

MAY 2018 | ISSUE NO. 3 | FREE

# THE PARTNER



## SI4DEV RESPONSE TO NIGERIA'S CODEINE ABUSE CRISIS

MORE LOCATIONS ACTIVATED  
*Niger, Minna; Kogi, Lokoja; Plateau, Jos, and more...*

TRAINING! TRAINING! TRAINING!!  
*Vocational skills, Anti-corruption, etc.*

CHILDREN'S DAY 2018  
*Everyday should be Children's Day*

From the Editor

# Bringing Strategy and Innovation to Nigeria's Codeine Abuse Crisis Response



Running an organization like SI4DEV which promotes research and evidence, I had been hearing from our partners who mostly operate at the grassroots about a type of substance abuse that many people in Nigeria were unaware of at the time: cough medicine abuse. Drug abuse among young adults has long been a challenge, with alcohol and marijuana abuse, leading the issue. However, through our partners, I became more informed about cough medicine abuse and how a lot of young people were spiralling down into vagrancy, prostitution and mental health issues because of codeine abuse.

Now, the codeine crisis in Nigeria is no longer a secret, both nationally and internationally, after the BBC aired a documentary on the issue. Award winning correspondent Ruona Meyer led an undercover team across several states to learn how codeine in cough syrup had become the street drug of choice, and the pipelines that helped the pinkish-red liquid flow from the pharmaceutical companies into the black market.

There appears to be a flourishing trade between pharma sales persons and drug dealers! Emzor, one of the major pharmaceutical companies in Nigeria was implicated on camera, with their

representative boasting that he sold 1 million cartons of codeine cough syrup weekly. That would be a third of the shocking 3 million bottles asserted to be consumed by addicts in one week by the documentary.

What is not so shocking, to me anyway, is the government's reaction to the issue. Some of us who had been following the news know that the Guardian and Vanguard and some other newspapers have all done stories on the issue in the last few months, though they could not be so detailed as they must hide a lot of information to keep their business from the big pharma and other commercial interests. The Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) had warned the government several times on this count. Yes, the danger was clear, but government chose to turn a blind eye.

Could it be that governments at all levels knew they have failed in their promises of change and rooting out corruption and waste? Where is the good governance and social investment programs assured to the people? Unemployment is the top challenge in all the communities where SI4DEV had carried our community needs assessment, so one doesn't need to task the mind to understand why some youths turn to drug abuse.

Codeine is a respectable drug and many in the shrinking middle class will easily buy it over the counter to suppress the pains of hunger, unfulfilled dreams, hopelessness at the situation in the country at all levels, including the effects in homes with anger and pain channelled into intimate partner violence.

It's unfortunate that BBC had to air the news before serious actions by relevant officials was taken but I'm of the opinion that better late than never. What I did not expect was the totally over-sized and ill-thought response. I'm referring to the ban of codeine imports into the country and the shut-down of all three pharma companies referenced in the BBC documentary.



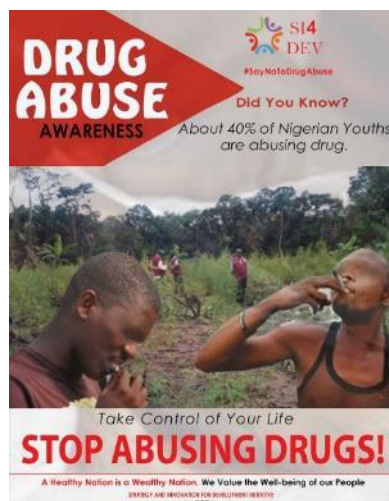
After a discussion with the SI4DEV Health Leaders group, the consensus was that the ban placed by the government would not do much to curtail the abuse, and in some cases will exacerbate the problem.

1. Such a ban will give rise to production of fake Codeine syrup which will be in circulation underground and these fake syrups may be more hazardous than codeine because they could have mixed in other hard drugs.



2. Traders who already are in possession of codeine syrup inventories will go underground and will become security conscious, making it even more difficult for them to be apprehended by police or NDLEA.

3. Closing the 3 pharma companies was an unnecessary heavy blow that will negatively affect the economy and productivity while not having much influence on preventing drug abuse.



NAFDAC and the ministry of Health, the two agencies of government that responded to the BBC documentary overnight have not been able to answer why these fire-brigade approach to their regulatory functions. Over the past two years as the drug abuse blazed into a conflagration, claiming and destroying lives, both agencies denied Nigerians any well thought out plans to educate on the dangers of drug abuse and investigate the manufacture and distribution of codeine cough syrup into and around the country.

It is no shock to me because our leaders have only two responses in their repertoire – pretend ignorance of a problem or come up with hastily cobbled solutions.

We often take unnecessary steps on issues in Nigeria, and one of the things we cultivate in SI4DEV leaders is critical thinking and an evidence-based approach. The way a leader handles issues is a window into what the planned outcomes will be.



May is Mental Health Awareness Month and at SI4DEV, we plan to key into that to launch a campaign that will bring even more attention to the dangers of codeine and general drug abuse. Our strategies are as follows:

**1. INTERNAL TRAINING** – Some of our partners are still not sure of the ramifications of drug abuse, and we start internally to educate ourselves before we can properly educate others. We will get a subject matter expert each week to host ask me anything Tuesday and try to learn the adverse effects of drug abuse including mental health issues. Subsequently, we will create a more diverse campaign from there to encompass social media hashtags, uploading training and resources on our website and reaching out to health NGOs or rehabilitation centres for partnership.

**2. POLITICIAN PLEDGE CARDS** – We will pay advocacy visit to our political leaders to inform them in more detail about this menace and get their commitment. They will sign Pledge cards saying their party house will not be used as a center for drug abuse, because even if we hold campaigns these drugs are peddled in party house and other primary schools in town.

**3. SCHOOL-BASED DRUG FREE CLUBS** – There is a need to revive drug free clubs in secondary schools and plant new ones where they are missing. We will partner with NGOs that work in these areas, and also seek permission from colleges, polytechnics and universities to set up peer sessions and training on drug abuse.

**4. MEDIA APPEARANCES** – Work with the media in various ways including press briefings, talk shows and question and answer sessions on drug abuse among the youth in Nigeria. During these media parleys, we will highlight the bills currently going through the national assembly as a best practice model.

**5. NDLEA COLLABORATION** – We will pay an advocacy visit to the NDLEA offices across the country to commend them for their good work and see how we can support and also get their participation during press briefing and other lectures we plan to hold.

**6. NATIONAL CONFERENCE** – In conclusion, we will organize a conference on SAY NO TO DRUGS, inviting role models, key persons as well as security operative such as NDLEA, Police, Military and even customs, State social welfare etc.

To Join us, please email [contact@si4dev.org](mailto:contact@si4dev.org) for support or partnership. Thank you!

# SI4DEV Akwa Ibom Trains Technical College Students, Ikot Uko Ika

By Nnamso Esu



Ika location group trained students of Government Technical College, Ikot Uko Ika in Electrical installation work (how to connect two separate lighting points in series and the other in parallel).

## Background/Purpose

As part of Strategy and Innovative Development Initiatives (SI4DEV) mandate to empower community leaders towards achieving an improved sustainable development in Nigeria, SI4DEV Ika location group organized Vocational skills training for students of Government Technical College, Ikot Uko Ika LGA, Akwa Ibom.

This was borne out of our sincere desire to serve and contribute immensely towards the development of students by engaging in selfless service that would bring about the much-needed intervention to them.

This is in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4:

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

To us, we believe man has only two primary assignments on earth-Service to God and Humanity. These assignments can only be accomplished when we painstakingly devote our time, talents, skills, intellect and finance to meet the need of under-privilege person(s) and communities.

This time, the assignment was to train students of GTC, Ikot Uko in electrical installation work. Before now, even though their school is supposed to be technical, they have been deprived access to quality and relevant vocational education and training, which is supposed to provide them with the knowledge, skills and competencies required for the jobs of today or tomorrow.

## Facilitators:

1. Nnamso Esu, HND electrical electronics engineering technology, member Nigerian association of technologists in Engineering (NATE) and 8 years' experience in the field, SI4DEV Partner.
2. Kufre Ekong, HND electrical electronics engineering technology, SI4DEV Partner.
3. Nsidibe Ime, HND Mechanical Engineering technology, SI4DEV volunteer

**Impact:** We were able to train 34 students in electrical installation.

**Recommendations:** Ika location group has proposed a future training program to consider following skills: Computer, Tailoring, bead making and Business development which are high priority and marketable skills in terms of employ-ability and job creation for self and others.

## SI4DEV BENUE, MAKURDI LOCATION GROUP PRODUCES 26 PORTRAITS FOR PEACE

Emmanuella Ikomon

**Overview of the Activity:** The activity took place on 3rd May 2018 at Trinity Model Academy during the student's long break period (10am), we had just about 30 minutes. The students were assembled in the school hall, students from different classes both senior and junior secondary. The facilitator addressed the students concerning the importance of drawing portraits for peace and its benefits after which the students were more than willing to contribute their quota to bring peace in their country/state. Each portrait submitted will be multiplied by \$3.



**Number of Portraits:** 26 portraits collected and submitted.

**Children's Comments/Response to peace talk:** We had limited time and due to short prior notice, we could not discuss exhaustively on the issue of peace nevertheless all the students agreed that peace was important in the state/country and that is what motivated them to participate in the activity.

**Recommendation:** This was a wonderful activity for the students and I feel they would have appreciated the impact of what they did more if each participant was given a certificate of participation to encourage them. If it is possible, more funds should be provided for subsequent activities in this endeavour.

In conclusion, SI4DEV Partners in Makurdi engaged students to produce 26 self-portraits and contribute to help support peacebuilding programs all over the world.

