



GWARAJI WARD NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT ON: Education, Health, WASH Facilities and Road.

Supported by:



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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

WASH	-	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.
LGA	-	Local Government Area.
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.
CDBs	-	Community Development Builders.
YAPD4Africa	-	Connected Youth for Accountability, Peace and Development Initiative.
CAL	-	Community Action-Led.
PHC	-	Primary Health Care.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABOUT YAPD4Africa

Founded in 2017, Connected Youth for Accountability, Peace and Development Initiative (YAPD4Africa) is a well-known youth-led nonprofit and civic society organization, whose dedicated mission is to build strong people and sustainable communities in Africa. Our primary focus is to empower people with the right knowledge and skills to advocate for their rights and community development.

We design and implement sustainable social impact programs and homegrown projects that promote women's and young people's participation in civic activism, community development, social entrepreneurship, peace-building, human rights, gender equality, decision-making processes, democracy and good governance.

Our efforts have profound impact on increasing access to quality public services, including education, healthcare and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in marginalized grassroots communities. Furthermore, we strengthen grassroots community capacity through facilitated community-organizing dialogue and civic empowering education approaches under our Community Action-Led (CAL Project). Leveraging our extensive knowledge and expertise in research, we focus on community engagement, utilizing digital media to drive campaigns, advocating for better policies and promoting public accountability, civic participation and social development.

As one of the largest leading social development organizations in Africa, YAPD4Africa is committed to reduce poverty, marginalized and inequality. We aim to continue serving as a voice for meaningful contributions to Nigeria's development and inspiring African countries. Over the past seven years, we have worked in more than 80 marginalized grassroots communities and impacting over 20,000 lives through various innovative programs and projects.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We extend our sincere appreciation to our colleagues without their tireless efforts and unwavering support: Murya would remain just a dream. The depth and scope of this report are a testament to the willingness of citizens within these communities, who have placed their trust in us, shared their time, thoughts and experiences. Their cooperation has greatly facilitated our work, ensuring continuous access to facilities, data and responses. We also recognize the outstanding contributions of our Field Officer, Ibrahim Aliyu, who led, mobilized and traversed various grassroots communities to gather the data-driven evidence presented in this report. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported us in this endeavour.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

YAPD4Africa through Murya has been tirelessly working to provide a platform for citizens to honestly voice their concerns about service delivery and empowers the government with data-driven evidence report to make their annual projects, focusing on the essential needs of citizens. This report aims to set a standard for service delivery, determining communities' priorities for policy intervention especially in the education sector.

Our survey revealed widespread dilapidation of critical infrastructure in schools, Primary Health Care centers, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and roads across all communities. The persistent neglect of basic infrastructure in these rural communities reflects an economic system that undervalues human development, standard of living, democratic participation and perpetuates exclusion. We observed a significant gender gap with low women's participation in decision-making at local level of governance and community development.

Using our self-funded support, we enabled Murya to channel citizen voices, capturing real-time challenges in service delivery in Gwaraji Ward, Igabi LGA, Kaduna State. We ensured an inclusive and easy process for citizens, conducting surveys in offline, hard-to-reach remote area with limited cell phone networks. At YAPD4Africa, we believe in leveraging technology to assess citizen needs and analyze data-driven evidence to make a comprehensive report that will aid stakeholders and government agencies in understanding real-time challenges and what must be done as a priority in their annually projects.

This Needs Assessment Report showcases YAPD4Africa engagement with hard-to-reach grassroots communities, including Gwaraji (I and II), Kawon Gwaraji, Sabon Gari Joga, Joga (I and II), Kadage (I and II), Kaban (I and II), Bango (I and II), Unguwar Baki, Unguwar Dan Muntar and Madatai of Gwaraji Ward. Despite insecurity challenges, we engaged community leaders, youth and housewives during the needs assessment survey.

At the end, the effort of this report is to attract the attention of key stakeholders including the Local Government Chairman, State MDAs, Representatives and Policymakers to prioritize citizens' needs in state annual projects. We demand public accountability in service delivery, ensuring government institutions address basic issues related to citizens' priorities. We believe everyone should be involved in promoting better service delivery especially in hard-to-rach grassroots communities across Kaduna State and Nigeria. This effort will improve livelihoods and sustainable development.

We urge the Kaduna State Government to take concrete action by prioritizing basic needs across marginalized communities like Gwaraji Ward. The state's budget focused on rural transformation and inclusive development presents a vital opportunity for transformative change in rural communities. This report and its recommendations can inform stakeholders and government efforts to enhance service delivery.



Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau,
Chief Executive, YAPD4Africa.
Founder, Murya.

INTRODUCTION

As we survey the education, health, WASH and other sectors, startling statistics come to light. According to UNICEF (2020), 27% of primary schools lack access to basic infrastructure. Furthermore, Oxfam International reveals that Nigeria spent just 6.5% of its nation budget on education and just 3.5% on health and 6.7% to social protection in 2019 by comparison. In the same research survey shows that 57 million Nigerians lack safe water, over 130 million people lack sanitation hygiene and Nigeria is also at the top of the list of countries with the highest number of out school children. The inadequacy of these services' infrastructure exacerbates suffering and inequalities particularly in rural areas among women, children and disabled.

