

MARIAM LADI YUNUSA FOUNDATION – FLAGSHIP AMBASSADORSHIP PROGRAMME.

*Training Local Girls for Community
Ambassadorship - Cycle 1 2022-2023 Set*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	1
Table of Contents	2
Agricultural Training	3
Attendance/Assessment Sheet	7
Leadership Training	8
Challenges	12
Assessment for Leadership Training	13
ICT Training	14
MLY Graduation Ceremony	17

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING HELD 11TH – 15TH AUGUST 2022

The Mariam Ladi Yunusa Foundation launched its scheduled summer camp project in Gulak, Adamawa state on the 11th of August 2022. The annual ambassadorship programme focuses on three major areas- agricultural training, leadership and counselling, and information and communication technology (ICT). The project which lasted for three (3) weeks recorded great dedication and participation from both the trainers and the trainees.

The agricultural training anchored by Mr Joshua Gamaraja was characterized by teachings and copious practical sessions. The agricultural training lasted for five days from 11th to 15th August 2022. Below is the tabular representation of the five-days agricultural training.



The agricultural trainer and the trainees

Days	Topic	Time	Practical session
11 th August	Maize planting	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	
12 th August	Cowpea	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	
13 th August	Groundnut	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	
14 th August	Okra	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	
15 th August	Farm Work/Practical	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	

The trainer, Mr Joshua Gamaraja paid a courtesy visit to the District Head of Gulak on the first day of the training with the trainees. They were warmly welcomed and promised full support

by the district head and the villagers. The district head addressed all participants and encouraged them to be at their best as their involvement in the summer project is a life-long opportunity.

In the first day of the training, the beneficiaries learnt a brief history about the origin of maize, its uses, suitable site selection, appropriate soil for planting, annual rainfall needed, land preparation, time to apply fertilizer, pest and weed control in maize, varieties of maize fit for Gulak's ecological zone, rainfall needed annually, sowing time, harvesting and proper storage of the grains. The trainer declared a 15-minute recess/ snack time for the beneficiaries before the continuation of the day's lectures. The trainer rounded up the teaching session for the first day. 11th August 2022.

The second and third day of the agricultural training had similar events as the trainer and trainees turned out for the teaching session despite the threats posed by the unending rainfall during these days. The teachings on Cowpea and groundnut (*Vigna Unguiculate*), were introduced on the second and third day respectively to the trainees alongside the history, importance of cowpea/groundnut, suitable soil, site selection, pests and weed control, harvesting and proper storage to avoid insects and other pest infestation.



Farm work with the ambassadors

On the 14th, which was the fourth day of the training, the trainees had a recap of the previous lessons before they were introduced to Okra cultivation and integrated pest management. They delved into the uses of okra as a vegetable crop, selection of variety, land preparation, site selection for okra, recommended varieties, planting time, pests and disease control, weed management, fertilizer application, harvesting of okra, different method of preserving and storing okra.



Agric practical session

The practical session which encompassed farm activities – methods of planting, identification of pests and diseases of cowpea, maize, groundnut, and tomatoes on the farmland. etc. The girls felt elated after the questioning and answering session on the farmland as they were able to fully understand all the previous teachings, they had prior to the fifth and final day of the agricultural training. A brief interview session was held with the girls where they appreciated Mariam Ladi Yunusa Foundation for the unquantifiable experience and knowledge they have acquired all through the training sessions. Some agricultural inputs like fertilizer, maize seeds, cowpea seeds, herbicides, pesticides, hoes, and cutlasses were distributed to the trainees (girls) to start up their own farms, presented by the king's secretary and the principal of their school.



Farm tools/ inputs distributed to trainees.

The conclusion of the agricultural training featured a written test to ascertain the level of impact and understanding of what they have learnt.