# PRESS APPERANCES AND POLICY CONTRIBUTIONS BY SI4DEV

Generating and publicizing regular policy statements are part of the SI4DEV mandate to empower community leaders towards achieving strong governance, improved health, quality education and economic development for their communities. Below are some recent policy contributions:

## 1. The importance of youth involvement in leadership and political process in Nigeria:

This is a position paper arising from the SI4DEV Governance group, in which we proffered a solution for the underage voting in Nigeria, which will also ensure that no legal and eligible voter is disenfranchised. SI4DEV suggests using Immunization Cards in the absence of birth certificates to verify the age of those to be registered to vote. The position paper was published by a national daily in Nigeria, found online at [[Businessday on Sunday](#)]

## 2. Gender-based violence isn't just about women:

Men and boys also play an important role in empowering, mentoring, and supporting women as their mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, co-workers and fellow citizens to develop our community. The Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative, SI4DEV Governance group therefore made some recommendations to various stakeholder on how to checkmate and possibly eliminate gender-based violence from Nigeria. [[9jaFeminista Web Journal](#)]

## 3. Bringing Strategy and Planning to Nigeria's Codeine Crisis Response:

It's unfortunate that BBC had to air the news before serious action was taken by relevant officials but it is better late than never. What I did not expect was the totally over-sized and ill-thought response. I'm referring to the ban of codeine imports into the country and the shut-down of production lines of all three pharma companies referenced in the BBC documentary. After a discussion with the SI4DEV Health Leaders group, the consensus was that the ban placed by the government would not do much to curtail the abuse, and in some cases will exacerbate the problem. [[Sabinews.com](#)]

## 4. 2000 Nigerian Children, 100 Youth Leaders Celebrate Global Youth Service Day:

SI4DEV, in collaboration with Spring Development Initiative, their affiliate organisation in the United States, celebrated GYSD in Nigeria with various youth-led activities in 12 States and the FCT. Over 2000 children, teens and young adults between 5 and 25 years old benefited from hand washing skills and other life-transforming talks, and SI4DEV youth leaders provided food and donations to less privileged children in orphanages and rehabilitation

centres. Young adults also campaigned online, in the streets, and in churches, promoting youth voter registration and elections participation. [[Nigeria Independent Newspaper](#)]

## 5. SI4DEV Makurdi Group Advocates for Peace in Benue State with Facing Difference Challenge:

SI4DEV partners in the Makurdi location, supported by the Spring Development Initiative joined forces with Students Rebuild, Seattle USA, and children worldwide to participate in the 'Facing Difference Challenge'. They wanted to advocate for peace in the area and provide tools for local students to work through their trauma in a healthy way. At the end of the project, a total of 26 meaningful self-portraits were produced that reflect the artist's sense of who they are as peace advocates. These portraits were submitted to Students Rebuild and have contributed the sum of \$78 (each multiplied by \$3) to help support peacebuilding programs all over the world. [[PR.com](#)]

# POLLS AND SURVEYS

By conducting regular polls and surveys either at the macro or micro-level, SI4DEV is building a culture of contributing to research products and evidence-based decision making for our partners as well as stakeholder consultations. Below are some of our tools for use for various projects and initiatives by the focus leader groups.

## 1. Nigerian Leadership and Economic Outlook Survey

This poll is about public opinions on some important national issues, and the responses will be analyzed and used for project planning for Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative (SI4DEV) Partners. Click – [<https://goo.gl/forms/QIAImli7qCNcnTGU2>]

## 2. Teachers Survey on Including Children with learning Disabilities in Mainstream Schools

Please answer all the questions as best as you can, your details will not be shared publicly. The survey responses will only be used to assist the SI4DEV partners in planning their development project. Click – [<https://goo.gl/forms/Hd2VhHIXOj6OgpF22>]

## 3. Private school quality and performance evaluation

Only for school owners/managers, principals and headteachers. Please submit complete feedback regarding a school you own or manage, including details on staffing, curriculum content, academic performance and reward systems for both teachers and students. All questions must be answered and verified. Click – [<https://goo.gl/forms/MLuOPPbgkKUedhms2>]

## 4. INEC Strategic Capacity Development Needs Assessment Survey for ICT Staff

For permanent staffers and casual (election period) officers of the Nigerian Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) who have been trained on the use of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) used by the organization. Click – [<https://goo.gl/forms/krlgl8gmWe6yGI2s1>]

## 5. IDP Camp Needs Assessment

A survey of IDP camps across Nigeria to understand better their needs, and help prioritize support and target SI4DEV partner goals and actions. Click – [<https://goo.gl/forms/dHR563mAJDegg0E43>]

## 6. Local Community Needs Assessment

A general survey of Nigerian communities, to enable SI4DEV partners develop action plans and goals toward improvement planning in their local community in the areas of health, education, enterprise and governance. Click – [<https://goo.gl/forms/eF48luMOW8e6yJRr2>]



# VISIT TO FAITH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY HOSTED BY SI4DEV KADUNA LOCATION GROUP FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE HAPPY LEARNERS PROJECT

By Ukaigweh Roberts

## BACKGROUND OF VISIT

The International Children's Day is the largest annual event which gathers children around the globe to celebrate them. The celebration is marked 27th of May every year. Partners of Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative in Kaduna commemorated this day by visiting Faith International School, Kamazou in a bid to celebrate this special day with the kids under the project name tagged "Happy Learners Project".

This project was born out the impact area of the organisation in education. The partners had a brainstorming session for the name emergence and the maiden edition was executed at Faith International School, Janruwa, Kamazou, Kaduna.

## OBJECTIVE OF HAPPY LEARNERS PROJECT

1. To create awareness of SI4DEV
2. To educate the children about the importance of hand washing, sanitation, and Good health.
3. To enlighten the children about career choices.
4. To enlighten the children on the effect of drug abuse.

### 1. ARRIVAL TO THE VENUE

Members arrived at the venue (Faith International School) between 9 and 10am. Then logistics was put in place ranging from fixing projector and screen, electrical appliances and generator for light supply.

## EVENT

The even kicked off by 11am by Miss Veronica who started out with the kids by knowing their names after which she handed over the Mr. Roberts who introduced the partners to the kids and staff of the school, with brief introduction of SI4DEV, its mission and vision as well spoke about Children's Day and the reason for our visit.

## DRUG ABUSE CAMPAIGN

Miss Yosi Danjuma and Mr. Musa explained to the kids why they must avoid drug abuse and the effect it will have on them should they involve themselves in it.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

Mr. Chukwudi Clement spoke to the kids on

session the kids had learnt more about various career types.

## PRACTICAL HAND WASH SESSION.

Mr. Ukaigweh Roberts taught the kids the importance of Hand washing afterwards a practical session was carried out with the kids.

## FUN AND SONG

The essence of the Happy Learners Project was practices in this session as Miss Yosi Danjuma made it a fun for the kid to learn through songs and afterward Mr. Roberts acted Dramatic and Clown-like to pass the message/Campaign against Drug Abuse and its effects on young people.

## PRESENTATION OF ITEM

The items were presented to the Head Mistress of the School by Mr. Ukaigweh Roberts on behalf of the Project Manager (Mrs. Nkem Akinsoto) for SI4DEV. The item includes One Dozen of Branded SI4DEV Hand Wash and Placards for Drug Abuse Campaign.

## CLOSING REMARKS

The closing remarks were made by Veronica. Afterwards, SI4DEV partners, Kids and Staff of Faith International School had a photograph session to wrap up.



career choices and why they must solely make this choice themselves without being forced by anyone to do so. At the end of the

## YENOGOA QUARTERLY PLANNING MEETING - JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2018 by MONISOLA

The SI4DEV Yenagoa Bayelsa location team held their quarterly meeting on Tuesday 29th May to plan for the coming months. Today's meeting was a success, we had six persons in attendance, though we expected more than these number, the meeting began at 1.30pm with an opening prayer. We planned for June to September, these are the proposed projects.

1. **June:** We are going to hold a drug abuse awareness outreach and start a drug free club in community secondary school Igbogene. Letters will go out to the school by first week. latest June 4th.
2. **July:** There will be community service at Kpansia market on the last Saturday in July, we would go out to clean up the market area
3. **August:** Awareness campaign to young people on any subject matter we decide.
4. **September:** donate a school kit (DASK) project we agreed to write letters to churches and other organizations that can support or collaborate with us achieve this by we would achieve this by 2nd week in September, but letters will go out by June to that effect.

The meeting ended by 3.00pm with closing prayer by Ralph.

# SKILLS TRANSFER OUTREACH TO OGBOPURU COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL KORAMA

by MONISOLA

SI4DEV Yenagoa Bayelsa team visited Ogbopuru Community Secondary school Korama for a talk on the effect of drug abuse and cultism on 2nd May 2018. We also had a practical session with the students on soap making. A total of 154 students, 8 teachers and one head teacher were impacted, and 7 volunteers of SI4DEV were present for the outreach.





# MAIDUGURI BORNO- MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY

## EKANEM UWARA

SI4DEV Maiduguri, Borno State, held face to face meeting on two occasions to talk about different ideas, projects, and strategies. The following team members attended the first meeting:

1. Uwara Ekanem
2. Stella Imade
3. Goodness Donatus
4. Yildaya Kikem

Mr. Godwin Irvine travelled to the NYSC camp for official matter.

### Agenda:

- Introduction
- Membership
- Project for the month of May
- AOB

We introduced ourselves and talked briefly about how our day went to keep the atmosphere light. After that we talked about recruiting locals and increasing our membership. Goodness suggested that we recruit Batch A Corp members and Stella suggested during our project we can recruit from each schools we go to run the project.



The challenge we identified was that we may have issue because our project currently is being run in secondary schools, which might affect meetings and other activities. For Corp members we are strategizing

on that. In our WhatsApp group Mr. Godwin brought up the idea of recruiting from our place of primary assignment as most of us are teachers. We also talked about project as we could not run project in the month of May.

We agreed on running an environmental / hygiene project in June. Sanitation is a big challenge here, this leads to a lot of sickness and disease outbreak. For our AOB we talk about organizing online training and gave task to members to research on topic to train the house on weekly. The meeting came to an end.

The second meeting was following up of the action items from the first. Attendees for the second meeting were Uwara Ekanem, Stella Imade and Godwin Orbunde.

### Agenda:

- Ice Breaker
- Membership report
- Project planning and Identification of roles
- AOB

We played a game as team member to feel relaxed among ourselves. And we got to ask ourselves who has been able to speak with their colleagues and challenges faced. Most people of us said they have not, and Godwin said he travelled. We agreed before the next meeting we should bring at least a new person per team member. And I (Uwara) shared a brief of the organization to team members to help them talk to their colleagues.

After that we talked about projects and since 4 members of the team are writing exams, the project was postponed to the month of June. We will be running fight against drug abuse in the first week of June in Yerwa Secondary School and Mr. Godwin is following it up with the school. For our sanitation project will come in third week of June in four schools. 3 secondary schools (2 government schools and a private school) and the fourth school will be a primary school.