In Kaduna State, the challenges in providing quality public services to citizens are significant. The state's infrastructure in education, healthcare, water, and sanitation is inadequate, hindering the delivery of essential services. Despite constituency project funding aimed at addressing underdevelopment in rural communities, many projects fail to involve citizens or meet their needs. Regrettably, citizens often lack access to their representatives and government agencies, hindering their ability to escalate and demand better services.

Through our CAL Project and Murya, we witnessed the dire state of dilapidated schools, abandoned PHC centers and neglected social facilities in these communities, all of which urgently require government intervention for reconstruction, renovation and renewal. We believe that our efforts will lead to better support from stakeholders and the government in prioritizing the needs of marginalized grassroots and communities. Through Murya, we aim to continue bridging the gap between citizens and government by amplifying their needs through media campaigns, advocacy and strategic partnerships.

OBJECTIVE AND METHODOLOGY

The primary objective of this Ward Needs Assessment Report is to document the current state of infrastructure in Gwaraji Ward, Igabi LGA, Kaduna State. identify key challenges and provide recommendations on addressing these gaps. Most importantly, this report aims to assist the Local Government Chairman and other stakeholders in designing, mobilizing and allocating resources to communities priority needs in Gwaraji Ward, ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

Our survey targeted at least eight individuals, including traditional leaders, women and youth across more than 10 communities in Gwaraji Ward. The survey covered education, healthcare, water and road sectors to understand the priority needs in these communities and demand accountability and action from government.

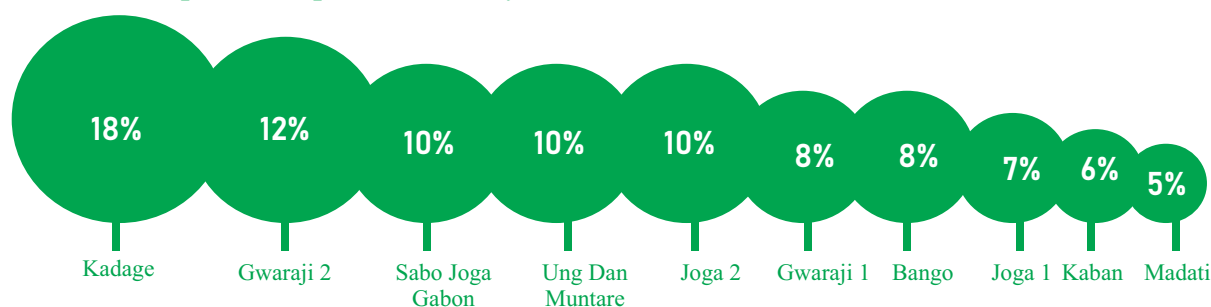
PRESENTATION OF DATA, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

The assessment needs survey we conducted using KoboToolBox, which incorporated both qualitative and quantitative questions. Quantitative methods were employed to address closed-ended questions, while qualitative methods were used to address open-ended questions, allowing respondents to provide detailed responses.

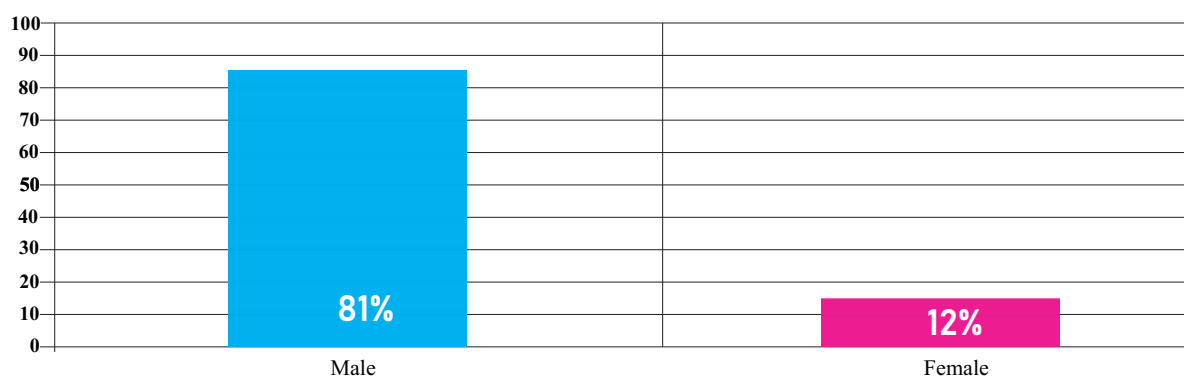
The analysis below covers the survey objectives, including demographics such as gender and age, as well as assessments of infrastructure in schools, hospitals, WASH facilities, roads and other essential information.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF RESPONDENTS

