Dear Friends,

2021 marked a significant milestone in our journey as a Foundation, celebrating our 10th anniversary. While it might not seem a time for celebration given the daunting challenges the education sector is still grappling with in Nigeria today; it was crucial for us to reflect on our contributions in the last decade, draw on the lessons and successes, and re-position for greater impact in the next ‘decade of action’ for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Oando Foundation was borne out of a firm belief that investment in education pays the best dividend. Decades of neglect within the Nigerian educational sector saw the value of our human capital plummet at an alarming rate. With the Government overwhelmed by the sheer magnitude of resources required to rewrite the country’s growth story, our founding partner, Oando PLC, tasked itself with investing in the education sector believing that as Africans we must be our own solution providers. Where better to start, than in the creation of a system that ensures a viable future for the next generation of change makers.

We are grateful for how far we’ve come. We acknowledge all who have supported the Foundation’s work in diverse ways through the decade; especially our employees (past and present), Board of Trustees, Strategic Partners - Federal, State and Local Government Education officials, Non-Governmental Organizations, International Development Organizations and Private Sector Organizations, sponsors, volunteers, mentors, and programme beneficiaries for their invaluable support and collaboration in the execution of our strategic objectives.

Today, we are faced with a unique set of challenges - 5.6% of national budget allocated to education in 2021; worse in a decade despite the unprecedented learning slide occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing number of out-of-school children, and continued attack on Nigeria’s fragile school system due to insecurity. Nonetheless, we remain steadfast in our commitment to improve basic education access and quality for the Nigerian child through our signature programme, as well as strengthen strategic collaborations that will drive innovation and large-scale impact in the sector.

We are pleased to share highlights of 2021 with you!
Celebrating a decade of impact in the Nigerian basic education sector.

To commemorate the Foundation’s 10th anniversary, we engaged a plethora of activities (mainly virtual due to COVID-19 restrictions) to reflect and share our journey so far—successes, challenges, lessons, impact; extend gratitude to many who have contributed positively to our work; and our strategic outlook for the near future.

Our external communication ranged from press releases to feature articles, testimonials, interviews, video reels, social media campaign, among others. Various knowledge management materials were produced and published including four practice papers on key components of the Foundation’s Adopt-A-School Initiative, and a Coffee Table Book curating lessons, photographs, and stories from our 10-year journey. Our impact do date is summarized below:

- Adopted 88 schools across 22 states and the FCT.
- Enrolled 60,955 out-of-school children with a cumulative retention rate of 77% (some who have never been in the walls of a classroom or had to drop out for socioeconomic reasons).
- Built and renovated 249 classrooms and 5 Early Childcare Centers.
- Reduced levels of truancy (teacher and student) through the construction of potable water supply and sanitary facilities including 118 toilets, 35 motorized boreholes, and 26 wash bays to support sanitation and hygiene amongst children.
- Improved digital literacy and learning through the establishment of 39 ICT centers supporting increased access to learning with educational software.
- In partnership with Government Education Managers, we upskilled 2,832 teachers and 210 headteachers via our teacher training programme, improving their subject content knowledge and pedagogical practices and we’re delighted they are passing on this knowledge to children in simple, engaging, and effective ways that build their cognitive and socio-emotional skills.
- Distributed over 25,000 teaching and learning aids.
- Provided support to 1,731 School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) members, 212 Education Management Information System (EMIS) officers and 170 school support officers improving their functionality through education data management and evidence-based planning.
- Awarded 1,173 scholarships to brilliant, under-served children from our adopted schools to transit and complete secondary school.

These outcomes have been achieved through our signature project—the Adopt-A-School Initiative, impacting over half a million (586,000) direct beneficiaries and 1.7 million indirect beneficiaries to date.

Whilst we may not be nearer the end of our nation’s educational challenges, we can at least join others to commend the Foundation’s modest achievements. We will continue to design and implement multi-dimensional education interventions that support schools, communities, and the Nigerian Government in realizing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
Sumitomo Chemical renewed partnership with Oando Foundation for Clean Our World Project (COW II), following the successful completion of COW I.

Oando Foundation partnered with Sumitomo Chemical in a joint project tagged – Clean Our World (COW), to promote environmental education and sustainable action in select school communities in Lagos State. Community wide sensitization and empowerment approaches were utilized to improve beneficiaries’ knowledge of waste management, whilst encouraging the adoption of eco-conscious lifestyle.

