



Oando Foundation

...Transforming lives through education

Dear Friends,

As 2023 comes to an end, we reflect on the incredible partnerships and progress this past year. In line with global education trends post-COVID 19, and our commitment to deepen the impact of the work recorded through the Adopt-A-School Initiative, Oando Foundation sought to foster strategic partnerships with shared value to innovate for a sustainable future through education. Currently, the world is experiencing a learning crisis with Sub-Saharan Africa being the worst hit. Nigeria accounts for 15% of all the out of school children in world. Although, we have witnessed an increase in child enrolment, it appears that foundational learning and teaching have deteriorated significantly. According to the UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys on Education Analysis for Global Learning and Equity (MICS-EAGLE), by the end of grade 6, only 57% of pupils in Nigeria demonstrate foundational literacy and 48% demonstrate foundational numeracy.

This year, the Foundation Launched the new LEARNOVATE strategy (Learning > Skills > Innovation). Through the LEARNOVATE strategy, we prioritized innovation in education to promote equity, and improve learning and skills. We aimed to further foundational literacy and numeracy by giving priority to revolutionary methods to enhance learning and teaching.

Additionally, there was the emphasis on climate action and environmental education, training young learners and members of the community to play a more active role in protecting the environment. Through close collaboration, we witnessed increased awareness and efforts in the adoption of sustainable waste management and eco-conscious practices, resulting in visible benefits at both the school and community level.

We also drove thought leadership on basic and environmental education to increase the awareness and adoption of sustainable practices in our schools and their communities and improve the learning outcomes of the children whilst championing advocacy for increased private sector investment in the educational sector.

We are grateful to all our partners and donors for their continued support in the championing of basic and environmental education in Nigeria. Together, we hope to take more significant strides towards increased accessibility and quality of education in Nigeria.

Here are the key highlights of this momentous year...

2023 Newsletter

LEARNING



Revolutionizing Foundational Learning.

In partnership with the US Agency for International Development's Leveraging Education Assistance Resources in Nigeria (USAID-LEARN) To Read and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's Partnership for Learning for All in Nigerian Education (FCDO-PLANE), Oando Foundation is spearheading a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing early grade learning in six pilot states: Adamawa, Bauchi, Ebonyi, Gombe, Niger, and Sokoto. The LEARNOVATE programme focuses on training of pre-service teachers utilizing the updated national minimum standards to effectively deliver foundational skills, as well as direct support to education managers, in-service teachers, and learners in 26 adopted schools to improve foundational learning outcomes (literacy and numeracy) using mother tongue-based early grade teaching, learning, and assessment materials. To ensure a seamless implementation, the Foundation is collaborating with key stakeholders, including respective State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs) and Colleges of Education (CoEs) in pilot states, the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), and the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE). The pilot phase of the programme (2023/2024) targets 18,000+ learners in 26 primary schools. On completion, the programme will be scaled across 200+ schools nationwide.



Oando Scholars

According to statistics, approximately 35% of Nigerian primary school students do not proceed to secondary education. In 2021, only 50% of Nigerian children were enrolled in secondary education. Our scholarship program not only addresses this problem but also equips children with the necessary knowledge, skills, and character to seize future economic opportunities and foster a lifelong learning journey.

Through our scholarship programme, we have provided an opportunity for 1,153 awardees to move beyond basic education by supporting the transition and retention of intellectually gifted pupils from our adopted schools into secondary (and in some cases) tertiary education.

Today, with 35 scholars remaining and five in tertiary institutions, we strive to equip our scholars with the necessary knowledge, skills, and character to seize future economic opportunities and foster a lifelong learning journey.

We extend our gratitude to our generous donors, who continually support our scholars' access to education. If you're interested in sponsoring a child, please reach out to us via email at info@oandofoundation.org.



PLANET



As a sustainability strategy, environmental clubs were established in participating schools and students recruited as environmental champions. These clubs prioritized environmental awareness and responsible action in a fun and interactive manner, complementing the in-class structured lesson delivery.

The Head, Oando Foundation, Adekanla Adegoke, also appeared on Arise TV alongside the founder and CEO of GreenHub Africa Foundation, Henry Bassey, to discuss the pressing issue of environmental education in Nigeria. They highlighted the importance of raising awareness and promoting sustainable practices among the general population, and within educational institutions. Additionally, the success and impact of the Clean Our World project was emphasized.

Educating for a Greener Future: The “Clean Our World” (COW) Project

Through the third phase of the “Clean Our world” (COW) project, the Foundation in partnership with Sumitomo chemical promoted environmental education and sustainable action in 24 public primary schools and their host communities.

