



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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“giving Hope, Restoring Hope To Widows & Orphans”

A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

CONTENT

A	Message from the Executive Director	02
B	Mission Statement & Vision	03
C	Who are we & what are our Values	04
D	PROGRAMMES:	
	1. Report of the 10th Edition of the International Widows Day Program	06
	2. RAEF and NCDC visited the Aso-Mararaba IDP Camp	11
	3. Report on the Training of Youths by the National Directorate of Employment	13
	4. Report on the free medical outreach in OPI Nsukka	14
E	IMPACT STORIES: RAEF Special Support Scheme to widows during COVID-19	
	i. Widow attacked by hoodlums	16
	ii. Widow supported with house rent	16
	iii. Widow supported with start-up grant for business during COVID-19	17
F	OTHERS:	
	i: Monitoring visits to Widows Empowered in 2019	18
	ii: Success Stories	20
G	Acknowledgement	23

MESSAGE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO

Dear friends, Dear partners,
Dear supporters!

We present to you the 2020 Annual Report of the Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation (RAEF).

Truly, the year 2020 was tortious to all and sundry because of the novel virus christened COVID-19. The effect of this global threat ravaged the entire ecosystem; thus the economic, political, and religious activities of nations were affected, and there was an increase in mortality rate.

Howbeit, the foundation did not relent in reaching out to the widows and the underprivileged with relief materials and funds to cushion the effect of the pandemic. The foundation held several events, and one of the events was the 2020 International Widows' Day to celebrate widows amidst the pandemic. The event was aimed at sensitising and creating awareness to the widows and the public on the preventive and safety measures amid the surge in COVID-19 Cases.

During the event, the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Hon. Dame Pauline Tallen, OFR, supported the widows with relief materials and the foundation gave food items and other materials to thousands of widows present at the event. The Internally Displaced People were not left out, as the foundation visited the camp in Abuja with relief materials and facemasks amongst other items.

Also, the Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation (RAEF) allied with over 15 international donor agencies across the globe. This bilateral relationship with each international agency was to support the RAEF task in reaching out to the widows and the underprivileged in different communities with relief materials in order to deaden the aftermath of the government COVID-19 policy during the pandemic, which rendered some people jobless and others hungry.

More so, the foundation partnered with the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) to

equip the youths with skills to make them self-reliant. The youths were also enlightened on how to access loans and grants from financial institutions especially that of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Going forward, we will continue to do our best to effect positive change through empowerment, scholarship, and sensitisation programmes. Although there might be setback due to the adverse effect of the pandemic, we will continue to strive to get the resources needed to support those who are in need of them while adjusting to the present realities and making changes as we move forward.

So, to round off, I want to thank the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Hon. Dame Pauline Tallen, OFR, for her philanthropical act towards the widows and the foundation. Also, my appreciation goes to individuals, supporters and benefactors, who despite the challenges faced by the world, still stood by us to reach out to these widows and the underprivileged among us. I cannot forget the passionate and committed RAEF team. They were tenacious towards the achievement of the organisation's goals. Many plethora thanks to the medical team of RAEF and the volunteers who have contributed immensely despite the situation of the country and the world at large.

I truly appreciate all of you, and as a result of your joint effort, we were able to achieve a lot in the year 2020. God bless you. Amen!

Best Regards



Ignatius Newman Ezeigbo
Executive Director/CEO
RAEF



MISSION STATEMENT

OUR VISION

A world where every widow, orphan and underprivileged has access to good healthcare, quality education and financial empowerment.

OUR MISSION

RAEF seeks to help widows, orphans and the underprivileged discover their potentials and supporting them in making changes to bring these potentials into the world through the provision of high quality, sustainable and replicable healthcare services, education support programme and financial empowerment



WHO ARE WE AND WHAT ARE OUR VALUES

Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation (RAEF) is a non-profit organisation founded in 2007 and incorporated on the 23rd of June, 2009 under the Companies and Allied Matters Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1990.

RAEF has a firm commitment to serve humanity and believes in restoring hope to the destitute, giving confidence to the depressed, and creating home for the rejected around house. Thus, the foundation uses her yearly International Widows' Day celebration to empower widows with different skills and provide scholarship to the orphans.

The foundation is committed to her mission of transforming the lives of the underprivileged individuals through quality education, good medical treatment and financial support, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, or ethnic group.

