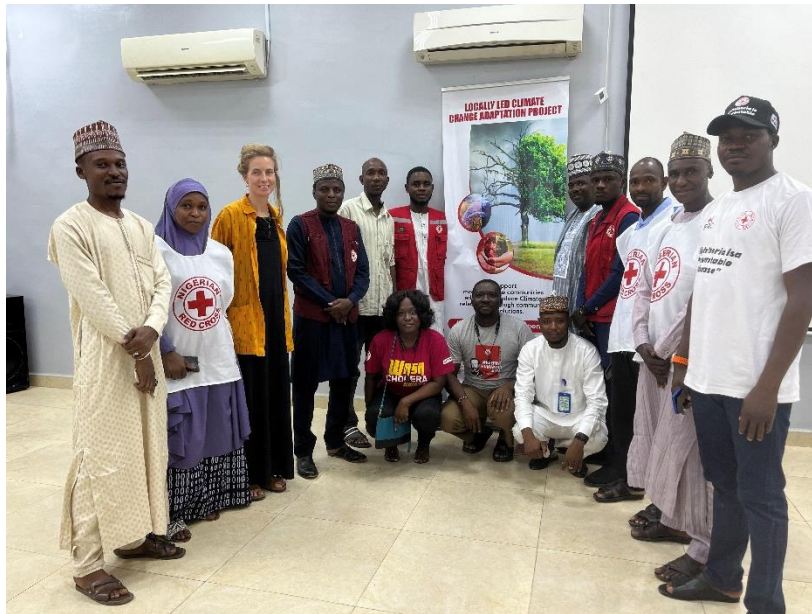




**Bridging hope and resilience:
How CEA is transforming drought-affected communities in Jigawa State**



Aid isn't just about physical support—it's about empowering communities with vital information that can transform and save lives. This philosophy inspired the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) team to embark on a qualitative research project addressing the impacts of climate change in drought-stricken areas of Jigawa State.

The journey began with a collaborative workshop involving stakeholders and branch teams to identify the hardest-hit communities. This led to an Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (ECVA). The research unfolded through focus group discussions with women, men, youth, and persons with disabilities, complemented by key informant interviews with local leaders and religious figures. Hausa-speaking community volunteers conducted these interactions, meticulously documenting responses on paper and through audio recordings to ensure no detail was overlooked.

"It was a fascinating exercise," shared one volunteer. "We gained deep insights into their perspectives on climate change and drought. Interestingly, many believed the drought was an act of God."

Mofe Amoma, NRCS CEA Focal Point, emphasized the significance of these findings: *"This information is crucial for planning better and devising community-led solutions to tackle drought."*

Data analysis revealed key themes underscoring the importance of community engagement in local climate change initiatives. These insights were discussed during a co-design workshop facilitated by Lilian Adeogba, IFRC Senior CEA Officer, and Sabrina Gehrlein, IFRC CEA Delegate. The workshop featured vibrant discussions and interactive activities designed to generate actionable solutions based on the research data.

Participants expressed satisfaction and a sense of contribution to the climate change project, which has been named the Locally Led Climate Change Adaptation Project. They thanked the Red Cross for the thoughtful engagement and meaningful participation.

Through CEA's efforts, hope and resilience are being woven into the fabric of Jigawa State's communities, proving that aid extends beyond physical support to fostering informed, empowered, and proactive communities ready to face climate challenges head-on.