



Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace



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Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace
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(COFP) Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace

Uniting people of different faiths for peace through dialogue

2019 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



COFP Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Ready more @ www.cofpfoundation.org



Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace

**2019
Annual Report**

A message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Over the past years, COFP has successfully established itself in the space for countering violent extremism by developing and adapting our programs for positive change within the socio-economic, religious and political contexts. Our interventions place people at the center of every project that we execute, with clear focus on fulfilling our mission and set goals. Based on our thematic program areas and core values, COFP uses a bottom-up approach in all our peacebuilding efforts by investing and supporting initiatives that are locally designed and led by local communities.

I am delighted with the progress demonstrated in this report which shows that our programs are already reaching thousands of people and yielding good results by helping vulnerable people and communities build resilience in tackling the imminent challenges of life. Each program that we implemented in 2019 left me with a humble sense of the difference that we can make for peace. I was touched by the practical stories of successes from our Fellows & beneficiaries on how their efforts are making huge impacts in their communities. Grants received from our existing and new donors especially, the GHR Foundation, German Foreign Office, Czech Government among others made our success stories even more successful, and for their trust, we remain most grateful!

Yet 2019 was not only a year of good news to us. In the wake of the year, we lost one of our vibrant staff, Rex-Cyprian Aniah, who was managing our M&E unit, in a ghastly motor accident, when he was traveling to Katsina state to supervise a project executed by one of our Fellows. The shock was so devastating but we took solace in God that Rex died for a good cause. May his gentle soul continue to rest in peace!

Our local staff, volunteers and partners are the pacesetters of whatever we do or achieve at COFP. They are committed to implementing our mission at all times, and this makes our work more effective, more efficient and more sustainable. There is always more to be done, and while we take pride in strides that we have achieved, we know that we still have a long way to go in reaching our vision of having a peaceful, cohesive and inclusive society that upholds dignity of human person by rejecting all forms of violence.

To harmonize our work better towards achieving our vision and mission, we developed a Six-Year Strategic Plan (2020 to 2025) in 2019, to be launched in January 2020, with the title: Moving from Dialogue to Practical Actions for Peace – A Call to Common Action. It is our conviction that our Strategic Plan will guide and give us clear direction to the destination that we want to be in the coming years.

On behalf of the Foundation, I sincerely wish to thank our funders, partners, the board and staff for your support and commitment. Together, let's keep moving one step forward to a world free of violence!

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

Agatha O. Chikelue Sr., DMMM
Executive Director, COFP Foundation
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.



Uniting people of different faiths for peace through dialogue | 3



Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

Our Goal

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



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

Success Spotlight

35 One-year Fellowship Program conducted for 35 Religious Leaders from the six geo-political zones on Inter-faith Dialogue and Mediation.

40 Teachers and caregivers equipped to protect children against abuse and violence.

52 IDPs and destitute children received scholarship to access basic education.

140 Over 140 IDP women received vocational skills training and starter packs to set up their own businesses.

42 Youths empowered and supported to live healthier, non-violent and drug free life.

3,772 Provided free medical outreach services to 3,772 children in IDP camps.

