



ROSF

NEWSLETTER

Jun 2023 - Dec 2023 EDITION

ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION



FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

APOSTLE

Folorunso Alakija

Compliments of the season.

On behalf of the Chairman, the Board of Trustees, the Management, and the Staff of the Rose of Sharon Foundation, we express our gratitude to God Almighty for consistently enabling us to uphold His mandate of offering assistance to widows, their children, and orphans.

We acknowledge God's unwavering commitment to us. I am pleased to present a synopsis of a sequence of influential initiatives we embarked upon in the latter part of the year 2023.

Happy Reading!

OUR PROGRAMME

SCHOLARSHIP AND SCHOOL VISITS

The Foundation caters to the educational needs of widows, their children, and orphans from elementary to tertiary institutions. Services such as routine school visits, educational performance assessments, and School engagement programmes (Teacher's capacity building) are provided to aid the goal of the scheme. Beneficiaries who opted for non-formal education are also enrolled in vocational training centers.

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY CELEBRATION (IWD)

Widows are celebrated globally on the 23rd of June. Every year RoSF joins the world to celebrate widows through virtual and live meetings, campaigns, and radio broadcasts.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME(YEP)

The YEP is the foundation's career development and capacity-building programme for graduates, job seekers, working-class and self-employed youths. The platform is designed to equip young people for a better life and help them maximize opportunities.

WIDOWHOOD RIGHTS PROGRAMME (WRP)

Part of the RoSF mandate is to advocate for widows' rights and protection. This advocacy is integrated into all her programme.

Enterprise Development Training Programme (EDTP)

The foundation's skill acquisition programme for her beneficiaries held from the 11th-15th of September 2023. The programme was designed to provide business and life support services to widows. The programme focused on the making and production of Hair Accessories, Events planning, venue, and Balloon Decorations, digital and Brand Marketing and financial literacy.

WIDOWS COMMUNITY CLUSTER MEETING

RoSF meets with widows in their communities to increase interaction, provide psychosocial support and get feedback on service provision. This platform is also used for monitoring and evaluation and capacity building in areas of need.

HEALTH OUTREACHES

The foundation provides Health care services for its beneficiaries through collaboration with health-based organisation. Free cancer screening and treatment, referral, and general health care services are provided from time to time to beneficiaries to bridge the gap of lack of access to quality Health care by vulnerable groups.

END OF YEAR PARTY/CELEBRATION

Our end-of-the-year celebration brings together all our beneficiaries, widows, widows' children, and orphans. This provides opportunities for all to unwind, interact and learn at the same time. This event used to be physical during pre-COVID but since COVID, it continues through the distribution of cash gifts to enable them to celebrate with their families at home.

REPORTS FROM THE LAGOS/SOUTHWEST ZONE

STATES COVERED: LAGOS, OGUN, OYO & OSUN

• International Widows' Day (IWD) 2023

**THE ROSE OF SHARON
FOUNDATION**

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY 2023
Theme:
**Engaging Socio-Legal Strategies for
the Protection of Widows' Rights**

SPEAKERS:



APOSTLE FOLORUNSO ALAKIJA
Host

MRS. CHINWE M. EFOFI
The Chairperson, International Federation
of Women Lawyers (IFWL) Lagos

MRS. OLUFUNMILOLA ODUNLAMI
Principal Partner, FAO Legal Consult

 **23RD JUNE, 2023**  **11:45AM**

**THE ROSE OF SHARON
FOUNDATION**

CELEBRATES

**15th Anniversary &
INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY 2023**



**Engaging Socio-Legal Strategies for
the Protection of Widows' Rights**
Theme:

ADVOCACY WALK
Taraba State North-East Nigeria

We Call for Social & Legal Protection Policies for Widows.
This day, Wednesday, June 21st, 2023

International Widows' Day (IWD) 2023 (The Walk)



It was a double celebration for The Rose of Sharon Foundation (RoSF) in the month of June 2023. International Widows' Day (23rd of June 2023) was celebrated alongside the Foundation's 15th anniversary. It was a two-day celebration with the theme 'Engaging socio-legal strategies for the protection of widows' rights.

The celebration started with an advocacy walk to the community stakeholders and members of Surulere local government area Lagos State on the 22nd of June 2023.

The widows, RoSF management, her partners, and relevant stakeholders came out in mass to join the walk. The walk was targeted towards advocacy for the protection of widows' socio-legal rights. Day two was a virtual meeting held via

Zoom platform.

This year's virtual meeting had two seasoned guest speakers, Mrs. Ifeyinwa Okpalaku who represented the chairperson of, the International Federation of Women lawyer, Lagos state chapter, and Mrs. Funmilola Odunlami, principal partner, FAO legal consult, Lagos State.

The event commenced with an opening speech from one of our esteemed members of the board of trustees, Mrs. Ayodeji Megbope. She welcomed the participants and expressed her utmost pleasure in the great work that the RoSF is doing to empower the widows. She appreciated the resilience of the widows and their readiness to learn to improve their economic status and stand for their rights.

Mrs. Ifeyinwa Okpalaku spoke on the rights of the widows from the angle of the law in Nigeria. She said women have been continuously subjected to various inhuman treatment in Nigeria and globally. She said that the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act was signed into law in 2015 to address this gap. Though, the Act in its section 15, prohibits harmful practices against widows, it does not define those practices, or specifically provide extensive protection coverage for the rights of widows. She called for a review of VAPP and its domestication in all states, and the provision of a law solely specific to widows' protection in Nigeria.

