

## **African Widow and Orphan Support (AWOS) Program**

### **Beacon of Hope Team Ministry Report Update from October 2021 - March 2022**

In the period under review October 2021 to March 2022, Beacon of Hope Team carried out ministry in seventeen (17) communities of Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba, and Yobe States of Nigeria. A total of 1,190 beneficiaries were reached in target communities. Beneficiaries were as follows: 510 widows who have experienced trauma were reached through economic empowerment training and trauma healing sessions, 340 orphans and 340 caregivers were also reached with school fees support and capacity training on OVC (orphans and vulnerable children) care.

1. **Bauchi State:** Badagari community was reached through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship.
2. **Benue State:** Ngira and Asar communities were reached through Universal Reformed Christian Church (URCC) Women Fellowship.
3. **Borno State:** Konduga community was reached through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship, while Zarawuyaku and Galdimare communities were reached through Church of the Brethren of Nigeria (EYN) Women Fellowship
4. **Kaduna State:** Randa community was reached through Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ (ERCC) Women Fellowship
5. **Nasarawa State:** Doma, Sabon Gari, Kwandere and Gbuku communities were reached through Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ (ERCC) Women Fellowship.
6. **Plateau State:** Gashish and Chuba communities were reached through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship.
7. **Taraba State:** Ibi and Rafin Kada communities were reached through Christian Reformed Church Nigeria (CRCN) Women Fellowship
8. **Yobe State:** Jakusko and Nagere communities were reached through Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Women Fellowship.

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

1. 510 widows reached through Economic Empowerment training and trauma healing
2. 340 orphans were provided with school scholarship for a period of three years.
3. 340 caregivers received training on OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) care

### **Economic Empowerment to selected widows**

Widows who experienced trauma were reached with entrepreneurship training using Beacon of Hope's Economic Empowerment Training manual. This basic business training provided them with skills on selecting appropriate businesses, record keeping, money management, marketing, development of business plan and savings amongst others. They see the knowledge received as eye opener on how they can utilize local resources for self-help economic ventures with better management skills. They were also provided with business start-up capital of ₦40,000 naira each (estimated \$105) where they established or expanded small scale businesses of their choices. Some of these businesses include animal rearing, crop farming, selling of food stuff and grains. Beneficiaries are happy making some income and meeting some of their needs. This has reduced their dependance on others for help. Some shared they were able to help others around them which gives them joy and some sense of purpose.



**Economic empowerment training at Ngira community**



**Hajara at her business in Nagere community**

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

Selected orphans from aforementioned communities were each supported with school fees of forty-five thousand (₦45,000) naira (estimated \$118). This support enabled these orphans to remain stable in school, as some of the orphans were faced with the reality of dropping out before the intervention came. Caregivers were trained and equipped on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) care. Some caregivers appreciated the knowledge received stating they learnt things they did not know before and they are committed to provide better support for orphans in their care. All supported orphans are happy in school learning among their peers.



## Beneficiary orphans in Chuba

## Caregivers training in Zarawuyaku

### Trauma Healing

Beneficiary Widows were able to process their heart wounds during the trauma healing sessions that gave some relief and which further helped them focus more as they carry out their businesses. Furthermore, some widows shared that the trauma healing sessions helped them to understand the importance of forgiveness, some of which are; forgiveness rids them of bitterness and chances of high blood pressure. Many other widows testified to feeling relief in their hearts after the training, especially at the point of taking their pain to the cross. Beneficiaries are now able to support others too in their communities as they carry on in life with hope.



Trauma healing in Zarawuyaku

Group discussion during healing session in Ngira community

*“I have found complete joy; ever since my husband died 5 years ago, I have never heard words so carefully put together to soothe hurting hearts. I am sure those who put this book (healing the wounds of trauma; How the church can help) together were ordered of God because I strongly believe it was written just for me, especially the time for bringing your pain to the cross, I felt my burdens lifted off me and I felt light in my heart as well – Ashelo Anzaku, Sabon Gari community”*

### Conclusion

Beacon of Hope Team, beneficiaries and their communities greatly appreciate African Widow and Orphan Support (AWOS) for the continuous sacrifice of love. Your support is seen as a rare ministry opportunity which is transforming lives for which we are thankful. May God's blessings rest on AWOS and its ministry supporters.