We also planned to reach one of the IDP camps in Borno State. Due to the insurgences there are a lot of protocol, we are working on that. For our sanitation project we planned to educate the student about the benefit of hygiene both on a personal level and their environment. We also plan to give each school brooms, dustbin, rake, packer, etc and we will be seeking support from SI4DEV.

In conclusion we talked about making the group active and it was an assignment on everyone to come up with something to engage ourselves on. Stella Imade was made secretary of SI4DEV Maiduguri.

Thank you all for reading. More information will be coming to you from Maiduguri, Borno State (Home of Peace).



# DELTA LOCATION GROUP MONTHLY MEETING AND CHILDREN'S DAY EVENT

by RUKE EJEGREH

On the 27th of May 2018, Delta Location group held her monthly meeting which commenced at 3.30pm. The meeting proceeded with the introduction of a new volunteer and the proceeded to the main agenda of the meeting. Tentative dates were fixed for the following activities in the month of June, as we await feedback from respective bodies and organisations.

## JUNE AGENDA

1. Drug Abuse Campaigns at schools and other avenues – Tentative dates: 12.06.2018.
2. Distribution of Local Community Assessments Needs Surveys sheets.
3. Sourcing for more volunteers.

Possibly, more activities can be conditions but emphasizes is to be laid on these three agendas for the month of June.



## EVENT OF THE DAY

The event started with Signing of the orphanage register as SI4DEV partners and volunteers at 4.30pm on the 27th of May, 2018. Partners/ Volunteers were directed to the resting area to address the kids. We were introduced to the children, and then asked the children and caretakers to introduce themselves.

The theme of the day, 'GOOD MANNERS' was addressed by Maro Mume, who simply highlighted the need for good manners to the children. And the children happily recited the SI4DEV Good Manners code as they were instructed.

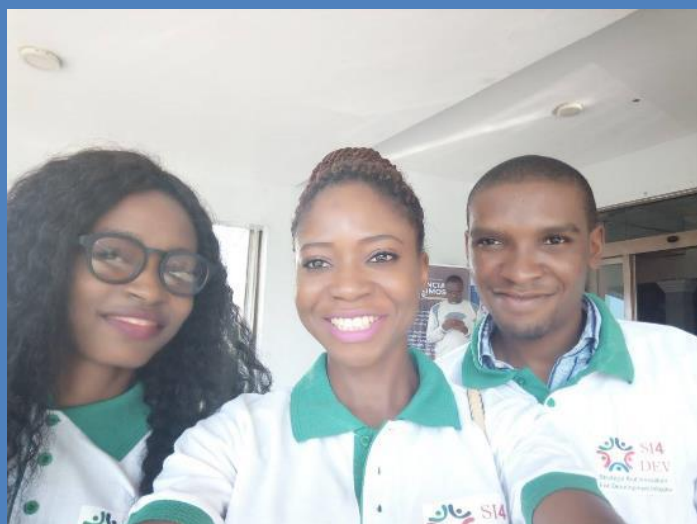
Ruke Ejegreh and Omua Ayeni, directed the children on how to take the SI4DEV Children's Day pledge and also on the importance of each pledge stated.

The event was closed with presentation of donations of snacks, drinks and stuffed toys to the caretakers to distributed to the children.

Partner and volunteers left with the promise to conduct a Health Check Outreach on the children and caretakers after gaining the appropriate approval from the orphanage authorities. Then, the meeting was adjourned at 5.30pm.

Subsequently, we hope to plan such events more thoroughly and very much ahead of the decided date, as this will be greatly beneficial to the beneficiaries

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMPACTED: Roughly 10 children.



## ATTENDEES

1. Ruke Ejegreh
2. Maro Mime
3. Omua Ayeni.

Meeting ended at 4.30pm as we proceeded to engage an orphanage in a Children's Day event.

## PURPOSE OF THE CHILDREN'S DAY OUTREACH

1. Introduce the SI4DEV Children's Day Pledge.
2. Aeducate the children with SI4DEV Good Manners leaflets.
3. Donate gift items to the orphanage.
4. Discuss upcoming collaborative events.

# STRENGTHENING YOUTH AS ANTI-CORRUPTION ADVOCATES

Report of third party Uyo training by GRACE JIMBO



## Background of the workshop:

The training was held to strengthen fight against corruption, implemented by CSO of Youth Alive Foundation which is funded through the DFID Nigeria's Anti-corruption in Nigeria (ACORN) programme.

Two representatives of Strategy and innovation for Development Initiatives (SI4DEV) participated in the training. This training took place on 21st and 22nd May 2018 at YAF Hall, 26 Esuene Street Uyo.

## Objectives of the workshop:

1. To educate participants on corruption.
2. To educate participants on consequences of corruption in our nation.
3. Educate on how to manage conflict.
4. Train participants on how to approach and create awareness on corruption to the public.

## Discussion:

The workshop which seek to achieve a reduction in corruption because corruption undermines democracy and the rules of law and it leads to violations of human rights. It erodes public trust in government. It hurt the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice and discouraging foreign investment and aid.

The workshop increased participants knowledge that research has shown that youths represent a significant part of Nigeria's population, tend to be more exposed to bribery and therefore partly vulnerable to corruption, as they are involved in almost every aspect of the

society. As student, pupils, workers, customers and citizens.

At the workshop diverse types of corruption and what constitutes corruption practice in Nigeria was discussed and the challenges that Anti-corruption advocates will face when they approach the resistance group.

## After the lunch break:

How to manage conflict was introduced to the participants, the causes of conflicts, the stage of conflict and how it can be prevented. The participants understand that there are nonviolent and violent conflict and their levels and how is to be handled. The instructor listed the causes of conflicts which are: poor governance, lack of equal economic or social opportunities or inadequate political participation of a group, unequal access to natural resources all this under structural causes and Proximate causes that when combined with the structural causes can lead to escalation.

## On the second day of the workshop:

Participants were trained on social and behaviour change communication. SBCC is an interactive, researched and planning process aimed at changing social conditions and individual behaviours. The core elements are:

- Advocacy to raise resource and political and social leadership commitment for change goals.
- Social/community mobilization for wider participate and ownership.
- Behaviour change communication for changes in knowledge attitudes and practices.

The training helped participants to understand the role of SBCC/Social norms in fighting corruption.

After lunch break on the second day, the participants were trained on monitoring and Evaluation, their differences, purposes and the five level of indicators which are: inputs, process output, outcome and impact. We were trained on what should be monitored and Evaluated and what M&E information are used for.

## Recommendations:

Youths can play a pivotal role in the fight against corruption because they tend to be more open to wide scale socio-political transformation and have less vested interested in maintaining the status. Young people are an integral element for the success of a cultural change in attitudes and behaviour towards corruption and shaping of the values of tomorrow since they represent the future of our country.

## Conclusion:

Human being have basic needs which they seek to fulfil, and when they are denied these needs, conflict might ensue or they'll be willing to influence by corrupt political leaders and be bribed.

## Action plans:

1. YAF are to visit secondary and University and involved international and social media to create awareness.
2. SI4DEV Uyo location to contain awareness on corruption in their work plan development.
3. SI4DEV partners and volunteers to hold community meetings in churches, schools and village gathering to create awareness on Corruption.



## SI4DEV MAKURDI BENUE MAY MEETING

Emmanuella Ikomon

The SI4DEV Makurdi location group held their second face to face meeting on the May 25th, by 4.30PM.

### Agenda:

1. From the community assessment, what did you observe to be a major challenge and what activity can we do to help?
2. Drug Abuse intervention, you can suggest a school we can visit.

The discussion was centred around the issues which were noticed during the community needs assessment viz

1. scarcity of water
2. flood
3. indiscriminate dumping of refuse
4. drug abuse

After much deliberation, the house decided to handle these issues one at a time starting with a campaign against drug abuse and the proposed date for this activity is on the 26th of June which is the international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

The members present for this meeting were;

1. Ikomon Emmanuella
2. Bob Agbatar
3. Sesugh San
4. Raymond Jooli

## OPPORTUNITY LOST IS NOT LOSS OF LIFE

by MANCHANG

Opportunity as people sometimes could say come but once, which means once opportunity is lost, it will not come back again, and you end up living a life of conviction. I disagree to agree with that school of thought.

An opportunity lost is not a life lost, so be strong and be hopeful, there will be other opportunities as long as you still have life. That means, being alive is the most paramount thing. Be consoled by the fact that each day you find yourself in, alive and healthier is a perfect gift to you. Make the best of it by accepting it with joy trying once again to get those things you want.

Remember, some people are not so unlucky, they are no longer here. They are gone for so long, leaving behind big unfulfilled dreams. Be strong when the heart is faint and weak, because if you're weak, it blinds up opportunities.

So, let the gift of every brand new day ignite your source of inspiration to approach life and its problems with excitement, positive expectation and the determination to be happy regardless of the outcome. Don't ever let failure rob you of hope for a better future. When you miss an opportunity, be hopeful because a missed opportunity could come back in another form. But you must be dynamic and proactive in order not to miss again.

You must never give up on life while you still have the gift of life.

## EVERY DAY IS CHILDREN'S DAY

by NWAMAKAOSU

Yesterday was children's day, I'm sure that those who have kids would have had reasons to celebrate; take their kids out and do fun stuff together.

For some strange reasons, I kept wishing it fell on a week day, not like I'm a child or anything and I would get a holiday off work but if I were a child, it would have been fun to stay home and get some extra hours of sleep, as opposed to being woken up by 6am or earlier when you live in Lagos, just so you can be ready before the school bus arrives... what a waste of a holiday I thought.! (By the way, I never liked school as a child \*chuckles\*)

So, earlier in the week, my friend and I had tried to recall some of our childhood memories, and how this generation of children, are being robbed of their childhood. Manufacturing companies who made the best biscuits and chocolates that no longer existed; speedy biscuit, and its cousin coconut

biscuit were my all-time favourites and goody-goody chocolate, best ever made.! Then we talked about "Polo Park" an amusement park which had existed in the 90s in the Coal City, how our parents used to take us there every Sunday.