We organized a comprehensive master training workshop for 86 teachers and education managers in Lagos State. The participants received essential skills training to effectively deliver environmental education lessons and will serve as a resource pool for step-down training at the school level. The workshop emphasized the use of 'edutainment' as a teaching approach, incorporating the Climate Action Superheroes concept to make the lessons engaging and entertaining. In school activities under the project included the delivery of an extensive 8-module environmental education syllabus, addressing various climate issues and corresponding solutions to tackle them, and providing hands-on practical sessions in waste management and gardening, among others.



Recognizing the need for standardization of environmental education lessons and scaling across more schools for greater impact, the Foundation, in collaboration with Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), and GreenHub Africa Foundation designed and unveiled the Climate Action Environmental Education Syllabus and Lesson Plan to aid the teaching of environmental education across 1,020 public primary schools in the State. Deployment of these materials across all schools and capacity building for select teachers will commence in Q1 2024.

Key Achievements



Directly reached **26,000+** beneficiaries with the knowledge of sustainable environmental practices, proper waste management approaches and upcycling.



Over **14,023kg** of recyclable plastic waste collected across target communities.



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



Established Environmental Clubs across **24 Schools** and training of participating pupils on upcycling and gardening.



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



Clean up and sensitization campaigns executed across **6 communities**, encouraging environmentally responsible behaviors among residents.



Strengthened capacity of **258** teachers, community members, and LGEA Officials in environmental education, upcycling, gardening, and composting, among others.



Teach for Nigeria Incubation Hub Program in Partnership with Oando Foundation.

Aware of Oando Foundation's reputation as an organization that believes in the transformative power of education and the potential of innovative approaches towards addressing educational and environmental challenges, Teach for Nigeria (TFN) requested collaboration for the successful actualization of their Incubation Hub program.

The program supports startups in Edtech, educational workforce development, climate change and environment, diversity equity, and inclusion, and foundational education, with the funds, tools, and infrastructure they would require growing optimally and contributing significantly towards education improvement in Nigeria. The Foundation supported the program with seed grants to fund the best performing social innovators in the Edtech and Climate Solution categories.

TFN is an organization striving to mobilize leaders who will drive the movement towards educational equity and excellence. They recruit Nigeria's most promising future leaders from varied disciplines to teach in Nigeria's underserved schools in low-income communities through a highly selective two-year fellowship.

To support and ensure their alumni remain aligned with their mission and resilient in the stride to a more equitable and prosperous future for all, the Incubation Hub program was developed. The Incubation Hub program is a 3-month intensive enterprise development training, focused on supporting the upscaling of social impact projects founded by alumni of TFN, in a bid to accelerate TFN's vision of unlocking the potential of all children. Through the Incubation Hub, participants are equipped with the practical knowledge required to build and sustain their social innovations. The Incubation Hub also

provides them with opportunities for mentorship and networking with industry experts.

Of the 20 innovators selected to attend the incubator's bootcamp, 7 advanced to the final stage, a pitch contest which was held on the 4th of October 2023 at the Metropolitan Club, Ikoyi, Lagos. The Head of Foundation, Mrs. Adekanla Adegoke, served as one of the judges for the pitch contest finale of the program. Each of the top two innovations were awarded monetary seed grant to scale their impact. The winners of this Pitch-a-thon were Joy Ogbonna with Kareerday, an edtech company, revolutionizing student preparedness for the future of work, and Kareem Abdulrazak with Recyclearn Initiative, a social enterprise focused on recycling plastic waste and supporting the educational needs of students in low-income communities.

In supporting the Incubation Hub program, Oando Foundation reaffirms its commitment to driving positive change through education and innovation. We believe that nurturing and empowering startups in the fields of Edtech and Climate Innovation is pivotal in shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future. The impact of this endeavor extends far beyond the pitch contest, as it lays the groundwork for transformative solutions to address pressing societal challenges. We enjoyed witnessing the inspiring journeys of these innovators and the enduring impact they will have on our communities and environment.



ADVOCACY

We consistently strive to advance our initiatives to raise awareness about the critical challenges confronting the environment and education sector and to enlist support for enhancing the provision of basic education.

Here are some advocacy highlights from this year

Creating Awareness, Fostering Change.

The Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) Nigeria serves as a connector between the private sector and the government to drive policies and scale collaborative efforts on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) activities for impact in Nigeria. The PSAG-Education Cluster aims to accelerate private sector involvement in education delivery through our various initiatives and advocacy events...

