

**REPORT OF GROUP 7 MEMBERS TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF DRAE HOLDING AT BASEL SWITZERLAND
PRESENTED BY DEACONESS RONKE OWORU**

KENYA

From Deaconess Eliaika Oruko, I have the news that the Hearts to Hearts Orphanage and the Prince of peace Academy are doing well. In November the Prince of Hope School new building was commissioned with partners from Norway in attendance. During the commissioning there were various activities like recitations, sing song and visits to the Slum by the visitors.

The Prince of Peace School caters for Orphaned and Vulnerable children and they continue to seek for help across the Continent any one can support a child by donating \$25 a month. The Prince of Peace Academy is a blessing and a new hope to Kawangware slum.

NIGERIA

Between the last Assembly in Norway and now, twelve (12) Deaconesses were ordained into the Order of Deaconesses, Methodist Church Nigeria. Among those Ordained were Nurses and Teachers and they have already been posted to relevant hospitals and schools. We still have 100 Deaconesses as some Deaconesses retired last year while some are too old to function.

Another group of Deaconesses in Methodist Church Nigeria have indicated their interest to apply for membership of DRAE and Diakonia World. I hope to discuss this further at the Executive meeting.

During the Christmas get together of Deaconesses it was decided that some members will be sponsored to attend training in Leadership and Gender Development and Deaconess Oworu was mandated to apply to DIAKAID for sponsorship of this project.

It is a thing of joy to report that the Church Management has decided to restructure the training of Deaconesses which hitherto had not been encouraging. Based on proposals written over the years for th finally the Church has taken steps towards this.

RWANDA & EGYPT

Despite emails sent, no report was sent to me.

CHALLENGES OF THE REGION

During the African meeting in Norway we realized that one common challenge faced by African members is getting the support of the Church management in the various projects being run by the Sisterhood. Most of the time help comes from external sources and not from internal. So there is need to continue to work on ways to gain the support of the Bishops and I encourage Sisters to improve themselves through seminars and workshops as much as they can because knowledge is power. When the Bishops see that within the Sisterhood attempts are being made in this direction they will have no choice but to support the various projects and programmes.

WORLD ASSEMBLY CHICAGO 2017

African members are working on the possibility of sponsoring one or two people on our own through our various contributions that we discussed during the African meeting in Norway.

Deaconess Ronke Oworu