



ACTIVITY REPORT
JANUARY - DECEMBER
2019

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

Name of Organization: Ajoke Ayisat Afolabi Foundation (AAAF)
Main Contact Person: Foluke Ademokun
Position: Executive Coordinator
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Area of focus/ service(s) provided

- Education, Health, Entrepreneurship, Empowerment

Key target population:

- General Population, Venerable/Persons with Disabilities

Communities served/ LGA (Service Area Covered for Period in View:

- Alimosho Local Government, Lagos and Nigeria

Funding source:

Internally Generated Funds, Donations and Grants from Sifax Group

1.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The Ajoke Ayisat Afolabi Foundation (AAAF) is a non-profit organization established in 2008 with the overall goal of improving the wellbeing of vulnerable women and children in Nigeria. In addition to providing access to education through scholarship offering to children from resource poor households, the Foundation also funded a range of vocational and entrepreneurial skills training for widows, while during the same period, coordinating scheduled medical outreach programmes for vulnerable communities. The uniqueness of 2019 as an election year in Nigeria also required the Foundation's involvement in electoral participation and agenda setting for women empowerment.

2019 PROGRAMME OUTCOME FROM JANUARY-DECEMBER:

EDUCATION:

- Increased access to education for vulnerable communities through AAAF's Support A Child with Knowledge to eliminate Poverty (**SACK-Poverty**) Project. The project was expanded to include collaborative engagement with key stakeholders to enhance service delivery and achieve the following:
 - Improved access to technology for 3,080 pupils through the provision of 12 units desktop computers to Layeni and Ogunlade Primary under AjeromiI felodun LGEA with the support of World Bank Group Staff Community Connection Campaign Project.
 - Enrollment of 55 fresh applicants to AAAF Scholarship scheme. 30 pupils enrolled into scholars into Kindergarten, nursery, primary and secondary school and 22 students admitted into tertiary institutions.
- Increased knowledge on Sexual and Gender Based Violence for public and private secondary school students. More than 2,000 students trained on Gender Norms and Power relations, and Gender Based Violence Terminologies, Root Cause and Contributing Factors to Violence.
- The AAAF Annual National Scholars Summit enabled beneficiaries to develop social skills, and, civics and environmental knowledge.
- Improved social media and entrepreneurial (inclusive of social media and vocational) skills for 25 girls through training conducted on branding and recycling (waste to wealth).
- AAAF Scholars Suicide Prevention Summit was put together to combat the issue of suicide amongst our university students.

HEALTH:

- Quarterly medical outreach: Over 500 women and children (annually) accessed a range of health services to reduce the incidence of malaria, typhoid, diabetes, hypertension, dental problem and poor eye sights, it also improve community outreaches which gives access to public health.
- Improved access to immunization service for mothers in 18 wards of Ajeromi Local Government through distribution of umbrellas as makeshift immunization workstations for primary health centre Community Health Extension Workers.
- Enhanced the capacity of 120 women for early breast cancer detection.
- Improved mental health awareness for AAAF Scholars through research focus intervention that suggested; from January to September 2019, out of the 42 people reported to have committed suicide in Nigeria, 17 were university undergraduates. 10 Of the students were from public institutions of learning. Similarly, an emotional empowerment session was organised for 15 widows in order to respond to challenges associated with post traumatic stress disorder.
- Inauguration of the Foundation as a member of Alimosho Child Rights Committees to combat challenges associated with child abuse in the local government area.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT:

- Is an intervention geared towards creating productive, financial and marketing opportunity for women, especially widows, persons with disabilities (PWD) and youth.
- AAAF is also committed to poverty alleviation, socio emancipation and empowerment with related skill training for girls and women, with start-up grants.
- Improved livelihoods opportunities for 8 women and 20 girls. Skill acquisition and Technology training for Girls (SATT-G) concept are premised on quest for equipping young girls with transformational critical thinking and problem solving skills.
- Strengthened the voice of widows through opportunities provided by the International Women's Day **WALKFORBETTER** to engage decision makers in Lagos state on a range of issues affecting women such as; female representation in public office, multiple taxation and harassment of women by tax force e.tc

PARTNERSHIP/COLLABORATION:

AAAF activities have inspired about 30 partnerships over the years, below are some of our partners:

- Sifax Group.
- World Bank Group Community Connection Campaign Project
- United Nation Information Center (UNIC)
- Matilda David Foundation
- Vision Spring Initiative.
- Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation.
- Apple and Pears Limited.
- Stevic Educational Services.
- Uplift Development Foundation
- Rotary Club of Falomo.
- Alimosho Local Council Secretariat.