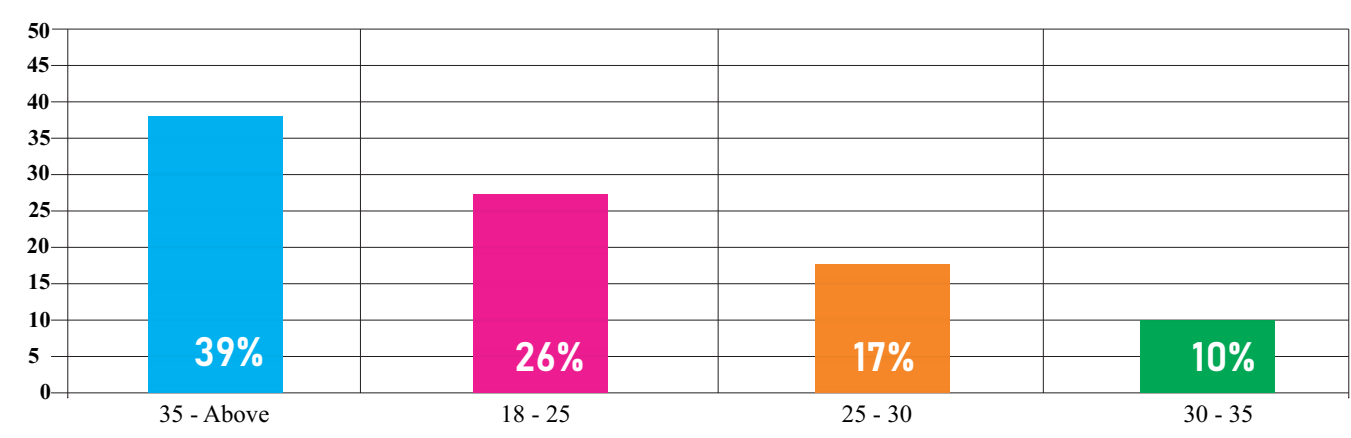
Number of respondents per community:



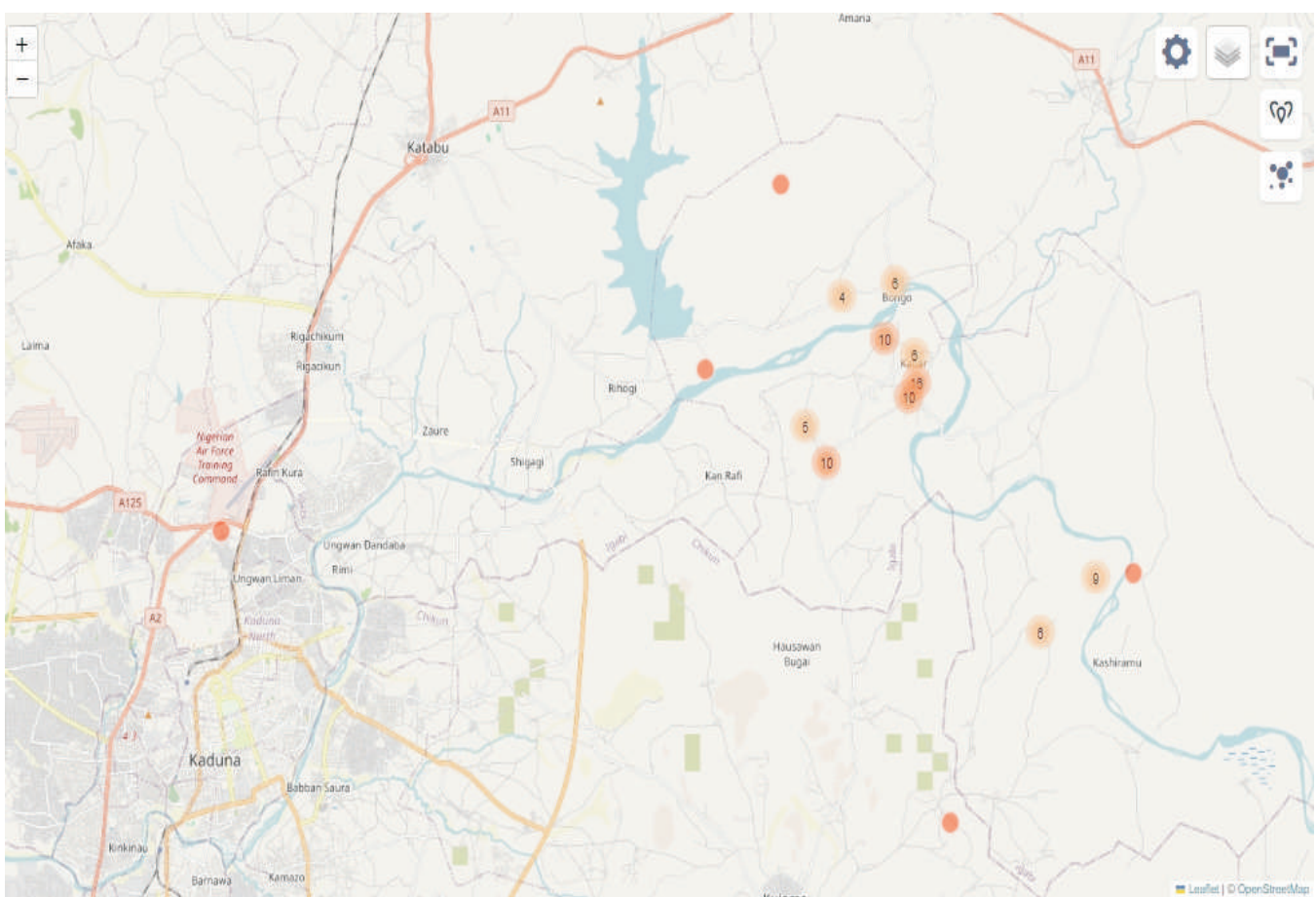
Respondent gender rate:



Respondent age rate:



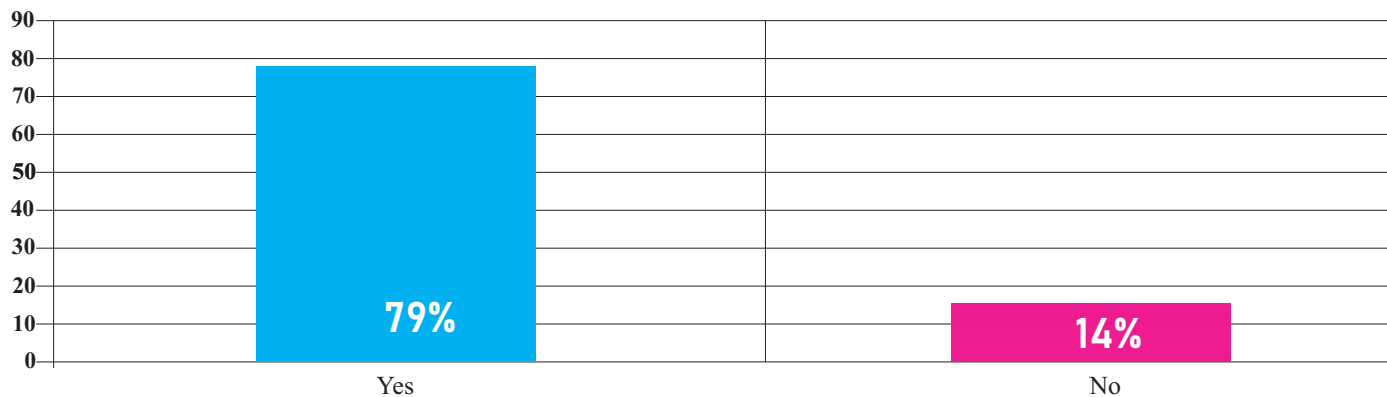
Respondent Communities Map:



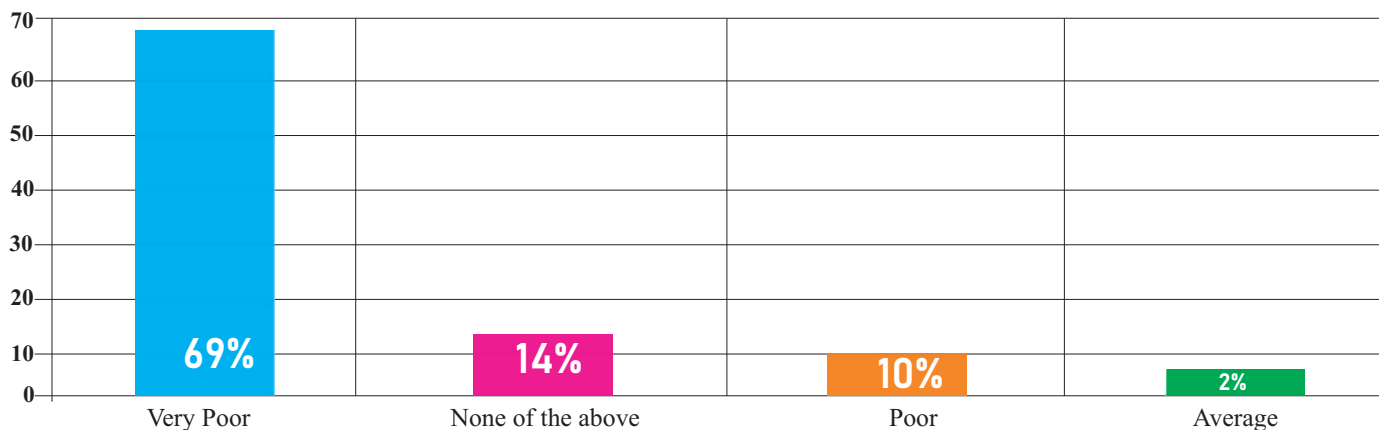


Across the communities in Gwaraji Ward, only Gwaraji 1 and Joga 1 have functional schools but also lack infrastructure, learning aids and available teachers. Despite community efforts to demand action, no visible changes were observed during our intervention in schools across all the communities. Respondents emphasized the need for reconstructing schools, toilets and water facilities for students and teachers.

