



# Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace

## 2020 Annual Report



## **COFP Mandate**

To provide the platform for inspiring and equipping grassroots leaders to work together genuinely in building their own solutions for social change & common humanity



## A message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In January 2020, we launched our Six-Year Strategic Plan (2020-2025) with the title, ***“Moving from Dialogue to Practical Actions for Peace: A Call to Common Action”***. We continued to adapt to our mission by developing a long term strategy based on our conviction of how the world is changing. Within weeks and months, the world changed even more faster than we had imagined.

COVID-19 which is a global pandemic came unexpectedly and met us unprepared. It threw even the most powerful nations off-balance, shattered dreams, destroyed lives and created a new normal leaving us with no other option than to either swim together or drown together. Unfortunately, corruption, bad governance, insurgency, fanaticism, banditry, kidnapping and killings in different parts of the country remind us of an even more insidious and life-threatening virus which is neither new nor normal.

As I look at what we have achieved over the past year despite huge challenges, I became extremely happy on how we are focusing on what ties us together as peacebuilders, actors, citizens, faith communities and above all, human beings united in the vision for a safer, healthier and more just world that will only come through sincere collaboration.

From all corners of the country, we have implemented programs that involved hundreds of people with multiplier effects through our Fellowship program, COVID-19 response and other interventions. We have used the shared challenges and concerns presented by insecurity, injustice and COVID-19 to foster cooperation, advance coexistence, touch lives positively and strengthen resilience.

Without the generosity of many of our partners and donors especially, the GHR Foundation, German Federal Foreign Office, Mensen met een missie (MM), Czech Government among others, we would not have achieved these results. Thank you for answering our call for financial support at these difficult times.

The success of COFP's projects and their long term sustainability would be impossible without the hard work and dedication of our talented staff. To our Staff Team and Board Members, we say a big thank you for ensuring that we continue to grow and accomplish our goals year by year.

We cannot deny that the future is full of uncertainties and, in fact, frightening to many. But transforming conflict, advancing good governance that promotes security & justice and building common ground for peace are some of the ways that we can face the future together with confidence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Agatha O. Chikelue Sr.'.

**Agatha O. Chikelue Sr., DMMM**

Executive Director

Chair, Religions for Peace International Women's Coordinating Committee



## Who We Are

The COFP is committed to building the processes of peace and social change in Nigeria and Africa. Established in 2010 by John Cardinal Onaiyekan, the Foundation recognizes that most conflicts in Africa are symptoms of deeper structural problems with ethno-religious colouration arising from all manners of exclusion including religious, ethnic, political, economic, gendered - that can only be adequately resolved through governance structures that are both ethical and just. COFP therefore strives to address these challenges by, among other things, promoting ethical leadership, offering a space for faith leaders, citizens and political actors at all levels to engage in discussions for peace and development. We believe in designing and supporting programs that drives local solutions for lasting positive change.

## Our Vision

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We envision a peaceful, cohesive and inclusive society that upholds dignity of human person, good governance and rejects all forms of violence.

## Our Mission

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We are committed to foster lasting peace, harmony and transformative development through social justice, dialogue and resilience building.

## Our Goal

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Use dialogue to lead community driven social change, build mutual respect, prevent & resolve conflicts and enhance cooperation among adherents of different faiths and culture



## Our Thematic Program Areas

Rather than focus all our energy on the barriers, we concentrate on creating more sustainable communities, opportunities and potentials that bring the change that we want to see through our thematic programs areas

Building Common  
Ground for Peace

01

02

Integrating Social  
Change through Ethical  
Leadership

Sustaining Peace for  
Development

03

“We build dialogue that forms the foundation for actionable project at COFP”

## Success Spotlight

110

Local Actors/Fellows trained on dialogue negotiation, conflict resolution and mediation via COFP one-year Fellowship Program

70

Teachers & Caregivers equipped to protect children against abuse and violence

161

IDPs and destitute children received scholarships to access basic education

517

Internally displaced & rural poor women benefited from our vocational skills training & were supported with starter packs to enable them set-up their own business

108

Youths counselled, treated, empowered and supported to live healthier, non-violent and drug free life

1,070

Youths participated in 42 Matches during Soccer for Peace Competitions

4,576

Less privileged families received free medical services

Over 77.2

Million Individuals reached through our COVID 19 interventions

Over 5,126

Benefited from our WASH Projects





## BUILDING COMMON GROUNDS FOR PEACE

Common action for peace is the hallmark of COFP Foundation. It is needed and crucial for strengthening diversities, respecting differences, building the capacities of faith leaders and their communities in interfaith dialogue for peace, just and harmonious societies..