WELFARE:

- Humanitarian services with distribution of foods, beverages, toiletries disinfectants and related items (during the Chairman's Birthday and Eid-il-Fitir celebration)
- Social relaxation for widows and children through festive celebrations.

2.0 PROGRAM Activity AREAS:

During the period under review, the Foundation offered a range of services to vulnerable households, particularly, widows and children in its three core programmatic areas of Education, Economic Empowerment and Health. Service delivery was further strengthened through collaboration with multiple stakeholders, which included government ministries, agencies and departments, multilateral agency, communities, private enterprise and civil society organizations. Highlights of programmes are as indicated below:

2.1 Education:

AAAF recognizes the importance of education to poverty elimination and considers learning a vital process of knowledge acquisition. Accordingly, the Foundation's investment in 2019 was scaled up to cover more than classroom activities. It included practical learning options through investment in technology for vulnerable children. Overall programme strategy was to improve school enrollment for vulnerable children, particularly girls. A total of twenty-eight million, seven hundred and forty-eight thousand five hundred naira = (**#28,748, 500.00**) was expensed on tuition payment, boot camp and vocational skills training for **300** scholars on our scholarship scheme. This payment also covers junior and senior West Africa School Certificate Examination (WASCE) fees for students at basic 9 and final senior secondary classes. See figure 1 for pictures of mothers during school fees payment



Figure1 Presentation of Tuition Fee to mothers of Scholars

2.1.1 Education on Gender Based Violence:

Following the rising rate of sexual violence against girls in public schools at Alimosho Local Government Area, AAAF partnered with Caring Heart Community Development Foundation to organise age appropriate gender awareness and sexuality education workshops in public secondary schools in the area. The workshops provided opportunities for students to engage in a range of exercises to define gender stereotypes, socio-cultural biases, sexual rights, and the difference between sex and gender. The exercise reiterates the importance of equal opportunities and inclusion as well as the need for gender responsive school policy and governance on sexual rights and services. Figure 2 below shows students as they take turn to participate



Figure 2 Presentation by the students of Millennium Senior Secondary School, Alimosho.

- Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights:

Similarly, AAAF Scholars participated in a Public Disclosure programme on the outcome of the high level meeting on universal health coverage organised by Vision Spring, a Nigerian registered nonprofit. See figure 3 below. The meeting was part of efforts to make Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights work for women and girls. It also provided opportunity to enable media capability to create more awareness and engage the government.



Figure 3 Representatives from AAF at the Media Dialogue.

2.1.2 AAF Annual National Essay Writing Competition:

The 4th Edition of the Foundation National Essay Competition with the Theme: “**Education: Social Media and the Nigerian Child**” held on the 27th of May 2019 as part of programme to commemorate Nigeria Children’s Day Celebration. The event included a study tour of Omu Resort, Ibeju Lekki to . visit the zoo and participate in games. The event provided opportunities for 10 finalists to make oral presentations, out of which 5 finalists were selected. Following the defence, the finalists were awarded prizes with Imoniche Jennifer announced as the overall winner. See figure 3 for the presentation of prizes and plaques to the first prize winner below.



Figure 4 Jenifer Imoniche receives her gifts.

2.1.3 World Bank Group (WBG) Community Connection Campaign Project

The implementation of 2019 WBG Community Connection Campaign Project through AAAF's Support A Child with Knowledge to eliminate poverty (SACK-Poverty) project reinforced the need for improved access to quality education for children from vulnerable households. Accordingly, the project focused on promoting access to technology and clean water for pupils in public primary schools in Lagos and Ogun states. Whereas the provisions of 12-Unit computers at Layeni Primary School Ajegunle boosted opportunities for online learning for more than 3000 pupils who prior to the project took turn to undertake computer studies outside of their school premises, the water project at community primary school, Idomila, Ogun state increased access to safe water, good hygiene and sanitation. It also reduced the risks of child kidnapping by criminals in the course of searching for water in nearby villages. The implementation of the project was contributory to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 4, and 6 in Nigeria. See figures 4 – 5 below.



