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Impact of Community Keeness, Responsiveness, and Recreation



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Individuals and communities miss many opportunities on a daily basis due to lack of keeness, receptiveness, and ability to recreate. God desires that individuals and communities exposed to tough times survive and emerge as good examples, thereby glorifying him. But this does not happen without some hard work, determination, and responsibility. There is an inherent capacity in everyone and in every community to take advantage of the transformational opportunities available to them. The difference in the level of development between individuals and communities has a lot to do with how opportunities are perceived and handled. The transformational development interventions of World Renew through committed partners offer unique personal and community opportunities for social, health, economic, and spiritual changes.

Adolescent project affects communities positively

A meeting with the youth, parents, and community leaders in Kwambai community in Taraba State revealed that the Protecting Adolescent Health and Rights project, which is jointly funded by Global Affairs Canada and World Renew, is positively affecting lives and turning around the health and vitality of the community. Community representatives and leaders note a significant reduction in cases of adultery and substance abuse, attributing the positive changes to the ongoing adolescent project, now in its fourth year of implementation. They also note that some of the youth who have benefited from the eco-



conomic empowerment aspect of the project are going about their chosen trades with an attitude that is admirable and contagious. One leader remarked, "Sometimes I marvel at the positive changes I see among some youth who were very stubborn in the past. It is amazing how this program has influenced some of the youth we least expected anything good from." Program beneficiaries and community leaders express sincere appreciation to World Renew and sponsors for the many opportunities to make life meaningful to individuals and their communities. They pray for God's blessings on everyone involved.

Hope for the hopeless

Kanke Kuptong had an opportunity to go to school and had great ambition for her future. Her dream was challenged when she came down with polio at a young age and had to drop out of school at primary level. Her movement was restricted to places she could reach by crawling on her knees. An opportunity came knocking when a project (funded by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation) through the Beautiful



Kanke at her weaving

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Gate Handicapped People Center was announced in Kanke's community. Kanke was selected, sensitized, given a wheelchair, and enrolled in vocational training. In a recent visit, Kanke quoted her favorite psalm, which says, "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Ps. 34:18).

Over the past year, Kanke has learned weaving and now operates from home. She is keen, responsive, and creative. She is patronized by many in the community who appreciate her creative designs, cheerful spirit, and modest charges for quality jobs. Kanke plans to save money from her small business and return to school. She correctly notes that it is not too late for her to pursue a decent education and move on in life. Others living with disability in the community are being motivated through Kanke's example and are finding ways to improve their situations economically and socially. Kanke and her family are very thank-

ful to everyone involved in supporting her so meaningfully in starting another chapter in life.

Improving lives through village savings and loans

Through a village savings and loans (VSL) grant from World Renew, the Urban Ministry has empowered hundreds of beneficiaries toward economic self-sustenance. Mary is just one of many examples. Taking care of children with meager resources was a challenge that Mary and her husband faced. After a crisis erupted in 2010, Mary's husband was killed and their property was destroyed, leaving Mary to care for and raise their children. She was devastated and deeply traumatized. Mary heard about the Urban Ministry VSL program and enrolled. She and others received training and started regular group savings. Mary started trading with an initial capital of 400 Naira (about \$2.50 USD at the time) to buy vegetables for sale, and she made a profit of 150 Naira (about \$1) on the first day. After steady pro-



Mary at business premises

gress, Mary received a loan of 5,000 Naira (\$31) from her cooperative to grow her business. Mary's business has grown beyond human expectations. She currently makes an average profit of \$300 monthly and is able to provide basic family needs as well as pay her children's school fees. Mary has become a great example in her community. She gives thanks to God and everyone involved for this positive impact in her life.

Praises and prayer requests

- In May 2016 two of the Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped in 2014 were rescued. Thank God for this development, and pray for trauma healing and rehabilitation and for the release of the many who are still held captive.
- Thank God for fruitful ministry in Nigeria despite security challenges in several places in northern Nigeria. Thank God for safety in travels for World Renew and partner staff.
- Pray for economic and political stability and peace in Nigeria.
- Pray for the church in Nigeria to continue to be light and salt in challenging environments.



Expression of joy by internally displaced children supported by World Renew.

World Renew provided food and other relief materials in their camp in Jos in December 2015.