Mrs. Funmilola Odunlami spoke on effective approaches for social protection and inclusion for widows such as compulsory inclusion of women in family inheritance, enforcement of human rights laws, women empowerment, dismantling of age-long traditions, writing of will, economic and employment support to the widows, and education/ vocational training. Participants in

attendance proceeded to have their questions answered.

SUCCESS STORY

Mrs Ifoghale Oyoyo who lost her husband in 2005 shared her experience as a young widow with three children, and her story of struggle and loneliness when her husband died. She mentioned how she got an educational scholarship for her children and received an interest-free loan, which enabled her to continue with her business, which made her resilient and able to care for her family.

Mrs. Ashiru Taiwo shared the story of how she lost her husband in 2009 through assassination on his way to the village and was alone with her four children. She recalled how she suffered due to her husband's death but found succour at the foundation when she and her children were sponsored into a tertiary institution. Today, she and her four children are all graduates.



MEDICAL OUTREACH

The foundation provided linkage to medical care for its widow beneficiaries in Ibadan. This was done in collaboration with CHECK Medicals. Beneficiaries received services such as eye checks, cervical screening, physiotherapy, dental and general consultation.



 
**CHECK MEDICAL MISSION
INCORPORATED**
IN CONJUNCTION WITH
**BASORUN-IBADAN
OVERCOMERS CICS**

FREE MEDICAL OUTREACH

SERVICE TO BE RENDERED

- Health Education
- Blood Pressure Check
- Body Mass Index
- Laboratory Test (Urine & Blood)
- Physiotherapy Services
- Eye Care & Eye Glasses
- Dental Care
- General Consultation
- Pharmacy Services

**Saturday 23rd
SEPTEMBER
2023**

9:00AM

 @check medical
You Tube: CHECK TV
www.checkmedical.org
info@checkmedical.org

 Good News House (Plots 11&12) Olorunsogo
Layout, Behind Precious Heritage School,
Off Yanbule, Bashorun, Ibadan.

Increasing Community Impacts...



RoSF Beneficiaries and CHECK medical team



Physiotherapy session



RoSF National Coordinator, Mrs. Oloruntosin Taiwo with CHECK Medical leadership in Ibadan (Dr. & Dr. Mrs. Olaleye)

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (YEP)

**THE ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION
YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME (YEP)**

**APOSTLE FOLORUNSO
ALAKIJA (HOST)**

**PASTOR OLUSEYE
TAIWO**

**DR. OGO NNAYA
NDUPU**

**MRS. BUKOLA
MAJEKODUNMI**

Theme:
**MENTAL WELLNESS &
CAREER SUCCESS IN THE
CHANGING ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE**

Register here <http://bit.ly/y-e-p2>

**SATURDAY 30TH
SEPTEMBER, 2023**

**14, OGUNLANA DRIVE,
SURULERE, LAGOS**

10:30AM

Youth Empowerment programme was held on the 30th of September 2023. This event was designed to focus on the mental health and business resilience of its participants.

In attendance were experts and professionals in mental health, personal coaching and transformation, and the

business world. Dr. Nanya Ndupu of LifeCrest Medical Services, Mrs. Bukola Majekodunmi of Bosworth Marketing Consulting, and Pastor Oluseye Taiwo of MegaLife Ministries were the guest speakers of the day, they spoke extensively on their various fields and how to help the youths navigate the current trying times.

Mr Andrew Ochu-Baiye, a member of The Rose of Sharon Foundation Board of Trustees in his welcome address emphasised that the time we now live in is a time of unprecedented changes and uncharted territories, which all men must live through. He further emphasised the need for knowledge acquisition to be able to chart the territories and walk through life and stay resilient.

Dr Nanya Ndupu spoke on mental resilience and encouraged the participants to embrace mental health as it also makes for part of an individual’s total health and well-being. In her words, “There is no

health without mental health”.

Worthy of note is the emphasis she also placed on mental health as a psychological well-being affecting our thoughts, emotions, and feelings, whilst also determining our response to stress, decision making and relationship with others. She encouraged participants to look out for their mental health by paying attention to causes of mental health challenges, which they may be predisposed to.

Mrs Bukola Majekodunmi of Bosworth Marketing who spoke virtually encouraged



the participants on the need to have an entrepreneurial mindset if they will be successful business moguls, surviving above the harsh times the world currently is in.

She explained an entrepreneurial mindset as a way of thinking and approaching challenges, and innovation with an attitude characterised by creativity.

Pastor Oluseye Taiwo of Megalife Ministries admonished the participants about life and how the choices we make impact on our total well-being. He emphasised to the participants that life has series of choices we make in-between birth and death, and

we must never forget that who designed us is more important than who will sign us.

He admonished participants to build values by which they would live by, and always stand as people of integrity and value. A lesson so profound which he shared with the participant is that the ability to lie is not an asset, but a liability.

The event’s highlight was the unveiling of the Foundation’s newest initiative, “Business Clinic” designed to offer Masterclasses, Mentorship, & Coaching to young business owners, to build resilience to successfully navigate business challenges.