In our role as the Education Cluster Lead, Oando Foundation served as a technical partner and represented the cluster alongside other members during the **Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) 2023**. ASIS is the convening of regional inclusive development conversations that provide opportunities for private sector and impact investors. The Head of the Foundation, Adekanla Adegoke took part in a panel session that emphasized the importance of climate financing. During the session, she discussed the Foundation's role in promoting enhanced access to climate adaptation through education across the country.



In recognition of its notable contributions to the educational sector in Nigeria, UBEC invited the cluster for a 1-day meeting on **Promoting Partnership with the Organized Private Sector and other Stakeholders in the Implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Programme**. The engagement provided an opportunity to address key issues relating to the delivery of universal basic education in Nigeria, as well as areas in which UBEC is open to collaborative partnerships with the Organized Private Sector and other concerned partners. As cluster head, Oando Foundation was present at the event and responsible for mobilization of other members to attend the event.



The Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) hosted a 1-day capacity building session for the commissioners of education from the 36 states and the Minister of Education, FCT. The PSAG Education Cluster, represented by Oando Foundation and the Co-chair of the cluster, Mr. Bolaji Balogun of Chapel Hill Denham, was invited to make a presentation on the proposed plan for Regenerating Basic Education in Nigeria (RBEN). The initiative proposes a way forward to increase funding to and private sector engagement in the education sector through an education tax credit scheme.



Courtesy Visits

The Foundation held various meetings with several strategic partners. A particularly significant strategic meeting held was the visit paid to the Honourable Minister of Education, Professor Tahir Mamman, to discuss the Foundation's education initiatives and explore areas of mutual collaboration for improved basic education delivery.

The delegation, led by Mrs. Adekanla Adegoke, Head, Oando Foundation (OF), also had in attendance Dr. Nguyan Feese, OF trustee, Tonia Uduimoh, Programmes Manager, and Okechukwu Edeh, Programmes Support. Reiterating the Foundation's commitment to support the Nigerian government's efforts towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goal 4, Mrs. Adegoke highlighted our renewed focus on foundational learning improvement, climate action through environmental education, and our advocacy efforts through the Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG).

The Honourable Minister who was joined by key directors and other senior members of the ministry, commended

the Foundation's contributions to the sector so far, and encouraged continued collaboration with relevant departments within the ministry to expand the scope, scale and reach of its interventions, emphasizing the need for private sector to provide leadership given its unique capabilities.

We paid a courtesy visit to the Director of Social Mobilization, Dr. Ossom M. Ossom and the Head of Partnership/ Private Sector Engagement, Mrs. Iberi, Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) as well. As the PSAG Education Cluster lead, we encouraged them to increase engagement and collaboration with the private sector towards the achievement of our common goal of improved access to quality education for all in Nigeria.

We also hosted officials from the Plateau State Universal Basic Education Board and Ministry of Education, led by the SUBEB Chairman, Mr. Sunday Amuna, at the Foundation's office in Lagos. It was an opportunity to express appreciation for the Foundation's contributions towards basic education improvement in the state, and jointly exploring opportunities for continued partnership in the coming year.



Voices United for Change

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) 2023

The Head, Oando Foundation, Adekanla Adegoke, and the Programmes Manager, Tonia Uduimoh, joined global leaders, experts and influencers across borders and sectors at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York to share insights and perspectives on major challenges impacting the attainment of the SDGs, at a time of unprecedented setbacks on global progress and escalating humanitarian needs. Working towards the achievement of Agenda 2030, this year's event focused on a shift from rhetoric to action, accelerating progress and bringing high impact solutions to scale through renewed government and stakeholder commitments to drive SDG transformation for inclusion and sustainability.

The Foundation team also attended several high-level side events focused on education, climate action, digital technology, youth upskilling, and Africa philanthropy, among other networking opportunities. Across board, the central theme of accelerating efforts towards the attainment of the SDGs in 2030 resonated.

As a Foundation, our renewed strategic focus on foundational literacy and numeracy, climate action through environmental education, and advocacy for policy action could not have come at a more crucial time. We are leveraging the lessons and impact of our Adopt-A-School initiative to accelerate learning quality and eco-consciousness among our beneficiaries. Scaling high impact solutions through effective multi-sectorial partnerships across the board will help us deliver desired results faster and more sustainably. Therefore, we were grateful for this opportunity to join other global change makers to renew our commitment and join forces towards the achievement of SDGs 4, 13, and 17 for inclusion and sustainability in the years ahead, as we support the Nigerian government's efforts to ensure no child is left behind.