INNOVATION:

We are ever curious to learn new things and adapt to change that will improve the quality of our work.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

We are transparent and responsible to one another, our partners, funders, and the client we serve.

SERVICE TO HUMANITY:

We are committed to helping others overcome life obstacles and challenges.

GENDER:

We take into consideration the needs of women and youths during service delivery and we continuously work to promote gender equality.

EMPOWERMENT:

We seek to equip others with knowledge, skills and funds needed to realise their full potential.

EXCELLENCE:

We are resolute in our search of quality to deliver results and build lifelong impact in our society.

PARTNERSHIP:

We believe in partnership. We look forward to working with people, government agencies, Organised Private Sectors (OPS), INGOs, CSOs and other interest groups with like mind towards achieving the organisational goals.

OUR KEY AREAS

EDUCATION:

One of the key areas of the Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation is education. We strive to reduce illiteracy in rural communities of Nigeria. The foundation provides books, school uniforms, bags, and laboratory equipment, etc. to primary and secondary schools. We provide scholarships to children of the widows and the underprivileged in the society, and also advocate for the need for Girl-child education at least to secondary level.

CAPACITY BUILDING/ EMPOWERMENT:

Another key area of the foundation is capacity building and empowerment. RAEF provides skill acquisition trainings, capacity building and development for the youths and widows, financial supports and management training, as well as the provision of foods, clothing and shelter. The capacity building and empowerment is aimed at advancing individuals and community capability.

CAREER COUNSELING:

In career counseling, we are developing the self-awareness of the students/clients; provide professional course information for higher school leavers; provide labour market information for graduates and help clients in making decision and setting goals assist them in planning for job search.

HEALTH:

Also, our focus is on the vulnerable groups such as women especially the widows and children. RAEF provides routine free medical outreaches to complement the effort of the Primary Healthcare Services; HIV/AIDS and other diseases awareness programme, prevention and care services programme; health education to pregnant women (PMTCT) in the rural communities; health advocacy and promotion programme; medical check-up for aged men and women and various training on personal hygiene and disease prevention.

AGRICULTURE:

In the area of agriculture, RAEF provides trainings to widows' farmers in crop production, management and marketing; formation of farmers (widows) into clusters. We provide capacity building in the areas of leadership cooperation and record keeping. RAEF also creates a link between the farmers and stakeholders and imbues the farmers with knowledge in the areas of gender and family budgeting.

Report of the 10th Edition of the
INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY PROGRAM
held on 23rd June, 2020 at the
RAEF Permanent Site, Pyakasa
Community, Pyakasa
Abuja.

The Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation (RAEF) is a registered charitable organisation with the mission to make impact in the lives of the underprivileged, orphans, and women especially the widows. The foundation takes to her yearly International Widows' Day celebration to empower widows and give scholarship to orphans.

This 10th edition of the International Widows' Day programme had a huge difference due to the outbreak of COVID-19, and its effect on productivity. As a result of the saddened effect of the pandemic, the foundation decided to partner with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), to commemorate with widows by sensitising them on the COVID-19 preventive and control measures.

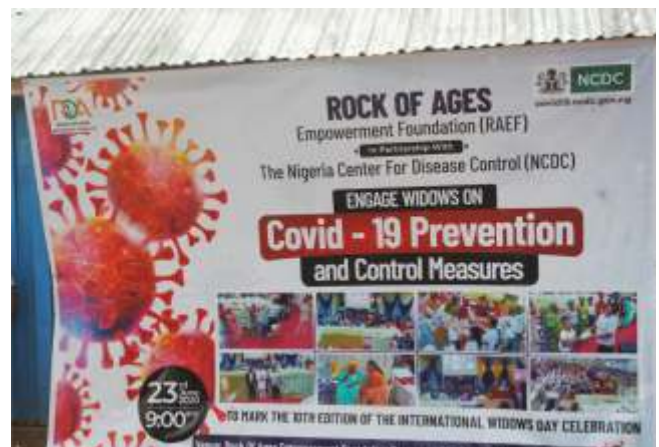
During the programme, the Executive Director, Ignatius Newmen Ezeigbo welcomed all to the programme likewise encouraged the widows. In similar manner, he also gave an insight of the journey thus far, and the need to celebrate the widows today despite the pandemic. Widows empowered in the past were given the opportunity to talk about their empowerment, business and success story.

