We are excited to bring you updates on the Foundation’s key activities in the first half of the year – deepening overall quality of our intervention programs; establishing and strengthening key partnerships in line with our strategic focus; as well as championing education-focused advocacy initiatives to support the government, our schools and their communities in actualising the Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 17 targets.

Through the Adopt-A-School Initiative (AASI) – our signature project, we are improving access to quality learning across 88 adopted public primary schools; leveraging key partnerships with local and international organizations to scale our interventions and advocate for issues that impact education of the Nigerian child.
### Key Highlights

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*Out of School Children*
In January 2018, the Foundation partnered with the recently ended USAID-Education Crisis Response programme to mainstream 1,508 internally displaced children from non-formal learning centers into adopted public primary schools in Bauchi and Adamawa states, where attacks from extremists have forced over 2 million to flee their homes.

To better integrate these vulnerable children into formal schools, the Foundation distributed education starter kits to the new learners. 500 IDPs were earlier supported and mainstreamed into Oando adopted schools.

Our target through the Adopt-A-School programme is to mainstream 60,000 out-of-school-children across Nigeria by 2018, ensure reintegration of internally displaced children in formal education and improve learning outcomes.
The Foundation completed 6 blocks of 18 classrooms in the first half of 2018 across 5 adopted schools - LEA Bungha Gida Primary School, Plateau; Tafida Aminu Primary School, Sokoto; Shehu Malami Primary School, Sokoto; Bayan Banki Primary School, Bauchi; and Ipata LGEA Primary School, Kwara.

Public primary schools are characterized by poor learning environments and fast deteriorating infrastructure that cannot adequately support learners’ needs. Shortage of classroom space results in class sizes that triple the prescribed teacher-pupil ratio for Nigeria of 1:40.

Oando Foundation improves the quality of learning infrastructure in its adopted schools through renovation of new and existing structures, provision of age-appropriate furniture, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation facilities. To ensure intervention is targeted at schools with the most pressing infrastructure needs, we work with the State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs) and School-Based Management Committees (SBMCs), giving consideration to current school population, level of deterioration, and net ratio of out-of-school children within the community.
Effective delivery of quality education is a multi-tiered responsibility, involving stakeholders across schools, communities, and the government. Unqualified and/or poorly trained teachers lack critical skills necessary for effective teaching, adversely impacting the learning performance of their students. Difficulties in ascertaining the quality of schools quantitatively and qualitatively is largely due to severely inadequate school-level supervision and support. Communities are barely participating in school improvement projects because they assume it is the sole responsibility of the government.

To tackle these challenges, the Foundation is strengthening the effectiveness of key partners vested with the mandate of school development by investing, planning, capacity building, institutional development, and learning. In H1 2018, the Foundation trained 545 Teachers (on subject knowledge and modern pedagogy), 54 School Managers (on school management and leadership), 105 Local Government Education Officers (to provide support and mentorship for trained teachers, as well as EMIS related outputs), and 268 School Based Management Committees (on school improvement, out-of-school mobilization, advocacy, and resource mobilization).
Sumitomo Chemical (a Japanese Chemical Company) has extended its partnership with the Foundation to support ICT Education through the establishment of solar powered ICT centres and capacity building of ICT educators in 3 adopted schools – Our Lady of Fatima Primary School, Plateau; Daurama Primary School, Katsina; and Maitunbi Primary School, Niger.

Newly established ICT Centers are fully equipped with furniture, solar powered inverters, computers, servers, projectors, printers, and NERDC-approved ICT educational software and textbooks. Teachers are trained on the effective integration of technology in the students' learning experience.

At Oando Foundation, we believe in the power of partnerships as a platform for sustainable, replicable and scalable interventions. Our Adopt-A-School programme is hinged on effective partnerships with public and private sector actors committed to improving the basic education sub-sector.

To date, OF has established 33 ICT Centers across adopted schools.
Give Water, Give Life!

23,800 beneficiaries from water sanitation in 16 adopted schools

As part of our infrastructure improvement efforts and commitment to the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme of the Federal Government, the Foundation recently provided water and sanitation facilities in 16 adopted schools, benefitting over 23,800 pupils.

We believe that every child has a right to decent sanitary facilities, and together we can help change the status quo.
Since the start of the 2013/2014 academic session, Oando Foundation has facilitated the disbursement of grants to cover annual tuition fees, and other ancillary costs including uniforms, textbooks, exam fees, activities, excursions, and other extracurricular activities for the best five performing indigent students in Ogun State Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination; under our Special Projects portfolio.

All five scholars recently celebrated their graduation from Nobel House College, Abeokuta, following a deeply enriching and impactful academic experience at the school. It was a flurry of activities as parents and well-wishers joined the scholars on their special day.

Oando Foundation’s scholarship scheme is designed to support transition and retention of the best performing primary six pupils across our adopted schools throughout secondary education. The scheme remains one of the key drivers of increased enrollment and retention of pupils in our adopted schools. 1123 scholars have been directly impacted to date.
Month of Love

Campaign:

Oando Volunteers Give Back to 3 Adopted Schools in Lagos State

Oando employees visited 3 of the Foundation’s adopted schools in Lagos – Temidire, Idi-Odo and Ogo-Oluwa Primary Schools, with donations of school supplies for 396 students. It was an endeavor grounded on Oando Plc’s ambition to play a role in enabling the country attain the Sustainable Development Goal 4 by 2030, and furthering Oando Foundation’s interventions in its adopted schools.

