



ROSF

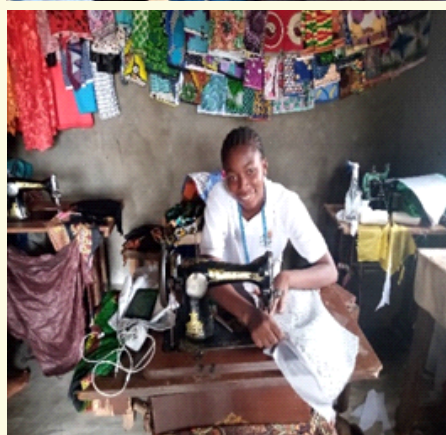
ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION BROCHURE

James 1: 27, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."



EMPOWERING WIDOWS, THEIR CHILDREN, AND ORPHANS THROUGH:

- I. Advocacy for The Human Rights of Widows and Their Children
- ii. Skills Training
- iii. Interest-Free Business Loans Support
- iv. Educational Scholarships
- v. Healthcare Services
- vi. Accommodation Support
- vii. Home Visitation
- viii. Smart Agricultural Aid
- ix. Psychosocial Support
- x. Research
- xi. Counselling and Trauma Management.



THE ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION

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Registration No. CAC/IT/NO 18078

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ABOUT ROSF

The Rose of Sharon Foundation (RoSF) is a faith-based non-profit, non-governmental organisation established on the 23rd of May 2008 and registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission as an Incorporated trustees Organisation under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990. The registered office is situated in Lagos State, Nigeria.

The purpose of RoSF is to alleviate the challenges of widows, their children, and orphans by creating access to socioeconomic empowerment, capacity building, financial independence, educational opportunities, healthcare services, psychosocial support, and other interventions.

The organisation commenced operation with 3 widows and has grown into a large network of thousands of widows, their children, and orphans. In affiliation with Rose of Sharon Glorious Ministry International, RoSF provides spiritual strengthening, comfort, and encouragement where necessary to the widows, their children, and orphans.

The Foundation began by focusing primarily on designing and implementing projects that give educational opportunities and financial independence to widows, their children and orphans through educational support activities, economic empowerment programs, skills acquisition, enterprise development and micro-credit scheme with interest-free loan facilities. Our programs have expanded with a multifaceted approach to providing holistic support to our widows, their children, and orphans.

OUR VISION

We provide help and succour to widows and orphans across Nigeria.

OUR MISSION

To guarantee financial independence & educational opportunities for our widows and orphans through schemes as well as programmes that assure greater self-esteem and ease of socio-economic integration.