Cross-session of youths in attendance



Cross-session of youths in attendance

WIDOWS CLUSTER MEETINGS

ISOLO, LAGOS STATE & SANGO, OGUN STATE

The Foundation's cluster meetings were created to mobilise widows and orphans in their resident communities/location, & cluster them to establish a support structure for interaction, feedback, counsel, measure impact and community engagement.

This is aimed at improving beneficiaries' interaction, support structure, and creation of a structured feedback mechanism to improve programmes.

RoSf visited two communities in two states within the reporting period.

This was done to provide psychosocial support to widows and orphans alike. The meetings provided opportunities for learning, acquiring new skills, experience sharing, and trauma management sessions. Their capacities were built through facilitation, teaching, role play on better parenting skills, trauma/management, and financial literacy.



Cross session of widows at the cluster meeting with RoSF Staff in Isolo, Lagos State



Cross session of widows listening to the National Coordinator at the cluster meeting in Isolo, Lagos State



Cross session of widows and RoSF at the cluster meeting in Sango, Ogun State

HOME VISIT

IBADAN, OYO STATE & LAGOS STATE

RoSF visited some of its beneficiaries during this reporting period. This was done to check the welfare of the children and to provide psychosocial support to their caregivers.



RoSF staff with widows during home visit at Igando, Lagos state



RoSF National Coordinator with Mrs. Oyewole during home visit



RoSF Administrative officer with a widow beneficiary at Iyana Ipaja



RoSF country Manager with widow and widow's child during home visit



RoSF Staff (Mrs Adeoti) with widows during home visit

WIDOWS' EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The Foundation's Enterprise Development Training Project (EDTP), under her Women Empowerment Programme, seeks to train our beneficiaries in industry skills and viable vocations for knowledge acquisition, access to economic empowerment and financial power.

This is to enhance widows' self-initiatives as an effective income generating activity. The essence is to improve beneficiary's skillset to enable enterprise development and improved income generation.

ROSF organized the EDTP free skills acquisition and vocational training for her beneficiaries-widows, widows' children, and orphans from the 11th-15th of September 2023.

The programme was designed to provide business and life support services to widows. Beneficiaries are provided with opportunities to learn and acquire skills to

generate income and become resilient.

The programme focused on the making and production of Hair Accessories, Events planning, venue, and Balloon Decorations, digital and Brand Marketing and financial literacy. The beneficiaries gained the required knowledge and valuable skills for economic opportunities for a successful brand, in the current competitive market and changing economic landscape.

Facilitators were drawn from experienced instructors and industry professionals in their various fields, and their expertise is currently showcased in success stories of participants who have already commenced business engagements in the fields of learning, with brand positioning and use of digital technology.

A total of 60 beneficiaries were trained.



Widows and the facilitator during the training



WIDOWS' EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The Rose of Sharon Foundation held another session of WIDOWHOOD RIGHTS PROGRAMME at the Igbogbo/Bayeku Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Lagos Nigeria. This involved a sensitisation and information dialogue regarding the challenges of widows and widowhood rights.

We raised awareness about cultural issues, inheritance rights, gender norms and legal protection for widows to build local capacity for behavioural change towards better treatment of widows and respect for their rights, to discourage practices that devastate, marginalize, and discriminate on widows and orphans.

Barrister Ijeoma Olatunbonsun, Protection Officer at Patriotic Citizen Initiative facilitated at the meeting, and addressed human rights issues related to widows' rights.

The Iyalode of Igbogbo, High Chief Karimot Ojikutu commended the foundation for its numerous projects geared towards the

economic upliftment of widows. She encouraged the widows to keep their hopes in God above all things, as the one who can take care of them.

The meeting had in attendance several community leaders, gatekeepers, and stakeholders, such as the Iyalode of Igbogbo, High Chief Karimot Ojikutu, Iyaloja of Igbogbo, Mrs Obayomi, Chief Imam of Igbogbo Central Mosque, IMAM Sanni H.O, a representative of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Pastor Yinka Ogunlaye, and key government officials from both the local and state levels, including law makers, Supervisor and HOD of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Igbogbo LCDA, Hon. Obayomi Mariam, S.A. Health, Igbogbo LCDA, Super Tourism and Special Duties representative, Mr Oshinlaja D. Aina, H.O.D Agric, Igbogbo LCDA Ikorodu, Mr Ibraheem A.I., and Mr Jimoh W. Adekunle, who represented the Leader of the house and the executive Chairman of Igbogbo LCDA.



Widows cheering a conversation during the Igbogbo WRP event.



A widow sharing her experience during the Igbogbo WRP event.



Some of the distinguished stakeholders from the community and LCDA present, including community Chiefs (Baales), Iyaloja, Religious leaders, the Community Development Council (CDC) executive and RoSF staff.

BUSINESS CLINIC MASTERCLASS

The “Business Clinic” (BC), first of its kind, is the Foundation’s newest initiative, conceived as an offshoot of the 2023 April edition of the Foundation’s Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP), to address the many challenges of youth entrepreneurs who attend YEP, and to bridge the gaps perceived from many existing business mentorship schemes.

In collaboration with Bosworth Marketing Consulting (BMC), a renowned marketing communications agency, the initiative was designed to offer Masterclasses, Mentorship and Coaching to young business owners, to facilitate a personal and impactful relationship between the protégé and the mentor, and impart the necessary skills to build business resilience, to directly address business pain points, and nurture growth.

