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Executive Summary

Biu LGA Community Development Plan

BORNO STATE, NIGERIA

2026-2030

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IMPLEMENTED BY:

OXFAM

Yaharakari Foundation

CRUDAN

(CODERHI) NIGERIA

INTRODUCTION

Biu Local Government Area has witnessed insurgency and flooding over the years. Beyond the loss of livelihoods, physical infrastructure such as health centres and schools became dilapidated and were destroyed. A lot of people were displaced, and lives were lost.

In view of the foregoing, the Local Government and the Traditional Leaders of Biu LGA yearned for rapid social and economic development. With the support of the GIZ's Social and Economic Participation of Returnees, Internally Displaced Persons and the Host Population in North-East Nigeria (SEPIN) programme, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Union (EU), they initiated the Community Development Planning (CDP) process, which aims to bring together various stakeholders at the ward level to plan for the development of their communities through a participatory, bottom-up approach.

The CDP process has given community stakeholders an opportunity to come together to discuss the developmental challenges they face, including their causes and strategies for solving them through rigorous brainstorming with expert support.

While stakeholder sensitisation, ward analysis, and community mobilisation played a crucial role in the CDP process, the Community Development Planning session itself was the heart of the process. This 2-day activity session per cluster is akin to village/town meetings, where community members come together to discuss development issues that affect them and plan activities to address them.

The major objectives of the CDP session are:

- To provide an opportunity for different socio-economic groups to discuss and analyse their livelihoods, including problems, causes, strategies and potentials within the community that could help them solve these problems.
- To build people's capacity to participate more actively in development issues affecting them as individuals and their community as a whole.
- To create a platform where the people can discuss with their political and traditional leaders.
- To identify and prioritise the needs of the community.

Participants of the CDP sessions were carefully selected, cutting across demographic and socio-economic groups within the wards, including vulnerable groups such as IDPs, persons living with disabilities (PWDs) and orphaned children.

The CDP process in Biu LGA was facilitated by the Governance Component of GIZ's Resilience Programme and its partners, comprising Oxfam International, Yaharakari Women and Youth Foundation (YWYF), the Budgeting and Planning Department of the LGA, and Borno State Government's ministries and extra-ministerial departments, including the Borno State Office for the Coordination of Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Response. The Executive and Legislative Arms of the Local Government, along with traditional and religious leadership, supported and guided the CDP process.

The CDP process resulted in the preparation and validation of the LGA Development Plan, which highlights the LGA's development priorities for the next five (5) years.

The plan has since been reviewed to strengthen its gender responsiveness and climate resilience, in line with the CDP approach's inclusion principles. The original problems, priorities and solutions were kept as the communities defined them, and gender and climate considerations were added into the sector tables and the monitoring framework.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Development Planning (CDP) sessions for Biu LGA were held from 17th to 24th October, 2025. They brought together a diverse group of stakeholders from across the LGA's ten wards to develop a joint plan for the community's development.

The CDP sessions drew a wide range of participants, including political, traditional, religious, and women leaders, as well as men and women from different age groups, artisans, persons with disabilities (PWDs), internally displaced persons (IDPs), and female heads of households. The sessions aimed to promote participation and inclusion in the development process, recognising Biu LGA's diverse population, which comprises multiple ethnic groups, including Lunguda, Waja, Fulani, and others, who are predominantly farmers, herders, and petty traders.

During the Community Development Planning (CDP) sessions, the people of Biu LGA collectively defined development as "transformation for positive change" and envisioned a future with a high-quality education system, improved agricultural activity, a steady power supply, sufficient potable water, and good roads in good condition throughout the year. They also envisioned a developmentally advanced LGA which is flood-free and has well-equipped healthcare centres.



The LGA is blessed with natural resources such as monazite, tantalite, sharp sand, stones and rivers, sand for painting, as well as economic resources such as markets, provisions shops, grinding/milling machines, bakery, table water factories, and social resources like worship centres, schools, viewing centres, and football fields. However, despite these resources, the LGA faces challenges that threaten its development. These challenges, grouped into ten (10) sectors, include insufficient potable water, poor access roads, soil degradation from excessive agrochemical use and flooding, poor entrepreneurial skills across the LGA, and poorly equipped primary and secondary schools with insufficient qualified teachers and teaching aids. Furthermore, the LGA faces a shortage of qualified health personnel and poorly equipped health care centres. Other challenges include delays in pension payments to retirees, domestic violence, and limited access to scholarships. The CDP identified 113 priority needs (development challenges).

The top five most prioritised sectors by sex and age of the CDP participants requiring priority support, in no

particular order, were agriculture and food security, conflict and security, education, health, and physical infrastructure. Across all wards in the LGA, the general priority ranking of sectors was physical infrastructure, health, education, agriculture and food security, conflict and security, water and sanitation, economy and livelihoods, gender, social protection, and climate change and green economy.

