

Progress Report on African Widow and Orphan Support on Work Done from April 2018 to September 2018

1. Introduction

The support from African Widow and Orphan Support (AWOS) continues to generate great appreciation from widows and orphans including other community members. Beneficiaries shared that the economic empowerment, trauma healing and support to orphans have been of immense help to them. They see it as God's demonstration of love towards them. As a result of Boko-Haram terrorists and herdsmen attacks in various states and communities in central and northeastern parts of Nigeria many lives and properties worth huge sum have been destroyed with thousands displaced. Help received from AWOS is timely and making a difference. During the period under review (April to September, 2018), BHI has carried out work in eleven communities resulting to 240 widows and 160 orphans supported. Beneficiary were selected from the following states

1. Adamawa State: Six communities were reached Ribawa, Mbororo, Futu, Kiri, Bodwai and Lamurde communities through leadership of Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria and Women Ministry Church of The Brethren of Nigeria
2. Nasarawa State: Two communities were reached as follows: Igga and Bassa communities through the Women Fellowship Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ
3. Taraba State: Three communities were reached as follows: Wukari, Gindin Dorowa and Kente through the Diaconal Ministry of the Christian Reformed Church, Nigeria.

Detailed Beneficiaries Reached

1. 462 widows received trauma healing
2. 240 widows received economic empowerment
3. 160 orphans were provided with school fees (tuition) for three years
4. 160 orphans caregivers trained

Note: Widows that received economic empowerment are part of those who received trauma healing

Trauma Healing

Beneficiaries of trauma healing continue to express their appreciation for the opportunity to participate. They shared that the sessions provided them with the opportunity to share their pain and pray for one another. Some even shared that they are now able to eat and sleep better. Of note also is the willingness of many beneficiaries to forgive those that hurt them and move on in life with hope.



Trauma healing session at Wukari

The healing sessions were held using the manual *“Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help”*. BHI continues to encourage beneficiary communities to engage in peace building efforts, promote forgiveness, and reconciliation with their enemies. BHI is helping them find good ways to rebuild their lives and communities.



Taking their pain to the cross during a trauma healing session at Kente

Economic Empowerment for Traumatized Widows

Two hundred and forty traumatized widows were trained on business startup and expansion using BHI economic empowerment Manual. Areas covered include correct business worldview, choosing an appropriate business, marketing, money management, record keeping and business ethics among others. Participants were excited about the opportunity to equip themselves for self-help. Each trained beneficiary was supported with twenty five thousand naira (about \$71) as a business startup capital. Beneficiaries are engaged in business ventures such as peasant farming, petty trading such as sale of grains, yam tubers, vegetables and food vending. This has helped widows to meet some needs of their families.





Widow in her poultry in Ribawa
Widow in her shop in Bodwai



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 and herdsmen attacks. 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.

Each of the 160 beneficiary orphans received school fees support of thirty thousand naira (about \$85). All the beneficiaries are currently in school studying in different locations in the beneficiary areas.

One hundred and sixty 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.

Encouraged by the help, the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria mobilized school fees support for 30 other traumatized orphans.





Caregi

Caregivers training at Igga

Appreciation

Thank you AWOS for the sacrifice of love. May the Lord bless and continue to keep you.