

Nafa QUICK HUMAN INTEREST STORIES in UPPER RIVER REGION (URR)

Faring Bah- Yorobawol – Upper River Region (URR)

Faring Bah was caught in a happy moment after receiving his cash, he was asked what was responsible for his happiness, and according to him the cash he received will serve him for the rest of the lean season which is a blessing in disguise. Mr. Bah is a 50 year-old farmer who resides in Sare Donfo with his two wives with a household size of 25 people. He traveled for 30 minutes to get to the payment point at Yorobawol and it took him five hours to receive his cash. ‘During this time of year, I am unable to buy a bag of rice for the family. Hence, the money received will be used to buy rice and oil and the rest as fish money. Although, I heard that help was coming to vulnerable households, I didn’t expect that it would have been this quick. Faring further thanked the implementers and recommended for more cash transfers. Despite being very curious to know about the payment process, the securities had to stop me at the entrance to observe handwashing, wearing of face mask and physical distancing even though maintaining safe distance was near impossible.

Fanta Mam Baldeh- Macca Masire Payment Point- Upper River Region (URR)

“I am so happy for the money I have received because at community level some vulnerable and voiceless women like myself are neither identified nor supported said Fanta Mam Baldeh”. Fanta is a widow and a mother of eight children who lives in Macca Masire, in the Northern part of Upper River Region (URR). The 32 year old widow lost her husband approximately a year ago and as result went to live with her brother in their family compound. As the payment was carried out in the same community, she only had to walk for 5 minutes to get to the payment point, and consequently waited for just 20 minutes to receive the money. Even though food is a



basic necessity, nonetheless clothing is equally important, therefore the 32 year old widow divided the money received into buying of food for the family and clothing for her children. She profoundly commended the sponsors of this initiative as she would not have properly fed and clothed her 8 children without the cash transfer. Fanta said that information regarding the cash transfer was not delivered to her until the actual payment day. “Despite being an eligible household for the Nafa Quick Cash Transfer, I was neither informed nor registered, I had to be paid on the supplementary list, which was made possible after I was interviewed at the complaint desk”, an issue she decried heavily. Notwithstanding, Fanta’s limited information about the cash transfer, she narrated her compliance with all the stipulated COVID-19 guidelines, i.e. handwashing, temperature check, wearing facemask and physical distancing at the payment point. Fanta concluded by strongly emphasizing on the need to search for and enroll the socially marginalized windows and women headed households.

Musa Wally- Macca Masire Payment Point- Upper River Region (URR)



Musa Wally a 57 year-old farmer who lives in Wellingara Yareh received the cash from Macca Masire payment point in the Northern part of the URR. Musa trekked on foot for 20 minutes in order to get to the payment point and subsequently waited for 3 hours before receiving the money. With barely any income, Musa Wally is principally responsible for the daily feeding of 31 household family members. ‘Considering my responsibility coupled with the difficult situation we are faced with, I have ever since been waiting for the payment day upon receiving information from the community development regional staff that help is coming in the form of money’, said Mr. Wally. Although eager to receive the cash in order to address his family needs, Mr Wally

abided by the COVID-19 guidelines i.e. the practice of hand washing, wearing of face mask and social distancing. He further expressed gratitude since without the money he might have probably reduced the number of meals per day due to very limited amount of cereals in his stock and crops grown are not yet due for harvest.

Adama Bomou Camara- Gambisara Payment Point- Upper River Region (URR)



Adama Bomou Camara a 55 year-old woman from Gambisara supports herself through petty trading. However, with the advent of the COVID-19, business has not been the same especially when she bears the sole responsibility of feeding 13 household members following the demise of her husband. ‘On the day of the payment, I woke-up with barely any fish money to present on the table and going by my daily routine I overheard that there will be a cash transfer for households at the primary school. I then went to the venue to

enquire about the eligibility criteria particularly for widows. Upon walking for 30 minutes, I arrived at the site, where I was interviewed to establish some facts about my situation and my responses were further verified by the village “Alkalo”. This earned me a coupon and I was subsequently registered and paid 3000 Gambian Dalasis’. Knowing the hardship that comes with the rainy season, Adama rejoiced and explained how she intends to use the money primarily for feeding the family. She however recommended for consideration to be given to women headed households as well as widows with children, since the cash transfer will undoubtedly build their household coping mechanism.