



# Victims to Victors

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

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## To BE and to DO...!

I was invited as a guest speaker at the graduation ceremony of a secondary school in Tafawa Balewa LGA of Bauchi state, Nigeria. My wife and I went for the program. I-VEED is sponsoring some few students in the school. As soon as one of I-VEED's beneficiaries, a little girl who lost her father in ethno-religious crisis, saw us in her school, she ran towards us and embraced us as a daughter would hug her parents. When it was time to give prizes to best performing students, she received a prize as one of the best students in her class. Without any delay, she came over to our seat to show us the award she has won, as a daughter would to her parents. Straight on, she sat on Barsheba's (my wife's) lap, still, as a little girl would do with her mother.



*Myself, my wife and Goodness*

Our experience with that girl was quite symbolic of what I-VEED tries to BE and DO in the lives of these child-victims of ethno-religious crises in Northern Nigeria. We want to BE like parents to them, since most of the beneficiaries are orphans. We want to BE friends with them so they can feel free to share some of their deepest trauma-related troubles with us. We want to BE the answer to their deepest prayers to God for opportunity to have education and viable economic base. We want to BE the hope they have long had for an opportunity to make the difference despite their predicaments.

We do not just want to DO something for them once in a while, but to BE there for them as often and as long as they will need us.

We do not want to just be an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), but an NGO (Not-Going-Off) in their lives. We are ON, and we do not want to be OFF their lives. We want to support them until they are educationally and economically developed to take care of themselves, then they can in turn take care of others.

This is what I-VEED is to many, and you, our donors and supporters make this possible. We acknowledge your continuous contributions with deepest gratitude. This edition of *Victims to Victors* brings information on our activities as the 2022/2023 school year began. These are just a few highlights of some of our activities.

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: FBINGLA  
Beneficiary Institution: First Bank of Nigeria PLC, Lagos  
Final Beneficiary: Initiative for Victims' Educational and Economic Development

## From some beneficiaries...



**Bitrus**

Bitrus is a student of First Baptist School Kunga 1, Jos North LGA. He lost his father in a crisis. He stayed out-of-school for lack of sponsorship, until I-VEED intervened. His mother was staying elsewhere, while he stayed in his late father's house with his step-mother. Due to some difficulties in staying together with his step-mother, he decided to reunite with his mother, especially that I-VEED can sponsor his education wherever he resides. Unfortunately, just before reuniting with his mother, a crisis broke out and his mother was killed as well! He now stays with a caregiver and treks an hour to school each day. I-VEED plans to buy him a bicycle for easy movement to school.



**Joshua**

Joshua, an out-of-school victim of crisis, did not have a chance to learn how to read and write while in the village before coming to the city as an IDP. I-VEED enrolled him in a special reading class, and with improvement, he is now admitted into a secondary school. His age mates are now in the senior section, but he is humble enough to start junior section now. He is encouraged by the support I-VEED is giving him.

## IMPORTANT UPDATES

Our relationship with the school our beneficiaries attend is growing stronger, indicating that I-VEED's vision is being caught by many and our work appreciated. Our beneficiaries are relating well with their teachers and fellow students also. During our disbursement for this year in schools where our beneficiaries attend, we were all treated well. When school resumed, the school management allowed them into the school, and gave them the needed reading materials: an action that encouraged the students, and made them comfortable psychologically. On arrival for payment of school fees and other school materials for the continuing students, some other students of the same school were asked to return home due to non-payment of their fees. But I-VEED's beneficiaries remained in school and continued with their learning activities. The schools are keying into the vision and mission of I-VEED.

In an interaction with the school management in Bauchi, the teachers noted delightfully that I-VEED beneficiaries are performing excellently well, and that made the school management to ask our volunteer staff if I-VEED only selects the best students to benefit from our scholarship? The answer is simply NO. As a matter of fact, some of the students in question were out of school before I-VEED enrolled them back to school. Their excellent performance might have been made possible by the fact that they do not have to worry about school fees or school materials, and by the motivation they receive to not disappoint. Those who are weak in learning are also gradually improving in their performance. The teachers keeps close watch over them, in conjunction with I-VEED's representatives in the various regions where we serve.

Some of our beneficiaries have indicated fields for their choice careers with a lot of enthusiasm. One of them from Bassa LGA of Plateau State has great skills and passion for technical studies, and he draws exceptionally well. I-VEED is working on transferring him to a technical college where he fits best and would benefit the most. Another student in Nasarawa State who is science-oriented but was enrolled in a school without adequate science teachers and equipment requested that, "can you please change my school? I love to study sciences but my current school is not meeting my needs." I-VEED approved her request and transferred her to a science school, to enable her perform better in line with her aspirations. These are stories of hope rising, potentials discovered and encouraged, towards excellence. We can't wait to see the bright future that awaits these otherwise out-of-school children who are now rising to be future champions.

## 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 2022/2023 academic year starting from September 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 five pilot states (Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi, Plateau and Nasarawa 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 to go to school. For the 2022/2023 academic year, we are currently sponsoring about 150 students just as that of last academic year. The Nigerian economy and attending implications keep getting worse as inflation rises every day. So, we did not add to the number of 150 beneficiaries in order to sustain the ones we are already supporting.

Some of our beneficiaries 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 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 have developed a five-year strategic plan which is available to our donors, supporters, and anyone interested. Let us know if you need the strategic plan, and we will send it to you. Hence, while we have funds reserved for the next academic year (thankfully), we are in need of funds to reserve for the next five years, at least, in line with our five-year strategic plan. Hence, we will appreciate your continuous financial support as an individual, as a family, a group, or an organization.

### Impact of I-VEED's Trauma Healing Workshop

Two of our trauma-healing facilitators continuously follow-up with our beneficiaries who need such a follow up due to the nature of their situations. Thankfully, most of the child-victims are coping and healing well from their trauma, while more psychological and social support is given to them. In certain cases, our trauma-healing facilitators do refer the cases to or seek the support of other experts or religious leaders in the community where the child is. An example is one where one of our female beneficiaries was often being maltreated by her caregivers, which necessitated our facilitators to involve a religious leader in the community to address the caregivers. The religious leader confirmed the maltreatment meted on the girl. When he confronted the caregivers, they felt exposed and reacted angrily. Our facilitator and the religious la solution soon. Such cases are sometimes complex, but we will keep supporting these vulnerable children. We want to BE there for and with them.



## Picture News



The 2022/2023 school year was another busy period for the I-VEED team in the states that we cover. Prospective beneficiaries were identified, selected and required fees paid for, alongside the continuing students. Reading materials and uniforms were also provided. These pictures show some team members with beneficiaries and their school teachers and/or administrators.



