

**AWOS Program Report**  
**August 2020 to March 2021**

African Widow and Orphan Support (AWOS) continues to bring transformation to communities that have experienced violence and terrorist activities as traumatized widows and orphans are reached with gifts of love. This is empowering them to live better lives. The activities of Boko Haram, armed herdsmen, bandits and kidnappers seem to defy the strategies of the security agencies of government. Loss of lives, destruction of properties and displacement of thousands of people especially in the northern and central regions of Nigeria continue to be of great concern. During the period under review (September 2020 - February 2021) BHI through the generous support of AWOS was able to carry out ministry in nineteen (19) communities where 570 widows and 380 orphans and 380 caregivers were reached.

1. **Adamawa State:** Lafiya Lamurde and Gwanawaya communities through Lutheran Church of Christ of Nigeria (LCCN)
2. **Bauchi State:** Arewa and Mwari communities through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship.
3. **Benue State:** Une and Udei communities through Universal Reformed Christian Church (URCC) Women Fellowship.
4. **Kaduna State:** Bakin Kogi, Kajuru and Kasuwa Magani communities through Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) Church leadership.
5. **Nasarawa State:** Lizzen Keffi and Lambaga communities through Evangelical Reformed Christian Church (ERCC) Women Fellowship.
6. **Plateau State:** Gboro, Bokkos, and Ganawuri communities through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship.
7. **Taraba State:** Mararaba, Lau, and Donga communities through Diaconal Ministry Christian Reformed Church in Nigeria (CRCN).
8. **Yobe State:** Gaidam and Nguru communities through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship.

**Breakdown of selected beneficiaries are as follows:**

1. 570 widows reached through Economic Empowerment training
2. 380 orphans were provided with school scholarship for a period of three years.
3. 380 caregivers received training on provision of care and support to orphans.

In addition, all the 570 widows empowered for business went through trauma healing sessions

## **Economic Empowerment to traumatized widows**

A total of 570 traumatized widows from target communities received training on economic empowerment to develop their skills on business. The training empowered the widows on basic business principles on how to startup or expand existing businesses of their choice. Lessons covered during training include: Correct business worldview, how to choose an appropriate business, money management, business planning, business ethics, good recordkeeping, and marketing strategies. Widows trained were excited learning new skills. They see this as a great opportunity to enable them engage themselves in self-help ventures that will help improve their families. Target beneficiaries were provided with startup grant of thirty thousand naira (about US\$75) as support from AWOS in setting up businesses of their choice. Beneficiaries testified of the timeliness of the support following the ease on restrictions placed during the COVID-19 lockdown in most parts of Nigeria.

Lydia a widow shared she was able to start a business of animal rearing where with the proceeds rebuilt her burnt house that was raised down during an attack. She is happy having a roof over her head with her six children. She sends her appreciation to AWOS





### **Orphan support/ Caregivers training**

Orphans enrolled are carefully identified and selected following set criteria such as orphans should be 15years or younger to enable them receive support for three years in school. Orphans that lost both parents are given priority. An orphan must have a responsible guardian to provide care/support and is recommended by a community or religious leadership to women fellowship selection committee. Beneficiary orphans received a total school support grant of forty-five thousand naira (about \$112) for school fees (tuition) for a period of three years under the supervision of a caregiver, community leader, and women's fellowship. Orphans are happy enrolling back into various schools following the reopening of schools due to lockdown imposed by the government on schools to curtail the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

Orphans' caregivers were also trained on how to provide care and support to orphans under their care. Many care providers have testified of improve relationship and communication with the orphans leading to a happy home.

Shedrack, eleven (11) years old orphan in primary five (5) at Gboro community shared he wants to be a medical doctor when he grows up to be able to help sick people. He is excited at the opportunity to be in school. In the previous academic term, he came out on top of his class as the best overall student. He is grateful to AWOS for keeping him in school



**Orphans supported at Nguru community**



**Caregivers training at Gaidam community**



### **Trauma Healing**

Traumatized widows participated actively in trauma healing sessions in target communities. The manual “*Healing the wounds of trauma: how the church can help*” developed by the American bible society was used in carrying out healing sessions with beneficiaries. They expressed appreciation for the lessons, stating the sessions were timely and very helpful in reliving them of the pain from their traumatic experiences. They shared their joy of having a safe place they can express and share their pain and be prayed for. Most also said they never had an opportunity to share their struggles like that before, mentioning it was very relieving.



