



THE
DESTINY TRUST
EMPOWERING DESTINIES

IMPACT REPORT 2023



www.destinytrust.org

Table of Contents

03

From our Founders

05

Impact at a Glance

08

Our SDG Priority and Theory of Change

10

From Action to Impact

14

Measuring Progress, Embracing the Promise

16

Empowering through Accelerated Education

23

Our New Milestones in School Enrolment

30

Advancing Academic Excellence: Key Factors Driving Positive Change

34

Expanding Our Reach with Edtech and Collaboration

38

Fostering Stability through Residential Care

42

Our Expanded Shelter for Children

44

Some Lives We Touched: A Story of Three Destinies

48

Envisioning Tomorrow, Embracing our Digital Future

58

2023 Unaudited Financials

65

Our 2023 in the Media

69

Acknowledgments



From **Our Founders**

As we approach another year, we are filled with the deepest gratitude for the incredible impact you made with us in 2023. The year marked the first year of our new decade and was the trial of our renewed commitment to building on the successes of the first 10 years to scale and accelerate solutions that have the most transformative impact in the lives of children.

Every year, the evidence from our work with children challenge and expand our thinking about how we can better serve the children and invest more in solutions that swiftly and sustainably rescue many more children from the hold of illiteracy, homelessness, hunger, abuse, crime, disease and destitution. Our agenda to shape a future where many more children prosper require that we reimagine new better ways and collaborations that foster their education, wellbeing and empowerment. We eagerly embrace this challenge, fully committed to constant innovation and laying the groundwork for exponential impact in the lives of children throughout our new decade and beyond.

We find profound joy from witnessing that transformation is not only achievable but is also easier, cheaper and stands greater chance of success with children. We often assert that children are not asking for too much; and this is not to play down the seriousness of the integrated actions and supports required to rescue and raise a child. Indeed, there is no quick fix with children at risk. It takes long-term investment and involvement in the life of a child to produce credible results. Our belief in them and their change process is inspired by the amazing stories of change we have crafted together, utilizing education as our central tool. We have seen the drug-addicted children, once living under bridges, breaking free from the clutches of addiction. A hungry homeless child, once scavenging for leftover food amidst the refuse of Lekki homes, now crafts innovative tech solutions to combat child hunger. Formerly homeless, out-of-school children roaming the streets have transformed into university undergraduates and young leaders actively participating in rescuing more children ensnared in destitution.



We are convinced that a change in the life of one child, indeed, makes far bigger change for the society. This is our inspiration for the future of greater impact before us.

It is easy to lapse into lethargy just contemplating the vast challenges that face the Nigerian child, and the seemingly insurmountable systemic social and economic conditions that must be altered to make Nigeria work for the children. We are inspired by your enthusiasm and steadfast commitment to transform the life of that one child for good. Your sacrifices hold even greater value, especially for your consistency through uncertain economic times. Our work rests on the power of our shared humanity to create positive change in the lives of children who, otherwise, would have the least opportunities privileges and capacity to live hopeful and fulfilled. Year after year, you have demonstrated genuinely that these children matter. We would be immensely happy to know that we can count on your continued support for an even more impactful 2024. Thank you!

Abimbola Ojenike

Co-founder



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OUR 2023 at a Glance

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



1223

children enrolled in school or supported to go back to school



147

children under scholarship including 10 sponsored in universities.



450

benefitted from school support projects in adopted schools.



83

over-age children given accelerated basic education or education remedial support.

1 NO
POVERTY



131

students trained on coding and design skills at our Kids Innovation Hub .



11

youths and children empowered with skills for school bags production.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



108

children provided shelter under residential care, family care or other alternative care plans.



50

provided healthcare.



1

residential care centre & supported independent living centre newly for formerly homeless children transiting from residential care.



11

children reintegrated into families from residential care or resettled from the streets with their homeless families.

2 ZERO
HUNGER



158872

meals served in our 4 children homes and food-insecure children in families.



12200

Free school meals provided to children at the Bridge Learning Centre



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SDG Priority and Our Theory of Change



Education stands unwavering as our foremost priority and frontline strategy. We recognize the unparalleled transformative and empowering force embedded in education. It endows children with the capacity to acquire information and ideas crucial for enhancing their lives and actively contributing meaningfully to the progress of their society. In our unwavering commitment to our mission, we continually seek innovative and consolidating strategies that have demonstrated efficiency. Rigorous scrutiny of risks and weaknesses is integral to our approach, allowing us to build resilience capabilities that are vital for sustaining our impact and enhancing performance for long-term growth and sustainability.

Central to our initiatives is the objective to be a steadfast presence for children exactly where they need us the most. While education remains the focal point for tangible empowerment, we operate an expansive care program concurrently. This comprehensive program ensures that specific categories of children, requiring a safe and stable home environment, have access to shelter, sustenance, protection, and all basic necessities.

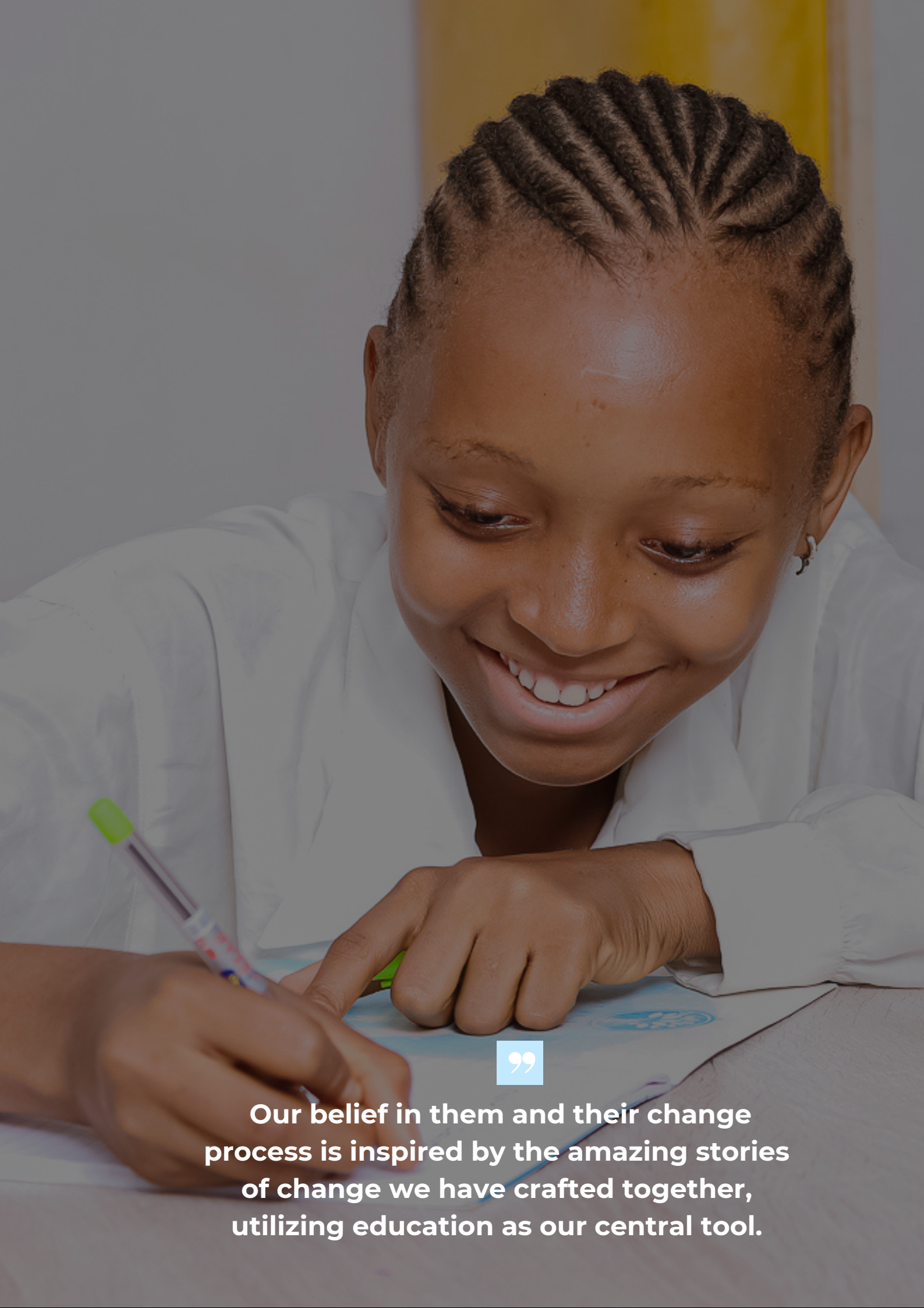
We recognize that a secure foundation is imperative for these children to fully leverage the transformative potential of education.

Our commitment transcends the confines of the classroom, acknowledging that a holistic approach is essential for unlocking the true power that education holds. The care program, addressing fundamental needs, becomes the bedrock upon which the transformative journey begins. By providing a nurturing and secure environment, we ensure that the impact of education is not only accessible but also optimally effective in shaping the lives of these children.

