**Farm to School Project (FSP)**

**Brief Summary**

**Farm to School Project (FSP)** is targeted at increasing the chances of children in Abuja FCT rural villages to having primary education. Abuja FCT with over 900 rural communities with hundreds of thousands children populations but having less than 10% of the children population in school as a result of their erroneous belief that their children are meant to primarily help them in their farm work. These communities have therefore existed for more than 100 years without any form of social development.

The objective of this project is changing the belief of parents in Abuja FCT rural villages that children are not tools to be used for farming activities but to be enrolled into schools and empowered for productive future.

This project is expected to on a short-term, directly enroll 1000 children into primary schools and indirectly enroll another 5000 children into primary schools.

**Background**

Education is a source of social illumination. It carries an unusual ability to drive great change and change on its own sphere is contagious. UNICEF recently announced that over 10.5 million children are out of school in Nigeria. UNESCO hence defined out of school children as children of school age that have due to one reason or the denied access of going to school. In year 2013, Nigeria was ranked to be having world’s highest number of children out of school. The United Nations has also advocated the use of provision of quality education as valuable tool to fight and eradicate terrorism in the world.

**Farm to School Project (FSP);** **plan to directly enroll 1000 children into primary school within one year and brand these children as project ambassadors to serve as community motivation among other children and parents who show apathy to children education.** One year is a short time but the long term effect on the communities involved will outlive the project duration and build full consciousness of the positive impact hidden in education and thereby become delectable partner that will mobilize other communities to embrace and support children education.

**Strategy**

This project plan is to engage a unique strategy that is scalable, inclusive, transferable and sustainable.

Scalable in such that same strategy can be used anywhere; its inclusiveness will bring all stakeholders onboard, the project will be executed and allow the villagers claim ownership and this will guarantee sustainability on the long run.

**Project/Parents Partnership (PPP).** This tool will conduct counseling sessions through the one year project duration. The focus of this sessions is to disabuse the mindset of the communities on the idea that children are farming tools and re-orientate them to realize that their long time backwardness in all areas of social infrastructures is anchored on the fact that over 96% of their community have always being living in the bracket of one of the worst layer of illiteracy. At these sessions, videos of possible developmental activities like; portable water, good roads, health care facilities, electricity and other life support social services, which when their children become educated and given good offices in future can facilitate and successfully bring into their community will be shown to them. All in an effort to change their culture of children education neglect.

The successful rebirth of these communities will further influence other social amenities that are lacking in almost all the villages. As at today, Abuja FCT rural villages does not have clean water, they survive on stream that most times get contaminated by cows from the cattle rearers through which most of the children contract infections and mostly die since there are no healthcare facilities to help in such times. No access road and lots of more life support facilities which on an inclusive long term package will be delivered to the communities through **Farm To School Project.**

**Project/Teachers Partnership (PTP)** is to be used as monitoring and sustainability plan to ensure quality result and efficient follow up on children and parents.

**Project Objectives**

1. To change the mindset of parents from seeing children as farming tools to happily enrolling them into school.
2. To increase through direct enrollment; number of pupils in school by 500% at the completion of the project.
3. To set a project example that will become a model and training format for other organizations working in rural communities.

**Project Activities**

Farm to School Project (FSP) will among other activities do the following;

1. **Advocacy Visit to village heads:** **Farm to School Project** will pay project visit to community heads and his cabinet members to introduce the project formally to them and explain all the benefits they and their entire community stand to gain both on the long and short run from the successful execution of the project.
2. **Community Town Hall Meetings:** For inclusive cooperation and actions, the project will organize and hold town hall meeting with community members to first disorientate them and then re-orientate them on the subject of children education and its invaluable benefits.
3. **Teacher’s Training:** the training will boost the capacity of the resident teachers to understand the vision of the project and align themselves with it in order to ensure its success and equip them with all the needed technical skills for project adoption and sustainability.
4. **Volunteer’s Training**
5. **Enrolment campaign**
6. **Pupils’ Registration**
7. **Pupils’ School Retention Training**

**Expected Results**

1. At the end of this project, 1000 children will successfully be in school under the **Farm to School Project (FSP)** with the funding for this Project, while 5000 other children is expected to be mobilized through **Parents/Project Partnership (PPP)** counseling sessions that is envisioned to motivate the parents to pick up a voluntary habit of enrolling their kids into school**.**
2. The communities is expected to have a changed behavior towards children right to education.
3. The community is expected to become a reference point for educational social and development project for local and international organizations.
4. The implications of child’s labour would have been understood and vowed against at the end of the project.

**Project Organization**

DEAN Initiative is a service organization envisioned to lead a social transformation through youth empowerment and leadership. It utilizes advocacy activities to promote the development of rural communities in the areas of children’s education, potable water supply, healthcare facilities, and agricultural development.

**SOME PREVIOUS AND CURRENT PROJECTS**

* **One Kid Project** (Education for Rural Kids)

One Kid Project currently has over 300 children fully enrolled into primary school within 15 communities of Abuja FCT Nigeria.

