



Victims to Victors

The Official Newsletter of the Initiative for Victims' Educational and Economic Development (I-VEED)

July 2021, Vol. 2.

i-veed.org
info@i-veed.org

The journey so far...

IMPACT: From widows who cry and shed tears of joy that at last, their children can go to school like other kids; to children who are overjoyed and ran around to share the news of I-VEED's intervention to send them to school; to school principals and teachers who were perplexed at the transparency, thoroughness and commitment of I-VEED's volunteers in selecting, verifying, paying (school fees, uniforms and learning materials) and following up on the progress of the child-victims, I-VEED is deeply and gratefully humbled by the impact of its modest contribution to the educational development of child-victims of terrorism and ethno-religious violent conflicts in Northern Nigeria since its inception in 2019. Thanks is due to our donors, volunteers, supporters, and well-wishers for the trust and confidence bestowed on us and for the cash and kind support we have received from you.

GOODNEWS: When we started in 2019, the official number of out-of-school-children in Nigeria was 10.5 million. But this number has reduced now to 6.964 out-of-school-children, based on the official report of the Federal Ministry of Education in 2021. This positive outcome is a result of the concerted efforts of Governmental Organizations (GOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which are (re)enrolling children in school. I-VEED, being one of such NGOs, has contributed to this positive outcome of a drop in the number of out of school children in Nigeria in its modest way, therefore, it is worth celebrating.

APOLOGY: With integrity as one of our core values, we intend to keep our donors and supporters updated, and *Victims to Victors* Newsletter is one of the ways through which we do that, in addition to more updates on our website (i-veed.org) and Facebook page (i-veed.org). We have been able to provide updates on our website and Facebook page. However, at the end of 2020, we were not able to send our second Newsletter as we planned. The reason is that schools were shut down in Nigeria due to COVID, and we did not do any work throughout until January 2021. So, we waited to have something concrete before sending out this Newsletter. We apologize for the delay. Now you have it.

You can fill our Membership/Donor forms on our website(<https://www.i-veed.org/membership-donors-form/>), if you want to be a member, volunteer, to stay updated on I-VEED's progress, or you want to donate once, monthly, yearly, or occasionally. We are happy to receive your questions, suggestions, or comments.



Rev. Dogara Ishaya Manomi, Ph.D.
Founder/CEO

VISION

I-VEED envisions a society where victims and the vulnerable are **strategically empowered** to overcome their vulnerability through **sustainable** educational and economic development.

MISSION

To **support** the educational development of **children** who cannot afford to attend school as a result of poverty caused by ethno-religious crises and terrorism.

CORE VALUES

Dignity, Integrity, Flourishing.

Naira Account (Nigeria):
Bank Name: First Bank of Nigeria PLC
Account Number: 2034828825
Account Name: Initiative for Victims' Educational and Economic Development

Euro Account (International):
Account Number: 2034832978
SWIFT: FBNINGLA
Beneficiary Institution: First Bank of Nigeria PLC, Lagos
Final Beneficiary: Initiative for Victims' Educational and Economic Development

From some beneficiaries...



Esther (beneficiary) and her mother

"Sir, your coming was God sent. Truly, there was no way my parents could raise money to settle our fees and other materials...For my brother's SSCE registration, that was not a possibility at all except if God would do a miracle, which he did through I-VEED. It's just like the entire family is surviving under I-VEED because it is what would have been used to pay school charges that is used for buying maize (food) which the family is now feeding on." (Lucy, 17)



From a blind mother of two I-VEED beneficiaries

Overwhelmed by the generosity of I-VEED in sponsoring her children back to school, the blind woman, who was displaced by Boko Haram from Gwoza in Borno state and was disserved by her husband, who was also severely injured by the terrorists and only survived narrowly, she asked, "Shall we be expected to pay back the money later?" This got I-VEED's volunteer (Mr. Silas) emotional. He assured her no, they are not expected to refund the money at any time. Her joy and those of her children of returning to school was overwhelming.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

NEW OFFICE: Due to the growing nature of I-VEED and the need to have an office for easy operation and contact with donors, parents, guardians, schools, volunteer members and the general public, the Board of Trustees and Management Team jointly and unanimously agreed to rent an affordable office and to have a volunteer staff serving as Administrative Secretary with a monthly stipend. We are glad to notify you all that our office address is as follows: **Shop No. 3, Daffo Business and Shopping Complex, David Dongban Junction, behind Building Materials Market, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.** We are more than happy to welcome you to our new office.

VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: We are also happy to report that Ms. Nenwalmun Gojim Pikatda (popularly known as Grace) now serves as our Administrative Secretary. Grace continues the work from Ms. Helen, who is on study in Abuja but helping as a volunteer from time to time. In addition to Grace being a trained educationist (therefore suitable for an educational NGO like I-VEED) and a bachelor's degree holder, she brings her accounting knowledge and experience into the work, thereby helping to keep our financial records professionally, in tandem with our core value of transparency and accountability. We request that all inquiries, requests, and cash donations (or bank tellers) be channeled to her in the office or through I-VEED's email address or phone number: With our financial books now ready and functional, receipts will be issued to you for all cash and bank donations. See Grace's picture on page 4 of this Newsletter.

PARTNERSHIP: We are glad to announce that we have recently established a partnership with the CHILD IS GOLD FOUNDATION (CGF) to provide critical mutual support. Child education is one of the main areas of focus of the CGF, and we have found them also to be transparent and committed to our similar vision and mission. We shall establish more critical partnership in the coming years.

LIAISON OFFICE IN BAUCHI: In view of the growing need for I-VEED's intervention in Bauchi and Gombe states, we have agreed to collaborate with CGF to have a liaison office in Bauchi for easy access and operations in that axis. Inquiries and requests for intervention around Bauchi and Gombe axis can be channeled to our liaison office at: **No. 3 Yelwa Street, Beside Mountain of Fire Church, Yelwan Tudu, Bauchi, Bauchi State, Nigeria.**

IDENTIFICATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS: When our staff go to the field for selection, disbursement, and follow-up, they are sometimes required to identify themselves, due to the nature of insecurity in Northern Nigeria. As a result, I-VEED will provide T-shirts and caps and ID cards to staff and a few selected people of influence, for public awareness. Moreover, I-VEED has agreed to produce its own notebooks to be distributed to its beneficiaries, which will also aid in publicity and public awareness. After all, it is cheaper than buying it from the market, therefore helping to save some money for other needs.

Funds, Disbursement, and Enrollment of Child-Victims in Schools

This is how we have used part of the money we have received from our generous donors in Germany, Nigeria, and other parts of the world. In the 2021 academic year starting from January when schools were re-opened after a long closure due to COVID, we budgeted 30,000 Naira (c. 80 Euros) for each student for the remaining two terms of the academic year. This amount reflects the current general inflation rate that has affected the cost of school items and school fees. We maintained the four pilot states from the 2020 academic year, which are Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi, and Plateau states. We focused on the areas, towns, and villages that are most affected and where we have a high number of child-victims of terrorism and ethno-religious crises that could not afford school. For the 2021 academic year, we are currently sponsoring 125 students. Among them, we have 62 females, 63 males, 57 Muslims, and 67 Christians. 43 among the 125 are final year students writing WAEC/NECO. We are now soliciting for funds to meet up with our target for 150 students in the 2021-2022 academic session starting in September 2021.

Some of the beneficiaries of I-VEED's support were totally out of school because they could not afford it, others were in school but risking the danger of dropping out due to their current situation and lack of financial support. For this category of students, we searched for a good school in their neighborhood and enrolled them back to school, paying for their school fees, uniforms, books, and other learning materials. We keep track of their all-round progress through their schoolteachers, I-VEED's volunteer representative in the area, or religious leaders in the locality. Due to high mobility in areas where conflict is still ongoing, we could not trace a few of our beneficiaries from the year 2020, as they had fled their communities to places we do not know. For some, sad to say, we cannot say if they are still alive or killed in some of the attacks. However, we replaced them with new students in the 2021 enrollment. At the end of 2021, we shall make our financial report available to donors who require it, based on the advice of our financial advisers.