If you were a child in those days and you weren't in Polo Park on Sunday, you would go home from school the next day crying, because the other kids will talk about all the fun that they had so much, that you would literally feel like your life

as a child was most miserable. (Luckily for me; my mum took us there every Sunday and so I never had reasons to cry, even when we couldn't afford all the rides, we were just grateful to be there, just so our friends will see us and say that they saw us there in class the next day..lol)

Now, the idea isn't to bore us with stories of my own childhood but I am grateful that I have some pretty good memories. Yesterday in church, in the spirit of the children's day celebration, the kids were asked to write about the things that they wanted from their parents and things that they would want their parents to change. After that, some children were selected and asked to randomly read what all the children had written. At this point, I saw tears well up in the eyes of almost everyone around me, as they gradually realized that we are failing our children.

A child wrote: "I want mummy to spend more time with us", another wrote: "I

want daddy and mummy to stop fighting every day” and another wrote: “I want daddy to say he loves me and hug me more often” and yet another: “I want daddy to love mummy”.

Almost everything that was read could be summed up in these four and you could just imagine the families where these children were being brought up in. Families where the parents are so busy pursuing fame, career, or what not and have abandoned their children, possibly in the hands of maids who are usually the perpetrators of physical and sexual abuse of children. Families where the parents have no love for each other, constantly fighting and the children are exposed to these situations, families where children are not told their worth, hugged closely and love verbally expressed. Little wonder, the destinies of our tomorrow's leaders are thwarted, they take to drugs and substance abuse, as they try to numb the pain and escape the horrors at home.

The rest take to violence, as that is the only way they know how to live, having learnt from an early age that matters are

settled with the fist, they become wife beaters and most likely delve into more vicious lifestyles.

I do not have my own biological children yet, but I am a mother to many, and I hope that I will be a good mother to my own children, so here are a few pointers I would want to use when I have my kids: Always remember that your children's future will be shaped to a considerable extent from what they see and learn from home.

Never fight in front of your kids, you think that they do not see these things, but they do, and it's etched deep in their memories. Most times, children do not learn what you tell them, they learn by observation; you must always be a good example to your children.

Never get too busy for your children, even when your job is demanding, you must always make time for them, take them out and create fun memories, that's where bonds are formed.

It is not enough to show love to your kids by doing basic stuff for them, like paying their fees, buying them books, etc. Tell your children that you love them, hug

them closely and kiss their fore heads, this helps to boost their self-esteem as they know that their parents are their number one fans.

Be approachable and let your kids know that they are human, and it is okay to make mistakes. When you form this kind of bond with your children, it makes it easier for them to confide in you, that way; you can guide them properly as you should.

Keep your children's secrets and do not advertise their flaws. When your children tell you something in confidence, do not betray their confidence so that they will be able to trust you with information next time.

Never compare your children to one another or to other children. Appreciate their differences and relate with them based on that.

I am sorry for the long read, the whole point that I am trying to make is that we should not wait for children's day to celebrate our children; we should celebrate them every day.

Every day is children's day!

# DO YOU WANT TO BE A WINNER OR A QUITTER?

By NNEKA NEBEOLISA

Let me tell you a story about myself. It was the beginning of a new session. I had passed my Junior WAEC exams and that was what would determine what field of study I would be accepted into. I chose Science and because I did well, and I was accepted. I decided to go see my new class and my classmates and on getting there, I received the biggest shock. I realized that I was put into the same class (G Class) with the brightest students among my mates.

Immediately I ran to my guardian's office pleading massively to be transferred to another science class. The reason I wanted to be transferred to another science class was because I have this weird thing in me that makes me despise being at the bottom, you may say everyone hates being at the bottom but with me, it was different.

I've always been one of the brightest students in my class from day one and that made me very scared of ever failing.

It made me have a mindset that said, “I'd rather settle for less and be at the top than go for something high and be at the bottom”. My guardian tried all he could, but nothing changed. I had to remain in that class. Every single school day was a bad day for me, I was always depressed and scared.

But you know what, this only made always remember that I had to work harder to at least stay at the top even though I still didn't think I had the chance. Exams came and passed. We came to the end of the term and as usual, report cards were distributed to every single student. I was very scared to open mine, but you know what, I just have to open it. I opened it and guess what, I did exceptionally well. Perfect grades, amazing average score and Second best.

This story might look like a very normal story, but it means a lot to me. God brings this story back to my memory whenever I'm in a bad phase and I think I'll fail. A lot of times we focus on our weakness so much that we are too blind to get even the slightest glimpse of our strength. We always think that our circumstances and situations and people around us make us, but the big truth is that WE MAKE OURSELVES. You become only what you choose to be.

Your story may not be as happy as mine with being successful at the first try. You might even be at the point of quitting because you feel like you're a failure but believe me you're only but a success. You're a conqueror. I graduated from secondary school and to be honest I've been through a lot of failures to the extent I felt like quitting, but you know what, I won't. And I hope that you reading this also doesn't ever quit. Because Winners never quit. Always remember Quitting doesn't end it all.

**WINNING DOES!!!**



## THE NOT TOO YOUNG TO RUN BILL GETS PRESIDENTIAL ASSENT....LESSONS LEARNT

by Grace Jimbo



The Not too Young to Run Bill also known as the age reduction bill was conceived by a civil society group known as YIAGA

Africa on May 2016. The bill seeks alteration in section 65, 106, 131, 17 of the Nigeria Constitution which is to reduce the age of running for election position for House of Assembly and House of Representative from 30 year old to 25 year old, Senate and Governorship from 35 year old to 30 year old and office of the President from 40 to 30 year old. The bill also seeks to promote independent candidature in Nigeria.

This bill was sponsored by Hon. Tony Nwulu in the House of Representative and Senator AbdulAziz Nyako.

On May 31st, 2018, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the bill, hence, making it an Act of the National Assembly. However, the age limit for Senators and Governors was not reduced; this is an issue that will be addressed in future.

### Three keys lessons:

1. Nigerian Youth are not 'Lazy', we are focused, resilient and hardworking. It is imperative to know that 55 youth-led organizations gave the president an 8day ultimatum on 21st May 2018 to assent the bill. The Youth led peace protest and never gave up!
2. The power of unity; All the youth organizations worked as a team to make their voices louder and effective.
3. Ability to know what works best. The use of the social media campaign was strategic.

Majority of Nigeria Youth use the social media so the #not too young to run hashtag gained massive support. It became a global social media campaign.

If we can do this, we can do it again in 2019 election. Let's not get distracted by the President's joke that the youth should wait after 2019 to contest for presidential election. Let's get to work, we have the legal backing!

## THAT UNIQUE VOICE

by ZICK RALPH

How would you feel if everything you say is generally accepted by everybody?

Isn't it going to be great if whatever you say doesn't have to be scrutinized?

Wouldn't it be nice to have the answers to all questions, without anybody doubting your contributions?

Basically, as all questions are stated out there, it wasn't like that for Daniel, who grew up in a family of eight. He was always found carrying out mischievous activities, like stealing and molesting younger kids in his area. Daniel is already sixteen years but had never achieved anything reasonable to see fit, he's statement even to his parents were always seen as nothing but a paradox, that was how Daniel was seen by everybody around, and that heed every other good quality he would have possibly possessed that made everything about him not acceptable and kept his unique nature and voice not seen.

Daniel at seventeen was always with group of hoodlums, and that made his parents have a sceptical belief about a positive future for Daniel, but there was something they haven't tried.

Daniel had an uncle that lives in the city that was known to be very strict, his parents has agreed unanimously to send him there for another kind of handling. Daniel was angry but there was nothing he could do to revoke his parent's decision.

It was time for Daniel to leave for the city, after several advice from his parents that sounded like warning, he packed up and left with his elder brother for the city. On their way his elder brother gave him few advice that changed him for good, and the words where " Daniel in life some person's get a second chance to change from being bad to a good person, your life style has not been adding positive value to you and the society, there by hindering your potential and your unique voice, it's high time you changed and try the other way of

being a better pass in life " those words had changed Daniel's mentality and vision for life, his stay with his uncle was wonderful.

When Daniel returned he has become a total different man with great words and values to his parents and society in no time. Everybody saw the change in him and always seeking knowledge from him, Daniel has made himself unique, his voice is now what people wants to here for sacrosanct conclusion.

Which value are you adding to the society?

How do people perceive your words?

Are you adding value to the society? Or your relevance doesn't matter?

We all live and survive for each other. You can increase your value from people's experience, read books, always stretch out helping hands, and work earnestly to make the society a peaceful and wonderful place.

## WHY VISION SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO EVERYTHING YOU DO

by AKOEYO

Vision is a foresight that makes you work towards a long-term goal. It is the target you sight from today. A visionary understands that day-to-day activities are part of the one big vision and that collectively, they would lead to the colourful future. Since vision has a scope, the visionary carefully guides his plans and actions like a flock of sheep in the direction of the vision.

What if vision is attached to everything we do? or maybe not all, but most things. Now, let me give you an instance- one that will be explicit for you to see.

I got registered on SI4DEV website a month after sign-up, by then, many others had already created their profiles. Then it took me two more weeks to discover that there was a provision for personal

blogging, so I met few blogs on ground. Therefore, I decided to put down my first blog, and guess what I discovered? Tokens appeared from nowhere. Cool! So I read about tokens, and I liked the idea. Using my passion and intellect to grow tokens, no matter how small encourages me. But something else came into my mind, and I will share with you.

First, from blogging, I would generate 50-100 articles during the program, depending on my frequency. I would then edit and compile the purely motivational articles into a book. Second, I would generate at least half of the amount I need to register my NGO and gather the rest for my monthly income. Third, I would improve my blogging skills, grow my blog, identify other blogging platforms and blog as well. Forth, I would gain confidence and recognition through my blogs posts across platforms. And above all, I would pass across the thoughts in my mind, inspire others and touch lives.

You see, from one thing, I have been able to identify five focus areas and benefits- a good reason to keep blogging. So, when my tokens are shooting, it isn't because I am greedy. I have a job that gives me a manageable salary, and trust me, if I make N300 a day blogging here, it is not up to one-eighth of what my job pays me. But beyond the financial gain is the overall benefit and that is something worth investing in. Now, this is vision!

Interesting how one 'inconsequential' thing could have so many benefits, if you can only think through and build a vision around it.

## LISTENING AS AN ART FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION

by CHEMCISCO

There is nothing more painful to a communicator than talking to an individual or group and not have their attention. Some people like to talk more than they like to listen, others listen selectively, some may just listen superficially without really bothering about what is being said. All this lead to ineffective listening. Though most times you get people's attention by saying things that are of value to them.

