

End of first Phase Project Report on Africa Widows and Orphans Support
(October, 2014 – June 30, 2015)

1. Introduction

African Widow and Orphan Support funding was made available to World Renew to enable Beacon of Hope Initiative in Nigeria to reaching traumatized widows, orphans and vulnerable children in Benue State following persistent crises in several communities due to terrorist attacks including activities of armed herders.



Remains of a destroyed property near Kaseyo

2. Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)

A total of ninety-four (90) 37 females and 53 males traumatized orphans and vulnerable children covering nine communities: (Daudu (11), Gbajimba (11), Kaseyo (11), Adi, (11) Adagi,(11) Alam (10) Ipole-Otukpa,(11), Jootar (11), Imande- Tso (3) were being supported with school fees for formal education. Criterial for selection of beneficiaries included:

- a. Loss of one or both parents through traumatic circumstances especially those associated with terrorism and herdsman/farmers dispute
- b. Unmarried adolescents under 18 years of age with potential to go through at least three years of formal education in an established school
- c. Recommendation with testimony of good character and potential to contribute to community wellbeing in the future

Each selected orphan had his or her school fees covered for a period of three years under the supervision of a nominating committee in collaboration with local community and the women fellowship. The nominating committee/women fellowship in the beneficiary community also made commitment to support at least one other orphan in education, psychosocial care, healthcare, feeding and legal protection and rights. The program could not reach all orphans and vulnerable children who met the selection requirement due to the huge number in target

communities. Orphans' caregivers were trained in each target community to provide support to beneficiaries.



Orphans and some displaced children at Kaseyo

3. Economic Empowerment for Traumatized Widows

A total of 263 traumatized widows were trained in small business development in nine communities (Daudu (33), Gbajimba (36), Kaseyo (35), Adi (35), Adagi (32) Alam,(30) Ipole-Otukpa (30), Jootar (30), Imande- Tso (2) Each beneficiary received Seven Thousand Naira as startup capital for small business initiatives in areas of interest. Eight cooperative savings and loans groups were established in eight groups. Beneficiaries are engaged in regular savings and loans through the established cooperative groups. This provided an opportunity for learning, sharing and encouragement. Beneficiaries expressed appreciations to the sponsors of the project .Beneficiaries are able to provide for their families as well as service to their communities. Engaging in business is helping them to provide for their families.



A group picture of widows and facilitators at Gbajimba training



A group picture of widows and facilitators at training in Kaseyo



A beneficiary widow making local bean cake and porridge



Beneficiary widows at a new business site



Beneficiary widows display their fish for sale at a community market



Beneficiary widow shows her training manual and fish



Two beneficiary widows in grains business

4. Trauma Healing

The project provided trauma healing for all the 281 beneficiary widows who were also the OVC caregivers, and community/church leaders in target communities reached. *“Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help”* booklet written by Harriet Hill, Margaret Hill, Richard Bagge, and Pat Miersma was used as a guide. Beneficiaries expressed great appreciation for the opportunity which they described as timely and valuable in their lives. A lesson from the book was covered whenever the group meets.



Trauma healing beneficiaries in a session



Trauma Healing Session at Daudu

5. Appreciation

World Renew and Beacon of Hope Initiative express sincere gratitude to African Widow and Orphan Support for the generous support for this very timely and appropriate ministry. For sure, individuals

and communities are being empowered and they remain grateful and pray for God's blessings on everyone involved in making this ministry possible.