Through education, we offer more than knowledge; we offer hope, resilience, and a pathway to a brighter future. As we forge ahead, our dedication to innovation and a holistic approach underscores our commitment to fostering long-term positive change in the lives of these children, empowering them to overcome obstacles and thrive in a world of opportunities.



THE GLOBAL GOALS



Our belief in them and their change process is inspired by the amazing stories of change we have crafted together, utilizing education as our central tool.

From Action to Impact

Reflecting on our 2023, it has indeed been a transformative journey of translating action into impactful outcomes for the children we serve.

In the hustle of our fast-paced lives, organizations can easily get caught up in the momentum of tasks without fully considering their consequences. While hard work is commendable, it's equally crucial to pause and reflect on the intentional outcomes of our actions. A kind word, a compassionate gesture, or an encouragement may seem small but can profoundly alter perspectives. Conversely, a careless remark can lead to unintended damages.

The "from action to impact" concept at The Destiny Trust serves as a constant reminder and encourages intentional action. As a charitable organization committed to serving children with a focus on both immediate and long-term results, we strive for efficient service and emphasize transformation over charitable actions.

We've taken strides to establish growth channels for every child under our care, providing not only educational support but also child-friendly facilities and life skills development. In the coming year, we commit to refining our processes to ensure that our intentional actions align with the impact we aspire to create, leaving a meaningful legacy for our children that extends beyond ourselves. Together, let's cultivate a culture of compassion, empathy, and positive transformation.

I extend my best wishes for success in your personal and professional endeavors, trusting that your intentional actions will continue to ripple positively through the lives of those around you. Your commitment to positive change is instrumental in creating a better future for the children we serve.

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Athina Jeje
Chief Operating Officer

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In assessing the impact of our efforts, we are keenly reminded of the invaluable contributions made by our expanding community of volunteers. These individuals consistently go above and beyond, becoming true champions of positive change in the lives of children. Their commitment is the bedrock of hope, embodying the essence of selfless service.



From Action to Impact

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Being a volunteer-driven organization, acknowledging the transformative change we bring about is inseparable from recognizing the remarkable creative energy and passion exhibited by these unsung heroes. Their dedication transcends the ordinary, weaving a tapestry of compassion and commitment that defines the very fabric of our mission.

It is the collective efforts of these volunteers that breathe life into our initiatives, turning aspirations into tangible impacts. Their selflessness creates a ripple effect, touching the lives of children and fostering a sense of hope that extends far beyond the immediate moment. The sacrifices they willingly make, the time they generously offer, and the genuine care they impart constitute the essence of our organization's success.

In celebrating the impact we achieve, it is only fitting to express deep gratitude to our volunteers. They are the driving force behind the positive transformations we witness, standing as living testimonials to the belief that meaningful change is indeed possible through the collective efforts of compassionate individuals.





**Our actions show
that they matter,
inspiring them to embrace the
future with renewed trust that
they can count on us to overcome
the challenges that hold them back
from fulfilment.**

Measuring Progress Embracing the Promise

As we gauge our progress, our evaluation extends beyond the numerical metrics, delving deeply into the tangible evidence stemming from our efforts. While numbers provide a quantitative assessment of our overall effectiveness and the positive outcomes generated by our services, we go the extra mile to uncover the subtle, seemingly unnoticed transformations occurring in the lives of children.

Our commitment to measuring success is not solely confined to statistical indicators; it encompasses a nuanced understanding of the individual changes unfolding in each child's life. We recognize that impactful transformations extend beyond the quantifiable and often manifest in the realms of personal growth, resilience, and restored hope.

In assessing social returns on investment, we anchor our analysis on the inherent promise held within each child. By focusing on the seemingly small and unnoticed changes, we gain insight into the profound shifts occurring in their lives. This approach allows us to appreciate the qualitative dimensions of progress, emphasizing the immeasurable value of instilling confidence, igniting curiosity, and inspiring a sense of possibility in a child's journey.

Our dedication to the promise of that one child serves as a guiding principle, driving us to uncover the deeper, qualitative impact that reverberates through their lives and, ultimately, contributes to the broader positive transformation we aspire to achieve. It's within this context that we share the results from our work.



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Our Progress in
Education



Empowering Through Accelerated Education: Bridging Gaps, Transforming Lives

Through our pioneering Bridge Learning Centre, we provide a distinctive educational pathway tailored for older children aged 10-17 who never had the opportunity to attend primary school or those who, due to extended absences, were unable to complete their primary education. At the heart of our approach is the implementation of an Accelerated Education Programme (AEP), enabling these children to attain a primary education in just three years.

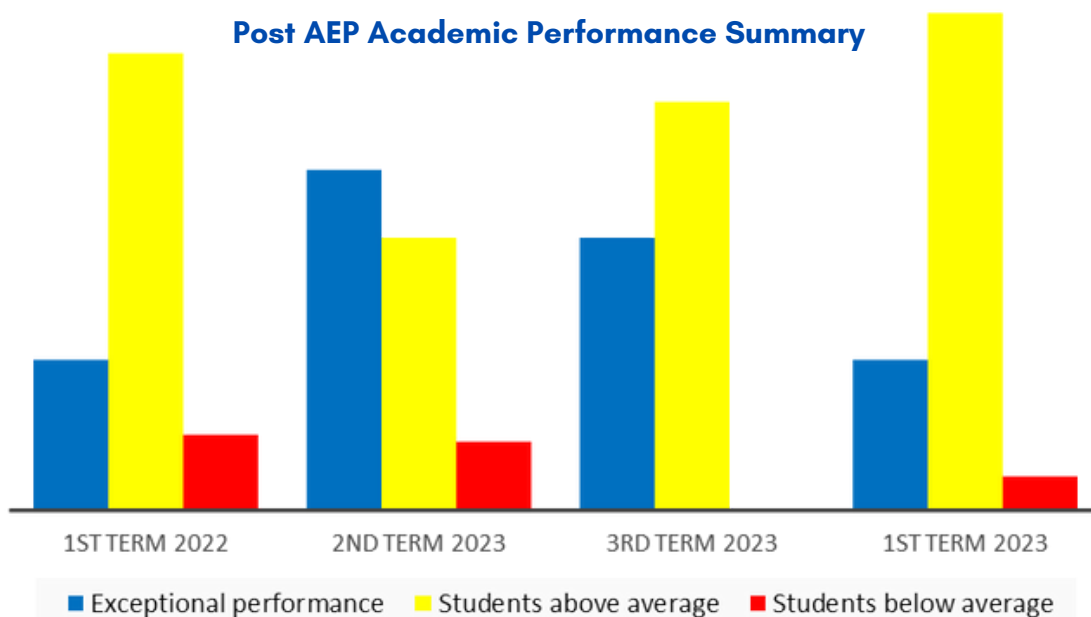
Launched in October 2021, the Bridge Learning Centre serves as a beacon of hope, successfully reintegrating 38 students into junior secondary school across age-appropriate classes in JSS 1-3. This innovative educational initiative facilitates a seamless transition, allowing these students to continue their learning journey at a pace aligned with conventional educational standards. With a commitment to inclusion and empowerment, our Bridge Learning Centre represents a transformative force in the lives of older learners, offering them a chance to bridge educational gaps and build a foundation for a brighter future.

From AEP to Mainstream Schools- What results show

The result analysis of reintegrated children since 2022 showcases a positive academic trajectory.

In the initial term of reintegration in 2022, 11% of students performed below average, 67% showcased above-average performance, and a commendable 22% achieved exceptional results. By the final term of 2022, a remarkable transformation occurred, with no students performing below average, and a significant rise in those attaining exceptional results.

Moving into 2023, there was a 6% reduction in students below average, signifying sustained progress. Despite potential challenges in adjusting to the traditional school system, the data consistently illustrates AEP students seamlessly adapting and consistently excelling academically. Our noteworthy success in reintegrating older out-of-school children into age-appropriate classes in mainstream secondary schools underscores the effectiveness of the Accelerated Education Programme (AEP). This reflects the positive impact and ongoing success of the implementation of Accelerated Education Programme for overage children.





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Empowering Through Accelerated Education: Bridging Gaps, Transforming Lives

While the AEP model focuses on imparting foundational knowledge in four core subjects—Numeracy, Literacy, Science, and General Studies—the conventional school system typically involves teaching a minimum of 10 subjects per class. The AEP stands out for its flexible duration, learner-focused approach, and collaborative disciplinary measures. These characteristics differentiate it from the traditional, rigid, and group-based nature of conventional schools.

The burgeoning out-of-school rates in Nigeria, exceeding 20 million by 2022, demand urgent intervention. This alarming statistic underscores the critical need to address educational gaps and enhance outcomes for marginalized students. In our experience, the Accelerated Education Programme (AEP) is a pragmatic solution for educating overage children who face discrimination in traditional schools, labeled as "too old to learn." Nigeria's task of educating its millions of out-of-school children requires a specialized approach, focusing on those significantly above the typical school entry age.