By default, humans have two ears for hearing and one mouth which contains the tongue that aid speech. This may be a deliberate design to make us pay more attention to listening than talking. Hearing is simply the act of perceiving sound by the ear. If you are not hearing-impaired, hearing simply happens.

You can begin of how this thing can bring you the desired, because you look at the future and see the rainbow it will create for you. Vision will then keep you in consistency and dedication.

My vision for SI4DEV is to use the opportunity to make an impact in my community, to understudy the way NGO works and to network with other leaders who will be helping me in future. It makes me active, observant and follow happenings with keen interest. There are other local and international organizations I do the same as well. Vision gives you focus and enables you to gradually work towards accomplishment of an overall goal.

Vision gives you passion and stamina. It gives you courage to face the rough times and perseverance to endure pains. Vision makes you sacrifice your time, energy and money because you envision long-term benefits. Do you have a vision for your job, career, business, or community service?

Do you have a vision for your membership of a professional body or voluntary organization? Are there other things you can gain from your recreational activities and hobbies? Are there benefits you can derive from being in a location or observing happenings around?

Vision should be attached to everything we do. Think of those things you have ignored or considered as trivial and build a vision around them.

Listening, however, is something you consciously choose to do. Listening requires concentration so that your brain processes meaning from words and sentences.

[http://www.d.umn.edu/kmc/student/loon/acad/strat/ss\\_hearing.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/kmc/student/loon/acad/strat/ss_hearing.html)

People show different attitudes that are unacceptable when it comes to listening. If the listener is thinking about his reply before the other person has finished, then in all probability he is not listening. Some people listen until they want to say something; then they quit listening, start rehearsing what they will say, and wait for an opportunity to respond. There is another set of people who are not actually listening and are thinking about something else, deliberately try to look as though they were listening thereby faking attention. "Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply." –Stephen R. Covey.

In conclusion, when you are listening to somebody, completely, then you are listening not only to the words, but also to the feelings of what is being conveyed, to the whole of it, not part of it.

## MINUTES OF SI4DEV JOS GROUP MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

by DABS SUKGWE

Opening Remarks:

The Coordinator of SI4DEV JOS focus group Mr Dabis welcomed all those who were present. In his remarks, he expressed his delight in members turning out for the first meeting and he also applauded member for there desire to make sure citizens in there society has just and fair access to equal opportunities for the realisation of there full potentials in the

society.

Introduction of Members: Introduction of member was taken in a sequential order with the following people in attendance:

1. Mr Dabis Sukgwe
2. Mr Philemon Manchang Noah
3. Mr Shagal Mariyom
4. Miss Nebe Chinelo
5. Mr Gorip Rene

Business of the day: Mr Dabis started by

briefing the members about SI4DEV, what it does exactly, its mission and vision. He further talked about SI4DEV focus area which includes enterprise, education, governance and health.

The following projects for the focus group was presented by Mr Dab, which are:

1. Visit to INEC offices for IT capacity assessment and identifying opportunities for collaboration.



2. Community needs assessment for proper project planning.
3. IDP camp needs assessment for the States that have conflict issues.
4. Drug abuse awareness campaigns.
5. Private school assessment for quality improvement.

After careful deliberation on the projects, the members were able to reach a consensus on executing the drug abuse awareness campaigns program on some selected secondary schools and the IDP camp needs assessment program in plateau state.

The following schools were carefully selected:

1. Government secondary school Tudunwada.



2. Government secondary school Wholshe.
- The members also decided that letters be given to each school for an official visit and program and the letters were to contain official visitation date and duration of the program which was agreed to last for 30 minutes including time for questions and answers.

The following dates were scheduled for the two projects:

08/06/2018 for visiting secondary schools and 15/06/2018 for visiting the IDP camp in Jos.

The members also requested for T-shirts from the organization for their easy identification and official execution of these projects.

Closing Remark: The state Coordinator thanked everyone for coming and urged members to be active in the organization website and the WhatsApp group chats. He also said that we can inform people who have the same desire to join us in this great movement.

# Malnutrition Crisis Among Young Children in Nigeria

*Upsurge of Malnutrition Crisis Deepens among Young Children in Nigeria.*

AROME DAVID



Malnutrition epidemic among young children is far from been over in Nigeria, as cases of malnutrition are on a steady increase. Malnutrition is a prevailing epidemic that thrives in Nigeria. The worse hits and vulnerable of malnutrition are young growing children under the age of five, who remain victims of the scourge.

The prevalence of malnutrition is predominantly found in the northern parts and less in the southern region of the country. The insurgency activities in the Northeast have given a new face lift to malnutrition crisis in the north. According to UNICEF, 2.2 million out of the 2.5 million severely malnourished children in Nigeria came from Northern part of the country. Previous statistical report showed that 50 percent cause of child mortality can be attributed to

malnutrition as the underlying cause, no fewer than 1200, out of 2600 estimated daily deaths are caused by malnutrition.

The contributory factors majorly responsible for the lingering crisis of malnutrition in Nigeria includes, poverty, poor diet, inability to afford or access nutritious foods, inadequate information about appropriate feeding practice, lack of understanding about the essential types and varieties of foods that children require to grow up healthy, lack of political will to implement exiting policy, dependent on funding donors and international agencies to finance nutrition interventions, and negligence on the parts of the government have all played their part in entrenching the already dire malnutrition crisis in Nigeria.

Malnutrition exposes the young growing children to myriads of diseases and infections. Malnutrition has the tendency to lower the capacity of the body's defence mechanism to resistance to infection and expose the body to preventable infectious diseases, illness and even death.

The common presenting symptoms of malnutrition in children are weight loss, fatigue, lack of strength, breathlessness, diarrhoea, anaemia, changes of skin, hair and nails.

Malnutrition is diagnosed by clinical examination of the affected child. More so, the body mass index in short BMI indicator and mid arm circumference can be used as a diagnostic tool in detecting malnutrition in children. Other diagnostic tests include routine blood tests for detection of anaemia, and chronic infection.

The practical approach in the prevention of malnutrition include provision of dietary plan with extra nutrient content, supporting and encouraging mothers to breastfeed their babies exclusively for the first six months of life; educating families about the correct feeding practices for older babies and children; and provision of micronutrient supplements and vitamins and fortified food for pregnant women and young children. In order to beat malnutrition crisis, all hands must be on deck to stem the ravaging menace of malnutrition. Government at all level must wake up to its responsibility to tackle this menace headlong without any form of levity.

A holistic approach should be adopted by the government in strengthening the nation food security policy, review the existing nutrition policy and program provide greater leadership, better coordination, increased transparent funding and make adequate budgetary provision to scale up nutrition interventions.

# DIFFERENTLY ABLED

CHIDINMA. G. NWAKU

I watched as she talked to me through her hands. Signing so rapidly that I could only marvel, though I didn't understand, I knew she was trying to tell me something important. Finally! her teacher came around and told me that all the girl was trying to say to me was "how are you".

The teacher's words and actions were like pouring oil in a bowl of water, shaking it to mix. I tried to connect them together, but I couldn't, she would say a thing, but her actions would say something altogether.

I watched as she pushed the kid towards the whiteboard, and then turned to me "These kids need love and care" she paused slightly "I mean you need to treat them like you would your own children". It was obvious that all her words were only for the record and she didn't care one bit if I were to think otherwise.

The woman who taught SIR told me that the boy sitting at the back couldn't write, then another one then another one. In fact, all the pupils sitting at the back has a problem or the other. The little ones were the only one making some efforts. But I sat with them and made the boy write the name of my phone, though he wrote disorderly. At least it was something.



The teacher wowed me. His class was lively and not strict. He called himself Mr. Sign language and he really is! He was interested in every one of his pupils, everyone matters. Even though most of them are not that okay he cared not the less.

All in all, I learnt that patience matters in handling these special children, because with it the children improve.

I learnt that lots and lots of love is what they crave for, and with it you will be amazed by how they respond. But then support both through cash and in kind could not be overemphasized.

## AFRICA OF MY DREAM

*Accelerating Africa's industrialization through agriculture*

TOMISIN ADEFARE



Innovation is the key to competitive advantages when it comes to Business in Agriculture.

My uncle after completing his primary education in the village, he moved to the city where he completed his secondary education. After completing his basic education, he moved to Newcastle university to pursue BSc. Agriculture. This was not sufficient, in early 90's, he started his masters course in one of the universities in the united states. Fate was

already written in the stars for this man, after then went for a training program on Agribusiness and that was just the beginning. From then to now, becoming Marketing Director of his company. Coming from a farmers' background, his fathers and grandparents were farmers and practiced agriculture at their land. He might not have dreamt of being at this position when he started off his career, but everyday he did something different, something significant and something important which brought him the entitlements and the positions at which he stands today.

In the past, agriculture was seen as the domain of the humanitarian development sector, as a way to manage poverty. It was not seen as a business sector for wealth creation. Yet Africa has huge potential in agriculture— and with it huge investment potential.

Agriculture is a business and the more we treat it as a business, as a way to create wealth, the more it will promote

development and improve people's lives to boot and unless agriculture is fully transformed, Africa will remain trapped in a low productivity cycle.

Agriculture has evolved in to agribusiness and has become a vast and complex system that reaches far beyond the farm to include all those who are involved in bringing food and fiber to consumers.

African countries need to industrialize to increase incomes, create employment, raise value-added activity and diversify their economies. Industry has traditionally been a central source of generating employment—in developed and developing countries.

Successful transition towards a green economy requires huge financial investments by public and private investors, with a focus on renewable energies and resource-efficient technologies, water and waste management systems, conservation of resources in environmentally friendly

agriculture and forestry, and prevention of climate-related disasters.

Several key opportunities are within reach in agribusiness. The underlying premise of diversification of sources of growth should curb the pattern of overreliance on primary commodities to generate export revenues.

One of the opportunities and avenues to industrialize Africa's agriculture into business is the use of drone services which have found use and applications in film or video making, photography, product delivery etc. They can also be deployed in agriculture for activities like spraying pesticides on crops, monitoring farmlands from the air so that patterns like irrigation problems, soil variation and pest and fungal infestations that aren't apparent at eye level can be revealed.

Also, digital Information Centre for Farmers in which farmers need information all the time, they want to

know where to get the best seeds, where to buy the best feed ingredients and so much more. Farmers would love to have their own dedicated information centre where all their farming and agribusiness queries can be answered.

