

# January 2020 Report from Nigeria

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## **Mbatimin's Story: An Improved Life Through Goat Rearing**

Mbatimin Utomve's life took a tragic turn in 2012 when her husband was killed on their family farm in Nigeria by a group of armed men. After this tragedy, Mbatimin was left to care for their five children on her own with limited resources.

In 2017, Mbatimin was selected to participate in programming hosted by World Renew partner, Beacon of Hope Initiative (funded by African Widow and Orphan Support, or AWOS). She was able to receive training in goat husbandry, which includes the raising of goats for their various products: milk, meat, skin, etc.

After learning the basic principles of goat rearing, Mbatimin and other beneficiaries each received one goat from the program. Mbatimin cared diligently for her goat, bringing together her past experience with her new knowledge from the training.

Years later, Mbatimin's goat is still healthy and reproducing steadily. She has sold four of the offspring for a profit of 52,000 Nigerian Naira (about US \$144). With improved income, she has been able to buy fertilizer and improved seedlings, allowing her to increase the yield of her farm. She also creatively uses the animal dung as manure on her crop farm, further increasing her harvest. She says, "With profit from the sale of the goats, I am able to pay my children's school fees as well as take care of other basic family needs like healthcare, clothing, and payment of church dues."

Following her success, Mbatimin began voluntarily teaching others who want to raise goats for economic gain and as a source of meat for domestic use so that others can experience the success that she has. Mbatimin gives thanks to God for the support she has received and prays for blessings on everyone behind this success for her and her family.



## Prayer requests from David:

- Thank God for another opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the prince of peace.
- As a result of continued unabated killings and general state of insecurity in northern Nigeria, World Renew co-hosted a stakeholders' meeting of non-governmental organizations working for peace and development in the middle belt region of the country on Friday, August 30, 2019. Pray for wisdom and courage for those in appropriate positions in the country to join hands with peace-loving individuals and groups to bring to an end the lingering unfortunate insecurity in northern Nigeria.
- Pray for grace for the church and mission organizations serving in Nigeria not to be discouraged in serving as salt and light and peacemakers in the midst of difficult situations.
- Pray for provision of food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare needs of those in internally displaced camps in northern Nigeria.

### **Wendy Hammond**

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