

Michika, Nigeria Case Study

Period of Performance: NOV 2016



Practice Area: Capacity Building

Donor/Client: Nuru
International

Partner: Nuru International

Location: Michika, Nigeria

Enumerators: 30

Surveys: 1,600+

Qualitative Engagements: 40

Project Objectives

To finance its ongoing war against the Nigerian people, Boko Haram invaded this area to resupply itself with food, resources, and money. During Boko Haram's occupation, Boko ravaged storehouse, granaries, and wiped out virtually all wealth, especially among Christian communities. When families began to return to their homes after the counteroffensive, they found their homes burned, and their food, livestock, and anything of value looted. Not only did the residents of these farming communities lack food to eat, but they had no savings or capital by which to restart their lives.

- **Project Objective 1:** To determine the full scale of the damage to the community, a preliminary needs assessment needed to be conducted. Many in the International Aid and Development community turned a blind eye to Michika, and the true devastation wrought by Boko Haram was unknown.
- **Project Objective 2:** Use the data from the preliminary needs assessment to determine the actual vulnerabilities within the community and recommend programming to strengthen them.

Key Findings

Long before Boko Haram took control of the area, the people of Michika were already struggling to survive in a region being slowly consumed by the Sahara Desert. In addition, after Boko Haram was pushed out by government forces, the rainy season started three weeks late which stunted the growth of the crops and wiped out a majority of the harvest. In a community that truly has nothing, the

necessary requirements for survival come to the forefront, and our survey confirmed that. Of the more than 1,600 surveys conducted, respondents overwhelmingly stated that lack of food, water, shelter, medicine and livelihoods were their most pressing needs.

Methodology

- ***Community Perception Surveys:***

A team of 30 enumerators collected data from residents of Michika using QuickTapSurvey on phones or tablets. Questions included demographics, as well as questions regarding the respondent's most dire needs. This data was then collated and assessed using state-of-the-art analytical tools.

- ***Vet Systematic Causes:***

Unsurprisingly, the surveys confirmed that lack of the food, water and shelter plagued the people of Michika most severely.

- ***Establish Baselines:***

With a sufficient number of surveys completed, the team was able to establish a baseline, or starting point, from which all future interventions and potential solutions could be measured against.

Programming Recommendations

Echoing the old adage, “local solutions for local problems,” the identified programming to remedy the vulnerabilities in the region was to establish a cooperative. Run and administered by local citizens, the coop would provide loans of food or money, put on educational seminars and track the health of residents. This would act as a tourniquet for the serious wounds endured by the people of Michika until the local government could intervene.