

THE DESTINY TRUST

Impact Report

2019



Making
tomorrow
better

WWW.DESTINYTRUST.ORG

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2019 AND THE LIVES WE TOUCHED

The most inspiring time for us each year is when we look back to see what we have accomplished with you. Year after year, you affirm our belief that real change is possible when we work together to confront problems that hold children back; restoring power to them to improve their own lives and reverse the curse of cyclic poverty over their families and communities. Beyond the statistics of our reach, we love to evaluate the impact of our work based on the empowering story of that one child whose life has actually been transformed. The multiplier effect this has in harnessing the prosperity of households and communities is far more enormous than we can imaginably estimate. This philosophy underlies every project idea, every action and our deliberateness to see real change through our shared efforts.

We thank you for making a difference with us again in 2019. This highlight of our year is a recognition of your commitment to making tomorrow better. We are glad to see a year-on-year rise in the impact of our work. We also place high premium on lessons we learnt on how to better serve the children.

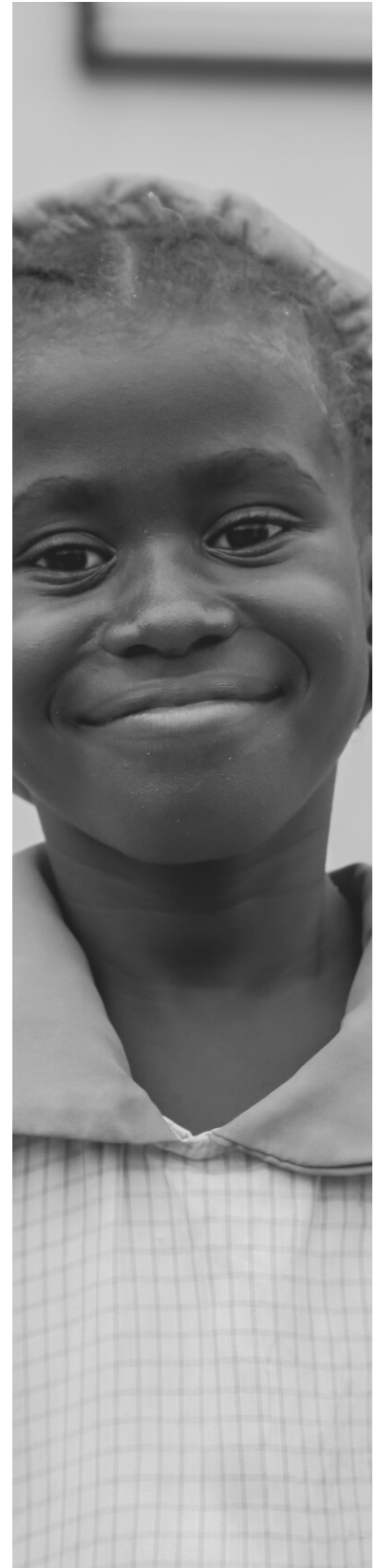
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As we sustain our primary work of educating, empowering and caring for children in disadvantaged circumstances, we also see the opportunity to reach more children sustainably through innovative technology we have begun to invest in. We are excited by the opportunity to change the way education, hunger relief and care are taken to potentially millions of disadvantaged children and households in Africa. Let's keep working together in 2020, standing for children and securing the future.

Abimbola Ojenike
Co-founder



A young girl with her hand raised, smiling, wearing a school uniform. The background is a solid blue color. The text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

In all, we believe children hold the answer to a better future. No effort to solve today's problems ranks above the education and wellbeing of children, the anchors of our future

1843 children reached



193

more children equipped with basic coding and digital skills through afterschool, in-school and summer bootcamps

42,850



meals served to children under residential care programmes

2400+



books (textbooks and story books) provided to children

50



scholarships in private schools

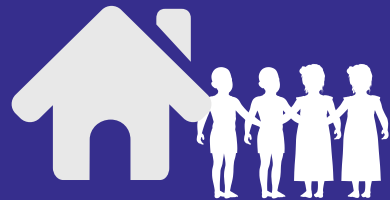
OUR IMPACT

300



children enrolled in school for the first time or supported to go back to school

33



homeless children provided shelter and continuing care through 2019

450



children benefited from literacy programmes. 330 children in upper primary levels who couldn't read taught to read and write

507



children received healthcare and relief materials through Hands of Care community medical outreach

360



children in a school provided access to multimedia learning facilities

THAT ONE CHILD STORY

Stories of new beginnings

Our little feet was on another journey this year, in search of sunny smiles. We wanted to plant trees for little angels, paint colours for love and pick leafy sheds of raindrops where the night rays of shy moon thickens. We didn't walk for long, as we found beauty again on the streets of Lagos.

