



Oando Foundation

...Transforming lives through education



| 2024

NEWSLETTER

AFRICAN UNION DECLARES 2024 AS 'THE YEAR OF EDUCATION'

The African Union's declaration of 2024 as the 'Year of Education' underscored the urgency in addressing the ongoing education crisis in the continent and accelerating progress toward SDG 4: Quality Education. Studies show that Nigeria accounts for 15% of the global number of out-of-school children, and 70% of our children struggle with basic literacy and numeracy. These statistics highlight the critical need to prioritize basic education as the foundation for national development and a sustainable future.

In response to these challenges, we continued to expand and adapt our interventions through the LEARNOVATE strategy, focusing on its three critical pillars: Learning, Planet, and Advocacy. Leveraging innovative methods, evidence-based practices, and strategic partnerships, we aimed to improve learning outcomes, promote environmental stewardship, and advocate for systemic change in Nigeria's education sector.

Through the LEARNOVATE strategy, we not only integrated climate action into education, empowering pupils and their communities to build a more sustainable future but also renewed our foundational literacy and numeracy efforts, drove thought leadership, created awareness and inspired action in these areas. Guided by a commitment to equitable and inclusive education, our work this year reflects resilience in the face of challenges and the power of collaboration to inspire lasting impact.



LEARNING



From empowering pre-primary learners through early childhood center upgrades and teacher capacity strengthening, to the launch of our remedial program across four states; our approach is helping to reshape basic education delivery and outcomes in Nigeria, paving the way for a brighter future.

Building Strong Foundations Through LEARNOVATE-SEED (Supporting Early Childhood Education and Development)

Through our rebranded early childhood intervention, now themed LEARNOVATE-SEED (Supporting Early Childhood Education and Development), we upgraded 17 Early Childhood Centers in Lagos, Plateau and Katsina States, benefitting 1,171 children aged 2 to 5 years. These centers were renovated and equipped with appropriate furniture, interactive learning setups, literacy and numeracy corners, feelings and emotions areas, gross motor skills sections, and instructional materials, fostering a stimulating environment tailored to support the unique needs of young learners.

Additionally, 76 early childcare teachers and education managers received training on child development, inclusive education, and play-based learning, enhancing teaching quality. Our comprehensive intervention approach (infrastructure upgrade and capacity strengthening) ensures that young learners receive holistic education that fosters both cognitive and socio-emotional development.

Research shows that 90% of brain development occurs before age five, underscoring the critical importance of early childhood education in shaping lifelong learning and success. Recognizing this, Oando Foundation has made early childhood education a key part of its interventions, ensuring that young learners have access to nurturing environments and quality resources that set them on the right path for lifelong learning.



Introducing LEARNOVATE-FLIP (Foundational Learning Improvement Programme)

In line with our commitment to enhance proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy skills through innovative, evidence-based methods, the Foundation launched LEARNOVATE-FLIP pilot across 4 target states – Ebonyi, Adamawa, Plateau, and Sokoto. This pilot utilizes two distinct approaches: i) Early Grade Reading (EGR), and ii) Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL).

- **The EGR pilot** aims to demonstrate that an integrated approach to learner support in mother-tongue can significantly improve reading achievements for pupils in primary 1-3; targeting 60 public primary schools across three states – Ebonyi, Plateau, and Sokoto. Key result areas include (i) Improvement in capacity of teachers, school managers, and education administrators to deliver high quality reading instructions and mentoring (ii) Development of evidence-based grade-appropriate teaching and learning materials to improve pupil performance (iii) Strengthening community participation in basic education quality through establishment and facilitation of community reading hubs in the target school communities and iv) Strengthening assessment and data collection systems to inform instruction, planning and continuous improvement. EGR instructional and assessment materials have been adopted and deployed for the pilot in Hausa (Sokoto), Igbo (Ebonyi) and English (Plateau).