The AEP, designed to meet the distinctive needs of these students, becomes indispensable in addressing educational disparities and ensuring that even those beyond the conventional entry age can access meaningful learning opportunities.

Persistent out-of-school rates contribute to a rise in OOSC numbers, fueled by neglect and rapid demographic growth. Between 2000 and 2010, primary school-age children increased by 35%, and by 32% between 2010 and 2020. In 2022, over 20 million Nigerian children of school age are not enrolled, with 12.4 million having never attended school and 5.9 million failing to complete primary education. This crisis poses significant threats, both physically and economically, to present and future communities. Addressing this issue is imperative for the well-being and prosperity of our society.





Not too old to learn!

In our experience, the Accelerated Education Programme (AEP) is a pragmatic solution for educating overage children who face discrimination in traditional schools, labeled as "too old to learn." Nigeria's task of educating its millions of out-of-school children requires a specialized approach, focusing on those significantly above the typical school entry age.

Integrating Children with Special Learning Needs into AEP

By tailoring our approach, we aspire to create an inclusive environment that nurtures the unique needs of these children, ensuring they receive the essential support for a successful educational journey.

In implementing the Accelerated Learning Programme (AEP) at the Bridge Learning Centre, we often encounter children with special learning needs. They are also older children within 10–18 years of age who have never been to school before or who dropped out of school. They are ordinarily captured within the target demography for our AEP.

While the AEP was not specifically designed with this sub-set in mind, we are confronted with the challenge to adapt quickly to include them effectively. The outcomes for these children may differ from those without learning concerns but we are committed to creating a rewarding learning experience for them with a child-friendly environment, increased learning opportunities, and a safe space for them to thrive and improve.

At the BLC, there is no segregation of learners. Children with special learning needs receive increased attention and we adopt the following measures. First, the learning methodologies are individualized. We use slower-paced teaching with fewer activities compared to other children. Repetitive teaching methods also help to familiarize the students with specific concepts before progressing. Second, we instruct from simple to complex. Visual aids are predominantly used to attract interest and class participation. We support learning activities to accommodate their short attention spans, ensuring a fun-filled learning experience. Third, alongside curricular activities, children with learning disabilities are encouraged to participate in non-academic activities within the learning environment, including: locomotive activities to boost confidence and improve their attitude toward physical tasks. They also engage in social activities to facilitate integration within the community and give room for them to attain their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society.

Enhancing Inclusive Education: Tailored Measures for Children with Special Learning Needs

We are adapting to addressing the distinct challenges encountered by children with special learning needs. To provide targeted support, we are extending the three-year maximum duration of the Accelerated Education Programme (AEP), ensuring a more comprehensive learning experience for children with learning challenges. This extension aims to support their growth and preparation for a seamless reintegration at the secondary level.

We will accommodate the repetition of lessons, utilizing the proven effectiveness of the repetitive teaching method. This adjustment aligns with the learning styles of children with learning disabilities, fostering a conducive educational environment and significantly increasing their chances of better performance.

Additionally, we will gradually introduce subjects for students with special learning needs, promoting an even distribution across the learning duration. By tailoring our approach, we aspire to create an inclusive environment that nurtures the unique needs of these children, ensuring they receive the essential support for a successful educational journey. Through these strategic measures, our goal is to empower every child, regardless of their learning needs, to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society.

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Empowering Dreams: Our New Milestones in School Enrolment

Over the past year, our efforts have assisted 1223 children across Nigeria to enroll in school for the first time or return to school. UNESCO education strategy (2014-2021) highlights that education is not just vital for individual well-being but also a catalyst for community progress and national development. This echoes why education is our most important strategy in the lives of the children we serve. Through quality education, we empower children to rewrite their narratives—turning despair into determination, ignorance into knowledge, obstacles into opportunities, and poverty into prosperity.

Imagine Daniel's hopeful gaze, as he stands to be enrolled in school. Imagine the joy of children like him when they step into a classroom for the first time. Their dreams inspire our mission to put more children in school.

This year we set about that goal doggedly as we delivered impactful solutions in the area of education. Our education initiatives address the problems of access and quality of education for children from vulnerable groups.

In the past 12 months, our specialized education initiatives for different categories of homeless out-of-school children have catered to the needs of a wide range of children, resulting in tangible outcomes. Beginning from the streets, we identify the treasure in every child and provide them opportunities to unleash their potentials through education. Remarkably, 98% of the children we take off the streets become responsible youths who volunteer for our cause.





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Empowering Dreams: New Milestones in School Enrolment

Back to School Campaign Highlights

This year marked a significant expansion of our back-to-school campaign, with a mission to support 1000 children in their first enrolment or return to school. We exceeded our target. Thanks to our partners, our reach extended to more states in Nigeria, impacting lives from Lagos to Taraba, Benue, Kwara, Ogun, Kaduna, Osun, Nasarawa to Oyo. From Manang Taraba to Igbo-Ora Oyo State, we were determined to expand education opportunities to children in more locations than we had been to in the past. Witnessing a decline in out-of-school numbers in communities we worked in, stories like Hauwa's journey from escaping Boko Haram to university and Oluseyi's transition from a street child to a software developer and undergraduate student of Economics in the prestigious University of Lagos exemplify our progress and impact.

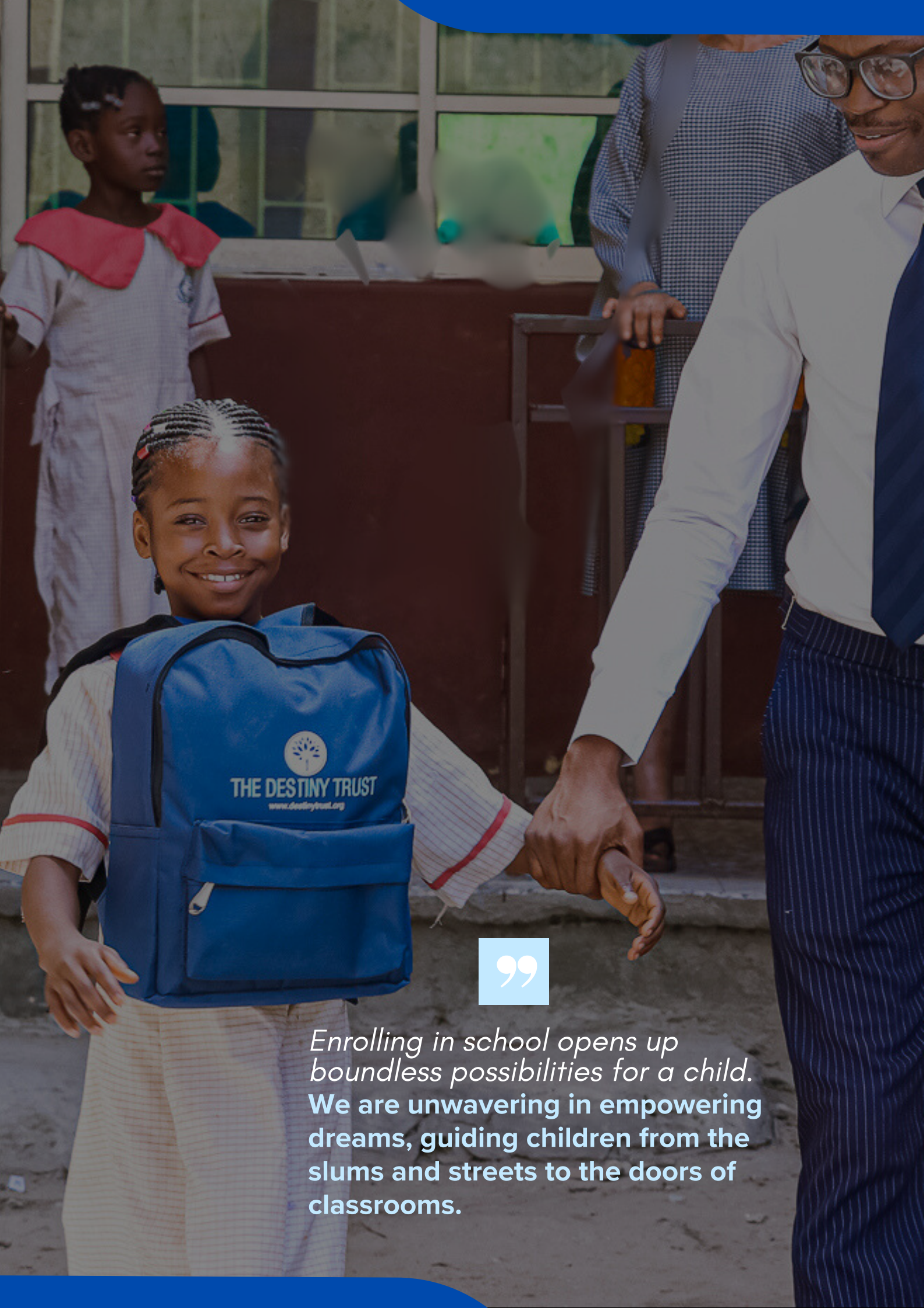
Unleashing Potentials: Impact Stories

Former street children, like Oluseyi, now a student at the University of Lagos and a volunteer coding instructor at our Kids Innovation Hub, attest to the transformative power of education. Challenges persist, as highlighted by UNESCO, but they are opportunities for us to extend a helping hand and contribute to positive change. Our Bridge Learning Centre (BLC) addresses the specific challenge of older children integrating into a regular school environment.

