BACKGROUND

CARE International in Nigeria is implementing the AMAL initiative (Adolescent Mothers Against All Odds) to meet adolescents’ SRH needs through the creation of adolescent-responsive health systems and equitable community environments. The AMAL Initiative includes three components: a Young Mothers Club (YMC) for first time mothers and pregnant adolescents, participatory exercises with health providers, and reflective dialogues with community members. The AMAL Initiative seeks to inform the global evidence base and dialogue around nexus approaches to adolescent-responsive SRH and gender-based violence (GBV) programming. After over a decade of conflict between non-state armed groups and the military, the humanitarian crisis in northeastern Nigeria is intensifying and the health needs of the population are growing. Deteriorating conditions such as ongoing displacement of peoples, lack of resources and shelter, and increased risk of sexual violence have contributed to increases in early and forced marriage for adolescent girls. These high rates of sexual violence and forced early marriage result in significant increases in adolescent pregnancy thereby further compounding the health risks experienced by girls and women in communities.

ACTIVITIES

The activities implemented in the Second quarter (October-December 2021) include the following:

1. **One day Evaluation Workshop**
   As part of the Monitoring and Evaluation Activities related to this project, CARE International organized a one-day evaluation workshop which constituted of AMAL facilitators (10F, 1M) (Health providers and Volunteers) from the 6 locations and CARE staffs with CARE USA supporting via Hybrid to evaluate the first cycle of AMAL initiative. The purpose was to discuss the completed cycle 1; results from cycle one, good practices, challenges, and recommendations for better service delivery. This meeting gave opportunity to the AMAL facilitators who are directly involved in providing services to the beneficiaries to share experiences especially challenges with the goal of generating solutions to challenges.

2. **Meeting with CAG**
   As part of deliverables for this project, CARE international organized and facilitated a Bi-monthly meeting with Community Advisory Group Members including Community and religious stakeholders, teachers, mothers-in-law, Father in laws, Health providers from respective facilities, men, women, and youth leaders as well as AMAL Leaders and Facilitators. This meeting is focused on discussing the AMAL project within the months of implementation including progress of the project, area strength, areas of weakness, challenges, Uptake of Contraception among adolescents, recommendations and development of Community lead action plan which will be supported by CARE in Implementation. Total CAG members-60(30male and 30 Female), CARE staffs-4(2M,2F), AMAL Leaders 18(18F) and AMAL Facilitators 12(11F and 1M)

3. **Training 30 Health providers on MISP and Comprehensive SRH services**
   CARE International working to strengthen Health service provision among different primary health care centers organized a 5 day Training of health Providers to Train them on Minimum Initial service Package through the service of a Hire consultant. CARE engaged the service of a consultant who facilitated the training of 30(29F,1M) Health providers from AMAL implementing
health facilities. This is to build the technical capacity of health providers providing services to adolescent Girls within AMAL implementing locations.

4. **Hand Over of PPE Items to Borno state Government**  
   Through the UNFPA Funded project, CARE was able to procure Personnel Protective Equipment and with support of UNFPA and handed it over to the Borno state Government. This is part of support to frontline workers of the state in the fight against COVID-19.

5. **5 days Inter-Agency Training on FP and CMR.**  
   CARE International organized a 5 days inter-agency training of partners(30F) including INTERSOS, CPRH, RHHF, ZEGCAWIS, Albarka Health Spring foundation and BSPHCDA.CARE engaged the services of 3 professional consultants(2M,1F) who facilitated the Training.

6. **1 day Impact and Learning workshop (Borno state)**  
   As Part of effort to show case the quality of work that was done in the cycles of AMAL initiative that was completed, CARE organized an impact and evaluation workshop with support from UNFPA to show case the achievements of the AMAL project to stakeholders from Ministry of health, State Primary health care, Ministry of women Affairs, UNFPA, community leaders, religious leaders, AMAL facilitators, AMAL leaders and other CARE staffs. The objective of this was to give an overview of the project, the results achieved, implementation strategy, challenges, lessons learnt, challenges and recommendations for future implementation. 76 Participants were in attendance(23M and 53F).

7. **Cycle 3 of the AMAL initiative**  
   Within the reporting period, the 3rd cycle of AMAL was completed and climaxed with the Graduation of the Last YMC participants who received Dignity kits while other community and CAG members were issued some Visibility items which was procured.

8. **ToT Refresher Training for AMAL Facilitators**  
   With the future of Implementing AMAL in the coming year, CARE international organized a 4 day refresher Training of the AMAL facilitators in a bid to equip them for future engagements on the AMAL project.

9. **Procurement of FP commodities.**  
   Within the reporting Month, CARE international Procured Family Planning commodities and distributed same to the Facilities supporting the AMAL project in its implementation.

10. **Procurement of Dignity Kits**  
    144 Dignity Kits were procured for Young mothers club Participants as part of measures to meet the needs of Adolescent mothers participating in the sessions of the AMAL initiative.