

Introduction

One of the issues that the Rural Women Foundation continues to focus on is the level of poverty in the rural communities and how the women and children will be empowered, and live a sustainable life devoid of vulnerability in different forms. Poverty and illiteracy are a root cause of the rapid spread of HIV which leads to increased death rates, malnutrition; increased number of orphans, school drop outs, increased tendencies of depriving orphans and widows of their rights, child abuse etc. Other problem areas include increased number of widows/widowers, the chronically ill, stigmatization, rejection and deprivation by the community, caregivers, or relatives; and failure of orphans to continue with education due to the lack of school induced cost assistance.



RWF also continues to grapple with the issue of decline in the primary and secondary school completion rate of females in many states in Nigeria. Several factors have contributed and exacerbated this problem including lack of finances (for girls from extremely poor homes), early marriages, teenage pregnancies, school proximity and inaccessibility, lack of motivation by illiterate parents and guardians, disability and death of either or both parents.

These factors have had and will continue to affect the opportunities and quality of education for the girl child unless something is done to alleviate and improve the situation.



Who we are

Founded in 1997 and registered in May 1999 with registration number, RC 12, 057, Rural Women Foundation (RWF) is a non-governmental, non-profit, non-political voluntary organization dedicated to improving the conditions of the rural poor through infrastructure development and income generation. RWF's objective is to raise the development potential of the rural poor (especially women and the girl child) to enable them lead an adequate and self-sustainable life in the society.

Mission statement

Working towards "sustainable development of the rural women and the girl-child" with the sole purpose of sustainable development and food security through ensuring economic self-reliance and empowerment for the rural poor.

What we do

Some of RWF's main activities include:

- Economic Empowerment (Income Generating Activities for women - including widows, single mothers and people living with HIV/AIDS (PL-WHAS))
- Provision of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services in selected communities
- Establishment of Orphan Care Centre
- Management of micro credit schemes and cash transfer schemes
- Family care for women and orphans & vulnerable children (OVCS) including nutritional and psychosocial support for both children and women.
- Capacity building of women and community members through training on marketable business and vocational skills
- Educational Services for OVC's, for example: Acada Learning Centres, which provides extramural classes as well as the girls scholarship program.
- Reintegration of orphans and vulnerable children into formal education
- Adult literacy program for the rural community
- Provision of services on innovative techniques in Agriculture (establishment of Cassava Fufu Factory)
- Networking with organizations that have similar objectives



Partners

RWF is currently collaborating with three major partners:

- Winrock International (AIDS Impact Mitigation – AIM-Project)
- EUCORD/WEWE (Children of Hope (CH) Project)
- USAID MARKETS

The three partners mentioned above are all sponsored by USAID through its President's

Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) project which is a \$15 billion, five-year US government initiative, directed by the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, and implemented in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID),

the Department of Health and Human Services and other US Government Agencies.



Geographical coverage

RWF currently has projects in 35 different communities in Abia, Anambra and Imo States. RWF will also commence activities in three communities in Enugu State during the course of 2010 through another project.



Rural Women Foundation

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