To address the identified challenges and in line with the LGA CDP's vision, a Problems-Solution-Activity (PSA) Matrix was prepared. The matrix proposed solutions and activities to address the identified problems from community members' perspective, with support from sector experts.

To ensure the sustainability of the CDP, the communities selected persons of different ages, genders, and villages to serve as members of the Ward Development Support Committee (WDSC).

Gender-responsive and climate-smart review: In 2026, Hevom Partners Limited reviewed the plan to strengthen how it reflects gender equality, social inclusion, and climate resilience. No community-identified problem, priority, solution or activity was removed, changed or re-ranked. Instead, we added additional causes, solutions, and activities within the existing sector tables (shown as tracked changes), along with gender and climate monitoring indicators. These additions respond to the needs of women, girls, youth, persons with disabilities, widows, female-headed households, and displaced persons, and the main climate hazards in Biu LGA: flooding, erratic rainfall, heat waves, soil erosion, and windstorms.

THIS IS OUR LGA

Geographical Information

Biu Local Government Area (LGA) is located in the south-western part of Borno State, Nigeria. It lies between latitudes 100 36' 40" and 110 00' 24'' North of the equator and longitudes 110 35' and 120 30'E of the Greenwich meridian. It shares boundaries with Damboa LGA of Borno State to the North-East, Gujba LGA (Yobe State) to the North-West, Chibok and Askira Uba LGAs (Borno State) to the East, Hawul, Bayo, and Kwaya Kusar LGAs (Borno State) to the South, and Gulani LGA (Yobe State) to the West. The Local Government Area has an estimated total land mass of 3,165 km2.

Demographics: Population

According to the 2006 population census, Biu LGA has a population of 175,760 inhabitants, comprising 90,609 males and 85,151 females, respectively. The projected population as at March 2022 was 257,500[1] people. Religions practised in the LGA include Christianity and Islam. The major ethnic group in the LGA is Pabir-Bura. Other ethnic groups include: Hausa,



[1] https://www.citypopulation.de/en/nigeria/admin/borno/NGA008005__biu/

Fulani, Yoruba, Kibaku, Higgi, Marghi, Igbo, Ibra, Igala, Kanuri, Waja/Tangale, Kanakuru, Kilba, Mandara, Lunguda, Shuwa, Kare-Kare, Tera, Ngas, Maha, among others.

Summary of socio-economic situation



The economy is a mixed agricultural economy, based on herding cattle, goats, sheep, horses, and donkeys, and farming sorghum, millet, sesame, rice, maize, cowpea, cocoyam, sweet potato, groundnut, vegetables, and cotton. Agriculture consists mostly of small farms using traditional methods.[2] Other economic activities in the LGA include petty trading, blacksmithing, leatherworks, pottery, food processing, and fishing. Banks operating in Biu include Access Bank, Keystone Bank, United Bank for Africa (UBA), Bank of Agriculture, NIRSAL Microfinance Bank, and Polaris Bank. Another source of cash for business transactions is the point of sale (POS).

Climate Risk and Vulnerability

Based on the problems identified by communities during the CDP sessions, the main climate-related hazards in Biu LGA are: devastating flooding, reported in Zarawuyaku, Galdimare Ken-Ken, Dugja, Gur, Mandaragirau, Mirnga, Buratai, Gunda and Sul-Unthla Wards, which damages homes, farmland, roads and drainage; soil degradation and erosion, reported in most wards; heat waves and erratic rainfall, reported in all communities; and windstorms that destroy houses, classrooms and health facilities. Insurgency and displacement have also damaged infrastructure and livelihoods and added to climate vulnerability. Women, children, elderly persons, PWDs, IDPs and female-headed households are affected more severely because of their limited access to land, income, information and decision-making. Ward-level quantitative climate data (rainfall, temperature, vegetation and flood vulnerability) should be added to this plan when it becomes available for Biu LGA.

OUR VISION

We, the people of Biu, envision a Local Government Area with functional industries, improved security, good motorable roads year-round, a good communication system, sufficient potable water, a functional health system, and a good educational system. Furthermore, we envision Biu communities with a steady power supply, improved agricultural activities, abundant employment opportunities, and enhanced visionary leadership.

OUR SHARED VALUES

As people of Biu LGA, we are known for our hospitality, integrity, kindness, respect for the elderly, and unity. Furthermore, the inhabitants of Biu LGA are hardworking and compassionate, with a strong sense of togetherness.

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biu,_Nigeria



Hada kanmu shine cigaban al'umanmu.

Our unity leads to the development of our people.

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