



Victims to Victors

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

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i-veed.org
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Peace is possible...the future is now!

STORY: During one of our recent workshops for our beneficiaries, we encouraged each student to get to know another beneficiary from a different area and possibly different religion from theirs. Two little Christian and Muslim girls really touched my heart by the warmth of friendship that they immediately started, such that after the entire program, they came together to meet me, saying they want to have a photograph together, and they have exchanged their parents' mobile contacts because they really want to stay in touch as friends. One of the girls I know personally how her father was brutally killed when their town was attacked. Normally, you would expect her to be full of hatred towards anyone from the same religion as her father's killers. Yet, after we emphasized forgiveness, reconciliation, and changing the culture of hate and violence, the two little girls embraced each other warmly and want to remain friends for life irrespective of their religious differences. If such mutual love, respect, and tolerance is nurtured, these girls will grow up and teach their children tolerance because they have practiced it and they have a friend from the other faith. This is what I-VEED envisions and works tirelessly to nurture.



Christian and Muslim new friends



Christian and Muslim new friends
with the CEO

GROWTH: Four indices convince us that I-VEED is growing: First, numerically, we expanded the number of our beneficiaries from 100 to 150 in the last academic year. Second, we have supplemented our financial support with psychological support to our beneficiaries through our trauma-healing, peaceful co-existence, and academic success seminars. We did this by bringing the students together in three major locations so they meet one another and draw strength from each other. Third, our publicity is effective, as people have become more aware of our work, through which more of such needy children as the ones I-VEED supports are brought to our attention. Fourth, our structure is becoming strengthened and more localized. 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.



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...



Babagana Lawan Kana

I am from Maiduguri but presently residing in Bassa of Plateau State. We and our parents were chased out of our community from Maiduguri, and we lost everything to Boko Haram insurgency. I was out of school for three years until I-VEED came to my aid by paying my school fees, buying uniform, books and sandals. Though my former classmates have completed their studies now, I am glad that I am back to school again, because going back to school was a big concern for me. Thank you I-VEED.



Dieken Ruben (on wheelchair) and Elizabeth Zakaria (with a crutch), our physically challenged students

Dieken Ruben is a student from Maiduguri. He has been out of school and also paralyzed. But I-VEED came to his aid by paying his school fees and also buying a wheelchair, school uniforms and books for him.

Elizabeth Zakaria who is also paralyzed, received a crutch from I-VEED which helped with her mobility, especially to school. I-VEED also paid her school fees and provided needed learning materials. She recently came top of her class as the overall best student

IMPORTANT UPDATES

NASARAWA STATE: I-VEED has now added Nasarawa state to the already existing four pilot states. In Nasarawa state, most of the beneficiaries are victims of insurgency from Borno and Adamawa states, who have fled and are now residing in Gurku village of Karu Local Government Area in Nasarawa state. The IDP camp houses both Christians and Muslims together. Some of the children in the IDP camp are being sponsored in school by other NGOs, but we realized that many others could not afford to send their children to school, even primary school, and they do not receive any kind of sponsorship. In their case, survival is the topmost priority, so they rather go to farms to have what to feed on. While some have dropped out of school because of financial challenge even in the primary level, others were still in school but at the risk of dropping out. I-VEED's intervention has helped to return those out of school back to school and kept those at the risk of dropping out continuing with school.

PARTNERSHIP: We are glad to announce that we have recently partnered with Prof. Lere Foundation, which is set up to support orphans and widows in the society. Some of these orphans and widows are victims of insurgency and ethno-religious violence with lots of economic challenges. We partnered in hosting an empowerment program for them in May 2022.

IDENTIFICATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS: I-VEED's t-shirts and caps have helped greatly in serving as a means of identification and credibility to our staff when they go out to work in communities. Moreover, the few other people we have given the t-shirts and caps to for the sake of public awareness have helped in that regard, such that many people are now aware of I-VEED and they want to know more or to support. The public awareness has helped some of the people to reach out to us for sponsorship of child-victims that they know.

Since people are still showing interest in buying the t-shirts so that the money returns to the I-VEED treasury and in that way they help with publicity, we want to say that the t-shirts cost 3000 naira each while the caps also cost 3000 naira each. They are of good quality. For those who would want to support and publicize I-VEED, they can place an order for their own t-shirts and caps as well. Please call Grace on +2348164543310 for more details or to order.

TRAUMA HEALING WORKSHOP: In order to fulfil another aspect of establishing I-VEED, which is providing psychological support to our beneficiaries who are mostly traumatized children, we have hosted trauma healing workshops for our beneficiaries in 3 locations: Adamawa, Nasarawa, and Plateau within a span of two months. Though very tasking time for our staff involving long travels, it was worth it because it accorded I-VEED the opportunity to closely interact with the beneficiaries and to hear their stories of horror, mostly with tears, but also stories of grace and courage to keep hope alive against all odds. New relationships were also established amongst the beneficiaries themselves from different religions, ethnic groups, and regions.

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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 2021/2022 academic year starting from October when schools opened, we budgeted 30,000 Naira (c. 80 Euros) for each student for three 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 (Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi and Plateau) from the 2021 academic year, but we have included Nasarawa state, which makes it five pilot 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 2021/2022 academic year, we are currently sponsoring about 150 students: we have 72 females, 69 males; 62 Muslims and 79 Christians. 30 among the 150 are final year students writing WAEC/NECO, who may be replaced with new ones depending on availability of funds.

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 backing. For this category of students, we searched for a good school in their neighborhood and have them enrolled, pay 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 leaders in the locality.