No region of the world has ever moved to industrialised economy status without a transformation of the agricultural sector and using agriculture to power industrialization calls for a strong public-private sector partnership that increases small farm holders' productivity and enhances their contribution to national and regional value chains.

Investments in green infrastructure, particularly energy, will be vital for successful green industrialization, so policy-makers must engage the private sector as partners to fill the infrastructure financing gap.

In a fast-changing world, African countries risk falling further behind in the competitiveness stakes because of

weak institutions, infrastructure deficits and limited skills and technological achievements. Successful government action involves systematic coordination between the private and public sectors while avoiding risks of "capture" by interest groups.

Africa can feed Africa, it is well endowed and has the markets. But it needs more than good technology policies. Scaling up productivity means tapping water resources for irrigation, providing stable prices while doing away with artificial subsidies, using seeds with better yields, providing basic transport infrastructure, providing incentives for financial institutions to invest in agriculture as much as in commercial farming, and developing a profitable and competitive agribusiness sector.

In conclusion agro-industry could be the next natural stage in the quest for structural acceleration of Industries in Africa.

## SI4DEV VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING- LESSONS AND EXPERIENCES SO FAR

By UKAIGWE ROBERTS

Friends,

Leadership is a ten letter words with high responsibility and task with it. In our fast-moving generation where you have to learn on a per second bill or you stand the chance of been left out. You have to be up and doing.

Volunteering is another platform where your leadership skill and character will be placed on test as you are not paid to do what you do. So, your real motivation is determined by the passion you have for what you do and how you do it.



The Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative has opened my eyes to more to leadership and Passion. It has expanded my horizon and beyond doing what I do, I make sure I give my 101% with my team to get the result needed.

The concept of Virtual Volunteering is something most organisation don't do but the Board of SI4DEV employed this strategy and I must say it has paid off big time, the result gotten is an eye opener to us all. For me as an individual it is an experience and a lesson learnt.

The platform has availed me to make wonderful relationships with wonderful people such as Samuel, Treasure, Yosi, Chuks, Musa, Idoko, Jude, John, Abubakar, and many more people outside my location group.

It has strengthened my virtue of patience when leading others because you must meet people with different ideology towards life and this makes it more difficult and fun sometime. The ability of me to create balance at that moment is where my patience comes into play.

My coordination skills are out of this world, my evaluation skills improved, and many more skills I have acquired so far.

Salutations to the Founders and Board Members of this great organization. I say thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to serve.

I remain my humble self.

Ukaigweh Roberts Nnaemeka  
(ukaigwehroberts@gmail.com).

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SI4DEV Kaduna





## MY CANDY CRUSH EXPERIENCE

OMOTOLA JOY

I was playing a game I got addicted to some few weeks ago during my boring and very tired moment called

candy crush, it's gave me a very good feeling of winning and losing, it came to a time they started giving me update of people playing at the same time and encouraging me to have a higher score than them, the drive was so strong, I kept playing the game like there is a prize attached to it (anyway It gives me a good feeling), then they brought me a particular deal to win a crown, the deal was meant to stay for 12 hrs, the deal was for me to win the crown by using just a life to go through the 5 levels... it was fun in the first place, then it became a task, I was so desperate win so as to enjoy the benefit that comes with the crown, they continuously notify me of others winning the crown, haaaa!!!

This one no go pass me by o, I said to myself, then after 8 hrs I got the crown...you could imagine the feeling, I shouted YES!!! at around 3am, my eyes were heavy but I was supposed to be online to get my crown, I still have some hrs left I said, I will do that first thing tomorrow morning, let me grab some sleep, then I woke up late, rushed to dress for work and do the necessary early morning things at work, ehnehn, let me now get my crown I said when I had

a very short spare time, Lo and below the crown has gone, the time elapse so I couldn't claim the crown... I felt so bad, I procrastinated just a step to take the crown and then I had nothing to show for it, no evidence of victory.

Why this epistle? That is how life treat us or should I say we treat life for ourselves, we are all running for a race to get the reward, some will get, some wouldn't, we are so hardworking, spirit filled (I forgot to mention that I started speaking in tongues at a point when I kept losing at the last stage).

So, if in life you've prayed, talked, networked, have all the encouragement and support from family, friends, colleagues, who wanted to keep you going or actually kept you going but it seems just a little more is required from us, just a step from us, just a process takes it all away even when we had a win, but we had no evidence to show for it.

Why not try once more?

Why procrastinating?

Just a little more would make a whole lot of sense.

All the best!

## THE CODEINE MENACE: AN X-RAY OF SOME ASPECTS OF THE ROOT CAUSE

VERUNICA AGANA

Over the last few days, the Nigeria media space was awash with the documentary by a BBC reporter tagged Sweet Codeine.

And we in our usual characteristic manner reacted, blamed cursed, and worst of all, the government of the day instead of having a holistic look on the root cause and finding a lasting solution placed an outright ban on the sale of codeine. The pharmaceutical companies have obtained license for production, pay their taxes it is the responsibility of the Nigerian government through its regulatory agencies.

According to a research work by the Development Initiative of West Africa (DIWA), in Niger state alone, about 30,000 bottles are consumed daily and a whopping 3 million bottles nationwide and of note, consumption rate is highest amongst women and young children. From reports, Kano, Plateau, Adamawa and Sokoto are the major markets in drug- Codeine & Tramadol (NBS: 2017) 309,713kg of drugs and 191,353 kg of

cannabis was seize during raids by NDLEA & NAFDAC

Views from twitter shows tramadol is a bigger problem than codeine, yet agencies are not talking about it. Clearly reacting only to what is in the news. (@Miss\_Jayla) in addition @Mahnny\_ stated that people have moved from tramadol, the most consumed are refinol or swinol closely followed by Diazepam and the most at risk of consumption are still girls and women. Others resort to inhale excreta by Lizard.

Before the recent ban, drug makers sales shot up by What then may be the cause of resorting to drugs? Below highlights a few of the root causes.

**Health challenge:** a lot of victims of drugs are depressed, and due to the low rate of awareness on mental health in Nigeria as such most victims who could have accessed care early enough still go undetected until full blown addiction. Typical Nigerian mentality, will instead of tackling the menace head on will resort to denial, blame games and even attributing it to enemies or black magic.

**Absence of parental guidance:** From observation, it will be of note that most victim of the addiction are kids from well to do homes, they are not lacking materially but deprived of emotional care by either or both parents. Some families when they find their kids with cases of addiction, instead of finding cure medically will rather marry off such kids to unsuspecting spouses who in the long run begin to bear the brunt of these addictions.

**Highhandedness by care givers:** In another light, children kept in the care of nannies and school teachers, and sadly even some mothers in a bid to keep the children under control or make them get some sleep, opt to give these kids cough syrups to sedate them, not minding the consequence of early exposure and long-term exposure.

**Peer pressure:** Many get influenced through peer pressure and inadequate information on the dangers of drug and substance abuse, become addicts over a period. Young people in their adolescent age bracket are usually prey.

Emotional dimension: Amongst women, major cause of addiction responsible is lack of attention from their spouse, especially women who reside away from the spouses. When craving for the presence of their spouses and not getting the much need care and attention

**Way forward:**

There is a need to step up citizen education on drugs from all levels of education in our Schools, homes, religious places of worship and even on our streets. The rot from this menace is better imagined.

Government agencies like NAFDAC, Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria & NDLEA charged with the responsibility of

control and regulation must live up to the tenet of their mandate. The regulatory body NAFDAC is yet to put a system in place to checkmate the products in the shelves of our pharmacies & pharmaceutical stores, leaving out products stocked, the ones in the hands of the end users, the black market, the ones who are currently smuggled to our shelves in the black market etc. not those doing legal business and paying their taxes.

The usual raids by regulatory agencies is less effective as the dealers have a way of getting information regarding such raids and clearing their counters before such raids. NAFDAC and others need a

tracker of these banned products from production to the end user backed with doctor's prescription.

Agencies charged with border patrol need to up their game to stop smugglers on their tracks.

Parents need to connect more emotionally with their children. Giving money to your kids to get whatever they want is not the best, of what use is chasing career and dreams when the primary role in the home front is missed in the long run? Spouses must make conscious effort to connect emotionally with their spouses, this will in no small measure curb the menace.

## REPORT OF THE MONTHLY SI4DEV PORT HARCOURT MAY MEETING

Francis Egeghan

The meeting was held on May 20, 2018 at Pepperoni fast food, Rumuodara junction, Port Harcourt, Rivers state.

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Opening prayer
2. Introduction
3. Review of training on computer appreciation for orphans by our partner
4. Activities planning for the month of June
5. Opportunities

Mr. Austin Otuji led the opening prayer followed introduction of members present. Austin Otuji was the first to introduce himself; he is the leader of the Port Harcourt Unit of SI4DEV, he is married, currently into business and a native of Cross Rivers State.

Francis Egeghan is the secretary, a quality analyst with vast experience as a quality management professional, a member of Yali, a participant of the Yali RLC West Africa cohort 10. Jonathan Onojedje who was invited by Mr. Francis is a certified and practicing laboratory analyst, he is single, and a native of Delta State. Ekene Achu is the initiator of the Visible Charity Global Foundation, and the CEO of Vanguard Plus, a business consultancy firm. He is also an environmental activist. Joy Jabz; an educationist and gospel music minister.



SI4DEV Port Harcourt location group is partnering with Visible Charity Global Foundation in training a group of orphans in an orphanage home

who happen to approach the initiator Mr. Ekene for assistance in computer appreciation.

Findings: 90% of children in orphanages in Obiapor LGA lack adequate knowledge in computer appreciation and may find it difficult to get computer skills during adulthood unless something is done to reverse this trend.

Coverage: Although the number of children in the orphanage is 21, due to age considerations, the number of trainees is 9.

Impact of training: The pupils now know what a computer means, are able to identify various components of a computer, can identify the types of computers, Know the types of operating systems, can describe the uses of computers, and the functions of certain buttons on a computer.

Funding: Goodwill donations from friends and partners

Activities for the month of June:

(a) Road walk awareness campaign on the dangers of drug abuse.- the house decided that Mr. Ekene should meet with the president of Rukpokwu youth association to seek their support and mobilize the youths to participate in the awareness/advocacy walk. Get in contact with the National youth service corps members in the LGA whose CDS is focus on awareness on the dangers of drug abuse to be part of the road walk. To also write a letter to the pharmaceutical association, Port Harcourt branch, to seek support.