Through the first phase of the project launched in October 2020, we have directly reached 7900+ children, teachers, and community members with early results showing appreciable improvement in their knowledge of sustainable environmental practices, especially waste management, gardening and composting, recycling, and upcycling.

Project close-out/school award ceremony was hosted in collaboration with the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB) in July, to showcase key project achievements and recognize the contributions of participating schools, awarding the best three – Metropolitan Primary School (1st place), Methodist Primary School (2nd Place) and Olokun Primary School (3rd place). Assessment was based on their ingenuity, innovation, and performance in three core components of the project – recycle management, gardening, and school environmental club activities.

Following the successful execution of the first phase, Sumitomo renewed partnership with the Foundation to scale project across 12 schools and 5 communities in Lagos State. COW Phase II commenced in October 2021.
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Directly reached 7,994 children, teachers, government education managers and community members with the knowledge of climate change, sustainable environmental practices, proper waste management approaches and upcycling. Sensitization and awareness campaigns implemented in 7 target schools and 3 communities.

Baseline assessment and waste audit conducted in target schools and communities, providing an evidence-based premise for project implementation.

Provision of 500+ relevant teaching and learning materials (including posters, fliers, upcycling tools, etc.) across target schools and communities to support knowledge transfer.

Strengthened capacity of 299 teachers, community members, and government officials in environmental education, upcycling, gardening, composting, among others.

1,388kg of plastic waste collected for recycling across target communities, demonstrating their commitment to adopting environmentally responsible behaviors. Proceeds from the buyback scheme was substituted for basic school supplies, benefitting target schools.

Replication and scale of the COW training model by the Local Education Authority to “staff champions” who will deploy same to non-supported schools.

Cultivation of farms in all target schools, producing leafy vegetables and corn. Over 20 trees planted to promote an eco-friendly environment.
Advocacy

Finance Minister, Dr. (Mrs.) Zainab Ahmed lauds the RBEN Initiative, approves set-up of Inter-Ministerial Committee to drive further action.

Regenerating Basic Education in Nigeria (RBEN) is a private sector led initiative under the platform of the Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) on SDGs. It seeks to leverage private sector capital to address the funding challenges facing the Nigerian education sector. Participation by private sector partners will be incentivized through guaranteed capital recovery, structured in the form of tax credits, which are applicable against an income or corporate tax bill. Oando Foundation currently leads the PSAG Education Cluster, championing the RBEN initiative.

As part of consultative engagements with key government stakeholders, the leadership of PSAG and the Office of the Senior Special Adviser to the President on SDGs recently met with the Minister for Finance, Budget, and National Planning and her team; to intimate them on the RBEN project (objectives, execution roadmap, expected outcomes, etc.) and seek the ministry’s full cooperation for set up of an inter-ministerial committee to fast track the execution process. Key intervention pillars proposed under the project are — Education Infrastructure (to include water, sanitation), Technology & Learning Tools, Curriculum Improvement, Teacher Capacity Development, and Out of School Children (ODSC) mobilization and enrolment. The initiative will be modeled after the Road Infrastructure Tax Credit achieved through a Presidential Executive Order.

In response to the presentation by the PSAG delegation, the Honorable Minister affirmed that incentives such as tax credit remain vital for our national development, and this has been demonstrated through the ongoing road tax incentive. She emphasized the role of the organized private sector as a key player in the attainment of the SDGs, pointing out the relevance of the proposed scheme to national strategic priorities, especially in the education sector. Among other commitments towards successful execution of the initiative, she approved the set-up of an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to review the proposal for an expedited Presidential Executive Order, supported by the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning.

Other advocacy initiatives...

We have made strategic contributions via membership on the Federal Ministry of Education Financing Committee, National Education Group, and the Senate Stakeholders Committee on Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Regulatory Framework for the Importation of Charitable Goods.

We continued to explore and utilize various platforms to highlight key challenges within the education sector and galvanize support for improvement in basic education delivery. These include the NPLM Social and Development Sector Roundtable at the Lagos Business School Sustainability Centre, and the dialogue session by Life Builders Initiative for Education and Societal Integration to discuss “Alternate Education: Panacea for the Out of School Children Crisis in Nigeria.”
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Award from USAID for Oando Foundation’s Contribution
Towards “Addressing Education in North-East Nigeria”

The Foundation was honored in September 2021 with an award from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for its strategic contribution towards the Addressing Education in North-East Nigeria (AENN) programme. The award presentation which held during the closing out ceremony of the programme in September had in attendance key stakeholders from the government, private sector, and civil society.

