

**Orphan Relief and Rescue
Annual Programs Report
September 2021 – August 2022**

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Benin

The program year of 2021/22 in Benin was managed by our team of seven anti-trafficking staff members. Oversight and direction were provided by Rebecca Pratt, Orphan Relief and Rescue President.

The numerous anti-trafficking projects outlined as: Intervention, Rescue, Restoration, and Empowerment continue to grow and thrive with 1,992 direct beneficiaries. This number has almost doubled since last year.

The partnership with the Director of the Orphanage Safe Home for 61 Children, continues to be mutually beneficial in creating a safe home for children who are true orphans.

This year we took on a couple building projects. The first project is a community center in one of the anti-trafficking villages where hundreds of kids have been intercepted from being sold. In this village, we also oversee a large Microfinance Savings and Loan group. This building will hold around 400 people and is almost complete.

Our second project is a well built on ORR's property in another anti-trafficking village where we work.

Third project, ORR is financially overseeing the building of a church where Pastor Peter, ORR's Country Director, lives. This is not officially an ORR project. Hope Community Church in Reno, Nevada financed the church building for Peter's congregation. We are helping to oversee the financial portion and report updates to the contributors in Reno, Nevada.

This year ORR's Rescue project recorded 79 new children who were brought out of slavery. Our Microfinance Savings and Loans program has grown significantly by 551 participants for a total of 1,350 attendees.

ATI Program	Number Served Sept 2020-Aug 2021	Number Served Sept 2021-Aug 2022
Intervention: Anti-trafficking feeding and school program	276	406
Rescue: Children brought back home who were sold into a life of slavery	45+	79
Restoration: A. Children previous sold into slavery and now living in the villages on apprenticeships programs B. Children connected to safe homes and foster care	39 102	45+ 112
Empowerment: Microfinance/Savings and Loan program	799	1,024
Apprentices learning a trade from those in our microfinance groups		326
Total	1,261	1,992

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. 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, we use 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. By 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 the 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 and monitoring of that child to ensure on-going safety.

To ensure that the children receive food and proper schooling, ORR employs 6 cooks for food preparation and 5 drivers for distribution. The ATI Team Leader and his staff 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.

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.

In August of 2022, we recorded 79 children were brought back from slavery directly due to our programs. Most of them had been brought back over this last year.

Restoration:

Orphanage Safe Home for Children

This home remains an ORR 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, hotel and management school, animal husbandry, and sports. There is a total of 61 children in this home.

Safe-Home

ORR operates a small apartment to provide a safe and clean home for young girls who had no place to return after being freed from slavery. The safe-home is in its sixth year of operation and is being run more like a foster home. Currently, we have three girls in this home. We have not worked to grow this program because we would rather see these girls in safe foster homes.

Foster Care

To date, three children are being fostered by the Country Director and his wife. The home provides safe and clean housing for children who have been rescued from very abusive circumstances.

Greater Opportunity for Young Adults

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 is overseeing apprenticeships for 45 girls who our microfinance savings and loan program participates are teaching.

For young adults who have aged out of this orphanage safe home and were rescued from very abusive situations, we finance their apprenticeships, trade schools, and/or University studies. We have 19 young adults currently on this program. 23 young adults graduated from their apprenticeships or university programs, and now have contract or full-time jobs.

In March of 2022, our USA based Office Manager, hosted two Professional Development and Life Skills Workshops for over 25 young adults who were raised in the orphanage safe home and are now living on their own. The young adults loved the workshop!

Restoration Program	Number Served Sept 2021-Aug 2022
Number of children in trade school, apprenticeship or University programs who were raised in ORR's orphanage safe home	19
Number of children currently at the orphanage safe home	61
Number of children at the girls' safe home or in our foster home	6
Number of girls in ORR's Restoration Program who were rescued out of slavery and now live in villages overseen by our anti-trafficking staff	45+
Young adults raised in orphanage safe home and graduated from programs with contract or full-time jobs	23
Young adults who have graduated from our Greater Opportunity Program and have contract or full-time jobs	12
Total	166

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 Benin is the lack of 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.



