

# World Faith

FIELD REPORT 2019

## ABUJA YOUPEDA FARMING INITIATIVE

For many women, economic dependence limits not only their capacity to provide for their family but also their ability to escape abusive spouses or become financially viable alone. As such, **World Faith Abuja YOUPEDA launched Women Savings, Credit and Cooperatives and Farming Empowerment** in an effort to empower local women through agricultural entrepreneurship. YOUPEDA signed a two-year lease of a 4000m<sup>2</sup> space in Ara Town with approval from community leaders and elders.

A selected and trained group of **25 marginalized women**, including widows and those facing spousal abandonment, **were trained with relevant skills** to carry out different aspects of this cooperative farming project. The women also reflected the diversity of Nigerian, representing different tribes, religious communities, and states of origin.

## PROGRAM STATS

### Education of Women

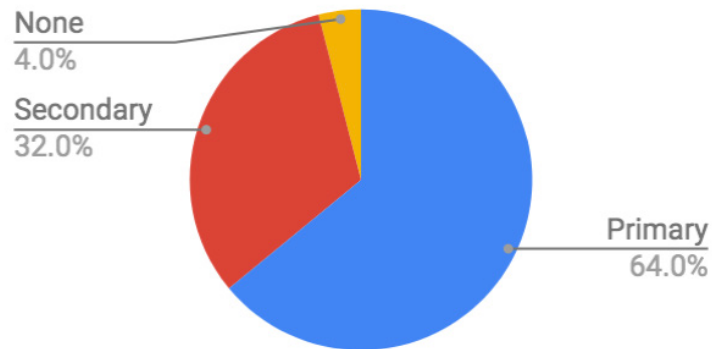


Figure 1. Highest level of education participants completed

### Women's Religious Identity

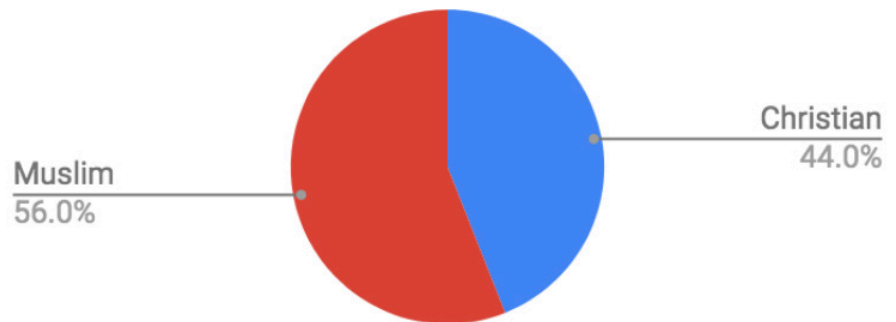


Figure 2. Percentage break-down of religious backgrounds

## Statistics of Participants

25

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

84

PERCENT MARRIED

3.1

AVERAGE CHILDREN PER MOTHER

33.5

AVERAGE AGE

92

PERCENT WITH CHILDREN

# Statistics of Participants

**THE AVERAGE RISE IN SALARY** for women who participated in the 2018/2019 Abuja program was **297%**. In addition to this, **46%** of women went from stating that they could not provide for their family before the program, to **66%** sharing they could after. After the completion of the program, **96%** shared that they were confident this program positively affected their economic status (though this qualifies as a leading question).

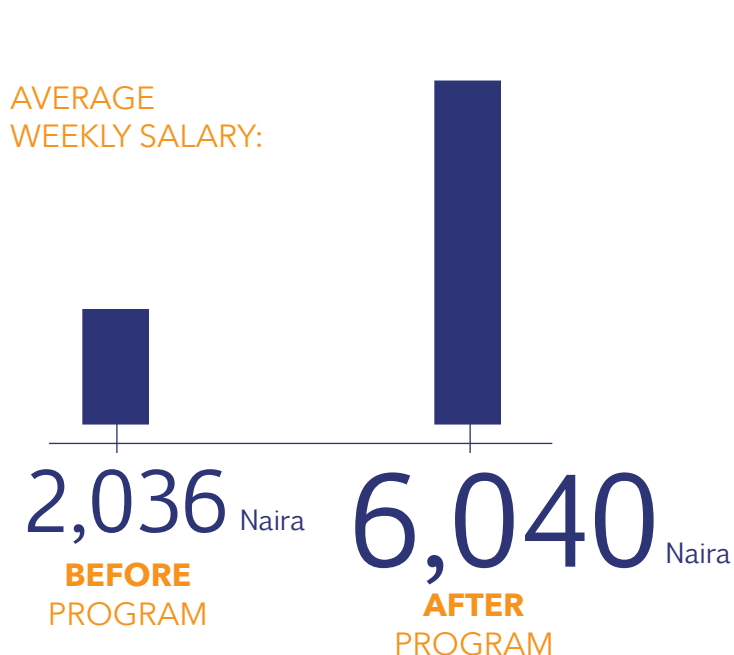
While the average salary before was about **42%** of the \$1.90/day threshold for abject

poverty in Nigeria, and after rose to **125%** after, the poverty threshold assumes per person.

Given that **92%** of the participants were mothers (averaging three children each), even the post-program income would constitute poverty conditions for the majority of participants. However, as a sign of increasing discretionary spending, we saw the portion of mothers in the program able to pay their children's school fees increase from **26%** to **91%**.

