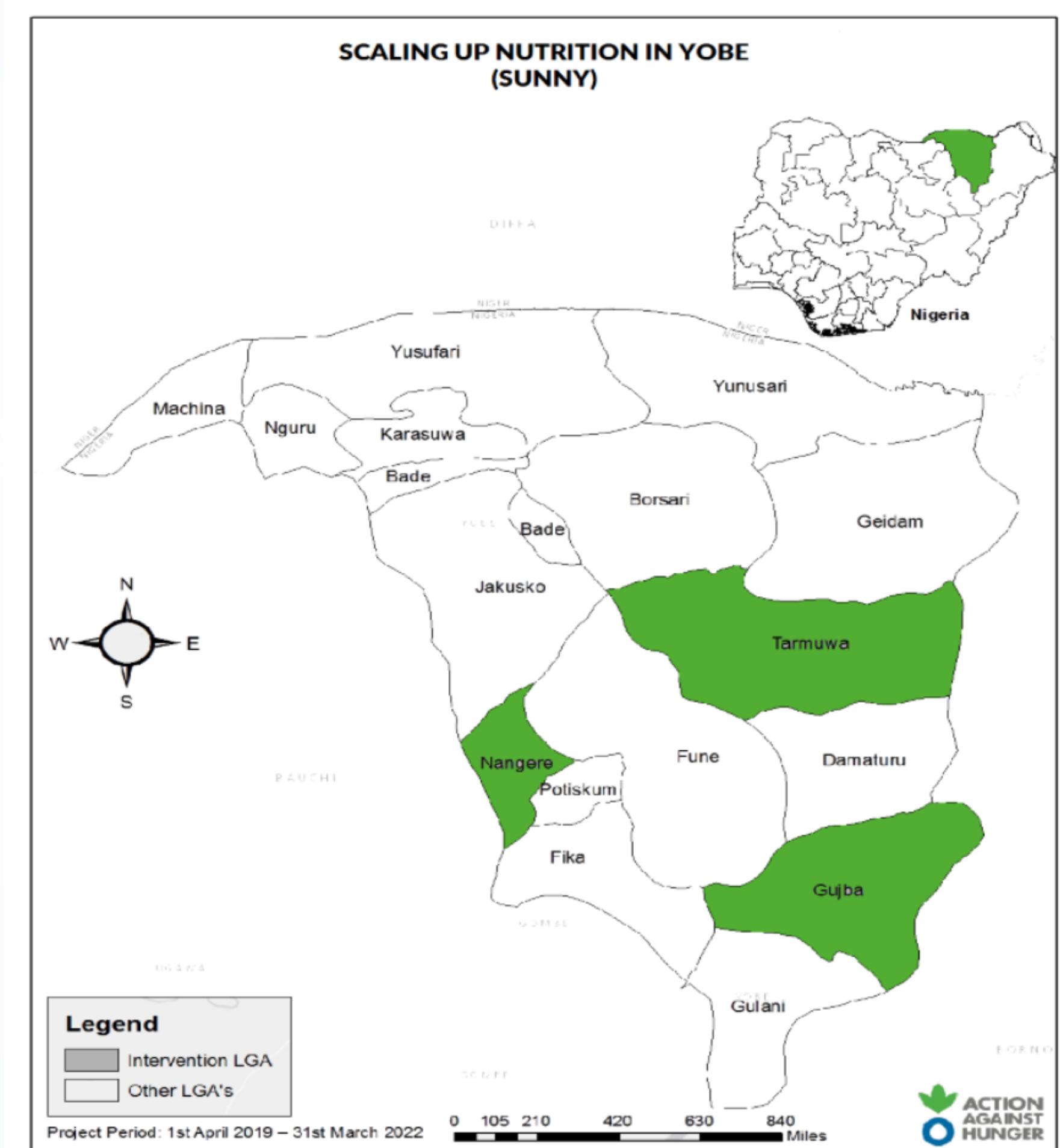


# SCALING UP NUTRITION IN YOBE



In Nigeria, 32% of children under five are stunted and an estimated 2 million children suffer from severe acute malnutrition. The ongoing conflict in Northeast Nigeria aggravated the prevalence of malnutrition which stands at alarming rates with Yobe state at 11.5%. Moreover the 141,670 individuals who have been forcibly uprooted from their homes are worse off, having lost their assets and primary means of livelihood.

