

"Giving Hope, Restoring Hope to Widows and Orphans"



**ROCK OF AGES
EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION**

9th INTERNATIONAL

WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION

Theme "Better Days Ahead"

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation was founded in 2007 and registered as a corporate body on the 23rd June, 2009 under the Companies and Allied Matter Act, (Part 'C') 1990 of the federal Republic of Nigeria. We carry out free medical treatment; free education support programs, youth and widows empowerment.

The Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation believes in restoring hope, giving hope to the widows and orphans and in so doing, the foundation uses her yearly international widow's day celebration to empower widows who were trained on different skills and also provide scholarship to the orphans.

The foundation carries out research, training, outreaches and public educational campaigns about the needs for widow's empowerment, orphans and other vulnerable groups in the society. It is committed to its mission of transforming the lives of the underprivileged individuals through quality education, good medical treatments, and financial support, regardless of age, gender, race, religion or financial status.

During the 9th Widows Day Celebration Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation empowered widows trained on various skills, certificate of trainings were given to widows, 60 widows were financially supported (N1.8million naira) with startup grants, and 3 outstanding zones were motivated with a trophy each, and supported with N30, 000 naira. Food items and fabrics that worth (Millions of naira) were distributed to widows. More so 8 widows were empowered with grinding machines that worth (hundreds thousands of naira). Success story of widows empowered during 2018 International widows day was not left behind. Several widows on this category came out with a practical evidence of how the empowerment change their lives and lives of the family as well. The event was spiced with cultural dance, welcome song and match pass by the widows. Awards of trophy and cash were presented to outstanding zones under the foundation. The RAEF Program Director took the lead in this empowerment aspect of the event. The event was kick started with free multi diseases health care services and HIV counseling and testing for widows. The event was well attended my teeming population of widows from 19 zones, and 4 new zones were inducted as well.

The medical component of the event of the 9th International widows day celebration started with a health talk on various topics e.g hand wash, ebola control, HIV prevention messages by a trained nurse, involved the check of blood pressure, pulse, weight. Clients were tested for malaria parasite, blood glucose. There was free consultation and free drugs. The widows were de wormed, They were tested for hepatitis, and vaccinated against hepatitis infection. There were free eye check, reading glasses and eye drops were given to various people with eye defect. There were dental care services for widows. Referrals were made to appropriate health facility.

155 clients were diagnosed with malaria parasite using RDT, and treated, 87 persons had blood pressure measure over 140/90mmHg and 11 persons had blood sugar level above 200mg/dl. 102 persons were tested for hepatitis, 100 were negative, and 85 were vaccinated, however 2 persons result showed positive for hepatitis. 60 persons were diagnosed with typhoid fever. 48 diagnosed with dental problems whereas out of 163 diagnosed with eye problems, 100 received reading glasses, while 53 were given eye drops, however, 10 other eye problems were referred out. Peptic ulcer diseases 36, and Arthritis 4. 18 persons were diagnosed with Urinary tract infection. Respiratory tract infection 15 persons. Out of 457 persons de-wormed, 450 were widows, while 7 were children. The adults received 2 worm tablets each making it total of 900 tablets dispensed, while 7 children that accompanied them received 1 tablet each making it total of 7 tablets dispensed to children. However, 907 worm drugs were dispensed. 77 widows accepted to be tested for HIV, only 3 were reactive, and they were referred to AIDS Healthcare Foundation Clinic Abuja for further evaluation and enrolment into care and treatment.

1. INTRODUCTION

The United Nations observes 23 June as International Widows Day, to draw attention to the voices and experiences of widows and to galvanize the unique support that they need. The loss of a partner is devastating. For many women around the world, that loss is magnified by a long-term struggle for basic needs, their human rights and dignity. They may be denied inheritance rights to the piece of land that they relied on for livelihood or evicted from their homes, forced into unwanted marriages or traumatizing widowhood rituals. They are stigmatized for life, shunned and shamed. And, many of these abuses go unnoticed, even normalized. There are an estimated 258 million widows around the world, and nearly one in ten live in extreme poverty. As women, they have specific needs, but their voices and experiences are often absent from policies that impact their survival.

International Widows Day is an opportunity for action towards achieving full rights and recognition for widows. This includes providing them with information on access to a fair share of their inheritance, land and productive resources; pensions and social protection that are not based on marital status alone; decent work and equal pay; and education and training opportunities. Empowering widows to support themselves and their families also means addressing social stigmas that create exclusion, and discriminatory or harmful practices.

Furthermore, Governments should take action to uphold their commitments to ensure the rights of widows as enshrined in international law. Even when national laws exist to protect the rights of widows, weaknesses in the judicial systems of many States compromise how widows' rights are defended in practice and should be addressed. Lack of awareness and discrimination by judicial officials can cause widows to avoid turning to the justice system to seek reparations.

Programmes and policies for ending violence against widows and their children, poverty alleviation, education and other support to widows of all ages also need to be undertaken, including in the context of action plans to accelerate achievement of the sustainable development goals. In post-conflict situations, widows should be brought in to participate fully in peace building and reconciliation processes to ensure that they contribute to sustainable peace and securities.

International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool. I hope Nigeria will follow suit.

2.0 WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE FOUNDER/CEO RAEF

The welcome address was given by the Founder/CEO RAEF Evangelist IG who welcomed all present at the occasion, and he briefly summarized what the foundation stands for, its mission and vision, the impact so far, achievements and of course the success stories. In his address, He stated that RAEF was founded in 2007 and registered as a Corporate body on the 23rd June, 2009 under the Companies and Allied Matter Act, (Part 'C') 1990 of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We believes in restoring hope, giving hope to the widows and orphans and in so doing, the foundation uses her yearly international widow's day celebration to empower widows who were trained on different business areas.

The foundation carries out research, training, outreaches and public educational campaigns about the needs for widow's empowerment, orphans and other vulnerable groups in the society. It is committed to its mission of transforming the lives of the underprivileged individuals through quality education, good medical treatments, and financial support, regardless of age, gender, race, religion and status. In

delivering our mandate, the foundation focuses in the following program areas; Empowerment, Education, Agriculture and Career Counseling.

RAEF in order to reach out to the less privilege in the community has initiated community outreach programs where the team meets directly with the community leaders/members, identify their needs and proffer solutions accordingly. The team kick started the community project with Pyakansa Community. The report of the activities will be presented today.

In the area of achievement, RAEF has singly handed transformed the lives of over 8000 widows and their children, through skill acquisition training, financial empowerment, monthly medical checkup and payment of school fees for children without any external sources of income. We are being moved by the plight of the vulnerable and are committed to pulling resources together towards giving a helping hand. Our activities are growing everyday as we continuously identify areas of need in the society. We call on men and women of goodwill, Nigerians/Nigerians in Diaspora, International Partners to join us in challenging the ugly trend of poverty, diseases, marginalization, domestic abuses, illiteracy and neglect and give succor to the less privileged with grants and other financial assistance.

In conclusion, He thanked attendees who were witnesses to this historic event. However, his special thanks goes to the Executive Director, Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO) and other Civil Society Organizations presents. RAEF appreciate the partnership and do sincerely hope that we will all be moved to respond in our different capacities to make our society a better place to live for widows and vulnerable populations that live around us.



RAEF Founder/CEO Presenting Welcome Address during 9th International Widows Day Celebration

3.0 DIGNITARIES PRESENT

The dignitaries present include;

- Executive Director, Nigeria Network of NGOs, Dr. Oluseyi Babatunde Oyebisi
- RAEF Patron, Alhaji Jega
- RAEF Matron, Justice Mary Odili, Representative
- Distinguished Guest of Honor, Dame Pauline Tallen
- Secretary to the Federal Government Representative
- FCT Malaria Program Manager
- CEO, Right to live well Foundation
- State Clinical Coordinator AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Abuja
- Other NGOs Representatives
- Mc Expensive of Wazobia FM
- Several press representatives (**See Pictures**)



The Chairman, Patron, Matron and Other dignitaries present cum Freed Prison inmate by RAEF with new born baby at the event receiving mosquito net.

