

Education and Health Ebonyi State, Nigeria „GIVE CHILDREN A FUTURE“



Nigeria is a complex country: a country in West Africa on the Gulf of Guinea with a population of 200 million today and a predicted doubling by the year 2050.

A country **with large oil reserves and yet great poverty. A country of great cultural diversity:** numerous religions are practiced and over 500 different languages and idioms are spoken.

Boko Haram's terror activities and various riots are causing Nigeria not to rest and — Nigeria is known for corruption.

But Nigeria is also known for its friendly and open-minded people. **Poverty and the increasing number of inhabitants pose great challenges, especially for the future of the children.**



The HUMAN Foundation has entered into two partnerships in Ebonyi State: with "Better Place Africa" and with the "Mountain of Light Church".

We currently have various focal points: Renovation and modernization of a large school with water supply, sanitary facilities, school canteen. Construction and operation of a water bottling plant with pure drinking water. Medical and family emergency aid and care for poor people.

We are in Abakaliki, but primarily active in Amuro/Mgbom. Amuro/Mgbom is located on a hilltop in the Itim Autonomous Municipality in the Afikpo North Region of south-eastern Nigeria. More than 150,000 people live in the region, who are mainly farmers, fishermen and hunters.

The average life expectancy of people is between 55 and 60 years due to poor medical facilities and a lack of clean drinking water.

In recent years there has been no electricity supply and very few people can afford electricity.



Although the state of Ebonyi has some mineral resources such as limestone, zinc, marble and salt, it is heavily influenced by agriculture and fishing. **The average income of many people is less than 2 euros/day.** The central government seems to have forgotten this part of the country, with people in rural areas in particular receiving almost no financial support.

PROJECT: SCHOOL

The school is located between the villages of Amuro and Mgbom. That is why it is called “**Amuro/ Mgbom Community Primary and Secondary School**”. **Around 1,700 children from different villages attend the school. The school complex consists of ten buildings.**



The primary school was founded in 1953, the secondary school in 1997 as a spin-off from the primary school. More school buildings have been built over the years, but there is no money for the maintenance of the buildings and classrooms. The government does not provide any money because there are countless very poor educational institutions throughout the country. At the beginning of our project in 2021, the situation was as follows:

The school buildings were in a very bad condition. There were very only limited opportunities for an adequate education in the school complex.

The ceilings of the classrooms were badly damaged and cannot keep out the sun's heat waves. **The classrooms are very hot, unbearable for the students.** Some of the classrooms are roofless and the walls are falling apart. **None of that existed: toilets, water supply, specialist rooms, power supply, computers and, of course, no internet access.**



Sometimes 300 students are accommodated in up to 4 classes in one large room. Regulated lessons are therefore not possible.

A total of **80 teachers and assistants** are employed in the two schools. Students are aged 2-12 years (kindergarten and primary school) and 12-18 years in secondary school.

The school kitchen was only equipped with the most necessary utensils and in many cases there was also a lack of teaching materials. **All children come from families that are mini-traders or try to sell any goods on the street.**

More than 95% of the families live on a monthly income of around €40 or below. Higher income families send their children to private schools.



How do we support?

Like all Human Foundation projects, this initiative is also geared towards the long term over many years. In our master plan 2020-2027 we have planned the following steps:

- **Construction of a well** to ensure development of a water supply.
- **Immediate sanitation of the U-Block**, one of the dilapidated school buildings
- **Construction of toilets** for both schools
- **Renovate and modernize** further school buildings with vocational training facilities.
- Equipped with **targeted teaching materials**, such as computers.
- **Shipment** of important and specific goods.
- Improved equipment for the **school kitchen** and **construction of a canteen.**

Water Supply

The first minor construction project that was completed in **February 2021** was the construction of a water supply.

A well more than 100 meters deep was drilled

and a 4,000 liter water tank was installed.

The pump is driven by a generator. **10 water taps are connected on the school premises.** A great step forward for the school and a great joy for the children and teachers.