*"Before I joined the Fellowship program, I used to think with my head, but having gone through the one-year Fellowship program, I now think with my head and heart."*

*Prof. Karim (Cofp Fellow Class of 2020)*





## COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN ITS 3RD YEAR

COFP has been committed to building lasting peace by training local actors and stakeholders to become catalyst for positive peace. 2020 was COFP's second year of successfully conducting COFP Fellowship program on dialogue negotiation, conflict prevention/management and mediation through the generous support of GHR Foundation, German Foreign Office and MM. The one-year Fellowship program enable us to train participants (Fellows) to identify and analyze community problems and to develop a collaborative solution based on shared values and goals. Delayed by COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019/2020 Fellowship program finally started its third and final module on August 9th 2020 for the class of 2020 which is the second set of Fellowship. This module was designed to deepen and consolidate the trainings received during modules one and two and to ignite

## COFP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN ITS 3RD YEAR



in them the passion for sustainable social transformation. The Fellowship Program have become a hub for bringing together multi-faith leaders and actors from all over the country to learn new skills for building positive peace within their communities.

On August 14th, 2020, the Foundation graduated her 55 trained actors after a one-year intensive program. The 55 Fellows received the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace Certificate in “Interreligious Dialogue, Conflict Transformation and Mediation” issued by



Veritas University of Abuja Nigeria and Nile University of Nigeria. Fellows were also given award as Ambassadors for Peace which made them full members of COFP Alumni Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP). The graduating Fellows were full of testimonies of how the Fellowship program has strengthened their capacity to organize peace education, townhall peace meetings, interreligious dialogue workshops, peace clubs and reconciliation gatherings in their communities.

The third set of COFP Fellowship Program began their module one program on September 20th 2020 at Ajuji Greenwich Hotel Abuja. Another 55 Fellows were selected for 2020/2021 Fellowship program. These participants (Fellows) cut across Muslim and Christian religious organizations including women and youth from the six geopolitical zones and from multi-faith and cultural backgrounds in Nigeria. Fellows were introduced to the fundamentals of religions in Nigeria while module two program which started on November 20th 2020 concentrated on early warning signs and early response system as well as skills in dialogue.



# 2020 SOCCER FOR PEACE

COFP continued to use sports as unique tool for breaking through all kinds of barriers and for peacebuilding. Across the globe, sports have intensified the fight against racism and discrimination showing that sports can be an effective tool for bridging socio-cultural divides. It is for this very reason that COFP has continuously organized its Soccer for Peace competition for youths from diverse backgrounds in Nigeria annually.

The 2020 Soccer for Peace which involved football competition commenced from February 4th to 11th March, 2020 for 12 female teams in FCT, Nasarawa, and Niger States. The kick-off and finals of the tournaments took place at the Papal Ground (St. John Paul II Catholic Church) Kubwa Abuja. A total of 20 matches were played and at the end of the competition, winners were presented with certificates, trophies and monetary awards by the Foundation. The categories of prizes given were best scorer, best behaved player, best coach among others. Similar competitions have been organized for male teams in the previous years but the choice of female team this time is to ensure gender balance and to further buttress the point that women can also be agents of peace through sporting activities.





# SUCCESS STORIES:

## COFP Fellows Localizing Peace Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

The dreadful COVID-19 pandemic could not deter our COFP Fellows from countering violence and advancing coexistence in their communities. This is clear from the various peace projects executed both individually and collectively by Fellows across the nation. We are glad that the unique structure of our programs has continued to equip and inspire our beneficiaries to make a difference in their communities in positive ways. Enjoy their stories.

**Dr. Mamza Yohanna Shaibu** conducted an Interreligious Dialogue seminar at the College of Education Borno where he works as a lecturer. Borno State is saddled with violent extremism and insurgency leading to division, fear, religious bigotry, hatred among others. Hence the need to educate teachers on how to promote peace, tolerance and patriotism. The school management was so impressed with the outcome of the seminar and promised to establish a Dialogue Center in the College.

