

INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY OUTREACH REPORT

Janikoba Life Touching foundation and Lincgreen Prospects Widows Outreach Report

Report on the Widows Outreach Program

Organized by Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation and LincGreen Climate Change Initiative.

Date: International Widows Day, 23rd June 2024

Venue: Odiokwu Community, Ahoada West Local Government Area

Overview

The Widows Outreach Program, organized by Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation in collaboration with LincGreen Climate Change Initiative, was held on International Widows Day to highlight the challenges faced by Nigerian widows, specifically targeting the widows of Odiokwu community in Ahoada West Local Government Area. The event took place in the palace of His Majesty Eze Elder (ARC) Nnamdi O. Obuzor, DSSRS, JP, Eze Igbo Odhiokwu 1 of Ekpeye Kingdom.



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Objectives

1. **Raise Awareness:** Highlight the unique challenges faced by widows in Nigeria, especially in rural communities like Odiokwu.
2. **Empower Widows:** Provide support and relief materials to widows affected by flooding and other socio-economic challenges.
3. **Advocate for Climate Justice:** Emphasize the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and the need for loss and damage finance.

Event Highlights

Anchoring: The program was anchored by High Chief Scalar Reason Dibia, Chief of Staff, Eze Igbo Odhiokwu.

Dignitaries Present: The council of chiefs and women leader, Mrs. Queen Abraham, who gave an opening charge to the widows.

Keynote Speech: Dr. Obuzor Mezewo, founder of Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation, delivered a passionate speech on the significance of International Widows Day and the struggles of vulnerable widows in Nigeria.

Encouragement: Justice Ihemnacho Wilfred Obuzor provided words of encouragement to the widows.

Distribution of Relief Materials: Food items and other relief materials, including rice, salt, garri, onions, toiletries, and seasoning, were distributed to the widows.

Documentary: LincGreen Prospect captured the event to produce a documentary on the impact of flooding on vulnerable communities and the resulting hardships caused by climate disasters.



Key Points from the Speech of Dr. Obuzor Mezewo, Founder of Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation

Dr. Obuzor Mezewo, the founder of Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation, delivered a heartfelt and impassioned speech that resonated deeply with the audience. Her address was a call to action and a source of encouragement for the widows of Odiokwu community. Below are the expanded key points from her speech:

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1. Significance of International Widows Day:

- Dr. Mezewo emphasized the importance of International Widows Day as a platform to highlight the struggles and challenges faced by widows globally. She acknowledged the unique hardships that Nigerian widows endure, particularly in rural communities, due to traditional practices and socio-economic barriers.

2. Impact of Climate Change on Vulnerable Communities:

- She elaborated on the devastating impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, particularly the widows whose livelihoods depend on farming and other climate-sensitive activities. The recent floods had exacerbated their already precarious situation, destroying farmlands, homes, and sources of income.

3. Challenges Faced by Widows in Nigerian Communities:

- Dr. Mezewo highlighted the cultural and traditional challenges that widows face, including stigmatization, loss of property rights, and social exclusion. She underscored the need for a supportive community that recognizes and addresses these injustices.

4. Role of Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation and LincGreen Initiative:

- She assured the widows that Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation, in collaboration with LincGreen Initiative, is committed to supporting them through various empowerment programs. These initiatives include providing essential relief materials, skills training, and creating platforms for their voices to be heard.

5. Empowerment and Hope:

- Dr. Mezewo encouraged the widows not to lose hope despite the adversities they face. She emphasized the foundation's dedication to empowering their hands and minds, helping them to rebuild their lives and achieve self-sufficiency. The distribution of food items and relief materials was a testament to this commitment.

6. Call for Collective Action and Advocacy:

- She called on the community, local leaders, and policymakers to join hands in advocating for the rights of widows and addressing the broader issues of climate change and its impact. She stressed the importance of collective action in creating a more equitable and just society.

Conclusion

Dr. Obuzor Mezewo's speech was a powerful reminder of the resilience and strength of the widows of Odiokwu community. Her words inspired hope and called for continued support and advocacy to address the socio-economic and environmental challenges they face. The commitment of Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation and LincGreen Initiative to empowering these women and advocating for climate justice remains unwavering. The event not only provided immediate relief but also set the stage for long-term support and systemic change.

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Impact

The program successfully highlighted the dire situations faced by widows in Odiokwu, particularly those affected by flooding. The distribution of relief materials provided immediate support and uplifted the spirits of the widows, reinforcing the commitment of Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation and LincGreen Initiative to their cause. By documenting their stories, the event also aimed to raise broader awareness and attract attention to the need for sustained support and climate action.

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List of Widows who Received Palliatives

1. Benice Abraham-Umu Ordu
2. Pani Elisha-Umu Odhio
3. Ada Ezeligwe-Umu Ozu
4. Marina Fredrick-Umu Okwo
5. Gladys Noah-Umu Okeh
6. Orlu Mathew-Umu Ogbowu
7. Ada Ishmeal-Umuowo Akpaka
8. Roselin Monday-Umu Owo Igbelisa
9. Janet Apolus-Umu Owo Udho Abali
10. Elizabeth Nwoba-Umu Eyidhie
11. Lili O. Ishike-Umu Eze Okola
12. Felicia Morocco-Umu Ezhiga
13. Felicia Ogbuenwe-Umu Izu Okola
14. Rosemary Odozi-Umu Igwe
15. Elenwai Okpara-Umu Izeh
16. Comfort Innocent-Umu Izu Ediwulu
17. Benicy Charles-Umu Agwolo
18. Rose Obediah-Umu Ahia
19. Agnes Marcus-Umu Dhide
20. Hellen Cladus-Umu Uchi
21. –



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Recommendations

- 1. Loss and Damage Finance:** There is an urgent need for financial mechanisms specifically targeting loss and damage caused by climate change in vulnerable communities. This finance should support adaptive measures and provide direct relief to affected individuals, especially widows and other marginalized groups.
- 2. Continued Support and Empowerment Programs:** Regular and sustained empowerment programs should be implemented to provide long-term support to widows. These programs should focus on skill acquisition, financial literacy, and mental health support.
- 3. Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns:** Increase advocacy efforts to highlight the plight of widows and the impact of climate change. Use media and storytelling to amplify their voices and attract support from broader audiences and policymakers.
- 4. Collaborative Efforts:** Foster collaborations between NGOs, government agencies, and international bodies to address the socio-economic and environmental challenges faced by widows in rural communities.



Conclusion

The Widows Outreach Program successfully brought attention to the challenges faced by widows in Odiokwu community, emphasizing the urgent need for climate justice and support for those affected by environmental disasters. Janikoba Lifetouching Foundation and LincGreen Climate Change Initiative remain committed to empowering these women, advocating for their rights, and working towards a sustainable and inclusive future.

This report encapsulates the essence of the outreach program, the support provided, and the continued commitment to uplifting vulnerable communities through strategic interventions and advocacy.