Renovation U-Block

The total area of the 10 school buildings is approximately 2,200 m².

A large building, **the so-called U-Block with 355 m² was particularly badly damaged** and had only been used to a limited extent for many years. The following measures had to be carried out for the renovation:

We had to **replace the whole roof, put in ceiling panels** to reduce the heat, **repair walls, put in partitions, tile the floor, install windows and doors**, and build a covered walkway in the building's courtyard.

Renovation cost: 42.000 Euro.

Work done: July 2021 - May 2022



On May 28, 2022, the renovation of the U block of the Amuro/Mgbom school was completed and handed over to the school management in a ceremonial opening.

The renovation of the U-Block **has given the school eight additional classrooms, most of which were not usable before the renovation.**

This relieves the other buildings and the partly oversized occupancy of the other classrooms. The school children are very happy.



Since the completion, donated tables and chairs as well as blackboards, which were delivered by container from Germany, can also be used in the classrooms. What has been discarded in our schools is regarded as high-quality school equipment at this school.

Thus, the first big step has been taken on the way to the renovation of the large school complex.

Toilet Facilities

The lack of toilets was particularly dramatic. This was a great challenge for all students and teachers.

At the end of the 1950s, when the school had 70 children, there was a very minimalist toilet. However, there was no money to maintain the building permanently. This facility has therefore not been used for many years.



Immediately after completing the U-Block, we started building two toilet blocks. One sanitary facility each for the primary and secondary school

with the same modern and hygienic equipment such as flushing water via tanks and concrete septic tanks with pipe connections from the toilets.



Each facility has separate toilets for teachers, boys and girls. A total of 20 toilets are available with washing facilities. This is still little for a total of 1,700 school children and 80 teachers, but the school management and the children are very happy.

Construction cost: 30.000 Euro.

Work done: July 2022 - January 2023

Construction of a Canteen

Many of the 1,700 school children at the Amuro/ Mgbom school come from poor families. For children who also have lessons in the afternoon, a small lunch is prepared privately in the family and sold at school.

Children who can afford it pay 250 naira (about 50 cents) for a simple meal without meat. So far, food has always been eaten outdoors. With the construction of the school canteen, the students have now the opportunity to eat while sitting.

Around 200 school children are currently getting lunch. Some children are provided with lunch through sponsorships - also through donations to the HUMAN Foundation. Whether we will increasingly support feeding at school in the future still needs to be discussed.



With the handover of the school canteen in January 2023, the first large and very important renovation and construction phase came to an end after two years of construction. With what measures and when we will continue the renovation of the school complex is still open. But we have already achieved a lot in a short time.

Construction cost canteen: 14.000 Euro.

Work done: September 2022 - January 2023



PROJECT: EMERGENCY AID

The emergency aid project has two main focuses:

- **medical aid** and
- Support of (very) **needy people**

Medical emergency aid is about helping children or adults in individual cases who are in acute need and usually die without medical care or experience great suffering in the long term.

This can be tumors in children, kidney diseases, severe burns, accidents, etc. A targeted attempt is made to help and each individual case is financed individually. A very emotional and stressful task.



Until today, several cases have been successfully treated. The treatment costs range from a few to several hundred euros. In individual cases, special treatments abroad can also be financed, but need more time.

Unfortunately we were facing deaths, children could no longer be saved despite surgeries.

The second aspect of emergency aid, **support for people who are in great need**, has various facets. It can be about smaller housing projects, help for disabled people or smaller business start-ups. This is checked and decided on a case-by-case basis, and the measure is implemented immediately.

Relief Supply

It is not our primary goal to deliver goods to Nigeria, but it makes sense to send certain material in a container. So far, 1,500 school bags, computers, kitchen utensils, school supplies, sporting goods and toys, tools and clothing have been sent to the school and needy families.

What is often worthless to us helps people in Nigeria in their daily needs and brings great joy to the people. But it has to be a reasonable cost/benefit ratio.



