

KEEP A STREET CHILD IN SCHOOL- NORTH CENTRAL NIGERIA

This project supports the education, rehabilitation of street children and economic empowerment of their caregivers (families), with the goal of improving the quality of their lives and eliminating the excuse of poverty. The importance of education in children cannot be overemphasized.

An educated child will invariably be better for it, as he/she is encouraged to be the best they can be. In doing this, they grow to become responsible citizens contributing meaningfully to the growth and development of their various communities and the nation at large.

A rescued street child will be protected from the hazards they are otherwise exposed to, some of which include but not limited to Abuse (emotional, mental, physical, sexual, verbal etc), violence, injury, trafficking, recruitment as foot soldiers in conflict areas, etc and given a chance at a better future than they would have remaining as street children.

There are no known statistics of Street Children in the Nigeria; however, according to the 2006 census, about 47% of the population is under 15 years old while about 3.5% is aged 65 years or over. According to Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) definition (person under 18 years), children represent over 50% of the population.

However, according to the 2010 Nigeria Education Survey and Digest of Education Statistics (NEDS), 21% of children of ages 5-16 cannot read at all in the South-west compared to 31% in the South-south, 32% in the south-east, 58% in the North-central, 72% in the North-west and 83% in the North-east. In the case of numeracy, only 11% of children of ages 5-16 cannot perform simple addition in the South-west, the survey put the figure for the other sub-regions at South-south 19%, South-east 21%, North-central 42%, North-west 61% and North-east 73%. Nigeria currently ranks 153 out of 187 in Human Development Index according to UNDP 2013 National Human Development Reports for Nigeria.

Lift Up Care Foundation (LUCAF) education support programmes are designed to increase access to education, support schools and significantly reduce these figures for illiteracy with time. This program rescues children from the streets and its dangers, provides opportunities for a better life through acquiring education while also creating economic empowerment in the communities.

It is often said that children are the leaders of tomorrow, if that be the case then most of Nigeria's future leaders can be found on the streets, ragged, starving and worn out. The Parents, guardians, caregivers of these children

refuse to send them to school because they cannot afford the cost, while in some other cases these children are simply being exploited for commercial gains.

You would have widened our reach, impacted the lives of children and their families or caregivers as the case may be, tangibly making a difference positively by investing in and supporting this project.