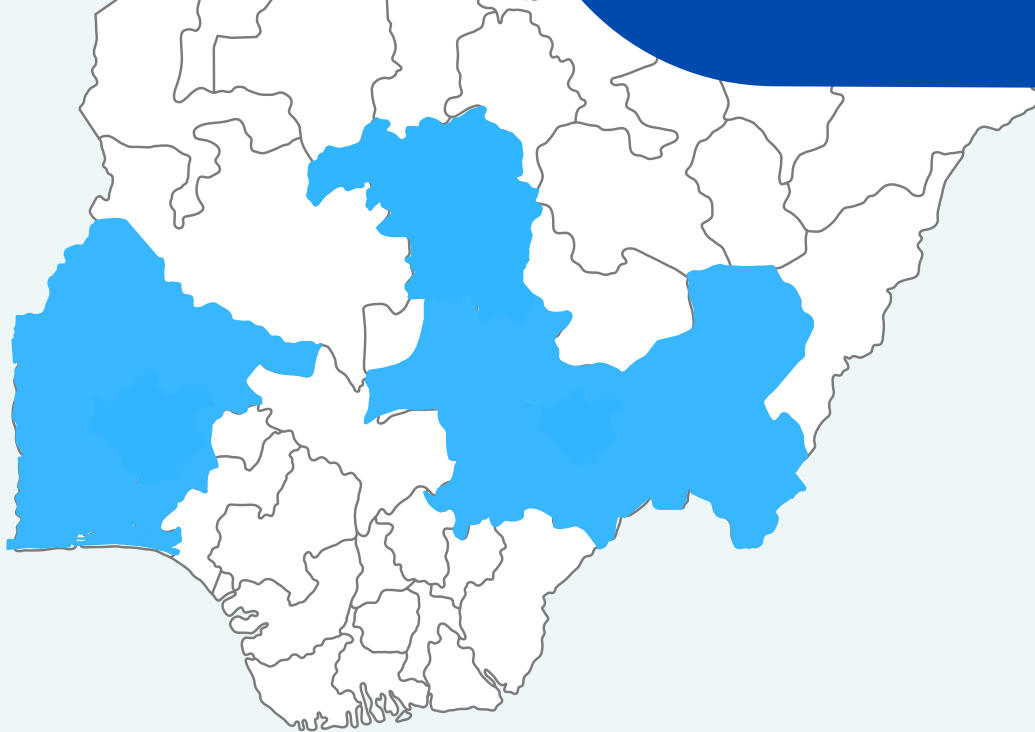
Education For All: Overcoming Challenges

While our coverage has significantly increased, challenges in quality, equity, and learning outcomes remain. We have an abiding commitment to securing the right to education for every child. Enrolling in school opens up boundless possibilities for a child. We are unwavering in empowering dreams, guiding children from the slums and streets to the doors of classrooms. Despite a child's background or past, we believe in providing opportunities for all.





*Enrolling in school opens up
boundless possibilities for a child.*
**We are unwavering in empowering
dreams, guiding children from the
slums and streets to the doors of
classrooms.**



Back-to-School 2023

An Expanded Reach for Impact

Embarking on a transformative journey spanning various states, from Lagos to Taraba, Benue, Kwara, Kaduna, Osun, Nasarawa, and Oyo, our mission extended across diverse communities, empowering children to enhance their lives through the power of education.

In Nasarawa State, we reached out to children in Kawo, where 278 children were not only encouraged to return to school but were also equipped with essential school supplies, ensuring a smoother transition back into the academic environment.

Lagos attracts huge rural-urban migration as the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria. This contributes to the housing deficit in the bustling city with several sprawling slums and squatter settlements. With an alarming number of children who live on the streets and under the bridges, Lagos has been the mainstay of our work with street and homeless children. In Lagos, we supported 366 children. Of these, 310 students successfully resumed their studies, 30 dropouts were reintegrated, and 26 children experienced the joy of enrolling in school for the very first time.

Benue State, particularly in the North Bank community of Markurdi, experienced the positive influence of our efforts as we supported 200 children, facilitating their return to the educational system.

In Oyo State, our commitment was evident as we provided essential resources to 100 children from various schools who assembled at CAC School in Igbo-Ora, reinforcing the foundation for quality education.

Furthering our impact in Oyo State, specifically at Ibadan North LG, 219 children were supported to embark on their #BackToSchool journey, with a particular focus on providing them with necessary school supplies. Notably, 25 of these children were taking their first steps into the realm of formal education, marking a significant milestone in their lives.

Aligned with our 10-year strategy, we proactively engaged in collaborations with reputable regional nonprofits serving as distribution partners, effectively extending educational opportunities to a larger number of children. This approach has not only demonstrated cost-effectiveness but has also established a sustainable framework for systematic monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, it lays a solid foundation for future interventions, ensuring continuous enhancement in the educational experiences of the enrolled children. Through these strategic partnerships, we aim to create a lasting impact, fostering an environment where education thrives, and children are equipped with the tools for a brighter future. In 2024, we look forward to wider collaboration in more Nigerian states to expand the reach of our work.



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Education kindles curiosity and empowers children to provide solutions to the problems around them. This journey begins with the first step - access to school.

Advancing Academic Excellence: Key Factors Driving Positive Change

The interplay of nature and nurture is always at the core of children's development. In over a decade of working with children, experience has shown that academic achievement is the result of an interaction of elements that include both environmental and individual impacts. Outside of conventional school environments, targeted social impact work has become a potent stimulant for improving children's academic achievement.

In the 2022/2023 academic session, we have seen a 2.27% improvement in the academic performances of children under residential care. This affirms that initiatives that focus on physical and mental health, mentorship, and community engagement contribute to a positive learning environment. Some of the strategies we have engaged that have proven effective include the following:

Stronger Social Support

Studies over the years establish that parental involvement and stability of the home plays a role in the development of a child's physical well-being, social skills as well as their academic performance. Much evidence point to the fact that children with strong social support have better chances at academic excellence.

Operating 4 residential learning centres for children who have no homes also helps us to provide them with community support, mentorship and stability that encourages intellectual activity.



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Key Factors Driving Positive Change

Technology

Integrating technology into the learning process plays a crucial role in education. Learning with the digital tools exposes the children to worlds beyond their immediate reach and creates a neural pathway that embraces higher forms of learning. Through the Kids Innovation Hub (KIH) which is our initiative for introducing underprivileged children to technology, we promote access to technology and literacy to enhanced learning experiences. Thus, further reducing the knowledge gap created by limited exposure while improving student engagement and achievement.

Extracurricular activities

While the primary focus of most extracurricular activities is often on non-academic pursuits, their impact often extends beyond the immediate activity to produce life skills and stimulate cognitive abilities. Targeted extracurricular activities promote the development of social skills like time management, leadership skills, collaboration and critical thinking in children. When carefully incorporated, these activities greatly enhance the children's general growth and intellectual success. Our children engage in several out-of-school hobbies such as public speaking, coding and robotics, music and instrumental training and sports that help their personal development process.

Afterschool Support

Our Afterschool Assistance programme is a vital component of our commitment to academic support and holistic development for children under residential care. This is particularly important because these children previously had critical foundational learning gaps as a result of years missed in school while

roaming the streets. Designed to complement regular schooling, this initiative aims to bridge educational gaps. Whether it's reinforcing key concepts, fostering creativity, or assisting with homework, our dedicated team of educators guide and support students in their educational journey.

The Afterschool goes beyond traditional tutoring by incorporating a holistic approach that addresses not only academic challenges but also enhances critical life skills. Through engaging activities and personalized assistance, we strive to create a nurturing environment where students can thrive academically and personally.

By fostering a love for learning and encouraging curiosity, our Afterschool Assistance programme empowers students to excel in their studies while instilling a sense of confidence and self-efficacy. We believe that education is a lifelong journey, and our commitment to providing comprehensive afterschool support reflects our dedication to shaping well-rounded individuals poised for success in all aspects of life.

Cultivating academic success in children is a multifaceted endeavour that requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond traditional educational frameworks. Social impact initiatives that address the root causes of academic challenges by focusing on factors such as parental involvement, access to quality education, emotional support, technology integration, and extracurricular activities contribute significantly to the process. By recognizing and deliberately building systems around these interconnected factors, we can pave the way for a brighter future for generations to come.

75%

children that finished secondary school got admitted into universities

Here's what this means to us:

In 2023, 75% of the children that finished secondary school gained admission into the university. The implications of this accomplishment, rooted in the transformative journeys of children under the Destiny Trust's care, are profound and multifaceted.

The transition from life as street children to university students is more than an individual triumph; it serves as a catalyst for comprehensive social change. This metamorphosis represents a substantial deviation in the life trajectories of these individuals and their families. For many families, the prospect of having their children as the first university graduates carries the promise of elevated earning potential, potentially breaking generational cycles of poverty.