According to Mamza, “the Dialogue Center will have the responsibility of creating more awareness on the importance of interreligious dialogue and activities among their students and teacher as well as the entire community of Waka-Biu where the institution is located.” Determined to provide solution to the problems in the region, Mamza narrated the risks that he faced while travelling to volatile communities in Borno and Adamawa States to give scholarship to 41 children who are victims of insurgence in the area. (Dr. Mamza Yohanna Shaibu, 2019/2020 COFP Fellow, Borno State)



**Hajia Ramatu Baba** received the news of her appointment as the Permanent Secretary of Kogi State Ministry of Works and Housing during the execution of her peace project in one of their communities. She informed us that the goal of her project is to drastically reduce drug/substance abuse and addiction among youths in her State

knowing the havoc associated with drug and substance abuse. She sees her project as a medium for grooming responsible citizens who would shun violence and engage in meaningful ventures for peace and development in Ankpa. Ramatu further confessed that the Fellowship program has equipped her with skills and capacities to further promote peace and security in her new job appointment and in any position that she may find herself in the future. (Hajia Ramatu Baba, 2019/2020 COFP Fellow, Kogi State)



**Adamu Bitrus Duchi** on his part has this to say: “Now I have acquired the capacity needed for organizing community peace dialogue and because of this, I can talk about peace boldly and authoritatively anywhere I find myself. I can now help people of different faith and tribe to make peace because I have been empowered and enlightened to do so through the COFP Fellowship program.” With the above conviction and determination, Duchi

carried out an interfaith peace workshop in his community and through this workshop helped his participants to set-up an Interfaith Dialogue Platform for addressing issues of violence in their community. (Adamu Bitrus Duchi, 2019/2020 COFP Fellow, Adamawa State)

**Gosum Mary Asibi** went to different schools in Jos establishing peace clubs. Her target was to build the right attitudes, skills and values necessary for coexistence and for durable peace among students in Plateau State. Mary's peace building efforts has earned her a papal award of Benemerenti in 2020. In February 2021, Mary was elected as the National President of the Catholic Women Organization of Nigeria as a result of her commitment to grassroots peace. (Gosum Mary Asibi, 2019/2020 COFP Fellow, Plateau State)



## Integrating Social Change Through Ethical Leadership

**E**thical leadership and good governance is a precondition for sustainable economy, social development, peace and security.

Bringing together neglected perspectives and voices to the table for creative exchanges is one of the ways we provide creative solutions, new approaches, best practices and effective governances.







## AMPLIFYING VOICES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH DISABILITY (PLWD)

**A**t the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to provide the needed support for the radio program produced by People Living with Disabilities (PLWD) in order to promote community cohesion and amplify voices of PLWD on their aspirations and concerns. By partnering with this group, we address drivers of violent conflict such as marginalization, exclusion and unemployment towards PLWD. From February to June 2020, series of weekly radio programs were produced and disseminated on the Armed Forces Radio (107.7FM) to advance policies that supports the rights of PLWD which we believe is one of the ways to ensure equity and peace in the society.

*“Good governance, peace & development are complementary; each flows from the other and strengthens the other”*

*COFP Foundation*

## HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO LIVE HEALTHILY & RESPONSIBLY THROUGH YOLDA



Recognizing huge social problems associated with drug and substance abuse/addiction among adolescents and youths which was heightened due to the COVID-19 situation, the Foundation through her YOLDA program trained, equipped and empowered thirty-six beneficiaries from FCT and Nasarawa State. The YOLDA program which lasted for one year from June 2019 to August 2020 was conducted in three phases namely: peacebuilding and counseling session, medical screening, tests and treatment session, and vocational/empowerment session. On their graduation day, August 14th 2020, the beneficiaries showcased what they had produced through skills that they acquired. Small grants were further given to them by the Foundation to enable them support their existing career or set-up a new business for those of them who are unemployed.

Our YOLDA program targets youths in the suburbs who engage in drug and substance abuse/addiction which makes them susceptible to violence. Most of the time, these youths engage in criminal and violent acts under the influence of drugs. Our YOLDA program supports this class of youth by providing them with YOLDA platform for full recovery so that they can live healthy and responsible lifestyle. The beneficiaries were happy for this opportunity and pledged to commit to their new lifestyle henceforth. Some of them have



openly shared how the program has transformed them and their community. Here are their stories.

“In a bid to control and work on my anger, a close friend of mine introduced me to drugs as an effective tool for anger management. In 2018, I became sorely dependent on drugs (Tramadol) and hardly do anything without it. I came across YOLDA in 2019 and applied for the program, even though I did not believe that it is a way out. With the whole package of the program, I saw myself unbelievably quitting addiction. I am fully recovered now and have quit drug misuse. With the skills I learnt during YOLDA empowerment training I was able to establish my business (footwear production). I am so

## HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE TO LIVE HEALTHILY & RESPONSIBLY THROUGH YOLDA

busy now that I don't think about drugs anymore” (Henry Nwachukwu, 2020 YOLDA Beneficiary).