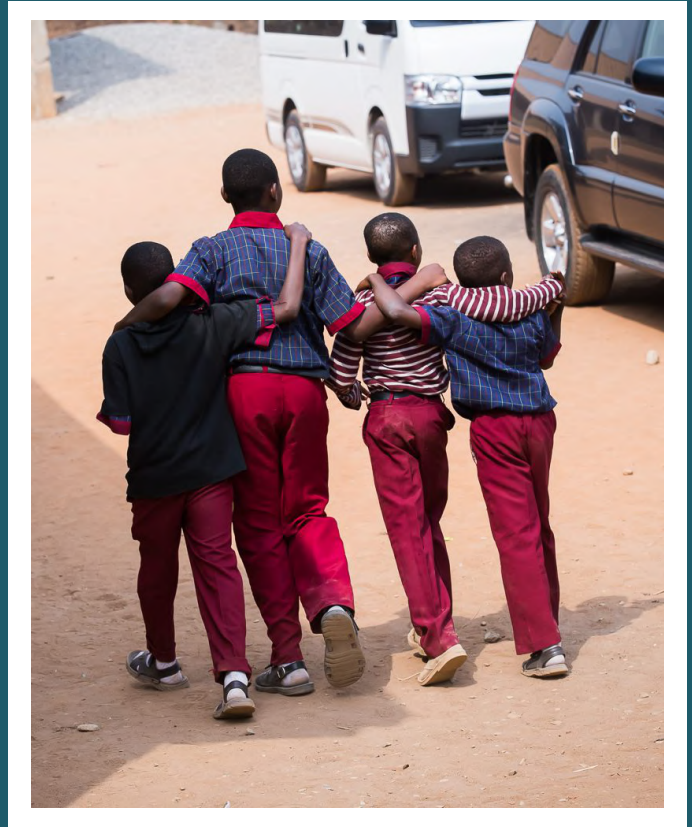
- **The TaRL approach** focuses on providing technology-enhanced remedial learning and improving foundational literacy and numeracy skills for pupils in primary 4-6, who have experienced interruptions in formal education with evident gaps in learning proficiency. This evidence-based method has already successfully impacted over 750,000 children across seven states in Nigeria. In line with the goals of LEARNOVATE, the Foundation is scaling the initiative, in partnership with TaRL Nigeria, infusing technology in its delivery across 20 public primary schools in Adamawa State.

LEARNOVATE-FLIP pilot has commenced and will run concurrently in target states throughout the 2024/25 academic year.

Project Zero: Mobilizing 150,000 Out-of-School Children (OOSC) from the Streets to the Classroom

Oando Foundation, in partnership with Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), aims to mobilize **150,000 OOSC**, reduce the risk of children dropping out of school, and improve data management systems to track this category of at-risk children for targeted interventions. Five Local Governments reported to have the highest number of OOSC in the state have been identified to benefit from the joint project.

Currently at the pre-implementation phase, a co-design workshop was held in Q2 2024, bringing together key stakeholders in education and social development to exchange ideas and jointly develop project initiation documents. Following this, a validation workshop was held in Q3 2024, setting the tone for project implementation to commence in the 2025/26 academic session.



Supporting Oando Scholars...

It is estimated that 35% of Nigerian primary school pupils do not proceed to secondary education, due to a myriad of reasons, including poverty. Our scholarship program not only addresses this problem but also empowers children with the necessary knowledge, skills, and character to seize future economic opportunities and foster lifelong learning.

To date, we have awarded 1,153 scholarships to deserving beneficiaries through a competitive process, to support

their transition and retention from our adopted schools into secondary (and in some cases) tertiary education.

In 2024, we disbursed grants to 15 secondary and 3 tertiary scholars under the scheme.

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 foundation@oandopl.com.



PLANET



Our planet component under the LEARNOVATE strategy is promoting environmental sustainability across Nigeria, empowering the next generation of climate champions through environmental education and green skills.

Raising Eco-conscious Champions: Expansion of the Clean Our World (COW) Project

In partnership with Sumitomo Chemical, Lagos SUBEB, we introduced the climate action syllabus and lesson plans across 1,020 schools for standardized environmental lessons, with full-scale implementation in 50 schools in Lagos. Building on the success achieved in Lagos, where the project has had substantial impact on public primary schools over the last three phases, we expanded the scope, bringing similar benefits to Plateau State, starting with 20 public primary schools across 3 Local Governments.

The project expansion is testament to the Foundation's commitment to embedding environmental consciousness into Nigeria's education system, through a localized approach that can be adopted for scale at the sub-national level.

Key project activities included teacher capacity strengthening for teachers and education managers who received training on the utilization of 'edutainment' techniques for effective environmental education lesson delivery at school level; establishment of environmental clubs which exposed pupils to hands-on activities like recycling, upcycling and gardening; and inter-school competition to test their knowledge and skills.