We have 40 members on the Microfinance program. An average loan is 20,000 CFA which is equal to 30.00 USD. We have a 98 % pay back rate

We have 1,024 members on the Savings and Loan program. These loans are between 15,000 – 20,000 CFA which equals 23.00 to 30.00 USD

This year the Savings and Loans program was duplicated by team members who started their own savings and loans groups. We now have 15 groups running with a total of 1,024 men and women in the entire program. This is the most we have ever had on this program. Within these groups, different participants have taken in a total of 326 apprentices to learn their trade. All of these 326 apprentices were at the highest risk to be sold into slavery in their villages.

One woman has 26 apprentices teaching them sewing, knitting, and weaving. She said she has to help the needy girls in her community, so they will not be trafficked. She said she learned from ORR how to help her community, and she is simply doing what she learned is the right thing to do.



Empowerment Program	Number Served Sept 2021-Aug 2022
Number in the Microfinance Program	40
Number of people in 15 groups of Savings and Loans program	1,024
Number of apprentices through Savings and Loans program	326
Total	1,390

Liberia

The program year of 2021/22 was managed by Rebecca Pratt. **December 1st, 2021 to June 30th, 2022 ORR signed a new partnership agreement with World Hope International** in Liberia to help run the Break the Silence program and to oversee ORR's funding of the anti-trafficking and abuse hotline in the Ministry of Labor's office. World Hope receives a grant each month from ORR to run the program and to employ Coordinators of the BTS program. This contract will resume in November 2022.

Break the Silence (BTS):

Prevention: The Flipchart and Awareness

ORR, with our partnering organization World Hope International, use a child friendly tool (a flipchart) that imparts awareness raising, prevention education, and aftercare training. This flipchart raises children's awareness of their personal rights, as well as connects 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.

As a side note, we now have this flip chart translated into French. We will be implementing this training with children on our programs in Benin sometime in the near future.



From this flip chart training program, the public outcry has now become a big one. Our staff shares story after story of children who no longer feel like victims. After hearing our Break the Silence teaching in school, children often share stories of how thankful they are to have heard this lesson because they understand they was they have been abused was wrong and now they can receive help.

Projected Number of children reached	Actual number of children reached
10,000	13,511

School Implementations: During the period December 2021– June 2022, World Hope International in partnership with Orphan Relief and Rescue conducted school-based awareness on the subject of trafficking in person and sexual abuse for students, teachers, and administrators. A total of 13,511 people were trained. Implementation was done in 31 schools. Also, for the first time, the program was implemented in 6 communities.

Number of Participants Breakdown	Number Served Dec 2021-June 2022
Number of men	1,487
Number of women	3,209
Number of boys	3,428
Number of girls	5,387
Total children (age range 5-18 years)	8,815
Total number of people trained	13,511

Workshop:

9 Training of Teachers (TOT) workshops were conducted for market women and teachers on how to address human trafficking and sexual abuse. Also, participants were taught how to respond to disclosure in schools and communities. They were told to call the National Hotline 2883, if they feel unsafe or see any abuse in their communities. These trainings were conducted in Peace Island, Caldwell Bridge, New Kru Town, Point 4, Clara Town, Vai Town, Railay Town and Varney Gowah Town. This was the very first time the flipchart training was conducted in these communities.

There was no training conducted for the Liberian National Police.

The Hotline Number:

The flipchart teaches about the hotline number children or adults can call to disclose trafficking cases or threats and/or abusive situations to connect children with appropriate resources. This is being funded by Orphan Relief and Rescue.

Radio awareness jingles are being aired about trafficking of persons and sexual abuse to bring awareness to the public about what signs to look for. The jingles also promote the hotline number (**2883**). These jingles were aired at least **470** times during the project. The radio station used for the jingles was ELWA radio. The total number of airings was more than recorded because the jingles were aired more than the number of times agreed upon.

