

## **Progress Report on African Widow and Orphan Support on Work Done from July 2017 to March 2018**

### **1. Introduction**

Beacon of Hope initiative, World Renew, beneficiaries and their communities express sincere appreciation to African Widow and Orphan Support (AWOS) for the continues support of economic empowerment of traumatized widows, trauma healing and support to orphans as a result of Boko-Haram terrorist and herdsmen attacks in various states and communities in central and northeast part of Nigeria. During the period under review (July 2017 to March 2018) BHI has carried out work in thirteen communities resulting to 390 widows and 260 orphans supported. Beneficiary were selected from the following states

1. Bauchi State: two communities were reached as follows Bar-Arewa, and Tafawa Balewa) through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women’s Fellowship
2. Nasarawa State: three communities were reached as follows Ancha, Tudun Adabu, and Akpeka through Evangelical Reformed Christian Church (ERCC) women fellowship
3. Plateau State: six communities reached are Miango, Ancha, Mbar, Gindiri, Fobur, Nding through the church of Christ in Nation (COCIN) women fellowship.
4. Yobe State: two communities were reached as follows Badejo and Dagare through the church of Christ in Nation (COCIN) women fellowship.

### **Detailed Beneficiaries Reached**

1. 546 widows received trauma healing
2. 390 widows received economic empowerment
3. 260 orphans were provided with school fees (tuition) for three years
4. 260 orphans’ caregivers trained

**Note:** (Widows that received economic empowerment are part of those in trauma healing)

### **Orphan Selection and Training of Caregivers**

Orphans were selected through the women fellowship leadership of local church congregations based on set criteria. Selected orphans were those that experienced traumatic situations associated by violence such as displacement, terrorist attacks, and herders /farmers clashes. School fees payment was done for orphans aged 15years and below for a period of three years. Priority was given to orphans that have lost both parents. Selected orphans were those committed to good character living have guardians willing to provide complementary help needed to care for beneficiary orphans such as shelter, clothing, adequate nutrition, health and psychosocial support to them. In addition beneficiary orphans were recommended for selections by community or religious leader.

Each of the 260 beneficiary orphans had their school fees of thirty thousand naira (\$85) paid up front for a period of three years from (2017 to 2019) All the beneficiaries are currently in school studying in different location in the beneficiary areas (from primary to junior secondary schools).

Orphans are being supervised by their guardians or caregivers, community leaders and the women fellowship. BHI and WR are monitoring the progress of these orphans each quarter. Caregivers were trained on how to provide support to beneficiary orphans in areas such as psychosocial care, healthcare, nutrition, legal protection, clothing, health and housing. There were many who needed help but only a few could be selected.



**Orphans at Akpeka**



**Caregivers training at Akpeka**



**Caregivers training at Mbar**



**Orphans at Adabu**

## **Economic Empowerment for Traumatized Widows**

Beneficiary widows received training on basic business principles using the BHI “economic empowerment manual” Topics covered were as follows: Examining world view, definition of economic empowerment, choosing an appropriate business, Strategies for a successful business, developing a business plan, Business values, marketing and good record keeping. Each trained beneficiary was supported with twenty-five thousand naira (about \$71) as a business startup capital. The economic empowerment support given to widows has encouraged them to engage in self-sustainable business ventures in order to support their households. Beneficiaries are engaged in business ventures such as peasant farming, petty trading such as sale of grains, yam tubers, vegetables and food vendor. Beneficiary widow are encouraged to form savings and loans group to enable them access local funds and to encourage one another. The profit made from widow’s business ventures has helped them to provide basic needs of their households.



**Economic empowerment training at Akepa**



**Economic empowerment training at Nding**

## **Trauma Healing**

Trauma healing sessions were held in 10 communities with four hundred and twenty (420) widows using the manual “*Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help*” manual. Many beneficiaries acknowledged that they received healing in their hearts, not to give up on life. They were encouraged do things that help them recover well such as attending church/

community meetings, rest and eat balance diet. Trauma healing topics covered were as follows:  
1. If God loves us, why do we suffer? 2. How can the wounds of our hearts be healed 3. What happens when someone is grieving? 4. How can we help children who have experience bad things? 5. How can we help someone who have been raped How can a church minister in the mist of HIV and AIDS. 6. Domestic Abuse 7. Suicide / Addiction 8. Caring for the caregiver 9. Taking your pain to the cross 10. How can we forgive others 12. How can we live as Cristian in the mist of conflict. 12. Looking ahead

Beneficiaries of trauma healing are working hard to reach out to others traumatize persons in their communities. BHI encourages beneficiary communities to engage in peace building efforts, promote forgiveness, reconciliation with their enemies. Trauma healing sessions have rekindled hope and courage in beneficiary communities. The trauma healing sessions has helped beneficiary to come to a stage where they have forgiven the attackers. BHI is helping them find good ways to rebuild their lives and communities.



**School destroyed in Akpeka**



**Some destroyed houses at Tudun Adabu**



**Trauma healing training at Mbar**

## **Appreciation**

Thank you for having a heart for the vulnerable. Beneficiaries see this opportunity as a rare privilege and send their appreciation. God Bless