



WORLD INTERFAITH



Report

Project Title: 2019 World Inter-Faith Harmony Week

Date: 7th February, 2019

Venue: Mbawa Community IDP Camp, Daudu Guma L.G.A Benue state, Nigeria.

Theme: ‘Sustainable Development through Interfaith Harmony’

Goal: Harmonizing the world through a Helping Hand.

Partners:

Cheerful Hands Initiative, Sughun Beauty Studio, World Inter-Faith Harmony Week, United Religious Initiative (URI)

House of Hilkiah Foundation left Makurdi with friends from the Christian & Muslim community at exactly 10:24am to Mbawa Community IDP camp in Daudu, Guma LGA Benue state, Nigeria to celebrate the World Interfaith Harmony Day with the IDPs and arrived at about 10:50am. We got the statistics of the camp from the Secretary in charge of the camp with a total population of 3,015: Women-1820(Widows-137, Girls-83) Men-465, Children-730.

The woman leader showed us around narrating their ordeals in the camp ranging from lack of food, water and how they have been neglected by the Government. We interviewed some of the women who lost their husbands and children due to the crisis between farmers and herdsmen. They told us they were all farmers and farming was their source of livelihood. The invaders displaced them to no shelter, burning their crops and leaving them homeless and nothing to eat.



We now proceeded to the school with writing materials and biscuits under a very big tree where the children receive classes. Total number of 730 children out of school, classes divided into three with approximately 200 in a class under the tree and they sit on the floor, they were so excited to see and interact with us. We shared the writing materials for them and asked them for a pictorial image of anything they can draw. We were amazed to see many of them drawing huts, cutlasses, chairs, girl, cups and lots more.





We also share Biscuits to the students to encourage them to participate in the classes



The women leader at the camp also expressed bitterly about their sleeping arrangements, the tent they sleep in is small, they sleep on the mat and when it rains they can't go out to find food to eat and sometime when food is not supplied at the camp the women usually mobilize themselves to nearby market where they are selling food items like rice, millet and maize they pack from the ones on the ground they sieve, separate it from sand, mix and ground then share among themselves in the camp, they can cook for themselves and their children to eat which is usually unsatisfying.





Ms Dorothy Akende, The Executive Director of House of Hilkiah Foundation spoke to the women leader, secretary of the camp and assure them we will look for support, partnership and collaboration from other organizations to assist in organizing empowerment program for the women in the camp that way they are able to make a living that can sustain them and their family ,also have access to basic needs like food, cloths, sleeping arrangement for them and their family, also get books and sitting arrangement for the children.

She also told them just because it's the world interfaith Harmony week doesn't mean the organization won't return to render the help needed at the camp and also it should serve a time of reflection and be thankful and not continue to be sad because of their present situation, things can be better when we all join hands to support each other.

Impact of the event, we spoke to the children and encourage them to continue to learn, we played games of drawing where they are drew what was in their mind, we distributed school materials and biscuits to about 700 children, also we encouraged about 1820 women not to lose hope that we will collaborate with other organizations, get more resources to carry out empowerment programs in the camp.





After the World Inter-Faith Harmony Week visit, House of Hilkiah Foundation returned to the Mbawa Community Idp camp after a week with a GX390 grinding machine and donated to the women at the camp ,it was an urgent need in the camp because the women who usually walk for two hours to go and grind maize and millet for food most times walk the distance without eating food, this will save time and also bring a little income for them as the neighbouring communities also will come and grind while we source for other means of empowerment for them.







Submitted by:

Dorothy Akende
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