Hannatu a widow testified that before the healing sessions she found it difficult to sleep and eat. She was feeling sick all the time needing medical attention. But after the sessions, she felt like a great burden was lifted off her. She now sleeps and eats better, is healthier and able to work on her farm and take care of her children. She prays for God’s blessings on AWOS



Trauma healing session

session at Udie community

## Conclusion

Beacon of Hope Initiative, beneficiary churches and their communities appreciate African Widow and Orphan Support (AWOS) for this great demonstration of love. In the light of so much pain and struggling, individuals and communities are receiving help and encouragement to move on in life with hope. May God’s face continue to shine on AWOS. Amen

## Security Update

### Over 40 farmers killed in Borno

At least 44 rice farmers were killed by suspected members of the Boko Haram while harvesting their crops, a lawmaker and sources have said

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/428527-breaking-over-40-farmers-killed-in-borno-officials.html>

### 10 killed, 60 injured in Boko Haram attack in Maiduguri

At least 10 persons have now been confirmed killed and about 60 injured when Boko Haram insurgents attacked Maiduguri, the Borno State capital

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-east/444937-updated-10-killed-60-injured-in-boko-haram-attack-on-maiduguri.html>

### **Gunmen kidnap over 300 girls in Nigeria school raid: Police**

Unidentified gunmen have kidnapped 317 schoolgirls in the northwest Nigerian state of Zamfara, police said in a statement

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/26/nigerian-school-students-abducted-in-second-kidnap-ping-in-a-week>

Gunmen have released girls who were kidnapped from a boarding school in the northwest Nigerian state of Zamfara, the governor said in a tweet

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20210302-hundreds-of-kidnapped-nigerian-students-release-d-says-governor>

### **Gunmen abduct dozens of schoolchildren in central Nigeria**

Dozens of schoolchildren, teachers and their relatives have been abducted by gunmen in central [Nigeria](#) after an attack on a boarding school, the latest in a rising wave of mass abductions and attacks that have beset the country

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/feb/17/gunmen-kidnap-hundreds-of-students-in-central-nigeria>

### **Kidnappers release 42 abducted from school in Nigeria**

Gunmen in Nigeria have released 42 people, including 27 students, who were kidnapped from a boarding school last week in the north-central state of Niger, the state's governor said

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/2/27/kidnappers-release-42-abducted-from-school-in-nigeria>

### **How suspected herders attacked me – Governor Ortom**

The Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom, says gunmen suspected to be herders attacked him on his farm near Tyo-mu, along Makurdi-Gboko Highway on Saturday afternoon

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/450229-how-suspected-herders-attacked-me-governor-ortom.html>

### **Nigerian pastor still in captivity months after abduction:**

Mr Zongo, alongside two women, were abducted by the Boko Haram terrorists on October 19, 2020

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/436414-nigerian-pastor-still-in-captivity-three-months-after-abduction.html>

**4 killed as herdsmen attack Plateau communities:**

Four youths were killed by suspected herdsmen that invaded Rikwechongu and Zirshe villages of Irigwe Chiefdom, Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/02/4-killed-as-herdsmen-attack-plateau-communities/>

**Many missing as Boko Haram retakes Borno LG**

Boko Haram terrorists have retaken Damasak, the Headquarters of Mobbar Local Government Area, LGA, of Borno State after reportedly dislodging the Nigerian security forces.

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/03/many-missing-as-boko-haram-retakes-borno-lg/>

**Again, suspected armed herdsmen kill seven mourners in Benue communities:**

No fewer than seven mourners were feared dead and scores injured in a fresh attack by suspected armed herdsmen on Chongu, Tse Ayev and Tyohembe communities of Guma Local Government Area of Benue state

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/03/again-suspected-armed-herdsmen-kill-seven-mourners-in-benue-communities/>