Whispering Hope Africa Initiative (WHAIafrica)

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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WHAIafrica… Empowering Lives

Whispering Hope Africa Initiative (WHAIafrica)

WHO WE ARE:

WHAIafrica is a non-profit organization, committed to building healthy generations of women and youths living in the slum/rural communities or effected by HIV/AIDS, educate them to become entrepreneurial and engaged citizens who are empowered to take responsibility of their own lives and make a difference in the society.



WHAIafrica addresses gaps in the provision of capacity building to women and youth in the rural communities, thus provides a platform designed to inspire, motivate, mentor and empower them to achieve their best and become financially independentOur goal is to educate, empower and provide entrepreneurial opportunities to our target group. We value the potentials in them and provide them with the tools to create positive change in their lives and communities. Under our mentoring program, we mobilize committed, experienced and knowledgeable individuals as mentors for the purpose of developing leadership and

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entrepreneurial potentials of our target group.



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Our Target Group:

- ★ People living with/affected by HIV;
- ★ Vulnerable women and girls
- ★ Youth living in informal communities

Our Mission:

To improve the lives of our target group through capacity building, venture creation, skill development and access to resources.

Our Vision:

To see our target group equipped and financially independent, become exceptional leaders and entrepreneurs.





From the desk of the Executive Director



On behalf of the WHAIafrica's Board of Trustees, I share the 2020 Annual Report. In our four years of active operations, we have discovered that data is the key to successful program plans. Hence it took us two years+ of fieldwork and studies in Ayamelum to gather data on girl-child marriage and school dropout. This aided us in the intervention plan developed and the project launched in October 2020 with sponsorship from the World Connect, USA.

With the COVID-19 in 2020, the world is a different place now, many things are changing but WHAIafrica's vision and mission remain the same while our programming approach has to keep evolving, taking into account the changes the pandemic and technological advancement have brought to the slums and rural communities in which we work.

Due to the pandemic in 2020, our programming model was adjusted to ensure we save and protect the lives of our beneficiaries. To this end, we supported 300 indigent families of people living with HIV with emergency food support to cushion the effect of poor feeding which complicates their health. Schools were closed for months, our target beneficiaries cannot afford devices for online learning for their kids, who went into hawking and some causing nuisance on the streets.

We brought in tech volunteers who taught the kids basic computers skills, coding and programming languages for free. We continue to preach the gospel of STEM Education and help the few parents living in the slums acquire computers their kids need for learning. We carried other projects in rural communities. Where there is no road, we either use a speed boat or risk our car just to get in to keep improving the literacy skills of public school students, educate & sensitize the community stakeholders. More about these activities & achievements in the coming pages.

In 2021, more of our project will be tilted to the north east, Borno and Adamawa states to help save, empower and impact lives of displaced women, children and youth caused by the Boko Haram insurgency. We have finalized every registration and documentations with required agencies in both states.

Udegboka, Nkechi (Ada Africa)

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2020 0verview





★ Over 500 students from 8 public primary secondary schools were impacted on Basic, Digital and Financial Literacy.

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★ Launched Local2Global project in Ayamelum LGA of Anambra state to fight the high school drop outs and girl-child marriage.

★ 3500 books were donated to 3 adopted schools in Ayamelum LGA.

★ Conducted capacity building for 40 women on Tony Elumelu grant application process in partnership with NACCIMA Business Women group.

★ Trained community facilitators from Igbakwu and Omor communities on SDGs, Sex Education, Addressing Girls' Health, EmpoweringGirls toLead Change, Personal Development Goals and visioning for 2021. This was to enable them to train the girls in their respective communities.



★ 34 pupils in 4 public primary and secondary schools were reached and impacted through the "Teach Kids To Code" project where they got exposed to coding skills and

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educational games during the Covid-19 lock down.

★ Over 50 youths across the state were trained and mentored on vocational skills, Entrepreneurship and Business Plan writing.