The USAID-AENN programme was aimed at addressing the immediate educational needs of 302,500 conflict-affected children and youth between the ages of 6 and 15, across 225 communities in Borno and Yobe States, through new non-formal and safer formal education, thus, laying a foundation for sustainable and conflict-sensitive improvement of education systems at the community and government levels.

The Foundation partnered with USAID-AENN to improve the quality of education infrastructure in one of the target schools in Maiduguri by establishing 1 solar-powered digital learning (ICT) Centre, upgraded 2 Early Childhood Care Development (ECCD) Centres, and strengthened the capacity of 30+ teachers and caregivers to deliver the Integrated Early Childhood curriculum, technology-based learning, and improve pedagogical practices.

The partnership aligns with the Foundation’s commitment to support basic education delivery, especially for children who have had their education disrupted due to the North-East insurgency, where attacks from non-state armed groups have forced over 2 million to flee their homes.

Through our special projects portfolio, we earlier donated 3,000+ teaching and learning materials to the temporary school facility in Dalori IDP Camp, Maiduguri in 2015; and supported the construction of Mainsandari Alamdoni Model Nursery and Primary School, Maiduguri – for children from internally displaced persons (IDP) camps around Abuja Talakawa in 2017.
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Promoting education equity for indigent children in target schools

The Foundation’s scholarship programme provides financial support to best performing students in adopted schools, to support their transition and completion of secondary education. Through the scheme, 1,153 children from indigent families have directly benefitted to date. In 2021, 195 scholars benefitted from the initiative, including 5 scholars in tertiary institutions across the country.

Recovering from the COVID-19 disruption has proven most challenging for students, as well as public schools now saddled with the responsibility of bridging the learning gap created by the long period of school closure in 2020, whilst ensuring current learning needs are not compromised.

Beyond the direct impact of the scholarship on the beneficiaries and their parents, these scholars have become inspiration for children in their alma mater and communities, to work harder and excel too.

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EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

Increasing Employee Philanthropy and Volunteering

Among several employee volunteering opportunities initiated by the Foundation, the Sponsor-A-Child initiative provides a platform for Oando employees to financially support (and mentor) select students under the scholarship programme.

Employees have continued to support this initiative, notably, the Oando Energy Resources Operations Team who sponsored 25 children in 2020 and increased their funding to sponsor an additional 25 children in 2021: directly impacting 50 scholars. Through an appreciation video message to colleagues, the importance of volunteering was amplified, and a call was made for more volunteers to lend their time and resources.

If you would like to sponsor a child, kindly send us an email at info@oandofoundation.org.
TAP to Reach All

In 2020, the #HumansOfOando conceived The Aggregator Platform (TAP) in response to COVID-19 related intervention efforts that are focused on the sustenance of lives and livelihoods in less privileged communities across Nigeria, starting with Lagos State.

Supported by Oando Foundation and in partnership with 11 non-governmental organizations (as implementing partners), a total of N49m was raised as of December 31st, 2021, providing food relief to 6,725 households across 28 communities in Lagos State.

To improve the sustainability of the initiative, TAP recently reviewed its strategy from the donation of one-off food relief materials for families to partnering with existing economic empowerment programs to feed beneficiaries throughout their period of empowerment. The project which commenced in August 2021, provided weekly nutritional support to 60 beneficiaries (and their households), to alleviate the burden of committing business resources to daily feeding during the skill acquisition program or small business scale up. The process ensures that beneficiaries learn a skill or scale their small businesses, supporting them to provide for themselves and their families, without the immediate burden of their households’ feeding needs during the empowerment program.

Status 31-12-2021

11
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OUTLOOK FOR 2022

We are true to the African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together”. We are grateful to all who have supported the Foundation’s work in diverse ways through the decade.

Looking ahead, we are challenged to be more and do more. With a sense of heightened urgency occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must work collaboratively with government at all levels to develop and rapidly scale innovative approaches hinged on technology reaching out beyond traditional boundaries. We will engage effective cross-sectoral partnerships, championed by the Private Sector to increase education investment utilizing nimble financial solutions to augment government’s contributions, as well as vigorously advocate for improved education access and quality, remedial education provisions and mechanisms to protect the poor and vulnerable.

We hope like us, you cannot wait for a tomorrow brimming with opportunities.

Happy New Year!

Adekanla Adegoke
Head, Oando Foundation

For more information on how Oando Foundation is impacting basic education in Nigeria, please visit www.oandofoundation.org

Connect with us:

@oandofoundation