The multi-sectoral Scaling up Nutrition in Yobe State project funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) addresses the situation by providing an integrated package of support to improve the survival of the affected communities and reduce stunting and malnutrition rates. This includes improving the quality of health services, increasing the coverage of community based nutrition support services as well as increasing access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure to prevent the spread of water borne disease that have detrimental impact on malnourished children. Providing a package of social protection support to pregnant and lactating women and households with the aim to enhance the nutritional wellbeing of children in their first 1000 days.



**Grant: £8.5M**

**Timeline: April 2019 to March 2022**

*The first 1000 days of life - from a woman's conception to her child's second year - remains a distinctive age of opportunity to ensure foundational and optimum health to establish development across the lifespan of a child. In addition, it aims at reaching IDPs and vulnerable individuals with support to rebuild their livelihood and pursue sustainable income generating activities.*



3,666

Children under 5 years of age treated and discharged for acute malnutrition



7,188

People have access to clean water within 30 minutes distance



5,365

Pregnant and lactating mothers receiving cash based transfers



155

Health workers hired in collaboration with State Ministry of Health

## FOR CHILDREN THAT GROW UP STRONG



A grateful Harira Salisu, smiles at her 9-month-old Munkailu Salisu who recovered from malnutrition following 5 weeks of treatment at the Katsira Outreach center in Nangere LGA

### WITH THE RIGHT CARE, MY BABY WAS SAVED

A grateful Harira Salisu is seen smiling as she looks at her nine months old Munkailu Salisu bounces back to good health. The forty year old mother with eleven children of which Munkailu is the youngest, hails from Garin Shuwa under Duddaye, in Nangere local government area (LGA). The outreach center which is under the Duddaye Primary Health Care Center had opened in the first week of April 2019 following Action Against Hunger's decision to create these centers for underserved communities residing very far away from the main public health centres (PHCs). Many times communities cannot access the facilities during the rainy seasons as they are cut off by floods.

When Harira first brought her sick child to the outreach center which is about five kilometers from her home, he weighed 5.3 kg and his MUAC measurement was 11.2 cm which indicated that Munkailu had severe acute malnutrition (SAM). He was registered into the program and given ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) for five (5) weeks and has now fully recovered. He now weighs 7.0 kg and his MUAC measurement stands at 13.2cm and was discharged.

When asked if she would have gone to the main PHC at Duddaye which is about 9km from her home, she answered,

**"Yes I would have done whatever it took to see that my son got better, but I am definitely grateful for the outreach center at Katsira, which is closer to my home, it has helped save my baby."**

"The outreach center has been of immense help to beneficiaries from nearby communities who hitherto had to walk extremely long distances to access health care or resort to other means for lack of will to make the long walk", the in-charge of the facility Umar Usman Chiroma added.



Hafiz and his mother Khadijat Muhammad registered at the OTP site in Dazigau Health Facility, Nangere LGA

### A LONG ROAD TO RECOVER AND REGAIN STRENGTH

Khadijat Muhammadu, a mother with 3 children struggled to care for Hafiz, her 2 year old son who suffered from severe acute malnutrition. Khadijat had been attending sessions at an outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) center in Daziagau Nangare LGA. Hafiz was admitted at the stabilization centre in General Hospital Potiskum for intensive medical care. Upon arrival, his mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) reading was taken and found to be 10cm far under the normal threshold of 13.5 cm. Hafiz was struggling to survive due to medical complications which arose from being in an emaciated state. Following the stabilization of his vital signs, he was discharged and referred to an outpatient facility to continue treatment. Khadijat has since been attending the OTP sessions religiously and feeding Hafiz as instructed with the ready to use therapeutic foods (RUTF) that his body can manage to digest as he slowly recovers. She also benefited from the counseling sessions where she learnt about basic nutrition practices and how to care and maintain a good diet for her son who required fortified cereals, blended foods that are high in micronutrients for recovery. Nine weeks later, Hafiz regained his weight at 9.3kg. He is fine and fit to be discharged. Khadijat remarked: "*I am grateful that my baby is feeling better*". Even though she wishes she can continue to collect RUTF from the facility.



Hafiz and his mother Khadijat Muhammad being discharged from the OTP center

## FOR ACCESS TO WATER

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### My wives, children and animals have water all year round

Drinking water is a human necessity with a daily demand and no real substitutes. Globally, 2.1 billion people lack safe drinking water, including 785million people without basic drinking water sources, of whom four out of five lives in rural areas (UNICEF/WHO, 2019).