On a hot afternoon, we met a scrawny, little boy rummaging through the bin for his family's next meal. Salim is from Katsina. He lived at a sprawling, termite-infested shack, somewhere off Collins Udoh Street, Lekki Phase I. He picks from the bins every time for his siblings' next meal, gathering money from scrap sales to go to school. When we spoke to him, his drive was palpable. "I wan make e better for me, I wan get brain", he said. He was keen on telling us why he would like to go to school. By picking and selling scraps daily, scavenging for edibles in bins around the homes of the rich, making N200 a day, Salim was nursing his academic dream block by block. But it has been a long journey of putting so much in with so little in return. Our journey met his. When he called us the night our paths crossed, there were eager voices around him. "Na me be the boy you see for dust bin this afternoon" he introduced himself. Salim's wait for the promise of education and a home away from the street was over.

He had found home. Our journey also led us to Shina. Like Salim, Shina believes life could offer more, away from the street. In the company of other street children on Admiralty Way, Lekki Phase I, he opened his heart; the pains, the fears, the rawness. He said, "emi nsunta nibi ni o". He felt no shame admitting he sleeps on the streets around Lekki. He had a story. The mother had deserted home and the father was a distant figure, somewhere in his memories of Ifo, Ogun state. The father has been absent. From his teary voice, his aspirations were simple. A roof over his head. Food to eat. A place to call home. We could give that.

So, we began on a journey of his own with him. We took a short, spirited trip to his family house in Ogun State, in search of answers, of meaning. Shina walked into his old house. We made our way down the steep and gullied terrain to a decrepit bungalow at the lowest end. Standing at the doorway, we greeted to get the attention of anyone at home, "alaafia fun onileyi o". We heard the faint response of a male person from inside. We thought it was already a fruitful trip. We thought the father was around. A bearded man came out with questioning look. We were confused and asked, "you are Shina's father?" Then there was silence. "No, that's his father lying there", he answered, pointing at a corner of the compound by a banana tree. He was pointing at a grave. The father was dead. Shina had been away on the streets for 6 years. He fled home after an encounter with his abusive half-sister who knocked his head on a culvert. We left with fresh pains, but we were determined to make his life count. Soon, our journey took us to Aminat and Kadijat, young girls badgered by wars and death, fleeing the flashes of terror in Borno where their grandfather had been killed by Boko Haram. Kadijat had been running, from one horror to another, fighting to live, but with great discomfort, holding on her crutches, as her physical challenge worsens with every instability. They still heard the echoes of slaughtered men in their household, receding shouts of loved ones caught in the war they never wanted, till their voices went into the silent hue. But they are here now, with us.

Everyday, our journeys continue to play into hopeful, happy endings, an ending where education, being fed daily, and having a safe and loving place to call home isn't impossible. Now, the teachers speak highly of their academic journey: Salim, Shina, Aminat, Kadijat and other kids we met on our journey this year. They continue to break every limitation and rewrite the story of their new journey. Like others, these children, linked by a shared story on and off the street, in time, found their way to their destiny, where new beginnings are now possible.



THE DESTINY TRUST
PROJECT



WITHIN REACH

WE GO FAR AND BEYOND TO PUT EDUCATION
WITHIN THE REACH OF HOMELESS CHILDREN
AND DISADVANTAGED YOUNG PEOPLE. IT'S
THE BEST INVESTMENT FOR A BETTER FUTURE



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Enabling Education Access for Homeless Children: **WHAT IT REALLY MEANS**

When we speak of quality education that works for every child, conversations about the broad processes that enhance it must be an unending one. We are daily witnesses to the restrictions that make access to education difficult for homeless children. Education stakeholders have a critical role to play in closing the education gap for this class of children. There is a need for better appreciation of how an unstable home environment affects the education of homeless children in public schools and how that worsens Nigeria's unenviable profile as having the largest population of uneducated children.