3.0 EMPOWERMENT BY RAEF PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

The RAEF Program Director took the lead in the empowerment aspect of the event.

The Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation empowered widows trained on various skills. They also received certificate of trainings, 60 widows were financially supported with (N1.8million naira) as start up grants, 3 outstanding zones were motivated with a trophy each, and cash (N30,000 naira). Food items and fabrics that worth (Millions of naira) were distributed to widows. More so 8 widows were also empowered with priceless grinding machines. Success story of widows that were previously empowered during 2018 International widows day was not left behind. Several widows on this category came out with a practical evidence of how the empowerments change their lives and lives of the family as well. The display of cultural dance by widows adds color to the event.



RAEF Program Director presenting cheque, grinding machines, food items cum success story

4.0 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE was:

- To develop resources and policy to empower widows and allow them to have access to education, work, healthcare and lives free of violence and abuse.
- To enable widows to create a life for themselves and their children following the death of their husband and ending a cycle of poverty and abuse.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

Rock of Ages Empowerment Foundation took a technical lead in organizing and coordinating preparations for the 9th International Widows Day Celebration. To ensure success of the event a team of proactive 9 committee were constituted for the effective planning and implementation of the event to achieve its set objectives.

A team of 64 personnel was set up. This comprised the Program Coordinator, the Technical Lead, the M&E lead, doctors, nurses, counselor testers, data entry clerks, volunteers, pharmacists, pharmacy technician, registrars and crowd control unit.

6.0 DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS

6.1 HIV Testing and Counseling

Table 1: 9th International Widows Day HTC Results disaggregated by data element, age and sex

ID	Indicators	Number
HCT1i	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Female - 0 -14	1
HCT1ii	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Female - 15-19	0
HCT1iii	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Female - 20-24	0
HCT1iv	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Female - 25-49	44
HCT1v	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Female - 50+	30
HCT1vi	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Female (TOTAL)	75
HCT2i	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Male - 0-14	1
HCT2ii	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Male - 15-19	0
HCT2iii	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Male - 20-24	1
HCT2iv	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Male - 25-49	12
HCT2v	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Male -50+	0
HCT2vi	No. of ind. tested HIV negative: Male (TOTAL)	14
HCT3	Subtotal A: No. of ind. tested HIV negative	89
HCT4i	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Female - 0-14	0
HCT4ii	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Female - 15-19	0
HCT4iii	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Female - 20-24	0
HCT4iv	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Female -25-49	1
HCT4v	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Female - 50+	2

HCT4vi	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Female (TOTAL)	3
HCT5i	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Male - 0-14	0
HCT5ii	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Male - 15-19	0
HCT5iii	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Male - 20-24	0
HCT5iv	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Male - 25-49	0
HCT5v	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Male - 50+	0
HCT vi	No. of ind. tested HIV positive: Male (TOTAL)	0
HCT6	Subtotal B: No. of Ind. tested HIV positive	3
HCT7	Total no. of Ind. HIV tested (subtotal A + B)	92
HCT 10	Total no. Of Ind. HIV counselled, tested and given result	92
HCT11	Facility Linked to	AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION CLINIC , ABUJA

6.2 Sex Distribution

Table 2; Sex Distribution

Sex	Number (n)	Number in percentage (%)
Men	14	15.2%
Women	78	84.8%
Total	92	100%

A total of 92 individuals were counseled, tested for HIV and received results. The majority of the attendee were women with 78 (84.8%) than men 14 (15.2%). The large discrepancy in attendee may be due to the fact the day was set aside for widows, even the men that tested for HIV were invitees.

2019 International Widows Day

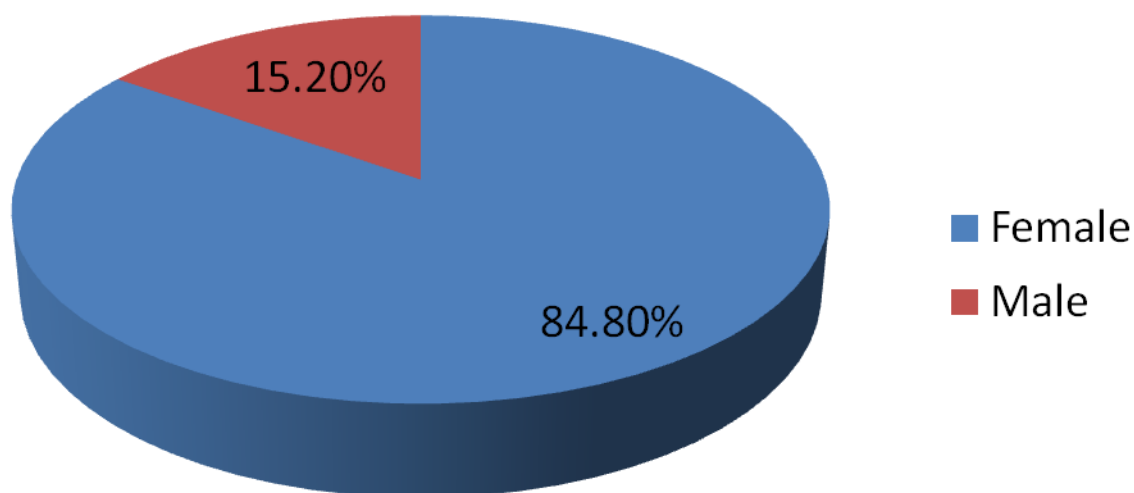


Figure 1: Sex distribution of the total number of individual HIV counseled and tested in Int'l Widows Day.

The sex distribution shows that women - widows (84.8%) participated more than men (15.2%) in HCT services and this could be attributed to the fact that the day was widows day celebration hence the massive turn out of women.

6.3 Age Distribution and Prevalence

Table 3; AGE DISTRIBUTION OF WIDOWS AND HIV PREVALENCE

Age groups (Years)	Number (N)	Number in Percentage (%)
0 - 14	1	1%
15 - 19	0	0%
20 - 24	0	0%
25 - 49	45	58%
50+	32	41%
Total	77	100%

Most number of attendances were witnessed within the age group 25 – 49 years with 45 attendee while the least attendance was seen within the age group of 15 -19 years and 20 -24 years with 0 attendee respectively. The next highest proportion were 50 years plus with 32 attendee.

2019 International Widows Day

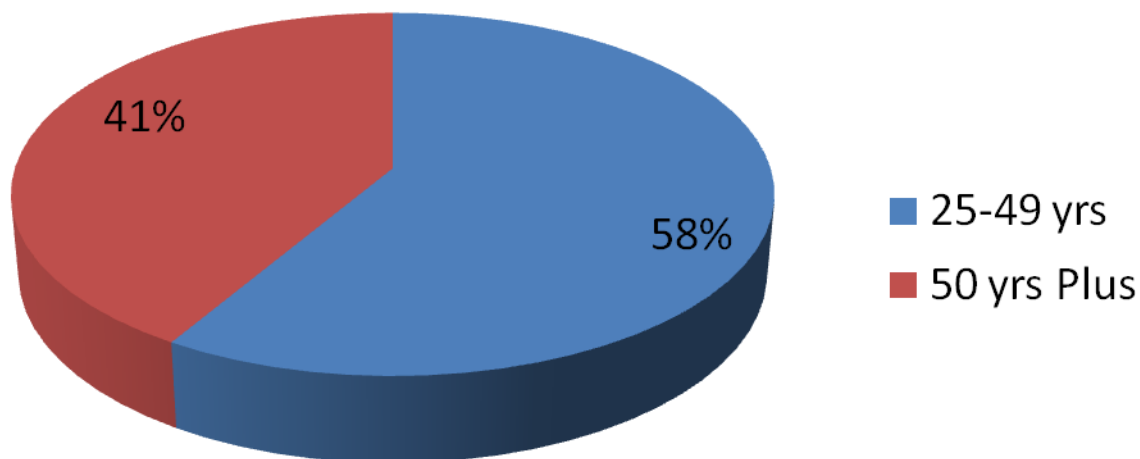


Figure 2: Age distribution of Widows counseled and tested for HIV in 2019 Int'l Widows Day

The widows of age group 25-49 (58%) were the highest. The next highest attendee were widows of the age group 50 years plus (41%). The highest attendee recorded within the age group 25-49, could be as a result of age group being the child bearing age.