The programme was a great success as the team from the NCDC was on ground to engage the widows on these measures. The Honourable Minister of Women Affairs was represented by Mrs. Alie Anetu-Anne, the Director of Gender Affairs donated materials such as bags of rice, tomatoes, pasta and blankets to the widows. These donations were joyfully received.

RAEF on her part distributed other materials like Garri, rice, fabrics, facemasks, and sanitizers to the widows during the programme. Over 1,500 widows were reached out to with relief materials.

The following media houses; NTA, TVC, AIT, FRCN, ASO FM, THIS DAY, THE SUN, GUARDIAN and PREMIUM TIMES were present at the event to cover the event.

The highlight of the programme was that of COVID-19 restriction in the use of public space for events, a proposed place for the building of a free tuition school for orphans, free skill acquisition training centre for the widows in the future, and also the foundation ceased the opportunity to celebrate widows in her permanent site.











RAEF and NCDC visited the Aso-Mararaba IDP CAMP

June 2020



As part of RAEF's mandate to impart positive change and to create awareness of the COVID-19 safety measures to widows during the 10th edition of the International Widows' Day celebration, the foundation took with her, a member from the NCDC to visit Aso-Mararaba IDP Camp for outreach.

The Project Director, Rita Newman Ndubuisi Welcomed the widows, and thank them for honouring RAEF's request to visit and enlighten them about the current scourge in town. The Director also congratulated them on this year's International Widows' Day celebration

The team from NCDC enlightened the women on Covid-19; the current status, its

preventive and control measures. Prior to the awareness talk, the RAEF team ensured the women washed their hands before entering the venue, free facemasks were shared among the women and a physical social distance was adhered to. At the end of the programme, the RAEF team donated bags of rice, and Garri to the widows in the IDP Camp.

The coordinator of the IDP camp thanked the management of RAEF for bringing this useful awareness campaign/talk to them at the camp, facemasks and food item shared. Over 80 widows were in attendance from the IDP Camp and the media was on ground to cover the programme.



RAEF and NCDC
visited the Aso-Mararaba
IDP CAMP
June 2020



Report on the Training of Youths by the National Directorate of Employment

November, 2020

The Rock of Ages Empowerment foundation in collaboration with the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) had a 3 Day (23rd-25th November, 2020) training for the youths at the RAEF Permanent Site, Pyakasa Community, Abuja.

The training was conducted by the Small Scale Enterprises Department of the NDE with the sole aim of training youths on how to come up with different business ideas and putting these ideas into test through the SWOT (S-Strengths, W-Weaknesses, O-Opportunities, T-Threats) Analysis. This analysis adopted is to enable them to evaluate their business and decide if they are going to proceed with another business, make changes in the business or give up on the business idea completely.

The training talked about setting smart goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely when a particular business idea is accepted. It further looked at market plan, market research, competitive

analysis and its advantage, target market, the market environment, products as well as price, place of distribution, promotion, customer relation service, care, and building customer, how to discover oneself as an entrepreneur and how to be self-employed.

The training laid emphasis on business failure, its causes and how to manage and avoid them.

Towards the end of the 3 days training, the participants were trained on financial planning and budgeting. They were also guided on how to apply for business loan to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) through the NIRSAL National Microfinance Bank.

The 3-Day training was a huge success as we had 73 participants in attendance with 5 trainers from the NDE. The participants were awarded certificates of participation from the NDE.



Report on the free
Medical outreach done
 in OPI Nsukka, Enugu State
December, 2020