★ Anambra Broadcasting Service(ABS) media crew visited WHAI Resource Centre on 20th of August 2020 and met the kids learning digital skills after which they did a 30-minute video documentary on WHAIafrica activities which was aired over the internet. Video link https://youtu.be/_WqGHP7feng



* Step down training on storytelling and fundraising for entrepreneurs on 6/09/2020: After undergoing a training from the Lagos Business School on

Storytelling and Fundraising, the ED selected few emerging entrepreneurs to step down the learning and how to professionally structure their enterprise.

The session was mind blowing that pulled the startups to start making immediate implementation of new skills and knowledge learnt. Not every start-up who indicated interest to participate was selected but only those with determination and willingness to affect immediate change.



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OUR WORK

Education



Education is one of the most critical areas of empowering girls, hence, the need to bring the girls back to school and get them acquainted with formal education where possible as it is one of the tools that shapes one's future to live a fulfilled life.

The rate of out of school girls is alarming in Ayamelum LGA;girls between the age of 11-14 years drop out of school because some parents in Ayamelum still encourage girl-child marriage mainly due to poverty, and/or to prevent them from unwanted pregnancy.

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While for the girls, they get into early marriage mainly because of parental pressure and peer pressure (most of their teen mates are married and they can't be left alone). These girls have no value of their own; they are ignorant and sometimes forced into marriage. WHAIafrica sets out to intervene through the L2G project in two communities, Omor and Igbakwu, where the girls and the teenage mothers are sensitized to build a healthy self-esteem and understand the value of education.

Capacity Building: Leadership and Management

Building Youth capacity is a holistic intervention which integrates life skills, entrepreneurial skill, vocational skill, leadership, and mentoring. It is a "Safe Space" initiative which targets youth aged 14-35 from economically disadvantaged



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communities who lack access to relevant skills, knowledge, and limited job opportunities which entrenched them to poverty.

Through WHAI capacity building programs, over 50 youth beneficiaries across the state are now generating income from their ideas and talents after undergoing mentorship under WHAIafrica.



Entrepreneurship Development

In order to reduce poverty and help our target group afford basic needs, it is necessary to develop entrepreneurial and financial management skills of vulnerable women and youths living in slum/rural communities. Experience from years of

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implementing entrepreneurship programs for women and youths shows that the high poverty levels among participants is not primarily as a result of lack of resources but is also due to a lack of basic entrepreneurship skill. WHAIafrica subsequently conducted six training sessions both online and onsite on how to access business grants and Financial Literacy with over 100 women and youths across the globe.



Overall, WHAIafrica empowerment program provided means for our beneficiaries to startup sustainable enterprise and we built their capacity towards transforming their lives and creating achievable business goals.

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International Days

International Women's Day (IWD) - March 8th

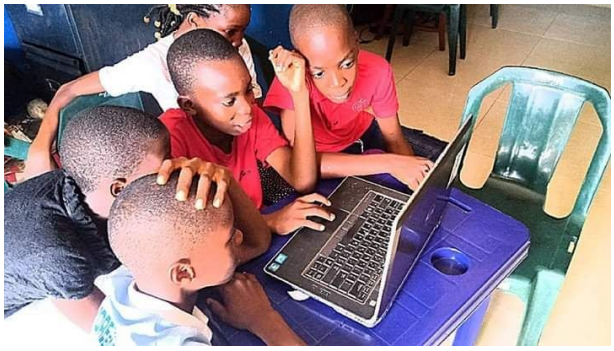


WHAIafrica as a capacity building organization was specially invited by NACCIMA Business Women Group (NAWORG), Anambra State Chapter, where

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we exhaled some business tips and guide women on startup an enterprise. We also showcased OmaAfri handcrafted work which was appreciated by Dame Virge Etiba, the former acting Governor of Anambra State.

World Day Against Child Labour & Day of the African Child



Thousands of kids in our slums and rural communities are ‘displaced’, hawking all around, not learning online or having access to electronic gadgets to learn with, like their counterparts in the cities.