Common school enrollment requirements like parent's tax clearance certificate and proof of registration as a resident within the state have the unintended consequences of taking education beyond the reach of homeless children. They neither have residence nor residential address. Parents, where available, are mostly informal sector people who have not been captured within the tax net. The cost of interstate transfer forms is also slightly higher than the cost of university matriculation examination and most of the children who seek admission into public schools in urban centres are from outside the state.

This is why our efforts to enroll children in school often go beyond providing essential school needs. We go further to help them meet all requirements and this has a limiting effect on how many children ultimately get access to school each year. Governments must redesign enrollment processes to deliberately facilitate access for homeless and displaced children who constitute the vast majority of urban out-of-school children.

The continuous target must be to address the economic gap that creates the problem of homelessness. Affordable housing schemes and projects that encourage stability and safe housing will be an ultimate solution. Until then, urban gentrification should take into account the impact on school children. It does the most severe damage when it is carried out in the middle of a school session when homeless children are again displaced from the school environment. The short-term measure should be to enhance the capacity of schools to serve as a support space for housing insecure children whose social, physical and emotional development have been stifled by the realities of homelessness.



100%

**OF CHILDREN WHO
BENEFIT FROM OUR
IN-SCHOOL STEM
CLASSES ARE FROM
LOW-INCOME
BACKGROUNDS**

60%

**OF THE CHILDREN
ARE GIRLS**

EMPOWERING THEM WITH TECH

Our Growing Codetribe

With every child that shows interest in further learning of computer programming and other tech skills, there is an addition to our Codetribe. The Codetribe is our learning stream for children who show better capability for learning more advanced programming languages and data science after an initial exposure to elementary coding and computer appreciation. At the Codetribe, children get mentored, collaborate on projects and are supported to develop their ideas of solutions through codes. We are introducing more modules to give children the opportunity to explore their interest in user interface designs and animation.

A Fantastic Tech Summer Bootcamp

It was a really fantastic summer for the children. We had a one-month Summer Bootcamp focusing on technology, arts, music and life skills. 110 children were admitted into the summer programme. All the children were introduced to coding, robotics, arts and illustration. Children who are already under our Kids Innovation Hub programme spent time more time on advanced modules on Python programming for machine learning and artificial intelligence. The children also had lots of exciting moments of sports and recreational activities at a Fun Turf.

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For us, digital skills is one of the most valuable skills we can give to underrepresented children for both social and economic inclusion. they must not be left behind in a Tech-driven economy

