

Update from Nigeria August 18, 2020

Covid-19 Update

So far 49,895 cases of Covid-19 have been confirmed in Nigeria as at 18 August, 2020 with 981 recorded deaths. A total of 37,051 persons have been discharged from treatment centers and are doing well since the pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 on the Nigerian economy is traumatic with sharp decline in productivity, jobs and revenues. The government projects at least 39.4 million job losses in 2020. Worship centers in some areas are still shut down with services in other places held with restricted number of worshipers as physical distancing is observed. People are generally required to make use of face masks when in public with the elderly from 65 years of age encouraged to stay at home as much as possible.

Economic Empowerment for Traumatized Widows

A total of sixty (60) widows were trained in entrepreneurship so far in August 2020 in Une community of Benue State and Gboro community of Plateau State. Selection in Une and Gboro was done through the women fellowship of Universal Reformed Christian Church (NKST) and church leadership of Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) respectively. They received training on business principles to empower them to grow small businesses. Each trained beneficiary received thirty thousand naira (about US\$85) as micro business startup capital. Participants trained in economic empowerment established or are expanding small ventures like animal rearing, tailoring, crop farming, sale of grains, vegetables, fruits, and food selling. They are excited at the opportunity for self-help enabling them take care of themselves and their families without always reaching out to others for support.

“Since we lost our pillar (husband/ father), we passed through sorrows and trials. Life has been difficult, no one came to our rescue until AWOS visited our family through Beacon of Hope. This is the first time I’m experiencing this kind of miracle. You brought hope to my family. May the Lord bless you abundantly”

Ruth, a widow from Gboro community



Business training at Gboro community

Trauma Healing

Trauma healing sessions were held with 60 traumatized widows; 30 each in Une and Gboro communities using the manual “*Healing the Wounds of Trauma: How the Church Can Help*”.

They shared finding the lessons very helpful. They are experiencing some relief as they try to process their pain stating they have seen the need to forgive those that hurt them. They are reminded that God still loves them and has great plans for them. They appreciate the opportunity to participate.

“Since my husband and two (2) sons were killed by armed herdsmen 11 months ago, I lost all hope and desire to live. Thank you AWOS for the trauma healing. I was truly filled with bitterness and resentment, but now that I have been assured of God’s love and the need to forgive, I have made up my mind to forgive the attackers. I truly felt a burden lifted after taking my pain to the cross and I can smile again.”

Blessing, a widow from Une community



Security Update

- Suspected Fulani herdsmen in July, 2020 have allegedly killed 19 persons in a fresh attack on Kukum Daji Village of Kaura local government area of Kaduna State. About 31 people also sustained various degrees of injuries in the Sunday night attack. The President of the Community, Mr. Yashen Sunday Titus who confirmed the incident to DAILY POST said that the victims were attacked at a wedding party in one of the houses in the community.
<https://dailypost.ng/2020/07/20/southern-kaduna-fresh-attack-19-killed-32-injured/>

- **Boko Haram relocates to North-West, North-Central as bandits — Defence Headquarters July 2020**

The Military High Command has confirmed that scores of Boko Haram terrorists fleeing intense land and air offensive against their hideouts and camps in the North East were infiltrating the North West and North Central, emboldening armed banditry and other crimes. This is even as Defense headquarters disclosed that 104 bandits and 92 Boko Haram terrorists were eliminated during several encounters with troops in several military operations in the North East and North West in the last one week.

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/07/boko-haram-relocates-to-n-west-n-central-as-bandits-defence-hqts/>

- **Bandits invade Zamfara, kill seven, abduct 20 women**

Bandits struck in Zamfara State, killing seven persons and kidnapping 20 women in Danfasa village, Dansadau Emirate of the Maru Local Government Area of the state. Many houses were set ablaze, while several animals were rustled by the hoodlums.

<https://punchng.com/bandits-invade-zamfara-again-kill-seven-abduct-20-women/>

- **Scores killed, as Boko Haram seizes Borno communities**

Boko Haram terrorists have invaded many communities in Magumeri Local Government Area of Borno State, killing scores of farmers and herders after rustling hundreds of their domestic animals, mostly cows. Magumeri is North and about 40 kilometres from Maiduguri, the state capital, which has witnessed series of Boko Haram attacks.

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/08/just-in-scores-killed-as-boko-haram-seizes-borno-communities/>

- **Suspected herdsmen attack Agatu community in Benue June 2020**

No fewer than nine persons have been allegedly killed and several others injured after suspected herdsmen attacked Agatu community in Benue State.

<https://dailypost.ng/2020/06/14/breaking-9-killed-others-injured-as-suspected-herdsmen-attack-agatu-community-in-benue/>

- **Borno Governor Survives Boko Haram Attack in Nigeria**

On July 29, 2020, Boko Haram operatives attacked a convoy with Babagana Zulum, governor of Borno state, near the town of Baga. According to media reports, the governor was unharmed, but there were casualties in his entourage.

In the aftermath of the attack, the governor has been scathing his criticism of the Nigerian army: "You people said there is no Boko Haram here, then who attacked us?" And, "You have been here for over one year now, there are 1,181 soldiers here, if you cannot take over Baga which is less than 5km from your base, then we should forget about Baga." The shehu of Borno, the highest-ranking Islamic traditional ruler in Borno and among the Kanuri people, himself a survivor of a Boko Haram attack, commented "no one is safe." From photographs in the Nigerian media, the convoy appears to have been heavily armed. The governor was on his way to a camp for internally displaced persons to distribute food relief.

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/orno-governor-survives-boko-haram-attack-nigeria>

- **Humanitarian workers killed (ECHO Daily Flash of 23 July 2020)**

Aid workers, abducted in June along the Monguno-Maiduguri road in northeast Nigeria, have been executed. Their execution was claimed by ISWAP in a video message. 3 of the aid workers were working on humanitarian projects implemented by the International Rescue Committee, Action Against Hunger and REACH. A camp manager from the Borno State Emergency Management Agency was also among the people abducted and killed.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/nigeria-humanitarian-workers-killed-dg-echo-echo-daily-flash-23-july-2020>

- **CAN knocks FG on Kaduna killings 23 July, 2020**

Christians, under the aegis of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna State chapter, has accused the Federal Government of aiding killings in Southern Kaduna. The association also alleged that the statement issued by Mr Garba Shehu, a spokesman for President Muhammadu Buhari, was meant to distort facts about the criminal activities of suspected Fulani herdsmen in Southern Kaduna. CAN's allegation is contained in a statement it issued after its meeting. <https://guardian.ng/news/can-knocks-fg-on-kaduna-killings/>

Conclusion

BHI is encouraged with the support and gifts of love from AWOS. The beneficiaries are so grateful for how God is using you and the AWOS team. We pray for his blessings in abundance on you.

Beacon of Hope Initiative