

**Progress Report on African Widow and Orphan Support Ministry  
October 2016**

**1. Introduction**

We express sincere appreciation to African Widow and Orphan Support for the generous support toward empowering traumatized widows and orphans due to terrorist attacks and violent communal crises in northern Nigeria. The reach for the third phase so far:

**April to June, 2016**

- a. 420 widows received trauma healing
- b. 300 widows received economic empowerment
- c. 202 orphans were provided with school fees (tuition) for three years

**July to September, 2016**

- a. 336 widows received trauma healing
- b. 240 widows received economic empowerment
- c. 160 orphans were provided with school fees (tuition) for three years

**October, 2016**

- a. 84 widows received trauma healing
- b. 60 widows received economic empowerment
- c. 40 orphans were provided with school fees (tuition) for three years

**2. Project States and Communities - April to June, 2016**

The project was implemented in ten communities in four states:

- a. Yobe State – Damaturu, and Gadaka (through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship)
- b. Adamawa State – Garkida, Hong, Jau and Shelleng (through EYN and Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria women ministries)
- c. Nasarawa State – Kagbu and Agyaragu (through Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ (ERCC) women fellowship)
- d. Borno State – Biu and Marama (through EYN women ministries)

**Project States and Communities from July to September, 2016**

The project was implemented so far in eight communities in three states:

- a. Nasarawa State – Lafia and Assakio (through Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ (ERCC) women fellowship Women Fellowship)
- b. Adamawa State – Guyuk, Gyakan and Gombi (through EYN and Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria women ministries)

- c. Plateau State – Ropp, Rahei-Fan and Rim (through Church of Christ in Nations Rahei, Ropp and Rim regional church councils)

**Project States and Communities October, 2016**

- a. Yobe State – Kukar Gadu and Firi

**Orphan Selection and Training of Caregivers**

Each selected orphan’s school fees (tuition) for a period of three years is covered under the supervision of a caregiver, community leader, and women’s ministry. Caregivers also received training to provide support for their orphans in education, psychosocial care, healthcare, feeding, and legal protection. So many orphans were identified but only a few could be reached.



Beneficiary orphans in Gadaka





Caregivers' training in Kagbu

Caregivers' training in Damaturu



### **Economic Empowerment for Traumatized Widows**

Widows were trained on basic business principles including choosing an appropriate business and proper record keeping. Each trained beneficiary received fifteen thousand naira (₦15,000) each (equivalence of about US\$43) as micro business startup capital. Training and provision of economic empowerment grant is beginning to spur beneficiary widows into basic businesses to

support themselves and their families. Beneficiaries are involved in peasant farming, trading,

sale of grains/tubers/vegetables/soup ingredients, etc. Beneficiaries were also introduced to cooperative savings and loans and are in the process of forming them.



### **Trauma Healing**

Trauma healing sessions were carried out using *“Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How*

*the Church Can Help*” manual. The project in the third phase provided trauma healing for 420 beneficiary widows in Gadaka (42), Damaturu (42), Biu (42), Marama (42), Hong (42), Shelleng (42), Garkida (42), Jau (42), Agyaragu (42), and Kagbu (42).

In the fourth phase so far, 336 widows have gone through trauma healing sessions in Gyakan (42), Guyuk (42), Gombi (42), Ropp (42), Rahei-Fan (42), Rim (42), Lafia (42), and Assakio (42). The trauma healing sessions continue to encourage the process of forgiveness and healing in communities. Many widows were discouraged about carrying on with life due to painful experiences. They now testify of their hope being rekindled and courage to move on as they trust in God.

### **3. Conclusion and Appreciation**

Expressions of gratitude and appreciation continue to flow from beneficiaries, community, and religious leaders in all reached communities. They see the opportunity to be part of this project as a rare privilege and sincerely say a big thank you to the donors. Beneficiaries and communities see the grant as a demonstration of God’s unfailing love that brings hope and strength.

World Renew and Beacon of Hope Initiative also greatly appreciate African Widow and Orphan Support for this generous grant. In the light of so much pain and struggling, individuals and communities are receiving help and encouragement to move on in life for which they remain thankful. We pray for God’s blessings on the supporters of this ministry.