



- **RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION EXECUTED BY THE ANDINO FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (TAFCD), THROUGH PROJECT AUGUST IN COLLABORATION WITH ANGELS AT DAWN IN AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA**



MARCH 8, 2024



TIME SCHEDULED

11:00AM

COMMENCEMENT

11:07AM



**Ikot Obio Akpan Village Town Hall, Nung Ukana,
Ibesikpo Asutan LGA, Akwaibom State.**

O R G A N I Z E R S :

THE ANDINO FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (TAFCD)

ARRIVALS

ARRIVALS 10:30am - 11:00am

The team arrived at the village town hall on Friday, March 8th, 2024, and were greeted by village elders and women. After introductions to the village head, the event commenced at 11:07 am. The women kicked off with joyful praises and thanksgiving prayers.

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE FOUNDATION/PROJECTS/TEAM

Mr. Ediongseyene Ndunobong, the event Compere and Voluteer with Angels At Dawn acknowledged the women and reminded them of a previous visit by the Foundation (through Project August) in Sept. 2023. Barr. Mary Umanah (TAFCOD's Director of Administration and Legal Matters), addressed the women with a message of empowerment, highlighting the year's theme: "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress." She explained the theme in simple terms and outlined the day's activities, including medical check-ups.



2. EKA IBAN SPEAKS

The representative of the Women Leader of Ikot Obio Akpan community thanked God for safely bringing the Foundation's team to the community. She then welcomed the Foundation's team members. She introduced the individual members of their women's cabinet, and addressed the women present, encouraging them to be attentive and receptive to the programs that the organisation had to present.

3. FOLLOW-UP ON THE LAST PROJECT AUGUST OUTREACH IN THE COMMUNITY

Miss. Eno-obong Nkereuwem, the Project Lead- Project August (Akwa Ibom State), inquired about the use of the fertilizer which the Foundation distributed to the women in the previous year. The women's enthusiastic response revealed successful harvest of crops, particularly cassava. Mrs. Comfort Samuel expressed her regret about not having brought samples of her bountiful harvest due to short notice she received about the present event.

4. HEALTH TALK AND FREE BP SCREENING

Pharm. Samuel Mbuk delivered a health talk focused on the well-being of women in the village. He addressed the common challenges associated with their primary occupation, farming. He emphasized the dangers of stress and improper diet, particularly excessive raw salt intake. He advised on lifestyle adjustments for healthy aging and highlighted the importance of avoiding self-medication for arthritis.

Nurse Imoh Asuquo in his talk, emphasized the importance of regular blood pressure checks and exercise, for management of hypertension which is a silent killer. He concluded by stressing the importance of staying hydrated, for overall health.



5. Break out/Round table discussion (Men and Women focus groups)

Barr. Mary Umanah facilitated an interactive session where women shared key concerns that impede their inclusion in the scheme of things, related to personal, family and marital issues. She offered legal advice to help them navigate those challenges. She also addressed a specific concerns that touched on gender-based violence, inheritance, childbirth and other related issues.

The Men's Corner discussion focused on how men can better support women, and also addressed some traditional beliefs that hinder progress.



The following were identified as the Barriers to impactfully supporting/investing in women:

- Discouraging girls' education.
- Viewing women as "weaker vessels" (quoting Ephesians 4:1)
- Disrespecting the property and inheritance rights of women:
- Traditionally disallowing women from making contributions in their village (whether of origin or marital) decisions.
- Withdrawing support from wives
- Infidelity and general lack of support
- Unwholesome cultural norms limiting women's rights

6. VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSING REMARKS

Gift items (Rice, tomato paste and refreshments) were shared to all the women and men in attendance. The Community Women expressed their gratefulness to the Organisation for such an impactful outreach, and prayed for God's blessings on the Organisation.

Closing remarks were taken from the women leaders and the TAFCOD team as well, after which a prayers were said briefly.

7. END NOTE

Conversations at the event were primarily done in vernacular (the Ibibio dialect) to carry the rural dwellers along, and help drive home succinct points.

A total of 88 women participated in the event. They left with smiles, feeling appreciated and empowered. They received goodie bags and expressed their gratitude. The event ended at 1:30 pm.



8. COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

- Unwholesome disinheritance practices and the downplay on women's rights to own properties
- General lack of support
- Poor healthcare



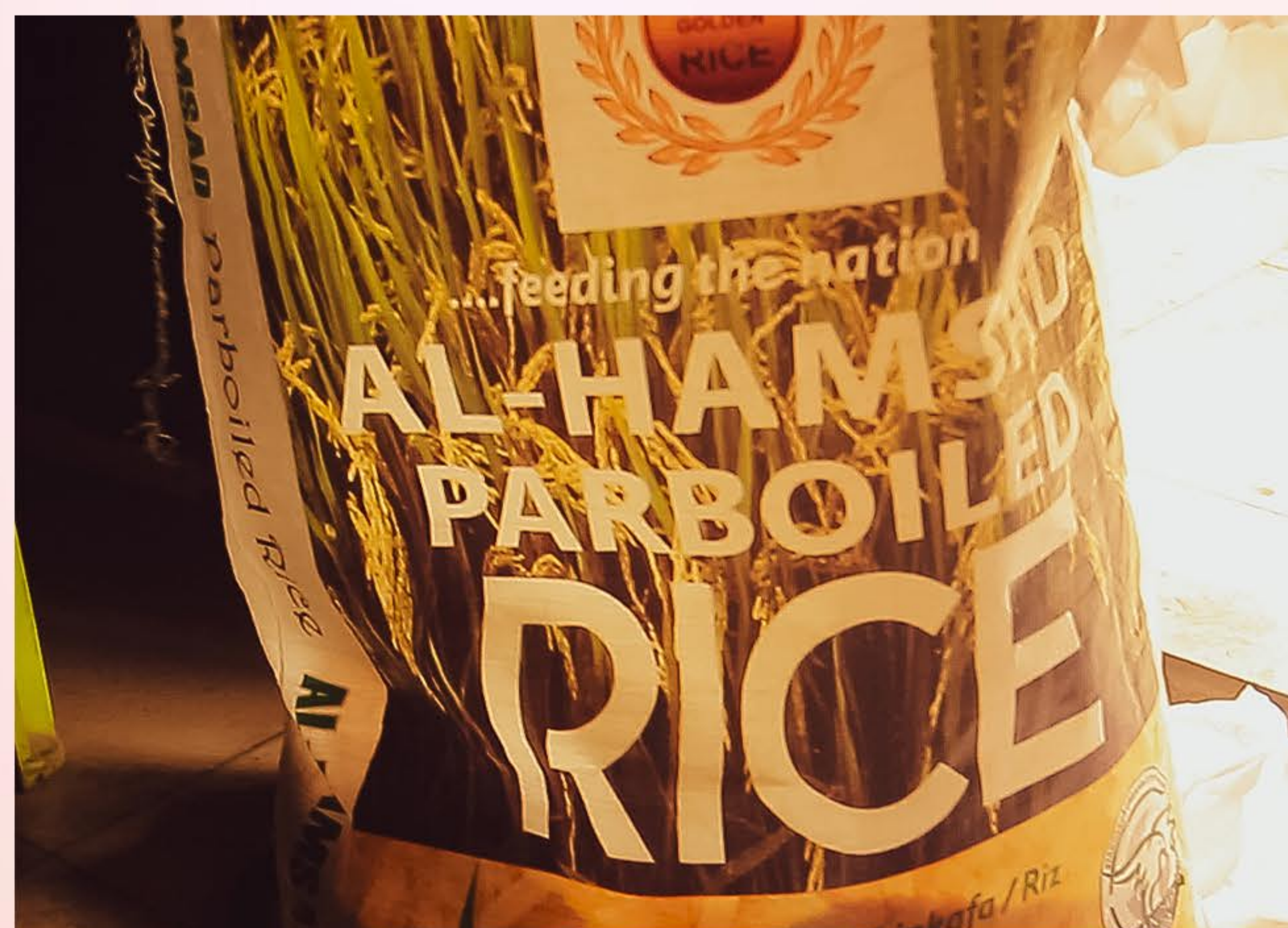
9. KEY OUTCOMES

- Life-building and social orientation occasioned by increased attendee participation in interactive sessions
- Overall Satisfaction with the event and positive feedback from the community members
- Active participation and contribution of men in women-related affairs, in furtherance of growth and peaceful coexistence.

10. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR THE GROWTH OF WOMEN AND THE SUSTENANCE OF THEIR COMMUNITY

- Continued Social Orientation and sensitization, through active community engagements
- Provision of empowerment and training Schemes for women
- Investing In Economic Opportunities for Women and girls.

PICTURE GALLERY





**Project
August**

IN COLLABORATION WITH

