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## YES Alum Led Women's Empowerment Project in Nigeria



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## YES Alum Led Women's Empowerment Project in Nigeria

For three months Emmanuel Kpochi (YES alumnus 2012-2013) led an empowerment project for local women in the rural Nyambee community of North Bank

"My hope for this project is that it makes a permanent impact on, if not on all, at least 50% of the participants. If the project goal, which is to create an income for these ladies, is successful, I would be most happy," said Kpochi. "It was fun, the smiles and the joy you get to see in these people."



The goal of the project was to develop women's entrepreneurship skills and aid them in gaining knowledge to significantly improve their lives, the lives of their communities. In many rural African villages, the women oversee making sure there is food to eat, often without any aid from the man of the house. The project which the women's entrepreneurship project took place survives mostly on subsistence farming.

The women were taught entrepreneurship through demonstrations led by members of the YES Alumni Association Nigeria. They were taught how to make soap and petroleum jelly with the goal of selling the products to earn financial resources to support their families and their children's schooling.



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YAAN member demonstrates to Women's Entrepreneurship Project participants how to make liquid soap

The project began in March and over the course of three months, participants were educated in three batches of 20 for a total of 60 participants. The emp was sponsored by the United States embassy through their mission grant program. This project was developed specifically as a grassroots program.

The project faced several challenges from differences in rural dialects, to participants differencing understandings of timeliness, to issues with transportati

areas. However, after the three-month project concluded, Kpochi said, "Even though there were challenges, it was amazing! The challenges made us more the project through."



PR Intern



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