Question: Did you have schools in your community?
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



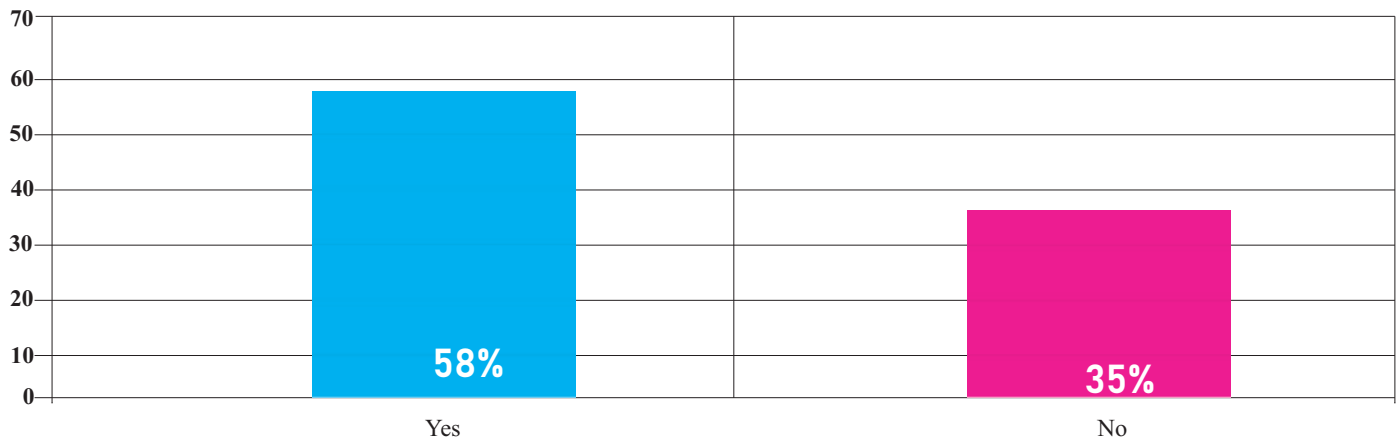
Question: How functional can you describe the schools?
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



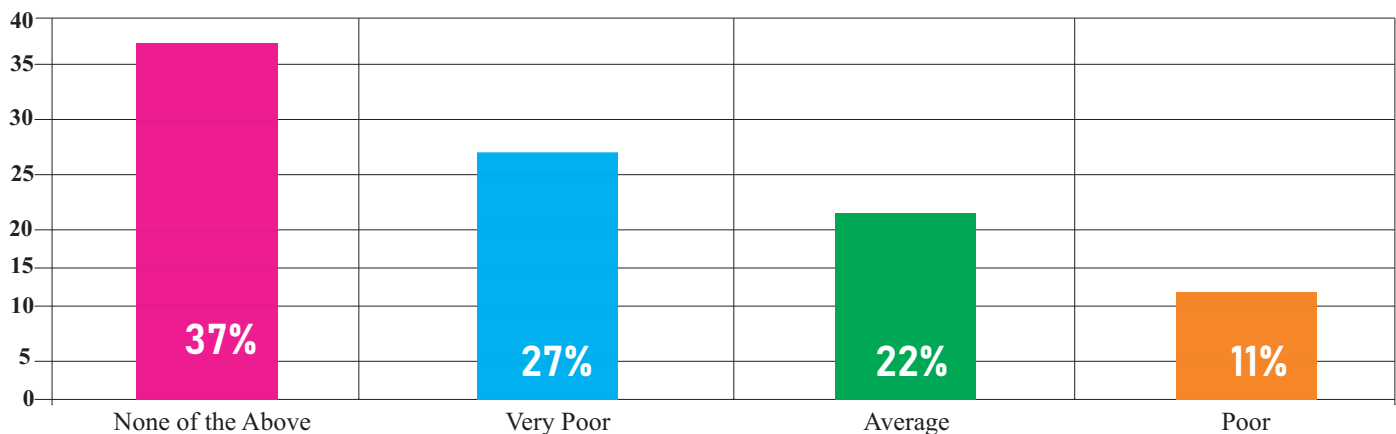


The three Primary Healthcare centers we visited in Gwaraji Ward are located in Gwajari 1, Sabon Gari Joga and Kaban. However, these PHCs are non-functional with only health workers present in Gwaraji 1. The facilities face significant infrastructure deficits and lack essential equipment especially in Kaban and Gwaraji 1.

Question: Did you have hospitals in your community?
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



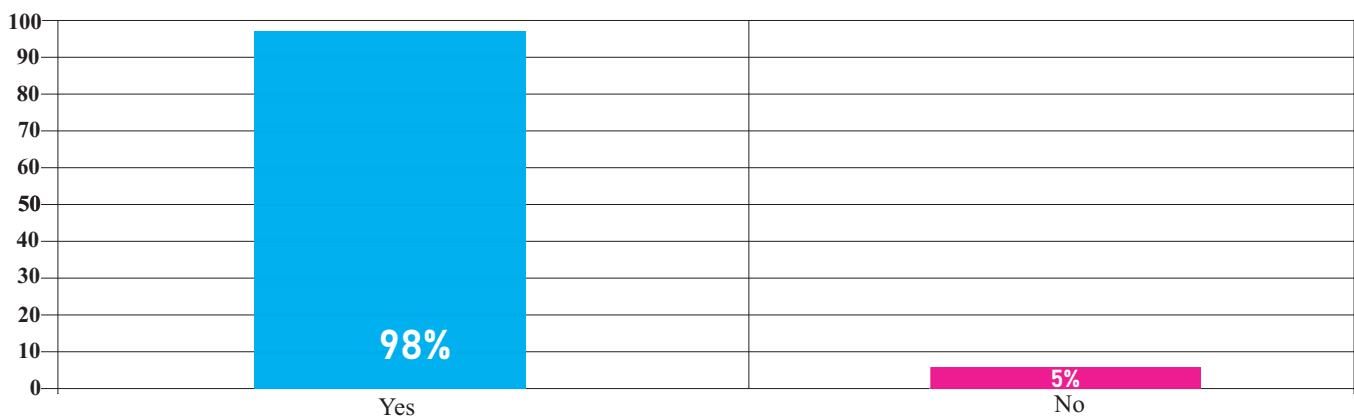
Question: How functional can you describe the hospitals?
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



