



Oando Foundation

...transforming lives through education

ANNOUNCEMENT

Oando Foundation Attends Oslo Summit on Education for Development

On July 6-7 the Director of Oando Foundation, Dr. Ayoade Olatunbosun-Alakija, will attend the Oslo Summit on Education for Development along with leaders around from around the world to call for a global fund for Education in Emergencies.

Expected attendees include heads of state and government, ministers, the leaders of a number of United Nations' affiliates, representatives of civil society, international organisations, and the private sector to promote education in countries affected by conflict, crisis and poverty.

"Inadequate education is the HIV/AIDS of the current era," asserts Dr. Alakija. "In the same way that HIV/AIDS commanded an international, multi-sectoral response to an international issue, let us also treat education, particularly in emergency situations, with the same urgency".

Nigeria is widely considered to be amongst the worst affected and yet, needs greater visibility and voice.

With the number of out-of-school children now, approaching 13 million as a result of social instability in the North-East of the country, it is imperative that action is taken NOW. The insurgency in the North-East has resulted in millions of internally displaced people (IDPs), the majority of whom are children and out-of-school as a result.

There has been insufficient funding for informal education provision, and a concerted effort towards developing new and innovative approaches to education in these challenging circumstances, is long overdue.

In line with Oando Foundation's commitment to empowering girls across the country, and across the continent, the "Educate2Accelerate" program was launched – a component of our wider "Voices of the Girl-Child" campaign.

We spent time in the field utilising multi-media to capture the not-oft heard voices of the Nigerian child. As one teenager in Lagos explained, *"Most of my friends' parents don't have jobs and so they don't have money to send their kids to school and even in most schools there is no electricity so kids can't learn like others in private schools who have electricity to watch videos in school."*

For Mohammed, a 13 years old Lagos resident, it's simple. "We want all girls to go to school," he says pointedly.

We at Oando Foundation are now working hard to ensure their voices reverberate in the corridors of power both in Nigeria and abroad by ensuring their views are heard by key decision makers, global shapers, and education champions at the Oslo Summit.

As the summit commences, we call on leaders attending to take urgent action to provide education in emergencies. Furthermore, as we aim to mobilise more resources around the new sustainable development goals, let us incline our ear to the voices of the girl-child and hear her clarion call for access to a quality education, even in emergencies.

See the Summit website for more information, including the programme:
<http://www.osloeducationsummit.no/>