



The Destiny Trust  
Empowering destinies

# Impact Report 2020

[www.destinytrust.org](http://www.destinytrust.org)



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# Our 2020

# 1,974

children reached with education support,  
shelter, food and basic needs for care

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## 858



children received meals through  
community feeding programmes  
and hunger relief drives

## 566



children received education support through  
school enrollment/back-to-school drives,  
boarding school/university scholarships and  
private school sponsorship

## 300



children of a public school  
benefit from the Trust's  
water/hand wash points project

## 120



pupils are taught in school by  
Teachers engaged by the Trust under  
the School-Based Management  
programme

## 130

children provided access to virtual learning  
through our revamped Learning Room and 2  
Digital Access Points set up in foster homes



# Dear Partners,

It's that time of the year that we reflect on our journey and highlight the impact of our work. Every year we recognise the huge role you play as important partners and stakeholders in the success of our work and it wasn't any different this year. We rely on the power of community to affect change and you were part of that change in a year no one contemplated or adequately planned for.

2020 was an unusual year that demanded a rethink of our approaches to addressing the daily problems that children-beneficiaries of our programs face. Many lives were lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our hearts go out to everyone who lost a loved one to this unseen enemy. The pandemic forced lockdowns on the country and other nations. The economic effect of the lockdown was felt by many families and households, including those in the communities we work with. While we were happy to respond to their needs, the care and educational gaps during the lockdown revealed the underlying challenge of vulnerable children in disadvantaged households. Many children had no food to eat and many didn't have the resource to participate in any virtual learning or home schooling during the lockdown.

We have so much to do to ensure that no child ever sleeps hungry. We also have so much to do to bridge the gaps that challenge the reality of inclusive education as a right for all children. We are confident that we have the tools to unleash the potential of every child, and with the right partnership and support we can be a lot closer to the goal of giving every child an opportunity to thrive.