Major objectives of the BC ideation included:

- To provide tested approaches to address specific business challenges of youth entrepreneurs.
- To empower youths with practical business skills that can enable them to thrive.
- To provide business guide and mentorship for surviving in an uncertain and dynamic economy.
- To kickstart a unique and effective mentorship programme for youths.

The BC has a 3-way execution framework and treatment process that included an application and selection stage (based on selection parameters) leading to a masterclass structure based on major pillars of driving business growth and directed at solving prevalent challenges facing participants in breakouts. A one-on-one mentorship programme and hand-held coaching sessions.



Facilitators at the event, L-R. Mrs. Majekodunmi Bukola, Mr. Folarin Alakija, Mrs. Megbope Ayodeji, Mrs. Onari Duke and Mr. Temitope Jegede

The BC masterclass was held on the 10th of November 2023 with notable business personalities such as Mr Folarin Alakija, Mrs Owanari Duke, Mrs Ayodeji Megbope, Mr Temitope Jegede, and Mrs Bukola Majekodunmi, in attendance as facilitators for the masterclass, some of whom will become mentors alongside other distinguished business men and women for the subsequent segment of the programme.

Participants were assigned to specialized breakout sessions with each of these facilitators based on facilitators expertise and

participants business challenges and pain points identified and categorised at the point of registration, in a bid to ensure individualised treatment of business issues and effective attention to all participants at the event.

Participants interesting testimonies and amazing video entries showcasing the outcome and positive impact of the masterclass on their various businesses, are quite commendable and huge encouragement, as we eagerly look forward to the mentorship and coaching stages of the initiative.



Facilitators at the event, L-R. Mrs. Majekodunmi Bukola, Mr. Folarin Alakija, Mrs. Megbope Ayodeji, Mrs. Onari Duke and Mr. Temitope Jegede



Cross-section of Mr Folarin Alakija's breakout class during the Business Clinic



Cross-section of Mr Temitope Jegede's breakout class during the Business Clinic



Cross-section of Mrs Owanari Duke's breakout class during the Business Clinic



Cross-section of Mrs Ayodeji Megbope's breakout class during the Business Clinic

PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT AND TRAUMA MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

This programme was a pilot service conducted to provide access to experts in the field of mental health, counselling, trauma management and psychosocial support, to enable our widows to properly address their challenges with professional support, and live better lives.

It was targeted at creating inner calmness to achieve a healthy, happier, and resourceful widows with better quality of life. This was a one-day event, where our widows were gathered to learn how to handle and navigate trauma, to maintain mental wellness and gradually heal from the distress of the passing and demise of

their husband. This was done in collaboration with Lifecrest Hospital, counsellors, trauma managers and other mental health experts.

A fitness coach and a nutritionist were part of the professional team. They provided guidance on minor physical exercises, an aerobic session, with advisory on diet and nutrition, teaching the widows to combine locally available healthy food options to achieve healthy nutritional diet.



Cross section of beneficiaries and fitness coach during aerobic exercise session



RoSF staff and the facilitators



Participants and RoSF at the event

VISIT TO ORPHANAGE

As a way of spreading love to the underprivileged such as orphans and putting smiles on their faces during the yuletide season, the foundation visited six orphanages in Lagos State and presented them with cash gift, towards their upkeep and wellbeing.

The six orphanages are namely: The Nigerian Red Cross Society Motherless and Abandoned Babies Home Makoko, Yaba, Heritage Homes Orphanage, Anthony Village, Little Saints Orphanage Palmgroove, Living Fountain Orphanage, Victoria Island, Peculiar Saints Orphanage, Badore, Ajah, and Lagos State Motherless Babies Home, Lekki.



RoSF & WACIN COLLABORATION

On the 7th of December 2023, the Rose of Sharon Foundation in collaboration with WACIN (Widows Advocacy Coalition in Nigeria) commemorated the 16 days of activism against Gender-based violence, with a programme tagged Widows Rights: A Key factor to Eliminating Gender-based violence.

This was done to join the United Nations (UN) and global human rights activists to Campaign to OPPOSE VIOLENCE against WOMEN (including widows) and CHILDREN-to raise awareness of the NEGATIVE impact of VIOLENCE and ABUSE on WOMEN and CHILDREN and to RID society of ABUSE.

The event had in attendance important dignitaries such as Dr. Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, Executive Director; WARDC, who was also the keynote speaker, Mrs Ada Agina-Ude, Executive Director; Women for Equity and Fairness Organisation of Nigeria, amidst other Civil Society Organisations and Non-governmental Organisations gathered.

The Chairman board of trustees for WACIN, Dr Otive Igbuzor in his remarks requested that all well-meaning Nigerians must join hands to support interventions for the wellbeing of widows. He recommended the abolishment of harmful practices against widows, and the need to join coalitions and campaigns for an amplified voice in support of widows' protection.

Dr Akiyode-Afolabi in her speech emphasised the need to demand specific laws that address socioeconomic, political, psychological, and emotional needs of widows, amidst their rights, such as the right to own property, amongst others.

She admonished widows to begin to take steps to demand their rights and move away from self-pity. She made references to issues of women not being next of kin to their late husband's benefits and assets in their will and stated that these are practices to advocate against.



Dr. Ndudi Bowei (RoSF Country Manager) speaking at the event.