“Family problems led me into drug/substance abuse for two years, because I had a baby out of wedlock. I did not have a friend and a confidant, and I went into drug misuse, but with YOLDA program, I noticed that I was not alone in drug misuse. I found friends in both participants and counsellors, and with my learning of new skills during vocational training organized for us by COFP, I have become self-reliant and even very confident of not going back to drug abuse” (Christiana C. Oche, 2020 YOLDA Beneficiary).

“Loneliness, idleness and lack of job opportunity lead me into drug abuse/addiction for ten years. I was afraid of stopping because I did not believe that it was possible until I heard for the first time that I can do a gradual reduction, which I tried until I called it quit. I learnt driving during YOLDA skills training and got a job with a company, all thanks to the COFP Foundation” (Innocent Opkanachi, 2020 YOLDA Beneficiary).

“I was going through the challenge of not being able to satisfy my girlfriend in bed. I got advice from a friend who introduced me to a mixture of cannabis sativa and tramadol. I noticed later that my body even built tolerance to the quantity I took, and I then upgraded my intake until I became addicted to the drug. Coming out was an issue until I registered for YOLDA program. When people talk about relapse (falling back to drug consumption) I just smile because with what I went through as an addict, I can't relapse. Thanks to COFP, I am now a professional fashion designer” (Ali Oviohen, 2020 YOLDA Beneficiary).





# Sustaining Peace for Development

It is common wisdom that sustainable development can only be achieved when there is peace. COFP devise new ways of advancing peace by empowering the poor particularly, women and girls living in refugee/IDP camps through poverty alleviation programs.



***“At COFP, our programs are designed to move people & communities from exclusion and competition to inclusion & collaboration”***



# COFP COVID-19 RESPONSE



The emergence of COVID-19 pandemic came with unimaginable hardship and death toll across the globe. Like a sudden and unexpected disaster, it caught people unawares as the government had no option but to declare a total lock down in order to contain the spread of the virus. The consequences are grave in all aspects because people could no longer go to work, places of worship and business, visit family/friends and so on. The situation led to loss of jobs, frustration, hunger, loneliness, hopelessness and uncertainty about the future.

Salvaging this situation requires collective responsibility. Thus, with support from GHR Foundation, we launched two main COVID 19 interventions namely, nationwide sensitization on the dangers of the pandemic and the importance of adhering to the COVID-19 safety guidelines in order to curb the spread of the virus. We also used this avenue to give messages of hope and encouragement using our religious texts because a lot of people were already traumatized, afraid and were losing faith







even in God. This intervention was carried out via radio and television jingles and social media platforms and further provided us with the opportunity of emphasizing on domestic violence, rape, abuse, discrimination, banditry and killings which were rampant in different communities at the time.

Our second intervention focused on providing food palliative support and Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) materials to over 150,000 vulnerable families including people living with disabilities, women and children across the country. Our collaboration with our national peace network called COFP Alumni Network of Peacebuilders (CANEP) enabled us to reach at least 77 million Nigerians in our COVID-19 response. CANEP is made up of trained community and stakeholders peace actors (COFP Fellows) from multi-religious and ethnic backgrounds in Nigeria. Together with CANEP, we used radio, TV and social media to dispel fear and misinformation, spread healthy practices and build faith in the midst of COVID-19 disaster.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

In 2020, COFP and our partners made strides in making water that people can drink and use for other purposes clean and readily available in some poor communities in Abuja. Due to low water supply in some areas like the FCT, residents have resorted to drilling of boreholes. But since everybody cannot afford to drill a borehole, the need for clean portable water has become a matter of survival especially, at this era of COVID 19 pandemic. It was as a result of this that COFP in collaboration with the Czech Government provided two boreholes at Ruga settlement in FCT Abuja. Furthermore, in order to check health impact towards open defecation which has led to severe health issues like diarrhea, cholera and other communicable diseases, the Foundation constructed and commissioned a block of three toilets for Dambga community on July 29th 2020 with support from the Czech Government.