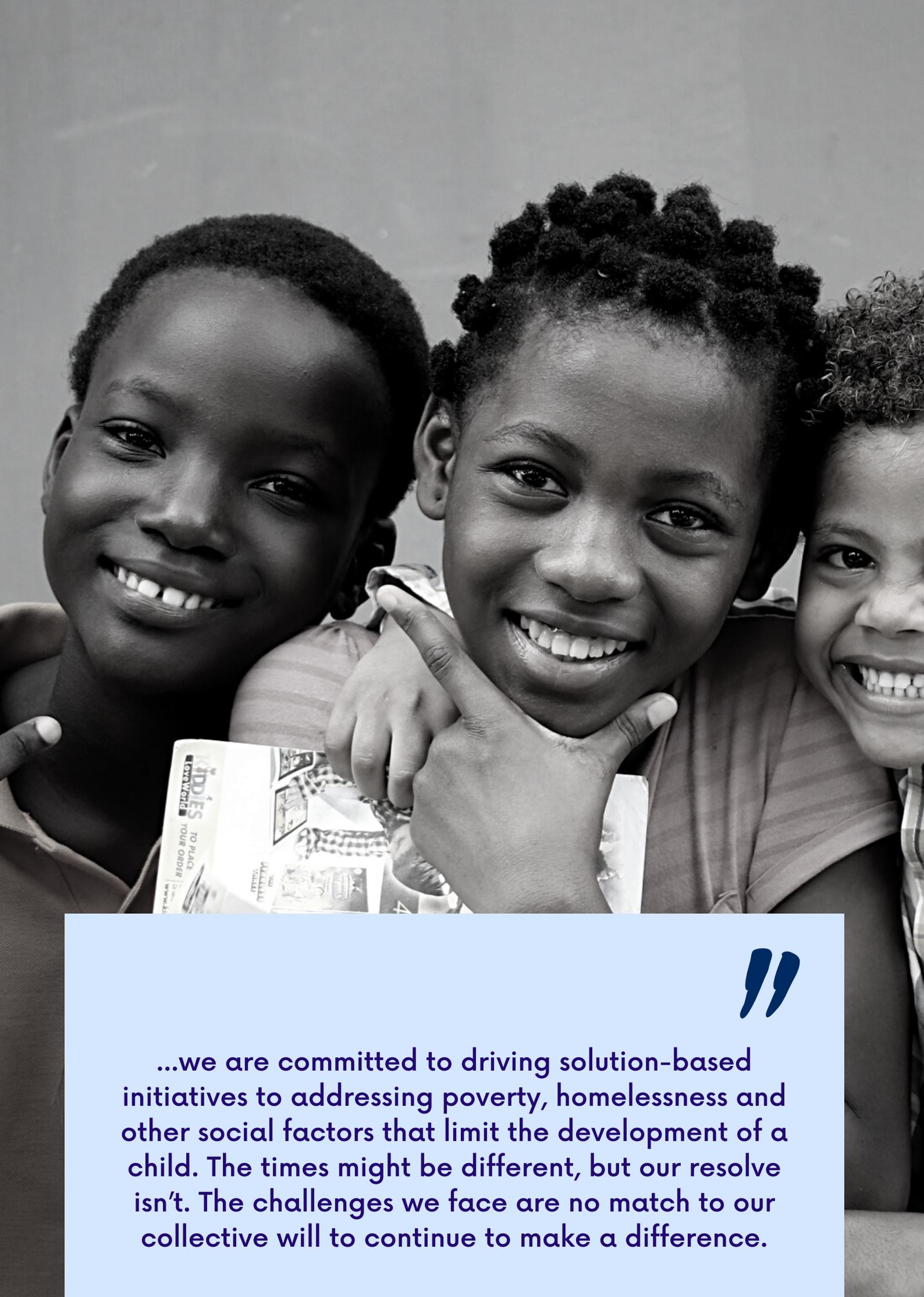
Our motivation is the same as when we started. We believe that children hold endless possibilities to recreate a better future for our society. Indeed, the future of our society can only be as great as what we make of the children today. As we continue to create opportunities for access to quality care, education and empowerment, we are committed to driving solution-based initiatives to addressing poverty, homelessness and other social factors that limit the development of a child. The times might be different, but our resolve isn't. The challenges we face are no match to our collective will to continue to make a difference.

We invite you to work with us in 2021 as we continue to make a difference together.

**Abimbola Ojenike**  
Co-founder/Coordinator

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# Our Strategy and an Unusual Year



As always, we are committed to one cause: enabling every child to be the very best he or she can be regardless of the circumstances of birth. Because we focus on the holistic development of the child, this has often required that we intervene in aspects of their greatest needs such as food, shelter, healthcare and education.

Our integrated approach centres around using education as a means of tangible empowerment for children. This is the primary objective of all our programmes.

As the pandemic struck, so much changed in how we reached the children we serve and our priorities. We embarked on an urgent re-ordering of priorities to ensure that we were there for the children in aspects they most desperately needed us at the time.

As the year turned out to be radically different, we had to respond with new ways of doing our key initiatives so that the children and households could be supported through the tough times. Here, we highlight some of the initiatives which include community-based feeding for the children, setting up digital access points and revamping our Learning Room for improved virtual experience for the children.