Figure 5 Cross-section of parents, teachers and students at Layeni Pry School, Ajegunle

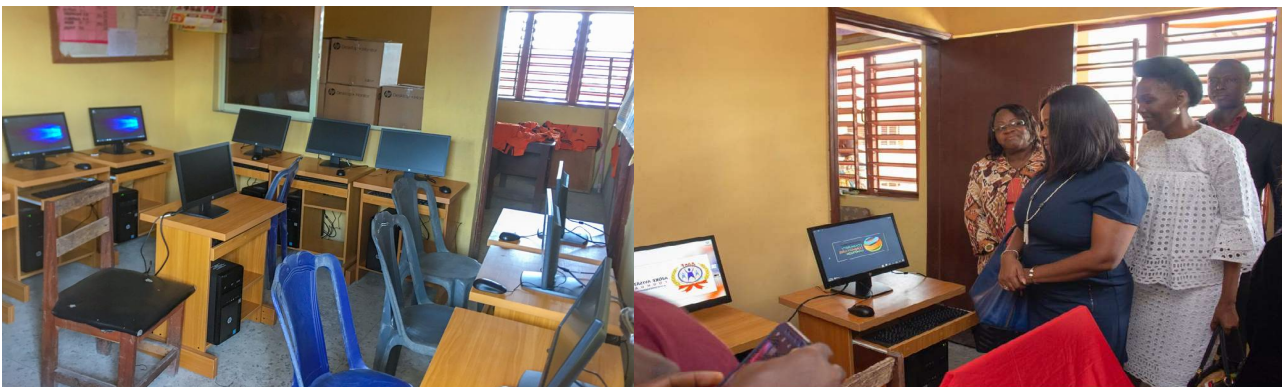


Figure 5 Representative of the World Bank Group at the Hand-over Events

2.1.5 Technology Camp for Girls:

To increase the gender diversity of the technology sector, AAAF sponsored three female secondary school scholars to participate in the 2019 **sheCreate Lagos Camp**. The training increased the girls' knowledge in technology as they were exposed to Programming and Robotics, Python Programming, Limens in Tech Panel, Web Design, Digital film making, Computers, Leadership and Gender studies.



Figure 8 AAAF Scholars at SHECREATE 2019

2.1.6 Educational Summits:

Out of school learning is as important as classroom learning as it provides opportunities for reinforcing classroom work through exposure to lived experiences. It was for this reason that AAAF facilitated participation at a range of summits for women and girls beneficiaries. The summits included; Teenstyle Summit organised by Stevic Educational Services for teenagers on self awareness and the ability to create successful career path. See figure 9 below



2.2. Health:

The implementation of the Expanded Immunisation Programme is critical to the successful eradication of childhood killer diseases in Nigeria. It was for this reason that the Foundation supported Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government Area (AILGA) by donating parasols for use as workstations for Community Health Extension Workers across the 18 Wards of the Local Government Area. The essence of the project was to ensure infants and children have access to routine immunization and contribute to the achievement of SDG 3. See figure 10 for the presentation to the Executive Chairman, Honorable Ayoola Fatai Adegunle, supported by Dr. Oteniya Naheem, the Medical Officer for Health (MOH), and Mr. Ademola Ismaila, the Supervisor for Health.



Figure 10 Presentation of Parasols to AILG

2.2.1 Quarterly Medical Outreach

In the first and last quarters of 2019, two Health Outreach Programmes were conducted in March and October 2019. The Foundation in collaboration with Olorunlogbon Development Community provided medical and dental services to 215 persons consisting of children, women and men at Ijegan, Ijegan/Ikotun LCDA. They were screened and treated for malaria, high blood pressure, and blood sugar. In addition to providing dental care and eye glasses, referrals were made for further care as appropriate.