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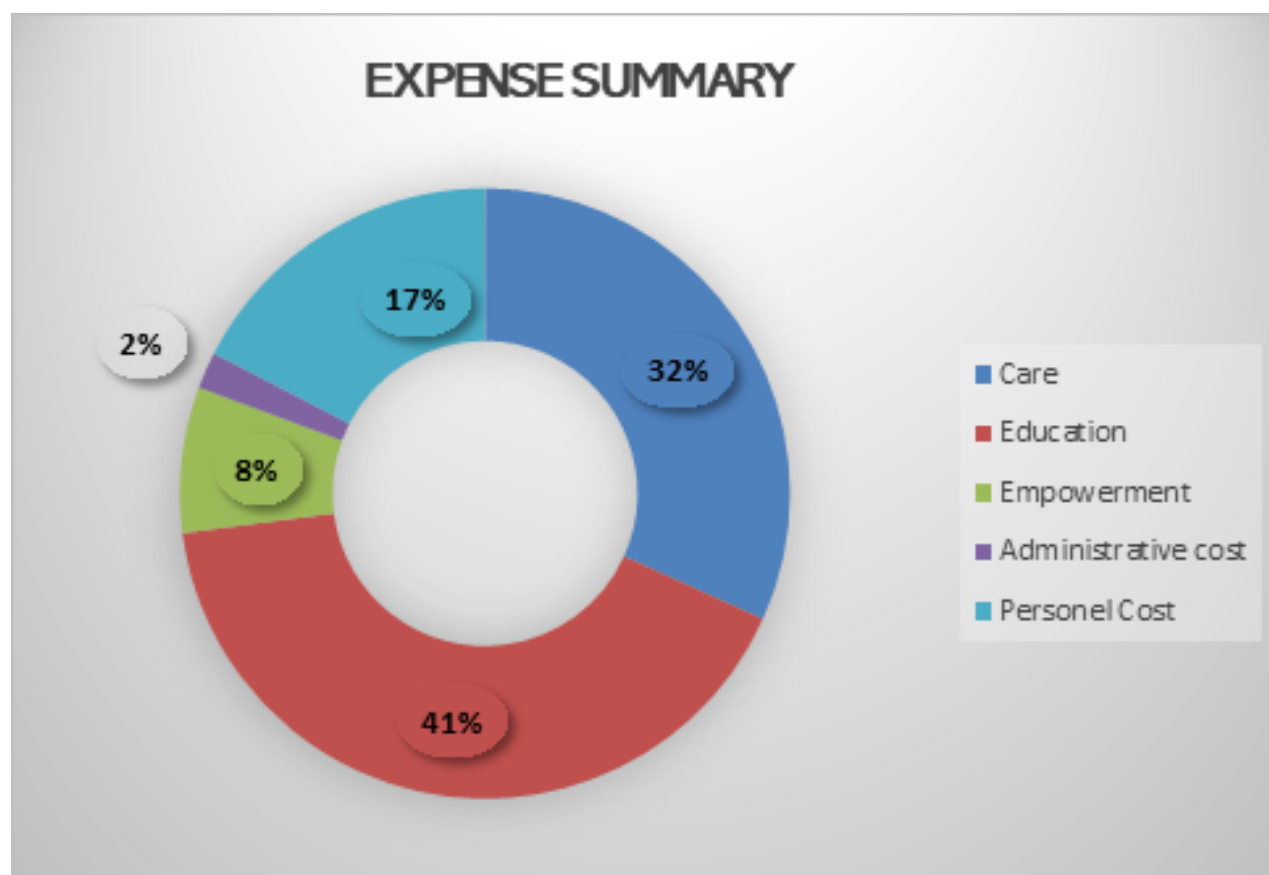
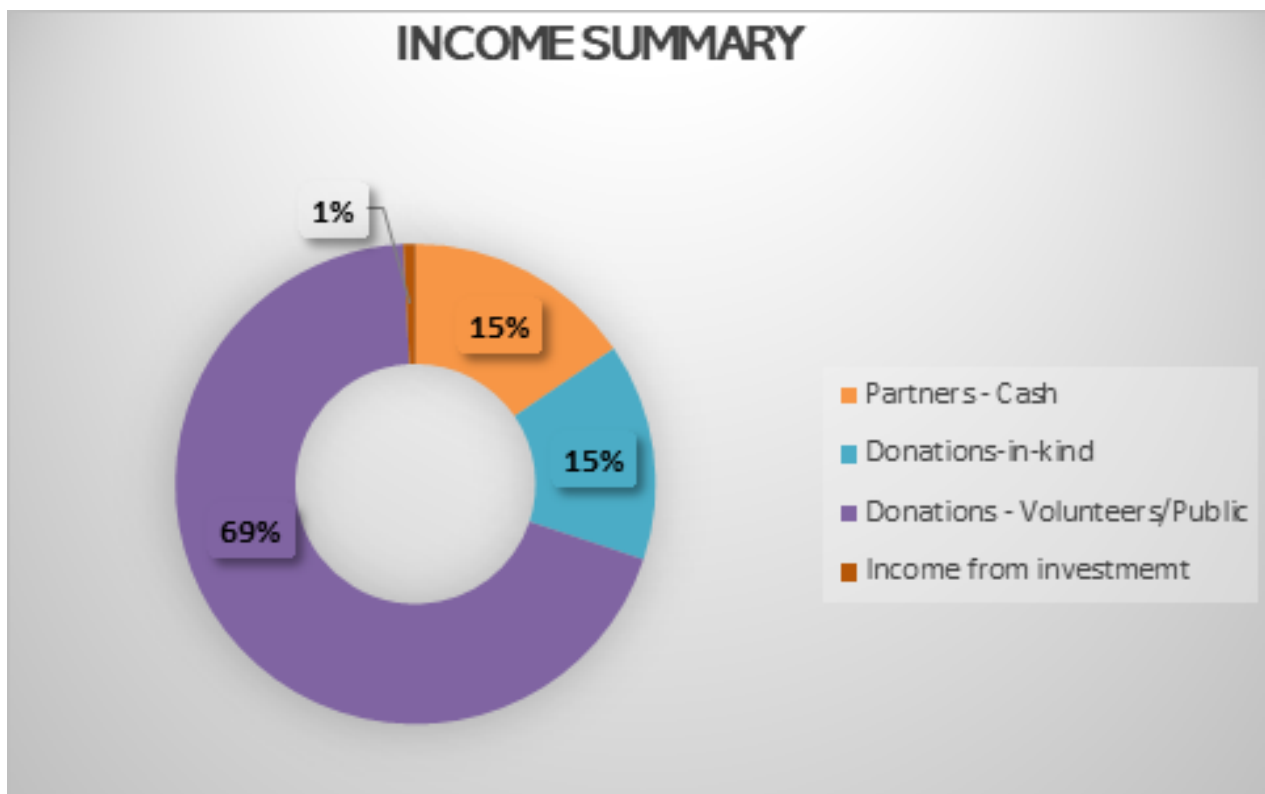
Coding Classes in 5 more schools