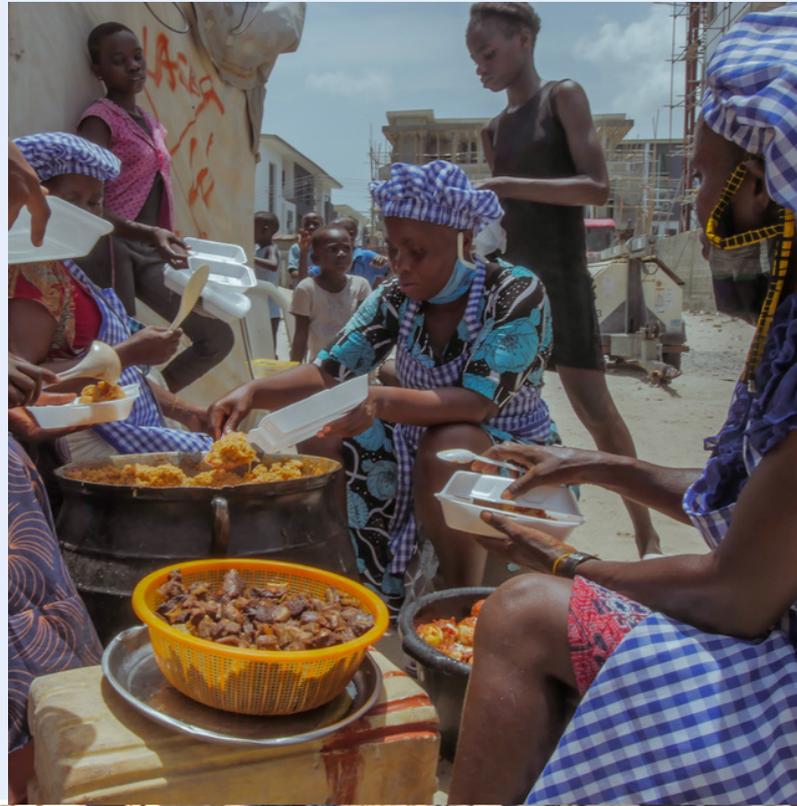
# Making a difference in tough times

## Community-based Feeding

At the start of the lockdown, we began a COVID-19 relief drive that targeted feeding of children across orphanages, poor households and slums in Lagos. In two months, we set up food points in slums for children with the mothers serving as contact persons in these communities.

Beyond the daily feeding of children, we were able to support women who are food vendors in these communities to cook daily while supporting their businesses during the lockdown.

In addition, we set up food distribution points in the slums where mothers could access food stuff for their children. We also went on outreaches to foster homes and communities with one singular goal of ensuring no child goes hungry.





# Making a difference in tough times

It's in tough times that love shines the brightest. Meeting their most critical need for food was also a way we showed that we care and that we are in this together.



# Making a difference in tough times

## A hybrid classroom to support virtual and onsite learning

As schools remained closed during the lockdown, part of our plans in rethinking our education program for the children and adjust to a safe distancing culture was to scale the virtual learning experience of the children.

We revamped our learning room for virtual impact with the support of an anonymous donor via Helpcentral ([www.helpcentral.ng](http://www.helpcentral.ng)), a social impact tech. We now have a hybrid learning room that supports both virtual and onsite learning for children. With our new audio-visual and far end camera control systems, learning is more rewarding for children online and onsite under our education and STEAM initiatives.



# Making a difference in tough times

## Digital Access Points in Children Homes

We also set up new learning spaces in two homes to benefit about 90 children in both homes. Our ultimate plan is to support every child to join online classes from our learning space so that children across all classes in homes and other centers and communities with limited resources can participate in our various training programs. Therefore, we are investing in increasing access to virtual learning for underrepresented children by setting up virtual learning spaces in children homes and slums so we can reach more children with education in a period when the reach of onsite teaching is limited.



# Making a difference in tough times

## Back-to-school Support after COVID closures

After COVID-19 school closures, many poor families found it harder to send their children back to school. Some had relocated from the vicinity of previous school and were financially unable to enroll children in school at the new location or pay for daily transportation to school.

When schools re-opened after COVID-19 closures, children from low-income backgrounds who couldn't access online learning during the lockdown had lost about 500 hours of learning. They also resumed to an uncertain academic session with new experiments of alternative school scheduling.

At the end, learning activities have not taken a foothold in most government-owned schools and the first term examination had not been conducted in many schools at the time schools were shut down again for an indefinite period.

Despite our worries about what schooling would look like for the poor, we recognized the need to first secure their access to school while exploring more solutions for giving them a meaningful learning experience in the new normal.



When schools re-opened after COVID-19 closures, children from low-income backgrounds who couldn't access online learning during the lockdown had lost about 500 hours of learning. We need to do more to help them recover.