Parents in these rural areas send their kids to farm all day making these children lift implements heavier than their age. These families do not have the finance to engage their kids in any academic lesson, they have no access to mobile gadgets for online learning, hence they send their kids out to make money through hard labour to enable them meet the family's basic needs.

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To mark the both days in June 2020, WHAI designed graphic images which were used in various social media handles to campaign against child labour. This created awareness on how COVID-19 kept the slum/ rural kids out of school, and ways we are helping to engage and save them.

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day (MSME Day)

Research shows that Small scale industries are the backbone of economies of developing countries. They account for 60-70% of total employment and 50% of GDP.

To mark the **MSME Day 2020** on 27th June 2020, the ED, on behalf of WHAIafrica engaged in free mentorship to over 46 startups who signed up online to be mentored on their respective business structures.

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From the mentoring session, discovered that 95% of startups who participated will leave their enterprise if offered a good paying job.

The theme "COVID-19: The Great Lockdown and its impact on Small Business"

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World Youth Skill Day - July 15th

World Youth Skills2020 was celebrated with the theme, **'Skills for a Resilient Youth in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond'.** Millions of youths are kept out of jobs by lack of skills. However, obtaining some skills could help them reach their full potential. With the COVID-19, the skills youths need to find, remain in a job or keep business afloat keep changing. Millions of young people still lack access to 21st century skills, some only hold on to their certificates.



To mark the day, WHAIafrica featured in series of media programs; from Good morning Anambra -- the breakfast TV show onAnambra Broadcasting Service where John Onuigbo and Queen Constance, our startup mentee represented us; at Blaze FM,

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Udegboka Tessie Nkechi repped us and finally at City Radio where the trio of our Nkechi, John Onuigbo and Chinyere Ezinwa represented WHAIafrica. On each of the live programs, youths and listeners were sensitized on: theme for the year, tips on developing their raw talents, abilities and competencies they need to succeed**.** It was all shades of positive outcomes as young persons and parents expressed gratitude for the impactful talks and discussion on air. The callers were also inquisitive to understand themselves and the careers to venture into.



WHAIafrica activities to mark the World Youth Skills Day yielded fruits as His Excellency, Governor Willie Obiano put a call across to support a shoe cobbler, Queen Constance, a startup we have

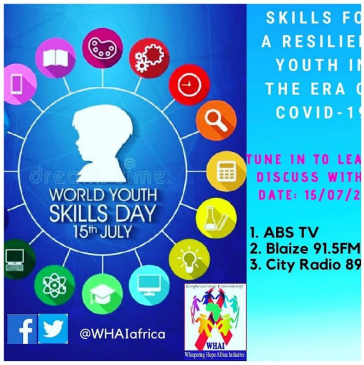
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been mentoring over the months. This happened after the governor watched the breakfast show, 'Good Morning Anambra' featuring WHAIafrica, focusing on Youth Skills and he has made a big promise that will establish her business. Constance didn't receive the call from the governor because of her certificate. She has a skill and WHAIafrica helped her refine, develop and monetize it to serve the society. This is what we do for the vulnerable youth with talents.***"THAT CERTIFICATE IS NOT ENOUGH, ADD A SKILL TO IT"***









Nelson Mandela Day – July 18th

In commemoration of the 2020 Nelson Mandela day, WHAIafrica went live on Facebook on 18th July 2020.

The event was facilitated by WHAIafrica Volunteer, Jane Achukwu where she gave a brief description of Nelson Mandela's life and why the day is been celebrated. The Executive Director made a presentation on the theme of the day which

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is "**Redefining Leadership in African communities**" She cited examples of leadership legacies Nelson Mandela left for the young African leaders. We want to groom leaders in informal communities amidst the covid-19 that will impact their lives and that of their communities. The program achieved its objective of creating awareness on leadership and how it can shape one's future. Many questions and comments were entertained.

