Using Established Polio Eradication Networks and Systems to identify and Respond to COVID-19 Outbreaks in Northeastern Nigeria

Presenter: Lee Losey, Global Deputy Director, CORE Group Polio Project/Catholic Relief Services Chief of Party

Co-authors: Dr. Samuel Usman, Dr. Kathy Stamidis, Dr. Opeyemi Adeosun
The CORE Group Polio Project

• A multi-country, multi-partner polio eradication project started in 1999
• Currently working in 8 countries: India, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Uganda, Somalia and Afghanistan.
• Previously also in Angola and Bangladesh
• A coalition of 11 international NGOs and 20 National NGOs including:
  • World Vision (prime), CRS, SCF, IMC, ARC, IRC, ADRA, MTI, CARE, Red Cross, and CCRDA.
• 16,607 Community Volunteers
The Secretariat Model

• A Small National Team of Technical Experts in each intervention country to coordinate and oversee the work of the NGO partners
• Collaborate with the government, UN agencies and others
• Represent NGOs and Community voices at district, state and national meetings
• Transmit and communicate government messages, policies and plans to the community level
CGPP Interventions

• Social and Behavior Change Communication to promote and increase demand for childhood vaccination
• Social Mobilization and Support to large polio vaccination Campaigns
• Community-based Disease Surveillance with a focus on Acute Flaccid Paralysis
# CGPP Covid-19 Intervention Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CGPP Partners</th>
<th>States</th>
<th>LGAs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRS</td>
<td>Kaduna</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yobe</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMC</td>
<td>Kano</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Borno</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCI</td>
<td>Katsina</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>76</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Polio Vaccination Campaign in Nigeria
COVID-19 in Nigeria

- Samples tested – 509,555
- Confirmed cases – 58,460
- Active cases – 7,454
- Discharged – 49,895
- Death – 1,111
Overview of COVID Response in CGPP Focal States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CGPP States</th>
<th>Confirmed cases</th>
<th>Active Cases</th>
<th>Discharged</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kano</td>
<td>1,737</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1,661</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaduna</td>
<td>2402</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2313</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katsina</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>835</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yobe</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borno</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data: as at 12:00am Tuesday 29 September 2020
Background: CGPP Nigeria

• CGPP Received USAID funding for COVID Response in 5 States

• CGPP implements these intervention directly through its established international partners - the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), International Medical Corps (IMC) and Save the Children International (SCI) who operate through local Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

• The Secretariat coordinates the activities of the partners across the five CGPP focal states which are designated both high risk for Polio and for COVID-19: Borno, Yobe, Kaduna, Katsina and Kano.

• The NGO and CBO partners recruit Community Volunteers (CVs) known as Volunteer Community Mobilizers (VCMs) and Community Informants who implement of the Covid-19 response across the five states.
Training of some VCMs in Ungogo LGA Kano
CGPP Activities to support COVID-19 Response

**Coordination**
- Stakeholders meeting to discuss COVID-19 response in the state.
- Coordination meetings and weekly state RRT meetings
- Supportive supervision to monitor activities and mentor CVs and other program staff.

**Surveillance and Contact Tracing**
- Active Case Search for suspected COVID-19 cases
- Referral of suspected COVID-19 Cases
- Contact tracing

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)**
- Motorized campaigns conducted across focal LGAs.
- 100 Male Peer Educators (MPEs) conduct male peer sessions.
- Compound meetings with mothers demonstrating COVID preventive measures (handwashing, respiratory hygiene etc.)
- Advocacy visits to traditional and religious leaders.

**Point of Entry (POE)**
- Support for POE screening in five focal states

**Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)**
- Hand washing facilities produced, distributed across communities
Leveraging Polio Infrastructure and Learning for COVID-19 Response

• CGPP currently implements the COVID-19 intervention in 76 LGAs (districts) in the 5 focal states

• CGPP utilizes its network of 1,667 community mobilizers to reach communities with key convergent messages on polio vaccination, routine immunization, ANC visits, nutrition, key WASH practices, and now COVID.

• Using this well-established and trusted mechanism of community engagement allows CGPP to transfer important COVID-19 information that is well received by communities

• Since May, CGPP volunteers have conducted 330,000 house to house visits reaching 3,509,571 people with COVID messaging.

• VCMs along with Community Informants routinely contribute to AFP surveillance, and have now been trained to contact tracing for COVID-19
CGPP in Nigeria: Background

• Community Volunteers conduct house-to-house behavior change communication using a Flip Chart to reinforce key health messages.

