been able to develop our social skills and provide education for our children. Now, even my children are attending school, and some have completed their education."

The partnership between ActionAid and Hope for the Village Child Foundation has not only brought tangible benefits to the people of Ungwan Mainisara but has also empowered the women to improve their economic situation, enhance their social skills, and provide education for their children. Together, they are creating lasting change and brighter futures for the community, turning the winds of hardship into a breeze of progress and empowerment.





EMBRACING SUSTAINABLE FARMING

In Kaduna State

Farming, an age-old practice that sustains grassroots communities, has evolved over the years, necessitating a shift towards more sustainable techniques. To address this need and create opportunities for sustainable farming in rural communities, the Local Rights Program (LRP) by Hope for the Village Child Foundation (HVCF) and ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture in Kaduna State.

Abdullahi Ibn Muhammad, Deputy Director of Extension Services at the Kaduna State Agricultural Development Agency (KADA), highlights the transformative impact of the collaboration between HVCF/AAN and the agency in building the capacity of rural farmers in efficient farming skills, as well as child and women nutrition. Ibn Muhammad explains, "We provided support to the communities where HVCF/AAN is working, focusing on training them in farming skills, particularly with an emphasis on homegrown vegetables." He further emphasizes, "Most rural farmers continue to practice agriculture using traditional methods. The training provided by KADA has been instrumental in teaching these communities good agricultural practices, including crop selection, planting techniques, optimal timing, reliable sources for produce and fertilizers, and the formation of efficient farming groups to achieve their desired

outcomes." The series of training by The Farmer Business School and Women in Agriculture programs implemented by KADA have achieved remarkable success in this regard.

Through the partnership, farmers have gained invaluable knowledge and skills, empowering them to transition from traditional farming practices to more sustainable and productive methods. This transition not only enhances agricultural output but also contributes to improved nutrition and food security within the communities. By prioritizing homegrown vegetables, the partnership promotes crop diversification and advocates for a balanced diet, particularly for children and women.

The partnership between HVCF/AAN and the Ministry of Agriculture in Kaduna State has successfully empowered rural communities to embrace sustainable farming practices. Through skills training, knowledge dissemination, and the formation of farming groups, the partnership has laid a solid foundation for a more resilient and prosperous agriculture in local communities. As these sustainable farming practices take root, they will continue to support the livelihoods of generations to come, ensuring a brighter and more sustainable future for all.

A man with a mustache, wearing a bright green polo shirt, stands in front of a building with a red-tiled roof and yellow walls. The man is smiling slightly. The background is slightly blurred.

DETERMINED ADVOCACY:

The Pathway to Change in Panzato

In the heart of the Panzato community, Adamu Bawa, a devoted member of the School-Based Management Committee (SBMC), reflects on the trials they faced before the intervention of HVCF/AAN, which led to a life-changing transformation by bringing clean water to their community. With deep gratitude, Adamu shares, "Honestly, in the past, this community was burdened by immense difficulties, particularly in accessing clean water. Thanks to Hope for the Village Child, we now have four wells that they installed for us."

Prior to the construction of the wells, the Panzato community faced another pressing issue – the absence of a school. Children had to endure long walks to Gwaraji, a neighboring town, to receive an education. This predicament worsened during the rainy season, as a stream separating the two communities rendered it impossible for some children to cross. Reflecting on those challenging times,

Adamu explains, "There was no school in this place. Our children had to go to Gwaraji. During the rainy season, there was a stream between us. Some children, especially the weaker ones, found it difficult to attend school."

Fuelled by their dire circumstances, the community sought help from HVCF/AAN, sharing their plight in the hope of finding a solution. Recognizing the deplorable conditions and the need for accessible education, HVCF/AAN, in collaboration with ActionAid, responded to their plea by constructing a primary school in Panzato. Adamu gratefully recalls, "We presented our plea to Hope for the Village Child, expressing our urgent need for a school. They visited us, witnessed our condition, and made a promise to establish a school. True to their word, in partnership with ActionAid, they built the school and furnished it with chairs." The school began with an enrolment of 250 pupils, including children from nearby settlements.