• Key Achievements: •



Climate Action Superheroes' outreach deployed in 70 schools; **69,500 beneficiaries** reached.



3,250kg of plastic waste recycled



177 teachers and education managers trained



70 school environmental clubs established and empowered



6,000 copies of approved Climate Action Syllabus and Lesson Plans produced and distributed to **1,024** primary schools in Lagos, to support lesson standardization.

The **COW Phase IV close-out ceremony** hosted in December served as an opportunity to celebrate project accomplishments, recognize key stakeholders, and reward best-performing schools. A major highlight of the event which had in attendance stakeholders from the government, private sector and civil society, was the panel discussion on “Strategic Collaborations: Scaling School-based Environmental Education Programs for Greater Impact”, with actionable solutions that will influence future action.

Seed Grant for Localised Solutions to Environmental and Educational Challenges

In partnership with **Teach for Nigeria**, Oando Foundation co-sponsored the 2024 Incubation Hub program, empowering young social innovators with localised solutions to tackle key educational and environmental challenges. The program supports startups in select areas of social impact such as education and climate action with the funds, tools, and infrastructure to grow optimally and contribute significantly towards improving education in Nigeria. The Foundation supported this initiative through mentorship, strategic guidance, and award of seed grant to the finalists.

10 out of 20 promising innovators advanced to the Incubation Hub pitch competition finale in October 2024. The winner, Collins Odike Nnabuike, was awarded a seed grant for his project, 'Waste to Design', which transforms plastic waste into educational materials for underserved schools, bridging critical gaps in both education and environmental sustainability.



Our collaboration with Teach for Nigeria exemplifies the commitment of both organizations to fostering sustainable change through education and innovation, enhancing the impact on local communities.

ADVOCACY



Driving meaningful change through advocacy is at the heart of our mission. This year, we intensified efforts to address key policy and implementation gaps in Nigeria's basic education sector, galvanizing private sector participation through impactful advocacy initiatives in collaboration with government and other development partners.

As part of efforts to engage on these issues and enlist multistakeholder support, Oando Foundation served as a technical partner and co-sponsor for the **2024 Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS)**. Our Programmes Manager, Tonia Uduimoh, joined other panelists to discuss the importance of foundational learning for youth employability and positioning Africa as the global talent sourcing frontier. The panel emphasized the need for patient capital, a long-term view, and increased collaboration between the private sector and academia to nurture a more well-rounded, competitive talent pool.



To commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child, Oando Foundation joined key stakeholders at the inaugural **International Conference on Girl Child Education** in Nigeria hosted by the Nigeria Governors' Forum and the Federal Ministry of Education. The event provided a platform for the Foundation to emphasize its commitment to promoting girl child education, highlighting the urgent need for increased education financing, robust accountability framework to monitor progress, and the sharing of best practices among stakeholders to amplify impact. Our Programmes Manager, Tonia Uduimoh also moderated a high-level panel discussion with Commissioners of Education from various states, exploring innovative strategies and deliberate partnerships to bridge gaps in inclusivity and ensure that every girl has the opportunity to thrive.



Other advocacy highlights from the year include:

Human Capital Africa Pre-AU Summit Roundtable which provided a key opportunity to mobilize major development partners around the shared goal of ending the foundational learning crisis and achieving targets under SDG 4.



TEP Webinar on leveraging public-private partnerships to shape the future of education in Africa where the Foundation emphasized the transformative power of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Africa's education, exploring strategies for collaboration, innovative approaches, and policy recommendations to drive positive change.



The 2024 World Environment Day event hosted in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Environment, European Union/NCCRP, and OXFAM to raise awareness, share knowledge, and inspire action towards a more sustainable and resilient future.



The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly where the Foundation actively engaged in key conversations and action toward shaping the future of education and climate action.



The Africa Philanthropy Forum Annual Conference provided an opportunity to connect with other philanthropic leaders, share lessons from the Foundation's initiatives, and explore innovative approaches to maximize social impact across the continent.



AriseTV interview where our Programmes Manager joined other education advocates to address critical issues in the education sector and proffer solutions under the theme "Bridging Gaps and Building Futures in Education", with a focus on out-of-school children.



