



## Citizens Centre for Integrated Development and Social Rights

### *Project Profile*

*Train a child, save the community*

**Project Name:** Training Poor School Leavers For self employment

**Project Duration:** One year

**Project Location:** Imo, Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu states of Nigeria

**Project target population:** Boys and Girls School Leavers from poor homes

**Implementing Organisation:** Citizens Centre for Integrated Development and Social Rights – CCIDESOR,

**Direct Beneficiaries:** 150 poor school leavers, who cannot afford to further their education or get a job. 100 poor in-school pupils who are expected to use their newly acquired skills while in school to create income generating activities (during holidays) that will enable them continue their education after the free basic education level. These three hundred direct beneficiaries will cross the poverty line on or before the one year project life.

**Indirect beneficiaries:** Over 180,000 out of school citizens will be motivated to enroll, remain and complete basic education in the five project states. The project's impact will be on the community and individual. As school leavers become engaged there will be reduction of unemployment rate, insecurity, prostitution, drug and human trafficking etc. It will also influence the communities interest in the education. In general, the level of poverty and unemployment in the project communities will reduce by more than 35% yearly.

**Project Relevance:** The level of youth employment in Nigeria is very high and over 60% of Nigerians live below one dollar a day. The out of school population in Nigeria is over 30 million. In south eastern region of Nigeria, where the project is situated, those who live below one dollar per day are more than 70% of the regions population. This tragic situation soars the number of school leavers who could neither gain employment after completing basic school nor continue their education to a higher level. Left with no job or advance education, the youths become victims or perpetrators of violent crime, drug and human trafficking, armed robbery, prostitution, kidnapping, militancy, community soldiers and other social crimes. In the south eastern Nigeria the level of insecurity attributable to youth unemployment is currently very high. In every 10 armed robbery incidents, school leavers are involved in 8. In every 10 prostitution cases, 7 are school leavers, In every human trafficking cases, 75% victims are school leavers. In every kidnapping cases, 60% involves unemployed school leavers. These have put both the communities and the youths at great danger and deepens poverty and lack at alarming rate. It is a fact that unemployment and crime go hand in hand. That is why the rate of crime and insecurity in south eastern Nigeria is higher than the remaining five regions.

This is a region that got involved in the Nigeria civil war of 1967 – 1970 when over three million south eastern igbos were killed, many families lost their savings and investments. They had to start life afresh as well as battle the challenges of political and economic marginalization following the end of that war. After the end of that civil war, 41 years ago, the remote effect in mass poverty and systematic economic hardship is still being felt by many families. Against the official and doctored economic statistics the hidden poverty in the south eastern Nigeria is unprecedented. It is more on those who attempted to obtain basic education thereby frustrating and discouraging boys from that region to avoid education in order to run away from poverty since education which was initially seen as a meal ticket is no longer so. Today, most men (who are potential husbands to the many educated girls) do not go to school resulting to high abuse of the rights of their wives. Once a school leaver is unable to secure a job, it sends a wrong signal to the entire communities who rely on the example of the unemployed school leavers to deny their basic children education.

The bad governance with high level of corruption, which has been experienced most in eastern Nigeria since the return of democracy 1999 has worsened the poverty and unemployment situation. As poor school leavers are attracted to these violent crimes, it provides ready reasons for poor parents to withdraw their wards from completing basic education which is currently free in Nigeria. The high level of poverty, out-of-school children and unemployment among school leavers reflects the high level of insecurity and delinquency. To save this generation, they need immediate engagement which will be result oriented.

**Project Strategy:** The mapping of the poor Junior Secondary School (JSS) students will be conducted, followed by selection of beneficiaries with the full participation of Parents Teachers Association (PTA) and School Based Management Committees (SBMCs). The selected participants will be taken through the process of selecting a vocational income skill that matches his or her capacity/ inert skills and then enrolled in the local training and vocational centres being managed by sound and technically proficient artisans. After completion they will open their own centre/business before the expiration of twelve months (one year). The trainees will equally be taught business management skill and linked to market and soft loan sources in Nigeria. The progress of the beneficiaries will be strictly monitored and documented by our monitoring and evaluation unit.

