



ROSF

NEWSLETTER

Nov 2021 / 13TH EDITION

ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION

FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

By Apostle Folorunso Alakija

On behalf of the Chairman, the Board of Trustees, Management and Staff of the Rose of Sharon Foundation, we thank God for life, provision and protection over the years. The mercy of God has been our shield in these turbulent times. We appreciate God for the continued zeal and capacity to reach out to our widows, their children and orphans to lighten their burdens and make positive impact in their lives.

Below is a summary of the activities we undertook within the period under review. The comprehensive report is within the pages of the newsletter for your reading pleasure.

SCHOLARSHIP & SCHOOL VISITS

The scholarship scheme of the Foundation is targeted towards empowering widows' children and orphans academically. The widows themselves are not left out as those who have shown interest in obtaining a formal education are also supported. The scholarship covers from primary to tertiary institution. Routine school visits are done to assess the performance of beneficiaries enrolled and to help them improve on their performance where necessary.

The Foundation currently has a total of 1,035 beneficiaries in various institutions within the country.

S/n	Category	Total No.	Type of institution		
			Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
1.	Orphans	188	35	98	55
2.	Widows' Children	847	112	589	146

WIDOWS EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The RoSF widows Empowerment Programme (WEP) is designed to provide business and life support services to widows. This was done through various trainings sessions held across the (six) 6 geopolitical zones where widows capacities were built on various skills to enable income generating activities.

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION (IWD)

June 23 is a day set aside globally 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.

RoSF celebrated IWD nationwide through a virtual program, radio broadcast and live meetings where physical gatherings were allowed. The theme of the program was 'The Plight of Widows During Crisis' and the distinguished facilitators advocated that the wellbeing of widows during crisis is a collective responsibility of stakeholders.

THE ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Rose of Sharon Foundation celebrates the Christmas season with her widows and orphans yearly. This event used to be a physical gathering where widows and orphans alike come together to wine and dine in the spirit of the season. However, due to Covid-19 pandemic the physical gathering has since been replaced with cash gifts for all widows and orphans. The beneficiaries were given the sum of 7,500 naira each to celebrate the season.

REPORT FROM THE LAGOS/SOUTHWEST ZONE

STATES COVERED: LAGOS, OGUN, OYO & OSUN.

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY (IWD) 2021

INTRODUCTION

The International Widows' Day is a day chosen by the United Nations to celebrate the widows and spread awareness concerning their challenges and advocate for support. It is a day that also draws attention to the silent voices of the widows. It is an annual event slated for the 23rd of June. At the Rose of Sharon Foundation, the event has always been one that attracts wide participation, with dignitaries, resource persons, the RoSF's registered widows and other widows in attendance in Lagos and the Zonal outstations in other parts of Nigeria. However, this year 2021, while still coping with the protocols of Covid-19 prevention, the event held virtually in Lagos state. Widows all around the world were able to connect and learn from the wealth of knowledge of the Founder and other seasoned speakers that addressed salient issues.

The theme for this year's International Widows Day event was 'The Plight of Widows During Crisis'.

Highlighted below are the reports for the Lagos office (covering the South-West zone) and all outstations on the celebration of this unique day when the world identifies with these vulnerable group of people.

LAGOS EDITION

The Rose of Sharon Foundation (RoSF) in Lagos state hosted its annual International Widows' Day on the 23rd of June 2021 as a virtual meeting which held on the zoom platform as we did in the previous year. The event was themed- 'The Plight of Widows During Crisis'

The meeting was hosted by the Founder of the Rose of Sharon Foundation; Apostle Folorunso Alakija. The Grand Matron: Her Excellency, The First Lady of Lagos State, Dr (Mrs) Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu was unavoidably absent. The Speakers were, Dr. (Mrs) Adebawale Ayobade a lecturer in the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Science, University of Lagos, Akoka and Colonel Moses Oketola (Rtd.) who is an expert on security matters. The participants were drawn from the six geo-political zones of the country, which included the Foundation's beneficiaries and the general public.

The meeting was anchored by Mrs. Stella Oyesile, the Administrative Officer of The Rose of Sharon Foundation.

The event started with an opening prayer by the Supervisor of RoSF; Mrs. Olusade Paul-Rotua and this was followed by the welcome address of the Founder; Apostle Folorunso Alakija who spoke about the unique support needed by the widows. She stressed the fact that they are usually omitted from the statistics of many developing countries, hence the Foundation's keen interest in identifying with their challenges. These special concerns are on the increase due to the prevalent effects of Covid-19 pandemic. She advised on some security measures to help this vulnerable group in the event of physical danger, as insecurity is becoming obviously rampant all over the world and Nigeria is not an exception. This has become a major challenge for the widows as they and their children have become a target due to the absence of a male figure to shield them during crisis. She concluded that in line with the vision of RoSF, it is important that such concerns be re-echoed to the government, its ministries/departments/agencies and individuals to help provide necessary policies and recourse to curb this social menace. She updated the public on the activities of the Foundation and appreciated all individuals and organisations who have partnered with the Foundation since inception.

