

Our Achievements and Performance

Following the official registration of Every Village Matters in Nigeria on 22nd June 2022, we commenced our first project activity in September with a visit to Holy Rosary Model School in Amaimo, a rural community in Imo State, South-East Nigeria. Our team, comprising a member of the Board of Trustees and three volunteers, including a member of the Amaimo community, was received by the school heads, some teachers, and the Reverend Minister of St Columbus Catholic Parish, Amaimo, who supervises the school.

The visit

This was the second by the charity to enable us to update ourselves on the information we previously held about the immediate needs of the school. During our first visit before the charity was registered, the school had requested help with the completion of a new school building to accommodate the primary school classrooms, some staff rooms and other school facilities, including a library. Fortunately, in the space of time between the two visits, with the help of the church and donations by a few community members, the building was done up to the roofing level. However, the classrooms remained unfurnished and undecorated, except for a few make-shift pew benches being used by the children. The school's priority had changed, and we agreed with the management that our intervention should focus on the projects outlined below.



Classroom Decoration: We undertook a project to paint, tile and partition the primary classrooms into sizable rooms to accommodate a manageable number of 30 pupils per room. The classrooms were transformed into bright and colourful spaces that we hoped would inspire the young people to learn and, in addition, attract more children to school. We decorated six classrooms in all.



Provision of Classroom Furniture: The charity also procured classroom equipment, including pupils' desks, teachers' tables and chairs, bookshelves and whiteboards. The makeshift church pews formerly used by the children were replaced by well-built pupils' desks constructed with due consideration for the age and size of the children. We bought some modern whiteboards that replaced the charcoal blackboards that were in use previously. In addition, we provided wall clocks and maps to light up the rooms and make the learning environment more engaging and attractive to the children.



Donation of stationery items: We donated exercise books and ballpoint pens to over 200 primary school pupils, and students of the secondary section to which the primary school acts as a feeder school. Other stationery provided includes whiteboard markers and dusters, while some scribble pads, books and water bottles were donated to 60 children from the nursery classes. It was thrilling to see the joy and excitement on the faces of the young people as they received these gifts from the charity.



"The children are so excited and happy to see their newly decorated classrooms. We aim for the best standards for them, like the one I experienced at the seminary school in Okpala where I attended school as a child..."

Rev Father Joe Enyiaka
Parish Priest at St Columbus Catholic Parish, Amaimo

Moving Onwards

Playground and Library Construction: While the classroom decoration and equipment project was ongoing, we were already perfecting plans to construct a youth library and playground to serve Holy Rosary Model School and hundreds of other young people in Amaimo and surrounding communities. We secured a massive piece of land close to the school and an empty hall on the second floor of the newly completed school building donated by St Columbus Catholic Parish to construct the youth infrastructure. We also conducted a price survey which enabled us to produce a budget for the project, expected to cost just over £20,360, for direct costs only. We anticipate the two facilities will help attract many out-of-school young people back to school, improve their learning, and provide them with appropriate tools and equipment to play safely in a fun and exciting environment.



“The primary school has about 102 pupils... If we have the infrastructure we need, the population can increase up to about 150 - 250 pupils...”

**Mrs Theresa Madu
School Head**

Scholarship Scheme

Sponsor a child: We are developing a scholarship programme entitled “Sponsor a Child” to assist children from the most deprived homes with school fees, uniforms and books. Our investigations show that it costs only NGN13,500, about £26, to pay for tuition fees and a set of school uniforms for a child in Holy Rosary Primary School during a school year.

Skills Training

Youth Skills Training Scheme: We developed an apprenticeship scheme to encourage young people not keen to go to school to venture into vocational training. Indigenous tradespeople from the Amaimo community who were already providing painting, carpentry and tiling services for our classroom project were engaged to train young people for up to one year to learn a skill or skills that will enable them to start a trade or business and to provide for themselves and their families as well as train others.



During the year, we contracted a tiler to train one young person for up to one year, after which Every Village Matters will assist the trainee in starting a tiling business. The charity has paid all the training costs, and we currently pay a monthly stipend to the trainee. For the coming year, we hope to provide training for two more young people in at least one other vocation.