Table 4 :Showing Positive cases in 2019 International Widows Day - Prevalence Rate

Age group	Number Counseled, tested & received result	No Negative	Percentage that is HIV negative	Number that is HIV Positive	HIV Prevalence rate in percentage
25-49 years	45	44	98%	1	2%
50 years plus	32	30	94%	2	6%

The HIV counseling and testing result in 2019 International Widows Day Celebration held in Abuja, Nigeria shows that prevalent is high among widowhood of age 50 years plus (6%). However, widows

aged 50 years plus who remain unmarried and sexually active may widely disseminate HIV infection if they are seropositive and do not use condoms.

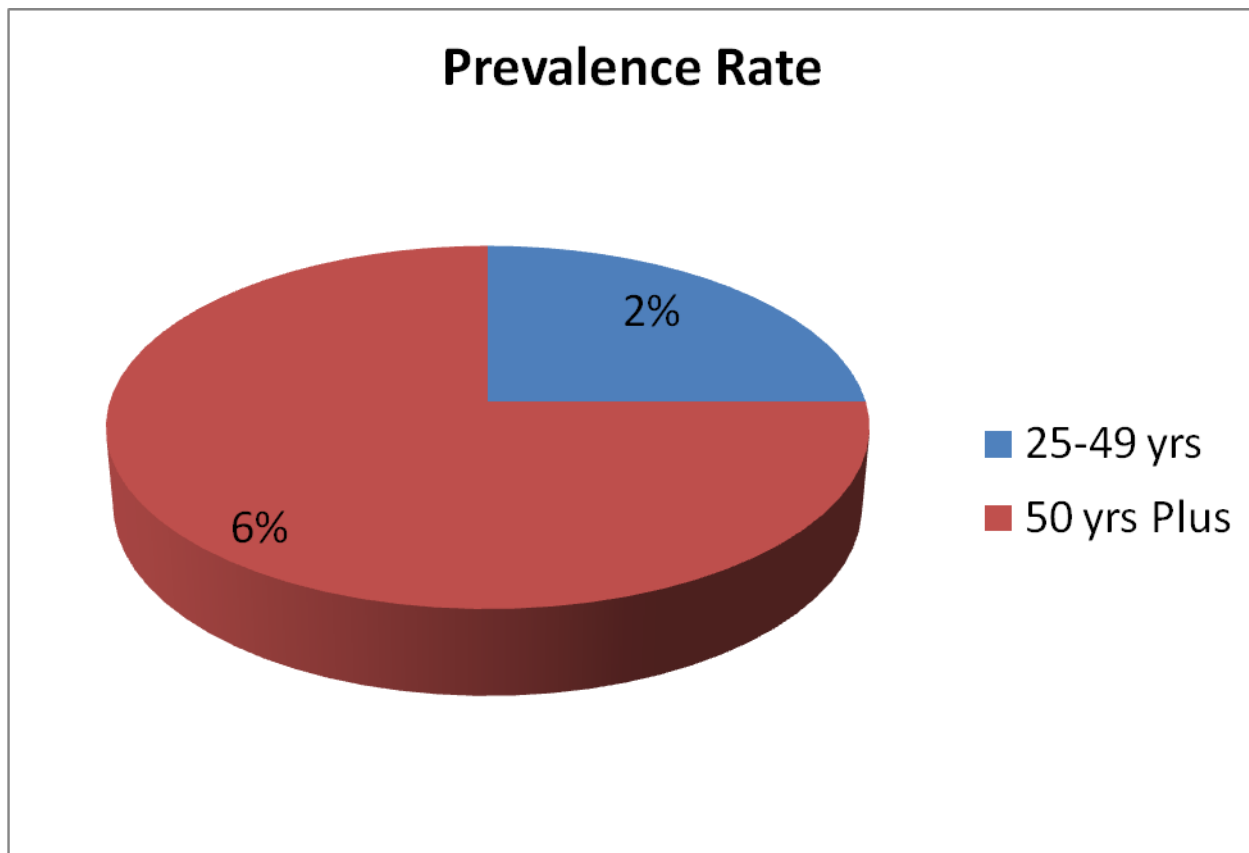


Figure 3; showing prevalence rate among widows age group during 2019 Int'l widows day celebration

The HCT result disaggregated by gender shows that young widows aged 25 -49 years have 2% HIV prevalence compared to widows aged 50 years and above with high prevalence 6%. However, widows aged 50 years plus who remain unmarried and sexually active may widely disseminate HIV infection if they are seropositive and do not use condoms. According to the recently released CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), [Prevalence of Diagnosed and Undiagnosed HIV Infection – United States, 2008-2012](#), persons who are unaware of their HIV+ status contribute to nearly one third of ongoing HIV transmission in the United States. The data from International Widows Day Celebration held in Abuja, Nigeria demonstrates the need for interventions and public health strategies to reduce the prevalence of undiagnosed HIV infection among widows.