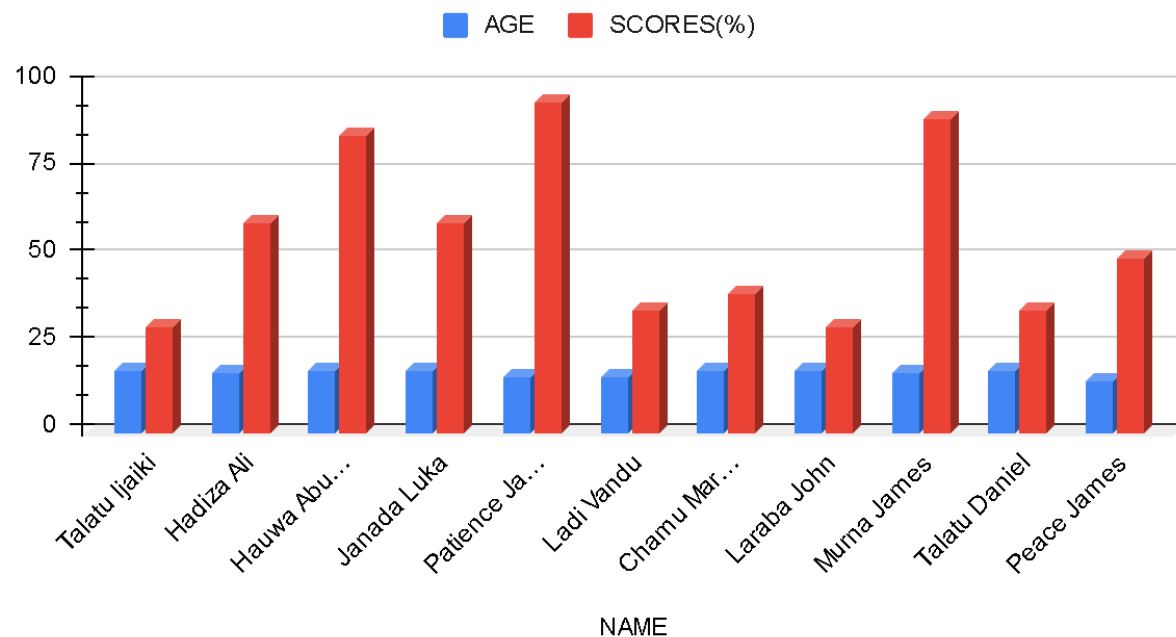


A trainee receiving her share of the farm inputs

ATTENDANCE/ASSESSMENT SHEET FOR AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

S/N	NAME	WED.	THURS.	FRID.	SAT.	MOND.	AGE	SCORES (%)
1	Talatu Ijaiki	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18	30
2	Hadiza Ali	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sick	17	60
3	Hauwa Abubakar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18	85
4	Janada Luka	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18	60
5	Patience James	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	16	95
6	Ladi Vandu	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	16	35
7	Chamu Markus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18	40
8	Laraba John	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18	30
9	Murna James	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	17	90
10	Talatu Daniel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	18	35
11	Peace James	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15	50

AGE & SCORES(%)



LEADERSHIP TRAINING HELD 17TH – 22ND AUGUST 2022

The second part of the summer camp project titled “The Leadership Training and Counselling” commenced after the completion of the agricultural training. The trainer and counselor; Mrs Juliet, arrived Gulak’s palace where the training (beneficiaries) was scheduled to take off. All the girls were of good behaviour as they carried on with their dedication and zealously from the agricultural training. They were all present at the venue even before the arrival of the counselor.

Below is a tabular representation of the events of the leadership and ambassadorship training.

Date	Sessions	Topic
17 th	- Session 1: Introduction to Leadership and community leadership - Session 2: Feelings and Well beings Positive ways to deal with feelings	Counseling session
18 th	- Session 3: Peer relationship - Session 4: Sexual and Reproductive Health	
19 th	- Session 5: Safety - Session 6: Violence Responding to violence	
20 th	- Session 7: Responding to violence - Session 8: Leading/ Growth Mindset	
22 nd	Session 9: Contributing to the community	

The leadership training was segmented into sessions to ensure proper coverage and teachings of the required topics to make the girls (trainees) bona fide Ambassadors of Mariam Ladi Yunusa Foundation. The first day of the leadership training had eventful first and second sessions which featured the introduction of the concept of leadership, and community leadership with reference to community development and ambassadorship. A look into feelings and wellbeing in the second session enabled the trainees identify positive ways to deal with strong feelings and stress, putting into cognizance other people's emotions.



Mrs. Juliet taking the girls through the leadership training

Just as Jonatan Martennson believes that *“feelings are like waves, we can't stop them from coming but we can choose which one to surf”*, the counselor made it known to the ambassadors that expressing their feelings in a positive way is important and knowing that strong feelings are normal. However, knowing positive ways to manage strong feelings and manage stress cannot be overemphasized.

After having a recap of the first two sessions, session 3 and 4 started on the 18th with an interactive and enlightening discussion on relationship. The trainees were consciously involved in the topic as it affects their daily endeavors. They learnt peer relationships, the positive and the negative aspects of such relationships with emphasis on peer pressure, relationships with adults and how to have respectful communication with adults especially on when solving disagreements.

The fourth session introduced the trainees (girls) to their sexual and reproductive health and changes experienced during puberty. Extensive discussions and education about menstruation and

menstrual hygiene, STD's and STI's, and sex education were the highlights of this session. The case management sessions scheduled for day 1 and 2 didn't hold as there were no health-related cases/needs to evaluate among the trainees.

The third day of the leadership training featured teachings on violence, safety during violent situations, the various types of violence, ranging from gender-based violence to domestic violence that exists in homes, at school and in the community. The 5th session continued with case studies of violent situations and actions to be taken in such situations. The ambassadors aired their concerns with respect to existing violence in the community and also shared their horrific experiences and what is required of them if such cases arise in the future.