Figure 11 AAAF Quarterly Community Medical Outreach

- **Breast Cancer Screening.**

On 17th December, 2019, the Foundation in collaboration with Life Fount foundation organized free breast Cancer, high blood pressure and diabetics awareness and screening for 110 widows. Four widows were referred; one each for lump in breast, high blood pressure, gynaecological complications and glaucoma. This outreach was part of the Foundation’s contributions towards the empowerment of women and the achievements of SDGs 3 and 5.



Figure 12 Breast Cancer Awareness Programme

- In an effort to seek collaborative opportunities for healthy widow-headed households, the Foundation participated in the Lagos State Government “**Healthy Bee**” project which was in partnership with BOSKOH Lagos Healthcare Mission International. The event was a 6-day free screening services called Lagos State Healthy Child Programme “**Healthy Bee**” for children ages 0 – 12 years old. The project was piloted in 7 Local Government Areas of the state.
- Also to address the increasing concerns about thyroids **disease on women**, the Foundation was involved in the Thyroidism awareness and support initiative (**TASI**) to commemorate the world’s thyroid day on the 25th May 2019 to create community awareness on thyroid sickness for women



Figure 13 AAAF Field Officer at Thyroids Campaign

23 Women and Girls Economic Empowerment:

Vocational Skills Acquisition Programme (VSAP):

Economic empowerment for women and girls is at the fore of the Foundation's programming. As a result, the enhancement of women and girls ability to access gainful employment and own productive assets inform its multi-stakeholders processes on women empowerment and socioeconomic rights. In 2019, business grants and skills in fish processing, hair dressing and beauty parlour etc. were offered to 5 widows. See figure 18 below. Such aggressive efforts may have contributed specifically to Lagos state lowest poverty rate of 4.5% and generally, Nigeria's southwest geopolitical zone according to satista.com.



Figure 14 Empowerment targeting the reduction in the use of woodfuel

- Skills Acquisition and Technology Training For Girls (SATT-G)

With support from Rotary Club of Falomo, training on Recycling furniture design, bottle craft, wall planter, social media marketing and branding was organised for 20 girls. This project implemented in conjunction with W.TEC, a non-profit focused on technology contributed to access to technology for girls and knowlegd on the 3Rs of waste management; Reuse, Reduce and Recycle



Figure 15 Skill Acquisitions and Technology Training for Girls (SATT-G)

2.4 Research and Documentation:

Due to the paucity of data on widows' issues, the Foundation takes serious its responsibility to document widows' issues and a range of intervention to address the issues. At different stages, over 100 widows were engaged using a combination of quantitative and qualitative data gathering approaches. As part of documentation process, a summit was held for 50 widows as a follow up to its 2019 International Widows Day agreed conclusions. Similarly, two sessions of Focus Group Discussions were organised for a group of 10 widows apiece to document the challenges widows face as they interact with their late husband's relations. The FGDs also cover educational background, livelihoods and practical ways to thrive through widowhood. See figure 17 below



Figure 16 The Focus Group Discussion with Widows

2.5. Managing Post-traumatic Stress

The Foundation's concerns about the lack of infrastructure for the management of emotional stress for widows necessitated a group therapy session for post traumatic stress disorder, the Foundation in collaboration with Grassroots people and Gender development Center organized 3-day training on self-empowerment for 15 widows. The therapy provided useful tips for general well being, self-awareness, identifying and dealing with stressors, as well as managing negative emotions from the past.



3.0 STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT

Alimosho Local Government Child's Rights Implementation Committee was inaugurated on the 14th May 2019, at the Council Secretariat, Akowonjo. The event was funded by the European Union, Rule of law/anti- corruption and British council. Members of the committee inaugurated include; Hon. Jelili Sulaimon, the Executive Chairman Alimosho Local government, Mrs. Foluke Ademokun, Executive Coordinator AAAF, Rev. (Dr.) Gabriel Oyediji the coordinator Child Protection Network (CPN), Mrs. Olajumoke Akinyemi HOD Education amongst other community, religious and market leaders. See figure 19 below for inauguration ceremony



Figure 18 the oath taking by the members of the committee

Following the inauguration, the Child Right Implementation Committee stormed Egbeda Market and visited Abesan and Idimu Police Commands, as part of, programmes to create awareness on Child Rights Implementation at Alimosho Local Government Area.