Undoubtedly, higher education is a powerful tool for disrupting the cycle of poverty. Extensive studies reveal that individuals with higher education in Nigeria and Africa tend to enjoy significantly higher earning capacities than their less-educated counterparts. For instance, a 2018 World Bank study found that a one-year increase in schooling in Sub-Saharan Africa resulted in a remarkable 6% increase in wages. Beyond mere financial gains, higher education equips individuals with valuable skills, particularly in fields such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), addressing the African Development Bank's call for skills development to spur economic growth and alleviate poverty.

The significance of these young undergraduates becoming the first university graduates in their families cannot be overstated. This achievement raises poignant questions about the missed opportunities for economic progress within these families and the persistent transgenerational socio-economic exclusion that has defined their reality. Each graduate emerges as a living testament to the transformative power of education, serving as a catalyst to break the chains of transgenerational socio-economic exclusion and initiate a cycle of upward mobility.

The impact extends beyond tangible metrics, encompassing profound cultural shifts within their families. These students evolve into role models, dismantling antiquated notions surrounding street children and their potential. Parents witness firsthand the fruits of education, fueling aspirations for their own children and challenging traditional narratives about success. These transformative narratives radiate outward, inspiring entire communities to embrace the formidable power of knowledge and its capacity to reshape destinies.



While gaining admission into the university may seem like a small feat, it is very significant because these children mark the first undergraduates in their family line; 4 centuries since Nigeria produced the first graduate in history. This means a long missed opportunities and socio-economic exclusion for their families. These children are breaking the cycle of transgenerational illiteracy and poverty.

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Indeed, there is uneven development across communities and nations, but how farfetched could that disparity be?

When Nigeria produced a major batch of graduates between 1952 and the 1970s, the resultant effect was development across the nation. But what about communities and families who for over 400 years have had no access to higher education? What is their development story? According to a world bank report, Higher education is a fundamental tool for development and increased prosperity in any community or society, and especially for Africa. Higher education prepares professionals to make policies and build institutions that make the nation prosperous.

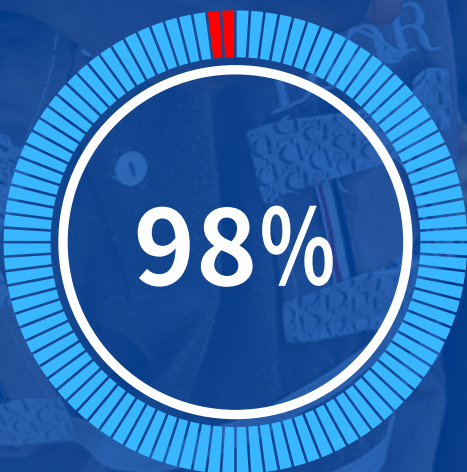
Furthermore, good quality higher education is an important determinant of the well-being of individuals, the progress of countries and the quality of humanity's common future (Wahab, 2020). With opportunities for higher education come alleviation of poverty. Knowledge and innovation are major drivers of development, as knowledge gained would raise problem solvers and solution providers.

We celebrate our undergraduates because we are assured that they are set on the right course for the security of the nation. When children are not in school, they become prey to being recruited for criminal activities. Just as we like to say, "If we don't put a book in the hands of these children, someone else may put a gun in their hands". Higher education has been proven to empower learners and equip them with values and knowledge that instill respect for democracy, human rights and social justice. Thus, our undergraduates are being empowered to become proactive contributors to a more just, peaceful, tolerant, and secure world. That's progress for any nation!

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of the children we educate grow to become responsible youths who volunteer for our cause.



Expanding our Reach, **Doing more with Edtech and collaboration**

As we continue to experience growth, our commitment to making a positive impact on children's education is expanding. We aim to broaden our reach and connect with more children through our ongoing education technology projects. We are building one free digital school for African children. In addition to broadening our reach, technology plays a pivotal role in supporting adaptive learning, a fundamental priority for us.

Our goal is to empower children to learn in their unique ways and at their individual pace. Further, we strive to maintain a consistent and high standard of learning across all locations where we work. By investing in education content accessible to children throughout Africa, we aim to address challenges linked to inadequate teaching or shortages in teaching staff for underserved children, ensuring a quality learning experience for every child.



”

Technology plays a pivotal role in supporting adaptive learning, a fundamental priority for us. Our goal is to empower children to learn in their unique ways and at their individual pace.

Doing more with Edtech and collaborations

Additionally, our engagement in policy work allows us to share valuable insights with the public sector, contributing to the enhancement of educational frameworks. Through strategic collaborations with Accelerated Education Programmes (AEPs) in Africa, we are actively working towards creating meaningful and scalable solutions to address the educational needs of a larger audience, ensuring quality education for all.

We acknowledge the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing to execute our initiatives at scale within the ever-evolving education systems. To this end, we will actively participate in policy work, advocating for the implementation of effective educational practices and policies in the public sector. Through the open exchange of experiences, successes, and challenges with fellow stakeholders, we cultivate a collaborative environment fostering mutual learning, innovation, and collective impact.

Notably, in our effort to scale the impact of our Accelerated Education Programme (AEP), we recognize the significance of collaboration with similar AEPs across Africa and the public sector. This collaboration aims to forge synergies that effectively address identified challenges, such as the scarcity of evidence-based practices, aligning with our shared commitment to achieving education equity for overage learners facing discrimination in the regular school system.

Such collaborative efforts provide the opportunity to share valuable insights and recommendations based on our firsthand experience in delivering education to underserved children. Throughout our journey, our primary goal remains the same: employing multifaceted approaches to deliver accessible, high-quality education to underserved children, advocating for effective policies, and continually innovating to meet the peculiar problems of educating children in need.



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Education gives more than the basic ability to read and write. It creates the environment to create the most unique social bond and **prepare children for economic inclusion.**

Our Progress in
Residential Care



Fostering Stability through Residential Care

When rescuing children from the streets, under bridges, or in slums, we offer an alternative home and care arrangement. This ensures a stable and secure environment, enabling them to pursue education without disruption.

A dependable shelter is crucial for the sustainability of our education plan for children facing homelessness. Without a home, children frequently experience disruptions in their education, leading some to lose interest in attending school.

The challenges of homelessness are even more pronounced for street children without the support of responsible parents or guardians. These children are exceptionally vulnerable, which is why they are given first priority in our shelter plan for children.

By providing a safe home through our residential care programme, we provide a secure foundation ensuring that the transformative power of education is not only accessible but also optimally effective in shaping the lives of these children for a brighter, more promising future.





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Fostering Stability through Residential Care

Supported Independent Living Programme: Providing Stability for Youths in Transition

In our first decade, we continued to think of how we can best provide stability for teenagers transiting from residential care. While we strongly pursue a deinstitutionalization policy, we also recognize the need to provide a safe and stable accommodation for teenagers where family reintegration or other family-like alternative care options fail.

Many of the youths transitioning from residential care are concurrently entering university, indicating that they primarily need accommodation during academic breaks. Although our goal is to encourage independent living and societal reintegration, we acknowledge the challenge of taking away the only loving home they have known without providing an alternative during holidays.

Addressing this housing challenge, we proudly opened our first Supported Independent Living Apartment (SIL) in February 2023, licensed by the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development. This initiative allows youths to experience independent living as young adults while adhering to the same standards of discipline instilled during their upbringing.

Renewed focus on family reintegration

Our primary aspiration is for all children to reside within their biological families. We actively pursue this goal by exploring various avenues to reintegrate children into their families or alternative family-like care arrangements where feasible.

In providing care, we stress the significance of family ties and encourage children to stay connected with their roots by visiting extended family members when possible. Rigorous family identification and home tracing precede child placement, ensuring a thorough understanding of their familial context.

A significant challenge to family reintegration is the scarcity of viable households where children can thrive beyond residential care. Economic indicators, according to African Development Bank group, show that global GDP growth will remain subdued, averaging 3.3% in 2023–2024, and a 13.6% inflation rate. The world bank further clarifies that the share of Nigerians living below the international poverty line is expected to peak in 2024 at 38.8% and there is need for urgent intervention to mitigate their risk of falling into intergenerational poverty traps. This suggests serious threats to re-integration of children into their low-income families. Many low-income families have disintegrated under the pressure of social and economic challenges and there is, indeed, no home or family for many children to return to. This underscores the commitment of our Family Empowerment initiative, *Enable*.



Rebuilding Resilient Households with Enterprising Women

Through our project, *Enable*, we are empowering women and strengthening households. We offer skills development programmes, and assistance in accessing interest-free loan for business. Our commitment lies in equipping women with the necessary tools and resources to become "loan ready," while also providing social guarantees to support them in establishing businesses or investing in their children's education. Our goal is to rebuild households where children can thrive and grow.

Resilient and enterprising women are vital partners in our work. Notably, over 90% of the disadvantaged children we assist were previously under the care of low-income single mothers, widows, or women facing significant hardships.