The 2020 International Youth Day-12th August

WHAIafrica collaborated with the Ministry of Youth Empowerment and Creative Economy to mark the day.



The keynote address was delivered by the Honorable Commissioner, Ministry of Youth and Empowerment and Creative Economy in the person of Prof. Theresa Nkechi Obiekezie. She

emphasized that the 2020 event was a special one because youths were recognized by the world as catalysts to bring about change and this sheds light on the need to involve youths in the policy making by getting them involved in the 3 tiers of government.



The Executive Director of WHAIafrica as one of the panelists, stressed that it's time the youths start engaging themselves by learning available modern skills in order to meet up with the future of work demand. "This is the core of our work, building the capacities of youth, and exposing them to opportunities that would enable them startup sustainable enterprise", she said.

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY- 19th AUGUST

On the Humanitarian Day 2020, we chose to celebrate all who recently through their concerns and generosity have helped WHAIafrica in rescuing the affected vulnerable students and women in disadvantaged communities we work. It's been a disaster to all of us, yet they chose to support in saving and improving lives amid COVID-19 economic effects. They deserve to be celebrated!

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Humanitarians like them (just 6 in number), sacrificed their own comfort and lives to save others; they responded to the needs of our target groups as if they were their family members. Knowing they supported, motivates and strengthens us to do more to impact lives.

With excitement from all our beneficiaries, we transmit the same and officially recognize them and several others alike who would desire to impact lives with $5 or more.

On this World Humanitarian Day, we called on people to find a way to either support, volunteer, or partner with WHAIafrica.

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WORLD LITERACY DAY- SEPT 8






WHAI leverages on meeting the SDGs targets hence opens up WHAI Resource Center to offer free digital skills to the underprivileged kids who have not been opportuned to use a computer prior to this time.

WHAIafrica committed that kids in the informal settings must continue to learn during and after the pandemic.

Surprisingly, the kids are learning fast and some are already coding and learning more programming languages.

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Thanks to all our supporters and motivators. The free tech skills weren't easy for us but the passion and positive results keep us going.

To mark the International Literacy Day 2020, few selected kids from the informal settings undergoing WHAIafrica' free digital skills started the Arduino programming language. The selected kids are meant to coach other kids on how to code with Arduino uno.

They started with learning about basic electronics, touching and feeling every component. The kids extracted the Arduino raw file from the internet, copied it onto the flash drive and went round the laptops to install the software themselves. After the installations, learning about electronics, watching some videos on how Arduino works, they are set to



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start learning the codes after which they build their own project.
It was so fun and exciting for the kids that some wouldn't want to go home again. Thanks to the volunteer student engineers, Ezea Emmanuel and Godstime Okemeziem and our supporters making the students useful during the pandemic.
On World Literacy Day, the slum kids code while we watched.

International Day of The Girl Child

To commemorate the International Day of the Girl-child, the current Miss Nigeria, Beauty Etsanyi Tukura launched the 'Girls Lead Club', an initiative of Whispering Hope Africa Initiative (WHAI). The launching took place at Community secondary School, Omor, Ayamelum local government area of Anambra state on the 11th of October, 2020.









While Launching the Girls Lead Club, Miss Nigeria told the students that education was an indispensable aspect of their life which they

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should take seriously. She added that the Girls Lead Club was a great opportunity for them to share their views, values, and aspirations. She encouraged the students to key into the project, follow the instructions and get involved in every club activity.

She pleaded with students not to engage in early child marriage but to remain focused in acquiring education first.
“The Girls Lead Club is an opportunity to air your voice. In every opportunity you have, try to acquire a skill because no skill would be a waste. As students, try to be



firm in your decisions so that you would not be forced into early marriage. Therefore, you should remain focused in your studies" Miss Nigeria added.

Also speaking at the event, the wife to the chairman, GUO Transport Company and proprietress of Supreme Knowledge Comprehensive School, Dr. Lady Pat Okeke, encouraged students to create a niche for themselves. She added that living in a remote area should not mean they are limited. She told them to discover and harness their talent which they could use to transform their society.