On the strength of the Committee membership, AAAF was further emboldened to seek justice for abuse children and women. Accordingly, the Department of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation was engaged to intervene in the case of a widow, Mrs. Okon, who suffered injury inflicted by the father of her daughter's baby, who abandoned parental responsibility. The matter was resolved by the department as it ensured the accused provides monthly stipends for the upkeep of the baby.

- **Other Third Party Engagemnets:**

In addition to educational services and vocational skills training, the Foundation also offers linkages to third party legal and advisory services for widows. In 2019 the following linkages were made:

- Ongoing dialogue with the Lagos State Office of the Public Defender on the protracted case of a widow, Mrs. Badmus Ganiyat, against her husband's employer for withholding gratuity for 6 years after his death. The process is still ongoing
- Nigeria Network of Nongovernmental Organisation (NNNGO) workshop to develop nonprofit competence on Regulatory requirements, Filling of annual returns with regulators, Financial

Management/Audits, Board Management, Strategic planning and Developing of policies and sample tools

- **Visit to the** office of the recently appointed Honorable commissioner of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Hon (Mrs.) **Mrs. Cecelia Dada**, on the 4th of December 2019 to congratulate and know her plans as well as, update her on the Foundation’s agenda for widows.

4.0 UN GLOBAL CELEBRATIONS

The Foundation joined other stakeholders in the observance of the following United Nations Day :

- **International Women’s Day:**

As part of AAAF mission in promoting wellness, collaborates with other organizations such as Nigeria Network of Entrepreneurial Women (NNEW), International Chamber of Commerce (LCCI), ANWBN, ANWORG, and ANWIP to celebrate the INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY on the 7th of March 2019 **and THEME: “BALANCE FOR BETTER”** with Rally/March to Government House to commemorate the Women’s Day.



Figure 19: AAAF Executive Coordinator with other Leaders at the Lagos State House of Assembly

Following indications that Nigeria’s 2019 election had fewer female political nominees than the preceding year, AAAF in collaboration with other women focused organizations used the occasion of the International Women’s Day in March to press for increase number of appointive female positions at the inception of new governments at the different tiers of governance. As shown above, the event culminated in a rally to the Lagos State House of Assembly. Women at the rally were encouraged to increase participation in politics, career and entrepreneurship to propagate Balance for Better. The leadership of the Hose promised to work on the improvement of women appointments.

- International Girls in ICT day celebrations, organised by the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and partners on Thursday, 25th April to create awareness on ICT for young girls



Figure 20 Girls in ICT Day Celebration.

- International Widow's Day:

In collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), the Foundation led Nigeria's commemoration of the 2019 International Widows Day. The event was characterized by discussions and presentation of starter packs for enterprise start ups. In attendance were representatives of UNIC, the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and the Deputy British High Commissioner



Figure 21 UN INT'L Widows Day Celebration

- World Trafficking Day:

Following interactions that identified the vulnerability of widows to trafficking and increasing number of young widows as trafficked returnees, the Foundation and partners leveraged the occasion of the 2019 World trafficking day themed; **DEMISTIFYING THE GREENER PASTURES MYTH** to share information to students, parents, social workers and other stakeholders on irregular migration and human trafficking.



Figure 22 Some AAAF Representatives at the event

- UN International Day of the Girl Child:

Following the very first International Day of the Girl Child event by the Foundation at Alimosho Local Government premises in 2017, the event has grown bigger with the LG leading and expanding the commemorative event to involve key stakeholders such as the United Nations Information Centre Lagos and other multi-lateral stakeholders. The 2019 event which was themed;: **“Girls force: unscripted and unstoppable”** also, had in attendance representatives from schools under Alimosho local government



5.0 HUMANITARIAN SERVICES:

AAAF CHAIRMAN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:

The occasion of the birthday of the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Barrister (Dr.) Taiwo O. Afolabi (MON), on 29th April was utilized to provide essential household items to **Adoka Home for Children with Disabilities at Akute and the Old People's Home, Yaba**. In addition to providing humanitarian support to the Children's Home, the Foundation also made a commitment to payment for the therapy care of two children in the home.