7.0 Multi diseases and Hepatitis

Table 5; Showing Hepatitis result

S/N	Hepatitis +ve	Hepatitis -ve	Hepatitis -ve/vaccinated
1	2	85	100

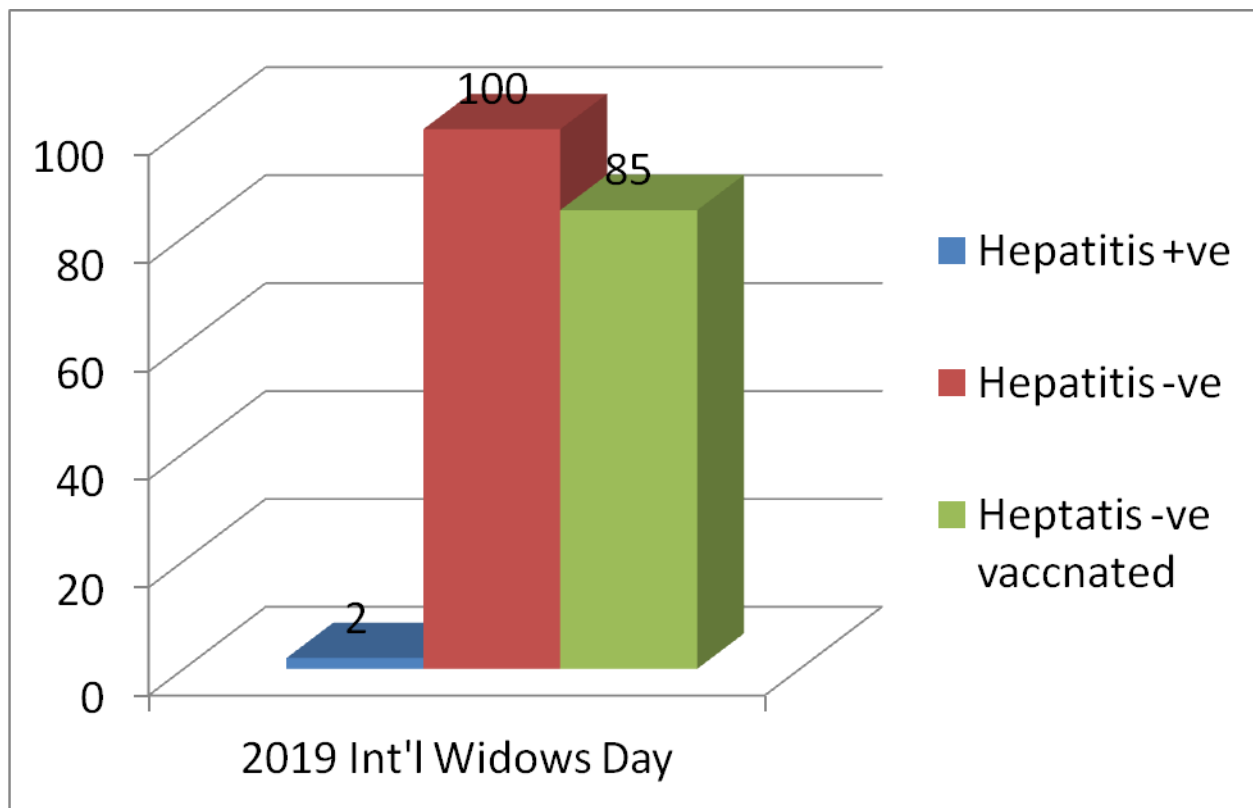


Figure 4, Showing Hepatitis cases and those vaccinated

From figure 3 above, out of 102 widows tested for hepatitis on the International widows day only 2 widows tested positive, whereas 100 widows tested hepatitis negative. However, 85 widows received vaccination against hepatitis.

Table 6; Multi diseases data

S/N	SDA	Diagnosis	Treated	Referred
1	Malaria cases	155	155	0
2	Respiratory Tract Infection cases	15	15	0
3	Hypertension cases	87	87	0
4	Diabetes Mellitus cases	11	11	0
5	Skin conditions	3	2 (cream)	1
6	Arthritis symptom cases	4	4	0
7	Pelvic ulcer diseases	36	36	0
8	Urinary tract infection	18	18	0
9	Eye problem cases	163	153 (100 reading glasses, 53 eye drugs)	10
10	Typhoid fever	60	60	0
11	Worm cases	7 children, 450 adults	7 children, 450 adults	0
12	Dental cases	48	48 (paste & brush)	0
	TOTAL	1057	1057	11

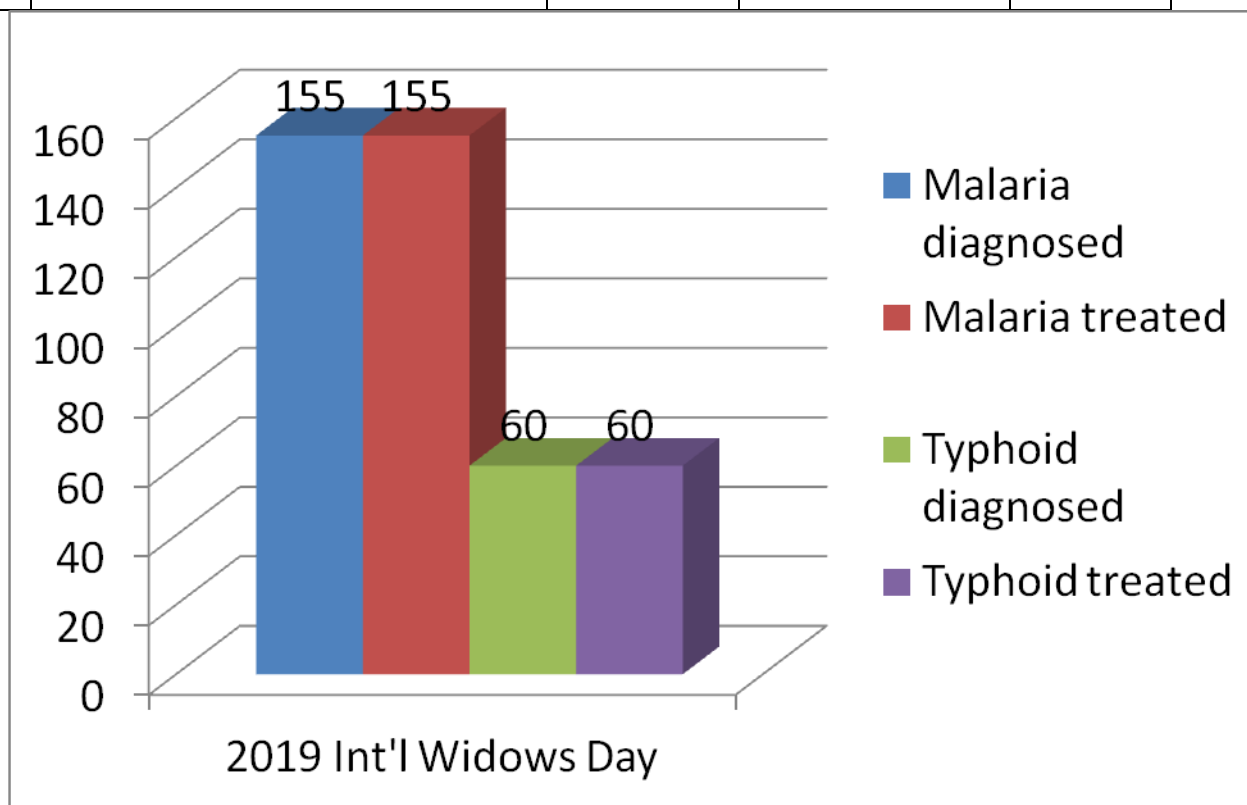


Figure 5, Showing Malaria cases and Typhoid cases

From the figure above, 155 widows diagnosed with malaria were treated, and 60 widows diagnosed with typhoid fever were also treated on the International Widows Day celebration.

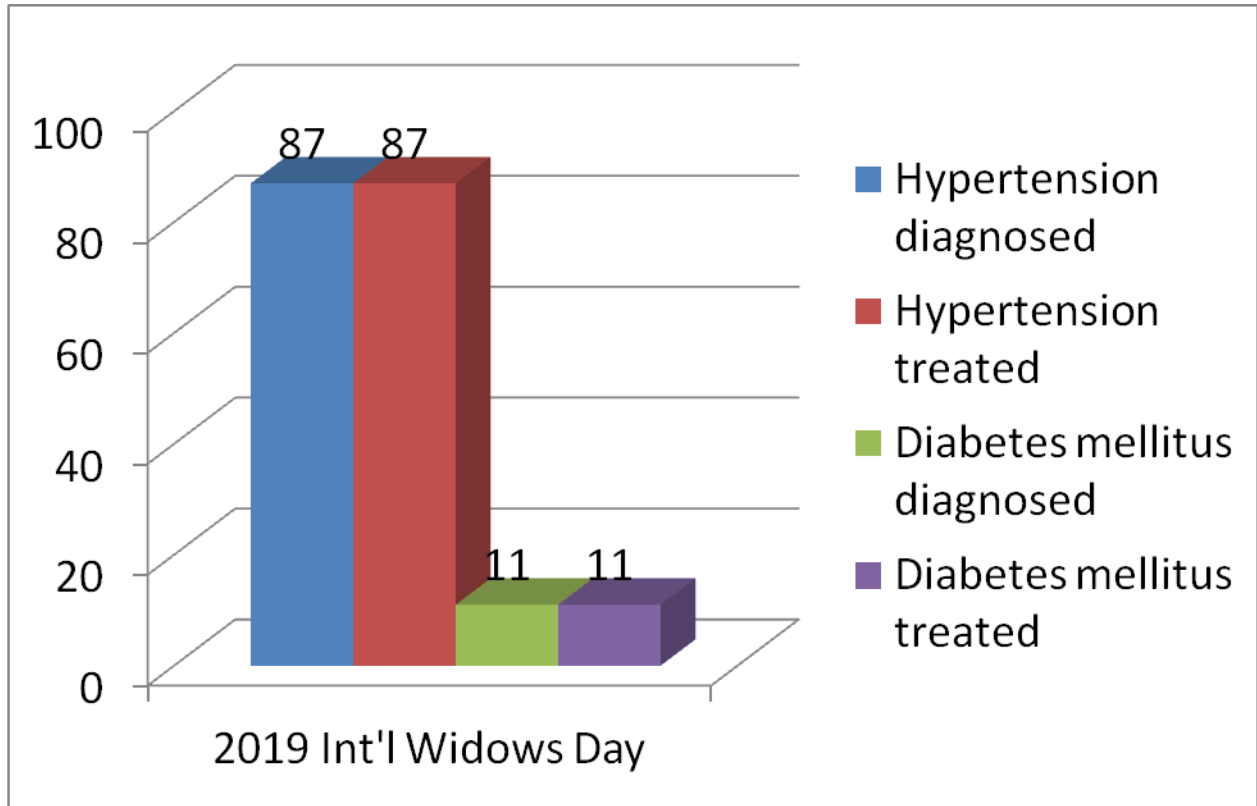


Figure 6; Showing Hypertension cases and Diabetes mellitus cases

The figure above revealed that 87 widows diagnosed with hypertension were properly treated. More so, 11 widows diagnosed with diabetes mellitus were also treated adequately.