Colonel Oketola educated the widows on the existing security challenges in the country and advised the widows on what they could do protect themselves in the male dominated society as they are since they are without male figure

He went further to encourage the widows to be emotionally intelligent in order to run the affairs of their homes in the absence of their husbands.

He also advised against the display of affluence on social media and encouraged them to monitor their children closely to checkmate negative peer influences.

Dr. (Mrs) Ayobade started out by explaining that widowhood subjects the woman to a life of misery. She stated that the plight of a widow is usually defined by their culture. She encouraged widows to refine themselves and not to be a liability rather they should think of different avenues to generate incomes to fend for themselves and their children

She emphasised that widows should be economically empowered and avoid the trap of being over dependent on others.

EXPERIENCE SHARING BY THE WIDOWS

Mrs. Funmilayo Ogunnowo, a RoSF's registered widow spoke on behalf of the RoSF's widows in the South-West Zone. In addressing the audience, Mrs. Ogunnowo who has been widowed for 13 years stated that widowhood is a terrible situation especially where there is lack of support. She narrated her ordeal when her husband passed on. First, she was accused of killing him then the family attempted to take her children away from her and her refusal marked the beginning of her woes with her in-laws.

During this period, she was introduced to the RoSF, and her burden was lifted. She encouraged other widows to put their trust in God as he only God can uphold them.

Mrs. Jacinta Ekwonye also recounted her cruel experience after the death of her husband. She submitted that widowhood had drastically modified her responsibility as a woman as was made to pay her husband's loan to an extended family member. She narrated her battles with discrimination both by family members and the public. She expressed her joy to the Foundation for coming to her rescue at a time when all hope was lost and further encouraged widows to be prayerful and hardworking even in the face of hardship.

The event ended with a closing prayer by Mr. Ochenu one of the Zonal Coordinators. Appreciation of all speakers and participants was done by the RoSF's Administrative Officer Mrs. Stella Oyesile, who appreciated the founder, the speakers and all the participants for being a part of the program.

WIDOWS CLUSTER MEETINGS – IKORODU

As we moved towards the end of the year, RoSF scaled up their welfare and support services to the widows' enrolled on the programme by holding community cluster meetings with the widows in their respective zones. These steps were tailored towards integration of other valuable component to improve on their welfare and give room for feedback and evaluation to inform better programming. Various learnings were integrated into the interactive sessions such as life skills, role play, better parenting skills and achieving economic resilience.



Widows from Ikorodu cluster Meeting with members of RoSF



Role play on community support and better parenting during the meeting



RoSF Staff addressing the widows



Dr. Bowei addressing the widows on achieving economic resilience

WIDOWS CLUSTER MEETINGS – JIDA ODAN, AGBARA-OGUN STATE

Widows cluster meeting also held in Jida Odan community in Agbara, Ogun State in the month of November 2021. The participants were trained on financial literacy to become economically resilient and they were also trained on becoming effective parents.

Below are the pictures of the meeting.



Cross section of widows in Agbara and RoSF staff



Participants during the better parenting session



Role play during the meeting

THE ROSE OF SHARON FOUNDATION CHRISMAS CELEBRATION

The culture of celebrating Christmas/end of the year with our beneficiaries is an annual event that was not left out despite the pandemic. The event, which is usually commemorated with a physical gathering of wine and dining in the spirit of the season was replaced with cash gifts for all beneficiaries.

This year, all beneficiaries across the country were given cash to celebrate the season with their household members. The beneficiaries expressed their heart felt gratitude to the Founder and the Foundation through their messages. Excerpts of their messages are as follows:

“ I appreciate the angel of our time. A mother in a million and an epitome of beauty. I bless God for the mighty things God is using you to do. Thank you for always having the needy in mind. You are indeed a mother of nations” - Mrs, Kehinde

“ Thank you so much our mummy Alakija for putting smiles on our faces always. God bless The Rose of Sharon Foundation” - Mrs. Jane

TERTIARY INSTITUTION INTAKE FOR 2021/2022 ACADEMIC SESSION

The Foundation congratulates all her new sets of student-beneficiaries who have been admitted into various academic Programmes at different tertiary institutions across the country. These are:

UNIVERSITIES

NAME OF BENEFICIARY	NAME OF INSTITUTION	COURSE OF STUDY
OLOKODE MACDAVID	FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE ABEOKUTA	BIOCHEMISTRY
ORUMA KARIMAT UNEKUOJO	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN TEACHING HOSPITAL	NURSING
WILLIAMS GBENGA OLATUNDE	CALEB UNIVERSITY	ARCHITECTURE
OLUFADEBO PEACE	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS	BUSINESS EDUCATION
PETERS ANUOLUWAPO	EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY	COMPUTER SCIENCE
EKELE ISAAC	EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY	SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY

POLYTECHNICS

NAME OF BENEFICIARY	NAME OF INSTITUTION	COURSE OF STUDY
ANIFOWOSHE ABIGAIL	YABA COLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	SURVEYING & GEOINFORMATICS
BAMITEKO ELIZABETH ORIYOMI	LAGOS STATE POLYTECHNIC	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