## PROVISION OF ONLINE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR INMATES AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



**A** society with high rate of crime cannot achieve peace. In most cases, prisoners after serving their jail terms go back to the same crime they were convicted of and even worse. COFP in her holistic approach to peacebuilding equipped and commissioned the IT section of Suleja Correctional Facility in Niger State with eleven sets of desktop computers, computer tables and chairs on August 20th, 2020. The computer systems are to assist the

inmates in furthering their education so as to come out as better citizens. The choice of Suleja Correctional facility was informed by the inability of inmates to commence studies at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) due to lack of computers that will facilitate their studies. Furthermore, the gesture was in line with the government's policy of ensuring that detention facilities serve as correctional and rehabilitation centers where inmates go in and come out as good citizens. This gesture was supported with funds from the Czech Embassy. The Officer In-Charge of the facility showed his unreserved appreciation for the donation and promised that the computers will be used optimally for the purpose they were given.



## EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TO POOR & DESTITUTE CHILDREN



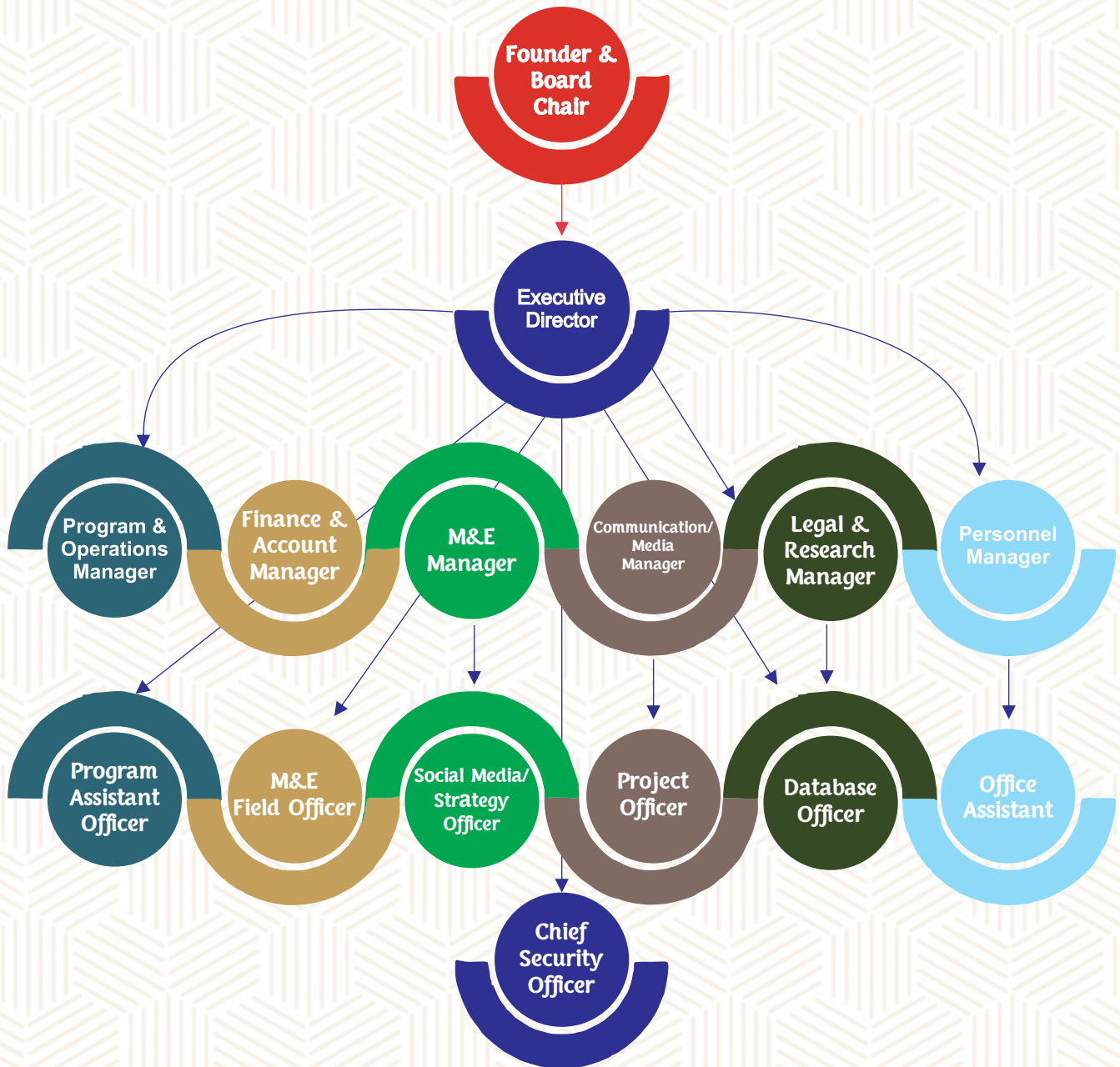
A nation without good and affordable education system for children is bound to face developmental issues in the future because, the children of today are the adults of tomorrow. The more they are educated, the more they grow to become responsible citizens who can contribute positively to growth and development of their society. Hence, despite the COVID-19 pandemic which led to the sudden closure of schools at a time when students and pupils were set to commence their terminal examinations in 2020, the Foundation ensured that children within her reach continued to access quality education through her scholarship program. It is a known fact that many poor families are burdened by the costs associated with educating their children in school which often lead to high rate of school dropout, child labour, street children and increase in crime.