The Basic Education in Nigeria Bootcamp

hosted by the Federal Ministry of Education, in collaboration with Oando Foundation and other strategic partners, with the theme, "Improving Access to Inclusive Quality Education for All Children in Nigeria: Addressing Challenges of Out-of-School Children" spotlighting Nigeria's dire educational challenge as the country with the highest number of out-of-school children globally.

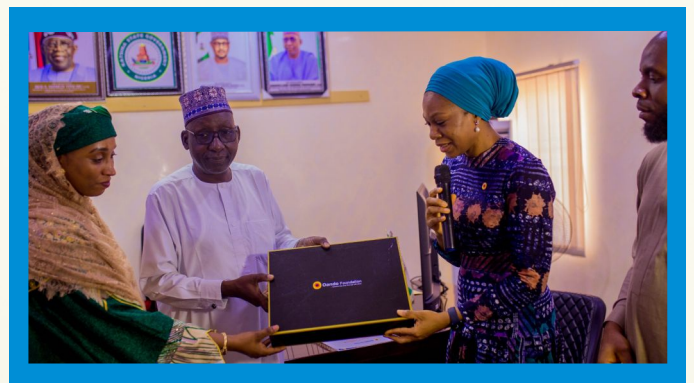


Building Partnership Bridges for Collective Impact

With a strong reputation as 'Partner of Choice' in basic education delivery through strategic partnerships with government, international institutions, private sector, and civil society; Oando Foundation continues to deepen its programme delivery efforts, showing evidence in community development, education thought-leadership, and policy influence.

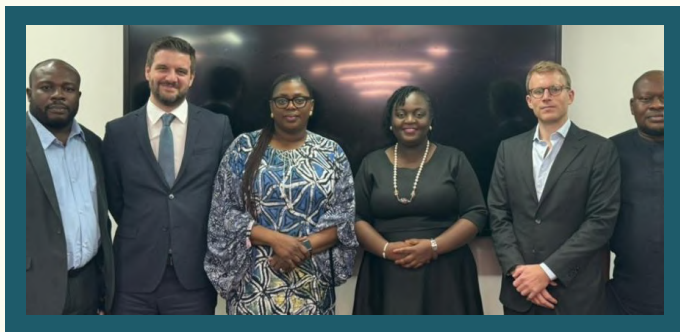
Courtesy Visits to Plateau and Katsina State Governments

As part of efforts to strengthen existing partnerships and explore new opportunities for better educational outcomes in both states, the Foundation paid courtesy visits to His Excellency, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang, the Governor of Plateau State; and Barrister Abdullahi Garba Faskari, Secretary to the Katsina State Government. Following these engagements and renewed commitment from both states, we expanded the scope of our interventions in the states, leveraging their counterpart contributions. These visits underscore the Foundation's proactive engagement with state partners for improved outcomes.



Education Outcomes Fund's Visit to Oando Foundation

The Education Outcomes Fund (EOF) held a consultative meeting with Oando Foundation, alongside Sterling One Foundation and ACT Foundation, to discuss the potential launch of the Education Outcomes Fund program in Nigeria. The primary objective of this collaborative effort is to enhance learning outcomes and increase educational investment in Nigeria, particularly focusing on addressing the enrollment of out-of-school children. Leveraging their established outcomes-based education financing approach in Sierra Leone and Ghana, EOF aims to introduce innovative financing solutions in Nigeria, collaborating with state governments, development agencies, private sector, and civil society.



As the inaugural international trust fund dedicated to outcomes-based financing for education, EOF represents a pragmatic response to challenges in basic education, offering robust financial incentives to foster innovation and drive results in education. We look forward to deepening this engagement for results in the coming year.

Regenerating Basic Education in Nigeria through Policies that Fuel Progress...

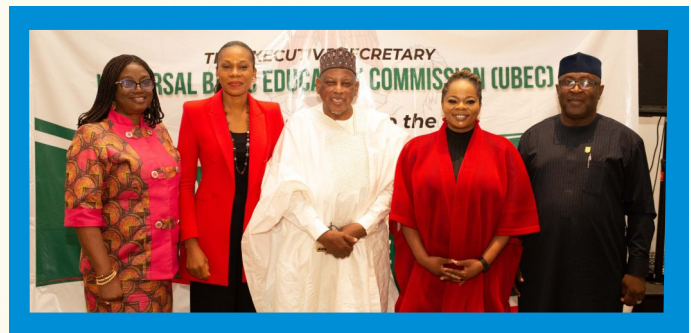
The Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) Nigeria serves as a connector between the private sector and the government to drive policies and scale collaborative efforts and impact on the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. Comprising over 20 members, the PSAG Education Cluster, with the Oando Foundation as its lead, accelerates private sector participation in education delivery, fostering partnerships to address educational challenges and enhance educational access and quality for improved outcomes in Nigeria.