Anifowoshe, Abigail Anuoluwapo - Yaba College of Technology (Surveying & Geoinformatics)



Williams. Gbenga Olatunde - Caleb University (Architecture)



Olokode, Macdavies - Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta (Biochemistry)

MORE GRADUANDS ARE ADDED TO THE ROSF ALUMNI LIST

In the course of the year, 14 additional graduands were added to the already existing university alumni list of the Foundation during the 2020/2021 academic session. The beneficiaries, their course of study and institutions attended are listed below:

NAME	INSTITUTION	COURSE OF STUDY
ACHUGO CHINAKA EBUKA	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN	MICROBIOLOGY
IDIALU GIBSON	UNIVERSITY OF BENIN	INSURANCE
ADEYOPO INUMIDUN DAMILOLA	KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY	LINGUISTICS
LAWAL OLUGBENGA ADEYEMI	KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY	BIOCHEMISTRY
MUHAMMED ABDULLAHI OLATUNJI	KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY	ECONOMICS
ALABI OLUWAKEMI DEBORAH	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN	ACCOUNTANCY
AJETUNMOBI ADENIKE	UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN	ENGLISH
TAIWO TEMIDAYO MARY	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS	KINETICS & HEALTH EDUCATION
ADEYEMO JOHN	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS	ACCOUNTANCY
SOWEMIMO PELUMI	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS	ACCOUNTANCY
OLANIHUN DAVID	UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS	MICROBIOLOGY
OJIMADU UDECHUKWU SIXTUS	IMO STATE UNIVERSITY	MASS COMMUNICATION
BANKOLE TAIWO HASSAN	LAGOS STATE POLYTECHNIC	MASS COMMUNICATION
ANADI KENECHUKWU FAVOUR	YABA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY	OFFICE TECHNOLOGY & MANAGEMENT



Alabi, Oluwakemi Deborah - University of Ilorin
(Accountancy)



Adeyipo, Inumidun Damilola - Kwara State
University (Linguistics)



Bankole, Taiwo Hassan - Lagos State
Polytechnic (Mass Communication)



Adeyemo, John - University of Lagos
(Accountancy)



Taiwo, Temitayo Mary - University of Lagos
(Kinetics & Health Education)



Muhammed, Abdullahi Olatunji - Kwara State
University (Economics)



Anadi, Kenekukwu Favour - Yaba College of
Technology. (Office Technology & Management).

SOUTH – SOUTH ZONE 1

STATES COVERED: AKWA IBOM, CROSS RIVERS AND DELTA

ZONAL COORDINATOR: IMAOBONG ESSIEN UDOH

INTERNATIONAL WIDOW'S DAY CELEBRATION

The South-South zone 1 celebrated the International Widows Day in grand style with over 50 widows in attendance. This celebration was themed: 'The plight of widows during crisis.'

The men in the community turned out en masse to lend their support and solidarity. The guest speaker Mr. Iniekung Asukwo motivated and enlightened the widows to stand together against intimidation and work hard to better their lots as widows.



Cross-section of widows and their children during the International Widow Day in Cross Rivers State.



Mr. Iniekung Asukwo enlightening the audience on the plight of widows

VISITATION TO MOTHERLESS BABIES HOME

During the period under review, Mother Charles walker motherless babies' home (Uyo – Akwa Ibom) was visited. Gift items were presented to the children by the RoSF Zonal Coordinator (Imaobong) on behalf of the Foundation. The children and caregivers expressed their gratitude for the show of love and kindness from the Foundation.



RoSF Zonal coordinator and the motherless children during the visit



RoSF Zonal Coordinator with the motherless babies' home personnel

MONITORING OF BENEFICIARY ACQUIRING SKILL

Miss Abasifrek an orphan beneficiary of the RoSF educational support scheme was enrolled at a Fashion institute after completing her secondary education to empower her with life skills for future economic independence and financial freedom. The Foundation's Zonal Coordinator visited her at her learning institute to monitor her progress.



Abasifreke at work



Abasifreke at work

HOME VISIT

Regular visits to our beneficiaries are a core responsibility of the Foundation to provide psycho-social support and referral services when necessary. Life skill support and financial literacy education were provided for widows, their children and the orphans in the zone.

The children who were adolescents were also trained on Wash, Sanitation and hygiene (WASH) education.



RoSF coordinator during a home visit to an orphan

SOUTH – SOUTH ZONE 2

STATE COVERED: RIVERS, BAYELSA AND EDO

ZONAL COORDINATOR: JAPHET INIOBONG OKON



From L-R Chief Aaron Koroma (Speaker), Mr. Japhet Iniobong (RoSF Staff), Barr. Nte Cleopas (Speaker), & Mrs. Faustina Samuel (Speaker) during 2021 International Widows Day in Rivers State