Primary and secondary education in Nigeria is supposed to be free, but it is not so because there are always contributions to be paid which many poor parents cannot even afford. To be certain that this group of children went back to school, the Foundation has continued to support the education of 64 destitute children in twelve schools (both Primary and Secondary) in FCT Abuja during the 2019/2020 academic session. Some of the beneficiaries have been enjoying COFP scholarship program from their primary school level and the

Foundation has continued to award them scholarship through secondary school as a result of their good performance. For the past four years, the Foundation has supported in the payment of monthly salaries/allowances of teachers in Yemiti Internally Displaced Host Community school to enable children in this poor community stay in school.



# COFP Functional MAP



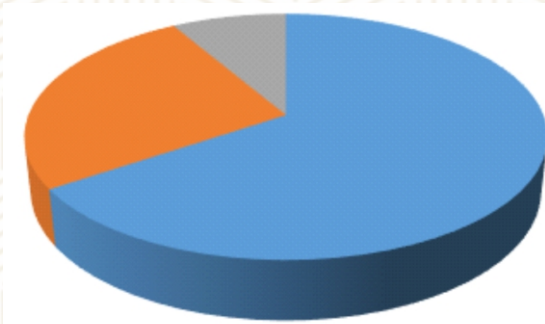


## Statement of Financial Position As At 31st December 2020

ASSETS:	2020		2019	
	₹	\$	₹	\$
<b>Non - Current Assets</b>				
Property Plant and Equipment	15,675,800	<b>41,306</b>	20,051,700	<b>55,391</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Inventories	458,700	<b>1,209</b>	478,000	<b>1,320</b>
Receivables	2,125,000	<b>5,599</b>	4,125,000	<b>11,395</b>
Placement	29,269,638	<b>77,127</b>	-	-
Cash and cash equivalent	27,038,960	<b>71,249</b>	23,142,910	<b>63,931</b>
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	58,892,298	<b>155,184</b>	27,745,910	<b>76,646</b>
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<b>Total Assets</b>	74,568,098	<b>196,490</b>	47,797,610	<b>132,037</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Payables	528,000	<b>1,391</b>	478,000	<b>1,320</b>
Restricted Funds	32,868,346	<b>86,610</b>	25,430,856	<b>70,251</b>
Accumulated funds	41,171,752	<b>108,489</b>	21,888,754	<b>60,466</b>
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	74,490,098	<b>196,285</b>	47,319,610	<b>130,717</b>
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<b>Total Liabilities and Funds</b>	74,568,098	<b>196,490</b>	47,797,610	<b>132,037</b>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

### SOURCES OF FUNDS

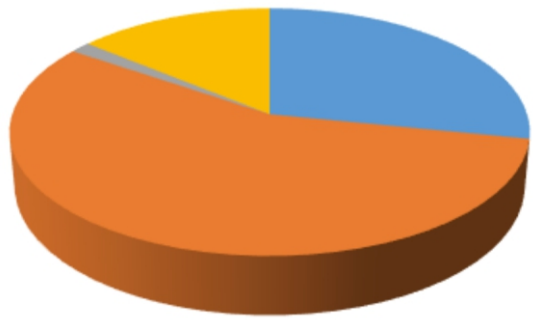
**TOTAL: N206,624,620**



- Partners/Non-Governmental Organisations
- Government
- Donations/Contributions

### USES OF FUNDS

**TOTAL: N187,341,622**



- Empowerment and Development Projects
- Peacebuilding Projects
- Education Projects
- Administration



# COFP Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Ready more @ [www.cofpfoundation.org](http://www.cofpfoundation.org)



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