"With education, women and girls can do amazing things. The club would produce women influencers. This is an opportunity for us to give them the chance and see them transform their community". She added.

The event had about 1000 students from four schools in attendance: Community Secondary School, Omor, Amikwe Secondary School, Omor, Community Secondary School, Igbakwu and Supreme Knowledge Comprehensive School, Nkpor-agu, whose students wowed the participants with their presentation on biofuel enterprise. Miss Omambala and Miss Anakyh including the media and other dignitaries were also in attendance.

The Executive Director of Whispering Hope Africa Initiative, Nkechi Udegboka, said establishing the "Girls Lead Club" in rural communities will help empower female students who are at the verge of dropping out and those already dropped out to return to school.









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In a brief chat with some of the participating students, they described the event as life changing for them and called on fellow girls to learn skills and eschew early marriage.
The customized cake for the Girls Lead Club was cut, snacks, foods and drinks for all, however, the gift bags containing resource booklets, the club's code of conduct and writing materials went to only the 200 members of the club from the three Community Secondary Schools.

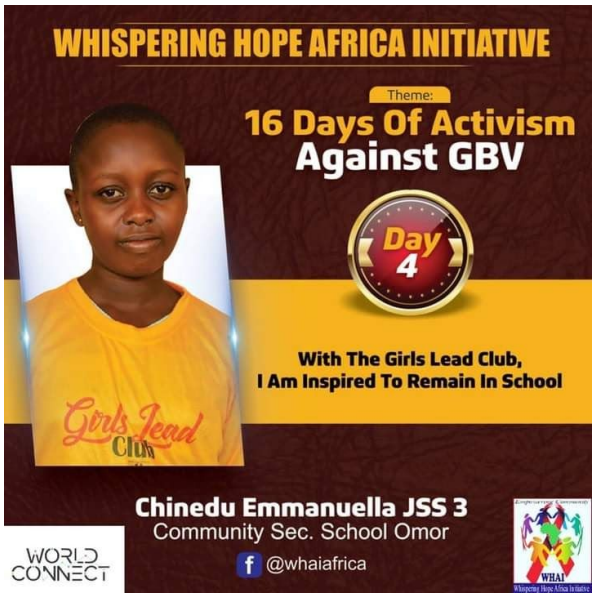
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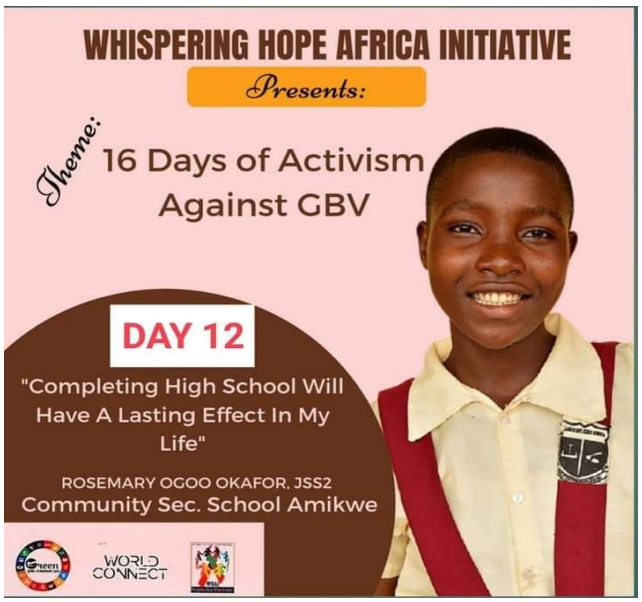
16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which runs from 25 November to 10 December 2020 was a special one for WHAIafrica considering how the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the rates of GBV and school dropouts among the girls in the local communities we work.
The Covid-19 pandemic gripped the vulnerable communities, the women and girls' rights were marched upon, and their insecurity in the communities worsened with high rate of rape and GBV cases.
To mark 16 Days of Activism against the GBV, we acknowledged the stress and difficulties WHAIafrica volunteers pass through to get to those hard-2-reach

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communities. On each day of the 16 days, we featured graphic images with positive quotes from members of our Girls Lead Club talking about their experience with the club. With the Girls Lead Club, the vulnerable girls are getting empowered through capacity building on issues surrounding Gender-Based Violence (GBV).