# That One Child

## CASE STUDY

If you asked Mercy, she would tell you what hope feels like. It feels like promise gone bad and the fragile, fleeting moment of newness. When she was born, her father was absent. While she was growing, her mother was mentally unwell. When her mother's friend, who was eager to take her in after her mother's illness, became her new guardian, Mercy must have thought the opportunity for a new life had presented itself. But it was a lie.

The vicious cycle of abuse began. Locked in an airless, unlit room, Mercy endured five months of torture. It was an unnecessary endurance, a forced endurance of survival; an experience that broke her. Mercy craved for air, for friends, for conversation. She spoke to herself and became her own friend. In that twist of maintaining her innocence, her sanity, the guardian felt she had seen something to weaponize. 'Mercy was crazy, just like her mother. She speaks to herself.' She ignored her soundness before the lockup. She ignored her smiles, because that one child of a crazy woman couldn't be good enough like her own.

Mercy was sparsely given food in her hole. She wore torn clothes, only allowed to take baths sparingly, and she began to reek of an odour that made allegations of her craziness seem valid. Her bones were like visible rays on her withering, shrinking skin. She was helpless, until the suspicion of a neighbor became a nagging feeling. She invited the police and when they broke the room's door and saw her, Mercy's face was crying for help. The Family Court referred her to our home, to a place of new hope.

Like Mercy, John was abused by his guardian for an allegation of theft. He was almost lynched. Before then, he had enjoyed the warmth and support of his guardian until the father requested for food and he obliged him.

John's mother is late, and his father agreed to being fostered by the guardian because he couldn't bear to see his child live on the street or be homeless like him. John endured whips and burns from electric iron that left ugly marks on his skin. With his esteem crushed, his joy snapped, his hope for anything remotely good was in a distant future. Until we heard his story through one of our caregivers.

We were happy to give him another chance. Everyday we encounter that one child whose story is compelling enough for a cry of change, for hope. It is an opportunity to begin something new. These are exactly the stories of the children who became part of our family in 2020. In a year mostly typified by despair, we are happy to lift the spirit of that one child with the hope of a better life and future.

[Note: The actual names of the children are concealed to protect their identity]

**"...we are happy to lift the spirit of that one child with the hope of a better life and future."**

# COVID-19: Planning Education for Nigeria's New Housing Insecure Children

Despite mild improvements in social care across the world, many children especially in developing nations still face an uncertain future. At the heart of this uncertainty is the new class of children who became homeless as the economic effect of COVID-19 hits low-income households with shrinking informal jobs. We have a new face of the homeless urban poor. They are children whose access to basic needs is now seriously threatened because family livelihood has been lost to COVID-19.

While there are no publicly available and reliable data on homelessness in Nigeria, the United Nations (2015) estimates that around 13% percent of the Nigerian population are homeless. By inference, approximately 24.4 million homeless people lived in Nigeria before COVID-19.

From our work, they are mostly children and families internally-displaced by armed conflict. No matter how distressing the homelessness statistics was, there is now a more horrific outlook as more families lose their earnings to COVID-19. This highlights a wider gap in Nigeria's pre-existing housing deficit estimated at 22 million homes. It is also a far cry from Nigeria's admitted housing deficit estimated at 17 million houses by National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in August of 2012. Lagos, where 70% of the population reside in informal housing arrangements, is sadly also the epicentre of the new homelessness spike. We see this practical evidence with the explosion in number of families that are receding into the slums with their inhumane conditions.



While existing homelessness stats are too worrying, the COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant shock on the economy worsens an already distressing situation. It is crisis within a crisis. We would have more out-of-school children in addition to the estimated 13.2 million. The care impact on health, feeding and associated care needs would draw back any progress made with programmes, campaigns and initiatives targeted at street and homeless children.

Our experience in Lagos puts the human face to these numbers. Mary is a mother of four children. They lived in Ketu. She is a widow. Pandemic struck, and she no longer had those daily job earnings she was doing for an extended period. Rent of N100,000 was due and she couldn't pay. When she found a menial job and started going back to work again, her landlord couldn't be patient with her to save enough to pay rent. One of her friends who had suffered same fate told her there are places on the Lekki corridor where she could go build shanty and live rent free. That was how she started leaving somewhere off the Landmark road in Victoria Island, Lagos.