## Economic Improvement

### QUANTIFIABLE AND MEASURABLE ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS IN SALARY



**AFTER PROGRAM**  
**297%**

THE **RISE** IN AVERAGE **SALARY**

**88%**

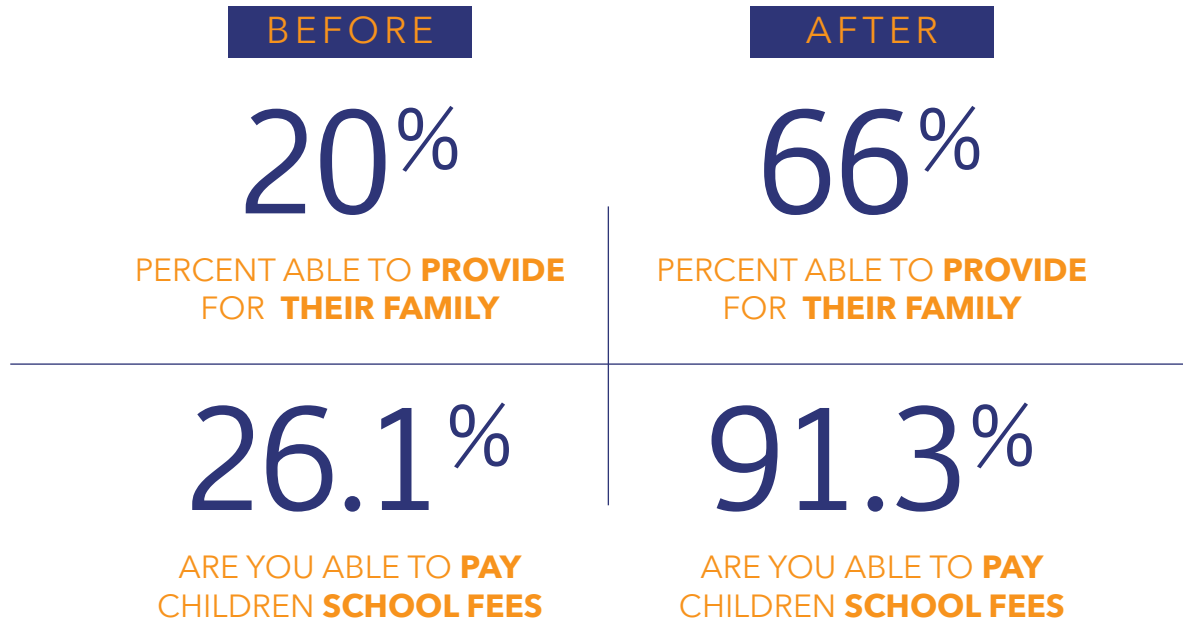
WHO SAW AN **INCREASE**

**96%**

THIS PROJECT HAS **AFFECTED** MY ENTIRE ECONOMIC STATUS AND **INCOME LEVEL**

# Economic Improvement

CHANGE IN THEIR ABILITY TO  
MEET INCOME EXPECTATIONS



## Peacebuilding Progress

This program was intentionally diverse among religious tradition so that we could explore changes of religious prejudice among participants as a result of participating in the program. Using a before and after surveys that posed questions which were scaled from disagree to agree (Likert Scale), there were a couple of questions targeting this goal:

**"ARE YOU AFRAID OF PEOPLE FROM OTHER RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS?"**

**Before** the project, **36%** of participants agreed with this sentiment to some degree (2-5) but **after** only **4%** concurred. This follows the general trend we've found with similar World Faith programs; with positive collaboration with those of different religious identities, prejudice and fear reduces.

**"I FEEL COMFORTABLE DOING BUSINESS WITH PEOPLE OF MY FAITH MORE THAN OTHERS FROM DIFFERENT FAITHS."**

**Before** this program, **100%** of women agreed with this statement in some fashion (2-5 on Likert scale) and only **after 40%** did. This change is relatively consistent with the pattern established with the prior question. It humanizes and demystifies those that are different from them.

# Summary

**WE BELIEVE** the first phase of this program was both effective in its objective of economically empowering the participants, while contributing to a drop in prejudice between those of different religious communities. However, there are several concerns and opportunities for improvement, mapped out below:

- For those participants with children, the post-program income was still below the poverty threshold once you account for their dependents.
- This program won't truly be considered successful unless their incomes remain improved long-term, as well as the humanization outcomes. We intend on conducting longitudinal data collection later this year.
- Some of the survey questions were pointed or leading. We've worked with our team to improve the framing of the questions.
- The answers were not anonymous, nor gathered by a third party, so there is high opportunity for the sociability effect and similar challenges faced in surveying participants.
- There is no control group, so while we believe the improvements are causally related to the program intervention, we cannot definitively affirm that to be true.

## Next Steps

**THIS PROGRAM** is currently undergoing a second phase of the pilot with a new cohort, incorporating feedback and insight from the first round. Similarly, we intend to gather the follow-up data from the first cohort in the coming months. In the final report, we intend to review all the results, and compare the outcomes to similar interventions, with a particular eye for whether agriculture is the most effective form of women's economic empowerment.