Empowering women is not only crucial for their well-being but also central to our mission of rebuilding stronger homes for children under our in-centre care.

Economic changes impact poor households the most. Nigeria's high inflation rate estimated at 24.4%, means that the already limited purchasing power of many families has been stretched further. Our family empowerment initiative aims to empower women during these challenging times, ensuring they can provide stable care for children after residential care. Now, more than ever, is the opportune time to actively pursue this initiative to enhance the sustainability of family reintegration efforts so we can empower more women who can and are willing take up the custody of the children after residential care.



Resilient and enterprising women are vital partners in our work. Notably, over 90% of the disadvantaged children we assist were previously under the care of low-income single mothers, widows, or women facing significant hardships.

Our Expanded Shelter for Children

In 2023, we identified the need to expand our residential care capacity, leading to the establishment of a new haven for children formerly living on the streets in Lagos. Simultaneously, we created a supported independent living facility to facilitate the transition of older teenagers from in-centre care. This ambitious goal materialized in February, marked by the opening of a 30-bed Children's Residential Learning Centre in Lagos which is our fourth home for children under our care.

Each room within this facility is thoughtfully furnished, equipped with a wardrobe, and features designated reading areas strategically placed to cultivate a love for reading.

The communal living space, seamlessly connected to the dining area, offers ample seating for collective family moments. The installation of a smart TV in the living room not only ensures home entertainment but also serves as a multimedia learning support tool within the home.

Drawing from our extensive experience, we recognising the pivotal role the environment plays in the rehabilitation of children. Hence, our commitment is deliberate and focused on creating a nurturing home environment that our children can confidently and proudly call their own.





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Living Room & Home Library

Our living room is both a place for family activities and where we give children access to books. A reading culture is central to reengineering their minds as they join our family.



Family Space

An open space adjoining the sitting room provides an extension for the dining and a suitable family space.



A Bedroom

All rooms are ensuite. Every child has a comfortable bed, wardrobe space and reading corner.



Dining Area

Our dining area has a two-level table that is drawn out at meal time for the whole family to eat together.

Some lives we touched **A Story of Three Destinies**

*From the depths of despair to
the heights of hope, the stories
of Raliat, Wasiu and Sarah
remind us that every child
deserves a chance to thrive.*

Some lives we touched

A Story of Three Destinies

Our impact is told in the stories of hope of children rescued from the streets now thriving in a new caring home and dreaming of a brighter future with the opportunity of education

It was around 11 p.m., and the rain had just begun to subside. As more vehicles poured into the always vibrant Lekki-Epe Expressway, Raliat waded through the still-flooded road. Armed with a piece of rag and a stick affixed to foam, she moved from car to car, washing windshields. For Raliat, the traffic jam on Lekki-Epe Expressway was a silver lining—more motorists slowing down meant more opportunities to catch their attention and beg for money to buy a meal.

Becoming a beggar wasn't a choice for Raliat. After her mother passed away, she lost contact with her father, who used to visit occasionally. Raliat found herself living in a dingy shanty room, with her mother, the only parent she had ever known.

The Lekki-Epe Express junction, where Raliat was found, bustled with street children. What made Raliat stand out was her being the lone girl among a group of boys still on the streets late at night. As we approached her, Raliat had ready prayers: "Please help me. Give me money, take me to school." It was unusual for street children to ask for anything beyond food and water.

Raliat's pleas were answered with more than she could have hoped for. She was enrolled in school. She also has a loving home where she gets healthy meals. No longer would she have to sleep on the cold pavement, exposed to the dangers and abuses of the streets.

Enters Wasiu.

Waking up amidst a pile of cartons that provided meager warmth at night, Wasiu realized he could no longer endure another day as a solitary child on the unforgiving streets. At barely 12 years old, he was the youngest among the urchins seeking refuge under market stalls after nightfall, having fled home following repeated assaults by his own mother.

As cash became scarce, Wasiu found street begging increasingly futile, as the passersby had little spare cash for a pitiable street child. However, the prospect of returning to his mother, the same person who had allegedly confined him to a police station for four agonizing days, was a recurring nightmare. The sizable wound on his head and numerous scars from his mother's brutal assaults served as haunting reminders that the place he once called home was far from being one.

Some lives we touched

A Story of Three Destinies

As life became more challenging on the streets, compassionate young adults sharing the same sleeping quarters knew that Wasiu's survival was improbable. They kindly reminded him that he was still a child with a chance they themselves had missed. Encouraging him to seek help at a nearby children's home, Wasiu took their advice. Clad in a red sweater and a pair of sandals—his only possessions—he walked into a Lagos Home of the Destiny Trust. Wasiu didn't need many words to convey his ordeal; his grimy skin and the stench emanating from untreated wounds, accumulated during days on the street without the luxury of a bath, spoke volumes.

Wasiu found more than just shelter; he found a loving home and family where he is cherished and protected. Back in school, he now possesses the freedom to dream once again.

10-year-old Sarah was accused of killing her guardian's daughter and thrown on the streets. Her sin was only that a neighbour offered her food while she was hungry and she ate it. She didn't know that they hated this neighbour. The day their daughter died, they said the daughter was killed by the neighbour and Sarah using "spiritual power" so they threw Sarah back on the streets alone with nowhere to sleep and nothing to eat.

Far from being a murderer, she cherished her departed friend and playmate, genuinely mourning the loss. Her life, already marked by hardship, began in abandonment; a baby left on the streets of Ajah, with no knowledge of her roots or her estranged parents.

To stave off hunger, Sarah turned to begging, her daily routine defined by the search for a kind soul willing to extend a helping hand. Homeless, she roamed the city streets, yearning for a glimmer of compassion. Yet, amidst the darkness, a ray of hope emerged. Sarah found refuge in our home, where she discovered not only shelter and nourishment but also the opportunity for education.

Empowered by her own struggles, Sarah's aspirations reached beyond personal triumph. With dreams as vast as the challenges she had faced, she set her sights on becoming a lawyer, determined to advocate for children enduring abuse.

The stories of Raliat, Wasiu and Sarah all show how love, help, and learning can change lives. Each story reminds us that every child, no matter what happened before, deserves a chance to do well in a world filled with care and chances.

Technology and Arts Skills

Empowerment



Envisioning Tomorrow

Embracing our Digital Future

The Kids Innovation Hub is the flagship of our empowerment programme, dedicated to children in residential care and other underserved children. Serving as a beacon for underrepresented youth, our alumni now work as software engineers in technology firms, exemplifying our commitment to broadening opportunities for all children in the growing digital economy.

In 2023, we expanded our impact by equipping an additional 133 children with crucial tech and design skills through afterschool classes and a transformative Kids STEAM Bootcamp held in August.

Thanks to the support of our partner, Max, we strengthened our mission to empower underrepresented children with essential tech skills.

Our Kids Innovation Hub was filled with exciting activities throughout the year, engaging underserved children in intensive two-week tech training sessions covering Coding, UI/UX, Robotics, XR/VR, Programming, Design thinking, Digital Design, Games, and Life skills. This immersive experience exposed the children to life-changing digital knowledge, sparking a heightened interest in the world of technology.



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Wuraola was out of school. Her dream of becoming a Software Engineer became more unlikely as she went to live with a family that promised her education but took her in as house help. Her hope was reignited when she found a number to call The Destiny Trust on. Her contact was saved as 'Wuraola Girl that wants to go to school' as she became a regular caller through a certain number. Today, she is not only back to school. She is in SS1. She codes. She sings. She plays guitar. She is a footballer and has countless medals from running for her school. For her, a day at Microsoft after our immersive tech bootcamp is both an exciting moment and inspiration that her dreams are valid.



Microsoft



Envisioning Tomorrow

Embracing our Digital Future

A significant highlight of the summer was the invitation to the Microsoft Africa Development Center facilities in Lagos, Nigeria. The children experienced the latest digital fabrication technologies and engaged in discussions with inspiring professionals at Microsoft. For 14-year-old Wuraola, a day at Microsoft after our immersive tech bootcamp is both an exciting moment and inspiration that her dreams are valid. Wuraola was out of school. Her dream of becoming a Software Engineer became more unlikely as she went to live with a family that promised her education but took her in as house help. Her hope was reignited when she found a number to call The Destiny Trust on. Her contact was saved as 'Wuraola Girl that wants to go to school' as she became a regular caller through a certain number. Today, she is not only back to school. She is in SSI. She codes. She sings. She plays guitar. She is a footballer and has countless medals from running for her school.

In a notable feature on the impact of our Kids Innovation Hub, the World Economic Forum underscored the global gaps in access to digital skills learning. The forum emphasized the significance of initiatives like the Kids Innovation Hub, stating, "More than 50% of Nigeria's population currently lack access to learning digital skills. Globally, a third of the world is not yet online. That's 2.7 billion people. So far, the Kid's Innovation Hub has trained 670 children in tech skills since 2018." This recognition fuels our dedication to addressing the broader challenges of closing digital gaps for underserved children, as we welcome the spotlight on our remarkable contributions thus far.