In each case, it affects children's education. When schools resumed in October, we met hundreds of children that had just recently relocated to Aboki Estate, one of the homeless communities we work with.

Like Mary, recurrent reason for many slum settlers has been the devastating economic effect of the pandemic on their survival. Their stories are not different from those of Mary and her friend. Chike's family was at Ibeju-Lekki after LFTZ. Father was a driver at a company in Lekki, earning N25,000 and this stopped too when lockdown started. They lost their home. When school resumed, he could no longer go back to his school at Ibeju. When they found a shanty home at Aboki Estate, he must have felt that their biggest problem was solved but later seeing he is no longer within the vicinity of school broke the spirit of the young boy that was determined to be educated to lift his family.



# Nigeria's New Housing Insecure Children

What their stories remind us is the humane solution we must propose to victims of homelessness. 2020 has revealed, amongst other things, the extreme spike in violence and its related vices when the basic needs of a section of the society are disregarded. In this instance, governments need to place in the front burner the structural measures required to stimulate the informal economy beyond the palliative approach and the disposition to hide away the true face of the problem rather than addressing it. Informal settlement dwellers won't disappear from urban centres. If we acknowledge this, we can begin to initiate a whole new social protection driven approach that recognizes this faceless demography and targets their inclusion in the economy of our cities. Slum evictions and gentrification, without more, will become more dangerous in the coming years.

In the short term, we need a whole new approach that focuses on early rescue of the recently homeless people because a later intervention might be more expensive and harder as children get used to the streets and lose interest in education.

**Approximately 24.4 million homeless people lived in Nigeria before COVID-19. No matter how distressing the homelessness statistics was, there is now a more horrific outlook as more families lose their earnings to COVID-19...**



More than a shelter, our residential learning centres recreate a loving home for children; where they can live and thrive. Every child deserves a home they can call their own.



# Expanding our residential care programme

In 2021, we are:

- Partnering with boarding school to provide a stable environment the education of recently homeless children. This plan also caters to those previously there in cases where the child doesn't require intensive rehabilitation from negative social behaviours to reintegrate into schools. We are driving a new model to integrate newly homeless children into affordable boarding schools to ensure education stability. From our experience, it's the fastest way to put them back on the education track before they get fully absorbed into street life and an intervention becomes harder and more expensive
- Expanding the capacity of our residential care programme. We want to open a second centre in Lagos and another in Oyo State. This creates opportunity for more children to find good and quality care and experience a stable environment to support their education.
- Rebuilding more households by working with resilient women. We will partner with women who have become more vulnerable to abuse as a result of lack of empowerment. We are working with our partner, Diatom Impact, to resettle 100 women in the coming year. We are creating new livelihoods. It potentially achieves home, education and means of sustenance for about 400 children in 2021.

**“We are driving a new model to integrate newly homeless children into affordable boarding schools to ensure education stability. From our experience, it’s the fastest way to put them back on the education track before they get fully absorbed into street life and an intervention becomes harder and more expensive”**

# Introducing our new Centre,



## ESTHER'S HARBOUR

CHILD CARE & EDUCATION CENTRE



In Q1 of 2021, we will begin to operate a new Centre in Igboora, Ibarapa Central Local Government, Oyo State. This Centre will run as residential learning centre, replicating the structure and processes of our Lagos Centre. We also reckon that the Centre will serve as a day education centre to many children in the community.

We are excited about this new frontier and thankful to the family of Late Mrs. Esther Olukemi Ojenike for providing their home to us for use and also setting it up as a foster home at no cost to us. The Centre has been named after Mrs. Esther Olukemi in recognition of this gesture and her legacy of love to disadvantaged children in her lifetime. After her passing, we are committed to ensuring that her home continues to be a place of refuge and hope to vulnerable children.

# Our 2021 Goals

As we look forward to 2021, our renewed focus is the continued work of care, education and empowerment of children under our different initiatives and programmes.