PROJECT: DRINKING WATER

„**puRE water for life**“ is our major water project in Afikpo municipality, which will go into operation in 2023.

We drilled a well 80 meters deep. The water is pumped up with a solar pump operated by a photovoltaic system.

We build a hall and install two bottling plants with filter systems. Around 20,000 liters of pure water are produced daily. The bottling plants are supplied with electricity via a large photovoltaic system, so that the entire production is energy self-sufficient.



Of the 6 million liters of drinking water produced annually, 50% are given to poor families free of charge and 50% are sold to mini traders at a fair price to cover our annual operating costs. We employ more than 15 people in total and will provide both environmental and health advice.

As a result of the work on site, health problems in children as well as adults due to contaminated water were observed more and more frequently.

Many people do not have access to clean drinking water. They cannot afford to buy water.

For this reason, they collect drinking water from the roof, fetch the water from public wells or distant streams or ponds. The water has a high heavy metal load, especially in the upper layers.



Even the water from the public wells is contaminated. The human impact is fatal. Typhoid and kidney disease are the most common causes of contaminated water. These diseases require visits to the hospital or doctor, which very few people can afford.

If poverty and poor nutrition are added to the water problem, the future prospects for children are very poor.

For a family of six, you calculate a water requirement of 20 liters per day or 7,300 liters per year. Since people in Nigeria do not drink as much fluids, this amount is enough to cover both hydration needs and daily personal hygiene. With this we can supply 5,000 people with pure drinking water.

For comparison: A family of five in Germany uses 635 liters of water a day or 231,775 liters of precious drinking water a year, i.e. more than 30 times as much.



Even if we can “only” supply 5,000 people with pure drinking water in a first step, that will make a significant difference.

The year 2023 serves to optimize ongoing operations and to see how the water is received by people in connection with health and environmental advice. Then we will decide next steps.



What is next in Nigeria?

After the start of the project in July 2020, the activities in the following years were very intensive. The renovation of the school and all other building activities have cost a lot of energy and money. The year 2023 is marked by the completion of the water project and the continuation of the emergency aid projects. We want to further renovate the school and there is also the idea of building a school for the blind.

What can we enable?

Knowledge is power and education is the key to success. With a better infrastructure for education and vocational training, we create completely new perspectives and opportunities for many children to be successful in the job market.

Many people in Ebonyi State live without any support. We cannot secure their income, but we can help them **to improve their living situation step by step**, especially for children. And we can give them a little relief in their greatest need.

Working in Nigeria is not easy. As in our other project countries, there are always hurdles that have to be overcome. At the beginning you will be viewed skeptically about what you are doing, but the skepticism quickly turns into gratitude.

Life will be better for many people and will help stop unnecessary migration. If people feel comfortable at home, they don't have to risk drowning in the sea because they are looking for a happier life elsewhere.



Many thanks to our donors. Our success is your success!

Edith und Karlheinz Neumann gründeten 2014 die gemeinnützige HUMAN-Stiftung, zur Unterstützung armer und hilfsbedürftiger Menschen, speziell Kinder.
 ‚GIB KINDERN EINE ZUKUNFT‘ ist unsere Vision.
100% der Spenden fließen in die Projekte.
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Melanie Facius ist Mitglied des Vorstands der HUMAN-Stiftung und lebt in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. Sie ist die Verbindung zwischen den Organisationen und fast täglich „auf der Straße“ bei den bedürftigen Menschen. Mit ihrem Mann **Divine** leitet sie unsere lokale Partnerorganisation ‚Better Place Afrika‘.



Richard Awah ist Pfarrer der „Mountain of Light Church“ und unser zweiter lokaler Projektpartner. Mit Richard treiben wir primär die Bauprojekte der Amuro/Mgbom-Schule voran. Durch sein Amt hat er ebenfalls viele Kontakte in die Armutsfamilien.