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World Economic Forum on
The Destiny Trust's Kids Innovation Hub





There is genius in every child. Our work is to create the right environment for them to explore it.



Envisioning Tomorrow Embracing our Digital Future

Our Kidsinnovation.africa launched for underserved children to acquire tech and design skills free

A pivotal achievement in our 2023 was the successful launch of the beta version of kidsinnovation.africa, our edtech platform for digital skills learning. Geared towards fostering the growth of Africa's next-generation tech talents, the platform offers free learning opportunities in coding and design skills. Beyond training, kidsinnovation.africa serves as a dynamic hub where young minds can connect, collaborate, receive mentorship, and explore internship opportunities.

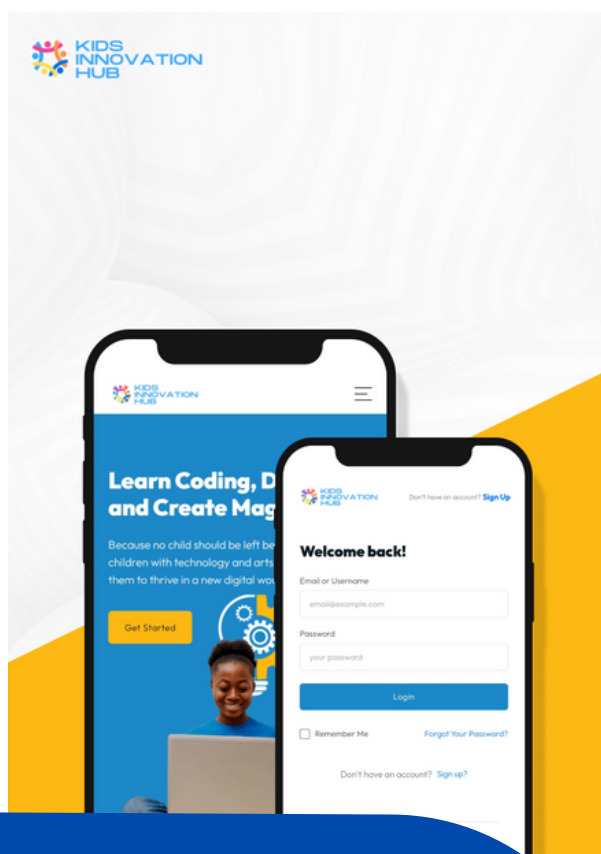
This full-suite learning management portal has features which include seamless learner onboarding, interactive learner management for tasks like assessments and mentor connections, and a robust online lesson and teaching framework.



Through the kidsinnovation.africa, we are actively narrowing the digital divide, advocating for the inclusion of underrepresented individuals in the burgeoning technology sector.

This aligns with our broader intervention program, which is dedicated to providing education, care, and empowerment to children and youths within vulnerable groups, ensuring a holistic approach to their development and future success.

The kidsinnovation.africa platform will drive our ambitious mission to empower millions of underserved African children with essential digital skills. To achieve this vision, we are actively seeking collaborations to expand our content library, creating a rich and interactive learning resource for users. Additionally, we aim to forge partnerships to secure internship opportunities, providing practical experiences that complement their learning journey. Enlisting more mentors is another key aspect of our collaborative efforts, ensuring that the platform users receive personalized guidance and support on their tech learning paths.



Envisioning Tomorrow Embracing our Digital Future

Innovating for Impact: Highlights from our Pan-Nigeria Kids Innovation Challenge

In 2023, our annual bootcamp's demo day underwent a transformative expansion, evolving into the Pan-Nigeria Kids Innovation Challenge. This initiative aimed to unearth the latent genius in a broader spectrum of underserved children. This year marked the inception of the Kids Innovation Challenge 2023, offering young Nigerian innovators a remarkable platform to compete, ideate, and embark on a journey towards greatness. Participants aged 10-17 were encouraged to devise innovative technological solutions addressing critical social challenges, with a primary focus on access to education, healthcare, and the issues of child hunger and food waste.

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The World Economic Forum, in a social media feature released during its Sustainable Development Impact Meetings 2023, commended Kids Innovation Challenge's winning solution, stating that "Innovations like this machine could help solve Nigeria's food shortages."



Envisioning Tomorrow Embracing our Digital Future



The Challenge commenced with an online submission phase, culminating in a grand tech showcase and Demo event. During this event, seven shortlisted participants presented their innovative ideas before a distinguished jury consisting of accomplished software engineers, visionary tech founders, and startup accelerator managers. Applications underwent rigorous evaluation, considering factors such as originality, innovation effectiveness, market potential, scalability, technical knowledge, and the capacity to develop the idea further.

The winning innovation emerged as an IoT-based smart compost system, ingeniously transforming food waste into valuable manure. The World Economic Forum, in a social media feature released during its Sustainable Development Impact Meetings 2023, commended Kids Innovation Challenge's winning solution, stating that "Innovations like this machine could help solve Nigeria's food shortages." We take pride in celebrating the triumph of these children, recognizing that we provided them with a platform to explore, express, and showcase their creativity and innovation to make a positive impact on societal challenges.



We take pride in celebrating the triumph of these children, recognizing that we provided them with a platform to explore, express, and showcase their creativity and innovation to make a positive impact on societal challenges.

Nurturing Future Innovators: The Impact of our One-Year Mentoring Programme on Africa's NextGen Tech Talents

Recognizing the pivotal role of mentoring in cultivating Africa's next-generation tech talents, we have taken a significant step forward. Building on the resounding success of the Kids Innovation Challenge, we have integrated the young inventors behind the top three innovations into a comprehensive one-year mentoring program. This initiative includes a structured self-development curriculum, empowering participants with the knowledge and skills needed to transform their ideas into beloved products, navigate the market, and manage a profitable and impactful business. We extend our commendation to the dedicated mentors generously contributing their valuable resources to equip these children with knowledge and create transformative opportunities. Special acknowledgment goes to Princess Edo-Osagie, Head Product Leadership and Agile Governance at Interswitch, for her noteworthy commitment. In addition to her outstanding dedication as a mentor, she sponsored her mentees to attend the Inspire Africa Conference, facilitating impactful mentoring sessions with some leaders at the Silicon Valley Product Group, Marty Cagan and Lea Hickman.

The mentoring programme is not only fostering self-esteem but also exposing children to new environments and opportunities that affirm that their dreams can be achieved.

It also offers much-needed clarity for our young innovators, enabling them to refine their product ideas and roadmap for a future in the tech industry. This holistic approach empowers them with the confidence and insights necessary to navigate the complexities of the technology landscape and realize their full potential. These commitments are truly life-changing, reflecting our shared dedication to nurturing talent and fostering innovation in Africa's tech landscape.



Arike has a story.

Arike came back from school one hot afternoon to see her shanty home in flames. It was another slum eviction at Marwa, Lekki. She had nowhere to lay her head at night and was displaced from the vicinity of her school again. We gave Arike a new loving home and put her back in school. She is in the top 3 of her class. She was trained as a front-end developer at our Kids Innovation Hub. She is co-founding a tech to secure access to healthcare for low-income children. When she is not writing codes, Arike plays violin.



Our investment in children

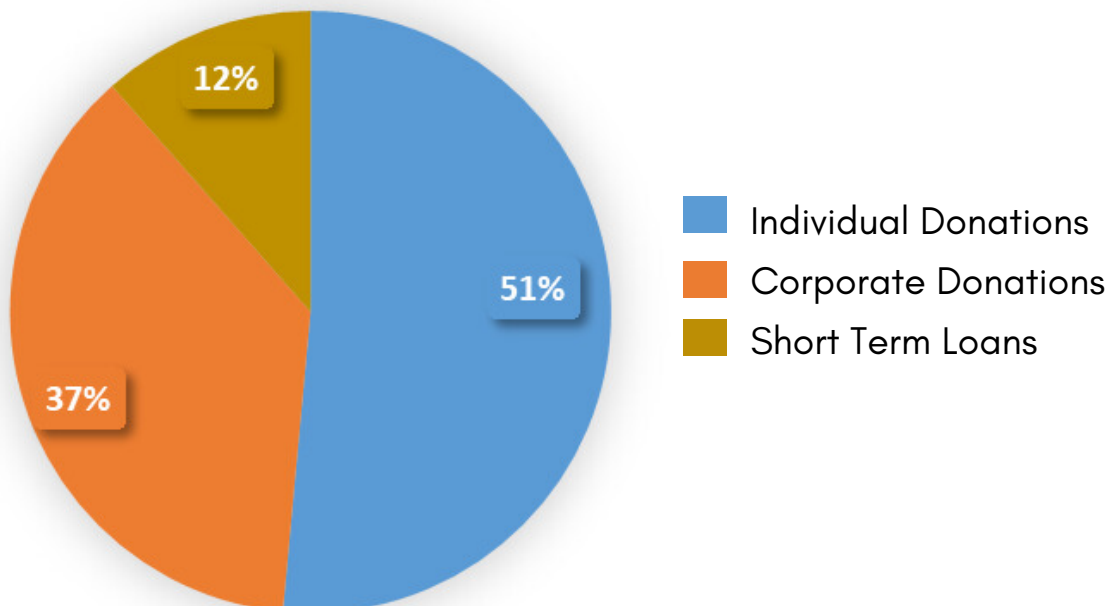
2023 Unaudited Financials

Financials

Activity Summary for the Period Ended December 2023

Summary of Inflows and Outflows

	SUMMARY OF INFLOWS	₹
Inflow		
Donations	85,585,303	
Corporate Donations	61,571,961	
Short-term Loans	19,117,800	
Total	166,275,064	



Financials

Activity Summary for the Period Ended December 2023

Summary of Inflows

Notes:

•Corporate Donations

This represents amount contributed by corporate entities or organizations for various projects including the amount paid by partners directly to schools to settle children's school fees (for example: Covenant Nation and Pistis Foundation) or the monetary value of scholarships offered by education institutions (such as Divine Scholars) .

