

Our Goal

To enable women see, understand, claim and demand their **rights** to **economic freedom**, **gender equity**, social justice and **political** inclusion.

Idea Builders Initiative is an NGO, founded in 2003, which originally focused on women, agriculture and rural community development.

In 2005, the organization re-launched its women programmes to include a new focus on inspiring women to succeed first as individuals before other roles in society called "Tomorrows Woman"; this year also saw us moving closer to serve young people in secondary schools as in keeping with our first love -agriculture, we launched the "SVGP" -a School Vegetable Gardening Project targeting public schools in four geo-political zones of the Nigeria.

Further to this, in 2007, we began to "mainstream agriculture into environmental education and also launched two Capacity Building and Micro-Enterprise Support initiatives.

In 2008 we began a process of consolidation by prioritizing Women & Girls as our core beneficiaries. Following this internal restructuring period, the we began delivering programmes through strengthened NGOs and CBOs partnerships as a key delivery strategy.

Now after 8 years of operations, Idea Builders Initiative occupies a more than significant presence in the development sector. The organization has developed into a Consulting and Social Entrepreneurial endeavor.

Idea Builders Initiative employs 9 key staff and works through interns and a host of volunteers of which 92% are women.



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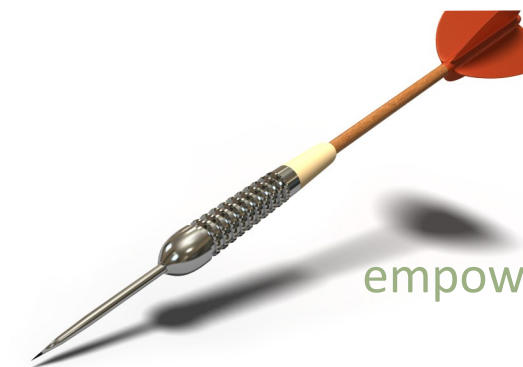
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Idea Builders Initiative

Consulting
Issue Dialogues
Research
Publications



empowering Women & Girls

Our Programmes & Projects

inspiring, engaging and equipping women & girls to lead lives of choice



Mentoring Challenge

The Mentoring Challenge aims to inspire and challenge young women to reconsider their wider role in a globally integrated society. It seeks to improve the sensitivities and action determining skills that will make them more effective leaders in their chosen vocations.

Idea Builders believes the success of a young person is measured in-part, by the level of support around them. This is where we foster an environment where teenage girls are mentored to create their own opportunities for life success to become role models to their peers while contributing to the betterment of their community. Grooming leaders of "self" early in life - is a key success indicator of any community.

The Mentoring Challenge aims to provide an environment where girls mentor and are mentored to create their own opportunities toward life success while contributing to their community as young leaders. Through the PMC, young women & girls redefine what it is to be effective leaders of self through commitment and support that can be applied in all areas of life.

The purpose of the Mentoring Challenge is to heighten the awareness of the challenges facing coming generations of women leaders and to help individuals formulate their long-term role and identify where they can act to stimulate the necessary transition to globally sustainable communities, organizations and society.

Completing the Challenge will also deepen individual understanding of who they are, where they are coming from, what they stand for, where they are going in life .



The **Women Mentoring Women™ Partnership Programme** matches young women across the country with inspirational mentors who can guide them in developing better self-esteem, growing their small businesses, nurturing relationships, and making positive life choices. Many girls enter the programme experiencing varying levels of struggles or social challenges.

This mentoring programme helps women & girls to envision a positive life beyond what they currently experience in a 1:1 supportive relationship. Everyone is unique and therefore every mentoring relationship looks different, but the reward for both the mentee and mentor is undeniable.

This ExxonMobil sponsored programme connects talented, emerging women leaders from all over the world with members of Fortune's Most Powerful Women Leaders for a month-long internship programme. When she returned, she could not hold back her experience. Therefore, she was prompted to replicate the same model in Nigeria to deserving women who need to be mentored. She believes that there is a need for women pioneers and trailblazers in Nigeria to pass on their knowledge to others. In her words, "leave the ladder down so the others can climb up..."

It is a programme that seeks to establish a connection and build a sense of responsibility to the next generation of women leaders and the local community, by developing and implementing citizen-based mentoring partnerships that benefits young women in Nigeria whilst it identifies and develops a support structure for aspiring young women leaders.