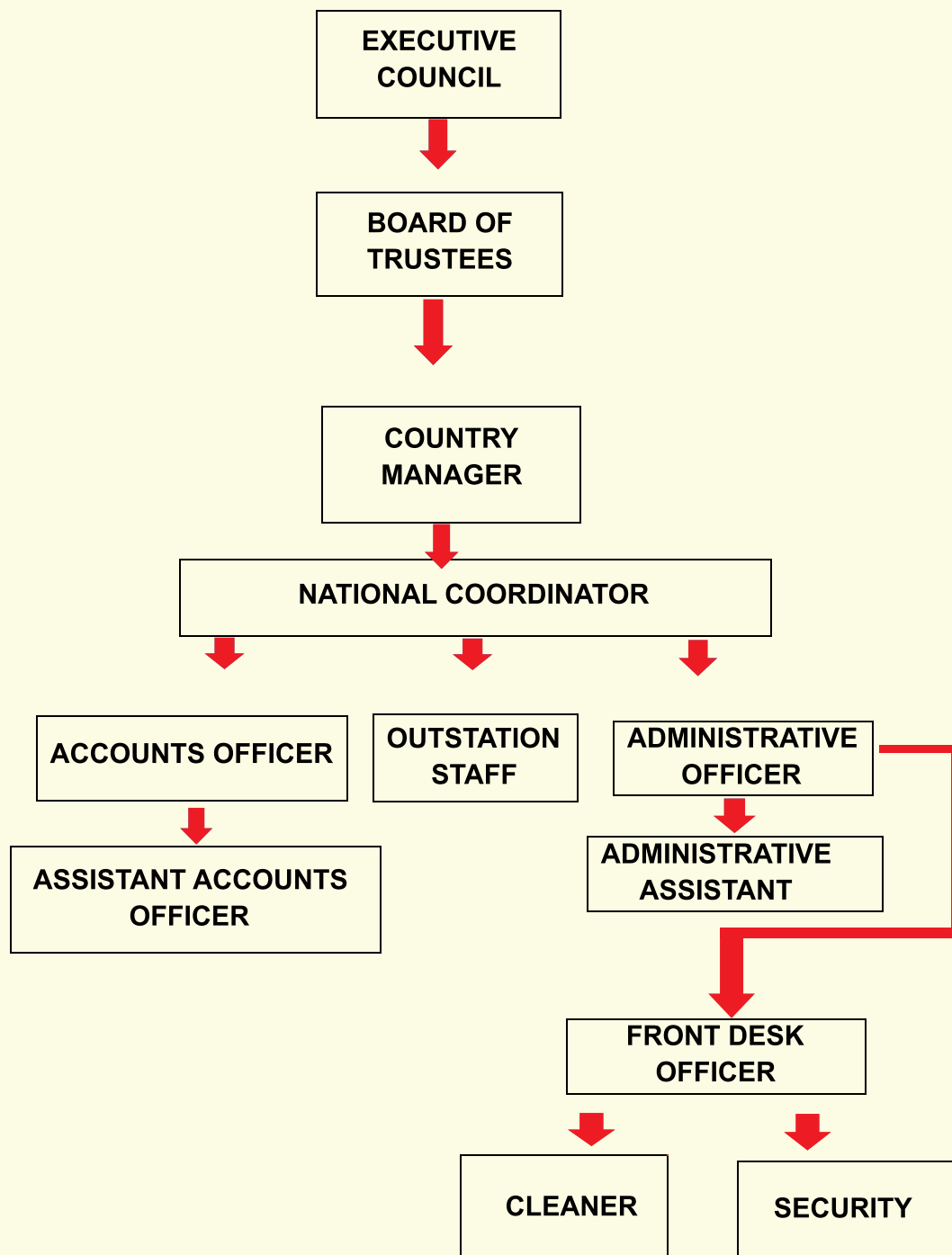
OUR VALUES

Love and Compassion, Obedience to God's call, Long Term Commitment, Respect for Every Individual, Partnership, Teamwork, Integrity, and Accountability.

OUR BENEFICIARIES

Our beneficiaries are widows, their children, and orphans.



THE ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION ORGANOGRAM**ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The organisation comprises the Executive Council (EC), the Board of Trustees (BOT), and the Management/Operations Team that consists of the Country Manager (CM), the National Coordinator (NC), Accounts Officer (AO), Accounts Assistant (AAO), Administrative Officer (AO), Administrative Assistant (AdA) and Front desk Officer (FDO).