508 Youths Participated in 18 Matches in Soccer for Peace Tournaments.



Building Common Grounds for Peace

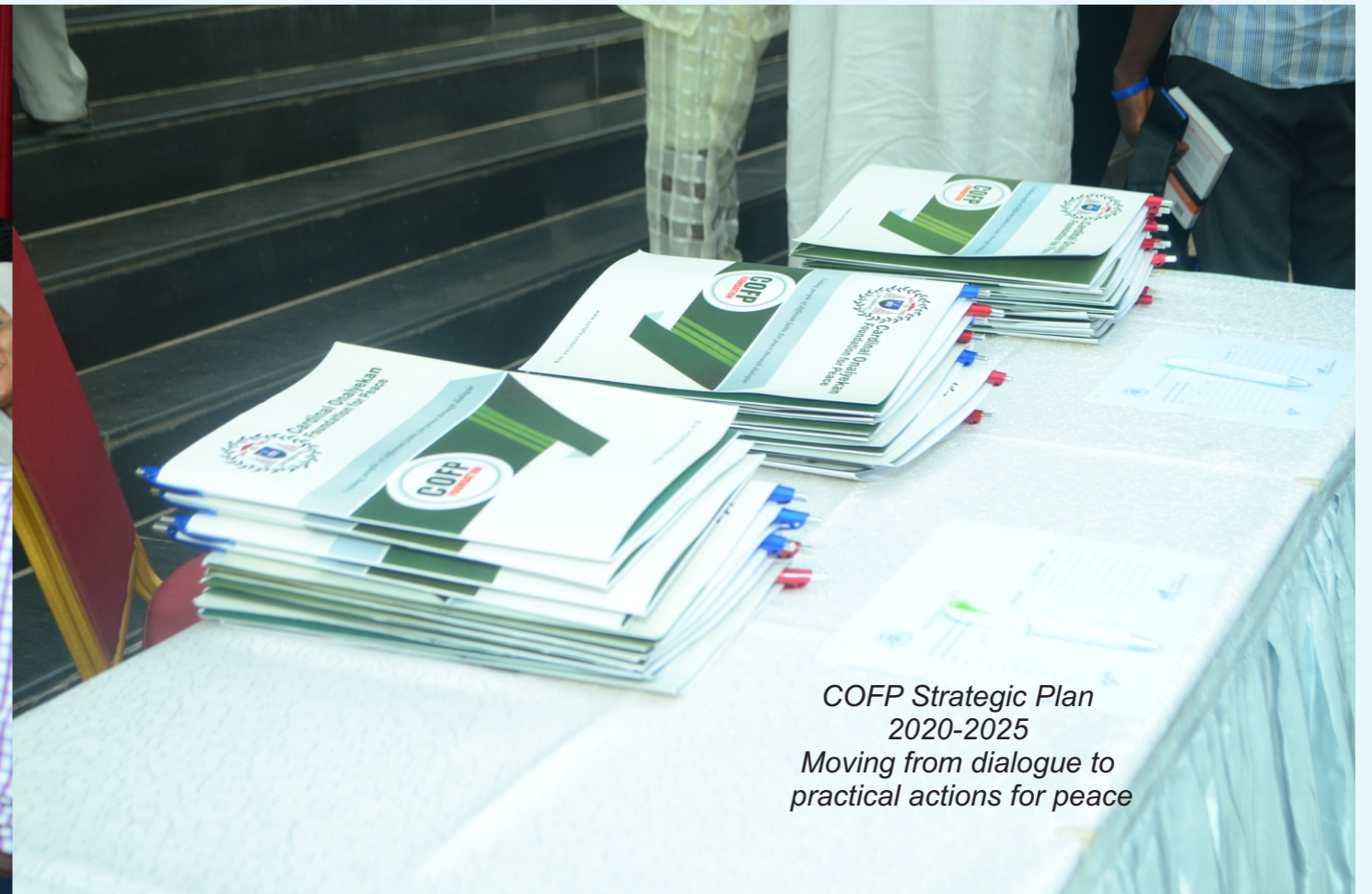
Common action for peace is the hallmark of COFP Foundation. It is needed and crucial for strengthening diversities, respecting differences, building the capacities of faith leaders and their communities in interfaith dialogue for peace, just and harmonious societies.



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COFP Fellowship Program in Its 2nd Year

The Class of 2019 COFP Fellows commenced its One-Year Fellowship Program with a week-long activities on Interreligious Dialogue and Mediation from 1st – 7th of July, 2019, in Abuja - Nigeria. COFP Fellowship Program have continued to serve as a hub for bringing together multi-faith leaders from all over the country to learn skills for building sustainable peace within their communities. It is undeniable that many of the crises in Nigeria have their root causes in religion; in addition to poverty, mass unemployment, poor social-economic condition, ethnic divisions between indigenes and settlers, ignorance, bad governance, instability, dreadful



COFP Strategic Plan
2020-2025
Moving from dialogue to
practical actions for peace

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COFP Fellowship Program in Its 2nd Year

corruption, among other social ills of the society. Religion has often been indicted as the foremost reason for communal tensions and crises in Nigeria, Africa and several other parts of the world, where it is more often than not adjudged as either a trigger or escalator of conflict. Therefore, offering innovative and inclusive program that build the capacities of faith and community actors in resolving conflicts nonviolently, and as well, challenge unjust structures in order to create “just societies” promote freedom of religion/belief and relationships that sustain peace and social change at all levels, is the core objective of this project.