Championing Basic Education Delivery: Oando Foundation at the BEN-B Summit

The Federal Ministry of Education in partnership with the US Agency for International Development (USAID), Partnership for Learning for All in Nigerian Education (PLANE), the British Council, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Oando Foundation organized the maiden edition of the Basic Education in Nigeria Bootcamp (BEN-B). This national conference brought together key stakeholders from the government, the private sector, civil societies among others, to address policy, practice, and implementation gaps within the basic education sub-sector.



The event, which held September 25-28, 2023, at Ibom Icon Hotel and Golf Resort in Uyo, Akwa Ibom state, had the theme, “Improving Access to Inclusive Quality Education for All Children in Nigeria towards achieving SDG 4”, underscoring the urgent need for collective action in advancing education outcomes nationwide. Through this event, the ministry sought to identify immediate challenges and gaps, share knowledge, develop an effective accountability framework, harmonize, and coordinate the resources, activities, and state priorities in the basic education sub-sector towards the achievement of national and global goals.

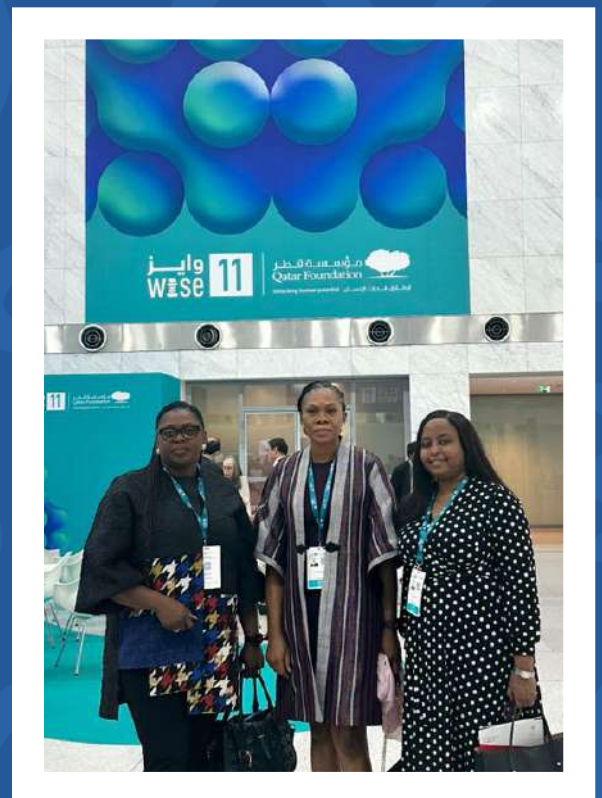
Oando Foundation, recognized for its impactful education interventions and investments through the Adopt-a-School program, and most recently the LEARNOVATE strategy, played a key role at the event. Delivering her goodwill message, the Head of Foundation, Mrs. Adekanla Adegoke, emphasized the importance of basic education and the need to foster partnerships aimed at improving the quality and access to education.

“Basic education forms the foundation upon which all other forms of learning and development rest. It is the fundamental right of every child and the cornerstone of a prosperous and equitable society. Access to quality basic education is not just a goal; it is a moral imperative that shapes the future of nations.”

Oando Foundation's participation in the summit served as a catalyst for fostering collaboration, the exchange of best practices and the mobilization of collective efforts towards the advancement of education in Nigeria. It is a testament to our steadfast commitment to advancing basic education in Nigeria. As we reflect on this pivotal event, we look forward to continued collaboration, innovation, and transformative initiatives that will empower the next generation with the knowledge and skills to thrive in our dynamic world.

World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE)

The Foundation fully participated in the 11th edition of the WISE summit themed, “Creative Fluency: Human Flourishing in the age of AI”. The Summit provided a platform for participants to debate and discuss critical issues reshaping our education landscape, including the importance of computational literacy, the promise of personalized learning for all, new AI-integrated pedagogical approaches that enhance the creative potential of students and teachers, as well as issues of equity and embedded values in the design, dissemination, and implementation of emerging technologies for education around the world behavioral change through education and advocacy.



2023 World Environment Day

In partnership with the Federal Ministry of Environment, Oando Foundation, OXFAM Nigeria, and the European Union hosted an event to commemorate world environmental day. This program, centered around the theme of combating plastic pollution, tackled inventive approaches and practical steps for effectively handling plastic waste. During the event, Tonia Uduimoh, our program manager, emphasized the vital role of education in achieving global environmental sustainability and effective plastic management. She highlighted the significant efforts made by the Foundation in this area through the Clean Our World project.