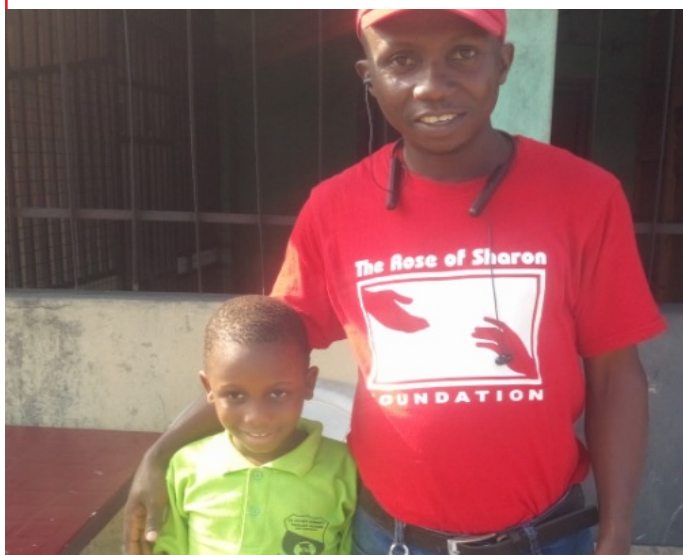
Cross Section of the women on the International Widow's Day celebration in Rivers State and Mr. Japhet (RoSF Staff for South- South 2)



From L to R Mr. Japhet (RoSF Staff for South South 2) and Mrs. Berebo Job with her Children in Bayelsa during Home Visit



From L to R Mr. Japhet (RoSF Staff for South South 2) and Mrs. Charity Nathaniel in Rivers State during Home Visit



From L to R Mr. Japhet (RoSF Staff for South South 2) and Asime Light Dawari in Rivers State during School Visit



From L to R Mr. Japhet (RoSF Staff for South South 2) presenting Letter of empowerment to Precious Billy (the new replaced beneficiaries) in Rivers State



From L to R Mr. Japhet (RoSF Staff for South South 2) presenting Letter of empowerment to Boma Joshua (the new replaced beneficiaries) in Rivers State



From L to R Mr. Japhet (RoSF Staff for South South 2) presenting Letter of empowerment to Miracle Adoki (the new replaced beneficiaries) in Rivers State

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE 1

STATES COVERED; BENUE, KOGI, NASARAWA AND PLATEAU

ZONAL COORDINATOR: SIMON PETER MAJI

INTERNATIONAL WIDOW'S DAY CELEBRATION

June 23rd is a day set aside to identify with the world widows. In Benue State, the theme for the day was 'The Plight of the Widows During Crisis'. The occasion was commemorated with interactive sessions facilitated by Precious Onoja, Pauline Igomu, and Chief Tsesar T. Adzauda.

The various sessions addressed issues of poverty, denial of inheritance by the in-laws, homelessness, stigmatization, unfavourable government policies and laws as the plight of the widows. They also advised widows to be hardworking and to further distinguish themselves from activities that could predispose them to vulnerability and rely totally on God.

The celebration featured solidarity walks to end violence against widows, discrimination, stigmatization, homelessness, and victimization of widows and their children. At the end of the Programme, the beneficiaries testified to the good work of the Foundation and prayed for God's protection on the visioner for the great work.



The district head and his chief during the International Widows Day in Makurdi Benue state.



Cross-section of the participants during International Widows Day



Solidarity walk round the community during International Widows Day



Road Show for International Widows Day in Benue State

ADVOCACY VISIT

An advocacy visit was made to the Jophez Medical Centre, one of the private hospitals in Kuchikau Community in Nasarawa state to secure free healthcare services for our beneficiaries.



RoSF coordinator with the medical director Johepz Medical centre Nasarawa during the advocacy visit

REFRESHER TRAINING ON FOOD STORAGE

A refresher training on food storage for our beneficiaries was organised (Widows and Orphans) across the zone. The purpose of this activity was to educate the beneficiaries on food storage and preservation to ensure food security and income generating activities especially when such foods are not in season.



Cross session of beneficiaries at the training

HOME VISIT/ SENSITIZATION/ BUSINESS FOLLOW UP

Home visits were carried out across the zone during the period under review. The beneficiaries were visited at their business location to monitor their progress and they were provided with tips on managing their finances and customers for business growth. Furthermore, they were encouraged to increase their income by going into home gardening which would also provide the family with nutritional support. The visit also serves as a post empowerment monitoring activity.



Zonal coordinator with Mrs. Bangs during the Home visit



Zonal Coordinator RoSF carrying out career counselling during home visit in Nasarawa



Zonal coordinator with Mrs. Blessing Inalegwu, during a post empowerment monitoring visit.



Zonal coordinator with a beneficiary during home visit



RoSF coordinator providing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education to Mrs. Ezekiel during Home visit at Nasarawa state

SCHOOL VISIT

Periodic School visit was carried out to assess the quality of education being provided by the school alongside student performance. After which, a school representative was met with to discuss feedbacks on findings as it concerns our beneficiaries. It was also an opportunity to collect and collate school bills as the term runs to an end.



ROSF Zonal coordinator with the Director of God's plan international school Nasarawa state and beneficiary during the school visit

TESTIMONY

“ God saved me from shame and reproach through Rose of Sharon Foundation”

I am Mrs. Linda Thomas one of the beneficiaries of RoSF from Nasarawa state. Since the demise of my husband life has been so difficult for me and my family. It has been so terrible that access to food was always a nightmare. The situation persisted until The Rose of Sharon Foundation came to my aid in December 2017. I was empowered and one of my children was given an educational scholarship to tertiary level. Not long after I received N30,000 non-interest loan to start my akara business with a repayment period of 18months.