The counselor, though lectured them on the necessary actions that should be taken during violent situations which include have a personal safety plan, she made it known that the words of Martin Luther King that say *“Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, already adding darkness to a night devoid of stars”* cannot be discarded. Laraba John took ill during the session but was able to receive medical attention which was the only case dealt with for the case management.

Session seven started with a review of the previous sessions to help them have a recall of all that has been taught. The ambassadors were introduced to concept of confidence, building confidence, growth mindset and grit needed for future pursuits and leadership aspirations. The talk on trust was a much-needed topic as some of the ambassadors voiced out their concerns on their inability to trust which emanated from their previous experiences. The 8th session was very engaging. The ambassadors discussed their hopes and aspirations for the future. The positivity birthed by this session made the ambassadors take turns and presented what they all aspire to become in the future. Their chosen profession is premised on the current needs and situation of their immediate community in a bid to proffer solutions to the looming problems in the growing community. Three (3) girls are future medical doctors, 1 pharmacist, 3 lawyers, 1 police officer, 1 soldier (military personnel) and 1 Mopol police officer.

The case management corner attended to one of the girls named Talatu Ijaki who looked sickly and different during the training, The counselor had suspicions of pregnancy but unfortunately, the girl in question was not interested in becoming communicative even after being reached out to privately by the counselor.

The final day of the leadership training was loaded with exciting and educative activities. Immediately after the recap of previous lessons, highlighting the objectives of each topic in relation to becoming a leader that can positively impact the community especially the girls in Gulak, the girls were introduced to the need for individual contributions as ambassadors in their localities. The concluding session enlightened them on teamwork and work rate. They were made to realise that working as a team would made them achieve more and with their industriousness as young women, they can help a wide range of people with the little vocational, culinary, agricultural and entrepreneurship skills that they have acquired.

The highlight of the last day of the leadership training was the baking session with the girls. They were taught how to bake cake and their entrepreneurial spirits were elated as this was a maiden experience for them all. The leadership training ended with a written test before they were all dispatched to their various locations.



The Baking Process



• CHALLENGES

Both the agricultural and leadership training experienced the same impediments. The movement from Michika to Gulak was hitchy because of the heavy rainfall which collapsed the bridge between Michika and Shuwa, thereby making it impossible for motorists to ply the road. The facilitators in persons of Mr Joshua and Mrs Juliet were left with no other option than to cross the damaged bridge on foot. They did so in dedication to the cause.

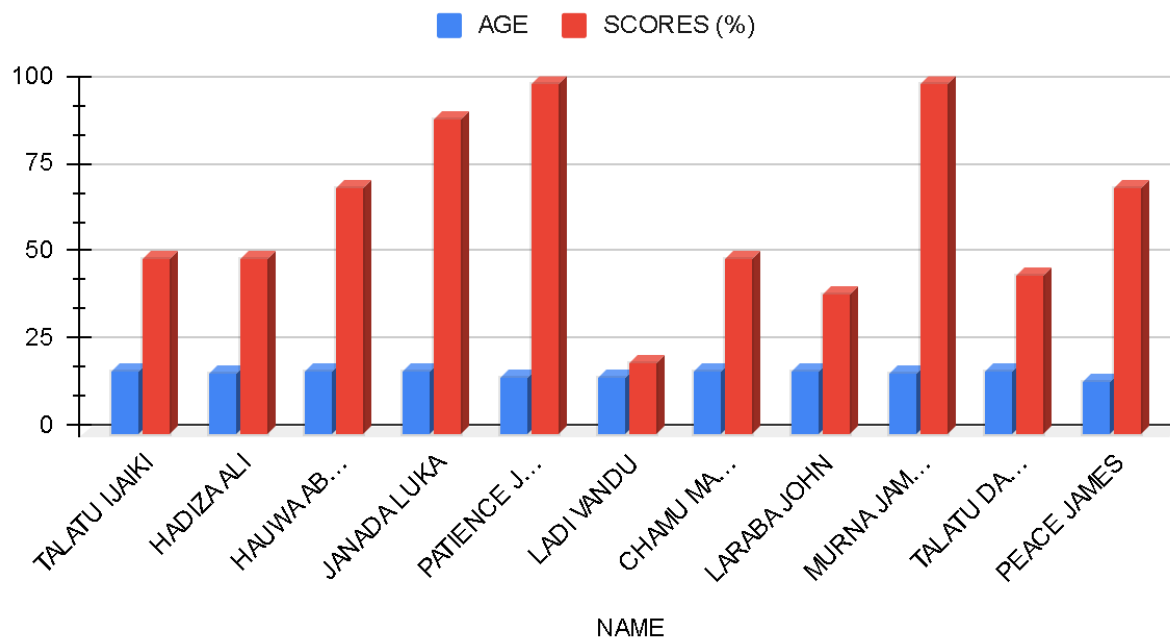


Crossing the collapsed bridge from Michika to Shuwa

NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

S/N	NAME	AGE	SCORES (%)
1	TALATU IJAIKI	18	50
2	HADIZA ALI	17	50
3	HAUWA ABUBAKAR	18	70
4	JANADA LUKA	18	90
5	PATIENCE JAMES	16	100
6	LADI VANDU	16	20
7	CHAMU MARKUS	18	50
8	LARABA JOHN	18	40
9	MURNA JAMES	17	100
10	TALATU DANIEL	18	45
11	PEACE JAMES	15	70