The Foundation was also present at the United Nations house Abuja for a commemorative event themed “Solutions to Plastic Pollution”. The event, organized by the United Nations information center and GreenHub Africa Foundation, among other partners, focused on finding solutions to plastic pollution. The event featured keynote speeches and panel discussions that revolved around innovative approaches to promoting environmental sustainability and encouraging behavioral change through education and advocacy.



USAID-SCALE 2023 National Organizational Development Summit

Oando Foundation was invited to participate in the USAID-Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (SCALE) 2023 National Organizational Development Summit, which focused on improving innovation and technology to enhance organizational resilience and performance. The summit aimed to empower civil society organizations to be more effective change agents by strengthening civic advocacy and local engagement. During the event, Tonia Uduimoh, our Programmes Manager, addressed the importance of private sector engagement and support to civil society in ways that are mutually beneficial and strengthen organizational resilience.

UNICEF National Conference

The Foundation was also in attendance at the UNICEF National Conference on the Learning Crisis in Nigeria: The Case for Accelerating Foundational Learning. This event was a gathering of key players in the educational space in Nigeria, presenting an opportunity for insightful discussions on the key challenges plaguing the sector and knowledge sharing by spotlighting successful educational models as the way forward. Following a series of breakout sessions, strong voices from Federal and State representatives, development partners, and the private sector, including the Head of Foundation, Adekanla Adegoke and Programmes Manager, Tonia Uduimoh, the event was concluded with the creation of a “Framework of Action” to tackle foundational learning crisis in Nigeria. The proposed blueprint emphasizes important aspects of quality education, the significance of teacher training, advanced teaching tools, tech-integrated learning, and performance assessments.

International Volunteer Day

Oando Foundation commemorated 37 UN international days among which we had the **International Volunteer Day volunteer activity**. The Foundation led #HumansOfOando to a volunteer activity at one of our adopted schools in Lagos – Archbishop Taylor Memorial Nursery and Primary school. The event presented an opportunity for Oando employees to interact with and inspire children in the adopted school. Some of the activities included: refurbishment of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) classrooms, painting, arts and crafts sessions, and provision of gift packs to all pupils and teachers. Back in 2013, the Foundation comprehensively renovated the school, equipping it with an ICT center, some furniture and fixtures, and WASH facilities. Maintenance work was recently carried out in the school, based on identified infrastructure improvement needs.

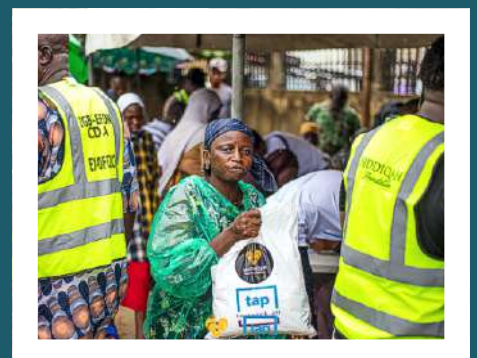


Tap to Reach All

The Aggregator platform (TAP) is a special initiative driven by the #HumansOfOando (Oando employees). Launched in April 2020, TAP is focused on supporting the realization of SDG2: Zero Hunger by promoting the eradication of hunger in Nigeria by distributing relief food supplies to the most vulnerable households, starting from Lagos state.

In 2023, the outreach was extended to three communities in Lagos State reaching 350 households in Isheri-Berger, 400 households in Igbo-Efon community on the Lekki Expressway Axis and 350 households in Okobaba Home of Destitutes, Ebutemeta. Oando Foundation supported TAP with planning, community engagement and the identification of implementation partners.

We are delighted to be associated with this initiative and extend our best wishes to the TAP family for their commendable mission.



2024 Outlook

As we reflect on the year that was, we are filled with gratitude for the collective efforts that have propelled our mission forward. We have witnessed a very impactful first year implementing key components of the LEARNOVATE strategy as summarized above.

We look forward to 2024 with great optimism as we strive to consolidate, replicate, and scale early programming gains across our foundational learning, green skills, and advocacy initiatives. We will actively utilize evidence from the Foundation's work, in close collaboration with key stakeholders across government, private sector, and civil society, to influence necessary policy actions, increase investment, and participation in basic education delivery; ensuring no child is left behind. Together, we can do more!

Wishing you a very productive year ahead!

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



Oando Foundation