

DIAKONIA AFRICA-EUROPE REGION EXECUTIVE MEETING

GROUP 7 REPORTS

NATIONAL DEACONESS ASSOCIATION OF ECLK KENYA

The Sisters in Kenya are doing fine and most of them are working in their own congregations and are involved in:

Coordinating the Youth work

Sunday school teachers' trainings

Women's Work

Reaching out to the vulnerable

Organising seminars and trainings.

Challenges

The Deaconesses are assigned in Parishes which has not less than eight congregations but due to lack of transport they are mostly able to attend to the home Church.

EMMNAUEL SISTERHOOD BAFUT CAMEROON

Emmanuel sisterhood is the lone religious Community of the PCC and prayer remains the heartbeat and rhythm of the life of the Sisterhood. They pray for the church, Church leaders and secular organizations through the seven monastic liturgical hours and personal devotions.

ACTIVITIES

To sustain them and to provide their daily bread the Sisters produce liturgical vestments for the Pastors in the Church, they produce and sell bread to the Bafut Community through their bakery. They also produce communion elements.

The Sisters provides accommodation for group and individual retreats and they also rear cattle.

The Sisterhood has a center for girls and children with special needs and Orphans and the center is waxing stronger. There are twenty five persons living with disabilities and ten orphans at the center presently. The center is supported by the Circle of Friends of Emmanuel Sisterhood in Switzerland.

Three Sisters were consecrated and there was election of a new Prioress.

CHALLENGES

Cameroon has been going through sociopolitical turmoil since November 2016 and this has affected the people resulting in untold hardship and loss of properties and there is still much uncertainty in the air.

ORDER OF DEACONESES METHODIST CHURCH NIGERIA

The Deaconesses were involved in welcoming women and ladies that were repatriated home due to human trafficking. At the Home of Peace Center, the Sisters are involved in empowerment programmes to assist the returnees and to integrate them back to the Society.

A group of Deaconesses have established Crèches and Play Centers for children in five local churches. This has helped working women who have challenges of where to keep their babies during working hours.

Sisters in the group have also been visiting primary schools within their Dioceses to lecture both boys and girls about domestic violence, child abuse and molestations. The young ones are taught each week on how to identify signs of child abuse or molestation and are encouraged to speak out.

The Biennial Conference of the Deaconess Order will take place in July 2018 and will visit the internally displaced persons camp.

CHALLENGES

The challenge before the entire Country is the issue of security and this has also affected some of our Churches and in effect has stalled some of the activities that would have taken place.

The challenges within the Church remain also with some of the Bishops not supporting the activities of the Deaconesses within the Dioceses but despite this we are marching on as we see this particular challenge as a general one across the Continent.

We need the support of groups within DRAE to donate educational toys and baby toys for our crèches and play centers.