

The Chibok Project

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2021 ANNUAL REPORT

December 19, 2022

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Photo: ChaNorth Installation view, Angela Fremont guest artist, Pine Plains, NY, 2021

Greetings!

November 25, 2022 was **International Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls Day**. We honored this day by focusing on this newsletter to you, to celebrate the year end and your generosity.

It's thanks to you that The Chibok Project is on the cover of the MacDowell Colony's Annual Report for 2021 which came out last month. I'm excited that we will have even greater impact in the year ahead.

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CHIBOK PROJECT PARTNERS WITH NEEM FOUNDATION TO BRING ART THERAPY TO 200 SURVIVORS OF TRAUMA IN NIGERIA



After much research, assessment, and discussion with several foundations in Nigeria, The Chibok Project is announcing a partnership that will provide art making services for survivors of trauma in Borno State, Nigeria. This is the goal we have dreamed of securing since The Chibok Project got underway!

Our new partner, the Neem Foundation, has been at the forefront of providing art therapy to survivors of insurgency in various communities in the Northeast of Nigeria. Unfortunately, their extraordinary efforts have been limited by insufficient funding to care for the growing number of survivors who could benefit from art therapy. The Chibok Project, through your donations, is now providing urgently-needed resources for 200 currently unserved survivors of trauma! In the year ahead I hope together we can continue to strengthen the capacity of the Neem Foundation to do this important work.

WHY THE NEED IS SO GREAT AND ART MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Mental health challenges remain one of the most serious threats to the health, safety and wellbeing of men, women and children

affected by the decade-long insurgency in Nigeria's northeast region. Over the years, women and youth affected by the Boko Haram crisis have experienced serious abuses ranging from forced marriages, abductions, domestic violence, physical and psychological abuse, rape and sexual slavery, as well as forced participation in insurgency operations as suicide bombers.



For the past eleven years, this violent movement has resulted in the deaths of an estimated 50,000 people, as well as the internal displacement of more than 7.1 million people in the three most affected states – Borno, Adamawa and Yobe in the Northeast (Humanitarian Response Plan, UNOCHA 2019).



The Neem Foundation's therapeutic approach is to engage survivors in a range of art making experiences with a trained art therapist, in conjunction with psychological counseling sessions. The therapists work with the survivors individually and in supportive small group sessions, building trust and resilience as the survivors become more aware of the triggers of their traumatic experience. By actively creating art to express themselves, the survivors are able to process their painful memories and recover their own sense of self and value.



[Learn more about NEEM FOUNDATION](#)



HEAR FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEEM FOUNDATION

"To expand access to trauma care, Neem Foundation recently partnered with The Chibok

Project to provide art therapy to individuals affected by the insurgency in Borno state. The partnership aims to help beneficiaries work through their difficult (often-traumatic) experiences as part of the process of rebuilding themselves and improving their social and emotional well-being and resilience. Thank you for partnering with us to improve the psychological wellbeing of survivors through the provision of art therapy. "

Dr. Fatima Akilu

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The Chibok Project

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