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■ **Women Empowerment Programme, Ibadan, Oyo State**

Women Empowerment Programme Ibadan, Oyo State

In February, Development Africa (DA) staff visited Ibadan and delivered a large amount of donated food supplies, second-hand clothes and shoes for women and children, schooling supplies, and household items. The items will be distributed during the HIV/AIDS support groups and workshops that are held every two months. Each support group has around 80–110 members, mainly women. In addition, a children's support group is held simultaneously



Human Interest Story:

Mrs. Ogeroju is a 44 year-old HIV-positive widow, who is a part of the DA Women Empowerment Programme in Ibadan, Oyo State. She has attended two shop-keeping workshops and was given sponsorship to rent her shop, buy a sewing machine and other



tailoring items. This shop has provided her with the means to keep her 3 older kids in boarding school after her husband passed away from AIDs and the income enables her to afford decent housing. She is the sole provider for her 5 children, and her goal is to stay healthy and work hard to provide a good education for her children, and help put them through college. Mrs. Ogeroju already had basic training in tailoring so in addition to the start-up costs for the shop, DA sponsored a refresher course to update her skills and train her in current fashion and preferred styles. Since she is on a main road in a densely populated area of Ibadan, she has also started selling car and motorbike spare parts and oil in addition to tailoring. This new endeavour is successful so far so she hopes to expand her products in a few months after she has saved enough capital for further stock.

with attendance of up to 200 children. At each support group, the women who are members of the Development Africa 'Women Empowerment' scheme attend a thirty minute workshop, updating them and training them on basic shop-keeping management skills. In collaboration with Centre for Child Health and Education, a local NGO, we have developed a programme to provide women with HIV/AIDS with small shops so they can sell a variety of products or services (food provisions, hair dressing, catering, etc.) to generate a livelihood for themselves. DA provides the initial cost of setting up the business (rent, initial stock, etc.) and provides consistent educational training programmes and workshops on the development and management of their business. In addition to the donation of goods, the team visited five shops that had been sponsored in December 2015 to assess progress. The shops have already made a substantial impact on the women's lives through generating a sustainable income. The shop owners will continue to attend the workshops and be monitored throughout the year to make sure the shops are operating effectively.

**Faces blurred due to privacy regulations*



Human Interest Story:

Mrs Olalere married at a very young age and had her first child at 18 years old, with another 4 children over the years. Tragedy hit her at the young age of 34, as her husband died of AIDS and she was then told by doctors that she was also HIV positive. She was recently referred to CCHE, DA's Ibadan partner, and when she showed up for her first support group, she was very sick, depressed and struggling to feed herself and her five children. Once she started to feel better and had attended our workshops, she received sponsorship from DA to open her own hair salon in December 2015. We visited her in February and she has gained a new lease on life and is putting her energy into making her salon a success. She is so thankful for all the help and support she has received and wants to thank everyone for their part in helping her and her children.

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