

Primary/Secondary Schule Amuro / Mgbom, Nigeria

„GIVE CHILDREN A FUTURE“



HUMAN
STIFTUNG

in cooperation with

Holyrock, Mountain
of Light Church
Amuro/Mgbom, Ebony State



Some of the 1,700 students with donated school bags from Germany

When people hear news from Nigeria, it mostly deals with Boko Haram, violence, corruption, religious conflicts or, at most, economic news about oil. **Nigeria is one of the countries with the highest poverty rate - despite the large oil reserves.**

However, Nigeria is known for their very friendly, open-minded people. The country currently has more than 200 million inhabitants and is expecting further strong growth of the population. **Poverty and population growth also pose major challenges for the future, especially and as so often, for children.**



The partnership of the HUMAN Foundation in Nigeria is going to be formed with the „Mountain of Light Church“ and the local projects will be executed through this church facility.

The focus of our first project is the renovation of the primary and secondary school in Amuro/Mgbom with approx. 1,700 students.

First some information about the village and the region. Mgbom village is situated on a hilltop in the Itim autonomous community of Afikpo North Local Government Area, in the south eastern part of Nigeria. This region has a population of more than 150,000 people, most of them are peasant farmers, fishers, and hunters. The topography is rocky and it is surrounded by many little streams, flowing into a river that links the village to the Atlantic ocean.

The average life span of the people is between 55 and 60 years, because of poor medical facilities and lack of clean drinking water. There has been no supply of electricity for the past 7 years and very few people can afford power generating plants.



Though the land is blessed with some natural resources like granite stones, sand, timber and other untapped minerals, **the average income of many people is less than 2 dollar per day and the government seems to have forgotten this part of the country.** There are no recreational centers, no skill acquisition centers, no industries for possible employments. The only presence of the government is the local Government Headquarter and the Amuro/Mgbom Primary and Secondary school.

The Amuro/Mgbom School

The school is located between Amuro village and Mgbom. That is why it is called **Amuro /Mgbom Community Primary and Secondary School.** About **1,700 children from different villages** attend the school. Some are coming from very far distances and they need vehicles to convey them to school. **The school complex consists of 10 building blocks.**

The school is managed by the School principals Ms. Theresa Oriema Ese and Ms. Okpara Elizabeth Mgbo.



The **primary school was founded in 1953, the secondary school was established in 1997** as a spin-off from the primary school.

More school buildings have been built over the years, but there is no money to maintain the buildings and classrooms.

The government cannot provide money as there are countless very poor educational institutions across the country.

The school buildings are in very poor condition. There are very limited opportunities for adequate teaching in this partially damaged school complex.

There are no or badly dilapidated ceilings in the classrooms under the roofs to keep out the sun's heat waves. **The classrooms are usually very hot and unbearable for the students.** Some of the classrooms are roofless and the walls are falling apart.

There are no toilets, no water supply, no rooms for special teaching lessons, no power supply, no computers and of course no internet access.



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

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

The school kitchen is only equipped with the most essential utensils and in many cases there is also a lack of teaching materials.

The children all come from families that are small farmers or try to sell some kind of goods on the street.

Over 95% of families live on a monthly income of around € 40.

Families with higher incomes send their children to private schools.

How do we help?

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

- **Construction of a well** to ensure development of a water supply.
- **Refurbishment of a badly dilapidated school building.**
- Construction of **toilet houses** for both schools
- **Renovation and optimization** of the remaining school buildings.
- **Provision of a power supply**, if possible through solar energy.
- Equipped with suitable **teaching material.**
- **Delivery** of important relief supplies.
- Improved equipment of the **school kitchen.**

Water Supply



The first minor construction project, which was completed in **February 2021**, was the construction of a water supply. A well was drilled at a **depth of 100 meters** and a **4,000 liter water tank** was installed.

The pump is driven by a generator. **There are 10 water taps on the school premises.**

A great step forward for the school and a great joy for the children and teachers.



Building Refurbishment

The total area of the 10 school buildings is around 2,200 m². A large building, the so-called **U-Block with 355 m²**, is particularly badly dilapidated and has only been used to a limited extent for many years.