**Result of Pilot action:** Our introduction of few school leavers to skills acquisition training has been very successful. The project has clearly shown that engaging school leavers in skills training for self employment and income is one sure way to fight poverty, illiteracy, violent crimes and other forms of dangerous delinquency. **Aro Nwokorie** is now a welder. He was unable to further his education or gain any job, but after his training he started his own business, today he earns enough to support his family and now is planning to go back to school. **Chidinma Ugo** is a young girl who dropped out of school due to poverty. She is the fifth child of the family of eleven. She obtained training in home economics and got a job. Today she is back to school to complete her senior secondary education.

**Likita Abdullahi** is a primary school pupil. He was encouraged to enrol as a trainee on repairs of motor cycle. He wants to be an engineer and own his auto repair shop after school. He will be completing his training the same month he will complete his primary education. Many children are getting back to school because they want to benefit from the project which will assist them to be proud income earners after school. This has reduced the high number of out of school and associated challenges.

The project is a self advocacy action. It tends to challenge government's inability to provide vocational skills training centre as required by national education policy. It tends to question the kind of budget and result that government generates in their National Directorate of Employment Program (NDE). It questions the phasing out of art and craft training in basic school in the south eastern Nigeria.

**Immediate Result:** 150 poor school leavers will be trained in various skills and open up their own small business within one year. 100 in-school pupils will be trained (after school and during holidays)

in different vocational skills which will assist them to be self employed and raise income to support their families and advance their education.

**Long Term Result:** The level of poverty in the community will reduce due to more self employed citizens. The community's interest in sending their children to school will go up. The level of violent crime, robbery, kidnapping, human and drug trafficking and prostitution will go down. The general security of lives and properties will be better. At the end, the communities will collectively walk away from abject adversity.

**Project Management and accountability:** The management of the project will be open and participatory. It will involve the core stakeholders namely; intended beneficiaries, their parents, the teacher, a member of School Based Management Committee and CCIDESOR'S project team from project design, implementation and close out. Project Income and expenditure will be published in our newsletters, website and circulated to all implementation team members. It is our policy to let the beneficiary know the cost of the training. All community, project core stakeholders and financial contributors to this project will have open and direct access to project financial and program reports.

**Risk Analysis:** As the school leavers volunteer to participate to end their poverty and acquire more knowledge, the greatest challenge is how to deal with the surging number of poor school leavers who want to benefit from the process at the same time.

**Note:** Like Christopher our mobilization officer said ".....*those who are empowered today will empower others tomorrow and the world will be a better place*". This invariables means that those who are abandoned to their fate today will abandon other tomorrow and the world will be an insecured place to live. As partners in progress empowerment is our tool for a better society. We have to seek for change differently.

#### Project Budget

s/n	Activity detail	Unit /	output/	Amt USD	sub total USD
1	training of school leavers	100 pers	1 project /3mths	28	2800
2	training of school leavers	60 pers	1 project/6mths	55	3300
3	training of school leavers	40 pers	1 project/12mths	95	3800
4	training of in-school pupils trainee to commence	100 pers	1 project/3 sessions	18	1800
	small business	200 pers	1 project	200	40000
5	Operational cost	1 project			3300
					55000

**Note: more than 200 trainees can be accommodated if more support is recieved**

#### Project Contact

**Nnenna Juliet Onyenoha (Mrs)**

Project Coordinator / Director Human Resource Development  
Citizens Centre for Integrated Development and Social Rights

CCIDESOR

103 Wetheral Road, Owerri, Imo state

Nigeria

Tel: 08037423140, 08036498553

[cintegratedev@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cintegratedev@yahoo.co.uk)

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