A cross-section of Organizers, Speakers, and Panellists at the event

L-R: RoSF Country Manager, Dr. Ndudi Bowei, Executive Director, Women for Equity and Fairness Organisation of Nigeria, Mrs Ada Agina-Ude, Director, Ajoke Ayisat Afolabi Foundation, Mrs Folake Ademokun, Executive Director, WARDC, Dr. Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi other panellists and RoSF National Coordinator Mrs. Oloruntosin Taiwo.



Cross section of speakers and participants at the WACIN event

RoSF GRADUATES' RETREAT

RoSF organized a retreat for her graduate beneficiaries on the 9th December 2023. The graduates gathered at the foundation's training hall to mingle, learn, share challenges, and offer counsel to each other, as they networked with themselves, and built connections that hoped to be sustained in the future.

This was done to keep ROSF Graduates engaged, to sustain the tempo of interaction, and facilitate learning, improve knowledge of life skills to thrive, and for

economic sustainability.

Dr. Mrs. Mofunanya, a member of the board of trustees and the guest speaker at the event encouraged the graduates to never compromise their life purpose, endeavours, and businesses. She admonished the graduates to be prudent in life, courteous, and open to innovation and technology for a competitive advantage.



REPORTS FROM THE SOUTH – SOUTH ZONE 1

STATES COVERED: AKWA IBOM, CROSS RIVER, AND DELTA STATES

ZONAL COORDINATOR: IMAOBONG ESSIEN UDOH

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY, AKWA IBOM



Our women/widows on Afaha Oku Street celebrating our beloved foundation at 15.

HOME VISIT



The zonal coordinator visited Miss Abasifreke Ubong Job, a ROSF beneficiary at her residence, at Afaha Uffort Abak Road, Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State.

TRAINING

RoSF trained her widows on pastry making in Esieribon community in Calabar, Cross River state.



The facilitators and the zonal coordinator displaying the pastries during the skill acquisition training Held in Esieribon community, Calabar.



During the process of doughnut making and frying of pastries.

WIDOWHOOD RIGHTS PROGRAMME

The Widowhood rights programme was held at Afaha Oku town hall by CCC junction, Ikpa road, Uyo.



L-R: Community leaders/stakeholders at the meeting-Bar. Mary Umanah, Mr Essien Mfon, Mr Nsini Okon, Mr Ubong Edet, Mr Ime Nwenwen, Mr Samuel Effiong and Imabong, Rosf Zonal Coordinator.



Group photo of participants during the widowhood rights programme held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom state.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The school engagement programme was held at Etiedu International school, Oron.

Schools in attendance at the event are:

1. Etiedu International School
2. Evangel High School
3. Evangel Nur/ Primary School
4. Christian Technical College



Group photo of the participants, the facilitators and the zonal coordinator during a school engagement programme/seminar conducted on the 21st of September 2023 at Oron, Akwa Ibom state.

REPORTS FROM THE SOUTH - SOUTH ZONE 2

STATES COVERED: RIVERS, BAYELSA, AND EDO STATE

ZONAL COORDINATOR: JAPHET INIABONG OKON



Mr, Japhet (RoSF Staff) with the women in Benin during an Advocacy work to mark the International Widows Day and the 15th Anniversary of the Foundation.

TRAINING

In line with the mandate of delivering a qualitative free education to the beneficiaries of The Rose of Sharon Foundation, periodic supervision is carried out regularly on schools attended by our beneficiaries, to ascertain the quality of learning acquired.



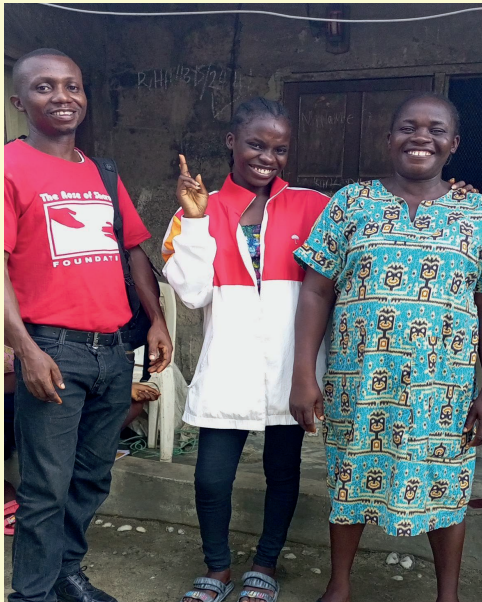
**Asime Light Dawari (Orphan),
and Mr. Japhet**



Mr. Japhet, Osome Daufa and Mr Vanmon (Osome's Class teacher) during school visit

HOME VISIT

In line with keeping our vision of reaching and touching the lives of the widows, it is imperative to visit them in their homes and know their challenges, the organisation is doing extremely well in visiting their beneficiaries periodically to know their physical and mental well-being in other to provide the required intervention.



Mr. Japhet RoSF Staff and Miss Naomi Basil Sukalime with the Mother during home visit in Bayelsa

TRAINING

In a bid to empower women for self-reliance and be able to cater for their families the Rose of Sharon Foundation has been organising annual free entrepreneurial trainings for the beneficiaries in the south south 2 zone.

This year's training took place in Ekosodin, Benin City where the beneficiary numbering 35 were trained on pastry making to aid sustainable livelihood. The participants were delighted to engage in the training, as they expressed their gratitude to the organisation for giving meaning to their life.



The Beneficiaries undergoing the training session.



The beneficiaries Mrs. Evelyn and Mrs. Calista showing their production of Chin Chin.