## 1

### **Establish Bridge School for accelerated learning**

Accelerated learning programme for out-of-school children through the establishment of the Bridge School. The Bridge School is an approach specifically tailored to the challenges of homeless children and people above normal school enrolment age.

## 2

### **Expand Residential Care Capacity**

We are opening a new residential care centre in Oyo State and another in Lagos. Children would be admitted on supervision needs for care and education. The Centres will also serve as a day education centre for children in the community

## 3

### **More Boarding School Scholarships**

The success of our boarding school scholarships indicates an important step in rethinking opportunities for more inclusive education for homeless children. In 2021, our goal is to create more scholarship opportunities for children

## 4

### **Strengthen afterschool support at all Centres**

With lost learning hours, we recognize the need to provide enhanced afterschool support to the children we work with. The afterschool programme will focus on aspects of basic literacy and numeracy.

## 5

### **Increase School Enrolment and Literacy Support**

In the coming year, we would target 1,000 out-of-school children in slums and poor communities for our annual school enrolment initiative. We would also strengthen our literacy campaign (Back2Basics) in adopted schools

## 6

### **Establish the Street Institute and position Kids Innovation Hub for virtual learning**

We are setting up The Street Institute, a vocational/literacy skills center for street children above age 15 who might be unwilling to attend conventional schools.

We will also position our Kids Innovation Hub firmly to provide opportunities for low-income children to learn from anywhere.



# Doing more with resilient women



## An increased focus on women with Diatom Impact

Women's economic empowerment is at the heart of our strategy for building stronger households that can support the development of children. Over 90% of poor or disadvantaged children we work with are under the care of low-income single mothers, widows and women who are trapped in abusive relationships but are forced to live with it due to lack of alternatives for sustenance. This is why empowering women for themselves and the support of children is central to our work.

Working with our partner, Diatom Impact, under the Enable Project, we will support 100 vulnerable homeless women. In each intervention, we will provide shelter, support the women to develop a livelihood or support the education of the children.

# Financials

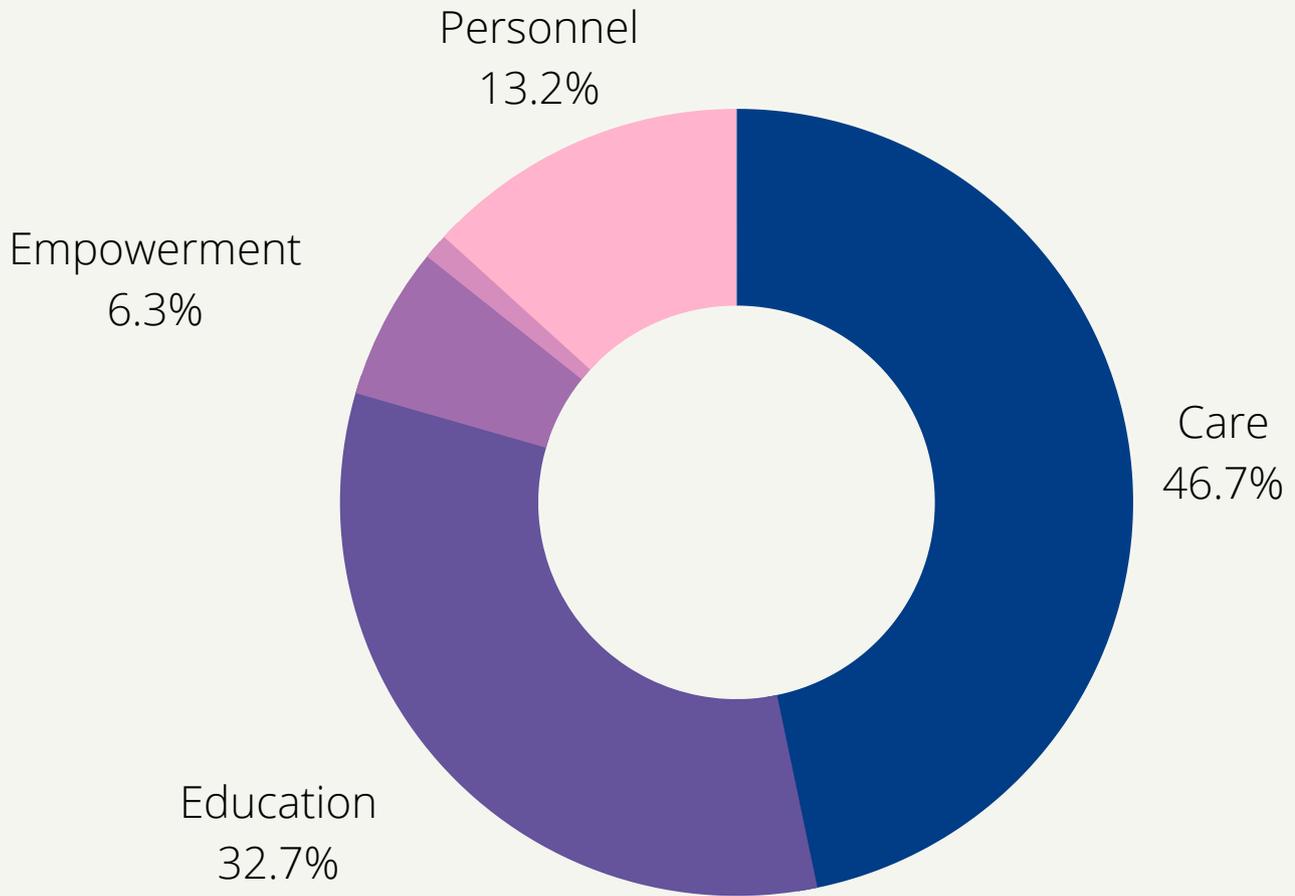
## SUMMARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