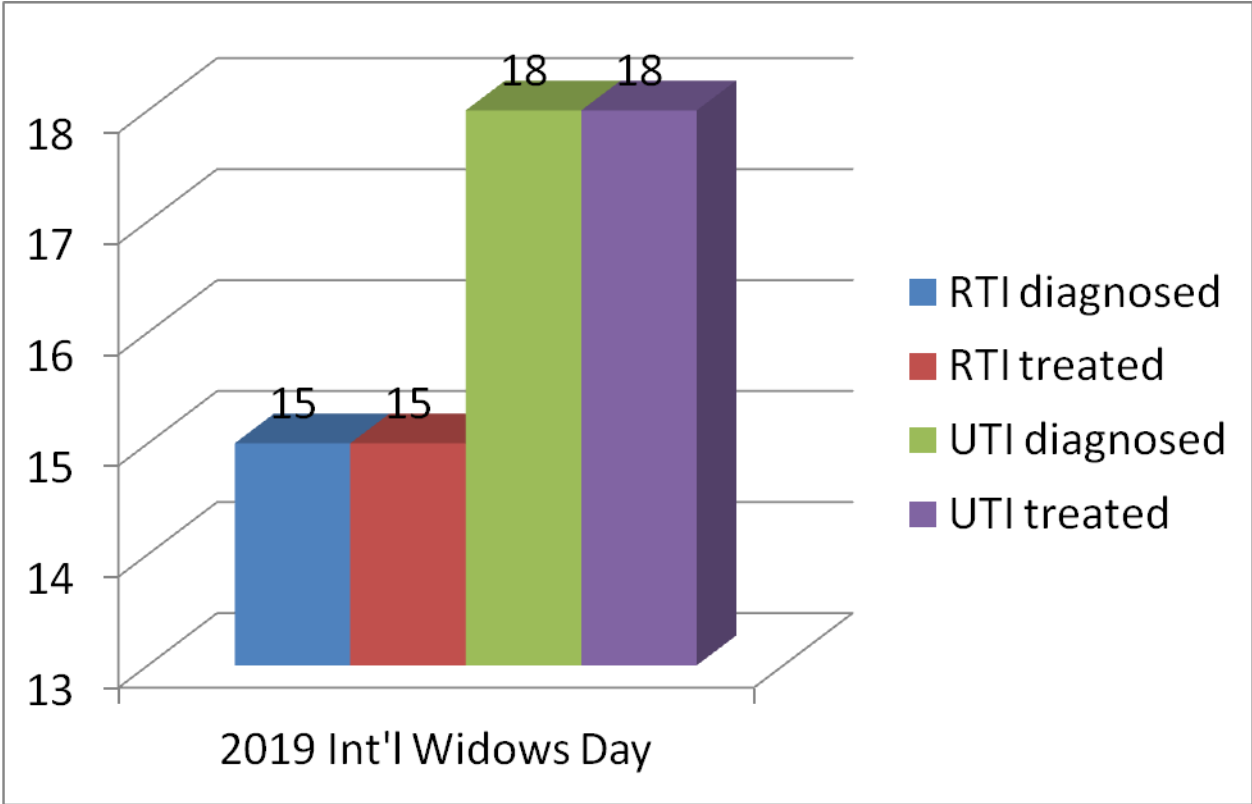


Figure 7; Respiratory Tract Infection cases and Urinary Tract Infection cases

The figure above revealed that 15 widows diagnosed with respiratory tract infection were treated. More so, 18 widows diagnosed with urinary tract infection were also treated adequately.

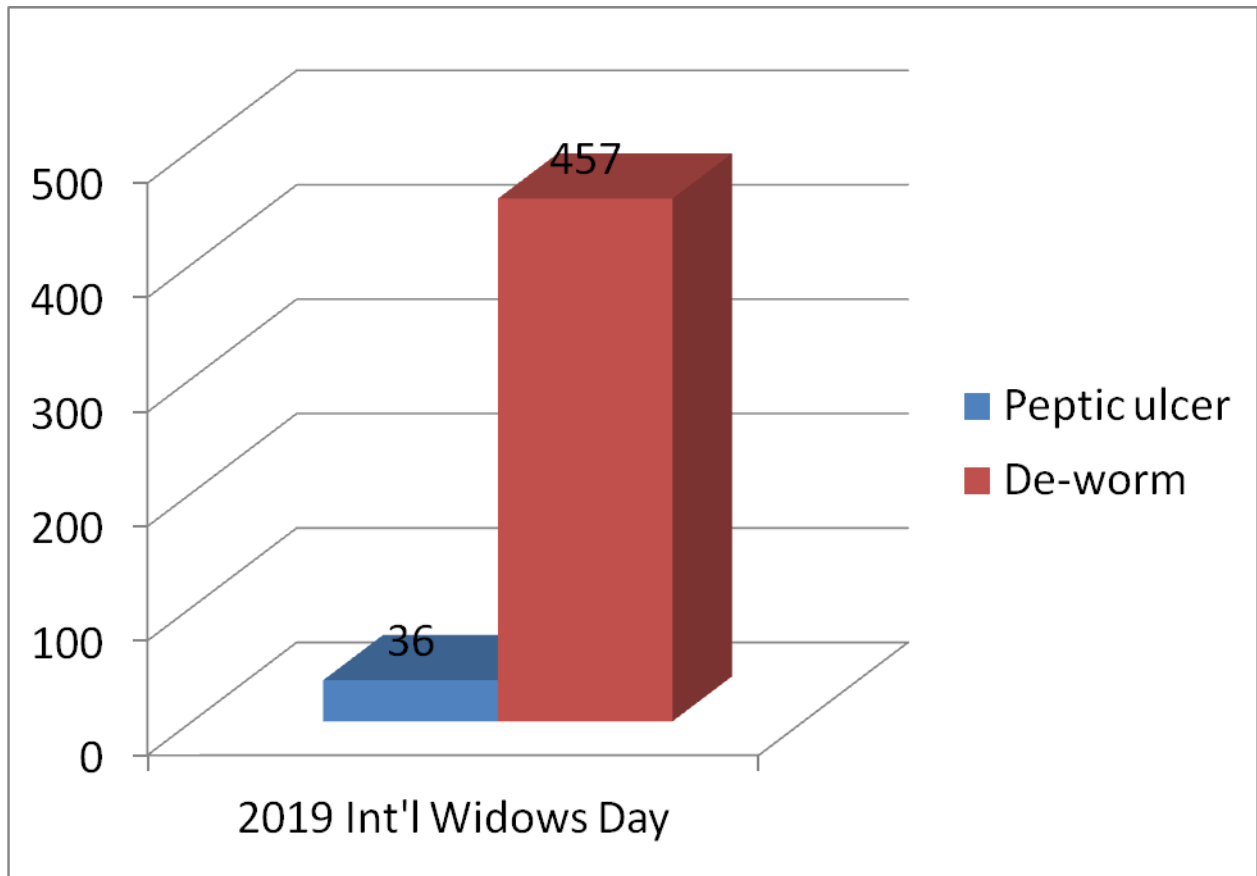


Figure 8; Showing Pelvic ulcer cases and Worm cases

The figure above revealed that 36 widows diagnosed with Pelvic ulcer cases were treated. More so, out of 457 persons de -wormed, 450 were widows who received 2 worm tablet each making total of 900 tablets dispensed to widows, whereas 7 were children that accompanied them to the event. The children received 1 tablet each making total of 7 tablets dispensed. On the total 907 worm tablets were dispensed.