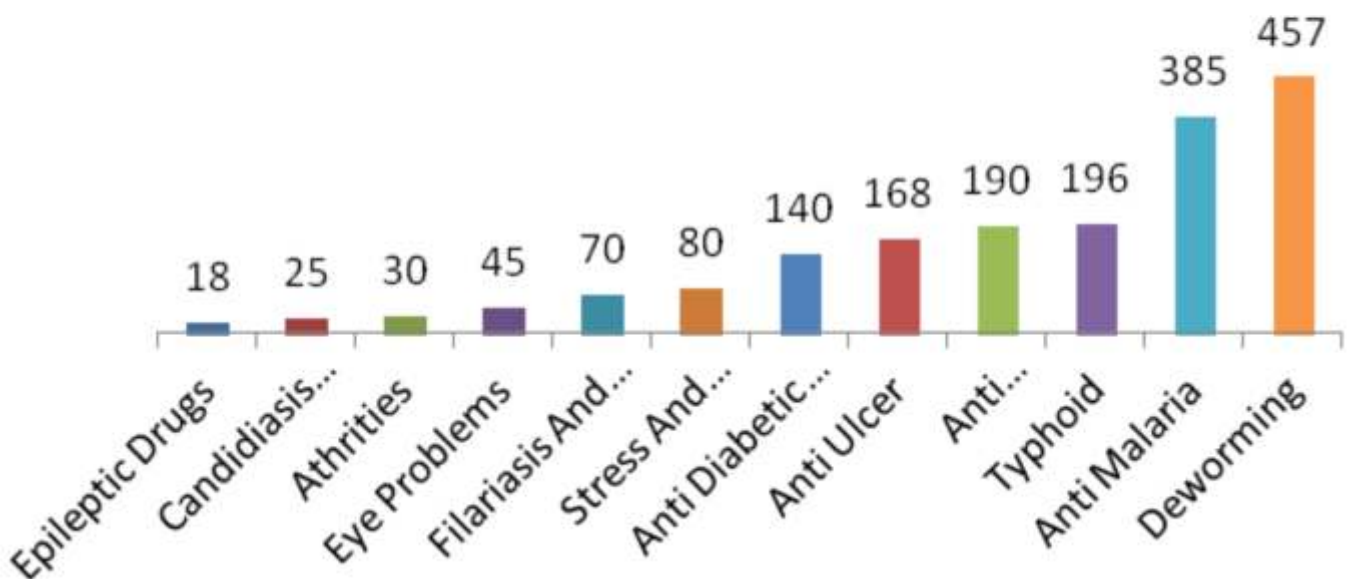
The Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation (RAEF) held a one-day free medical outreach in OPI Nsukka, Enugu State of Nigeria on the 28th of December, 2020. This was in fulfilling the foundation mandate of reaching out to the underprivileged in our society through good and quality healthcare.

During the programme, a total of 1,804 people were reached out to and treated of different sicknesses. 18 people had access to Epileptic drugs, 25 people with Candidiasis (Fungal infections), 30 people accessed Arthritis drugs, 45 people with visual impairment were treated, 70 people with Filariasis and other skin problems were treated, 80 people with

stress and general body pain were treated, 140 people accessed Anti-Diabetic treatment and drugs, 168 people were treated of Ulcer, 190 people got Anti-Hypertensive drugs, 196 were treated of Typhoid, 385 were treated of Malaria while 457 people were dewormed.

During the programme, some students were identified and benefited from the free school fees support scheme of the foundation.

2020 Opi Nsukka Free Medical Outreach



Annex 2: Pictures from the free Medical outreach



Annex 3: Pictures from the school fees support



IMPACT STORIES: RAEF Special Support scheme to Widows during covid-19

1

Few weeks into the lock down to curtail the spread of the novel Corona Virus in 2020, the Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation received a call from one of her zones (Gwagwalada Zone) that the house of a widow was vandalised by hoodlums. Unable to get anything to made away with, they stabbed the widow on her hand and left her in the pool of her own blood to die. RAEF visited her in the hospital and donated cash to clear up her hospital bill.



2

Esther Kelvin is one of the youngest widows with the Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation under the Bwari Zone. At a very early age, her husband died, leaving her with 3 children to cater for. Unable to know what to do as she had no formal education and had no source of income, as the death of her husband left her literally with nothing in the village. She was helped by some people to return to Abuja to seek further help to take care of herself and her children. She got connected with the Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation who trained and empowered her with the sum of N50,000 in 2018. From there, she started a mini trade with the funds and had been doing well for herself and the children. Her children have been benefiting from the yearly school fees payment of the foundation. In 2019, a partner/supporter of the foundation who saw the video of her empowerment was touched by her conditions and took interest in her, thus, decided to be paying her house rent yearly through the foundation. Below is the picture of Esther receiving the donations of the house rent.



RAEF Special Support scheme to Widows during covid-19

3

Madam Perpetual is a widow with the Karmo Zone, one of the zones of the Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation. She joined the foundation in 2018 when she was in need of a shelter over her head as the only property her late husband left for her and her children was demolished. Trying to get back on her feet, she started doing menial jobs to survive and take care of herself and her last child, as she had given out her two children to people to help her train since she cannot carter for them in her state.

