

**Orphan Relief and Rescue
Annual Programs Report
September 2018 – August 2019**

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Benin

Summary:

The program year of 2018/19 in Benin was managed by the Country Director a team of four anti-trafficking staff. Oversight and direction were provided by the Orphan Relief and Rescue President and Programs Director.

The numerous anti-trafficking projects outlined as: Intervention, Rescue, Restoration, and Empowerment continue to grow and thrive, with 617 direct beneficiaries.

The year was one of solidifying the implementation team and defining and hiring for the administrative roles in the team. Throughout this, ORR managed to increase the number of **direct beneficiaries** from 540 in 2018/19 to 627 this fiscal year, **a growth of 16.1%**.

Project	Number Served
Intervention	255
Rescue	66
Restoration	16
Empowerment	290
Total	627

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, ORR implemented a four-pronged approach to address 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 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 four cooks for food preparation and two drivers for 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.

Actual results versus projected results

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

In June 2018, children in the Intervention Project were placed in the sponsorship program in order to increase revenues. To date **23.9% 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.

Safehome

ORR operates a small safehome apartment to provide a safe and clean home for young girls who had no place to return after being freed from slavery. The safehome is in its second year of operation. In July the Program Director did thorough evaluation and monitoring and realized one of the young girls in the safehome had been placed there under false pretenses by the former Country Director. The young girl did in fact have parents and safe housing and will therefore be reunified with her family.

House of Hope

House of Hope remains a partner in the pursuit of rescuing children. 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, hotelerie school, animal husbandry, and sports. There is a total of 57 children at the House of Hope.

Foster Care

To date, three 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. Children are currently being fostered by the Country Director and his wife.

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
71	57	5	4	66	-7%

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 eight young adults. The children are taught electrical, mechanics, sewing, tailoring, or hair dressing and are also provided two meals a day. Two young women graduated from their apprenticeships this year.

Actual results versus projected results

Projected number of children in Restoration Program	Actual number of children in Restoration Program	Percent Difference
13	16	23.1%

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

	Members	Total Loans Given	Total Amount	Avg Amount
Village 1	51	230	CFA318,000.00	CFA1,382.61
USD			\$538.54	\$2.34

Repayment Stats

	Amount Paid Back	% of Amount Repaid	% of loans repaid
Village 1	CFA312,000	98.1%	97.8%
USD	528.38		

Saving and Loans

Location	Members	Number of Installments Received	Savings	Interest Created	Loans Given Out	Account Balance
Village 2	127	4116	CFA1,548,600	CFA434,450	CFA1,925,000	CFA58,050
Village 1	80	2713	CFA888,000	CFA255,600	CFA1,060,000	CFA83,600
Village 1 - SBG	32	1039	CFA806,500	CFA248,375	CFA1,046,400	CFA8,475
Total	239	7868	CFA3,243,100	CFA938,425	CFA4,031,400	CFA150,125
USD			\$5,492.22	\$1,589.23	\$6,827.22	\$254.24

Projections and Actuals

Projected number of recipients in Empowerment Project	Actual Number of recipients in Empowerment Project	Percent Difference
198	290	146%

Community Projects:

Village 1

- Construction of a structure to serve as a meeting place on the ORR area of Adjido along with required furnishings

Village 2

- Digging of a well

Updated information and biographical information for all children in Safe Home, Foster Care, and Apprenticeships

Liberia

Summary:

Over the past year Orphan Relief and Rescue continued the implementation of the Break the Silence Program, provided education assistance and mentoring for children in partner orphanages, and scholarships for university students.

This past year proved to be one of dramatic successes and challenges. The Break The Silence program continues to be effective in helping children, as well as instrumental in gaining new partnerships with government and non-governmental committees and organizations. The Greater Opportunity program remains more challenging as two university students were removed from the program due to violations of the program's code of conduct.

Committee Partnerships:

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Task Force

Chair: Ministry of Labor

Key Members: US Embassy Political Officer, LNP, Liberia Immigration Service, DCI-Liberia, Ministry of Gender, IDLO

Synopsis: The TIP task force meets once a month to discuss cases, and updates on what is the latest on trafficking in Liberia. Last year the most notable achievement by the task force was creating the *National Action Plan* to combat trafficking in Liberia, which was signed into law by the President in March. As a result of this action, Liberia was able to avoid falling to Tier 3 on the US Trafficking in Persons Report. Liberia next year must show "increased" efforts to combat trafficking in order for the country to not be downgraded to Tier 3, this downgrade would result in the suspension of all non-humanitarian funding from the US government, which was approximately \$40 million last year.

Child Protection Network:

Chair: Ministry of Gender

Key Members: US Embassy Political Officer

Synopsis: The CPN meets monthly to discuss child protection issues in Liberia, the committee is rather disorganized and doesn't achieve much. There was a child protection awareness campaign that ORR participated in. This was a 4-day event, however the committee was vastly underprepared (didn't have a single flyer for awareness raising) luckily ORR did, so flyers for the hotline became the only distributed information for the event.

Child Rights Coalition:

Chair: Defense for Children International

Key Members: UNICEF, Plan International, Save the Children, ANPPCAN

Synopsis: The CRC is a group of child protection NGO's funded by the Global Council for Human Rights, the committee has funding for this calendar year and has taken two important tasks. One is writing the shadow report to the government's report the UN on Child Rights in Liberia., The second which ORR is the lead on, is the push to have the government ratify the

Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. ORR will be giving presentations to Senators and government officials on reasons for adopting the convention.

Break the Silence (BTS):

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
15,000	7,943	-47%

Evaluations conducted with **46 children**.

Recommendations and Observations:

1. Repeat implementations increases understanding and deepens likelihood of calling hotline and reporting cases.
2. Every child evaluated could recall the 2883 hotline number
3. Creation of an anti-trafficking flipchart is needed

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.

- **126 Implementors** trained, with a reach of **1,297 children**
- **29 Workshop Trainers** trained, with a reach of **3,336 children**

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	Case referrals
720*	2551	20

*Radio Spots occur three times per day, seven days per week on two national radio stations

Greater Opportunity (G.O.):

The Greater Opportunity Project provides education and mentoring for children from four partner orphanages. 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 and the “Liberia Reads to Learn” curriculum. This is a reading program developed by two former Peace Corps Volunteers who served in Liberia in the 1970’s and continue to work in the country today. The program is designed to improve children’s vocabulary and reading ability, while also educating them about different topics.

University students in the program received the above-mentioned assistance and mentorship 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 partner orphanages, and children of local ORR staff.

Projected number of children in sponsorship schools.	Actual number of children in sponsorship schools.	Percent difference
30	31	+3%

Child Development Managers, provide weekly classes for children that address issues of health, safety, life skills, and self-esteem at partner orphanages.

Projected number of children in Mentorship Project	Total number of children in Mentorship Project	Average number of children mentored per week
115	51	-55.7%

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
6	6	1

**Two University students were removed from program due to violation of agreement*

Provisions and Special Projects

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

This year ORR supplied:

- Christmas bundles
- Monthly food provisions for partner orphanages