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR RURAL WOMEN FARMERS IN SOUTHERN NIGERIA

In our bid to continue to alleviate the challenges faced by widows in terms of economic resilience, financial independence and sustainable livelihood, the Rose of Sharon Foundation partnered with the International Centre for Environmental Health and Development (ICEHD) to conduct a training workshop on climate justice and economic resilience project for rural women and widow farmers from the South-South and South-East regions of Nigeria.

The programme was held at Majesty Realm Hotel, Uyo, Akwa-Ibom, and in attendance were the Director from the Akwa-Ibom State Ministry of Agriculture and a Professor from the department of Vocational Education in the University of Uyo as facilitators. Capacity strengthening tools such as fertilisers were distributed to the 31 widow farmers who are RoSF beneficiaries, who were present, to help them in their farming activities, and to adapt to climate challenges.



Group photo of the participants including RoSF beneficiaries, facilitators, RoSF zonal coordinators and organizers of the programme.

NORTH EAST 1

STATES COVERED: ADAMAWA, TARABA, AND GOMBE STATES

ZONAL COORDINATOR: AKAWU JOHNSON

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY TARABA STATE



(L-R): Mr. Yakubu Andrew, Mr. Paul Nathaniel, Miss. Ishem Dnladi, Mrs. Joy Innocent, Miss. Wando Agbu, Mrs. Agbu Wachu, Mr. Akawu Johnson (RoSF staff) and Blessing Emmanuel (RoSF orphan).

SCHOOL VISIT



R-L: Mr. Awolo Gabriel (principal ZIIC Gombe), Rukaiya Iliya, Bitrus Amos, Fatima Abubakar (RoSF Widows Child), Mrs. Amdo Maleh (RoSF volunteer) and Sarah Istifanus, during the school's graduation

HOME VISIT



L-R: Mr. Michael Okih (Caregiver), Blessing Emmanuel Ude (RoSF Orphan), Mrs. Angela and Akawu Johnson RoSF staff.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME



Group photo at the RoSF NORTH EAST TARABA STATE SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME OCTOBER 2023.

NORTH EAST 2

STATES COVERED: BAUCHI, BORNO, AND YOBE STATES

ZONAL COORDINATOR: INUWA ABDULLAHI

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY - BAUCHI STATE



Chief Judge of Upper Magistrate Court, Justice Mubarak Sambo (Esq) speaking at the lecture organised by the Rose of Sharon Foundation during the commemoration of International Widows Day (IWD) and celebration of the Foundation's 15th anniversary at Kafin Madaki, Bauchi state, June 2023.

HOME VISIT



Mr. Inuwa RoSF NorthEast2 Zonal Coordinator, Ahmad Ibrahim with his caregiver during a home visit at Kafi community, Bauchi state, August 2023.



Mr Inuwa RoSF Zonal Coordinator with Mrs Aisha and Mrs Sadiya (widows) during a home visit at Kafin Madaki community, September 2023.



Participants at the School Engagement Programme on September 2023

WIDOWHOOD RIGHT PROGRAMME (WRP)



Cross-section of participants at the widowhood Rights Programme held in Bauchi state, in October, 2023.

NORTH CENTRAL 1

STATES COVERED: BENUE, KOGI, NASARAWA, AND PLATEAU STATES

ZONAL COORDINATOR: SIMON PETER MAJI

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY - KOGI STATE



Participants listening to the speaker during the IWD in Anyigba



Beneficiaries during advocacy walks in Anyigba, Kogi state to commemorate IWD and celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Foundation.



RoSF Coordinator with the 2 undergraduates Mr. Cyprian and Miss Peace during school visit in Benue State University.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME



Practical session with Mr Chuks Osai, the guest speaker during capacity building at the School Improvement Seminar in Nasarawa state.

REPORTS FROM THE NORTH CENTRAL ZONE 2

STATES COVERED: FCT-ABUJA, NIGER, AND KWARA STATE

ZONAL COORDINATOR: ABDULJALIL ADINOYI ABDULMALIK

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY NIGER STATE



Advocacy Walk in Niger State with widows and RoSF NC 2 ZC, Mr. Abdulmalik A. A. to commemorate International Widows Day and celebrate 15th anniversary of the foundation.

SCHOOL VISIT

During the reporting period, Goke Confidence International School and Fadlu Rahman Victory Academy in Abuja, Great Mark International School and A. B. Tech International Academy Great Mark International School in Niger state were visited to assess beneficiaries' performance in school.



| Adinoyi With students at Government Secondary School Gwagwalada, Abuja.



| RoSF zonal Coordinator with beneficiaries of Tah'fizul Qur'an Int'l School, Ilorin Kwara State.

HOME VISIT

Our beneficiaries in Abuja, Niger, and Kwara states were visited every month in their homes, while those beneficiaries that were not around during these visits were reached through phone calls. This was targeted at staying regularly informed of their wellbeing.





WIDOWHOOD RIGHTS PROGRAMME (WRP) IN MINNA, NIGER STATE

The Widowhood Rights Programme (WRP) was held in the Niger State Epidemiology Office, Chanchaga Minna, Niger State, with thirty-two (32) persons (5 male and 27 female) in attendance.