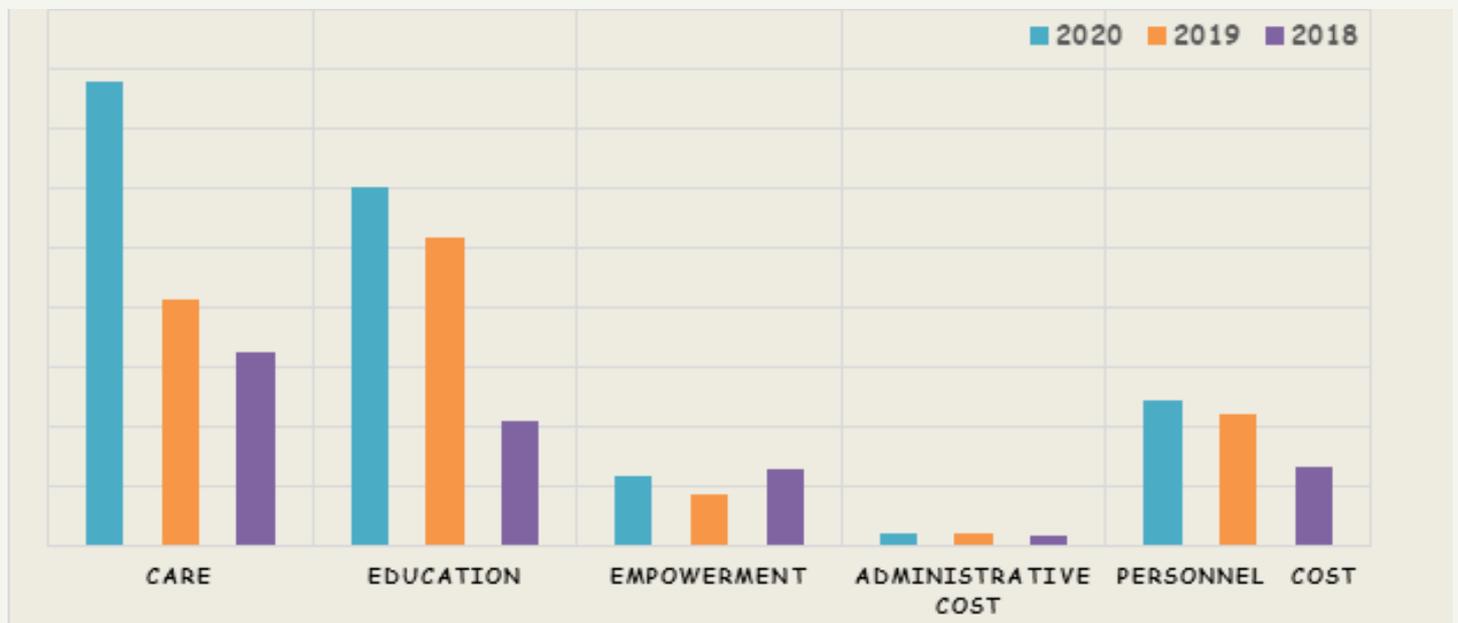
		2020 N	2019 N
Income	6	37,052,534	28,603,062
Other Income	6b	8,030	189,635
<b>Gross Income</b>		<b>37,060,564</b>	<b>28,792,697</b>
<b>Less operating expenses</b>			
Care Program	7	18,173,897	9,489,929
Education Program	8	12,735,183	9,804,089
Empowerment Program	9	2,437,250	2,130,650
Administrative Expenses	10	406,358	490,842
Personnel Expenses	11	5,137,732	4,381,000
Depreciation	12	497,228	396,966
		<b>39,387,649</b>	<b>26,693,476</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>		<b>(2,327,085)</b>	<b>2,099,221</b>
<b><u>Appropriation</u></b>			
Transfer to Reserves		<b>(2,327,085)</b>	<b>2,099,221</b>