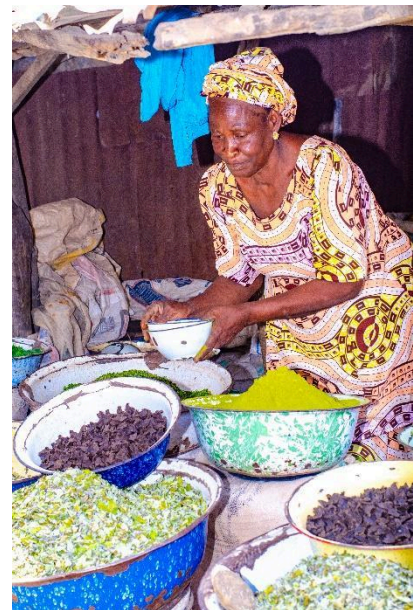
### **Ladi Habu's Story**

Ladi's community Zarawuyaku, was attacked sometime in 2019 by armed herdsmen, unfortunately, her husband was killed on the farm. Many lives and properties were lost. So many people were displaced that day. Ladi and her children had to relocate to a nearby community where they had some relatives. They were traumatized and found life very difficult.

Through the women fellowship, Ladi was selected as a beneficiary of AWOS support. Ladi participated in the healing group as well as the economic empowerment training. She shared that she felt the healing group was meant for her as she was harboring a lot of pain and anger towards the attackers to the point she did not want to see or have anything to do with herdsmen. She also found it difficult to sleep at night as she often relives the painful event. She expressed that the lessons on God's love even when we suffer and forgiveness were very helpful. She was able to process her pain and is experiencing great relief.

After the business training and receipt of startup capital, Ladi ventured into selling food items in her community. She said her worldview on business changed as she thought the only economic activity, she could do was crop cultivation because that was all she did with her late husband. She did not realize the opportunities that abound around her in relation to the needs and wants in the community. Ladi also shared that since she established the business, she earns income for herself and her children which has reduced dependence on others. Life is getting better for Ladi and her family and this strengthens her hope for a better future.

Ladi is glad that God used AWOS through Beacon of Hope Team to bring help to her family. She prays God to bless all who made this possible.



## Security Update

### **Christmas Day Tragedy – Bandits Attack Zamfara**

Residents said the attacks started late on Saturday, Christmas Day, to the early hours of Sunday. Armed persons for several hours late Saturday attacked 15 communities in Gusau, the Zamfara capital

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202112270268.html>

### **Bandits Abduct 20 Villagers in Separate Attacks**

Bandits Abduct 20 Villagers in Separate attacks in Sokoto. The bandits carried out simultaneous attacks on Sunday night in the state.

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202112140047.html>

### **Death toll rises to 38 in bandit's attacks on Kaduna State**

The Kaduna State Government says the death toll in an attack by suspected bandits in Giwa Local Government Area of the state on Saturday has risen to 38 from 20.

<https://guardian.ng/news/death-toll-rises-to-38>

### **1,470 Christians Killed in Nigeria within Four Months**

“The Nigerian Government and Governments of the affected States have made several deliberate attempts to cover the egregious and grisly massacre of Christians in Nigeria by falsely labeling them as ‘herders-farmers clashes’, or attacks by “bandits”, or ‘killings that cut across Muslims and Christians”.

<https://www.persecution.org/2021/05/14/1470>

### **2,371 people abducted in Nigeria in first half of 2021**

An average of 13 persons were abducted daily in Nigeria in the first half of 2021, according to a report by SBM Intelligence, bringing to 2,371

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/07/2371-people>

### **Two soldiers, 32 others killed, seven injured, houses burnt in Southern Kaduna attack**

The Kaduna State Government has said no fewer than 34 persons, including two soldiers, were killed in the Sunday night attack on Agban Kagoro in Kaura Local Government Area of the state by bandits

<https://punchng.com/two-soldiers-32-others-killed-seven-injured-houses-burnt-in-southern-kaduna-attack/>

**50 persons killed, houses burnt as terrorists attack Kaduna communities again.** In a fresh attack on Kaduna State yesterday, about 50 people were allegedly killed while an unspecified number of persons were abducted when terrorists invaded nine communities in Giwa local council of the state.

<https://guardian.ng/news/50-persons-killed-houses-burnt-as-terrorists-attack-kaduna-communities-again/>

### **Gunmen attack Plateau community, kill '15 people**

At least 15 people have been reported killed and many others injured in an attack on Ancha village of Miango District in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/505694-gunmen-attack-plateau-community-kill-15-people.html#:~:text=The%20attack%20in%20Bassa%20is,Bauna%20village%20of%20Bassa%20LGA.>