REPORTS FROM NORTH WEST ZONE 1
STATES COVERED: JIGAWA, KANO, AND KADUNA STATE
ZONAL COORDINATOR: ROSE ADEJO

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY (IWD)
KADUNA STATE



Photo of International Widows Day Advocacy walk and celebration of the Foundation’s 15th anniversary in Kaduna State.



Widows In Kaduna State and the Invited Guest Miss Angela Amode, during IWD Programme.

SCHOOL VISIT



L-R: Aisha Nasir (a widow’s Child), Safiya Abdullahi (an orphan), Rose Adejo (RoSF Coordinator) and Sadiya Terna(an orphan) during a school visit in Jigawa State.



Aisha Uasman (a widow’s child) with Rose Adejo (RoSF coordinator) during a school visit

SCHOOL VISIT



Rose Adejo (RoSF Coordinator) and Mrs Oluwatoyin Hussein at her home In Kaduna State.



Rose Adejo and Mrs Kehinde Ogedengbe at her small store in Kano State.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME (SEP)

The SEP was held at Mini Ha-ha School, Kano, and in attendance are teachers from Ecwa Aro Restoration, Wisdom School, Rochas Foundation School, Brilliant Kids Academy, Faraway Academy, All Saints School, Nigari Umami School, and St. John's School.

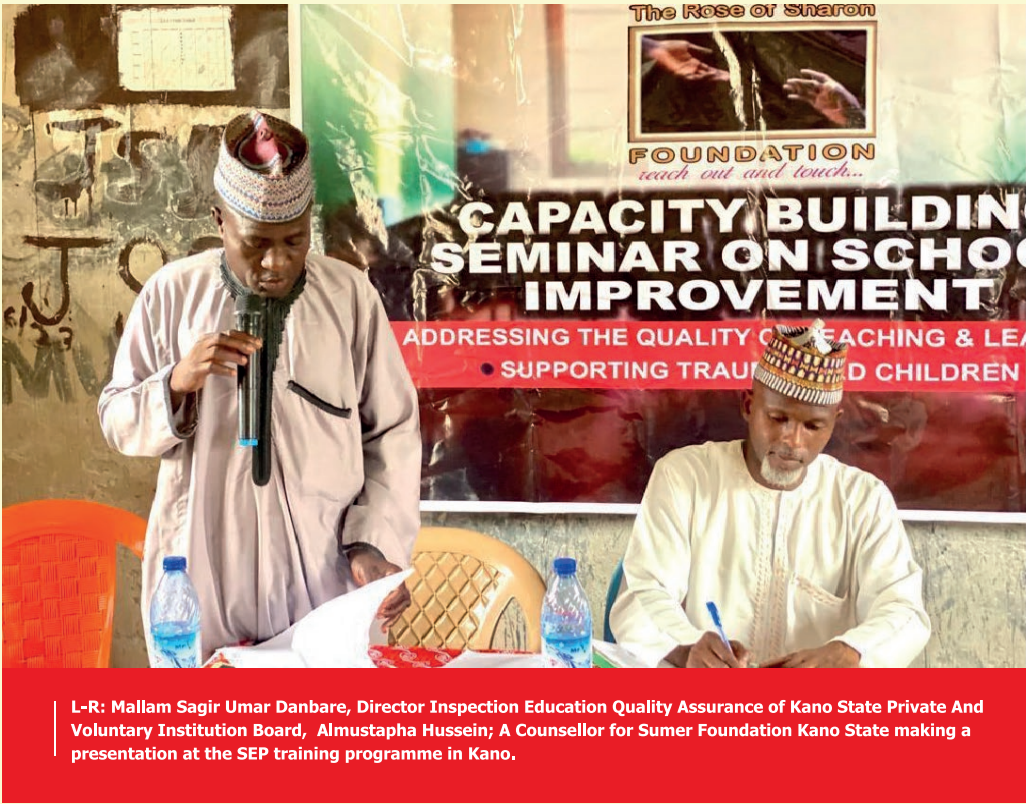
Mallam Hussein al Mustapha, a guidance and counselling officer from Sumer Care Foundation, gave a talk on the teacher-student relationship, traumas, different types of traumas, and how to identify children suffering from trauma.

Mallam Muhammed from the Kano State Ministry of Education spoke with knowledge and experience, explaining the government's backing for the renewal and enhancement of school's curriculum, and the addition of traumatic care education for students. The presentation was shared with the teachers for further study and better understanding.

Mrs. Grace Akintola, the head teacher of Ecwa Aro Restoration School, encouraged the teachers to engage in mental health checks to remain fit to take care of their pupils.

The host school Principal, Mini Ha-ha Hajia Amina, thanked all the teachers who came and both facilitators for coming to the seminar. Rose Adejo coordinator RoSF encouraged the teachers to treat the pupils like their own. She praised the teachers for

the job done and concluded by saying teachers are the real heroes without caps, who shape students into what they become in life. Without them, the fate of the world would be facing serious challenges.



NORTH WEST 2

STATES COVERED: ZAMFARA, KEBBI, AND KATSINA STATES

ZONAL COORDINATOR: PAUL OCHENU

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY (IWD)



A group photograph of widows during the Advocacy/Awareness walk exercise in commemoration of IWD and the Foundation's 15th anniversary celebration on 21st June 2023, in Katsina state.

SCHOOL VISIT

Our beneficiaries under RoSF educational support programme performance is our top priority. A school visitation was conducted to students in Katsina state to check and monitor the performance level of our beneficiaries in July 2023.