During the lockdown and stay-at-home policy to deaden the spread of covid-19, things became extremely difficult for Madam Perpetual; she was asked to vacate where she was taking shelter after two years of unable to pay the rent, no food and salary for survival, as there was a total lock down that affected institutions and organisations. Her condition was brought before the foundation who took it upon herself to pay a year rent for another apartment for her and also inquired from her the kind of the business she would love to do to help her and her daughter. Madam Perpetual told the foundation that she would love to do yam business and it would cost N40,000 to get half container of yams to startup.

The foundation donated N40, 000 to her through the Project Director Mrs. Rita Ndubuisi to start her yam business. At that time, the last child of this widow had finished Junior Secondary School and no funds to continue. The foundation sponsored her back to school by enrolling her in another government secondary school. The widow's child was also included in the payroll of the orphan children that the foundation pays school fees for every term.



OTHERS:

Monitoring visits to Widows Empowered in 2019



Doris Anthony (Lugbe-Airport Zone)
Empowered with N30, 000



Doris Anthony (Lugbe-Airport Zone)
Empowered with N30, 000



Evelyn Augustine
(Kubwa Zone)
Empowered with N30, 000



Evelyn Augustine (Kubwa Zone)
Empowered with N30, 000



Hanatu John (Lugbe-Airport Zone)
Empowered with N30,000



Hanatu John (Lugbe-Airport Zone)
Empowered with N30,000



Jeremiah Chinasa Faith (Dutse Zone)
Empowered with N30,000



Regina Okon (Karonmagiji Zone)
Empowered with N30,000

OTHERS:

Monitoring visits to Widows Empowered in 2019



Regina Okon (Karonmagiji Zone)
Empowered with N30,000



Rhoda Onojo (Kuje Zone)
Empowered with N30, 000 -1



Rhoda Onojo (Kuje Zone)
Empowered with N30,000



Rhoda Onojo (Kuje Zone)
Empowered with N30,000



Victoria Ige (Dutse Zone)
Empowered with N30, 000

SUCCESS STORY OF WIDOWS
EMPOWERED IN 2019

My Name is Regina Okon from Karonmagiji Zone. I joined the foundation in 2016 and was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30, 000. I invested the money into farming. I farmed things like vegetable, suya beans, garden egg, etc. Ever since the empowerment, my business has grown drastically and business has improved. I now sell in bulk. People come to my house to buy vegetable and other produce in bulk. From this business I pay my children school fees and pay my rent. To the glory of God through this business I was able to save money to buy my own house (2rooms and parlor) where I can now stay with my family without paying for rent anymore. I have come to appreciate the foundation who made this possible for me and my family through the empowerment.

My Name is Cecilia Francis from Kurudu Zone. I joined the foundation 8years. In 2019 I was empowered with grinding machine. Ever since then there has been changes in my life and that of my family as the machine has been our source of income. The machine sustained my family during the COVID-19 lock down in 2020. I want to say thank you to the Rock of Ages Empowerment foundation for coming to the aid of my family.

My Name is Mary Mallo from Masaka Zone. I joined the foundation in 2011 and was opportune to be empowered in 2019 with grinding machine. My family and I have come to thank the foundation and our daddy IG Newman for what he did for us. The grinding machine has been helping my family to survive till date. During the corona virus lock down, the grinding machine was the only source of income we had.

My name is Mercy Ekeh from Kurudu Zone. I joined the foundation in 2015. I was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30,000. I invested the money into selling of provision. My family and I have been feeding well since this empowerment. My children are now back to school. I have come to appreciate the foundation and our daddy IG Newman for what he did for me and other widows.

My Name is Agatha Lawrence Mpape Zone. I joined the foundation in 2016. I was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30,000. I invested the money into provision business. Ever since the empowerment, things has improved for my family for good. I want to say thank you to the foundation and to IG Newman for touching my life.

My Name is Grace Anumba from Karimo Zone. I joined the foundation in 2015 and was empowered in the year 2019 with the sum of N30,000. I invested the money into farming of different crops like vegetable, maize, beans, etc. the farming business has been going well as I can now sustain my family, and pay for the education of my children. I have come to thank the foundation and daddy IG Newman for changing my life and family with this empowerment.