•Individual Donations

This represents amount donated by individuals to The Destiny Trust. This also includes in-kind donation of food items, and supplies by walk-in visitors at various centres of The Destiny Trust.

•Short Term Loan

This represents short term facilities granted by volunteers of the foundation to fund pressing financial obligations. Loans are secured only when liquidity level is at its lowest and they are interest-free.



Financials

Activity Summary for the Period Ended December 2023

	OUTFLOW SUMMARY	₺
Outflow		
Education	47,305,455	
Care	44,990,946	
Empowerment	15,602,250	
Administrative Cost	2,078,153	
Personnel Cost	20,133,520	
Loan Repayment	25,757,800	
Total	155,868,124	



Financials

Activity Summary for the Period Ended December 2023

Summary of Outflows

Notes:

- Care

This represents amount spent on setting up a new residential learning centre in Lagos, the expenses for the welfare of resident and non-resident children across the four centres managed by The Destiny Trust (Family House, Adullam, Idera and Esther's Harbour). These 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 supplies support and meal support for families of non-resident children and amount incurred on repairs and maintenance of the home.

- Personnel Costs

This comprises the salaries paid to full time care staff (Teachers, Care givers, Matrons, Security guards), Social Worker. Members of the Management Board are unpaid volunteers.

- Empowerment

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

- Education

This comprises amount spent on school fees for all children under scholarship (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. As well as expenses incurred for the running of the Bridge Learning Centre and educational materials purchased for the centre.

- Administrative Costs

This includes amount spent on transportation for official duties (this includes taking children to and from boarding schools within and outside Lagos), subscriptions, Membership and Annual Dues, graphics and video designs for awareness and registration of new intakes.

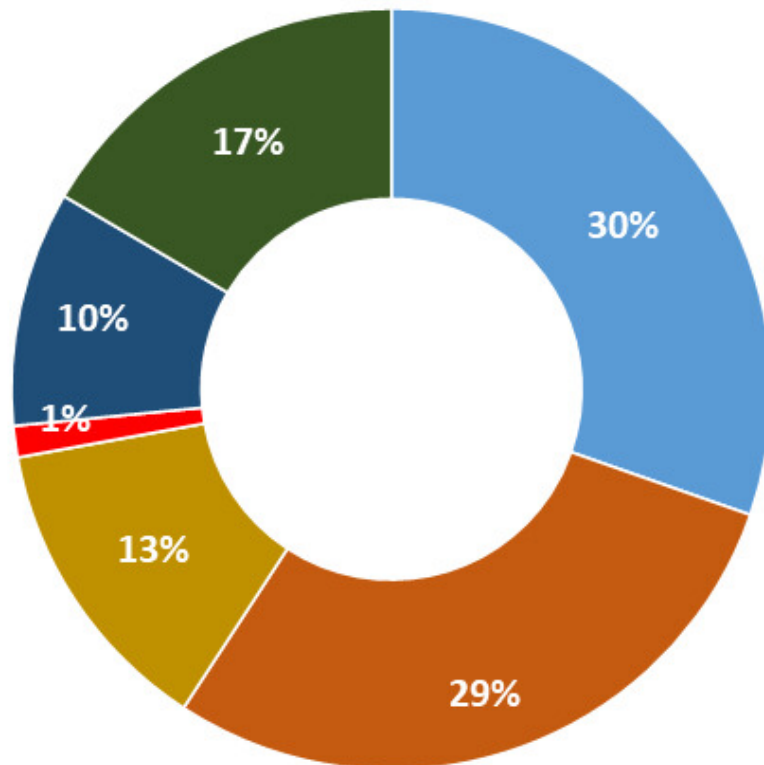
- Loan Repayment

This comprises refund of short-term Interest-free loans granted by volunteers in the previous and current year.

Financials

Activity Summary for the Period Ended December 2023

Summary of Outflows



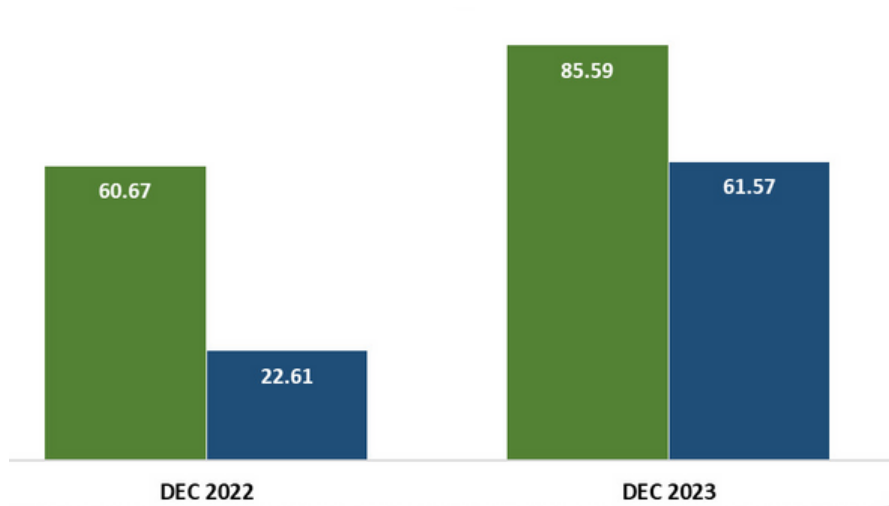
- Education
- Care
- Empowerment
- Personnel Cost
- Administrative Cost
- Loan Repayment



Financials

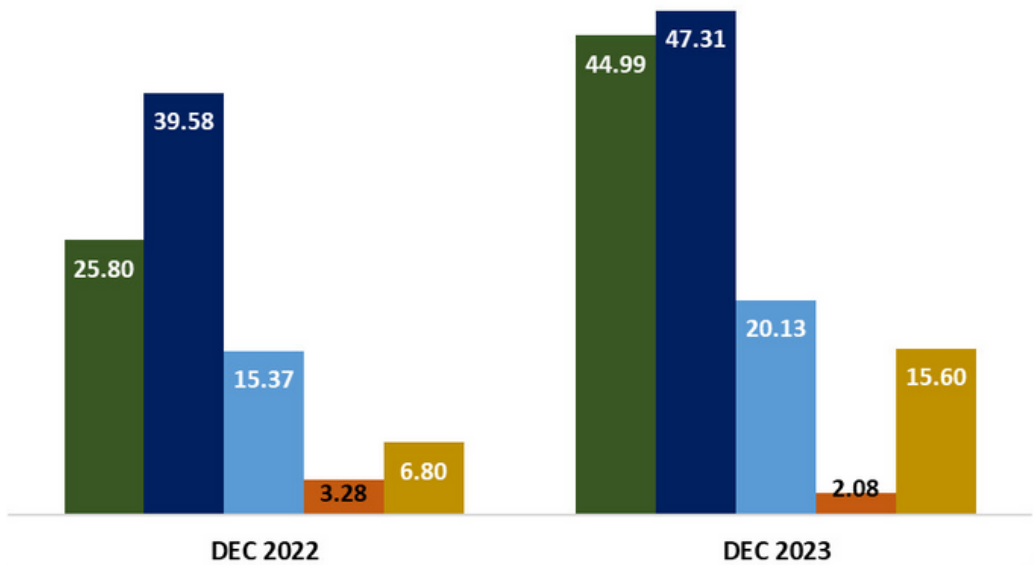
Period to Period Comparison of Income and Expenses

December 2022 vs. December 2023 (Income N'm)



■ Individual Donations ■ Corporate Donations

December 2022 vs. December 2023 (Income N'm)



■ Education ■ Care ■ Empowerment ■ Personnel ■ Administrative Cost



Our 2023 In the Media





Thank you,
our partners!



**Cheers to greater
impact together!**

Donors

We are grateful for the support from corporate partners and individuals who generously contributed to sustaining hope for children in 2023. We take pride in the trust placed in us by individuals whose consistent donations, totaling about 66%, enable us to keep hope alive for children. Special thanks to Bill & Melinda Gates and Microsoft employees for their generous donations matched by their organizations via Benevity. Your commitment and generosity make a meaningful difference in the lives of children. Thank you!



Corporate Donors



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