Volunteers: Most of our activities have been carried out with the support of a few dedicated volunteers. Aside from our Nigerian-based members of the Trustee Board that have assisted with market surveys, procurement, and direct engagement with our beneficiaries and the tradespeople working on our projects, we also greatly benefited from the support of five volunteers who we engaged for volunteering on an ad-hoc basis. In addition to assisting our trustees with the activities outlined above, they also helped with planning and undertaking our visits to the community, arranging for transportation, conveying procurements to the village and supervising our project work to ensure that we meet expected standards.

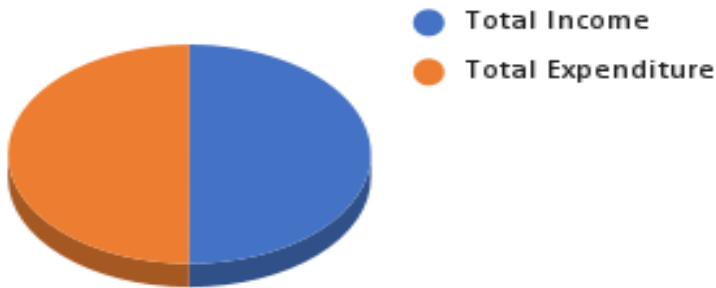


Our Finances

Income: We received all our income from individual giving or personal donations by our supporters which was spent almost 100% on our project activities with a small balance at the end of the accounting period.

Expenditure: A large chunk, exactly 88% of our funds, was spent on project costs, while 12% was split between bank charges, publicity, and volunteer expenses. We spent very little on volunteer expenses as our volunteers gave their time generously and the little expenditure incurred was on volunteers lunch.

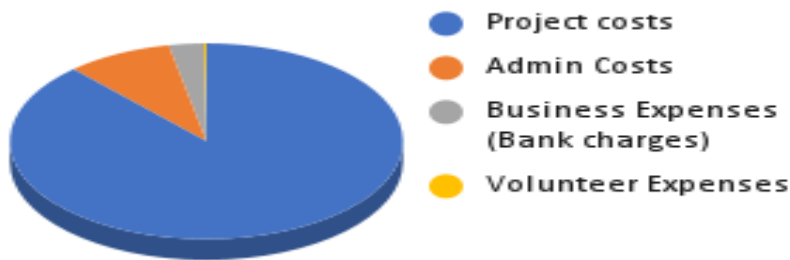
Income to Expenditure 2022



- Total Income **₦2,498,602.33 (£4,506)**
- Total Expenditure **₦2,497,601.17 (£4,504)**
- Surplus **₦1,001.16 (£2)**

***All income were 100% from Individual gifts/donations**

Itemised expenditure 2022



- Project costs **₦2,202,250.00 (£3,971.67)**
- Admin Costs **₦218,352.70 (£393.79)**
- Business Expenses (Bank charges) **₦71,498.47 (£128.94)**
- Volunteer Expenses **₦ 5,500.00 (£9.91)**

Our Plans for the future

We have set out with great expectations on this exciting journey. Although amidst several challenges, chief of which is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic plus the global economic recession, it continues to be clear to us what needs doing. However, we proceed cautiously, and by regularly adjusting our plans and strategies to accommodate or mitigate the challenges and corresponding uncertainties we meet, we aim for better success in the future.

In the past year, we have had to operate within limited means. Nevertheless, we have bigger plans for the coming year to attract more support and achieve better outcomes for our beneficiaries. We foresee the expansion of our operational and human resource capacities for a more strategic approach to our fundraising, project management and execution.

We, therefore, aim to restructure the organisation to establish a workforce and management team that will help run our daily activities, including project administration, coordination, monitoring and

evaluation, and to take the organisation to the next level. For this, we will seek to form more partnerships and develop new relationships while counting on the continued support of our donors and team of volunteers and trustees, even as we heartily express our gratitude for the support we have already received.



Niki Fredrick
Chairperson