We have to **renew the roof, put in ceiling boards under the roof to reduce the heat, refurbish walls, put in partition walls, tile the floor, install windows and doors** and build a covered walkway in the inner courtyard of the building.

Cost calculation: €35.000
Planned period: 2021/2022

Sanitary Facility

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

At the end of the 1950s, when 70 children were being taught in the school, there was once a very rudimentary toilet installed. However, there was no money to maintain the building permanently. For this reason, this facility has not been able to be used for many years.

For this reason, this construction project should be carried out in parallel if possible - or if the funds are not available - immediately after the renovation of the U-block.

A toilet house with 10 separate toilets for boys and girls as well as teachers will be built for each school.

Cost calculation: €27.000
Planned period: 2021/2022



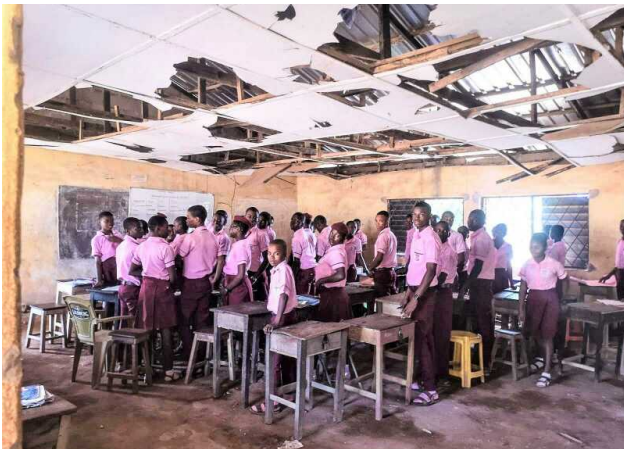
Renovation of the buildings

In addition to the U-block to be refurbished, all other buildings must be renovated. This usually requires the following construction work:

Installation of ceiling boards under the roof, repair and repaint walls, install doors and windows and tile the floors.

There is no detailed plan yet, **but roughly estimated costs of at least €100,000 will be required for this phase.**

Depending on the donation situation, the renovation will take 3-4 years, i.e. 2022-2026.



Relief Supply

It is not our primary goal to deliver goods to Nigeria, but it makes sense, especially at the beginning of our project, to send certain goods in a container. 1,200 school bags, several laptops, kitchen utensils, loads of school supplies, sporting goods and toys, tools and clothing have been already sent to the school in December 2020.

We will again load at least one container in 2021 to collect school utensils (desks, chairs, laptops, books, blackboards etc.), clothing, tools, but also wheelchairs and kitchen equipment. So we hope to improve the situation step by step. In the medium term, we need material for a solar system to cover power supply.

Edith und Karlheinz Neumann initiated HUMAN Foundation in order to support poor and needy people, in particular children.

„GIVE CHILDREN A FUTURE“ is our vision.

We allocate 100% of all donations to our projects

Bank Account: HUMAN-Stiftung,

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What can be achieved?

It is said that knowledge is power and education is the key to success. With better education, these children will be ready to compete in the labor market and can gain employment any where in the world.

There are many multinational firms all over Nigeria, but without the right education, their chances of gaining employment will be limited.

There are also many government institutions in which they will be able to work and help in the development of the country. With better education some of the students will become **entrepreneurs** and **create jobs for themselves and others.** Some might become mechanized farmers and help solve the problem of food shortage.

Their lives in future will definitely be better and this will help to stop unnecessary migration. If they are comfortable in their homes, they will not need to risk drowning in the sea, because of the search for a better life in Europe or America. The world will indeed be a better place as we give the children better education. With a conducive environment for studies **the children will be better equipped for their future.**



Melanie Facius is a board member of the HUMAN-Stiftung and lives in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. She is the Link between the organizations and will manage the project in Nigeria.

We are grateful for her compulsory work on site together with her husband Divine.



Richard Awah is pastor of the „Mountain of Light Church“ in the village of Mgbom and our local project partner. All financial transactions between Germany and Nigeria go through the church. He is closely linked to local authorities and the school.