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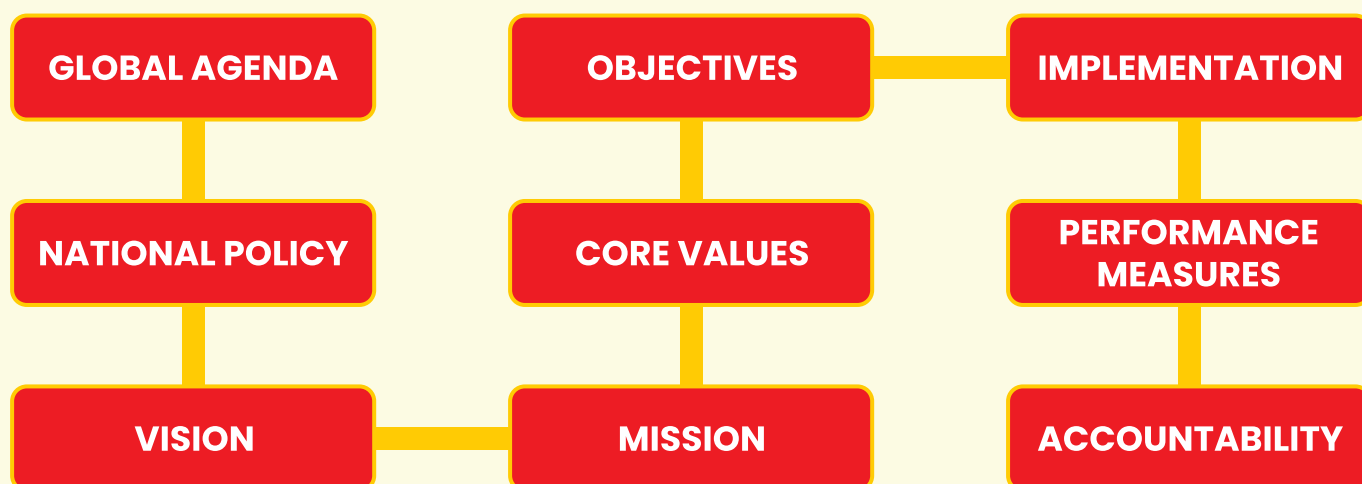
The EC is the highest governing body regulating the policies and operations of the Foundation, they set the organisational direction and goals for each fiscal year and take major program/project decisions.

The BOT's responsibilities include overseeing strategic planning, providing professional advisory on specific program areas of expertise, engaging in fundraising initiatives and creation of linkages for the Foundation with government and corporate actors, local and international partners, to increase visibility and garner support for the Foundation's programs.

The Management Team is responsible for day-to-day operations, implementation of program activities and project compliance, writing reports and undertaking research/monitoring.

The BOT is accountable to the EC, while the management team is accountable to the BOT and submits overall required reports as and when due, through the CM who liaises with a line supervisor (Trustee/Board member). The NC reports to the CM while the Accounts Officer and Admin officer and outstation staff report to the NC. The Assistant Accounts Officer reports to the Accounts officer and the Assistant Admin Officer reports to the Admin Officer. The Front desk officer reports to the Admin Officer and is responsible for the cleaners and security guards.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGY



Our key strategies include the global agenda and the Nigerian National Policy for social welfare, health, environment and development, which informs our vision, objectives, core values and mission. Other strategies include implementation (which involves research, monitoring and documentation, advocacy, education and training, intervention in provision of facilities and economic empowerment, legal support services and collaboration), performance measures (which includes project monitoring and evaluation) and accountability (reporting and auditing). These are strategies used in achieving our mission which we undertake through our thematic programs listed below.

OUR TEAM

TRUSTEES

1. Apostle Folorunso Alakija
2. Mr. Folarin Alakija
3. Mrs. Gladys Ifeozo
4. Mr. Andrew Ochu-Baiye
5. Mrs. Onari Duke
6. Lady Onyeka Onwenu
7. Mrs. Ayodeji Megbope
8. Mrs. Anna Bamaiyi
9. Mrs. Ada Onuorah

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Dr. Ndudi Bowei
(Country Manager)

Mrs. Oluruntosin Taiwo
(National Coordinator)

(Administrative Officer)

Mrs. Folashade Adeoti
(Account Officer)

Mrs. Bukola Adegoke
(Accounts Assistant)

Mrs. Toyin Seriki
(Admin Secretary)

Mrs. Tola Sosanya
(Front Desk Officer)

OUTSTATION STAFF

- Ms. Rose Adejo-----North-West Zone 1
Mr. Paul Ochenu--North-West Zone 2
Mr. Simon Maji- North Central Zone 1
Mr. Abdulmalik Adinoye-North Central 2
Mr. Akawu, Johnson--North-East Zone1
Mr. Inuwa Abdullahi Gumau--North-East Zone 2
Mrs. Udoh, Imaobong Essien--South-South Zone 1
Mr. Japhat, Iniobong Okon--South-South Zone 2
Mr. Ogbonna Solomon--South-East Zone 1
Mr. Onyedika, Aneke--South-East Zone 2