Adamu also noted that "Eventually, the school was handed over to the government in a ceremony, making it the property of the government. However, the establishment of the school did not immediately resolve all our challenges. The community soon faced the difficulty of finding teachers to educate the pupils. Initially relying on the dedication of two volunteer teachers, we realised the need for more qualified educators. In response to this pressing issue, HVCF/AAN inaugurated and trained members of the SBMC, empowering us through intensive capacity-building sessions to engage in advocacy efforts towards the government for adequate staffing. Through our determined advocacy, and with the unwavering support of HVCF/AAN, we successfully secured additional teachers for their school."

The impact of the school on the children and the community has been tremendous, surpassing their expectations. Adamu joyfully expresses, "The school has flourished beyond our imagination. Some of our

children have even transitioned to secondary schools."

Overflowing with gratitude, he continues, "If not for ActionAid, we wouldn't have this school. As a result of this school, most of our children can now read and write. Without it, most of the children would have been deprived of an education due to the distance. We are profoundly grateful and thankful to ActionAid and HVCF more than words can convey. If there was anything more, we could offer to show our gratitude for all they have done, we would gladly do it."

Adamu's heartfelt appreciation stands as a testament to the transformative power of community support and the immense positive change that can be achieved through collaborative efforts. Panzato community serves as a shining example of resilience, determination, and the indomitable spirit of HVCF/AAN. Together, we have created a brighter future for the children and the entire community, embodying the true essence of hope and transformation.



ACTIONAID NIGERIA in collaboration with HOPE FOR THE VILLAGE CHILD FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME (LRP) LEARNING AND CLOSE OUT MEETING

KADUNA

JULY 2023

SESSION	TIME	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE
Arrival & Registration	10: 00am – 10:15 am	All Invited Guests
National Anthem	10:15am – 10:25am	All
Introduction of Dignitaries & Guests	10:25am – 10:35am	MC: Benjamin George
Welcome Address	10:35am – 10:45am	Board Chair/ HVCF Director
Opening Remarks	10:45am – 11:00am	Ene Obi, Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria (AAN)
Goodwill Messages	11:00am - 11:20am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Excellency, Deputy Governor of Kaduna State. Hajiya Sabuwa Balarabe. • Chairman Chikun Local Government Area • Chairman Igabi Local Government Area • Small and Medium Scale Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDAN) • Ministry of Human Development and Social Services Kaduna State • Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Kaduna State. • Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Kaduna State. • Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB). • Kaduna State Agricultural Development Agency (KADA). • National Directorate of Employment (NDE). • Kaduna State Coordinator CSACEFA
Overview of the Local Rights Programme in Kaduna State	11:20am - 11:30am	Kehinde Arowosegbe Manager, Local Rights Programme, AAN
Drama play/ Cultural dance	11:30am - 11:50am	Awakers Theatre Group
Presentation of Local Rights Programme Documentation	11:50am - 12:15pm	Sr. Rita Schwarzenberger Executive Director,
Experience Sharing Session	12:15pm - 1:00pm	LRP stakeholders
Presentation of Certificates of Recognition and Plaques to LRP partners and communities	1:00pm - 1:40pm	Ene Obi, Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) and stakeholders
Vote of Thanks	1:40pm - 1:50pm	Board Chair, HVCF
Group photos, lunch & closing	1:50pm - 2:00pm	All

LIST OF AWARDEES

Names MDAs	Address
Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)	Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN). Inuwa Abdulkadir Road by PAN DRIVE, Opposite Fintex- Kakuri Industrial Layout Kaduna South, Kaduna state.
Kaduna Agricultural Development Agency (KADA)	Kaduna Agricultural Development Agency (KADA) No1. Aliyu Makama by Gashash Road, Barnawa GRA. Kaduna South, Kaduna
Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB)	Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) No. 79, Tafawa Balewa Way, Kaduna
National Directorate of Employment (NDE)	National Directorate of Employment (NDE) No. 5A Yakubu Gowon Way, Kaduna State Office
Names Of LRP Communities	
Pambawa	Pambawa community, Gwaraji District, Igabi LGA.
Poko	Poko Community, Gwaraji District, Igabi LGA
Panzato	Panzato community, Gwaraji District, Igabi LGA
Rafin Kara	Rafin Kara Community, Gwaraji District, Igabi LGA
Anguwan Mainisara	Anguwan Mainisara community, Kujama District, Chikun LGA
Kurmin Sata	Kurmin Sata community, Kujama District, Chikun LGA
Kaso	Kaso Community, Kujama District, Chikun LGA
Rafin Kwarya	Rafin Kwarya community, Kujama District, Chikun LGA

PROGRAMME IMPACT

These are the impactful outcomes achieved through the implementation of the Local Rights Programme (formerly PAP) by YOTASCID during our partnership, aligned with our priority objectives at the time.