We urged people to repost, share and comment on our social media handles so as to amplify the Girls' voices; promote their inspirational stories, draw attention to how local women and girls are championing the cause of meeting the SDGs target.

The young women are getting empowered, they now can share their stories of rape, abuse, violence, forced marriage etc and encourage other girls to speak out about any

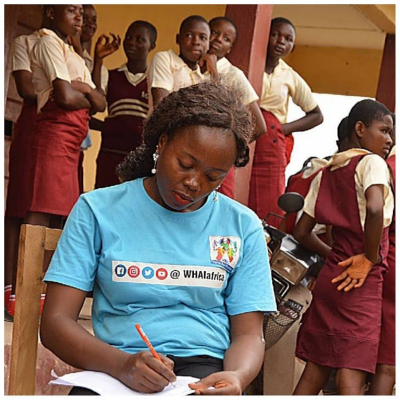
GBV they face. This helps in the mapping and intervention plans. Through the Girls Lead Club, they now talk to a network who believes in them and don't have to stay quiet and die in agony.











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MAJOR PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR 2020

COVID-19 Emergency Food Support

Due to the pandemic in 2020, our programming model was adjusted to ensure we save and protect the lives of our beneficiaries. To this end, we supported 300 indigent families of people living with HIV (PLHIVs) with emergency food support to cushion the effect of poor feeding which complicates their health.
The project was carried out in partnership with the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, US. WHAIafrica distributed the food palliative to 300 poor households living with HIV from 4 support groups and over 40 indigent families from 39 communities in Anambra state.

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The opportunity for food distribution was utilized to sensitize, educate and counsel the beneficiaries. 6 members of YALI network, Anambra, and also volunteer with WHAIafrica led in the counselling, sensitization and distribution of palliatives to indigent People living with HIV.

WHAI's decision to support the PLHIV is based on their vulnerability and the fact that most of them are from poor homes. They are hardly remembered and none of them in the communities we work has received any sort of palliative support. This is in line with





WHAIafrica's mission of bettering lives of PLHIV in poor communities. The joy and expressions from the beneficiaries are overwhelming.

During the project implementation, it was discovered that out of the 300 beneficiaries only 15.7% of the beneficiaries use Smartphones while 84.3% have no access to Smartphones. The few who use/have Smartphones can't make appropriate use of the features/apps like WhatsApp and Email with their phone.

This makes it challenging passing information to them, engaging with them online and/or teaching them how to utilize the internet to grow their small enterprise.

Vweta Chadwick Leadership Summit

WHAIafrica organized Vweta Chadwick Leadership Summit on 18th of November 2020 at School for the Deaf, Odoakpu Asnambra State in collaboration with the Mandela Washington Fellowship Association of Nigeria (MWFAAN) 2016 cohort. The summit aims to break silos created by speech impairment and make disabled students understand that their condition cannot stop them from becoming what God has brought them on earth to do.









It was also part of the project to immortalize late Vweta, a Mandela Washington

Fellow (MWF), who suffered loss of speech, went through several failed surgeries but the internet gave her a voice which she used to conquer. Disable students at School for the Deaf, Odoakpu Onitsha were impacted through presentations, talks and projected short videos of disabled people that made it in life despite the challenges they encountered.