WHAT WE DO—PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Program Framework:

We started out with 7 major intervention programs and projects through which we delivered initiatives that were designed to achieve our vision, mission, and values and in alignment with the divine mandate given to the Founder as recorded in the bible in **James 1:27, “Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”**

THE 7 INTERVENTION PROGRAMS OF THE ROSF

1. THE ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROJECT:

At the RoSF we believe that education is a right not a privilege, to this end we implement the “Bridge of Hope Educational Program” that provides educational scholarship for widows, their children and orphans to empower them academically.

We ensure continuous access to high quality primary, secondary and tertiary education for these vulnerable groups from less privileged backgrounds to help them realise their full potentials and shape the development of their communities. These includes:

- i. continuous tuition payments
- ii. School visits for performance assessment and quality assurance exercise.
- iii. Collaborating with stakeholders and partnering with schools to improve the learning environment and increase access to quality education.

We have many beneficiaries in various primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions across the country who are currently benefitting from this project. The program has produced 343 graduates who have benefited from the program and are members of the RoSF Alumni body.



2. THE ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (WEP)

This Program is undertaken in the 6 geopolitical zones of Nigeria. It is structured to provide economic empowerment, business development, financial support, legal, shelter and life support services to widows who are now the breadwinners of their families. It is designed to encourage stability, support and access to resources that are required to cater for their basic needs and help raise and care for their children. This program has impacted the lives of thousands of widows, who have been supported through skills acquisition, business development, provision of start-up equipment and business loans.



The following initiatives are the programs under WEP:

- I. Skills Acquisition and Vocational Education Scheme (SAVS): It is designed to provide sustainable income generation skills and vocational education for widows and vulnerable women. This helps break biases and enables job creation and financial independence. Many widows have recently received skills training with provision of start-up equipment.



- II. Enterprise Development Training Project (EDTP):** This project was created to enhance widows' self-initiatives and encourage them to establish small and medium enterprises as an effective income generating activity. In collaboration with professional partners, this includes provision of trainings for widow entrepreneurs, follow-ups required for success in their chosen fields of trade, and provision of start-up machinery/equipment (such as sewing machines, whipping machines, grinding machines, pasta making machines, flour mixing machines, cream mixers, local ovens, make-up kits, etc)- to encourage businesses start-up immediately after training.
- III. Microcredit Scheme (MICS):** We provide interest free loans to widows to boost their financial base and strengthen them economically, for effective economic activities and increased household income. This addresses eligibility requirements for formal loans, such as collateral or guarantees, that usually prevent poor widows and low-income women from having access to institutional credit. The scheme has a flexible repayment plan that spans over a period of 18 months, with self-help-groups (SHGs) that encourages timely repayment. ***A large number of widows are currently on our list as loan recipients, with loans ranging from #30,000 to #500,000.***



- IV. Agribusiness Scheme (ABS):** This is designed to provide widows who are working in the Agricultural sector (such as farming, fishery, piggery, poultry, etc.) with access to training, finance, and the knowledge they require to have a more sustainable livelihood and to guarantee food security for their children. It empowers our rural widows and vulnerable women to consistently engage in agricultural activities to achieve food security and increased income generation. In collaboration with our partners, we have expanded this program to include provision of farming implements and training on climate-smart agriculture. This will improve their output by creating resilience, ease their farming process, improve soil quality, and crop production.