Objective 1: Empowering Poor and Excluded Communities through Advocacy

During the assessment period, YOTASCID and HVC embarked on a mission to collaborate with government institutions and promote policies that would safeguard the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged communities. They also joined forces with other organisations to advocate for transparent and democratic governance with pro-poor policies and programs. Furthermore, it aimed to enhance women and girls' access to decision-making processes, resources, and justice at all levels. In their efforts, they sought to empower marginalized communities and individuals, enabling them to influence policies and practices that impact their rights.

Notably, the partnership between YOTASCID and the State Primary Education Board (SPEB), Zonal Education Board of Zangon Kataf LGA, and Kaduna State Agricultural Development Project (KADP) had a significant impact on education and agriculture. Through round-table discussions and workshops involving the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), teachers, and students, they worked to improve the quality of education, teacher performance, and the learning environment. Additionally, YOTASCID supported the construction of a secondary school in Aduwan community and advocated for the deployment of teachers to the school.

The LRP partners successfully assisted farmers' cooperatives, providing essential resources like fertilizers, seeds, and modern farming tools. They also trained women in economic empowerment, leading to the formation of multi-purpose cooperative societies that enabled access to government and private sector support.

Objective 2: Advocacy for Accountable Governance

Under this objective, the partners faced challenges due to the limited presence of civil society in the state. Despite this, they remained committed to advocating for accountable governance with pro-poor policies and programs. While progress might have been limited, their dedication to the cause persisted.

Objective 3: Empowering Women and Girls

The LRP partners actively engaged in programs that enhanced women and girls' access to decision-making processes, resources, and justice. YOTASCID and HVCF strengthened women's community organizations, empowering them to contribute to local development and engage in income-generating activities. Sensitisation meetings, support for women's associations, and training initiatives fostered a vibrant and enabling environment for women in the communities.

Objective 4: Empowering Poor and Excluded Communities

Partners successfully strengthened poor and excluded communities to influence decision-making at the local and state levels. Capacity building on Rights-Based Approach (RBA) and advocacy empowered community members to demand for their rights, leading to the registration of community-based associations for government support. Various community structures and associations were established, such as Community Facilitators' Forum, CDC Forums, Cooperative Associations, Women Associations, Youth's Associations, and Children's Parliaments.

Objective 5: Enhancing Organisational Effectiveness

To achieve the program's outputs, efficient and cost-effective structures and processes were essential for ActionAid Nigeria and its partners. YOTASCID and HVCF strengthened their relationships with communities through signed MoUs and improved its systems and processes, including transparent accounting procedures, community involvement in planning, and prudent financial management.

Specific to Women's and Girls' Rights

The LRP intervention in focal communities led to the formation of 13 cooperative societies, promoting meaningful economic activities for women. Increased savings, livestock ownership, improved clothing and feeding, reduced indebtedness, and ownership of non-farming businesses were among the outcomes of empowerment programs for women. Importantly, approximately 73% of women in the area gained confidence in speaking publicly, a significant achievement in enhancing their voices and agency.

SUCCESS OF RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES

ABET COMMUNITY

Working in collaboration with the community, the LRP initiative provided significant support for the construction of a Technical School in Abet Community. The project included the construction of two blocks of classrooms, two workshop laboratories, an administrative block, and concrete wells and toilets for both students and teachers.

As a result of community advocacy efforts, the government responded positively by implementing the following improvements:

1. Installation of a solar water system in the school
2. Provision of a set of computers
3. Supply of essential equipment
4. Distribution of textbooks
5. Deployment of 13 teachers and timely payment of their salaries.

FARMAN COMMUNITY

In Farman Community, the LRP intervention resulted in the successful construction of a Health Center. The impact of the Rights-Based Approach in this community is evident through the following achievements:

1. Government recruitment of paid staff for the health center.
2. The Health center now serves as one of the primary centers providing free drugs to children aged 1–5 years.
3. Provision of necessary hospital equipment to enhance healthcare services.