I had not yet recovered from the joy of the loan and scholarship, when the Foundation provided me with Christmas gift which has been regular and another twenty-five thousand-naira as COVID-19 palliative in year 2020.

Our encounter with the Foundation saved us from shame and reproach and our lives will never be the same, we can now feed, and by the grace of God I have repaid my loan.

I truly appreciate RoSF for the act of kindness shown to my family. God in his infinite mercy will bless and increase you the more in Jesus's name. Amen



Mrs. Linda Thomas in her business place

NORTH CENTRAL ZONE 2

STATE COVERED: FCT-ABUJA, NIGER AND KWARA

ZONAL COORDINATOR: ABDULJALIL ADINOYI ABDULMALIK

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION

2021 International widows' day was a unique one held at Sobi FM 101.9 Ilorin in Kwara state. The theme, "The Plight of Widows During Crisis" was deliberated on and was presented in both English and Yoruba languages for wider coverage. During the program, the phone lines were opened to allow listeners to participate in the discussion through various contributions and feedback.



L-R: Miss Oyinlade Ojesanmi, Sobi Fm Radio Presenter, Mrs. Taiye Tunde Yahaya, RoSF Beneficiary, Mrs. Kudirat Adebayo, Guest Speaker, Mrs. Ruth Alalade, Guest Speaker, with RoSF North Central 2 Zonal Coordinator, Mr. Abduljalil Adinoyi Abdulmalik, during



A group photograph of RoSF beneficiary, volunteer, guest speakers and Sobi FM Radio Presenters with RoSF North Central 2 Zonal Coordinator, Mr. Abduljalil Adinoyi Abdulmalik, during the 2021 International Widows Day Radio Programme at Sobi Fm, Ilorin, Kwara State

SCHOOL VISIT

Routine school visit was carried out to assess the quality of education being provided by the school alongside student performance. Volunteers in Niger and Kwara states visited all the schools in their respective states to collect and collate school bills also to enable follow up on payment as it concerns our beneficiaries in the zone. The school visited are: A. B. Tech International School, Our Lady Comprehensive School and Great Mark International School in Niger state, and Best Famous International Academy in FCT-Abuja.



RoSF North-Central 2 Zonal Coordinator, Mr. Abduljalil Adinoyi Abdulmalik (left) during a school visitation meeting with the Principal of Best Famous International Academy, Mr. Ismail Lamonde (right)

BIOMETRIC CAPTURE FOR NEW BENEFICIARIES

A total of 3 newly enrolled beneficiaries were captured in both Niger (1) and Kwara (2) States to ensure proper documentation.



Biometric capturing exercise

HOME VISITS AND PHONE CALLS

During the reporting period, beneficiaries in Abuja, Kwara and Niger states were visited respectively. This was done to provide psycho-social support services for them.



RoSF beneficiaries and coordinator in FCT-Abuja, Niger and Kwara states during home visit

TESTIMONY "THE REWARD OF HARDWORK"

Ekeh Favour, an orphan beneficiary of the Foundation's educational scholarship scheme. The management of the school (Federal Girls Government College Bwari, Abuja) rewarded her with free tuition during the 3rd term of 2020/2021 academic session in recognition of her stellar performance during the school science competition.



Ekeh Favour, RoSF beneficiary who won the science competition in her school and got free tuition

NORTH EAST ZONE 1

STATE COVERED: ADAMAWA, TARABA AND GOMBE STATE

ZONAL COORDINATOR: AKAWU JOHNSON

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION/TARABA STATE GROUP CELEBRATION OF THE WIDOWS

Taraba state is one of the Northern states in Nigeria seriously affected by insurgency and crisis which has led to an increase in widowhood. As a result, International Widows Day is celebrated to identify with the widows in the State. Gombe state, which is also located in the same region was not left out of the celebration as the day was marked by gathering widows in the state. Some stakeholders were invited to shed light on the Theme: 'The Plight of Widows During Crisis'. The stakeholders are; Mr. Asiya Isuwa, Mrs Janet Nyajon, Mrs Dorcas K Lubo, Mrs Pantuvo Bilkisu and Pastor Emmanuel Ojo.



Widows and Orphans during the celebration in Taraba State



Widows and orphans during IWD



RoSF Widows Child Jared Ibrahim Edward Reciting a Poem titled "THE UMBRELLA FELL" During the IWD Celebration June 23rd, 2021 in Gombe State



Group picture of invited guest speakers at the IWD Celebration in Gombe State.

TESTIMONY

Sunday Grace Akintola (RoSF Orphan Gombe State).

My name is Sunday, Grace Akintola a student with federal university Gombe state and RoSF beneficiary. Words cannot express my heartfelt appreciation for the educational and psychological support received from RoSF after the demise of my father. RoSF is indeed God sent.



Mrs Othaniel Nasiha (RoSF Widow Taraba State).