- V. Life Support Scheme (LS):** We provide counselling sessions as well as monthly allowances and donation of food items for non-active widows and orphans to help support their upkeep and improve their wellbeing. Our orphans currently receive monthly allowance of #10,000 each from the Foundation.
- VI. Legal Support Services (LSS):** We provide legal aid to our widows and orphans in collaboration with legal professionals who offer free legal consultations and support to our beneficiaries to protect their rights and enable them to claim their late husband's/fathers' assets and work benefits.
- VII. Shelter Response Program (SRP):** This is designed to provide refuge and decent accommodation to our widows, their children and orphans who are forced out of their dwellings and rendered homeless by unkind relatives and in-laws. **Since inception we have continued to provide this service to widows for residential and business purposes, including school residence and accommodation for orphans.**

3. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (YEP)

To ensure that our graduated student beneficiaries are empowered to fit into the job market we provide free training on diverse topics that will enable them to become employable. This is a bi-annual career development and capacity building program for graduates and undergraduates, job seekers, working class and self-employed youths in Nigeria. It is tailor-made to address specific career needs of the participants with the aim of equipping them with knowledge and life changing skills they need for self-reliance, to support their families and become a useful part of the society. We have integrated specific sessions with practical steps to address challenges peculiar to the four (4) categories of target audience the program seeks to benefit.



4. INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY (IWD) CELEBRATION

The International widows' day is celebrated on 23rd June of every year. It is a day set aside by the United Nations to celebrate widows across the globe for their resilience and to also identify with their plight and advocate for better treatment and support for them. The Foundation celebrates the widow's day in all the states where the foundation has a presence, with physical gatherings where feasible. Since the advent of the Covid-pandemic in 2020, the Lagos office has had to celebrate the widow's day through online events where various distinguished facilitators are invited to speak on the plight of the widows and advocate for their wellbeing. However, we will revert to physical gatherings in due course.



5. WIDOWS AND ORPHANS END OF YEAR PARTY

The Rose of Sharon foundation celebrates the end of year season with their widows and orphans yearly. This event used to be a physical gathering where widows and orphans alike comes together to dine and wine in the spirit of the season. But due to COVID 19 realities, the physical gathering has since been replaced with distribution of cash gifts for all widows and the orphans in all six Geopolitical zones in the country to celebrate the special season.

6. HOME VISITATION TO WIDOWS AND ORPHANS

The RoSF undertakes regular home visits to the widows and orphans in all the geopolitical zones of Nigeria where we have our presence. This is to enable us foster good engagement with our beneficiaries and provides us with a broad yet intimate view of their living conditions and wellbeing. The result is that we are able to provide timely psychosocial support and family focused interventions.



7. ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION MENTORING PROGRAM:

Our mentoring program is targeted at young widows who are entrepreneurs as well as orphaned school leavers who are mentored to become ambassadors with success stories that can inspire other beneficiaries. This is done through the widows-for-widows and orphans-for-orphans mentoring, as a give-back platform.

8. THE ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION PUBLICATIONS

a. Newsletter: This is our bi-annual publication that showcases our yearly activities undertaken within specific reporting periods. It is a medium of informing the public of all services provided for all our beneficiaries. It is also an advocacy tool for collaboration and further support by interested stakeholders.

b. The Cry of Widows and Orphans: this is a book authored by the Founder of the Rose of Sharon Foundation to showcase the peculiar experiences of widows and their children, and to call for socioeconomic support, interventions, and policy reforms for better treatment of widows, their children, and orphans.

9. ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION OUTSTATION ZONAL PROGRAMS

All major programs of the foundation are undertaken at the zonal level by coordinators in each geopolitical zone of Nigeria. To ensure uniformity and quality assurance across all projects and programs,

- i. We engage in virtual meeting with zonal coordinators,
- ii. We carry out site visits for meeting with our outstation beneficiaries
- iii. We supervise, review records and reports, and
- iv. Carry out impact assessment of the work of the coordinators.

This enables us to:

- a. Achieve identification of work performance levels,
- b. Carry out effective program implementation
- c. Ensure value for expended resource
- d. Engage in improved coordination, streamline activities, restructure, and scale up where necessary.

10. EXPANDED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

A. AGRIBUSINESS SCHEME (ABS)

In collaboration with our partners, we have expanded this program to include, training on farming technology, climate change adaptability, climate-smart agriculture and provision of farming implements and tool kits such as knapsacks sprayers, sprinklers, fertilizers etc. This has assisted in easing farming process, improve soil quality and crop production. It also creates resilience and improves the work of our widows in the agricultural sector. This has helped to boost food security and create access to markets and sustainable income for these group of vulnerable women.

