

**Orphan Relief and Rescue
Annual Programs Report
September 2017 – August 2018**

Contents:

1: Benin

- a) Summary
- b) Anti-Trafficking Initiative
- c) Community Projects

2: Liberia

- a) Summary
- b) Committee Partnerships
- c) Break the Silence
- d) Greater Opportunity
- e) Provisions and Special Projects



Benin

Summary:

The numerous anti-trafficking projects outlined as: Intervention, Rescue, Restoration, and Empowerment continue to grow and thrive, with 540 direct beneficiaries.

Project	Number Served
Intervention	258
Rescue	71
Restoration	13
Empowerment	198
Total	540

Anti-Trafficking Initiative (ATI):

Orphan Relief and Rescue's strategy is comprehensive and addresses the many aspects driving child exploitation and trafficking. It is imperative to realize the complexities of the issue in Benin. There are two key elements that create a supply-driven environment. The first, and most prominent is the extreme poverty in the region. The second is a devaluation of life, especially in members of society that do not contribute to the aggregate good. These elements create abundant supply for traffickers, which keeps the overall costs of purchasing a child low, and often times free. Traffickers are able to find enough people who are willing to agree to these terms, mainly because the women/families are unable to provide food, clothes, or education for their children.

With these elements in mind, the four-pronged approach to addressing the issue of trafficking. Without addressing poverty, and its causes, as well as the value of life, there will be no real change. Beyond the goal of ending trafficking in the region, the Initiative also works to bring children who have already been sold, or given away, back to a safe living situation. The four elements of ATI are, intervention, rescue, restoration, and empowerment.

Intervention:

The Intervention Project aims to remove the barriers that guardians face in keeping their children home. Through providing food and the ability to pursue an education, guardians have little motivation to sell their children. The Intervention Project depends on collaboration with local leaders, so that ATI team members can identify children at a high risk of being trafficked and



engage intentionally to prevent those children from being sold. This is done through first signing a contract with parents stating that the child will not be sold into slavery, then purchasing a birth certificate (when necessary), enrolling the child in school, providing two meals a day while the child is at school, provision of school related expenses, and follow-up to ensure on-going safety.

To ensure that the children receive food and proper schooling, ORR employs 4 cooks for food preparation and distribution. The ATI Team Leader facilitates purchasing school uniforms, shoes, and supplies for all the children in the program. The team also regularly visit the schools to ensure proper care is given to the children, food is properly distributed, and that education is taking place.

Number of elementary children in area of impact	Number of secondary children in area of impact	Total
172	86	258

Actual results versus projected results

Projected number of children in Intervention Project	Actual Number of Children in Intervention Project	Percent Difference
255	258	1.2%

In June 2018, children in the Intervention Project were placed in the sponsorship program in order to increase revenues. To date 34, 13.2% are sponsored.

Rescue:

Orphan Relief and Rescue works diligently to identify and bring back children who have been sold into a life of slavery. When possible, these children are placed with their families and are re-enrolled in school and placed in our Intervention Project. However, for many of these children there are no safe options, either their family members have died, or the child is at risk of being sold again. In these instances, the child is placed in foster care or placed in the ORR safe-home. If the child is unable to attend school, because of their age or situation, they are placed in an apprenticeship program.

Safe Home

ORR operates a small safe-home apartment to provide a safe and clean home for young girls who had no place to return after being freed from slavery. A new Safe Home was rented this year in order to keep up with the growth of the program.

House of Hope

House of Hope remains a partner in the pursuit of rescuing children. This past year 11 new children were brought into the home from dire situations, including abuse, risk of trafficking, death of parents, and risk of death. Children in the home receive safe living conditions, three meals a day, education, and psychological care. There are numerous extracurricular projects at

the home, including a computer school, hotelierie school, animal husbandry, and sports. There are a total of 61 children at the House of Hope.

Foster Care

To date, four children are in foster care through the program. The homes provide safe and clean housing for children who have been rescued from trafficking and can no longer live with their parent’s due to safety conditions, or their parents have died or live far away. Foster homes are selected carefully and must pass thorough inspection and background checks. Routine visits and checkups from ATI team members occur to ensure that children are well taken care of.