Yakubu Idi with his two wives and thirteen children is one household in Garin gundu community of Nangere LGA who form a part of this statistic. For Yakubu Idi, the issue isn't just clean water, but access to water all year round. **"This community well is well over 28 years old, I was part of those who dug the well"**, Yakubu boasts as he narrates. Even though the well had been serving the people, dirty water sipped in through gaps in the well walls and rainwater washing dirts from the animal waste into the well made it unfit for drinking. In addition, the well dried up during the heat seasons causing community members to seek water from far away sources.

Things began to change for the community when through the SUNNY project in 2019, the Action Against Hunger WASH team identified the well as an important source of water for the community. The team dug and dredged the well dipper for more and better yield of water, relined the gaps in the well wall to prevent dirty water sipping in, raised the height of the well for safety of children using the well, constructed an apron to channel the spilling water and also constructed a cattle trough to hold water for animals to drink from. Now, the water is cleaner and safe for household use and no matter the season of the year, there is water in the well. A very grateful Yakubu stated: **"my family and livestock have water all year round"**.



Before and after the renovation of the well



Cash disbursement in Challino community, Nangere LGA.

### Making the Case for Social Protection

Unexpected life circumstances, the loss or reduction of productive capacity, and discrimination can hinder a person or a family's well-being. Everyone needs protection from social risks and resulting insecurities. Inequality, poverty and social exclusion can be tackled through the uptake of social protection instruments. As such, they are key to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). About 90 million people - estimated to be half of Nigeria's population - live in extreme poverty. According to estimates from the World Data Lab's Poverty Clock, Yobe State has one of the worst indices.

While there exists pockets of social welfare schemes in Yobe State, a holistic social protection policy drafted and adopted after the footsteps of the Nigerian Government and Jigawa State, is needed.

To this end, the SUNNY team kicked off advocacy aimed at supporting Yobe State to develop the state's social protection policy by the end of 2020. To achieve this, Action Against Hunger is sensitizing and training key stakeholders (state and non state actors) on social protection as well as advocacy at different policy making levels, including the legislature, CSOs and Media, in partnership with the state's ministry of budget and economic planning.

### Covid-19 response of Dazigau and Tikau Health facilities

The novel coronavirus first recorded in December 2019 and now widely referred to as covid-19 by the World Health Organization has arguably become the topic of discussion of many. While the response to the pandemic differs from place to place and from person to person, depending on educational level, economic status, religious belief and so forth, one thing is sure; everyone is responding to it, albeit differently.

Dazigau and Tikau primary health care centers are two of the five primary healthcare centers (PHCC) supported by the SUNNY project in Nangere LGA of Yobe State. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Action Against Hunger took quick measures to protect both staff and beneficiaries from the viral infection. These measures include physical distancing, hand washing practices, use of nose masks, series of sensitizations etc. These health facilities catering for beneficiaries have in turn responded.

According to the in-charges of both facilities, they were sensitized on the Covid-19 pandemic both by the local government area Primary Health Care Center and Action Against Hunger. Also, mention of the fact that a lot of information was from the media. The facility responded in the following ways:

1. Erected hand washing stations outside the facility, mandating all people coming in to wash their hands before accessing the facility .
2. Purchase of hand sanitizers and face masks for health workers.
3. Covid-19 sensitization incorporated into routine activities including antenatal care, outpatient therapeutic programming and routine immunization.
4. Encouraged the practice of physical distancing.



## Our Approach



**Outreach centers operating under the main health care centers, attending to the needs of community people in the hinterland.**



**Doctors, nurses, nurse aids, midwives, psychosocial support staff, cleaners, guards recruited in collaboration with Yobe State Government.**



**Women selected to participate in a hands-on training on best agronomic practices through farmer field school approach**



**Cash transfer targets in a 20-25 member savings and loans groups mentored on developing a savings culture to build household economies and capital for income generating activities**



**CHIPS**  
**Action Against Hunger closely collaborates with the Yobe state government to identify, select and train Community Health Promoters and Influencers (CHIPS) to achieve better and efficient nutrition health services in the community**



**Baby WASH**  
**The Baby -WASH initiative is aimed at educating caregivers' of severe acute malnutrition patients on personal and environmental hygiene as well as providing them with NFI kits to facilitate a change in behavior thereby increasing the child's chances of survival/recovery.**