

## **Progress Report on African Widow and Orphan Support on Work Done from March 2020 to July 2020**

### **1. Introduction**

BHI is deeply grateful to African Widow and Orphan Support (AWOS) for continuous sacrifice and support for the ministry which is changing lives. This support and gifts of love continue to empower traumatized widows and orphans who have suffered due to terrorist attacks of Boko Haram and armed herdsmen in northern and central Nigeria to carry on their lives with hope for the future. So far, a total of 748 beneficiaries have been reached between March 2020 to July 2020.

1. **Benue State:** Gbeji and Shan communities through Universal Reformed Christian Church (NKST) Women Fellowship.
2. **Plateau State:** Dong, Ganawuri and Kwi communities through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship.
3. **Yobe State:** Buni, Yadi and Gashua communities through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship

### **Detailed Beneficiaries Reached**

1. 310 widows went through trauma healing sessions
2. 8 women fellowship leaders were selected from the beneficiary communities for healing group sessions.
3. 270 widows received economic empowerment (business training and grant)
4. 80 orphans were provided with school fees (tuition) for three years
5. 80 caregivers trained on providing care and support to their orphans

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

A total of eighty (80) orphans were provided with school scholarship of forty-five thousand naira (about \$128) each and were happy learning in school. Also, eighty caregivers received training to provide care and support for their orphans. Areas covered include; education, psychosocial care, healthcare, feeding, and legal protection. Some caregivers testified of having their worldview changed stating that lessons learned were helpful and an eye opener. However due to Covid-19 pandemic the orphans as well as other pupils have to stay back home for safety as schools are temporarily shut down. Most children in the meantime are home schooled



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

Selected widows were trained in entrepreneurship to be able to carry out self-help ventures. They received training on business worldview and business principles which include choosing an appropriate business, marketing strategy, proper record keeping, money management, business plan and good business ethics. Each trained beneficiary received thirty thousand naira (about US\$85) as micro business startup capital. Participants trained in economic empowerment established or expanded small ventures like animal rearing, sale of grains, tubers, vegetables, fruits, and food selling. They are making some income for themselves and their families with reduced dependence on others. Some widows employed additional persons to meet up with demand of their products. However, the impact of Covid 19 continues to affect businesses due to closure of some markets, restriction of movements, physical contacts and gatherings. Only recently were some restrictions relaxed, with offices, some economic activities especially food and medical services allowed to operate



### **Trauma Healing**

Trauma healing sessions were held with 318 women (310 traumatized widows and 8 women leaders) using the manual “*Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help*”. Beneficiaries testified being able to eat and sleep better as a result of the healing sessions. They also shared having some relief as they let go of the pain in their hearts through the forgiveness process. They expressed hope for the future and willingness to carry on with their lives as they

were reminded of God’s love for them. Some have started participating in church and community activities unlike before



### **Conclusion**

At the moment, BHI activities are picking up despite the increasing rate of Covid infection but with adherence to safety measures.

Beneficiaries continue to be thankful for AWOS stating “you are God sent”. They pray for His blessings on you and the entire AWOS family