

# Nordic Hotels Nigeria Food Support Project

## AIM AND OBJECTIVE

The aim of the project was to reach and assist 120 families within our immediate community with food packages during the first initial four weeks lockdown of Abuja city

The food packages distributed were essential food items namely:

- Rice
- Beans
- Gari
- Corn flour
- Palmoil
- Grand nut oil
- Spaghetti
- Noodles
- Seasoning cubes
- Salt

These are typical Nigerian food items that can be found in the market. They are cheap and easy to prepared. A combination of either of these foods can make a complete meal.

Each family got a portion of rice, a portion of beans, two portions of garri, 2 portions of cornflour, ½ liter of palm oil, ½ liter groundnut oil, two packs of pasta, two packs of noodles, 10 seasoning cubes, and a pack of salt.

Areas that were covered were villages and remote parts of Abuja:

- Pana Village
- Kado Kuchi Village
- Jahi Village
- Jabi Village
- Utako Village
- Lugbe Orphanage (Peace Village)
- Kuchi Goro Village

- Mabushi Village

## ACTIVITIES

Before we started sharing the food packages we used a survey scheme by going into the community to identify the persons of interest. When they have been identified we go in at once with the food items and come out immediately in order to avoid crowding and risk of being mocked. The identification model helped us accomplish a lot and faster. By identifying staff living in those communities and calling them beforehand, letting them know about our activities in their community under each area, we had our staff helping out distributing the food packages in a safe manner.

## PANA VILLAGE

*Staff contact: Mr. Ezekiel, Electrician, Nordic Hotels*

We were able to reach out to 20 people. Most were elderly people and women with children. We went directly to their homes knocking on doors and personally giving them the food packages. There was one woman, in particular in this village, who told us she solely depend on her son and his salary. The son works in Shoprite (a large supermarket) but two weeks ago he had been laid off due to the COVID19 crisis. Since then daily feeding had become a problem. The food package from Nordic Hotels was a huge relief for them.

## KADO KUCHI VILLAGE

*Staff contact: Mr. Joesph, Head of Housekeeping at Nordic Villa*

We meet with Madam Ngozi who sells food in her local canteen. She lost her husband in November last year. Since then she has been living off her small business to feed her five children. The lockdown affected her business as she was forced to close and had to stay at home. She told us that she and her kids have eaten all the raw food she had available for her canteen business. She was very worried about what to eat when the lockdown was over. She was very grateful for the Nordic Hotels food package.

## JAHU VILLAGE

*Staff contact: Miss Joy, Housekeeper, Nordic Hotel*

We met an old village beggar by the roadside on our way into the village and gave her a bag by the time we were on our way back to the car we saw her sharing the little food meant for one person with two of her beggar friends. I was so touched I had to

come back with two other bags for them to have a bag of their own. This can be seen in the video.

## JABI VILLAGE

*Staff contact: Mr. Joshua, Housekeeper*

This experience was one of the most interesting as the total number of bags distributed were 20 food packages. After sharing food packages to the homes, the elders, and women with children. On our way out of the village, an old woman came running after the car. I asked the driver to stop and the woman asked if she could get one bag for her pastors' wife. I asked her why. She shook her head and was almost crying. She said that she ate her dinner the night before at the pastors' house and she pointed to a church building just beside where we parked. She and other women and children of that community would normally go to the pastors' house to eat whenever they are hungry. This lockdown has made hunger bigger. When we were driving out, we had given out all the food packages we came with so I promised to come back with another one the next day on our way out. Rose Mary (Head of Housekeeping at Nordic Hotel) told me that that was Joshua's (Housekeeper at Nordic Hotel) Pastor and his church the lady was referring to.

When I got home, I called Joshua and I told him to call the Pastor and get him to gather 15 women who he knows would be in need of food during this period.

He did and on the following day we meet with the Pastor inside the church where we shared the food items to them, you could see the joy and happiness on their faces. The Pastor was so grateful, he prayed for us and for Nordic Hotels Nigeria.