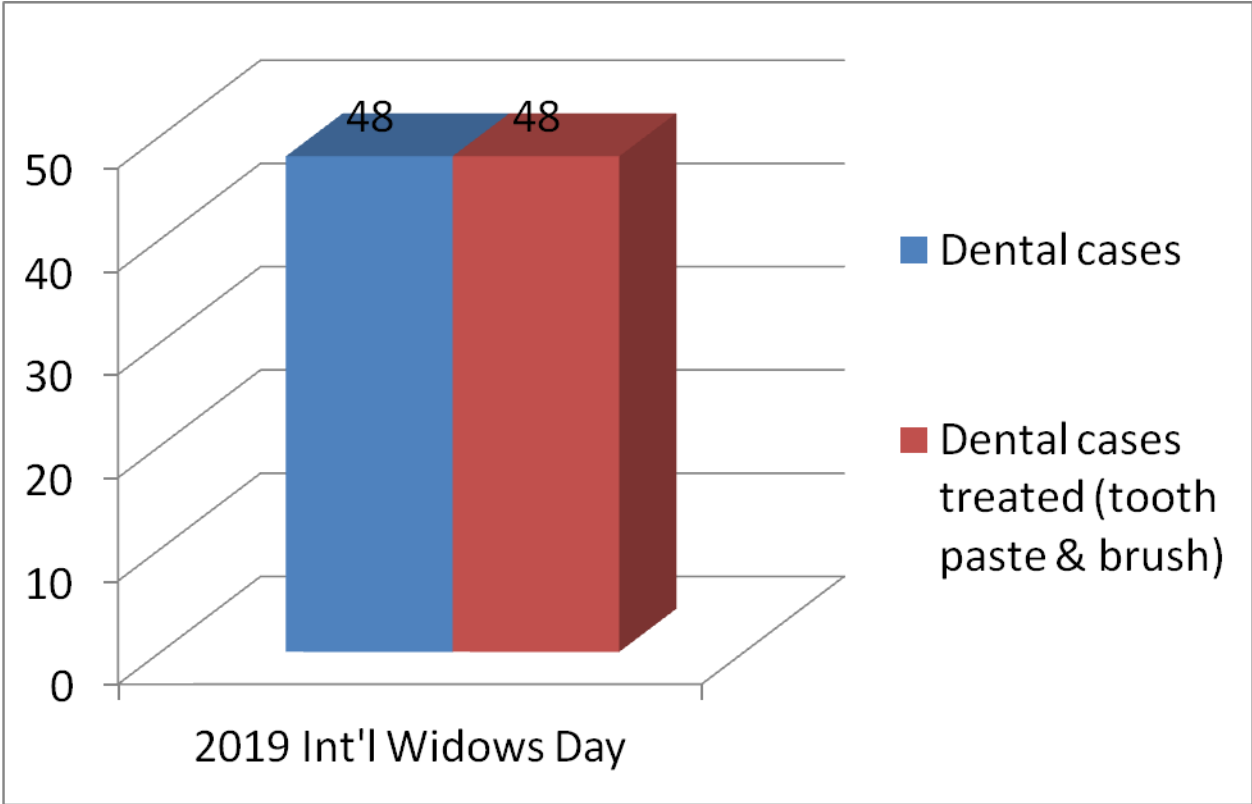


Figure 9, Showing Dental cases and Dental care

The figure above revealed that 48 widows diagnosed with Dental cases received treatment. However, 48 of them were given brand new tooth paste and brush.

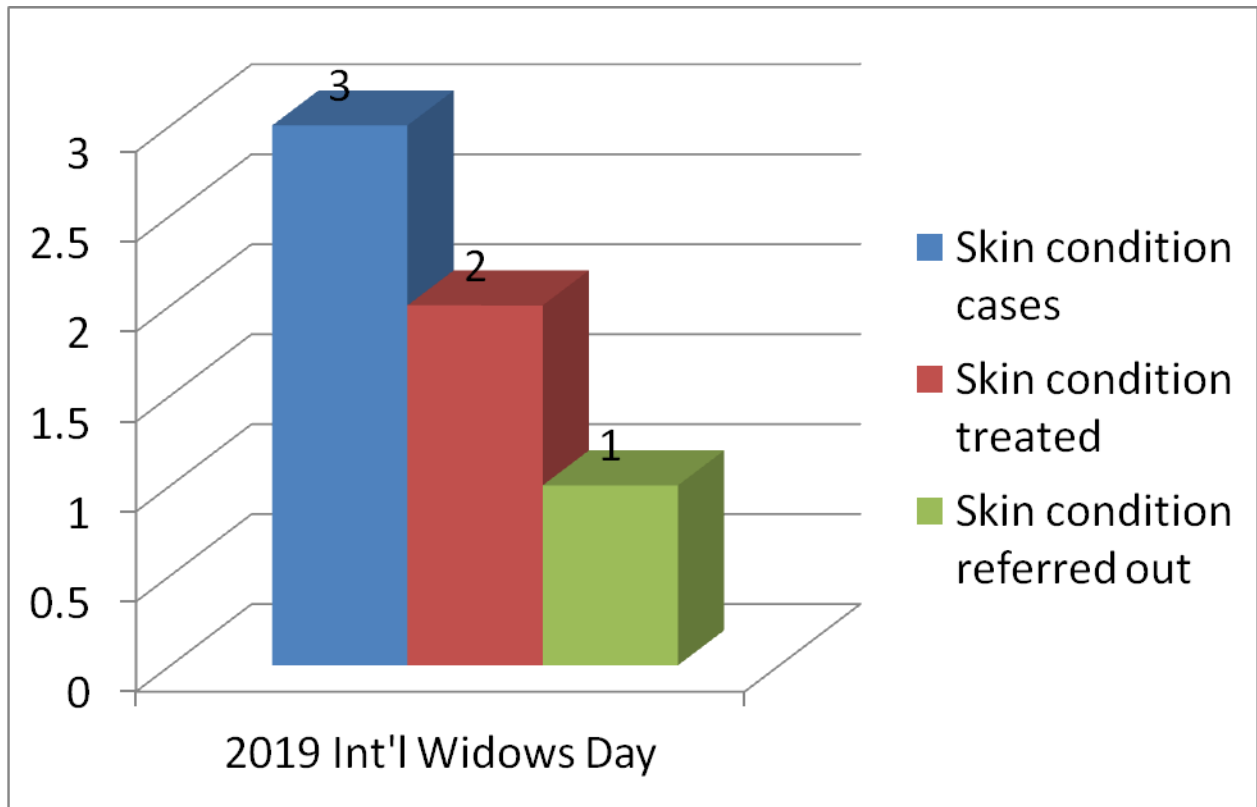


Figure 10, Showing Skin condition cases and care

The figure above revealed that out of 3 widows diagnosed with Skin condition cases, 2 widows were treated with skin cream, whereas 1 person was referred out due to severe skin pigmentation.