My Name is Rebecca Adukwu from Nyanya Zone. I joined the Foundation in the year 2015 and was privileged to be empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30,000. I invested the money into buying of cassava in bulk to produce Akpu. Till date, I am still into my Akpu business as my family has been surviving via this business. I pay my children's school fees through this

SUCCESS STORY OF WIDOWS
EMPOWERED IN 2019

business too. I want to say a big thank you to the foundation that has put a smile of the faces of I and my family through Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation.

My Name is Blessing Peters from Nyanya Zone. I joined the Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation in the year 2014 and was empowered in the year 2019 with the sum of N30,000. I invested the money into catering business like selling of rice, beans, yam and frying of snacks. I thank God because ever since the empowerment, things have changed in my life as my children are all back to school and their school fees well paid. My daughter, who this business has been supporting and training in the university, will be graduating soon. I want to thank the foundation and daddy IG Newman who has made this possible for I and other widows.

My Name is Victoria Ige from Dutse Zone. I joined the foundation in 2017 and was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30, 000. I used the money to buy second hand grinding machine. The machine has been a blessing to I and my family. My family feed from the income generated from this business. I pay my children school fees from here too. Recently, I got a space at the PA Modern Market where I placed the machine to be working to make more money. I have come to appreciate the foundation that made this possible for me.

My Name is Shetu David from Masaka Zone. I joined the foundation in the year 2017 and was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30, 000. I invested the money into Egusi business. The money has been great help to me and my children as we survive via it. My rent and children school fees are paid via this business. I have come to appreciate the foundation for this great privilege.

My Name is Janet Igbudu from Masaka Zone. I joined the foundation in 2017 and was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30,000. I invested the money into oil business. Before the empowerment, I was selling pure water to survive with my children. When I joined the foundation, I was singled out and empowered. Ever since then, there has been great improvement in my life and that of my family. My children are now back to school and I can pay their school fees without any problem. Also, the children of my diseased brother living with me, were able to go to school fees too as I take care of them from this business. This year, two of my children will be writing Junior WAEC. It is this same business that is sponsoring it. I want to say that you to the Foundation and daddy for changing my life and that of my children.

My Name is Susana Philips from Karonmagiji Zone. I joined the foundation in the year 2017 and was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30, 000. I invested the money into Banana business. From the selling of bananas, God used someone to bless me. This destiny helper saw me selling bananas and felt pity and told me to get my credentials to help me get a job with the Nigeria Police. To the Glory of God, through the exposure I got from selling bananas, God changed my story by giving me a permanent job with the Nigeria Police. I have come to thank daddy and the foundation because if they did not empower me and I was not on the street to sell bananas, I would not have had this appointment with the Nigeria police.

My Name is Simeon Maria from Kurudu Zone. I joined the foundation in 2016 and was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30, 000. I invested the money into foodstuff business. The money has

SUCCESS STORY OF WIDOWS EMPOWERED IN 2019

helped me and my family a lot. Through the money I have been taking care of my children school fees and other, and my rent. I have come to say thank you to the foundation for this empowerment and for what they are doing for widows in general.

My Name is Evelyn Augustine from Kubwa Zone. I joined the foundation in 2017 and was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30,000. I invested the money into liquid soap business; the business struggled and became unsuccessful. I changed to selling of empty rubbers which became very lucrative. To the glory of God, I can now pay my rent, my children school fees, feed well and sustain my family. This can only be God. I have come to thank the foundation and daddy IG for this blessing to me and my family.

My Name is Awah Adamu from Karonmagiji Zone. I joined the foundation in 2019 and was privileged to be empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30,000. I invested the money into farming. I farmed a lot of maize seed. I

harvested them and converted them to maize floor that I sold out in bulk. I made a lot of money out of the maize floor and decided to use the income to purchase grinding machine to support my business. The machine has been another source of income for me and my family outside my farming business. I have come to thank the foundation and our daddy IG Newman who has made this possible in my life.