The Womenterprise Training provides the fundamentals for socioeconomic empowerment. It covers how to manage, budget, save, spend, and invest money. Women and girls are given the tools to seize those opportunities in order to increase their chances of self-sufficient and successful futures. We help our target group to create a "plan of action" where they set educational, vocational and/or career goals for themselves.

This component also delivers job readiness and micro enterprise start-up services supported by the Spring Board Women Development programme. It also creates awareness of career and educational opportunities –recognizing that many young women are talented, yet rarely have the opportunity or ability to express themselves creatively. The ultimate aim is to measurably improve a woman/girl's chance of realizing financial and social independence.



The overall objective of the mentoring walks is to bring established women leaders and professionals to walk and talk with aspiring young women. The walk demonstrates our belief in the importance of women's leadership and participation in society. It is an annual event that holds on the 3rd Saturday of November in over thirteen countries.

When women succeed, everyone benefits. There is greater economic opportunity, equity and more constructive political participation leading to peace and stability in communities where women hold leadership positions.

Mentees –through this Programme, gain greater access to networks, develop skills, and increased self-confidence. Mentors benefit by practicing and developing their counseling and listening skills, leading to greater self-development.

As an advocacy tool, the walk and talk initiates also, conversations about how to shape the changes we want to see in Nigeria.



Gender Balance

For idea Builders', the term "gender" is comprehensive and covers the interrelated effects of gender dynamics on actions and reactions of both women and men.

Here we use issue dialogues, debates, campaigns sponsored by Nestlé Nigeria Plc. and other educational interventions- to share and learn more about the attitudes and behaviours that both men and women must face, challenge and change. Personal and structural transformation is the goal, but a strong knowledge base about the complexities of gender is always a great starting point.



...the world through the eyes of Women & Girls

Our Vision

A society of women leading lives of Choice

Our Mission

...to Inspire, Engage and Equip Women & Girls to transform their lives and serve as change agents in society.



Agriculture



To promote *women entrepreneurs* in informal and formal agro-related vocations by designing *interventions for* :

- (i) strengthening women's self-help groups and cooperatives already formed through social mobilization, to enhance the productivity of their enterprises and their ability to access markets, specifically through intensive capacity development activities and technical and financial support in agribusiness processing;
- (ii) supporting the capacity development of selected national women's associations involved in rural women's economic empowerment and rights in selected project areas.



The Women Symposium

Starting in 2008, Idea Builders Initiative took its annual Women symposium, a daylong conference national. Each year 600+ outstanding women and girls are given the tools to discover themselves and initiate social ideas to change their lives and their immediate community. The symposium demonstrates through a variety of issue dialogues and panel sessions what social change is and sharing leadership stories of outstanding Change makers.

The event provides attendees with the chance for up close and personal interactions with leading women and experts on business, government, human rights, media, food, fashion, as well as leading social entrepreneurs.

Idea Builders Initiative is helping women transform their lives in Nigeria. We collaborate with women's focused organizations, trade associations, cooperatives and other informal/formal networks serving women & girls.

Initially focused exclusively on Agriculture, Idea Builders Initiative has morphed into an organization working to strengthen citizen-led grassroots organizations/NGO sector.

Our mission inspires us to initiate innovative, market based solutions to social problems that generate both financial resources for sustainability and social value. Our programmes & projects encourage women & girls to move beyond survival to become leaders and advocates for change.



STOP CAMPAIGN

This is an advocacy action which aims to STOP Violence Against Women in all its forms. The Stop campaign is about supporting everybody to do one thing to stop domestic abuse, public assault, rape...etc. We want to promote ways to curb violent behaviours and provoke public discussions on what needs to be done as a community.

This component also advocates whistle blowing –a shift away from denial – because our mindset of perpetual denial is one of the reasons violence against women continues unabated. The ultimate objective is to measurably improve a woman's chance of living a more harmonious, peaceful and productive life.



Etherelda Awards

The Etherelda Awards is designed to recognize women who have outstanding record of effective mentoring outcomes. It underscores the importance of mentoring in the professional, social and entrepreneurial development of women in Nigeria.