February was tagged the 'Month of Love' and Oando employees rallied together to raise funds for purchase of school supplies such as educational books to encourage learning and reading, school bags, school furniture, raincoats in preparation for the rainy season, and other items to aid educational development of students in the Gbagada Schools Complex.

Official handover of the materials was led by the Corporate Communications and Oando Foundation team. Also in attendance were a selection of the Foundation’s volunteers. In addition to donating school supplies, Oando employees also visited all the classrooms and actively engaged the pupils.
The joy of students and teachers at the Local Government Nursery and Primary School, Jaguna, Itori, Ewekoro in Ogun State knew no bounds as the Foundation's team visited to celebrate the 2018 Children's Day. We donated playground equipment to promote extra-curricular activities in the school, and distributed refreshment to the students and teachers, in the spirit of the season.

Prior to the Foundation's adoption of Local Government Primary School in 2016, students were learning in a derelict poultry pen infested with snakes, lacking appropriate furniture, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Following a passionate fundraising campaign, and partnership with the US Consulate in Nigeria, we constructed a new block of six classrooms, trained the teachers, and strengthened the capacity of the School Based Management Committee to support school improvement activities, advocacy, and resource mobilization.

The school now boasts of 3 completed blocks of 13 classrooms, 5 units of child-friendly toilets, and a new block of 3 classrooms under construction. This project effectively demonstrated Oando Foundation's capacity to galvanize support from diverse stakeholders towards school improvement.
The Adopt-A-School Initiative thrives on synergy among various stakeholders working in the education sector; harnessing the strength of each partner in a coherent and systemic way to ensure sustainability-centered activities in cross-cutting intervention states, Value for Money (VFM) for every fund we receive to improve learning outcomes, enrollment, and retention in adopted schools across Nigeria. Some of these stakeholders include government education agencies, school community groups, implementing partners (civil society organizations), technical/funding partners, and project beneficiaries.

The Foundation facilitated diverse engagement sessions during this period, most notably the implementing partners and technical consultants strategy workshop, technical review meetings across project locations, participatory meetings with local community stakeholders, and advocacy visits to decision makers, among others. The Foundation team and its implementing partners facilitated engagements across 23 states during this period.

We are pleased to see early outcomes of our engagement strategy, especially at the community level, where there is a renewed sense of commitment and participation in school improvement efforts, mobilization of out-of-school children, resource mobilization, and advocacy; championed by the School-Based Management Committees and other community groups.
The Universal Basic Education Commission – Nigeria’s intervention agency in charge of basic education in Nigeria – appointed Oando Foundation to champion strategic collaboration with the organized private sector education affiliates. We believe it is our collective responsibility to #Fundeducation, as our future and the future of every Nigerian child depends on equal access to quality education.

Following successful early discussions with identified private sector organizations, the maiden edition of the Private Sector Convening on Based Education with the theme “Accelerating Support for Basic Education” held in July, 2018.
Reaching 10 Million Out-of-School Children Globally: Oando Foundation joins Educate-A-Child, Other Partners to Celebrate Milestone Achievement

Oando Foundation joined other development stakeholders to celebrate the audacious commitment and steadfastness of our partner – Education Above All, in ensuring 10 million out-of-school children, especially those in hard to reach communities, have access to quality basic education. The event highlighted the shared passion, hard work, and focus towards making out of school children more visible and supported to realize their right to quality education.

The event also provided an opportunity to celebrate key partners contributing towards the actualization of the 10 million *OOSC target. Oando Foundation is partnering with Educate-A-Child (a programme under Education Above All) to actively champion the mobilization, enrollment, and retention of 60,000 out of school children across adopted schools by the end of 2018.

*OOSC are children who have never attended formal school or have had their primary education interrupted due to varying socio-economic reasons.

*Out of School Children
In May 2018, Oando Foundation joined diverse education stakeholders at the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) forum to collaborate, explore, and share ideas towards creative action in the education sector. The 1-day forum held in Accra, Ghana, with the theme ‘Unlocking the World's Potential: Leading and Innovating for Quality Education in Africa’ explored a number of topics including quality education, ethical leadership, teacher training, teaching 21st century skills, funding, partnership, accountability, and regional collaboration to tackle developmental challenges.

Oando Foundation, represented by Ujunwa Aja-Onu in a panel discussion with other stakeholders – Plan International, Ministry of Education Ghana, Education Above All, Department for International Development, shared experiences and lessons learnt from the Foundation’s work around addressing barriers facing the hardest-to-reach out of school children, as well as effective solutions to ensuring equitable and quality education. Key outcomes from the session emphasized the deployment of integrated and multifaceted intervention approach as imperative to achieving success in the enrolment of OOSC back to school, community and government buy-in as key to project sustainability, and increased involvement of all actors including the private sector as vital to scale impact.
Oando Foundation Live at the Global Philanthropy Forum 2018

Oando Foundation, together with other stakeholders, participated in the 2018 Global Philanthropy Forum which held in to discuss pertinent issues bordering philanthropy around the globe. With the theme – “No Bystanders”, the forum stimulated cogent conversations around advancement of the sustainable development agenda and how social movements can be a transformative force capable of effectively challenging and changing social and political norms. The forum attracted a diverse array of delegates across the world including notable philanthropists, charitable organizations, individual and corporate foundations, and country representatives of the Global Philanthropy Group.

The Head of Foundation had earlier served as a panelist on the African Philanthropy Forum (APF), discussing the role of philanthropists in proffering solutions to challenges facing the African continent in a changing global context.