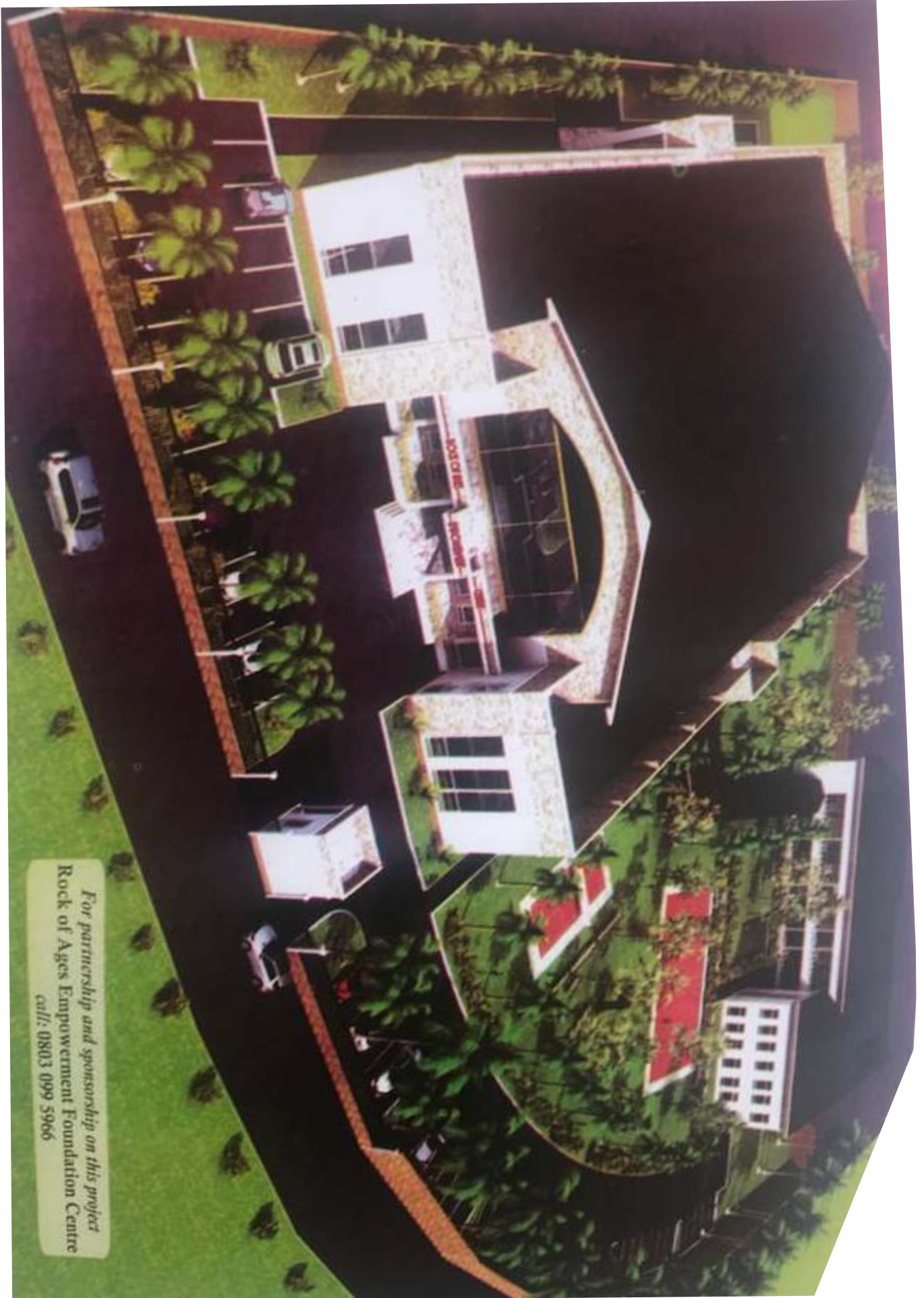
My Name is Tabitha Joseph from Gwako Zone. I joined the foundation in 2012 and was empowered in 2019 with the sum of N30, 000. I invested the money into my foodstuff business and to the glory of God the money has help my business to grow. It is from this business I pay my children school fees, my house rent and other expenses regarding my family. I have come to say thank you to the foundation and to daddy IG Newman for this privilege given to me



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation wishes to acknowledge and appreciate her partners and individual supporters within and in Diaspora for their unrelenting support to the foundation. We want to thank you and pray that God will continue to sustain you.

**ROCK OF AGES EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION
PROPOSED PERMANENT SITE**



*For partnership and sponsorship on this project
Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation Centre
call: 0803 099 5966*