This year, the cluster pushed its Regenerating Basic Education in Nigeria (RBE) proposal aimed leveraging private sector capital to address the funding and sustainability challenges facing the Nigerian education through a guaranteed capital recovery incentive, structured in the form of tax credits. Consultative meetings have been held with sub-national representatives at the Nigeria Governor's Forum and the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) for alignment. Further engagements are scheduled at the federal level in the coming year towards a successful outcome.



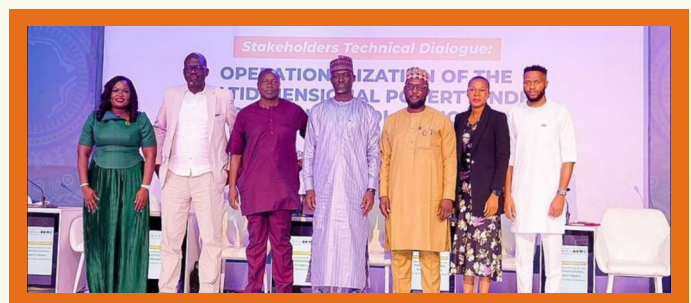
Strengthening Collaboration with Government Education Agencies

The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) in collaboration with the PSAG Education Cluster organized a one-day stakeholders' dialogue with members of the Organized Private Sector in July 2024 to explore opportunities for collaboration towards enhancing the delivery of quality basic education in Nigeria. A major highlight of the dialogue was the endorsement of RBEN by the Executive Secretary, Dr. Hamid Bobboyi, as a strategic initiative to strengthen public-private partnerships in education and pledged their efforts to push the RBEN agenda forward. These milestones underscore the impact that can be realized from our collaborative efforts and highlights Oando Foundation's leadership in advancing educational reforms in Nigeria.



Other Private Sector Engagements...

Oando Foundation represented the PSAG Education Cluster at a Stakeholders Technical Dialogue on 'Operationalization of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as a Policy Tool in Nigeria' hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), where the Programmes Manager, Oando Foundation, Tonia Uduimoh, served as a panelist, sharing her expertise on effective ways the private sector can leverage the MPI for social investment efforts, targeting better educational outcomes and coordinated support to vulnerable populations.



The Foundation also represented PSAG at the **2024 Africa Social Impact Summit**, alongside other education cluster members – MTN foundation, Sahara Foundation, and TEP Centre; engaging with participants, showcasing our collective efforts, and onboarding new private sector members.



SPECIAL PROJECTS



The Aggregator Platform (TAP), driven by the **#HumansOfOando**, is an inspiring initiative launched in April 2020 to combat hunger in Nigeria, aligning with SDG2: Zero Hunger. Initially focused on distributing food relief supplies to vulnerable households, TAP has evolved its strategy to ensure sustainability and long-term impact.

This year, in partnership with Siddiqah Foundation, TAP supported 600 households across Langbasa in Ajah and Bariga, Lagos State. With Oando Foundation facilitating planning and community engagement, the initiative has brought hope to underserved families.

We are proud to support TAP's mission and encourage continued efforts to create a hunger-free Nigeria.



OUTLOOK FOR 2025

As we close the curtain on 2024, we are energized by the progress made in advancing the LEARNOVATE strategy. In the coming year, we aim to deepen our focus on foundational learning – consolidating on the **LEARNOVATE-FLIP pilot**, scaling the **LEARNOVATE-SEED project**, and launch of our **School STEAM project**. The Foundation will expand its **Clean Our World Project** and launch the **Green Youth Upskilling project**, under our planet component.

Additionally, we will strengthen our advocacy efforts to drive systemic change and forge new partnerships to scale results. With collaboration and innovation at the heart of our mission, 2025 promises to be another year of transformative impact.

We extend our gratitude to partners, donors, and other stakeholders for the unwavering support and belief in our mission. Together, we are forging pathways toward meaningful change, ensuring that every child has the tools they need to thrive.

Wishing you an impactful year ahead!

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

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