My name is Mrs Othaniel Nasiha RoSF widow from Bali L.G.A Taraba State. After the death of my husband, life has been difficult for me and my children until RoSF came to my aid. Thank you for the extraordinary help you gave me for I can now feed and my children have returned to school. God richly bless you.



Mrs Othaniel Nasiha and Children

NORTH EAST ZONE 2

STATES COVERED; BAUCHI, BORNO AND YOBE

ZONAL COORDINATOR: INUWA ABDULLAHI

INTERNATIONAL WIDOW'S DAY CELEBRATION

The International Widows Day in Bauchi State was phenomenal as the theme: 'The Plight of Widows During Crisis' was deliberated on during an interactive session with the widows as they share their respective challenges and coping mechanisms were discussed as it relates to their peculiar situations.

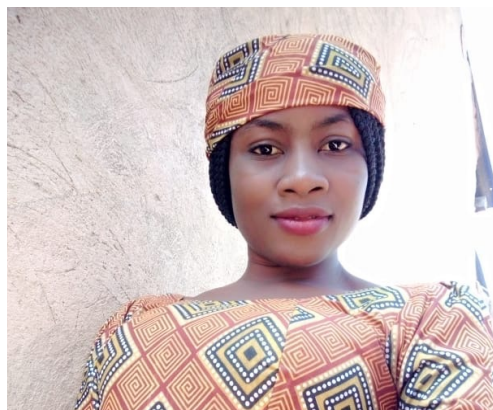


A Cross section of widows celebrating International Widows Day at Kafi Community, Bauchi state, June 2021 during an interactive session

TESTIMONY

“RoSF will continue to live long.”

My name is Lamo, Gerson Andrew an orphan from Borno state. I appreciate Almighty God for the gift of life and am grateful to the Rose of Sharon Foundation for its support towards my academics. Since the Foundation's intervention, I have received many supports such as monthly stipends, payment of my school fees, advice, training, and food support during Christmas. I pray that God will continue to bless and increase all your efforts in helping the needy especially, orphans and widows. May God bless and protect the founder of this great Foundation. You will continue to live long. Thank You!



Lamo Gerson Andrew

“The Rose of Sharon foundation gave me new Hope”

My name is Mrs Ladi Ibrahim Arab, a widow from Yobe state, Northeast Nigeria. I want to use this opportunity to thank the Rose of Sharon Foundation for stepping in to help my family. Four years ago after my husband's demise life became difficult as we were abandoned by family and friends. However from the time we were introduced to RoSF our lives have improved. The Foundation awarded a scholarship to my son up to the university level and I was also given an interest-free loan which I used to buy a grinding machine to help feed my family. Since then, life has become easy and bearable. I will forever remain grateful to the Foundation for this gesture of love and support. Thank you, may the good Lord bless you!



Mrs. Ladi Ibrahim Arab, a widow from Yobe State, posed with her grinding machine.

“Thank you, Rose of Sharon Foundation”

My name is Fatima, Grema Galadima an orphan from Yobe state. I lost my father in 2017 to the Boko Haram attack in Damaturu, the capital town of Yobe state and we all fled to Buni Yadi town. Then life became difficult for our family as Boko Haram attacked Buni Yadi. We migrated to Abuja and lived in an IDP camp, my mother passed on and my sister and I stopped schooling because we had no one to take care of our education. After which, we had to stop schooling until the RoSF came to our aid in 2019 and they have since been supportive especially with the monthly stipend. Thank you, Rose of Sharon Foundation, may God bless Mama Alakija!



(R-L) Fatima Grema Galadima and her sister Asmaú Grema Galadima posed for picture in their school uniform, Yobe State.

SCHOOL VISIT

School visit is one of the pivotal roles of RoSF zonal coordinators across the zones. The purpose of school visit is to assess the quality of education being provided and performance of respective beneficiaries. Below are some of the pictures taken during our school visits.



(L-R) Kabiru Abdullahi a widow's child, Mr. Inuwa RoSF North East 2 Coordinator and one of the teachers at Skye Crest School Bauchi during the school visit in July 2021



(L-R) Kabiru Abdullahi with Mr. Inuwa RoSF North East 2 Coordinator checking his school records.



(L-R) Ahmad Ibrahim, an orphan, Head teacher of Yayaji Community Islamiyya Nursery and Primary school, Mr. Sunusi Zagi, Nuru Sale, a widow's child, Mr. Inuwa RoSF North East 2 Coordinator, and Kabiru Abdullahi a widow's child during the school visit, August 2021.