• The project is using the same cadre of community volunteers to deliver COVID-19 messages including handwashing, Physical and Social Distancing

• The community volunteers also conduct Contact Tracing along with another Cadre of CVs known as Community Informants (CIs)
Passengers wash their hands at CGPP Handwashing Station as part of safety measure on COVID-19 at Television Garage in Television Ward, Kaduna South LGA, Kaduna State.
Summary of Key Activities

- Motorized campaigns conducted across focal LGAs.
- Handwashing stations distributed to communities.
- 100 Male Peer Educators (MPEs) conduct COVID-19 education sessions.
- Compound meetings with mothers demonstrating COVID preventive measures (handwashing, respiratory hygiene etc.)
- Advocacy visits to traditional and religious leaders.
- Supportive supervision to monitor activities and mentor CVs and other program staff.
- Active case search for suspected COVID-19 cases
- Referrals of suspected COVID-19 cases
- Stakeholders meeting to discuss COVID-19 response in the state.
- Coordination meetings and weekly state RRT meeting
- Support for Point of Entry (POE) screening
Male Peer Educator Program

❖ A total of 1,516 sessions were conducted to reach 11,609 men through Male Peer Educators

Data source: CGPP Weekly COVID Intervention Report
A VCM during House to house sensitization of Caregivers on COVID-19 in Ungogo LGA, Kano
Collaboration

• At national level, CGPP is a sitting member of the Covid-19 Command and Control Center of NPHCDA in the National EOC

• CGPP is a member of State Covid-19 Task Force and Rapid Response Team with the mandate of coordinating and providing technical collaboration with other IPs in the five Pillars of COVID-19 response.

• At state level in Kano, CGPP collaborates with Ministry of Information and National Orientation Agency (NOA) on mobile messaging campaigns to continue to reach communities with public service announcements, pre-recorded messages

• CGPP supports the state EOC in the coordination of WASH inputs for prevention and response to COVID-19.

• CGPP is collaborating with traditional and religious institutions in the covid-19 response across the states to ensure they take ownership of the interventions

• Participate in daily Virtual EOC ERM and state Covid-19 Task Force
Challenges

• Contact tracing efforts have been hampered by the inability to locate addresses in unmarked areas and the unwillingness of some positive patients to reveal contacts

• Inadequate PPE and IPC commodities to sustain a large-scale response, including logistics and supplies to take samples.

• Poor support at points of entry leaving vulnerability for imported cases

• Low risk perception due to myths and misconceptions

• Stigma

• Inadequate access to testing services in many areas
Sensitization of community members on COVID-19 preventive measures in Old Maiduguri settlement of Jere LGA, Borno state
Building the Capacity of CGPP focal states to Respond to COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capacity Building Activities</th>
<th>Total Number of People Trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care workers trained</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers trained on COVID-19 information, protocols, PPE, and physical distancing for CGPP volunteers</td>
<td>1,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCMs and Community Informants who received on the job training for contact tracing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*CGPP Volunteer Training on COVID-19 in Bichi LGA, Kano State*
## CGPP Nigeria COVID-19 Response Achievements

### Community Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>Program Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of household reached with COVID-19 information and messages</td>
<td>330,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Adults reached with COVID-19 messages</td>
<td>3,509,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Community outreach Campaigns conducted by CGPP trainees</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact Tracing Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>Program Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of COVID-19 contacts traced in CGPP supported LGAs</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of COVID-19 suspected cases referred by CGPP trained CVs during active case searches</td>
<td>4,798</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WASH Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>Program Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of handwashing stations installed or maintained by CGPP in focal communities/health facilities</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Sensitization of caregivers in Kofa IDP camp of Konduga LGA, Borno state*
Next Steps

- Work with state governments and partners to address the stigma and discrimination for Covid-19 suspects or patients
- Continue motorized campaigns
- Continue monitoring hand washing stations
- Use CVs and Male Peer Educators to increase community trust in adherence to safety measures
- Intensify active case search and referral of suspected case
- Support and intensify contact follow-up across the States
- Produce additional IEC materials such as flip charts, posters, fliers in local language
CGPP supported POE staff screening and providing COVID-19 preventive messages to passengers entering Yobe (CGPP was the first partner in the state to accomplish this since the advent of Covid-19)
Conclusion

1. Using an established program with a large cadre of Community Volunteers greatly enhanced the speed and impact of the CGPP COVID-19 Response

2. Using trusted community members to promote COVID-19 messages enhanced acceptance

3. CGPP significantly raised awareness on COVID-19 leading to Behavioral Change using a mixture of House-to-House education, Compound meetings, Male Peer Educators, Motorized campaigns and engagement of Religious and Traditional Leaders

4. Stigma and discrimination continue to adversely effect the Nigeria COVID-19 Response