The following materials were printed during the reporting period: 150 stickers, 10 T-shirts, and 5 flipcharts. The number used for the hotline was placed on all the printed materials. These materials were distributed to staff and taskforce members from various ministries. The stickers were given to be displayed on motor vehicles, motorcycles, and tricycles.

Hotline Operation:

During the period of December 2021-June 2022, World Hope International and the National Anti-Trafficking Secretariat of the Ministry of Labor, funded by Orphan Relief and Rescue, continued operation of the National Trafficking and Abuse Hotline. A total of **2,178** calls were received by the hotline. Out of this number, **1,819** were conversational calls, while **359** were nonresponsive (no response when calls were answered or returned). Among the conversational calls, **3** was alleged trafficking. The cases received were referred to the National Police.

A breakdown of cases received is as follows:

No.	Hotline Operation Description	Amount	
1	Non-Responsive: Number of calls in which no conversation occurred	359	
2	Conversational: Number of calls in which conversation occurred	1,819	
	Kidnapping		
	Trafficking	3 (alleged)	
Total number of calls received December 2021 - June 2022			2,178

Greater Opportunity:

The Greater Opportunity Project provides education and trade school assistance for children from the partner orphanages of Frances Gaskins, Danny Feeney, Macdella Cooper, and the Rock of Divine. The children on this program who would not have access to further education unless we help them. They are given an opportunity to receive a quality education through the provision of tuition costs, school supplies, and monthly medical provisions.



From July to October 2022, Teah, Rosetta, and Mary (an additional ORR contract worker) are making sure all the children and young adults on our scholarship and trade school assistance program are enrolled in their various schools and have what they need to succeed in their studies.

Jr. and Sr. High School Assistance and Mentorship:

MacDella Boarding school was closed down in December 2019, so 7 children from this orphanage remain on our Greater Opportunity educational program. ORR provides school fees, school supplies, uniforms, and healthcare costs for these 7 qualified children. **4 children** are from Macdella Copper school, now in foster care, and **3 children** are from former ORR staff.

University and Trade School Assistance Program:

In 2022, 2 University students received provision for housing expenses, food, school supplies (including laptops and cell phones), tuition, testing fees, and healthcare. **These two young ladies, Janet and Jestina, graduated from nursing school in August of 2022.**

This is a picture of Janet and Jestine at their graduation.



In 2022, two of the girls, Naomi and Jogto, graduated from Cosmetology school this year.

God's Kids International Grant for Benin and Liberia

This year we were given a significant grant by God's Kids International to do various projects that they had in their designated funds account. This grant included funds to be allocated to food, education, agriculture and construction. This gift benefited numerous children and families.

Disaster Relief Funds:

Because of the 2021 drought in Benin, we fed an additional 130 children whose parents lost their entire crops. This fund was used to feed 105 of the 103 children.

Liberia Special Projects Category:

Total funds are being used for a Liberia school building project. They want to build three classrooms for the school building.

Originally, I thought they had started this school building and these funds would be used to add on to the school. But, I found out they had not dug a foundation and were using a makeshift school. The grant covered a cement foundation and walls for the school. We were hoping to be able to finish three classrooms, but increased building costs in the country made it impossible to do this. To complete at least one full classroom (casting the roof and floor) it cost more than the grant's allotted amount. Therefore, ORR will add money, so they can at least have one completed classroom for now.

I told them to put in a normal wood and zinc roof, but the director of the home wanted to build the classrooms in hopes to make it a two-story building in the future. She sent me a picture of what she is working towards. The hope was to have at least have three classrooms completed, but we are going to have to settle with just one completed classroom and two partially completed classrooms.

Here is a picture of the foundation being laid for the school and the beginning of the walls.



This is what the building looks like today. The metal roof you see in the below picture is the neighbors building. These classrooms will have a flat roof, so they can build a second story in the future.



