



Reconnecting Nanumawa Community



VOICES

For two decades, dust choked the dreams of Nanumawa – an agrarian community in Roni Local Government, 225 kilometers from the Jigawa State capital. Their lifeline, the only road connecting them to the world, had been washed away by a flood in 2002, leaving the community gasping for succour. 51-year-old farmer and community leader Ahmadu Hudu remembers – his voice thick with grief, *"My pregnant wife tragically passed away, while we were travelling to the general hospital, which was just 6 km away from our community. The poor road conditions caused the journey to take longer than it should have."*

His story wasn't a unique one, during each rainy season, pregnant women would risk hours-long journeys, with their fate hanging in a balance. As access to other communities was severed, children dropped out after junior secondary school, reluctant to travel the distance to the senior secondary school 6.5 kilometers away. Farmers watched their crops rot, unable to bring them to markets, and many opted to limit cultivation to what they could consume – crippling the farmers' livelihoods and agrarian economy.

Today, the story has changed with the 8 kilometer asphalt road constructed 2022 by the state government. The road was possible through a refined planning process that allows the state government to allocate resources based on its policy priorities. This is driving the execution of projects in its annual plans and impacting the lives of the Jigawa people.

"We are able to achieve our development objectives through careful planning and implementation, thanks to PERL, continuously building our capacity around the deployment of innovative planning and budgeting tools."

- Mallam Auwalu Bello, Director
Budget, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning,

For Mallam Ahmadu, the sorry tales of yesterday have taken a turn for the better.

"this road makes transportation easier for my family to access healthcare at the General Hospital in Roni. Even our local clinic is now functional as health workers find it easier to access our community".

The secondary school children of Nanumawa now have prospects for a brighter future, finding it easier to get to school, while farmers have better access to markets. *"Transporting my farm produce to the nearby market has been a lot easier due to the new road. My harvest has also increased from the two bags of millet in the previous year to more than 16 bags this year, amounting to more for me and my family,"* says Mallam Ahmadu.

For Mallam Ahmadu and other residents of the community, the agonies of the past have been eased. A community once marred by challenges, now exemplifies the positive outcomes that arise when careful planning and efficient resource management converge with community resilience. PERL continues to deepen its work and strengthen its partnership with Jigawa State to ensure that policies and plans address the needs of the people.

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The Partnership to Engage, Reform and Learn (PERL) is a five-year public sector accountability and governance programme, funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. The programme provides support to governments in the core areas of policy development and implementation towards delivering public goods and services; supports citizens to engage with these processes and facilitates evidence-based learning and advocacy.

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