The date of the road walk will be agreed upon by key stakeholders and communicated to all involved.

(b) To visit Oginigba community secondary school, Oginigba in Obiapor local Government area, Rivers state, and conduct a needs assessment of their facility in order to explore ways of bridging the gap.

Opportunities

To immediately begin to plan towards WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) for schools in Obiapor LGA.

To contact a new member being introduced by one of us and get her fully integrated to our location group activities.

To explore possibilities of establishing clubs that is focused on "drug free schools" in secondary schools within Obiapor LGA.

The meeting ended at 18:14hrs.

# ON SI4DEV - WHAT DID WE SIGN UP FOR?

AKO EYO

It sounds cool when we say we are Partners of SI4DEV. “Partner” sounds really cool! Having it in your CV gives you a thumbs-up for sure. When I go on LinkedIn and type Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative, guess what I see? Not just the NGO’s page, I see Partners, Ambassadors at SI4DEV. Wow! But before we finish wowing, let’s quickly get this straight!

Some months ago, when I was just new into the NGO, I got so excited about it and spoke with a friend of mine about my new partnership. “Oh, great!” she responded, “So what is your NGO about?” You wouldn’t believe that some Partners still chat me up to ask this question. While the detail is infinite, I had quickly done a 3-hour research about SI4DEV on the website, after my friend’s almost-embarrassing question. I had known a little about SI4DEV and its focus areas, but I did not give my curious friend a satisfactory answer, and I could see some disappointment in her facial expression like, “How could you sign up for what you don’t really know?” “Oh dear, you don’t need to stutter at what you are a partner of. Just do your homework,” my blunt but sincere friend finally voiced out.

Now, let’s trash this out. We must get it straight here and now!

## **What’s SI4DEV?**

SI4DEV is Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative, an NGO registered in Nigeria and committed to empowering community leaders who are working towards a 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria where every citizen has a just and fair access to the resources and opportunities needed to achieve their full potentials.

In between the lines of the above paragraph is where we fall. So as Partners, what did we sign up for? Let’s break it down. The description of SI4DEV can be broken into 3 segments.

[Strategy and Innovation for Development Initiative is an NGO registered in Nigeria and committed to empowering community leaders] [community leaders who are working towards a 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria- where every citizen has a just and fair access to the resources and opportunities needed to achieve their full potentials.]

[every citizen has a just and fair access to the resources and opportunities needed to achieve their full potentials.]

Q: So where does the Partner fall?

A: Simple! Segment B.

## **Q: Who is a Partner?**

A: The Partner is that Community Leader who SI4DEV empowers. (Community leaders include Volunteers as well, but Partners are at the forefront)

## **Q: What is the job of a Partner?**

A: The job of the Partner is to work towards a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria (in his/her community)

## **Q: What is 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nigeria?**

A: 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria (in SI4DEV and the Partner’s context) is a Nigeria where every citizen has the just and fair access to the resources and opportunities needed to achieve their full potentials.

Now that we know this, before we concentrate on the Partner, let’s look at the stake holders in this vision.

Who is the visionary? Of course, the visionary is SI4DEV. SI4DEV has the vision of a 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria. That’s why the board of trustees set it up in the first place.

## **What is SI4DEV’s key role?**

To empower Partners to ensure that the vision of a 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria is achieved in their respective communities.

Who are the potential beneficiaries of this vision? Every citizen of Nigeria.

## **Do they have a role? Of course!**

## **What then is their role?**

To live up to their full potential in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria. Remember that the 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria is where every citizen has a just and fair access to the opportunities needed to achieve their full potential. So, the responsibility of the citizen is to adequately utilize resources and opportunities they need (readily available at a just and fair access) to better their lives and achieve their full potentials.

Wow! So, we come back to the Partner.

What does the Partner need? The Partner needs empowerment! It is SI4DEV’s job to empower you with necessary backing, endorsements and support, because whatever job you do in line with SI4DEV’s vision is in SI4DEV’s name!

You are partnering under the umbrella of SI4DEV, so as much as you should be cautious, you are also secured. That is why you report to SI4DEV in your community projects and activities. So, you are being empowered by SI4DEV. In return you must be loyal, faithful and accountable to SI4DEV. What should the Partner do?

The Partner should team up with other Partners and Volunteers within his/her location to brainstorm, access, plan and organize activities in their community in line with the 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria objectives. It is NOT the Partner’s responsibility to make people achieve their full potential, no! Once they have the just and fair access to the resources and opportunities they need, then the ball is in their court to live up to their full potential or not. However, Partners can go an extra mile to see that citizens achieve their full potential.

Partners must constantly make efforts to identify the odds in their communities (how their communities are not 21<sup>st</sup> century communities). Identifying problems is the first step to transformation. Once they identify these problems through several methods such as community needs assessment, they can then write to draw the attention government and other stake holders through letters, position letters and press reviews; plan on community sensitization and activities centred at mitigating such problems, etc.

In other words, Partners must constantly have the ‘21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria’ as a benchmark for their planned activity or project outcomes.

Can you now see what you signed up for? Playing the middleman between SI4DEV and the citizens and community whose conditions need attention is a huge task. Therefore, the Partner has to work with major stakeholders like government, institutions, traditional societies, men, women and youth, etc to achieving a 21<sup>st</sup> century Nigeria.

Did you ever see yourself in this light?

You see, what we signed up for requires great responsibility!



# EDUCATE THE GIRL CHILD AND INCLUDE HER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

## by IBRAHIM

They say when you educate a woman, you educate a nation. This is definitely true!

And as SI4DEV embarks on the campaign against drug abuse, women must not be left out in the fight against drugs abuse because they are closely related to their children and have a role on how to talk to a child involved in drug abuse.

But the girl child must be educated first.

Girls must be given equal opportunity and access to education, same as the boys. Gone are the days when women are not considered that anything good to come out them educationally, but they have proven to us that is a lie.

So, parents, allow you girl child to go to school and help save the nation.

## SI4DEV MINNA LOCATION GROUP FIRST FACE TO FACE MEETING

by IFEOLUWA

The meeting was held on Friday, the 25th of May 2018, at Mawo International School, Dusten Kuran Gwari, Minna, Niger state.

### Meeting agenda

- Opening prayer
- Introduction
- SI4DEV, or vision and mission/ questions about SI4DEV
- Activities that could be carried out as a team
- Planning for the activities for the month of June
- Agreement on monthly meetings
- Any other Business
- Closing prayer

The opening prayer was led by Mr. Simon at 4:30pm. It was then followed by a brief introduction of those present.

1. Ifeoluwa Victoria Ayo
2. Adakayi A John
3. Salawu Simon
4. Grace Odiniya
5. Bashiru Ibrahim
6. Bashiru Bosso

A document containing what SI4DEV stands for, what we do, our vision and mission was given to every participant, allowed to read and ask questions for better enlightenment. This was done by the team lead, Ifeoluwa. She brought up some events and activities that could be done as a team, they were deliberated upon and the some were agreed by the team. They include:

- Drug abuse campaign,
- Menstrual hygiene/ sex education for females,
- Community assessment,
- Private school's assessment for quality improvement pilots,
- Visit to INEC for IT capacity assessment,
- A sanitation and hygiene event for schools,
- Mental health awareness.



Of these events and activities, the group agreed on carrying out two for the month of June. Community assessment for Shartar community in Minna. One hundred copies of survey forms were agreed to be printed. Bashir Bosso is to get the contact of the community head, speak to him about our coming and fix a date for the awareness.

Drug abuse campaign was also agreed to be done in the month of June. The team plans on organizing an event that would involve students, all community members, we plan to have it on a Saturday. We plan to partner with NYSC CDS groups that focus on drug abuse awareness, NDLEA and NGOs that focus on the awareness of the dangers of drug abuse in Niger state.

Ifeoluwa is to go to NDLEA office on Monday and also find out NGO that support such within the state. Simon is to get across to the CDS group and help us get their support. The result of our findings would determine the date of the event.

Before the end, we agreed to have a face to face meeting once a month, on the second Friday of the month. The meeting was closed by Bashir Bosso.

# EMERGING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERS SUMMIT 2018

Theme: Audacity of Performance: Farewell to Failed Campaign Promises

REPORT BY BLESSING LAWAL

DATE: MAY 8, 2018

TIME: 9AM – 4PM

VENUE: SHEU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE ABUJA

ATTENDEES: 2019 Presidential Aspirants, Organizers, Government Officials, Invited Guests & Participants

CONVENER: Wale Ajani

SUMMIT CHAIRMAN: Prince Donatus Okonkwo / Senator Babafemi Ojudu

INTRODUCTION: The Convener, Wale Ajani gave a brief background of the Summit and enumerated five (5) focus areas of the Summit as follows;

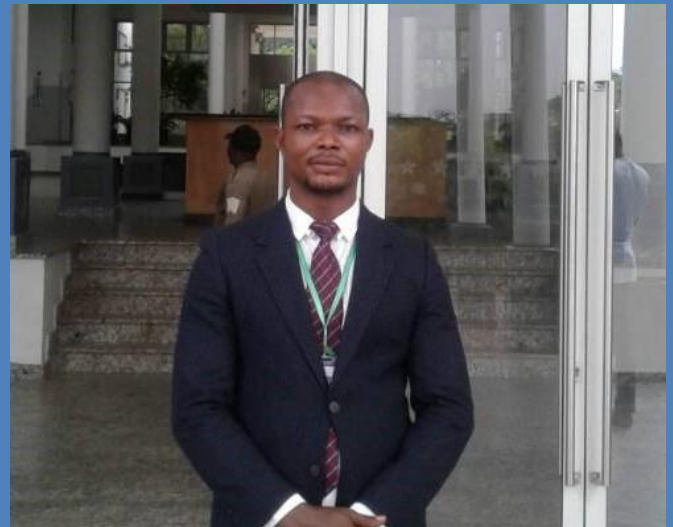
1. To create a citizen standards and platform for who becomes what Nigeria's political leadership space.
2. Give the Emerging Political Leaders the needed tools and skills required to become political leaders in the new economy.
3. Give the Emerging Political Leaders a voice to contribute to pertinent issues affecting the country and what can be done to ameliorate the sufferings of the people by participation and engendering good governance.
4. Give the Emerging Political Leaders a platform to share experiences with view to determining the best model for development-oriented governance across the nation/continent.
5. Breaking political and economic barriers for Emerging Political Leaders.