B. WIDOWS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

This is a new program and an addition to the Women Empowerment Program WEP). The goal is to have a structured special business training for widows who are entrepreneurs, including those empowered with our micro credit scheme and loan facility. The aim is to ensure they have the technical knowledge to judiciously utilize their finances and ensure proper management and sustainability of their businesses. They undergo sessions on financial literacy, savings culture, investments, business development, entrepreneurial skills, digital learning/tech skills, business management, branding and marketing etc. This will enable them grow and expand their businesses, repay their business loans on time, and attract further support. We are partnering with financial groups and experts to undertake this program.

C. THE ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION PUBLICATIONS

THE WIDOWS GUIDE

This document is targeted at expounding widows' challenges, educating widows about their rights and how to seek redress. It is aimed at guiding widows on required actions to take to promote respect for their rights, socioeconomic resilience and prepare themselves for sustainable income and financial freedom. We hope to use this guide to also encourage stakeholders (members of the public, relatives, and neighbours) to assist widows to reduce the burden and challenges of widowhood. We hope to produce this guide not only in English, but in the three major indigenous languages of Nigeria.

11. NEWLY INITIATED PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

A. COMMUNITY LEVEL CLUSTER MEETINGS WITH WIDOWS, THEIR CHILDREN AND ORPHANS.

In addition to our regular yearly visitation to our beneficiaries, we began a community level cluster meetings where we meet quarterly with our widows, their children, and orphans within their own communities and residential locations. The essence of this program is to mobilize and group them into clusters within their location. We also use this structure to create an interactive platform for all beneficiaries, where we can easily identify their status, provide counsel, and address their challenges. Furthermore, this platform serves as a means of providing needed information, support, and training for our beneficiaries. These trainings topics include, achieving business resilience, financial literacy and integrating better parenting skills.

The cluster programs also help us to obtain current comprehensive and updated widows database, measure impact & receive feedback to improve our program services delivery. During our cluster meetings we engage with community stakeholders and establish quality improvement teams (QIT) through volunteerism. We have held these meetings in Ikorodu, Oshodi, Shomolu, Bariga, Surulere (Lagos State), Agbara (Ogun State), Ibadan (Oyo state).



B. WIDOWS & ORPHANS HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

We created a structured triannual healthcare program for our widows, their children, and orphans through retained partnership with healthcare organisations and facilities. The program includes provision of general consultation, treatments, drugs dispensary, laboratory tests (urine and blood work), eye care and provision of eyeglasses, dental care, physiotherapy, screening for surgeries, breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment, and trauma management. The purpose is to ensure good physical, mental and emotional health, psychosocial support, and overall wellbeing of our beneficiaries. This is aimed at improving their health standards and enhancing the quality of their lives.

We are currently in partnership with AnchorTrust International Mission, Optimal Cancer Care Foundation, CHECK Medicals (creating healthy communities and kinship), Xcene Research, and Psychologists from Grace spring Foundation. This year (2022) we have carried out three healthcare programs in January, February, and July 2022. Over 200 widows, their children, and orphans benefited from each of these events.



C. WIDOWHOOD RIGHTS PROGRAM (WRP).

In addition to our legal services to widows and orphans, we introduced the widowhood rights program as an advocacy and capacity building program that raises awareness about cultural issues, inheritance rights and gender norms affecting the rights of widows. It is used to educate relevant stakeholders (widow's neighbours, school administrators, community, religious and traditional leaders, women cooperative groups, policy officials, community-based organisations (CBOs), other NGOs and civil society groups, etc) on widows' rights as human rights. We have been able to conduct this program in a few local government areas in Lagos state (Yaba, Oshodi, Isolo). This program also has a campaign component which we carry out on social media platforms.