## UTAKO VILLAGE

*No staff contact*

Utako Village was no easy task for us as we did not know where to start. The place was filled with men and young boys who looked like they were going to attack us at any moment. We looked around and took a walk inside. On our way Rosemary (Head of Housekeeping at Nordic Hotel) meet a young lady who took us into the innermost part of the village, we meet the poor, the very poor, and the hungry. When we were about to leave, the last house she took us to was a house where a young girl and her two brothers lived. They lost their parents and were orphans. The young girl single-handedly raised her brothers on her own. She is a student of Benue State

University and she sells female cosmetics and clothing to make ends meet. She says that this lockdown is bad for her as she does not have money because most of her customers are school mates. She was so grateful and happy with the food package.

## LUGBE ORPHANAGE (Peace village)

*Staff contact: Mr. Mark and Mr. Segun, Housekeepers at Nordic Hotel*

The total number of bags given in Lugbe was 15 bags. 5 bags for the orphanage with 18 children and 10 bags to widows, elders, women and children.

I did not even know the orphanage existed but we were passing by to make enquire inside the village and the orphanage was by the road so I decided to take a quick look. The orphanage is owned by two elderly couples who have dedicated their lives and property to take care of the children. They have 18 children in a three-bedroom apartment. We asked a few questions on how they survived we were shocked to hear that the last time the Government came to their aid was in 2018. We meet briefly with the children and they prayed for us and told us how happy they were for the food packages. One of the young boys wanted to follow me home, but I promised to come to visit him soon again.

## KUCHIN GORO VILLAGE

*Staff contact: Mr. Lucky, Bar responsible Nordic Hotel and his wife Mrs. Monica, Receptionist at Nordic Villa*

We gave out 10 bags to this village. We knocked on doors around the village and met two couples both retired just sitting at home. We met with a blind old soldier sitting under a tree outside his house who was so excited for the food package he grabbed it and hugged it so tight saying that no one could take it from him. He was so excited and he showed me his house by pointing saying that when next I come I should endeavor to visit.

## MABUSHI VILLAGE

*Staff contact: Miss Patience and Mr. John, Housekeepers at Nordic Hotel*

This was the last place we visited and here we gave out 20 bags of food. We focussed again on the elders, women and children. Another captivating thing that happened was on our way to give the food packages, a young boy ran up to me and dragged my t-shirt. He said: "ma, ma, please I want to collect my mummy's own." I was shocked but impressed at his boldness and courage to even ask, so I asked him: "Where is your mummy?" He told me that she sells pumpkin leaves at the junction but his daddy and

his siblings were at home. So I followed the boy. We kept going deeper and deeper inside the village until we got to one of the last houses and he pointed to a small shed where he and his family lived. I followed him inside I met his father sleeping on a bench. He was furious wake the boy woke him up and wanted to beat up the child. I narrated the story of how the young boy remembered his mum and I insisted we should come along with him. When he heard this he was happy and he hugged his child telling me "thank you" for believing in the boy.

One of the things I learned in this outreach was, there is great poverty in Abuja and it is not far from us. Even without the lockdown, our neighboring villages are suffering and many out of hunger. This kept me thinking this past week and it has been difficult to summarize my encounter to just these few pages. But thank God this was a success. I wouldn't have been able to do this alone without the help of the following staff:

- Rosemary (Head of Housekeeping, Nordic Hotel)
- Joseph (Head of Housekeeping Nordic Villa)
- Martins (Property Manager)
- Deji (Sales and Marketing) video editor
- Gideon ,Onyinye, Kingsley ,Christopher, Gabriel, Rodah, Friday

Please see attached pictures and video for more details:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eh\\_-MwAFvqsG7tPVsyirFN0v3ZpMfkxp?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eh_-MwAFvqsG7tPVsyirFN0v3ZpMfkxp?usp=sharing)

Warm Nordic Regards,

Patience Ololade,  
Head of HR and Controller at Nordic Hotels Nigeria