A group photo of RoSF beneficiaries and proprietor of Erudite Comprehensive Schools with the zonal coordinator during a school visit exercise held on 20th July, 2023 in Katsina state.

TRAINING

Widows across diverse communities in Sokoto state were trained in income generating activities and business awareness idea to help them fit into the present unprecedented socio-economic challenges in the nation.



Mr Nura Muhammad, a consultant economist with Bonu savings group Sokoto State during the financial literacy sensitisation and training/business awareness synergy exercise with widows held in November 2023 in Sokoto state.

WIDOWHOOD RIGHTS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

RoSF organized a one-day capacity building workshop in collaboration with The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Katsina state chapter on the 19th of October 2023 to equip community stakeholders with the basic knowledge and tools necessary to combat harmful practices on widows, and the social injustice they face during inheritance rights of their husband's will.

The programme, primary aim is to create awareness, provide comprehensive

knowledge and understanding about the cultural issues, inheritance rights, and gender norms adversely affecting widows towards a better treatment and respect for their rights. The programme was held in Tsauri township hall, Kurfi LGA, Katsina state, and over 22 participants including community leaders, stakeholders, women groups, Director of health Kurfi LGA, representatives from CBOs, religious leaders, and a representative from FIDA's were in attendance.



A dialogue between Barrister Fatima and religious leader during the widowed rights capacity building workshop seminar held on 19th October, 2023 in Katsina state.

SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME (SEP)

In October, RoSF lent her voice to the educational sector through her School Engagement Programmes attended by representatives from Erudite Comprehensive Schools, Basic Nursery and Primary School, Alheri Nursery and Primary School, Dan Masami International School, Govt. Day Secondary School Batagarawa, Govt. Day Secondary School Tsauri, Hope International School, and Unity School, etc. in Katsina state

to address the challenges faced by teachers while administering quality teaching and learning exercise.

The programme built the capacity and performance measures of both primary and secondary school teachers while delivering quality teaching and learning, and also providing psychosocial support for traumatized children especially orphans and widows children.



Barrister Edith, A Good Governance Advocate/Consultant lawyer, facilitated and delivering a thoughtful presentation on "The psychosocial support for traumatized children", during the teachers' capacity building seminar and exercise held on 11th of October, 2023 in Katsina state.

SOUTH EAST 1
STATES COVERED: IMO, ANAMBRA, AND ABIA STATE
ZONAL COORDINATOR: SOLOMON OGBONNA

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY (IWD) - IMO STATE



Advocacy walk in Imo State to commemorate the IWD and celebration of the 15th year Anniversary of the Foundation.

SCHOOL VISIT



Marantha School, Ehime Mbano LGA of Imo State.

HOME VISIT



TRAINING

The RoSF Collaborates with the International Center for Environmental Health and Development (ICEHD) on Climate-Smart Agriculture. In this event, 31 widow farmers were trained with the RoSF widow beneficiaries from southeast duly represented. Participants received capacity strengthening tools and farm implements after the one-day training.



A group photo of RoSF widows with the capacity strengthening tools received from ICEHD after the Climate-Smart Agriculture training in Uyo.

REPORTS FROM THE SOUTH EAST ZONE 2

STATES COVERED: EBONYI AND ENUGU STATES

ZONAL COORDINATOR: ANEKE

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY

Rose of Sharon Foundation celebrated its 15th year Anniversary on the 21st day of June 2023. This was done across the nation with HQ office in Lagos spearheading the activities. All the outstation coordinators and beneficiaries took to the street to show their love and affection to the Foundation and its Founder for her benevolence towards the widows and orphans' and their households.

Team Southeast 2 was not left out as we celebrated the anniversary and International Widows Day at Ntezi, a community in Ishielu LGA in Ebonyi State on the same day. Thirty (30) participants from the three implementing communities were in attendance.

The day's activity included a brief remark by Community Stakeholders from Okpoto, Ntezi, and Ugbodo communities on the impact of ROSF interventions in their communities. The beneficiaries also took turns narrating

how the foundation has improved their lives as they pray for God's blessing, Favor, and Protection for the Founder.

This was followed by a brief talk on Social-Legal Strategies for the Protection of Widow's Rights. These include: Legal Framework, Awareness Campaigns, Support Groups, Economic Empowerment, Advocacy, Monitoring, and Evaluation. Protecting the rights of widows requires a comprehensive approach that involves legal, social, and economic strategies.

Governments, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders should work together to ensure that widows receive the necessary support and protection to live a dignified life. The activity was rounded up with an advocacy walk around the community to create awareness about widow's rights and the consequences of its violation according to the VAPP law.



Participants at the advocacy walk to commemorate the IWD and the Foundation's 15th anniversary celebration

HOME VISIT

Home visit is one of the community structures used by RoSF team to provide need-based interventions to the enrolled beneficiaries. Within the period in view, team Southeast 2 visited 20 widows and 11 orphans. Services provided were strictly based on need.

A case management approach was also used to engage those in hard-to-reach areas

especially due to insecurity associated with pre-election. The visit was aimed at reviewing beneficiaries' household overall progress as well as business improvement. Their knowledge of health, nutrition, and education of their children were also improved. They also received voter's education, better parenting and information on gender-based violence.



| Mr. Aneke with Mrs. Theresa at Agbani community in Enugu.



| Mr. Aneke with Mrs. Amoge



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