(L-R) Mr. Inuwa RoSF North East 2 Coordinator, Muhammad Ahmad Yauta with his mother, Mrs. Yauta, a registered widow with ROSF, during speech and price given day at Air Force Primary school Bauchi in September 2021



(L-R) Mr. Inuwa RoSF North East 2 Coordinator with Aisha Ahmad, a widow's child during speech and price giving day at Iqra Primary and Secondary school, in October 2021



(R-L) Mr. Inuwa RoSF North East 2 Coordinator presented the RoSF newsletter to Mrs. Ramatu, Head Teacher Airforce Primary School Bauchi, during the school visit, in October 2021

HOME/FARM VISIT



RoSF NE2 Coordinator educating beneficiaries on economic strengthening during home visit



(L-R) Mr. Inuwa RoSF North East 2 Coordinator with Mrs. Abdullahi Adamu in her farm during farm visit, in August 2021



(L-R) Mr. Inuwa RoSF North East 2 Coordinator with Mrs. Yauta in her farm during farm visit, August 2021



(R-L) Mr. Inuwa RoSF North East 2 Coordinator with Mrs. Wada in her backyard farm during home visit, in September 2021



Home Visit

DATA CAPTURING EXERCISES



NORTH WEST ZONE 1

STATE COVERED: JIGAWA STATE, KANO STATE, KADUNA STATE

ZONAL COORDINATOR: ROSE ADEJO

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS' DAY 2021

On the 23rd of July 2021, the Rose of Sharon Foundation hosted her annual International Widow's Day celebration at Jigawa State Library Hall, Dutse, Jigawa State. The Programme was graced by the wife of the former speaker of Jigawa state House of Assembly, a consultant for Action Against Hunger Jigawa state and two additional guest speakers-Hajia Amina Aminu and Siddiq Abubakar. We had about twenty (20) registered beneficiaries dressed in the Rose of Sharon Foundation's attire and over a hundred (100) widows and school children in attendance.

Mrs. Amina Ahmed an architect spoke on how women could seize opportunities to help themselves. She gave instances of businesses the widows could engage themselves in to survive given the present economy. Also, the wife of former speaker Mrs Kubura who begged the widows to live, work hard and try as much as possible to train their children so they don't become menace. She beckoned on the house of representative members that were in attendance to always include widows during decisions making.

Widows, orphans, and widows' children gave presentation of songs, speeches, and heart-warming testimonies. Surprisingly the widows in Jigawa state presented gifts to the founder Mrs. Folorunso Alakija and the coordinator Miss Rose Adejo as a sign of appreciation

He appreciated RoSF for what we are doing in the lives of widows and orphans.



L-R Abubakar Siddiq, Hajia Kubura, Rose Adejo (RoSF Coordinator Northwest Zone) and Amina Aminu at 2021 International Widows Day Celebration in Jigawa State



Cross Section of Guest at International Widows Day in Jigawa State



Miss Rose Adejo (RoSF Staff) Giving Her Speech During International Widows Day Celebration in Jigawa State



Aisha Mujaheed During Her Presentation



Cross Section of Guests



guests at the just concluded 2021 international widows day celebration in dutse



Special Guests At The Well Decorated High Table



Pupils Song Rendition



L-R Abubaka And Rose Adejo Rosf Staff



Mrs Sewuse Presenting Gift To Miss Rose Adejo (Rosf Coordinator Northwest Zone) For A Job WellDone During 2021 Iwd Celebration In Jigawa State

SCHOOL VISIT



RoSF with an Orphan At Mini Haha School In Kano State



RoSF with Beneficiaries At Ecwa Aro Restoration School Kano



RoSF with an Orphan during school visit in Kano State



Zonal Coordinator with an orphan during a visit



RoSF coordinator and some beneficiaries in a girls' school in Kaduna



Abdullazeez (An Orphan) At His Graduation Ceremony In Jigawa State

HOME VISIT



I-r. Rose Adejo (RoSF staff) Aron Lucky and Paulina Lucky at Kaduna State



Rose Adejo, Hauwa Ahmed And Her Guardian During A Visit To Jigawa State



Rose Adejo Northwest Coordinator 1 With A Beneficiary's Children Jamila And Garba In Jigawa State



L-r. Rose Adejo (RoSF staff) Aron Lucky and Paulina Lcky at Kaduna State

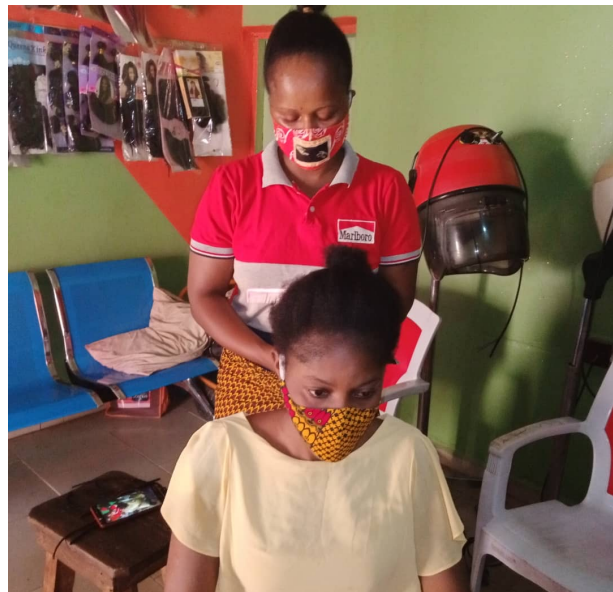


Rose Adejo With Beneficiaries Children Hafsat And Maryam In Hadeja Jigawa State

TESTIMONIES

“RoSF Wiped Away My Tears”

My name is Ruth, Sunday. I would like to appreciate the founder for wiping my tears, as a young widow life has been unfair especially coping alone with two children. But in 2018, RoSF came to my aid by giving educational support to my children and economic support to me through the several financial gifts and skill acquisition training as we were taught how to make Vaseline, hair cream, perfumes, and balm. This knowledge boosted my hairdressing business. I have been making my hair cream for my hairdressing business and even start selling some. The Rose of Sharon Foundation is an answered prayer. God bless you all.