Projected number of children rescued	Number of Children at House of Hope	Number of children at Safe Home	Number of Children in foster situations	Total	Percent Difference
70	61	6	4	71	+1.4%

Restoration:

Many of the children who have been rescued from slavery are too old to return or begin school. Without an education, there is little hope for a future. With this in mind, ORR offers apprenticeships for 13 young adults. The girls are taught sewing techniques and are also provided two meals a day. The sewing school previously managed by ATI Staff was closed down and the young women were placed in these apprenticeships to receive higher quality training.

Actual results versus projected results

Projected number of children in Restoration Program	Actual number of children in Restoration Program	Percent Difference
8	13	+38.5%

Empowerment:

The Empowerment Project directly addresses the issue of poverty, providing community members with the opportunity to improve their situation through provision of micro-loans and basic business training and introduction to the savings and loans program. One of the primary challenges of rural Beninois



is that they have no access to capital to invest in small businesses. Access to capital provides an external solution while combatting the dangers of dependency. While these small loans will not

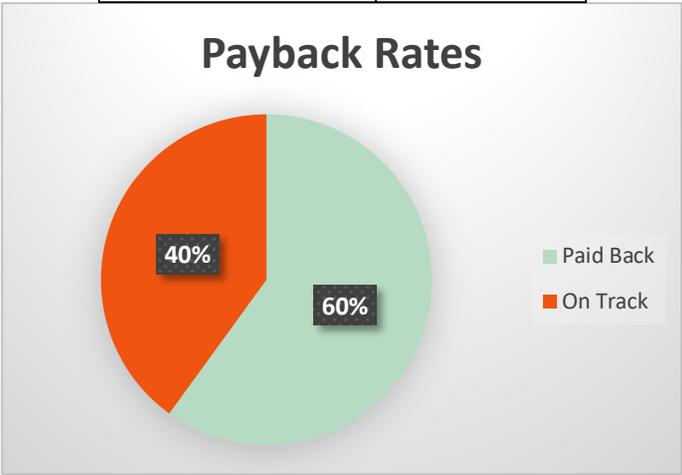
likely pull someone out of poverty, it does provide enough to sustain the necessities of life and allow parents to provide for their children and not sell them into slavery.

Microfinance Recipients

Total number of loan recipients
64

Detailed Information

	Totals
Total Amount Loaned Out	CFA938,000
Average Loan	CFA10,422
Loans Paid Back	54
On Track for Payback	36
Number of Children Represented	319
Average Number Children	4.98



Number of Saving and Loans Recipients

Teenagers at the ORR Safehome	Teenager in area of impact	Adults in area of impact	Total
6	72	134	212

Actual results versus projected results

Projected Number of Adults served in Empowerment Program	Actual Number of Adults served in Empowerment Program	Percent Difference
150	198	+32%

Community Projects:

- Purchase of two parcels of land in are of impact with appropriate surveys
- Purchase and signature of the sales agreement for the are of impact ORR domain
- Construction of a structure to serve as a meeting place on the ORR area of impact along with required furnishings
- Creation of a sewing workshop
- Acquisition of new land as a gift from the local chief

Updated paperwork and family tracing for all children in ORR programs.

Liberia

Summary:

Over the past year Orphan Relief and Rescue launched, Break the Silence Pilot Program, provided relief care for the remaining orphanages in the program, education assistance and mentoring for children in partner orphanages, healthcare, and safe shelter for children through our transition safe home, and scholarships for university students.

This past year was an incredible success. The hiring of a new Country Director improved efficiency, professionalism, programmatic reach, and quality of effectiveness in significant ways. The hire of the CD is a big reason why ORR managed to hit or surpass all projected targets while remaining under budget.

Committee Partnerships:

Independent Accreditation Committee was set up by the deputy minister of Gender and Social Welfare. The aim of this committee is to establish protocols and best practices for the accreditation process for all institutions that house children in Liberia. A sub-committee was established to advise the deputy minister in selecting credible international adoption agencies. ORR remains critical in assisting the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP) in their efforts. The MoGCSP has planned to visit every orphanage in Montessarado County for observation and monitoring but has yet to implement this rollout. ORR has been requested to assist in this process when they begin.

The Child Protection Network is comprised of both governmental employees, agency employees, and NGO's are committed to programs and policy for the protection of children. Current initiatives include lobbying select legislators for improved services for abandoned and orphaned children, acute abuse cases, and special needs children. ORR is assisting with three specific cases at the moment and will be assisting with the process of orphanage reaccreditation, including the usage of the Flipchart in the approval process. The CPN is a valuable way to interact with like-minded NGO's and governmental officials all passionate about the protection of children. ORR was a key contributor to the Day of the African Child celebration.