This picture is of the inside of one of the future classrooms, which still needs a roof and floor cast.



The director sent me this yellow building of another school in Monrovia that she wants to model their school building after. This picture is future goal image, not the current project.



Agriculture Projects:

One portion of the designated funds for Agriculture Projects was sent a children's home in Liberia to build up their farm. They know how to farm, but had allowed the farm get overgrown because of lack of help. They hired people to help them get their farm cleared, planted, and harvested. Because of these funds, they have utilized five acres to plant and harvest: okra, cabbage, corn, watermelon, eggplant, bitter boil, plantain, banana, pineapple and peanuts.

Here are pictures of the farm:





The second portion of these agriculture funds was spent in Benin to purchase three lots to add to our one existing lot. We started building a community center, catfish farm, and piggery.

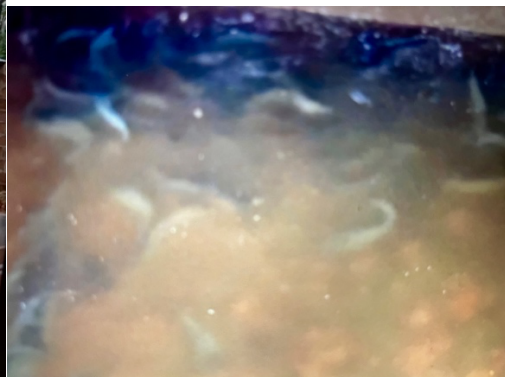
The property will be used for an agricultural training program in one of ORR's anti-trafficking villages. We will be planting a very large garden, but the community center needed to come first. God's Kids International funds paid for a portion of the community center, and ORR will fund the remaining cost.

Training the locals is happening on a small scale. Once the community center is built, a full-time trainer will be hired and the agriculture gardening project will begin with the remaining funds. This should take place over the next couple of months.

Picture of the community center in Benin:



Here are pictures of the pig and fish farm. We thought they would raise tilapia, but our Benin staff decided to raise catfish instead. Below are the huge fish tanks built in the ground. The one with the grass mat over it has about 100 catfish in it already. They continue to multiply. The picture on the right is looking inside the fish tank.



For the Piggery, there is 1 male and 1 female producing babies. There have been 3 litters already this year. With a total of 24 piglets.



General Liberia Category:

2 months of Break the Silence funds covered expenses from December 2021 to January 2022. The grant's "General Liberia Category" funded Break the Silence from February 2022 and part of March 2022.



Consumable Food Category:

One portion was given to the children's home in Liberia for a partial feeding program for children from October 2021 to February 2022. The Director was given another six months of partial feeding program money in March 2022.

Another portion was used to feed 25 children in Benin from October 2021 to October 2022. It takes .50 cents each day to feed each child. We took on 130 new children into our school and feeding program this year because their parents lost all their crops during the 2021 drought. Because the parents were not able to feed the children, they were at the highest risk to be sold.

Fun and Games:

In 2021, this was all used for Christmas celebrations in Liberia and Benin.

Liberian Education Project:

This amount supports 34 children from the children's home in Liberia. They have 26 children in primary school on campus and 8 children in Jr. High and Highschool off campus.

Liberia Orphanage Kitchen:

This will be used for Liberia's children's home kitchen roof and other much needed repairs to make a fully functioning kitchen. They put a new roof on the kitchen. They are under construction to redo the kitchen inside, which was basically just a shelter for cooking on a coal fire. They are making a brick stove and tiling a countertop for preparing food in a sanitary way.

Here is the picture of the new roof. Stay tuned for more pictures of the redone kitchen:



Liberian Missionary Fund: This was given to a pastor who is one of the most trusted pastors we have worked with in Liberia.

Orphanage Educational Project: This covered the tuition of one high school girl at the children's home.

Back Packs for Liberia: funded six backpacks

Bunk Bed Fund: funded one bunkbed for children's home.