On April 5, 2019, the Foundation graduated her 35 Pioneer Fellows of 2018 Class after a one-year intensive training which started from July 2018 to April 2019. To wrap-up the one-year exercise, the 35 Fellows received the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace Certificate in “Interreligious Dialogue and Mediation” issued by Veritas University, as well as the Award as Ambassadors of Peace. In order to sustain this peace-building course, the Foundation selected a new set of 35 COFP Fellows through a competitive process for another one-year Fellowship Program (July 2019 to April 2020). These participants cut across adherents of Islam and Christian religions, including women and youth from the six geopolitical zones of the country.

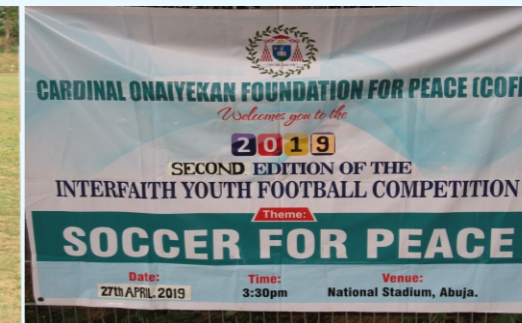


2019 Soccer for Peace

The spirit of sportsmanship, as it is always said, brings unity and togetherness among competitors. Even politicians are often advised to avoid politics of rancor and bitterness by imbibing the spirit of sportsmanship. In the same vein, for COFP, sport is not just a game but a means of promoting peace. Apart from being healthy and pleasurable, sports activities can also serve as a tool for bridging cultural, religious and racial divides. It is in this light that COFP Foundation organises sporting activities, like soccer, among youth from different backgrounds, annually.

The 2019 Interfaith Youth Football Competition titled "Soccer for Peace", after months of intense qualifying rounds from 21st March – 27th April, came to an end with a final match at the National Stadium, Abuja. The tournament which had 18 Soccer teams, unlike in 2018 when the teams were only 12, brought together over 500 youths from across the six Area Councils in the FCT, Abuja, who served as building blocks for peace via football tournament.

In his address during the ceremony marking the grand finale, His Eminence John Cardinal Onaiyekan maintained that "tolerance is imperative among religions for lasting peace and unity in Nigeria". He further stressed the need for interfaith actions like soccer, which he described as paramount for sustaining peaceful coexistence in spite of Nigeria's socio-cultural diversity. As usual, winners of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd positions in the sporting contest went home with various categories of cash prizes, certificates, trophies and scholarship awards from the Foundation.



Stories of Success: COFP Peacebuilders Localizing Peace!

COFP is proud to announce that our partnership with the local actors and COFP Fellows in strengthening community resilience for peace has yielded a lot of positive results. The unique structure of our program has created medium for our beneficiaries to multiply impacts in their local communities as evidenced in our numerous recorded success stories.



Peter organised peace education workshop for his fellow youths and has constantly received invitations to conduct similar program in different schools in the area thereafter. He has also established Muslim-Christian Youth Forum, in which young people gather from time to time to discuss issues bordering on security, interfaith and marriage

(Peter Pius Gadzama, 2018/2019 COFP Fellow from Borno state).

“The greatest achievement that we have attained so far through our Community Peace Committee is the ability to meet when the need arises to tackle so many issues of conflict in our neighborhood nonviolently. In the past, some of the conflicts tackled by the committee recently would have escalated into full blown hostility but with constant intervention by the Peace Committee, the situation is often under control and the outcome is that some community members who fled as a result of the crises in the area are beginning to return home”

(John Gospel Gana, Umar Abdullahi, Hon. Sunday Abdu Akson & Ya'u Haruna, 2018/2019 COFP Fellows from Plateau state).