Our aim is to:

- Educate family heads, community leaders and the society on challenges of widows, their children, and orphans
- Discourage practices that devastate, marginalise, and discriminate against widows and orphans.
- Extend the reach and coverage of International Widows' Day (IWD) and International Women's Day (IWD) messages regarding the rights of widows/women against maltreatment and equal access to development opportunities.
- Build local capacity for behavioural change towards better treatment of widows and respect for their rights.
- Provide empowering information for family restructuring to better position women for sustainable widowhood condition in the event of death of their husbands.



D. WIDOWS RESEARCH AND POLICY ADVOCACY PROJECT.

This is a new project tended towards policy reform and social protection through research and advocacy. This project seeks to research and document state and national social protection laws and policies to address socioeconomic challenges of widowhood, strides undertaken and proposals for future interventions at private and public domains. Our research findings will be published to provide information on laws and protection mechanisms on widowhood in Nigeria and available recourse procedures.

This project is a follow up to “The Cry of Widows and Orphans” (a book published by the founder. To build on the results of the book, we hope to:

- Have an updated research document that can be used as a policy advocacy tool to push for the development of legal protection for widows' welfare to reform practices and policy.
- Use results of the study to expose the lapses, limitations and gaps in social protection procedures included in the VAPP Act, and to use the findings to advocate for a comprehensive social protection specific to the challenges and welfare of widows and orphans.
- To advocate for enforcement of any existing laws that protect and promote widows' rights.
- To engage with local government and state policy officials and law enforcement agencies, to share facts and figures on the condition of widows.
- Enlighten and encourage policy makers to establish social protection policies to protect widows to give hope and legal backing to them.
- To attract local & international partnerships and programming support for improvements in widows' socioeconomic wellbeing.

FUNDING: The Foundation is currently self-funded and is open to access external funding, increased collaboration and value-based partnerships.

PARTNERS

1. International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
2. Yaba College of Technology
3. FAMFA Oil Limited
4. Office of the First Lady, Lagos State
5. Empretec Nigeria Foundation
6. Sterling Bank Plc
7. Anchortrust International Mission
8. Optimal Cancer Care Foundation
9. Check Medicals
10. International Center for Environmental Health & Dev.
11. Vision Spring Initiative
12. Praise Women for All Nations
13. Daughters-In-Diaspora
14. Xcene Research Limited
15. Mesopetra Limited
16. Gold, Chrome and Hydrographix Limited
17. Nigerian Armed Forces Resettlement Center (NAFRC)
18. Nigerian Diaspora Connect
19. Make-Me [Wig Making & Fancy Slippers]
20. Channels Television
21. This Day Newspaper
22. The Sun Newspaper
23. University of Lagos
24. Guardian Newspaper
25. The Nation Newspaper
26. Tom Associates
27. Stresert Services
28. A Smile on Their Faces Initiative & Pro Foursquare Women
29. Epic Joy Consulting Ltd.
30. Individuals.

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MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS – HISTORY AND TRACK RECORD

Since the launch of The Rose of Sharon Foundation (RoSF), we have impacted the lives of 6000 beneficiaries, which includes widows, their children and orphans with live-changing programmes. Keeping up with her mandate, RoSF has faithfully translated a mere vision into something that has become a hope for hopeless widows and orphans in our society.

A journey that started with three (3) widows on the 23rd of May 2008, has amalgamated into a network of 2,782 beneficiaries today; these include 1001 widows, 1207 widows' children, 231 orphans and 343 graduates. Since inception, RoSF has economically, emotionally, socially, and educationally affected the lives of her beneficiaries. Our current numeric achievement and service delivery data is as follows:

- Widows currently empowered – 1001
- Total orphans' beneficiaries – 231
- Total number of widows' children (beneficiaries) – 1207
- Total number of graduates till date – 343 (orphans 27, widows' children 316)
- Total scholarships currently awarded (in University, Polytechnic, Secondary and Primary schools) – 636
- Number of beneficiaries receiving monthly upkeep allowances – 193
- Widows who have accessed our Micro-credit interest free loan – 994

The Rose of Sharon



FOUNDATION

RC: 18078

reach out and touch...