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS CONTAINED IN THE AUDITED ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

# Financials



## 3-YEAR EXPENDITURE TREND



# 32.7%

Education

# 46.7%

Care

# 6.3%

Empowerment

# 1.1%

Administrative  
Cost

# 13.2%

Personnel  
Cost

## NOTES TO EXPENSES

### Education

This comprises amount spent on school fees for both resident and non-resident children. It also includes other school related expenses such as pocket money, common entrance fees, purchase of books, stationery and other school needs.

### Care

This represents amount spent on the welfare of resident and non-resident children. Such expenses include feeding (the purchase of bi-weekly food items and supplies for resident children), clothing, purchase of drugs/hospital bills, payment of rent, school fees/supplies support and meal support for families of non-resident children and amount incurred on repairs and maintenance of the home.

### Empowerment

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

### Personnel Costs

This comprises the salaries paid to full-time care staff (House keepers, matron, security guards) and teachers (such as Coding instructors, Music teacher etc.). Also, this covers amount spent on salary for PTA teachers in adopted school.

### Administrative Costs

This includes amount spent on transportation for official duties (this includes taking children to and from boarding schools within and outside Lagos), G-suite email subscription, domain name renewal, web hosting etc.



## REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

### To the Board of Trustees of THE DESTINY TRUST CHILDREN FOUNDATION

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Destiny Trust Children Foundation which was prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on page 30.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the Foundation in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles; this includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. The audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion and to the best of information and according to the explanation given to us, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the financial affairs of the Foundation as at 31st December, 2020 and of their financial performance and cash flow for the year ended on that day and comply with the requirements of Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAP C20 LFN 2004.

Taiwo Bamiteko

FRC/2018/ICAN/00000018244

**For: Taiwo Bamiteko & Co**

*(Chartered Accountants)*

Lagos, Nigeria



March, 2021





With every year of impact, we celebrate the power of community. Our work is sustained by the sacrifice of individuals who keep giving to ensure that we are there for children in aspects of their most critical needs. We couldn't have done it without you!

# Our Partners

We couldn't have done it without you, every individual donor and Volunteers!



**SUBOMI  
PLUMPTRE  
TRUST**



**Slingstone LP**



**Sankore**  
INVESTMENTS



**HelpCentral** 

Connecting for Good



**n nairabox**