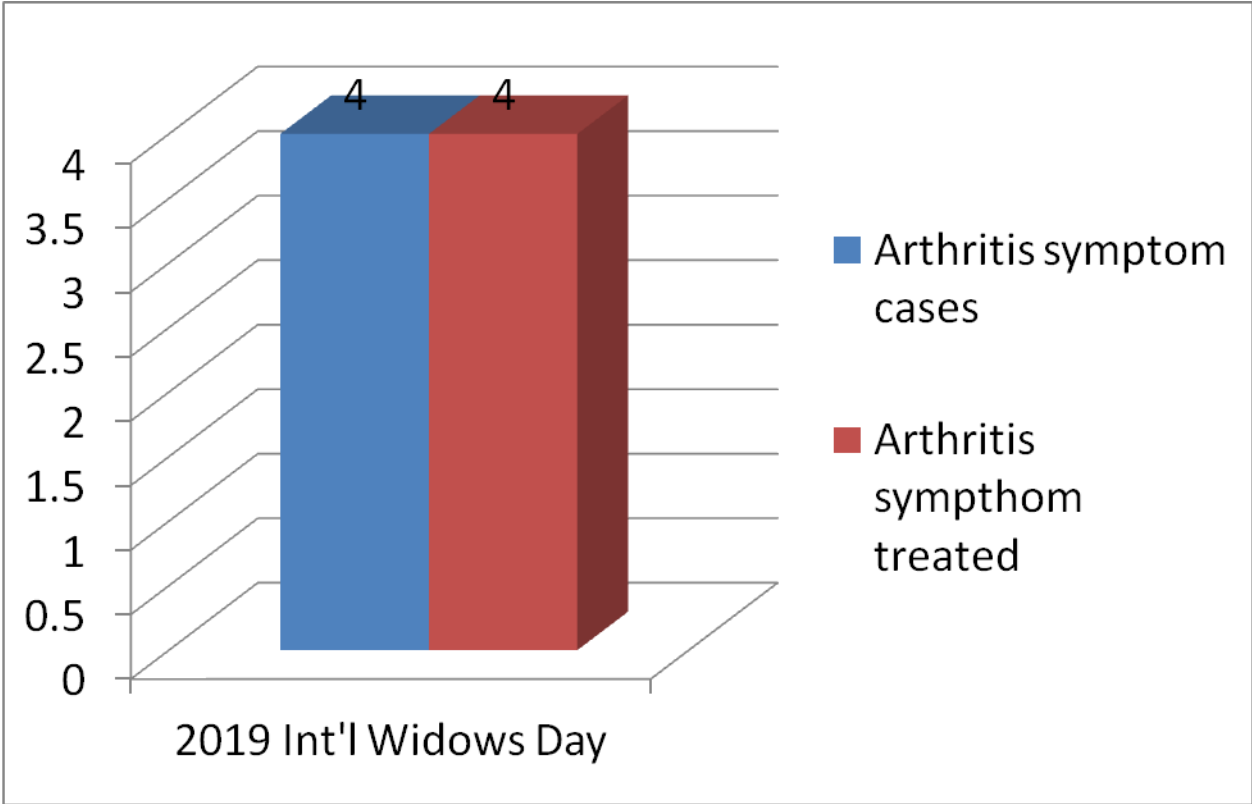


Figure 11; Showing Arthritis symptom cases

The figure above revealed that 4 widows diagnosed with Arthritis symptom cases received treatment on the International widows day.

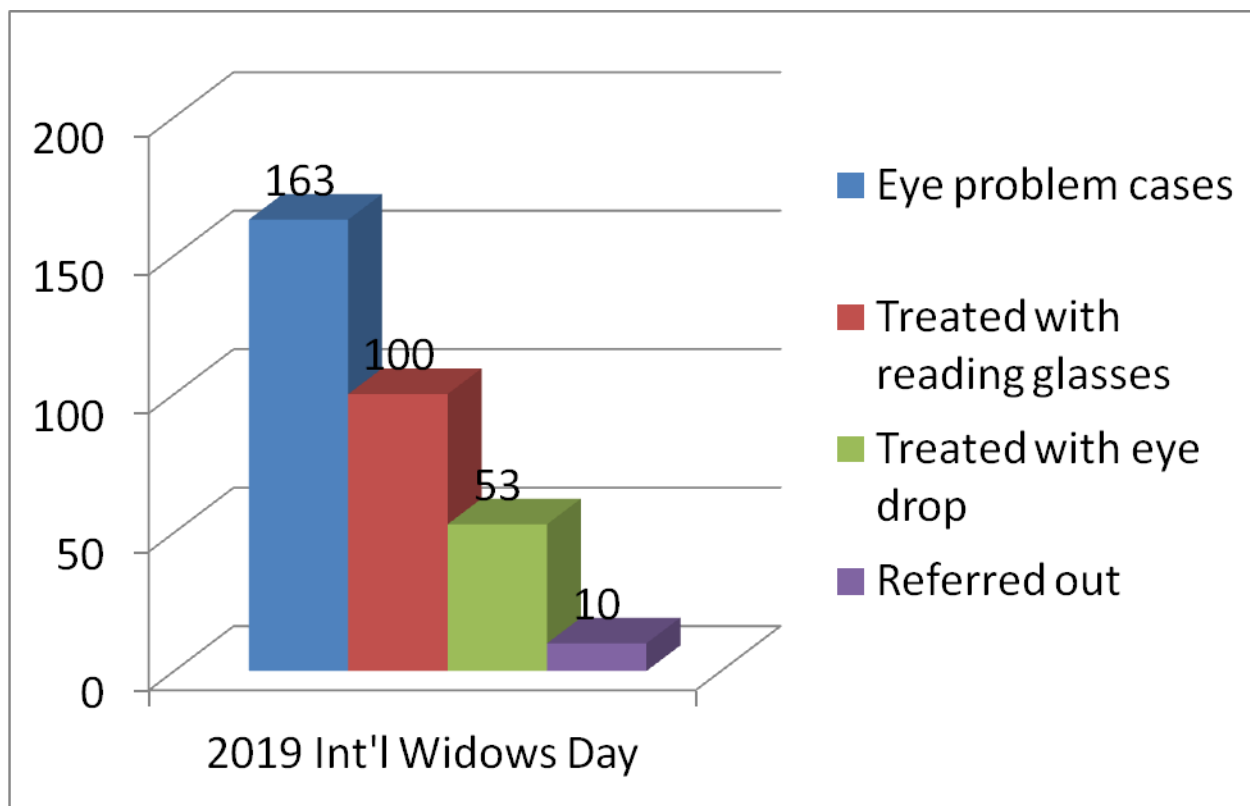


Figure 12; Showing Eye problem cases and care

The figure above revealed that out of 163 widows diagnosed with Eye problem cases, 100 widows were treated with reading glasses, whereas 53 widows were treated with eye drops, however, 10 widows who were queried for glaucoma, cataract, jaundice were referred out to Vision Edge for further evaluation and management.

8.0 Empowerment for Widows

Table 7; Empowerment, Financial support & Motivation data

ITEMS	Beneficiaries	Total	Remark
<i>Grinding machines</i>	8	8	<i>To start up business</i>
<i>Food items & Fabrics</i>	1500 food items & 800 fabrics	1500 food items & 800 fabrics	To fight against hunger & nakedness
<i>Grants & cert. of training</i>	60	60 x N30,000 = N1.8million	<i>To start up business</i>
<i>Trophy & cash</i>	3 zones	3 x N10,000 = N30,000	<i>Gwagwalada (most behaved zone) Kabusa (most punctual zone) Karonmajigi (most coordinated zone)</i>