Through the skills acquired during the Fellowship program, Hajia Halimat Jibril has been able to participate, represent and deliver speeches on various interfaith dialogue and peace fora more effectively than ever. For instance, Halimat participated as a delegate of the Nigerian Women of Faith Network at the African Council of Religious Leaders Religions for Peace Meeting in Uganda (5th to 9th of May, 2019). She attended the 10th World Assembly of Religions for Peace (RfP) in Lindau – Germany, in August 2019, as a delegate from Nigeria and as well participated in the Insights Forum organized by the Tony Blair Institute in Kenya in November 2019, among others.

(Hajia Halimat is the National President of the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) and one of the 2018/2019 COFP Fellows from Niger state).



“I have held town hall peace meetings for Dochochi, Lakare, Bantaji, Chanbaji, Yolde-pate, and Shagari communities in Adamawa State with the aim of educating community members on how to minimise conflict between farmers and Fulani herdsmen in the area. Over 150 persons, including community members, village heads, religious leaders, council chairmen and representatives from the state government, participated in the program. Since then, I have received several invitations by other Local Government Councils to replicate this in their area councils. At the moment, the Local Government Chairman of Bolle Lakare has promised to fund part of the cost for holding a similar town hall peace meeting between the farmers and herders in his locality”

(Jechonia Gilbert, 2018/2019 COFP Fellow from Adamawa state).

Integrating Social Change Through Ethical Leadership

Ethical 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.



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

Ending Violence & Abuse Against Children (EVAC)

In our study, we found out that violence against children is a major contributor to conflicts and a robber of peace in the society. As these children are variously abused and violated, they encounter different adverse effects and disorders that often last a lifetime and this can be counted as a focal reason for increasing violence in the society. While most caregivers do not know the rights of children and what really constitutes violence against children, some religious and cultural norms end up constituting violence against children, and as such, we find some child abuses and violations in today's world disguise as care and love for children.

Ending Violence & Abuse Against Children (EVAC)

Responding to this menace by educating parents, teachers and caregivers on how to protect and safeguard children against violence and abuse is one of the ways that COFP curtails this dilemma. On Thursday, 26th of September, 2019, COFP conducted a one-day intensive training on Ending Violence/Abuse Against Children (EVAC) for 40 parents/teachers/caregivers from 15 selected schools, Mosques & Churches within the FCT, at Top Rank Hotels Galaxy, Utako - Abuja.

Participants for the workshop, comprising both male and female, were drawn from Christian and Islamic religions. The training was a response to the alarming increased rate of violation and abuse against children in our local communities and the country at large, which unfortunately, have not received enough attention from either government, community/religious leaders & other stakeholders. Children have rights, like all human beings, and the responsibility to protect their rights is even more demanding because children are fragile, weak, and more vulnerable to all societal ills.



Giving People with Disabilities a Voice

We are aware that to make lasting change, our programs need to be inclusive and locally owned. In 2019, we supported a radio program designed and implemented by the Centre for Persons with Disability Rights & Development. This program served as an avenue for communicating their challenges and difficulties to the relevant government agencies and for promoting peace education. The project aimed at creating public awareness and understanding on the rights and privileges of the disable people and how they can be supported within the community.

Series of weekly radio programs which lasted from March – July 20219 were created on the armed Forces Radio (107.7 FM) to advocate policies that enhances and secures the rights of people with disabilities and ensures equal level playing ground for them in the society for lasting positive peace.



Helping Young People to live Healthily & Responsibly through YOLDA

Youths Living Above Drug and Substance Abuse/Addiction (YOLDA) program was initiated by COFP in April 2018, as an avenue for reaching out, supporting, helping and assisting the young people whose lives have been affected negatively by way of drug/substance abuse and addiction. Thirty-five (35) Youth benefited from this series which lasted for one year, April 2018 to April 2019. Through the support from the Czech Government, forty-two (42) youths are currently benefiting from the YOLDA Program for another one-year period – May 2019 to April 2020.

