

THE LONG JOURNEY HOME

“Zumunci a Kafa Take”

Fellowship is in the feet (Nigerian Proverb)



NIGERIA CRISIS REPORT 2016

Northeast Nigeria and our sister church, Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), have started the journey to recovery even in the midst of continued violence and bombing by the extremist group Boko Haram. As the deadliest terrorist group in the world (2015 Global Terrorism Index) Boko Haram has destroyed nearly 70 percent of the EYN Church buildings (1,668 churches burned or abandoned), overrun the EYN headquarters and killed more than 10,000 EYN members. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced and millions have been impacted by this crisis. Even as security improved in the second half of 2015, the situation is incredibly difficult and tense, and families are traumatized by the horrific violence.

However, the determination of the Nigerian people remains strong. With increased security in some areas, some families are moving back home. They are eager to support themselves, grow their crops and restart life. In these safer areas EYN congregations are worshiping next to the ruins of their church buildings. Some families were able to harvest fall crops and more families hope to plant this spring. Kulp Bible College and the Comprehensive Secondary School have reopened as repairs are underway at the EYN headquarters in Kwarhi.

The response of the US Church has been amazing. With these resources a great deal has been accomplished—lives saved, starvation averted, shelter provided, safe water to drink and the start of some healing. Even with this progress, the journey to recovery will be long and our support is desperately needed now to help families and the church recover.



Emergency Disaster Fund
Church of the Brethren
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120
www.brethren.org/edf



“You came and strengthened our hope to live... and opened our eyes to see a clear and better future.”

—Samuel Dali, EYN President at the 2015 COB Annual Conference

NIGERIA CRISIS REPORT 2016

“I trust my God to walk with me and to provide for me during this journey of my life, no matter how long it is.” (EYN Members)

REBUILDING HOMES

During 2015 new construction allowed families to relocate to safe areas. As families start returning home to areas that are now more secure, the focus will be providing supplies and tools to help repair burned and damaged homes, and to provide improved water and sanitation.

Land was purchased for Care Centers in Abuja, Masaka, Gurku, Yola, Jalingo and Jos. Two hundred and twenty new houses have already been built in these new communities which house displaced families not returning to their former homes.



The 2016 budget will help those returning home to repair their damaged houses.



Boreholes deliver safe drinking water at Masaka, Jalingo, Chinka and Gurku.

PEACE BUILDING AND TRAUMA RECOVERY

For long term recovery to be possible, and to break the cycle of violence, a strong focus on trauma healing is critical. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) has joined the Church of the Brethren & EYN efforts by providing a grant to train pastors and other EYN leaders to lead trauma workshops. Six EYN leaders received Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) leadership training in Rwanda.

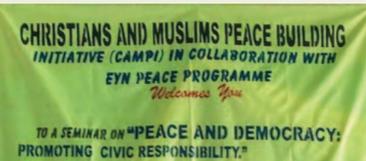
Through trauma workshops, many who had vowed to take revenge for the loss of loved ones or property are learning to forgive and find healing. So far, 21 workshops have been held, involving 542 people.



“Before this training, I looked at life as meaningless,” said one participant. “Now, because of the workshop, I see a future, one built on forgiveness and peace.”



EYN and the Christian and Muslims Peace Building Initiative sponsored a peace and democracy conference in March 2015 prior to the Nigerian elections.



Church of the Brethren, Nigeria Crisis Response Leadership
Roy Winter, associate executive director, Brethren Disaster Ministries
Carl and Roxane Hill, co-directors

AGRICULTURE

Supporting agriculture is a key part of the recovery process. It allows families to support themselves and regain their self-sufficiency.



Families have been provided with seeds, fertilizers and implements to start new farms or to recover the farms they left behind. Among those receiving assistance were the families of the Chibok girls.

Plowing and planting signify recovery and new beginnings.



LIVELIHOOD - MAKING A LIVING

One of the most effective ways to help a person recover is to enable them to work so they can support themselves and their families. Livelihood support, focusing on the most vulnerable, especially widows with children, includes micro business assistance, skills training and the provision of equipment, tools and materials.

Small business training was provided for 1,200 individuals from six communities. Some widows and orphans received training in computers, sewing, knitting and soap making.



A happy recipient supports herself with her sewing machine.

These women received tools and supplies to make traditional bean cakes for sale.



FOOD, MEDICAL AND HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

The distribution of food and basic household supplies, including mattresses, sleeping mats, cooking supplies, is an ongoing cornerstone of the relief effort, particularly as people journey home and rebuild their lives.



Over 60 separate distributions have already been made in 25 different areas in Northern Nigeria, assisting over 24,800 family units (approximately 148,000 individuals). These will continue until the 2016 harvest allows families to support themselves.