We started in-school training of our Kids Innovation project in 5 schools. Through our Kids Innovation Project, we are equipping children in under-served communities with skills in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

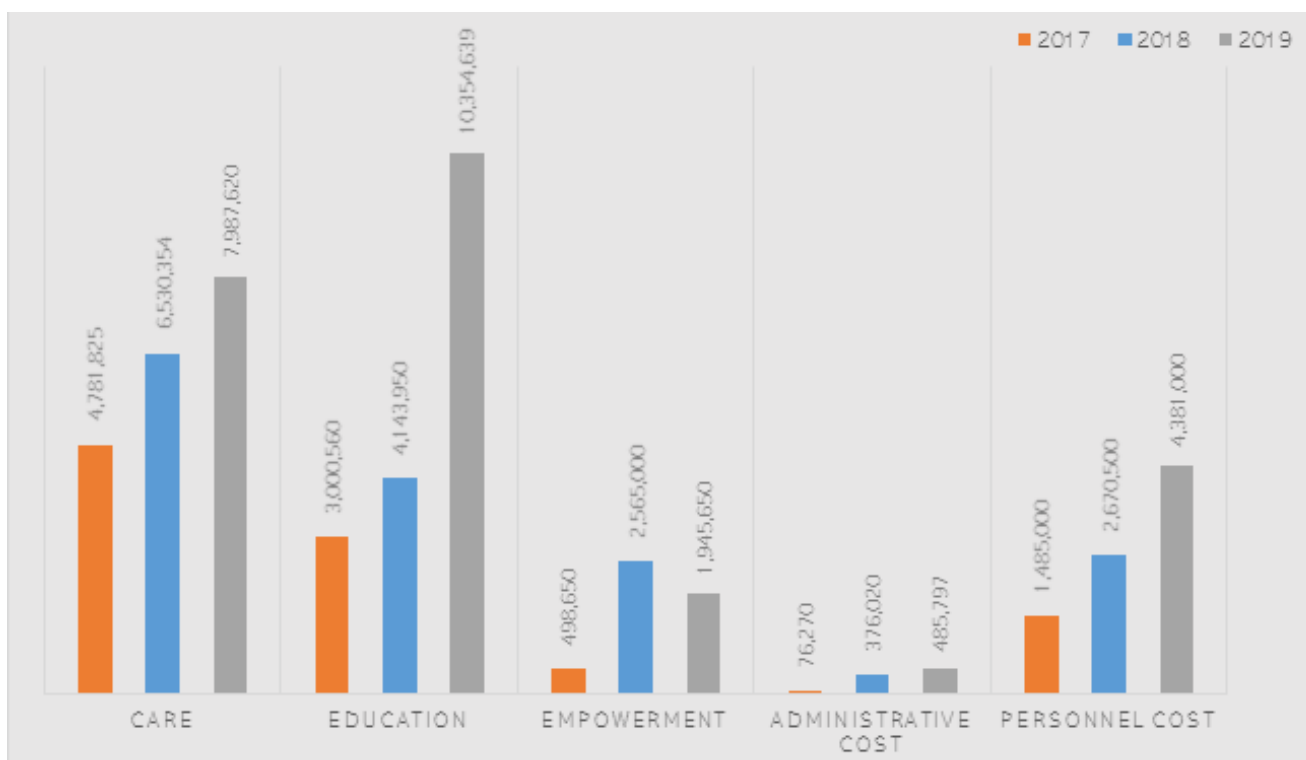
During school hours, children begin to learn the basic aspects of how to use the computer and they begin a journey into coding/computer programming from the scratch. We are hopeful for an expansion to more schools in 2020. It is encouraging that the children are excited to learn.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