Our YOLDA scheme targets youths in the suburbs that are being used as tools for violence by the rich and elites, especially the politicians. Most of the times, these youths engage in criminal acts like robbery, kidnapping, insurgency and so on, under the influence of drug. Our YOLDA program supports this class of youths through Counseling, Medical, and Empowerment sessions. It is important to mention that many success stories have been



Helping Young People to live Healthily & Responsibly through YOLDA

recorded from the pioneer beneficiaries of 2019 YOLDA exercise. For instance, over 25 beneficiaries have completely quite drug and substance addiction/abuse and are self-employed through the support from the Foundation. Some have gone back to school while others are gainfully employed. Here are testimonies from some of our YOLDA beneficiaries that we visited during our field trips.

“With the intervention of COFP, I have stopped taking weed, I usually take up to six wraps daily but for some weeks now, I haven’t taken any and I am so happy about it” (Chimdindu Williams, 2019 YOLDA Beneficiary).

“I am addicted to drugs because my husband is a dealer, hence, Indian hemp is always available and even if I don’t want to smoke, my husband influences me a lot & I wish he can stop selling it” (Rebecca Harrison, 2019 YOLDA Beneficiary).

“My mind is now at rest; I can now focus on total abstinence from drugs & substance abuse. Initially, I thought I would be sick” (Ogbonna Tony, 2019 YOLDA Beneficiary).

“I mind my own business and I don’t hang around again in places where drugs are being used so that I will not have the urge to relapse” (Chima Harrison, 2019 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”



Free Medical Outreach for IDPs

In response to the poor health conditions in the country, especially, as it concerns the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria who are constantly faced with limited access to quality healthcare services and hygiene, COFP partnered with the West Africa Community Missions from California, USA, to provide free medical services to approximately 3,000 displaced people living in Wassa and Kabusa host communities in Abuja, from 23rd to 30th of June, 2019.

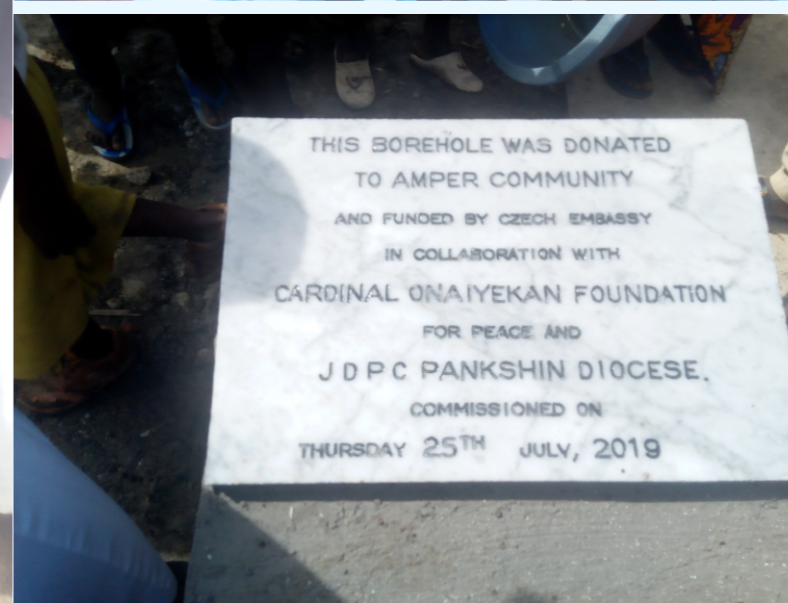
In this same vein, another free medical outreach was carried out for the less privileged families living in Toge and Gosa communities as a way of marking the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child. The outreach which lasted for two days, 27th & 28th of November, 2019, attended to 438 children and 334 adults. Free medications, minor surgeries, delivery/hygiene packs, reading glasses, etc. were provided during the outreach; and as it is typical of COFP, medical attention & treatment were equally administered to everyone present, regardless of gender, tribe or faith.



Provision of Safe Drinking Water

Understanding that water is very necessary for human survival, COFP believes that, it is not just any water, but good clean water that is important for healthy living and survival. Unfortunately, inadequacy in the availability of accessible, reliable and safe drinking water was one of the problems identified in Amper community of Kanke Local Government Area of Plateau state.