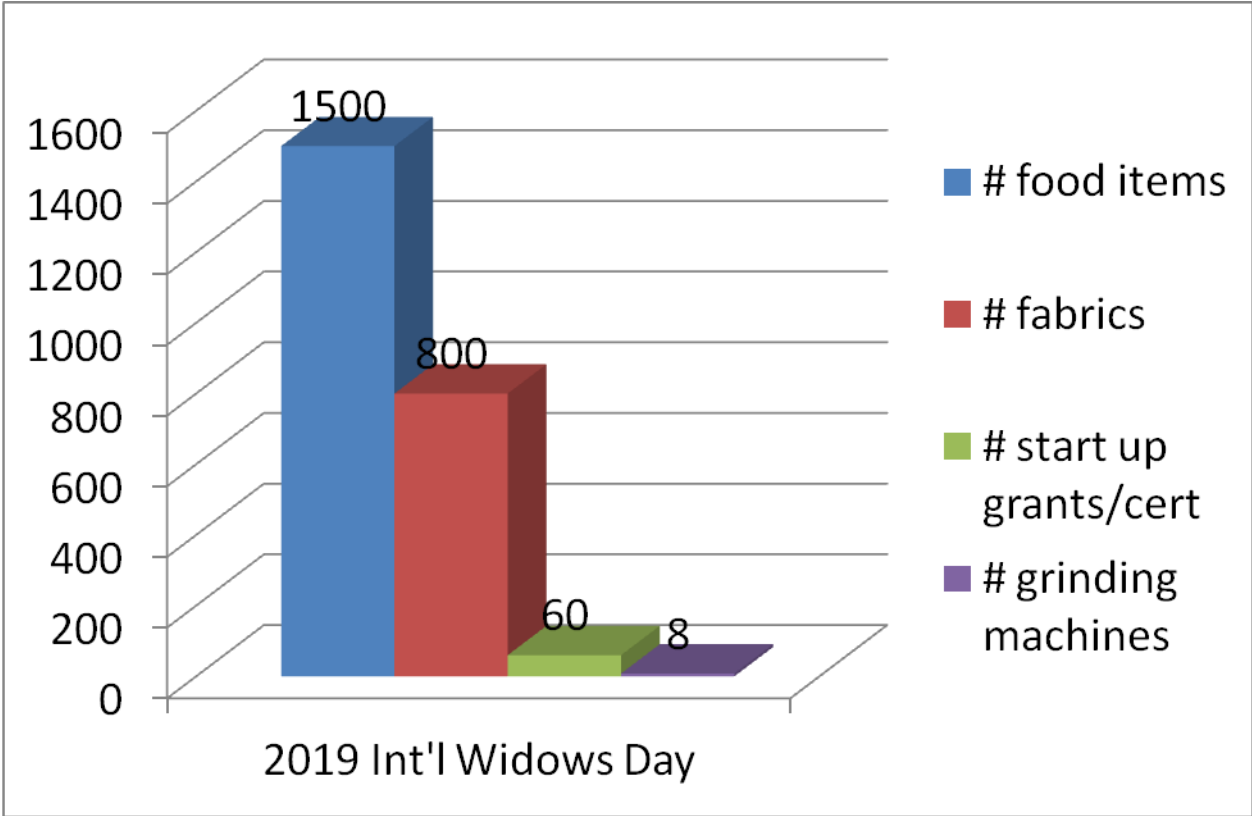


Figure 13; Showing widows empowered with grinding machines, Start up grants and Food items/fabrics

From figure above, 8 widows were empowered with grinding machines, 60 widows were given start up grants and certificate of training. However, 1,500 widows received food items while 800 widows were given fabrics.

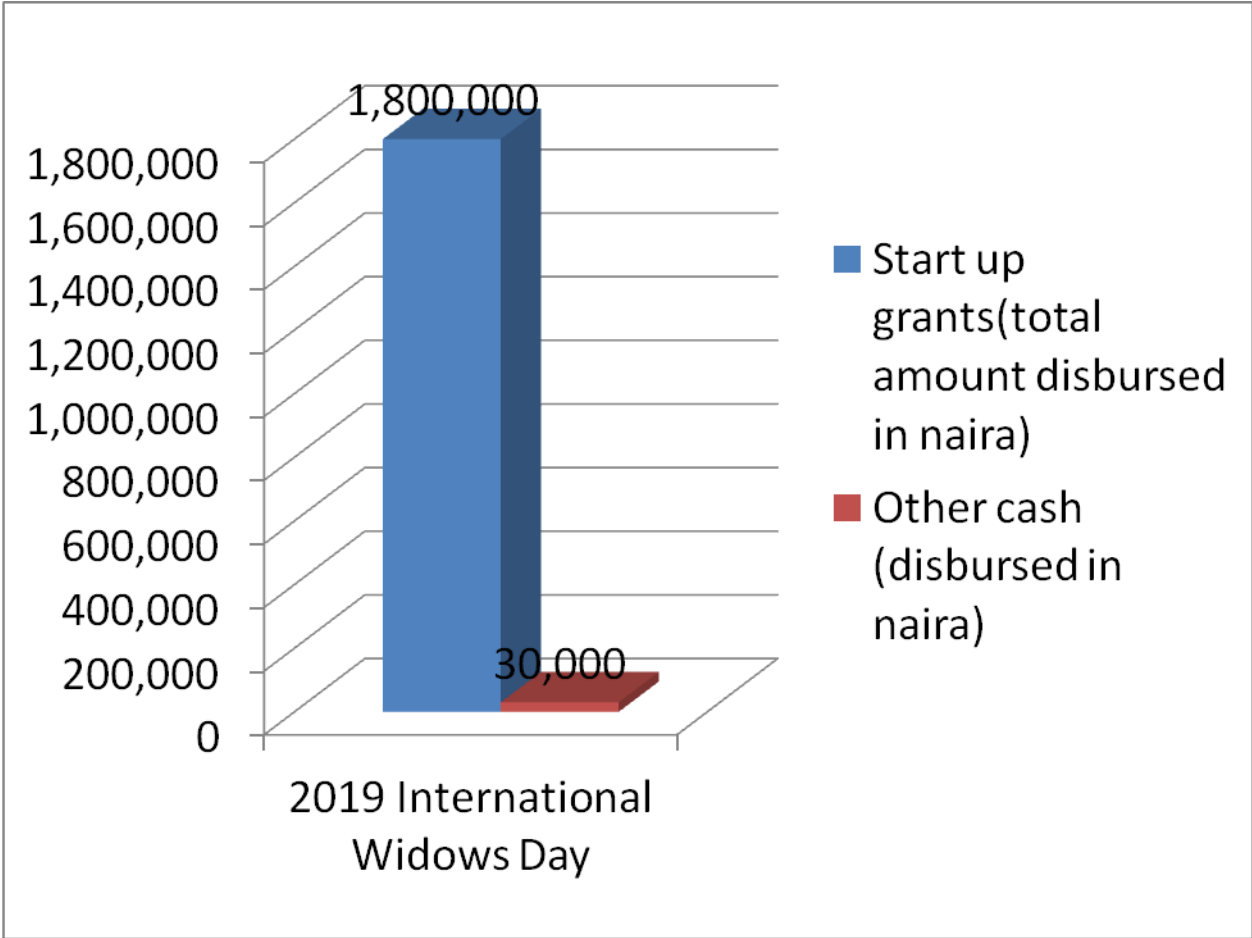


Figure 14; Showing total start up grants disbursed to widows and other cash given to three zones

From figure above, the total grant disbursed to widows to start up business in which they were previously trained amount to N1.8 million naira plus certificate of trainings. The sum of N30,000 were also disbursed to three zones from which each zones received N10,000 each plus a trophy as an award for being the most behaved, most punctual and most coordinated zones - the zones includes gwagwalada, Kabusa and Karonmajigi in descending order.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In the area of achievement, RAEF has singly handed transformed the lives of over 8000 widows and their children, through skill acquisition training, financial empowerment, monthly medical checkup and payment of school fees for children without any external sources of income. We are being moved by the plight of the vulnerable and are committed to pulling resources together towards giving a helping hand. Our activities are growing everyday as we continuously identify areas of need in the society. We call on men and women of goodwill, Nigerians/Nigerians in Diaspora, International Partners to join us in challenging the ugly trend of poverty, diseases, marginalization, domestic abuses, illiteracy and neglect and give succor to the less privileged with grants and other financial assistance.