## DISCUSSION:

Prince Donatus Okonkwo, the Summit Chairman stressed the need for a paradigm shift in the Nigerian politics and governance. Called Nigerian youths to rise up and occupy political posts that are currently occupied by the aged (Experienced). Cited an instance where China reached a consensus 21 years ago, that every Ambassador to foreign nations should not be more than 35 years of age. He maintained that China has continued to equipping youths educationally and putting them in Strategic positions across the globe and it has really helped her to building the largest economy of about 36 trillion surplus.

Dr. Hussain Abdul emphasised on the need to Strengthening social networking while avoiding ethnic bias in the new system. He

languished the non-inclusivity of women in State Assembly of many States particularly the Northern States. Oby Ezekwesili delivered Pastor Tunde Bakare's paper which was taken to be highly controversial, but the madam did justice to the paper professionally. She also gave her speech and answered many questions that were thrown at her by participants. She maintained that the country needed to break the political and economic status quo by marginal, transformational and disruptive changes. She concluded by saying Nigeria, come 2019, need a President who knows that Artificial intelligence is AI and not A&I and that the president should possess the algorithm for solving current Nigeria problems.



Lastly, there was a question and answer session where Participants asked Presidential Aspirants questions and they all responded accordingly.

## CONCLUSION:

Prince Okonkwo who is presently an APC member claimed that other political parties need to merge in order to defeat Buhari in 2019 election and that Emerging Political Leaders should continue to be good Ambassadors of the Summit in their various locations.

## ANTICIPATE RIPPLES WHEN GIVING BACK

### HENRY WISDOM

Being kind to others and watching one another's back seem to be a forgotten culture, eroding so fast that its leaving no trace where its flooding.

I grew up into manhood in a system where a child bears a family, but the same child is accepted and raised by the

community, in Yoruba language it is said like this, *"Oju kan lo bi mo, igba eyan lowo"*.

It was kindness from the matured neighbours to care and train the next generation. I was lucky to have belong to the set children who arrived this world, in Nigeria, in the late 70s.

It is true that what society gave, you give back in a better fold. Had dreamt about this opportunity, now I see everything clearly, every drop of kind act that has

been done in the society now comes and will continue like ripples in the river which has no need: it starts from one end of the river and continues to the other end engulfing every soul that comes within its radiance. Kindness I believe is contagious

Si4DEV, keep waxing strong for those partners go smiling and excited for the act of kindness. Let more flow, that the ripples may continue.

Kudos Si4dev!

# HOW MY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN NON- PROFIT MANAGEMENT ACCELERATION CHANGED MY LIFE

Nwamaka Osu



My experience at the professional training in nonprofit management acceleration with the Nirmala Chellarams' Centre for Entrepreneurship Skills, University of Lagos was nothing short of amazing and mind blowing, all thanks to SI4DEV for the great opportunity and sponsoring my participation.

Asides becoming more aware about my purpose and the direction in which my life is headed, here are a few useful tips that make a successful nonprofit organization that wish to share with us:

- Build Your Board as Soon As You Can
- Be Patient
- Co-Creation Requires More Care and Attention
- Cultivate Self-Awareness
- Be Curious
- Consider How Your Past Informs Your Future
- Be open to new opportunities
- Get yourself a mentor
- Don't let fear hold you back
- Volunteer, inside or outside of your organization

- Attend professional conferences
- Expand your network of non-profit professionals
- Develop hard skills
- Identify leadership opportunities that meet your needs
- Learn how to lead an organization
- Volunteer, inside or outside of your organization
- Seek out both formal and informal professional development opportunities
- Think "big"
- Move up by moving on
- Learn to use the right terminologies and speak the right language.

*The SOAR Model Analysis:* This, unlike the SWOT and PEST analysis is more of an appreciative inquiry and is an acronym for:

1. **S: Strengths;** what can we build on? Here, you make a list of the things that you're proud of as an Organization, what makes you unique, how your strengths have yielded results and what you can build on.
2. **O: Opportunities;** what are our stakeholders asking for? Here, you explore the opportunities made available to you by external forces and trends and how you can reframe challenges to be seen as exciting opportunities.
3. **A: Aspirations;** What do we care deeply about? Here, you explore your values and aspirations to express what you're really passionate about. Strategic initiatives (programs, projects and processes) that would support your aspirations.
4. **R: Results;** How do we know we're succeeding? Here, you consider your strengths, opportunities and aspirations and what meaningful measures would indicate that you're on track to achieving your goals.

Overall, the training was very insightful and really opened my eyes to a lot of things that I hadn't considered about the non-profit making sector. It also provided me with the opportunity to meet likeminded people who are doing very great exploits and making huge impact in their little corners. The training has really challenged me to think and dream big and I am really grateful to SI4DEV for the opportunity to be a part of the training.

## TIPS FOR WRITING PROPOSALS FOR GRANTS

Keefe Ettoh

Proposal/grant writing is important in every organization. Below are a few tips to guide you with your next proposal/grant:

Identify about ten companies, come up with a project and write to them for sponsorship for a year. When selecting these companies,

choose those that are passionate about the project you are developing. If you are working on a project on agriculture, it will not be too great if you send your proposal to a company whose CSR (corporate social responsibility) is focused in arts or education. Let your project resonate with the prospective sponsor. Scrutinize before you engage and imbibe trust after you engage. Proposals bring two parties together; the donor and the YOU. Once you can get a

sponsorship or grant, always remember that it is a relationship. There is need for you to build trust and in all you do, be courteous to always make the right decisions. Have a track record. The truth is no organization is ready to spend





on ideas. Yes, ideas are great, but they want to relate to what you have done and how well you have been doing it. It is advisable you also keep focus on one sector. So, a non-profit that focuses on education should not be having external projects in women empowerment, cancer awareness or the likes. Carve a niche around education and work fully on it. Organizations are looking to spend on masters at their field and not "partakers in every field". Define your space and work effectively on it.

Having a sustainability model. Your proposal must always show a model that tells the organization that you can keep running even after their funds stop coming. The need for sustainability model in your proposal cannot be over-emphasized. Show them that you can independently function if external funds stop coming.

Be clear about your vision, mission and objectives. You must be ready to write your mission in such a clear way that it resonates with the reader. And then, having an elevator speech for your mission makes it easier to communicate to just any person, whether in person or in writing.

### **BUILDING A CREDIBLE ORGANIZATION**

Have you ever had the thought of building your own organization? Do you wonder what it takes to build one? Well, it's not an easy thing but when well thought and strategized, it becomes a possible and achievable thing. Several factors are critical to building an organization. They include:

1. Trust
2. Loyalty
3. Growth

In building an organization, there is need to build a team around trust and loyalty; a team that is ready to grow and scale up with time.

A very critical factor to the success of any organization is vision. As a leader, you must be able to communicate your vision to others. The ability to create a vision helps create an image of wealth.

And it should not just end with communicating your vision with others; you must be able to direct. You must be able to function as a director, one who is able to replicate himself in others. When a team can see the vision together, it becomes easier to work towards a common goal.

Also, never should the need for learning and personal development be taken for granted. An organization is only as great as its wealth of knowledge of its members.

## **THE NIGERIAN WORKER ON WORKERS DAY**

Written by Veronica Agana

May Day, or Labour Day, is a public holiday in many countries worldwide. It usually occurs around May 1, but the date varies across countries. It is associated the start of spring as well as the celebration of workers

Here in Nigeria, we join our contemporaries across the globe to celebrate the Nigerian worker annually usually celebrated with rallies and March pasts organized by the State governors and or Nigerian Labour Congress and Trade Union Congress across the states of the federation. So far, how has the method impacted the Nigerian worker, when the issue of minimum wage, increasing demands for improvement in the conditions of service etc. have continued to linger for years

The question today is how has the Nigerian worker fared so far? Daily we are inundated by tales of job insecurity, unfair labour practices, under-employment, skewed hiring and firing process amongst others. In all of this I ask again How has the Nigerian worker fared so far?

Labour leaders need make a shift from the usual tradition of rallies, lockouts, strikes and picketing to drive home their demands. Rather heavy investment in human and capital development through the massive sponsorship of deserving union members through a transparent process and beneficiaries in turn step down the learning out comes and in short while, we will have a more robust, self-confident and productive workforce

With an estimated 7.2 million Nigerians losing their jobs in a span of 3 years unemployment rate up from 14.2 % to 18.8 according to statistics made available by NBS prompted by the stagflation experienced by the Nigerian economy and the lack of will power to save during the period of boom. In all of these the Nigerian worker need not be told to invest in self-development. While adding value to the organization you work for do not forget yourself. Invest in books, training, academic pursuit, side hustles etc. in all of this, prepare for your exit from any organization at any point in time.

Here are the projected key drivers of the economy and estimated to become the highest employer of labour by the year 2030.

EAT – Entertainment, Agriculture, Technology

To make a headway, the Nigerian worker can look into any of these areas and invest in it. There is the need to have an alternative source of income to cushion the effect of high standard of living.

Here is wishing all Nigerian workers a productive year ahead. See you all at the top

<https://www.icirnigeria.org/7-9m-nigerians-lost-their-jobs-from-2015-till-date-says-nbs>

## **WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY**

Nneka Nebeolisa

May 3 every year is known to be "World Press Freedom Day". This is a day declared by the United Nations Assembly to raise awareness among individuals about the importance of freedom of speech and to also remind the Government of their tasks to the nation which includes respecting and upholding the freedom of speech and expression of citizens.

This year we as citizens of Nigeria should remind the Government of their duties to our country Nigeria. It's high time we come out and join our hands together irrespective of tribe and religion and speak to the government using every available medium.

Everyone including male, female, young and old has a right to freedom of speech as declared by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Therefore, why should we as Nigerians sit and watch our Government cheat us and make us quiet when we do have a right to talk. We cannot and should not be kept silent by our Government. It is high time we stand up for our rights and one way we can talk to the Government is by getting your Voters Card and going out to vote when the time comes in 2019. Do not let anyone deprive you of your right.

**GET YOUR PVC NOW AND SPEAK TO THE GOVERNMENT!!!**

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*3. On Instagram*

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*4. And on LinkedIn*

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