The initiative to construct two boreholes by the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace, in collaboration with the Czech Republic and the Justice, Peace and Development Commission of the Diocese of Pakshin in Amper Community of Kanke Local Government Area of Plateau State was as a result of the identifiable untold suffering that women and children experience as they go long distances in search of water for their daily use. Thus, provision of safe water close to the community became a necessity; and with the support of the Czech Government, the Foundation commissioned two boreholes for the community on the 25th of July, 2019, to make for easier access to portable water.



Helping Internally Displaced Women & Girls to Help Themselves

Exactly 83 women from the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Camp in Kabusa, a suburb of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), benefited from the Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation for Peace (COFP) skills acquisition program, which lasted from March 4 to 13, 2019. Another 57 internally displaced women in Shuwari IDPs Camp, Maiduguri - Borno state, received a one-week (13th to 20th of October, 2019) intensive skills acquisition training on pastries, bakery and industrial production.

The training was timely for the women because it gave them the opportunity to acquire skills that would help them financially and enable them contribute to their families' upkeep. Rather than just providing food for the women and their families, COFP empowered the women and girls with vocational skills and provided them with starter kits to facilitate their ability to set up small scale businesses after the training, marking the days of their little beginnings. The empowerment program also provided the opportunity for us to bring together women from different faith and ethnic backgrounds to learn as a team, which for us is very crucial in peacebuilding.