Medical assistance is needed until clinics can be built or repaired. To date, 2,800 people have received medical care in 14 locations.



EDUCATION

This crisis left many children without schooling for more than two years. Getting children back in school is critical to their recovery. Education helps to reduce the impact of trauma on their lives and supports the whole family system, helping to reduce the long term negative impacts of the crisis.

Thousands of displaced children have been supported at schools in Biu, Jos, Yola and Lassa. Orphaned children received additional support to attend school, including health kits and blankets.



Education can take place anywhere there are eager children and people to teach them.

Displaced and out of work teachers welcome the opportunity to give the gift of education.



EYN STRENGTHENING (CHURCH RECOVERY)

With all EYN national staff displaced, the church headquarters overrun, and two thirds of the churches destroyed or taken over, the church body was in crisis. A critical part of this response has been to support EYN leadership so they can help lead the recovery efforts and supporting key meetings, devotional materials, Majalisa and conferences to help the church stay together and support each other. An existing building in Jos was renovated and equipped as the temporary EYN headquarters. Staff were supported with rent for temporary housing and new staff quarters were built in Jos.

Kulp Bible College was supported in its temporary location and repairs to the campus are underway.



Undaunted, EYN members continue to worship in temporary churches, often right beside their damaged churches.

Unity House, a new EYN guest house in Jos.



RESPONSE STAFF/VOLUNTEERS/EQUIPMENT/CAPACITY BUILDING

Staff and volunteers from the Church of the Brethren (COB) and EYN have worked together to respond to the crisis in Nigeria. COB staff provided training, planning and technical, as well as personal and spiritual support for EYN.



Members of the Crisis Response Team in 2014, including Co-directors Roxane & Carl Hill.

US volunteers are an important link between the US and Nigerian churches, offering comfort, support, friendship and encouragement.



RESPONSE PARTNERS

Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) EYN is the primary COB partner receiving 70% of the response funds.

Center for Caring, Empowerment and Peace Initiatives (CCEPI) With a primary mission of aid to widows, orphans and women with children, CCEPI has expanded to meet broader needs in this crisis. CCEPI is focusing more on livelihood support for widows and orphans.

Education Must Continue Initiative (EMCI) This new partner is a newly formed nonprofit in Nigeria helping thousands of displaced children receive schooling Yola and Lassa.

Favored Sisters Christian Fellowship (FSCF)/Reconciliation Trainers Africa (RETA) FSCF is a group of several hundred women who are providing education for displaced children and orphans.

Lifeline Compassionate Global Initiative (LCGI) This interfaith peace building program started in Jos. It partnered in building an interfaith relocation project located close to Abuja with 62 relocated Christian and Muslim families, and has plans to build more homes.

Women and Youth Empowerment for Advancement and Health Initiative (WYEAHI) This NGO concentrates on providing small business opportunities to displaced individuals.

FINANCES

The Nigeria Crisis Response team and Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) are grateful for the overwhelming support they have received, and continue to receive, from the Church of the Brethren (Mission & Ministry Board, Emergency Disaster Fund, Districts and Congregations), Christian Aid Ministries, United Church of Christ, Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, and individuals. Support raised through December 2015 reached \$4,223,492.

NIGERIA CRISIS RESPONSE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY 2015	
Areas of Ministry/Relief Activity	2014 & 2015 Expenses
Rebuilding Homes	\$ 796,292
Peace Building and Trauma Recovery	\$ 45,158*
Agriculture (seeds, fertilizer & tools)	\$ 22,130
Livelihood - Making a Living	\$ 211,941
Education (children including orphans)	\$ 131,227
Food, Medical & Home Supplies	\$ 762,854
EYN Strengthening (Church Recovery)	\$ 624,320
US Volunteers, Staff, Travel, Miscellaneous	\$ 178,328
Total	\$ 2,772,250

* MCC has provided EYN an additional \$70,000 for trauma recovery

NIGERIA CRISIS RESPONSE BUDGET 2016	
Areas of Ministry/Relief Activity	Budget
Rebuilding Homes	\$587,250
Peace Building and Trauma Recovery	\$103,900
Agriculture (seeds, fertilizer & tools)	\$347,350
Livelihood - Making a Living	\$250,350
Education (children including orphans)	\$187,850
Food, Medical & Home Supplies	\$353,800
EYN Strengthening (Church Recovery)	\$150,500
US Volunteers, Staff, Travel, Miscellaneous	\$110,000
New Programs	\$75,000
Total	\$2,166,000

Join the journey and support our brothers and sisters in the fellowship of the feet.

GO TO: WWW.BRETHREN.ORG/NIGERIACRISIS