I-VEED in the time of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

From the previous Newsletter, we noted how COVID hindered some of our work, and we noted our hope to go for the next enrollment in September 2020. Unfortunately, that also did not happen, since schools continued to remain closed in Nigeria till January 2021. Since Nigeria is not well equipped for distance (online) learning, most children, including I-VEED's beneficiaries, were without any formal education all through the period. As soon as schools were re-opened in January 2021, we embarked on identification, verification, and enrollment of new beneficiaries as well as follow-up on beneficiaries from 2020 before closure of schools. Some of our volunteers who went for the follow-up and re-enrollment tried to discuss already paid fees for the terms that COVID interrupted, but without success. We had to repay for the new academic session.

Staff and educational materials



Psychological Support: Trauma Healing of I-VEED's Beneficiaries

Now that schools have re-opened fully in Nigeria, we are arranging for the services of trauma experts to lead us (the Management Team and some of our volunteers who go to the field) on trauma healing for the victims, in order to equip us to provide more than financial support but also psychological support to our beneficiaries. This is only a first step. Later on, we hope to organize such trauma healing workshops for the beneficiaries themselves, and their parents/guardians as well as their schoolteachers. We are convinced that this is necessary because, obviously, some of the children we support are suffering from trauma due to the tragic and brutal way their parents, friends, or family members were killed, or because of the bad condition of the Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) camps they lived in. In this case, paying school fees and providing learning materials alone will not be enough to help them succeed in their education. Hence, we want to help them learn the appropriate mindset and skills that they need to overcome or manage their trauma. In this way, I-VEED will be expanding its work beyond financial support to trauma healing and counseling, which will benefit other children too who may be traumatized but are not I-VEED's direct beneficiaries. This, we believe, will achieve the holistic sustainable development of the children.



Ms. Nenwalmun Gojim Pikatda
(popularly known as *Grace*) in I-VEED's new office

Challenges Encountered...

1. Difficulty accessing some of the areas due to ongoing terrorist activities and ethno-religious conflicts.
2. Loss of contact with some of our beneficiaries and their guardians, especially around Borno and Adamawa states, whose communities or neighboring communities were attacked and they had to move somewhere else. For some, we can only hope that they are still alive, as we have no idea what has happened to them during the attacks. Such have been replaced with new beneficiaries in other places.
3. Overwhelming number of people asking for I-VEED's intervention for child-victims in their areas, beyond our present financial and human capacity.
4. Lack of understanding our scope of support by the public, which makes them bring requests of children who are not directly within the scope of I-VEED's beneficiaries, namely, victims of terrorism and ethno-religious conflicts. We shall embark on more public awareness campaign.
5. Difficulty of sending individual donations from Germany directly into I-VEED's account, due to local bank restrictions. Thankfully, while some have donated through their churches and other institutions, others have used a third party, and it has been successful.
6. Suspicious attempt by some of the parents/guardians, or those who draw our attention to the child-victims to receive the money directly, claiming to go and pay to the school on behalf of I-VEED. We have always insisted on paying by ourselves directly to the schools, and we will not compromise on that.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the psychological stability and holistic development of the affected children that I-VEED is supporting.
2. Pray for God to continue to provide funds and capacity for I-VEED to continue the good work.
3. Pray for the restoration of peace and stability in Northern Nigeria.
4. Pray for Boko Haram members and other terrorists in Nigeria, for them to stop and repent.
5. Pray for God to provide for some of our beneficiaries who struggle hard to even feed.
6. Pray for God to continue to provide for our donors and to bless the sources of their income as they continue to support I-VEED's very important work for the future of Nigeria.
7. Pray for I-VEED's Board of Trustees, Management Team, and other volunteers, for God to bless them and give them more motivation, strength, wisdom, and time to do the work despite their busy schedule at their main places of work.

We are happy to hear from you and to answer any questions you may have.

YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS AND SUPPORT IS CHANGING THE LIVES OF MANY CHILDREN IN
NORTHERN NIGERIA. THANK YOU VERY MUCH

For more information, visit our website: www.i-veed.org or Facebook page: [i-veed](https://www.facebook.com/i-veed).