NOTES TO EXPENSES

Care: This represents amount spent on the welfare of resident and non-resident children. Such expenses include daily feeding (the purchase of food items and supplies for children under in-centre care), clothing, purchase of drugs/hospital bills, payment of home rent for resettled children and amount incurred on repairs and maintenance of the residential care centre.

Education: This comprises amount spent on school fees for both resident and non-resident children. This also includes expenses incurred on the Back2Basics Literacy Programme, School Enrolment and Back-to-school support, school support projects and other school-related expenses such as pocket money for children enrolled in boarding schools, fees for school leaving certificate examinations, purchase of textbooks, stationery and other school needs.

Empowerment: This represents amount spent on all Kids Innovation Hub activities, purchase of musical instruments and the purchase of computer and other equipment for the KIH programme.

Personnel Costs: This comprises the salaries paid to full time care staff (Home Administrator/Matron, Teachers for curricula and skills acquisition programmes (e.g Instructors for Computer Programming and Music), House Keepers, Security Guards)

Administrative Costs: This includes amount spent on office supplies, transportation for official duties by members of staff (this includes taking children to and from boarding schools outside Lagos), G-suite subscription, etc.and resources free. Our administrative cost is mainly regarding the compensation of full-time Teachers and Care-givers engaged in our work as well as the cost of provision of housing for homeless children under in-centre care.

2020 The difference we will make

Education



- Enrol or support 1000 children to reintegrate into school by September 2020.
- Teach 1500 primary 3-6 pupils who cannot read and write yet under the Back2Basics Literacy Campaign. Expand the reach of the literacy campaign to 10 Lagos schools in 2020.
- Set up 4 Multimedia learning spaces/libraries in public schools
- Upgrade classrooms in 5 public schools.
- Create 50 more scholarships for homeless children to enrol in boarding schools as a strategy to provide stable accommodation through the primary/secondary school years.



Care

- Run The Destiny Trust Home at capacity to accommodate 30 children per time.
- Prepare more children for reintegration
- Hold medical outreaches with a target reach of up to 1000 children.
- Secure micro health insurance for non-resident children enrolled in public schools to
- improve school attendance rate.
- Provide 60,800 meals to children under in-centre care

Empowerment



- Expand the capacity of the Kids Innovation Hub with 30 additional computers.
- Equip 1000 children with programming and basic digital skills through in-school trainings in public schools and afterschool sessions at our Kids Innovation Hub.
- Improve the training and mentoring programme for Codetribe (the learning stream for students that have graduated from elementary coding classes at the Hub)
- Introducing new learning modules to provide alternative tech skills



20
20

Doing more with innovation

As we step into a new year, we will keep the focus on our key initiatives in the aspects of care, education and empowerment for both the children and their families. We recognize the opportunity to scale our impact with technology and will accelerate efforts in rolling out products we have begun to develop in 2019. These projects are being operated through our social enterprise entity, Helpcentral Services. Helpcentral's social impact app will make it easy for people to donate surplus products (leftover food and materials usually wasted) and empower small-hold farmers to sell farm produce that could go to waste to a ready urban market. It will also enable social campaigns; connecting people with similar interests to make change in their communities.

We will also invest more in our family empowerment initiative by facilitating access to micro-loans for up to 1000 low-income. The Enable platform will provide credible credit scoring for the unbanked and "unbankable" informal sector women like those we meet everyday in the course of our work. We will also explore this to drive school enrolment and facilitate access to health insurance for low-income families.

OUR PARTNERS

We celebrate the commitment of our partners towards making a better tomorrow. We are able to continue and expand our work with the support of kind individuals and organizations that contribute to our work





LET'S DO MORE TOGETHER!

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