

NEWSLETTER

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EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH SKILLS & AGRICULTURE: THE RAISE BAUCHI IMPACT

The Rural Agricultural and Inclusive Skill Empowerment (RAISE) training brought together 288 participants in Bauchi State across three locations – Luda, Lekka and Bauchi Metropolis earning less than \$40 (60,000 Naira). The program focused on equipping them with knowledge they can use to increase their income and support their families. During the training, participants in Luda and Lekka learned about livestock farming, especially goat rearing, and crop farming with a focus on onion production. Those in Bauchi metropolis were trained in financial literacy and record keeping to help them manage and grow their businesses.

Many participants shared how the training helped them gain useful knowledge. Sharon Ishaya from Bauchi metropolis said she learned a lot about bookkeeping and balance sheets that will help her improve her business. Chiroma from Lekka also shared that he now understands the best feed to give his goats and he also understands how to prepare and produce organic manure. At the end of the training, participants in Luda and Lekka received onion seeds to start practicing what they learned. The next phase of the project will empower participants with goats to support their livestock farming. For sustainability, the three locations were put into different cooperatives according to their location. We are grateful to Children's Mission who are our partners





AISHA ISMAIL MUHAMMAD: FROM MISCONCEPTIONS TO MEANINGFUL GROWTH

Aisha Ismail Muhammad is a 25-year-old entrepreneur from a family of ten siblings. She is from Jigawa State from the Muslim Faith but based in Jos, Plateau State where she lives with her family. She has completed her higher education and currently building her livelihood through fashion design, sewing and selling hijabs to create a better future for herself.

Her journey through the FORB project marked a turning point in her life. During the program, she gained a deeper understanding of how to practice her faith while respecting the beliefs and rights of others. Before joining, Aisha admits she had misconceptions about Christians and often kept her distance. However, through dialogue and shared experiences, her mindset changed.

She became open to building relationships across religious lines and formed a meaningful friendship with a fellow participant named John Meshach. This is something she had never done before.

The project also had a strong impact on her business life. Aisha realized the importance of managing her finances with discipline and keeping proper records. Where she once spent her earnings without structure, she now focuses on applying better business practices to ensure steady growth. Today, Aisha stands as a young woman committed to peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and building a more purposeful and sustainable future. According to her, "I will intentionally make more Christian friends and preach peace in my community and wherever I go."

A NEW MINDSET, A NEW PATH: ABIGAIL'S FORB STORY

Abigail Bila, a 27 year old lady from Adamawa State, a Christian now living in Jos, Plateau State. She is one of nine children and has lost both parents. Although she has completed her higher education and is waiting for the compulsory one year National Youth Service Corp (NYSC), she currently lives with her elder sister. Though waiting for NYSC, Abigail ventured into fashion designing to increase the chances of her finances and to build a better future for herself.

After taking part in the FORB project, Abigail experienced a positive change in her life. She learned the importance of respecting people from different backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths. Coming from a mixed religious extended family yet, she previously had a negative mindset about people from other religions. However, she now understands that dialogue is a key tool for building peace. Before the training, she used to stereotype others from different Faith, but now she keeps an open mind and builds healthy relationships. She even formed a friendship with a Muslim young lady named Rumah in Jos, which has strengthened her belief in peaceful coexistence. According to Abigail, "I am a success story of the FORB project. My life has changed in ways I can't explain."



Through the FORB training, Abigail also gained knowledge about business and entrepreneurship. She now has a clear understanding of how to manage her fashion business and keep proper financial records. More importantly, she sees herself as someone who can promote peace in her community, especially in Jos, where there are religious tensions. Today, Abigail is more understanding, respectful, and ready to contribute to a more peaceful society. She says the lessons she learned from the FORB project have changed her mind set about her relatives and people from other faiths. As she work on her business, she is also making effort to reach more people in her community with the message of peace.



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BUILDING BRIDGES THAT LAST: FORB COMMON GROUND SUMMIT



The Common Ground Summit, themed “Building Bridges that Last,” marked the conclusion of the Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) project. This summit was the final event of a one year journey that began with the training of over 50 participants. The goal was simply to help people of different faiths live together in peace and unity so prosperity can thrive. At the summit, the five common ground points developed from the start of the project which includes Faith without Fear, Respect, Forgive, and Rebuild, Justice and Opportunity for All, Peace is the Future, Stronger Together were strongly emphasized once again.

The summit brought together 77 attendees from different backgrounds, including religious leaders, civil society groups, security agencies, government representatives, educators, and peace advocates. Four major resolutions were reached which are:






1. Government agencies should follow effective models for conflict resolution and to promote religious freedom;
2. Civil society organizations should increase their efforts in peacebuilding;
3. Government should create policies that protect Freedom of Religion and Belief;
4. also, faith based schools should be more inclusive and supportive of students from different religious backgrounds.

Despite the achievements especially among young participants who are now promoting peace in their communities, the need for this work remains urgent, as many communities still face religious division and violence. To truly build safe and united communities where people can live, pursue their businesses and thrive without fear, this initiative must continue. We therefore call on sponsors, partners, and lovers of peace to support this cause. Together, we can extend this message of unity to more communities. We can be reached via +2348145334387.






We also appreciate Childrens Mission Africa for bringing this important project to Plateau State. To all other partners, we are grateful.

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Empowering Akwanga

In Akwanga, Nasarawa State, one of the many communities in the Transformed Livelihood Project (TLP), participants who finished their livestock training and tomato farming assignment received goats and beehives to support their source of income. A total of 34 participants received one male and one female goat each, while 7 participants received two beehives each along with full beekeeping kits.

We sincerely thank our partner and sponsor Children's Mission for making this project possible.



The project was designed to create more job opportunities and help people earn better income in Akwanga. Through the Akwanga cooperative group and mentoring sessions, the impact will support families and the entire community.