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Taskforce is chaired by the Minister of Labor and meets on a monthly basis to discuss best practices and establish a national pathway to tackle the problem of trafficking in Liberia. Attendees include government workers and NGOs. ORR has played a significant role in these meetings, including demonstrating the Break the Silence Flipchart, meetings with the minister, and involvement in developing the National Pathway.

Break the Silence (BTS):

Break the Silence was launched at the start of the fiscal year in order to provide education, awareness, and practical assistance to combat sexual abuse and trafficking in Liberia. The project focused on both prevention and assistance through a two-tongued approach.

Prevention: The Flipchart and Awareness

ORR, with partners in the Liberian government and NGOs, uses a child friendly tool, a flipchart, that imparts awareness raising, prevention education, and aftercare training. With this flipchart, ORR will raise children's awareness of their personal rights, as well as connect them to the resource of an anti-trafficking and abuse hotline number should they find themselves vulnerable to trafficking and/or exploitation. The tool also acts as a deterrent to would be perpetrators.

Projected Number of children reached	Actual number of children reached	Percentage difference
2,500	2,589	+3.4%

Implementations take place at schools, orphanages, and community centers

Number of Implementations	Average number of children per implementation
70	36.99

Training Workshops:

ORR training workshops inform and improve the skills of caregivers and/or those working with vulnerable children. It gives the trainees a practical tool to teach children about their value, rights, the dangers of sexual abuse and trafficking, and a means to get help. The partners trained in these workshops will continue to help us grow the number of implementations and children reached with the Flipchart.

Number of workshops	Organizations involved	Total people trained
4	Ministry of Labor, World Hope International, Orphans Concern, More Than Me, Peace Corps	63

Actual results versus projected results

Projected number of adults trained	Actual number of adults trained	Percent difference
25	63	+152%

Assistance: The Hotline

The hotline, funded by ORR, but hosted at the Ministry of Labor with World Hope International oversight and operational involvement, serves two significant roles. Firstly, it is the only government-run anti-trafficking hotline in the nation and is a critical portion of the government's strategic roadmap to combat human trafficking. Secondly, the hotline provides abused victims with an outlet to get help from trained social workers and government officials.

Radio spots	Total calls	Conversational	Case referrals
2388	1941	1394	28

Greater Opportunity (G.O.):

The Greater Opportunity Project provides education and mentoring for children from the partner orphanages of Frances Gaskins, Danny Feeney, and Macdella Cooper, and mentoring at Rock of Divine. Children who do not have access to education are given an opportunity to receive a quality education through the provision of tuition costs and school supplies.



Children who are in 6th-12th grade are enrolled in private schools and are given the tools necessary to succeed. They also receive weekly mentoring sessions which includes lessons on self-esteem, financial management, hygiene, safety, identity, etc.

University students in the program received the above-mentioned assistance and mentorship, as well as housing, a food stipend, and transport costs.

Jr. and Sr. High School Assistance and Mentorship:

ORR provides school fees, school supplies, uniforms, and healthcare costs for qualified children at Frances Gaskins, Danny Feeney, Macdella Copper, as well as children of local ORR staff.

Projected number of children in sponsorship schools.	Actual number of children in sponsorship schools.	Percent difference
30	30	0%

Child Development Managers provide weekly classes for children that address issues of health, safety, life skills, and self-esteem at Rock of Divine, Frances Gaskins, Danny Feeney, and Macdella Cooper.

Projected number of children in Mentorship Project	Total number of children in Mentorship Project	Average number of children mentored per week
115	150	80.2

University School Assistance:

Provision of housing expenses, food, school supplies (including laptop computer and cell phone), tuition, testing fees, and healthcare.

Projected number of young adults in university	Actual number of young adults in university	Number of young adults graduated
7	7	1

Provisions and Special Projects

Monthly provisions (food, mosquito nets, sheets, etc.) are purchased when a need is observed by a Child Development Manager.

- Christmas bundles
- Mosquito nets (150)
- Monthly food provisions for partner orphanages
- Construction of wall at Frances Gaskins
- Roof renovations at Danny Feeney