

Beyond SLDI to Daily Experience

My name is Sr Veronica Nnaye Nkom, Our Lady of Fatima Sisters Congregation, of Jos. I participated in the SLDI Programme, Admin Track from August 2016- September, 2018. I am currently serving in the Diocese of Yola in Adamawa State, Northeastern part of Nigeria.

I reported to my new community and apostolate on 26th October, 2019. The school is located within the premises of the Cathedral Church of St Theresa in the Catholic Diocese of Yola, in Adamawa State.

The experiences I gathered during the programme have helped me to be a better person and in carrying out my Administrative duties. I have grown in my relationship with different categories of people. I have been more empowered to have better working relationship with those to whom I am sent and those I serve.

St Theresa Church compound was until 11th April, 2021 home to the Internally Displaced Persons from the State, who had been within for about Nine (9) years since the insurgency that is still ravaging parts of the state and beyond. Although the church and many NGOs often visited and supplied the basic necessities, they still had some needs. Needs could be so overwhelming especially when one has been stripped of one's entire belongings.

We have to pass daily through the compound where the IDPs stayed to the school where I work and therefore interact with some of them as we passed to our place of apostolate. Before long, I noticed that some of the families on our way and the boys' rooms had need for more mattresses and they had no blankets. With the knowledge and empowerment gained from my training through the Sisters Leadership Development Initiative, I learned to play the advocacy role. I appealed to my Secondary School mates on our set WhatsApp platform. The appeal moved my

classmates to reach out to the IDPs with Twenty (20) 14 Inches mattresses, Twenty (20) pillows, and Forty (40) Blankets. These were presented to them, having informed the JDPC Coordinator of the Diocese, who instructed that I present the items to the people myself after speaking to them and explaining how I came about the gifts. They were happy and sent their gratitude to the group through me. I am grateful to ASEC/SLDI for helping me to have the courage to seek for help for people who are indigent.

I have used my experience to cultivate also a better working relationship with all the stakeholders in my work place and wherever I am sent to work since after graduation in 2018. The training has sharpened my initiative and where there are resources we try to put into practice what we have learned and we learn to improvise also. I have tried also to get the people with whom I work to use their initiative more and take more responsibility for the common good. Recently, we had a Career awareness Day in the school where the children displayed their different dreams. Some have the dream of becoming Doctors, Nurses, Lawyers, Accountants, and Military/Paramilitary personnel, Engineers, Rev Fathers, Rev Sisters, Pilots, Farmers and lots of other professions.

We just had the 20th Graduation of the School since its foundation about 27years ago!

I remain eternally grateful to ASEC/SLDI for the initiative to empower African Sisters to be more useful to themselves and the society through the trainings and Education for more empowerment.