KURMIN BI COMMUNITY

Kurmin Bi Community experienced significant improvements in education and agriculture with the support of LRP. The initiative facilitated the construction of two blocks of four classrooms, an administrative block, and essential water facilities to establish a successful Secondary school.

The successes of the Rights-Based Approach in Kurmin Bi Community are outlined as follows:

1. Construction of an additional two blocks of four classrooms, expanding educational opportunities for the community.
2. Electrification of the school, providing access to modern amenities for students and staff.
3. Provision of desks, chairs, and tables, creating a conducive learning environment for students.
4. Farmers received valuable farming implements under the Fadama 3 project, enhancing agricultural productivity.
5. Community-driven efforts initiated the construction of an examination hall within the school premises, fostering a commitment to education.

These accomplishments demonstrate the effectiveness of the Rights-Based Approach in empowering communities to advocate for their rights and secure positive changes from the government and other stakeholders. Through collaboration and determination, tangible improvements have been achieved, impacting education, healthcare, and agriculture for the betterment of these communities.

LIST OF AAN/ HVCF PHYSICAL PROJECTS IN LRP COMMUNITIES

Type of Project	Year completed	Location	Status and Comments		Outcome
			Functional	Non-Functional	
School toilet	2010	Rafin Kwarya	Functioning		The school toilet has changed parents' mindset to provide toilets in their homes.
School toilet	2010	Kaso	Functioning		The school toilet has changed parents' mindset to provide toilets in their homes.
Rice milling machine for women	2010/11	Ung. Mainisara		Non-Functioning	The rice milling machine alleviated women's hardship by eliminating the need to transport their pre-boiled rice to Kujama for processing, but due to the old engine and maintenance challenges, they had to sell the mill in 2021. The proceeds were shared among the women as agricultural loans.
School toilet	2010	Pambawa	Functioning		The school toilet has changed parents' mindset to provide toilets in their homes
Renovation of 1 block of 2 classroom	2011	Pambawa	Functioning		The renovation resulted in increased enrolment and improved student retention at the school.
Health post	2010/11	Panzato		Non-Functioning	Due to the inability of Igabi LGA to send personnel, the State government upgraded the ward Primary Health Care (PHC) facility in Gwaraji, which is in close proximity to the community.

One block of 3 classroom	2010/2011	Rafin Kara	Functioning		The presence of a school in the community significantly increased enrollment, retention, and completion rates, leading to a transition of many children to secondary and tertiary institutions.
School toilet	2011	Rafin Kara	Functioning		The school toilet has changed parents' mindset to provide toilets in their homes
Grinding Mill	2010/11	Poko		Non-Functioning	Important parts of the machine were stolen in 2017, and despite the community's efforts to replace them, they were stolen again. As a result, the grinding mill, which significantly reduced the hardship of children having to walk to a nearby community to grind corn for food, remains unfixed.
Renovation of one block of 3 classroom	2010	Kurmin Sata	Functioning		The renovation of classrooms at that time resulted in increased school enrollment, retention, and completion rates, particularly for girls. However, after 10 years, the school is in poor condition, despite the government's construction of two classroom blocks and an office, indicating an insufficient number of classrooms.
School toilet	2011	Kurmin Sata	Functioning		Contributed to increased school enrolment and retention of children. However, the condition of the toilets has deteriorated due to the collapse of the water source at the school.

LOCAL RIGHTS PROGRAMME COMMUNITIES

Partner	Community	LGA
YOTASCID	Abet	Zango Kartaf
	Aduwan	Zango Kartaf
	Afana	Zango Kartaf
	Farman	Zango Kartaf
	Fadiya	Zango Kartaf
	Katsit	Zango Kartaf
	Kurmin Bi	Zango Kartaf
	Madakiya	Zango Kartaf
	Madaukiya	Zango Kartaf
	Madauchi	Zango Kartaf
	Masat	Zango Kartaf
	Ramai	Zango Kartaf
	Tsoriyang	Zango Kartaf
	Ungwan Dan Baki	Zango Kartaf
HTVCF	Kaso	Chikun
	Kurmin Sata	Chikun
	Pambawa	Igabi
	Panzato	Igabi
	Poko	Igabi
	Poko	Igabi
	Rafin Kara	Igabi
	Rafin Kwariya	Chikun
Ungwan Mainisara	Chikun	







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