

It's been such an incredible journey working on the "In Search of an Oasis" photo essay storytelling project for the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). As the project coordinator, I had the privilege of working alongside Oluseyi Abdulmalik, our sharp and thoughtful project lead, and Dayo Ibitoye, the founder of Dinovate Solutions. Together, we traveled to Adamawa State and worked hand-in-hand with local communities across three LGAs to help them capture and tell their own stories about something as basic and as critical as water.

This wasn't just a photography project. We used a participatory storytelling approach, meaning the people you see in the photos are the very same people who took them. We equipped them with cameras, trained and guided them, and let them document their own daily realities, the struggles, the hopes, the challenges they face in accessing water. The stories they shared were raw, personal, and deeply moving.

What's even more exciting is how we used technology to bring this to life. We didn't just stop at photos on a hard drive, we built an online platform, a live repository, where all these images and stories now sit. Stakeholders, policymakers, researchers, and advocates can access it anytime, anywhere, and use it to shape decisions that impact real lives on the ground.

For me, this project was about pulling all the threads together, the team, the tools, the communities, the stories and making sure the final outcome truly honored the voices we were amplifying. I'd love for you to check it out. Go explore the photo essay, I promise you'll leave with a fresh perspective, and maybe even a little. inspiration. check here: <https://iwmi-photovoice.com/portfolio/in-search-of-an-oasis/>