Figure 24 Visit to old People's home and Adoka home (Children with Down syndrome)

5.1 End of Year Celebrations:

In order to endanger social interaction among the children, the Foundation organised a Christmas party that was characterized by games, music, dance and fun. Similarly, gifts were given to appreciate participants' dance steps, response to questions and excellent contributions. Additionally, raw food items were distributed to mothers for household food consumption.



Figure 25 A combination of physical and intellectual engagement at the Party



Figure 26 Learning with Fun!.

6.0 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

This section is a presentation of 2019 financial statements, covering income received with sources, expenditure and savings made

Table 1: Incomeve

Balance B/F:	4,189,942.59
SIFAX	42,538,481.00
SALES FROM 2018 VSAP PROJECT	20,000,00
SAHCOL	1,000,000.00
WORLD BANK	1,797,602.00
WTECH	425,000.00
TOLARAM	69,500.00
ODIHIRIN AKHARHEGBENOSEN	2,000.00
MAGRET FAGBOYO	100,000.00
Total:	50,143,523.59

7.0 ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The year has been a very viable year with lots of benefitting collaborating opportunities, such as increase awareness on the activities of the AAAF.
- Increased partnership and relations with stakeholders and wider public awareness of AAAF in government and civil society environment.
- Given more children access to education as part of AAAF intervention “**SACK POVERTY**” we absorb more children into our scholarship scheme to improve lives.
- AAAF in partnership with Alimosho Local Government organizes periodic training on Sexual and Gender Based Violence for public and private secondary school students. In over a period of two years, more than 2,000 students have been trained on Gender Norms and Power, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Terminologies, Root Cause and Contributing Factors to Violence.
- Through the National Scholars Summit and Tour to Omu Resort beneficiaries are more aware on building their social skills, exposure, and more knowledgeable about some animals as seen at Omu Resort.
- The Skills Acquisition and Technology Training for Girls (SATT-G) concept are premised on quest for equipping young girls with transformational critical thinking and problem solving skills. The training programme was packaged to offer life skills that enhance personal and interpersonal skills that will help young girls maximize economic opportunities and transcend traditional knowledge space of cognitive learning that promotes regurgitation.
- AAAF Scholars working on depression were able to discover that from January 2019 – September 2019, out of the 42 people reported to have committed suicide, 17 were undergraduates, out of which 10 were from public institutions of tertiary learning. Findings also showed that majority of suicide of university undergraduates occurred in South-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria.
- In achieving Gender equality and empowering women and girl-child everywhere, the 7 point agenda which consist of women advocate for gender balance, requesting for 40% inclusion of

women in government, resolve issue of multiple taxation, stop harassment of women by tax force e.tc was presented to the representative of the Speaker of the State National Assembly, Honorable Mudashiru Obasa and also the representative of the Women Affairs and poverty Alleviation.

- Self-Empowerment training enabled the AAAF widows to find their own truth, learning how to be self-responsible, learn how to express what they feel and change those believe that cause emotional upset, letting go of negative emotions

- As part of **ECONOMIC EMPOWEMENT**, many women and youths have been empowered in various skills; some were trained on Recycling, Social media branding, empowered with startup kits, this in return will reduce the rate of poverty in our society, this is in accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1.
- Over 5,000 people have benefited from the quarterly Medical Outreach; they were tested and treated of malaria, blood sugar, Hypertension and those with severe cases were referred to the public health center for further examination, also reading glasses was given out and sanitary towels.
- Access to legal backing for the less privileged.
- In curbing the menace of Child Abuse in our society, the Child Right Committees was inaugurated to create Awareness, develop programmes, review of level of implementation, information management, commissioning of inter-disciplinary assessment of CRL problems, organize meetings, seminars and symposia, report preparation and submission to SCRIC, which states the functions/duties of the committees according to Section 252.