Mrs ruth Sunday (wearing RoSF ankara facemask) at her salon with a customer

My name is Hauwa Ahmed, I sincerely appreciate the Foundation for keeping to its words as an orphan I have been receiving monthly stipends which have really been helpful in meeting my daily needs and this has prevented me from going into prostitution. Thank you and may Allah continue to bless The Rose of Sharon Foundation.



Hauwa Ahmed

NORTH WEST ZONE 2

STATE COVERED: ZAMFARA, SOKOTO, KEBBI AND KATSINA STATE

ZONAL COORDINATOR: PAUL OCHENU

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION(IWD) 2021.

International Widows Day (IWD) is a significant event for widows all over the world and the Northwest Zone 2 in Nigeria was not left out. In Gusau, Zamfara State the event Themed “The Plight of widows During crisis”. Had over 65 persons in attendance including the P.A to the office of the Honourable Special Adviser to the Governor of Zamfara state on youth scholarship and students matters. The event was educative and interactive. Below are the activities which took place across the zone.



Malama Maryam Saidu, guest speaker giving a talk on “Plight of Widows During Crisis”. During the International Widows Day event held in Zamfara State

RoSF WIDOWS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING 2021

In combating the economic instability and poverty faced by thousands of widows and the vulnerable women across Northwest zone 2 communities, RoSF keeps reaching out and touching lives despite the high insecurity challenges within the zone. Over One hundred and five (105) widows within Zamfara, Kebbi and Katsina state were engaged in a soap making training from July to September 2021.



RoSF Facilitator being assisted by other facilitator Kebbi State Widows during the training



Cross section photographs of widows after being empowered



HOME VISIT



SCHOOL VISIT



TESTIMONIES

My names are Mrs. Rakiya Jabiru Tsauri, from Tsauri village, Kurfi L.G.A of Katsina state. With a cheerful mind I say may Almighty Allah never stop blessing our Mummy, Mummy Alakija and her entire family and Foundation for my family turning point and the lives she has touched in my community as well.

Ever since I was empowered by RoSF free interest loan and given some financial business training on how to invest and make more money at the comfort of our zone, they have really opened our eyes and help us to see a lot of business opportunities around us that we can start with just little money. I took the bull by the horn and started a livestock farming and selling of groundnut seeds and engaged into other petty trading with the loan I was given over three years just to make ends meet. I am glad to say that I sell some of my goats and sheep to the community during festive seasons without going out. Thank you very much ma for the free scholarship given to my daughter and other vulnerable children. A school I can never dreamed or imagined of affording. God Almighty will continue to guide and protect you with strength, sound health, and long life for the lives of the less privileges you are impacting and touching around the globe. God bless you our Mummy Alakija!



Rakiya Jabir (widow).

HOME VISIT



SOUTH EAST ZONE 1

STATE COVERED; IMO, ANAMBRA, ABIA

ZONAL COORDINATOR: SOLOMON OGBONNA

HOME VISIT



RoSF Zonal Coordinator during a home visit in Umuoji community Anambra State.



RoSF Zonal Coordinator presented an empowerment letter to a widow during home visit



RoSF Zonal Coordinator visited two orphans to educate them on the importance of education

DATA CAPTURING EXERCISE



RoSF Zonal Coordinator visited two orphans to educate them on the importance of education

POST EMPOWERMENT/ BUSINESS VISIT



From left is Mr.Ogbonna Solomon(RoSF) with Mbachu Anthonia during the business support visit in Umukaku community.



From left are Mrs. Chubundu Chinyere(RoSF widow beneficiary) and Mr. Ogbonna Solomon(RoSF Staff) during a business support and assessment visit in Umuezeala in Imo State.

SOUTH EAST ZONE 2

STATE COVERED: ENUGU AND EBONYI STATE

ZONAL COORDINATOR: ONYEDIKA ANEKE

HOME VISIT



RoSF coordinator with a beneficiary during home visit



RoSF coordinator with a beneficiary during home visit



RoSF coordinator with a beneficiary during home visit



RoSF coordinator with a beneficiary and her child during home visit

BUSINESS SITE VISIT



Zonal Coordinator with an empowered widow in business place



Zonal coordinator with a beneficiary who is a farmer



Zonal coordinator with a beneficiary in her business place

Notes

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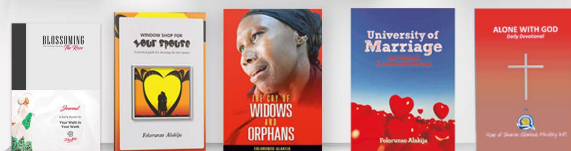
Meet Our Partners



International Federation of
Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria



reach out and touch...



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