* **Water for Life Project**

Lack of potable water remains a predominant issue among the rural communities in Abuja. With six Area Councils and several local villages, outsiders often misconstrue Abuja to be a perfect territory with little or no social and infrastructural challenges. Even Abuja residents often find it hard to believe that there are areas near them where children are dying simply because they lack access to clean water. However this is a reality.

This project has been built on public support which has led to its huge success. Three (3) communities have benefited from this project with each having Boreholes running in their villages and more boreholes contracted already.

* **Green Land Project (GLP)**

GLP is an agricultural initiative developed to educate young people in rural communities on modern farming techniques, farm produce management and profitable marketing channels in order to improve their lifestyle.

The project is currently working with a 100 youths in Rafindaji Village of Abaji Area Council in Abuja.

* **One Child, One Net Project**

One Child, One Net was created in response to the Malaria threat that faces rural communities in Abuja and Lagos. The focus of this project is to ensure that every child in these communities has one mosquito net.

This project is fully funded by the Iba Foundation and is executed by the DEAN Initiative in conjunction with the Iba Foundation. Over ten communities in Lagos and three communities in Abuja have been covered by this project.

**The organization: DEAN Initiative**

The interesting thing about DEAN Initiative is that our story is that of solving community problems that lead to visible CHANGE; A Change from hopelessness into a new dawn of social development realities. We are writing the story of CHANGE in the face of a painful journey of HOPE.

**Structure**

DEAN Initiative has as stakeholders, reputable organizations who over the years have consistently participated in monitoring, funding and reporting our grand breaking projects. Major among who are;

1. Channels Television
2. Community Leaders
3. Radio Nigeria (Kapital FM)
4. Development Synergy
5. AFRICMIL
6. CEDA SEED Foundation
7. IBA Foundation

Others are individuals who provide funding as acts of philanthropist and always plead that their names stays unmentioned.

**Management Staff**

DEAN Initiative operates with 64 volunteers and seven members of staff.

**Staff List:**

**Larayetan Michael: Project Coordinator**

Michael has BSc. In Business Management from University of Abuja and has worked with two leading NGOs in the country.

**Bamidele Ruth: Senior Supervisor**

Mrs. Bamidele is a PhD student. She is a teacher, scholar and researcher on community development, international relations and international development. Her areas of research interest include education, gender equality and rural development. She is also a member of the International Studies Association ISA and International Association for Community Development IACD.

**James Oluwole: Project Accountant**

Oluwole is trained personnel on NGO accounting works. He obtained is first degree in Accounting from University of Abuja; Worked with USAIDS and IFDC.

**Olorunsegun Naomi: Director Programs**

Naomi is a graduate of English Language with over four years working experience in the NGO sector.

**Adekunle Olamide: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer**

Olamide is a Lawyer with multiple trainings on the field of M&E.

**Aniekan Bassey: Child Protection Officer**

**Project Coordination**

This project will be coordinated by DEAN Initiative’s operational staff working in conjunction with our dedicated volunteers and stakeholders whose interests are deeply connected to seeing the project succeed.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

The M&E Officer with her team will set progress report agenda on the following scales;

Implementation progress report: This report will assess each phases of the project implementation.

Project impact report: this report will first be done when the project reach 50% implementation level and then when project is 100% implemented.

**Indicators**

1. When community leaders begin to on their own advocate child’s right to education
2. When parents starts willingly releasing their children for school enrollment
3. When children start embracing the act of daily going to school
4. When the numbers of pupils in school increase by our target number
5. When teachers stops complaining about poor attitude of community members towards children education

**Evaluation Report**

The Evaluation report will be carried out on Early report which be made available one month after the completion of the project, while the second part of the Amount evaluation report which is Project Output Evaluation report will be made available six months after project completion.

**Assessment of opportunities and risks**

There are no doubts that this project carries a considerable desired opportunities; such as immediate reduction of illiteracy, urban and rural partnership for improved agricultural activities, teachers commitment to making change, government and media interest and a world record increase in school enrolment.

There are impending risks among which are; **hostility** from host community as a result of their predominant believe that they own their children and could use them as desired, hence can become violent to such project programmed to change their view of life. **Accessibility:** especially if this the project falls on raining season, access roads to the community poses a great risk to its logical pursuit.

**Politically,** it is also assumed that politicians who hold public offices whose responsibilities are to serve the economic and social needs of such community may find the project as a threat to exposing their fraudulent practices and may come up policies or announcement that may jeopardise the successful completion of the project.

But in view of the new trend in government policies and positive agendas now being set, with successful collaborations that has helped achieved previous project located in similar terrains, the project is worth all effort and inputs, as success is practically achievable.

Defeating hostility and political instability through a sincere stakeholders collaboration and adopting the local means of movement to access the community during the difficult times will mean additional time to project’s life’s span.

**If democracy will do human being any good, Education remains the vehicle through which it can be achieved.**