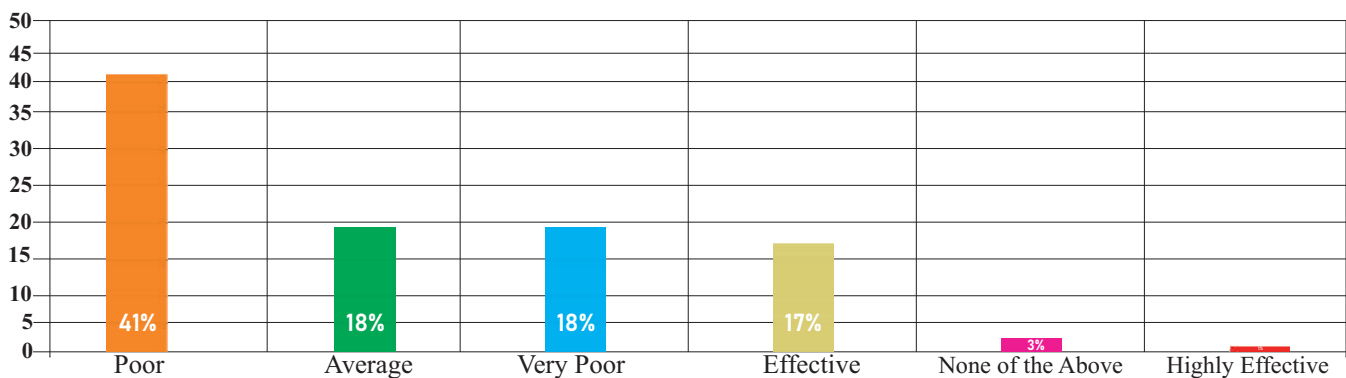


Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Facilities: Most communities in Gwaraji Ward rely on well water, with only few active solar boreholes found in Gwaraji 1 and Joga 1. Respondents depend on contaminated surface water or distant water sources, which increase the risk of water-borne diseases. Many water boreholes require reconstruction due to their current state of disrepair, rendering them non-functional for an extended period. This led to a severe water scarcity crisis, affecting the daily lives of residents, particularly women and children. Our efforts aim to amplify the voices demanding improved water sources in these communities.

Question: Did you have WASH facilities in your community?
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



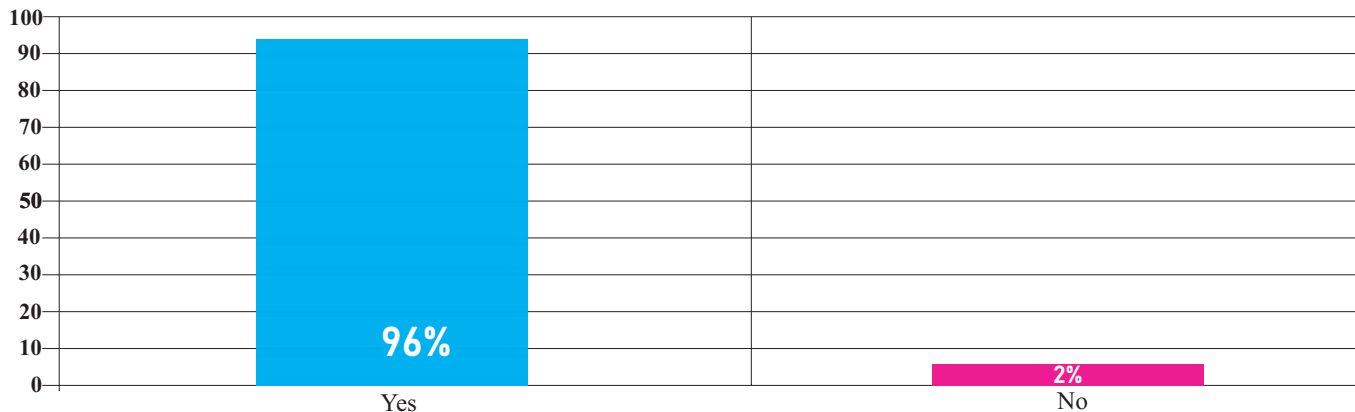
Question: How functional can you describe the WASH facilities?
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