Education Scholarship for the Destitute

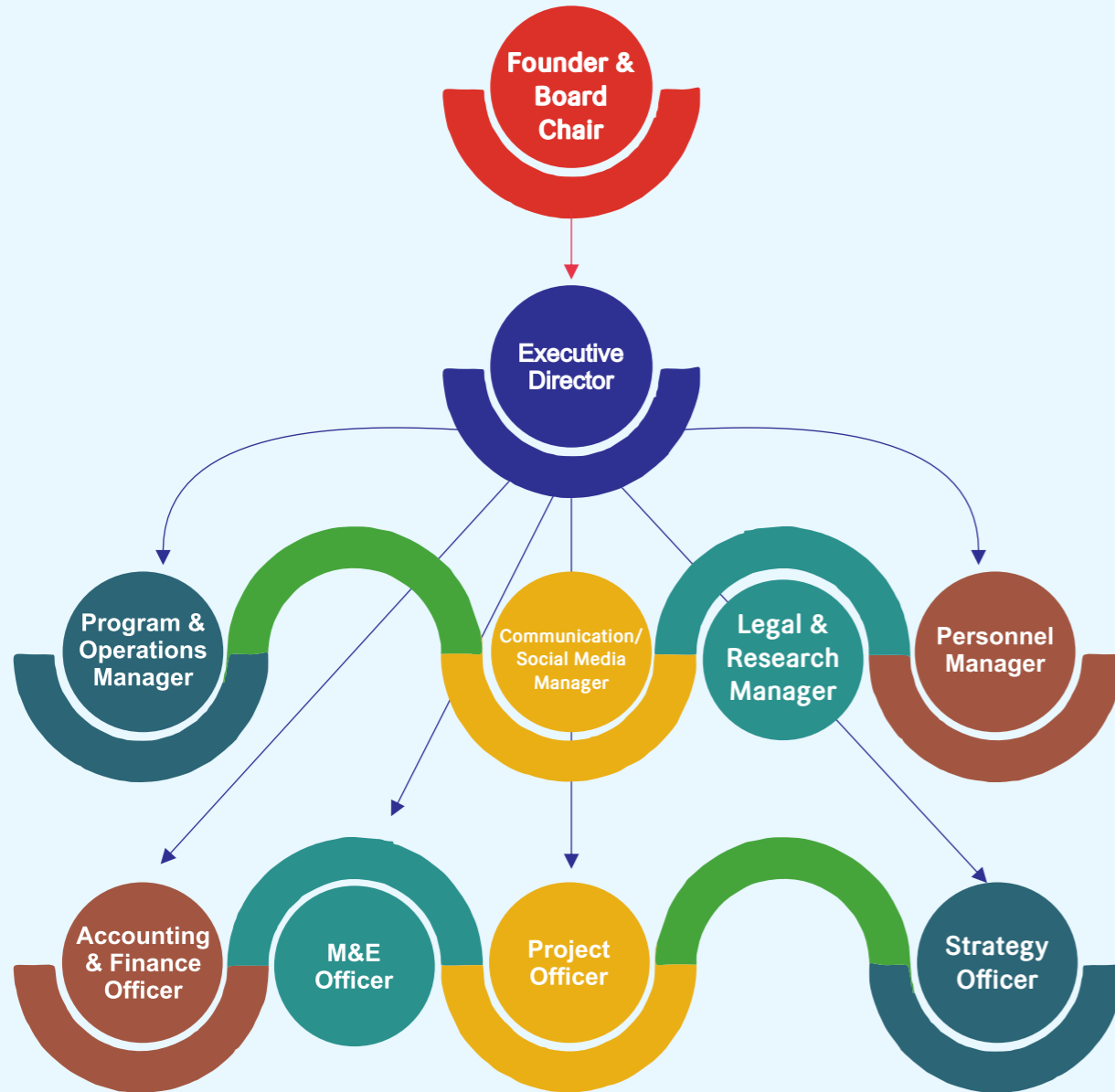


While education is regarded as the basic right of every child, not all children have access to quality education (unicef.org/nigeria.education). The rate of school dropouts continues to surge, even though primary education is officially free and compulsory, as claimed by the government.

To ensure that children from very poor homes have access to education, the Foundation continues to support destitute children through its scholarship program. In 2018/2019 Academic Session, a total of 51 pupils and students were supported while for 2019/2020 academic year, the Foundation granted scholarship to 52 pupils and students respectively in FCT, Abuja.



COFP Functional MAP

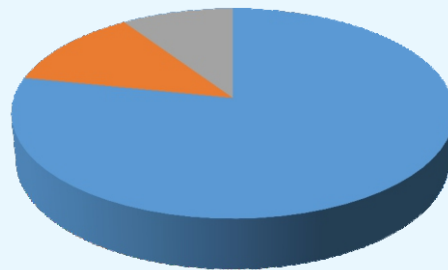


Statement of Financial Position As At 31st December 2019

ASSETS:	Notes	2019		2018	
Non-Current Assets		₹	\$	₹	\$
Property Plant and Equipment	2	20,051,700	55,391	13,627,600	37,854
Current Assets					
Inventories	3	478,000	1,320	780,000	2,167
Receivables	4	4,125,000	11,395	1,025,780	72
Cash and cash equivalent	5	23,142,910	63,931	22,156,133	62,391
		-----	-----	-----	-----
		-	-	-	-
		27,745,910	76,646	23,961,913	64,630
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		-	-	-	-
Total Assets		47,797,610	132,038	37,589,513	102,484
		=====	=====	=====	=====
Current Liabilities					
Payables	6	478,000	1,320	1,955,396	5,432
Restricted Funds	7	25,430,856	70,251	20,845,356	29,315
Accumulated funds	8	21,888,754	60,466	14,788,761	67,737
		-----	-----	-----	-----
		47,319,610	130,717	35,634,117	97,052
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Total Liabilities and Funds		47,797,610	132,038	37,589,513	102,484
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SOURCES OF FUNDS

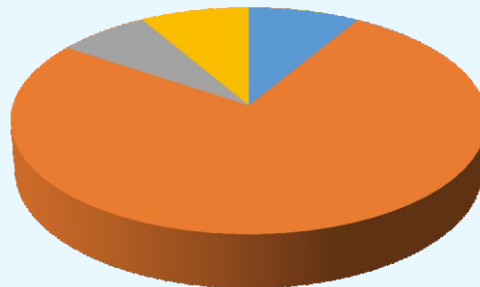
TOTAL: N136,620,430



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

USES OF FUNDS

TOTAL: N129,520,437



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