To ensure sustainability, we are developing a five-year strategic plan which when be completed, hopefully soon, will be made available to our donors, supporters, and anyone interested. Hence, while we have funds reserved for the next academic year (thankfully), we are in need funds to reserve for the next five years, at least, in line with our five years strategic plan. Hence, we will appreciate your continuous financial support as an individual, as a family, a group, or an organization.

I-VEED on Trauma Healing

In the last edition of this Newsletter, we mentioned the need to supplement our financial support with psychological support in the form of trauma healing for our beneficiaries, whom we observed that "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 conditions of the Internally Displaced Persons' (IDP) camps they lived in." In addition to that, I-VEED also noticed the potential of their victimhood to cause deep-seated hatred and distrust towards people of the other faith – Islam versus Christianity. To kick-start the process of healing, reconciliation, peacebuilding, and trust in the future generation, I-VEED organized seminars and workshops on peaceful co-existence along with the trauma healing workshops.

The workshops were held in three centers: Gombi center for beneficiaries in Borno and Adamawa states; Gurku center for beneficiaries in Nasarawa state, and Jos center for beneficiaries in Bauchi and Plateau states. It was an intensive event with a time space of about two weeks between each location. Every event in each of the places focused on three key areas: *The need for interreligious peaceful co-existence between the two major religions – Islam and Christianity*. Common grounds and mutual respect in speech and actions were emphasized.

Academic Success is one area that was brought to fore. The need for the beneficiaries to maintain focus towards excellence in their education was the main point here.

Trauma-healing: this was designed and delivered in a way that beneficiaries saw the causes of trauma, its effects and how they can overcome their trauma. The feedback we have received from the beneficiaries have been very encouraging, as they have given evidence that healing from trauma has begun. Some of the cases need follow up due to their intensity, and we are already arranging on sponsoring some of our expert volunteers to visit those centers again and meet the affected children for further help and support. In the meantime, our trauma-healing experts are keeping in touch through phone calls and other social media with beneficiaries whose cases need close monitoring and follow up.

Continued on next page...



The Rt. Rev. Frank Kopania (fourth from left with ash color clerical shirt) while Rev. Marc Reusch (third from right side with white clerical shirt).



HRH Gyang Dahoro (M) and the CEO, Rev. Dr. Manomi (R) and Mrs. Manomi (L)



IMPORTANT UPDATES *Contd. from pg. 2*

TELEVISED INTERVIEW: The CEO, Rev. Dr. Manomi was on a televised interaction on the leading government TV station – PRTVC in Plateau and neighboring states. This came about after one of the managers of the station saw the activities of I-VEED, appreciated it, and invited him over for interview. The vision, mission and activities of I-VEED was presented to a wider audience. The interaction can be viewed on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0cUlVWXlhY&t=40s&ab_channel=DogaralshayaManomi

I-VEED on Trauma Healing

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Facilitators for the workshops are experts in their respective fields serving as volunteer Manage Team of I-VEED. Their expertise and passion for helping such child-victims were some of the reasons for them becoming I-VEED's Management Team members.

In a pleasant coincidence, the I-VEED team, while on the trauma healing workshop for our beneficiaries in Gurku IDP camp in Nasarawa state, met The Very Rev. Frank Kopania, Executive Director and Head of Department of Global Ministries of the Protestant Church in Germany (see picture on the side). He briefly listened to a part of the workshop on peaceful co-existence and expressed deep appreciation for what I-VEED is doing and its long term value for restoring peace and development in Nigeria. He gave words of encouragement to our team and the beneficiaries.

Similarly, his colleague from Germany, The Rev. Marc Reusch, Executive Secretary and Head of the Africa Desk of the Protestant Church in Germany also expressed great appreciation for what he saw I-VEED doing. It was a pleasant surprise for them to know that our CEO, Rev. Dr. Manomi had his PhD from Germany and they spoke comfortably in German language, making them feel at home away from home, at least linguistically.

At our trauma healing workshop in Jos, a traditional ruler from Rim area of Plateau state, HRH Gyang Dahoro came to specially appreciate I-VEED for intervening in sponsoring some child-victims of ethno-religious violence in his community. He specially appreciated I-VEED's model of support to the children, namely, enrolling them in schools in safer places closer to their areas of residence instead of building an orphanage or school for them. He noted that I-VEED's model is most effective for the overall development of the child-victims because it equips them for life in the communities, since after school, they will not live alone as victims but will mingle with the whole society. He encouraged us to keep it up.

The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Mrs. Justina Karimu Damap was at the Jos trauma healing workshop throughout to see for herself what the Management Team is doing. She was very impressed, and she gave words of encouragement to the Management Team and the beneficiaries as well. Her presence was a boost to us all.

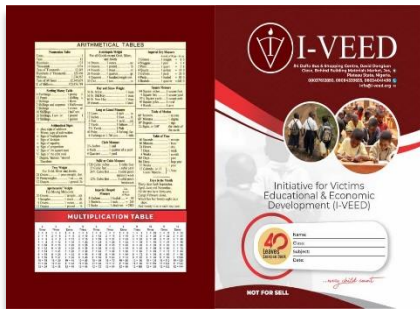
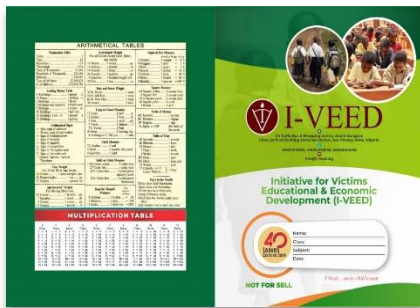


Picture News





Staff and educational materials



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Prayer Points

1. Pray for some of our beneficiaries who have serious trauma issues, for quick healing and stability.
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 God to continue to secure Nigeria even as the general elections draw near in 2023.
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).