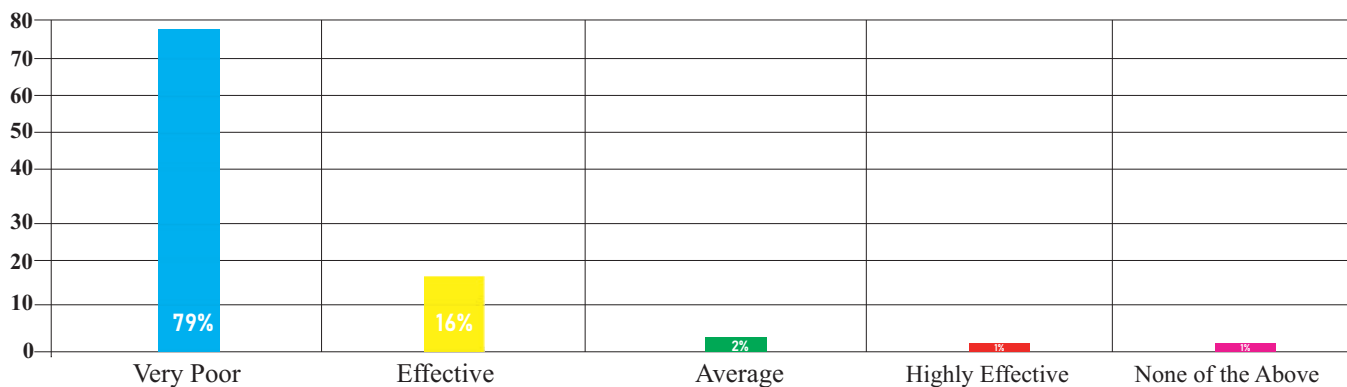


Road Infrastructure: We witnessed a 35-kilometer road construction from Gadan Gayan through Gwaraji to Kujama Junction, which linking Igabi to Chikun Local Government Areas of Kaduna State. However, alternative roads to Joga and neighbouring villages are dilapidated hindering farmers access to markets. Constructing a reliable road network would boost agricultural productivity, market access, daily activities for government workers and stimulate local economic development.

Question: Did you have WASH facilities in your community?
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



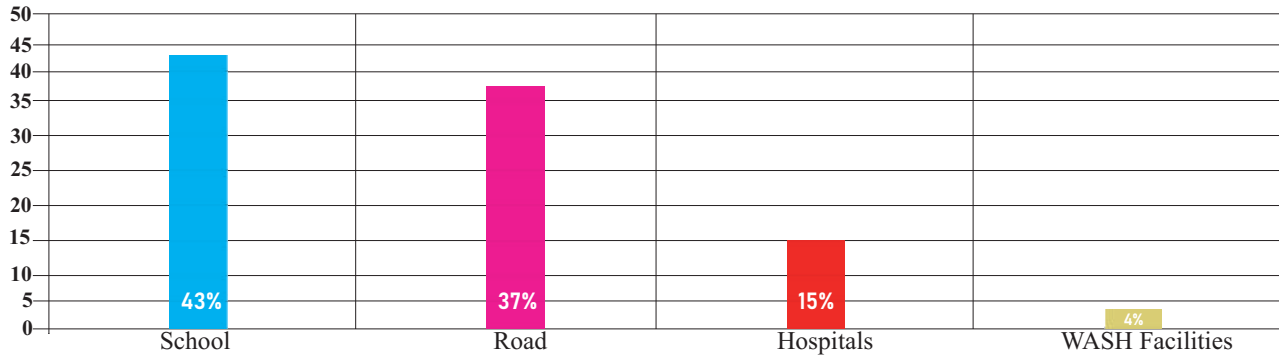
Question: How functional can you describe the WASH facilities?
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



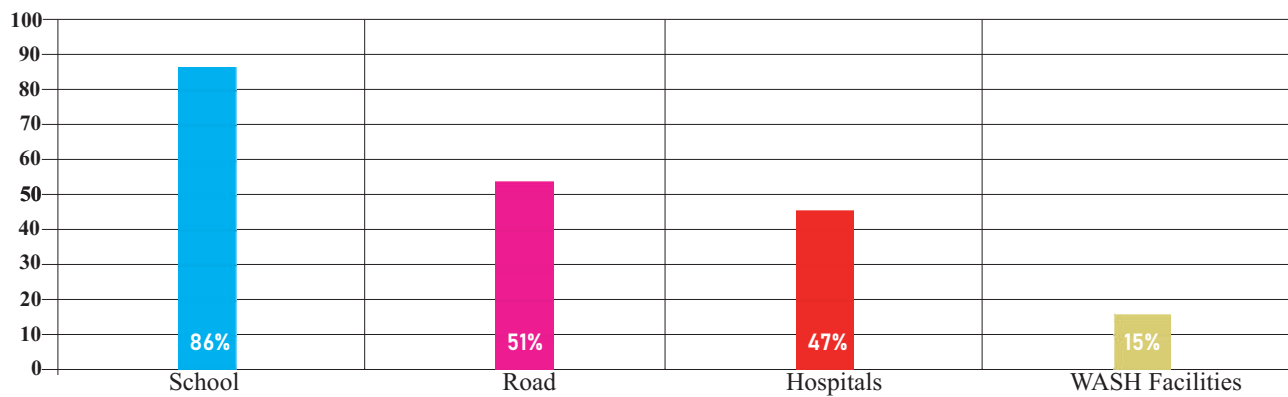
MOST BASIC NEEDS



Question: Select just one option that you feel is the most unmet need in your community.
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



Question: Select top two (2) needs that you believe require immediate government intervention.
Below is the rate of respondents that answered:



KEY OUTCOMES AND SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

1. After conducting several community engagement sessions and needs assessment surveys, we successfully implemented the reconstruction of a solar borehole in Joga II with funding support from our partner, Advocacy for Human Value Foundation.
2. We facilitated a community-organized town meeting in Joga II, bringing together community leaders, elders and young people. This meeting helped foster a sense of ownership and action among community members.
3. We established “Community Development Builders” CDBs committee in Joga II, empowering community members to take charge of their development. These committee will play crucial role in addressing community challenges and promoting sustainable development.
4. We leveraged our media platforms to amplify community challenges, ensuring that their voices are heard and their concerns addressed. This effort has helped raise awareness about need for improved infrastructure in education, healthcare and more.
5. We hosted our partner for the commissioning of the solar water borehole and worked together to engage key representatives of the LGA. This collaborative effort has strengthened our partnership and demonstrated our commitment to community development.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

1. Almost every community lacks knowledge of civic engagement and constituency projects, including a significant gap between grassroots citizens and their representatives.
2. Community members have expressed concerns about education, healthcare and road infrastructure.
3. We encountered challenges related to accessing remote communities, limited resources and inadequate infrastructure.
4. Despite facing personal health challenges, our team members demonstrated remarkable resilience and dedication, continuing to work tirelessly to collect data and ensure the success of Murya in Gwaraji Ward. Their commitment to our mission and the communities we serve is a testament of the power of teamwork and perseverance.

NEXT STEPS

1. Conduct advocacy and courtesy visits to present the Ward Needs Assessment Report to key stakeholders and government.
2. Build strategic partnerships with national and international organizations to mobilize support for community development.
3. Implement media awareness campaigns using local languages to educate grassroots communities on how to report their challenges using our Murya platform.
4. Provide free capacity-building training for established CDBs committee in select communities across the ward.

RECOMMENDATION

Through this project, YAPD4Africa has encouraged citizen participation in governance processes and demand public accountability to ensure effective service delivery. Based on our assessment and the challenges we have identified, we recommend immediate attention to Gwaraji Ward and key recommendation include:

Education:

1. Immediate reconstruction and renovation of dilapidated in Gwaraji (I and II), Sabon Gari Joga, Joga (I and II), Kaban (I and II) and Bango (I and II) of Gwaraji Ward.
2. Provision of necessary infrastructure, leaning aids and available teachers in all the schools.
3. Reviewing the Teacher Posting Policy by implementing a community-based teacher recruitment strategy, where teachers are employed from within the local communities, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. This approach will help address the current teacher shortage, improve teacher retention and enhance community engagement in education.

Health:

1. Rehabilitation and equipping of Primary Healthcare Centers in Gwaraji 1 and Kaban.
2. Provision of essentials medical equipment, drugs and available health personnel in all the PHCs.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

1. Construction of new solar-powered boreholes and rehabilitation of existing ones especially in Sabon Gari Joga, Kadage (I and II), Bango (I and II), Unguwar Dan Muntar and Madatai of Gwaraji Ward.
2. Provision of necessary WASH facilities including toilets and water storage systems in schools.

Road infrastructure:

1. Construction of roads in Gwaraji Ward including the road connecting Joga to neighbouring villages.

Security and Solar Lighting:

1. Installation of solar-powered streetlights in strategic locations across Gwaraji Ward to enhance security.

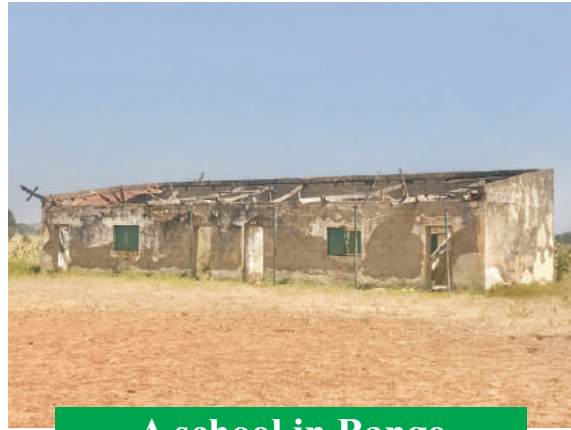
Other Recommendations:

1. Establishment of a community-le development committees which is similar to our CDBs to oversee development projects in each communities in Gwaraji Ward.
2. Design of a general comprehensive development plan for the LGA, incorporating the needs and priorities of community members.
3. Regular monitoring and evaluation of development projects the LGA to ensure accountability and effectiveness.

IMAGE-BASED REPRESENTATION



A classroom in Gwaraji 1



A school in Bango



A classroom in Kaban



A school in Sabon Gari Joga



A classroom in Joga 1



A school in Gwaraji 2



A classroom in Joga 2



Sabon Gari Joga, Primary Healthcare Centre, has no active health workers.



Primary Healthcare Centre, Gwaraji 1.



Dilapidated Primary Healthcare Centre, Kaban.



Current road construction from Kujama Junction to Gwaraji.



Joga to neighbouring villages, road.





Joga 1 has an active water solar borehole with proper sanitation maintenance.



Gwaraji has an active water solar borehole, but lacks proper sanitation maintenance.



Incomplete water solar borehole in Bango



Incomplete water solar borehole along Ung Dan Muntare to Kaban



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