AGE and SCORES (%)



The graph above shows that more than half of the participants got above average in the written test conducted after the leadership training. This is a commendable effort put into the training. They not only showed their readiness and zealously in becoming MLY's ambassadors but also showed how equipped they are to carry on the legacies of Mariam Ladi Yunusa.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

The intensive training for information and communication technology started shortly after the completion of the leadership training. The ICT training can emphatically be regarded as the first of its kind in the Gulak community. Our beneficiaries who were schooled in this intensive computer training not only had the privilege to just operate a computer but also were taken through rigorous basic and major computer programmes ranging from Microsoft office packages (MS word, MS Power point, MS Excel) to internet navigation (E-mailing and research)



The challenges posed by the crude knowledge of the beneficiaries in computer and computer - related activities were surmountable, thanks to the unwavering determination and preparedness of both the beneficiaries and the facilitator. Below is a tabular representation of the ICT training.

Days	Topics	Practical session
23 rd	Introduction to computer	
24 th - 25 th	Microsoft word	
26 th – 27 th	Microsoft Excel	
29 th – 30 th	Microsoft Power Point	
31 st	The Internet	

For proper training void of distractions and monitoring, Mariam Ladi Yunusa Foundation facilitated the acquisition (rent) of a well-ventilated and befitting building for such an intensive exercise.



The trainers Mr Markus and Mr Ijasubu introduced the ambassadors to the definition of computer, how to boot a computer system, parts of a computer, the CPU, monitor and so on. Having these desktop computers on site made the practical session worthwhile coupled with the self-explanatory handbooks provided for the ambassadors.

On the second and third day, the ambassadors were taken through Microsoft Word Office where they learnt how to apply the previous lessons on Mavis Beacon. They were given a short story to duplicate by typing on the Microsoft Word workspace. All the ambassadors, though at different speed and time were able to complete the given task. This was an outstanding development for girls who have never worked on the Ms Word prior to the practical session. This newly acquired knowledge would not be of benefit only to the ambassadors who are aspiring to further their education starting with JAMB Computer-based exams but also the entire community who go to nearby villages to do computer-related work.



An ambassador dazzling on MS word workspace

Microsoft Excel was introduced on the fourth and fifth day to the ambassadors. This was undoubtedly tasking for the ambassadors, but they all rose to the occasion. The trainer, Mr Markus painstakingly dissected the Excel spreadsheet which is the most important part for the girls who are new to this application. It is noteworthy that this training would provide ambassadors with the ability to calculate, organize, and evaluate quantitative data, which can be of help to schoolteachers/ school principals in their communities during computation of results if delegated to them.

The penultimate and final day was characterized by intensive teachings and practical sessions on Power Point and the Internet. The ambassadors who had no knowledge on how to surf the internet, utilize search engines and make research have now been transformed into computer-literate ambassadors within the short but intensive time.

We are proud that MLY-F ambassadors can now send and receive e-mails in their local community without any impediments. This can individually be done by all the 10 ambassadors who participated in the ICT training.



Mr Markus' one on one tutoring during the ICT

MARIAM LADI YUNUSA FOUNDATION MAIDEN GRADUATION CEREMONY

The graduation ceremony for the first ambassadorship cycle of Mariam Ladi Yunusa Foundation was an eventful and euphoric event. The ceremony which was held on the 1st of September 2022 took place at the District Head place in Gulak. Parents, Chiefs, School principals, teachers, MLY representatives and well-wishers were in attendance. The ceremony which lasted for few hours became the talk of the town as the ambassadors paraded their customized T-shirts and loudly appreciated the Mariam Ladi Yunusa Foundation for the rare and educative programme in the village. The District Head couldn't hide his joy but endlessly praised the foundation for their support and vision to better the lives of girls in the community. He said that these girls have been given a beam of hope to become great leaders even beyond the shores of this country.



Upon the successful completion of the MLY Ambassadorship Cycle, the ten MLY-F ambassadors were awarded certificates by the District Head and MLY representatives in Gulak.





MARIAM LADI YUNUSA
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Presentation of Certificates to MLY-F Ambassadors