They watched the stories of ***Kabir Mohammed, a MWF,*** who learnt English language by picking newspapers from the dustbin area but today has obtained a Master's degree, teaching English Language and gotten partnership with the US Consulate.
Chinyere Edeh, the first deaf woman in Nigeria to become a barrister, who also founded an NGO, Voice of Disability Initiative, that strives for the rights and inclusion of people with disability; ***Hadiza Kasimu's story*** was also featured and her ignite talk in the US despite her speech/hearing impatient.






The students were astonished at the stories of the MWFs who achieved success despite their disability. They asked questions like if a deaf person can become a lawyer, and if it would be possible for them to become successful in life like those who have no disability? All their questions were answered and doubts cleared.
One of the deaf students in SS2 narrated how she does little jobs after school in order to pay her

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school fees because her parents never supported her the way they should. Her story relates to few others who do the same to remain in school.

5 indigent but brilliant deaf students who are finding it difficult continuing their education and two already dropped out students were identified and offered transport scholarships while we appeal for support for the 3 others at N8000 ($21) per term or $63 per academic year.









30 deaf female students participated in the summit with 6 sign language teachers and the school principal. Awakwe Maureen Ifenyinwa, one of the sign language teachers on behalf of the students and the school thanked WHAIafrica for organizing such an event which has changed the perspective of their deaf students.

CAN YOU JOIN US SUPPORT ONE OF THE DEAF STUDENTS?

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20K MONTHLY GIVEAWAY CHALLENGE



The idea was initiated and sponsored by our supporters based in the US. The challenge is for small scale startup entrepreneurs who need small funds to restart their business after the COVID-19 lockdown. ELIGIBILITY: Youths (18-35) and Women (No age limit). They must be running a business/have a startup business plan in a slum or rural community in Nigeria and must fall within the target group.

The challenge participants uploaded a 1 min video on social media pitching their business and showing

how the mini grant of 20k will help the business. WHAIafrica is tagged in each video and with the hashtag #WHAIgiveaway.

Since the target is for petty traders and slum/rural based, they were given the opportunity to apply by proxy for some of them might not own a smartphone but the owner of the business must be the person to speak in the video in either Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba or English.

All entries correctly submitted were reviewed monthly and a winner emerged for each month. The winners were announced on 30th of every month from August to Dec. 2020. Winners also qualify for free business mentorship worth N100,000. ($315)

The winners were:

1. Balogun Suliyat, hawks kitchen utensils in Oyo state
2. Lawal Oluwabunmi, into solar lamps in Bwari Area Council, FCT
3. Ifesinachi Asogwa Onwumelu, hawks ice fish in Umuoji, Anambra
4. Edward Oladipupo, shoe cobbler in Osun state
5. Balogun Khadijat, fries snacks in Delta state



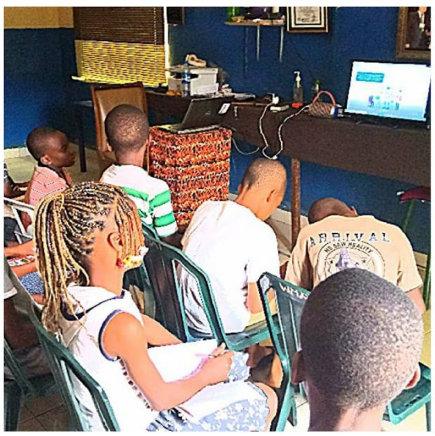


COVID-19 Lockdown Tech Skill Program

Rather than leaving them play all day, wander around the streets and getting into troubles, we thought of ways to engage them with some tech skills. WHAIafrica succeeded in convincing the poor slum-based parents and attracting those kids wandering the streets to start learning computer skills. It was a free program with a commitment token because we know their background and they won't be able to pay. Rather than leave them to keep wandering and getting along with bad peers on the streets, we have to do something to engage. Most of them, it was their first time exposure to 'touching' the computer. We got in two tech volunteers, Ezea Emmanuel and Godstime Okemeziem who are university students to coach the kids. Mr. Uche Nnubia from Abuja sent in transport fare for the volunteers.





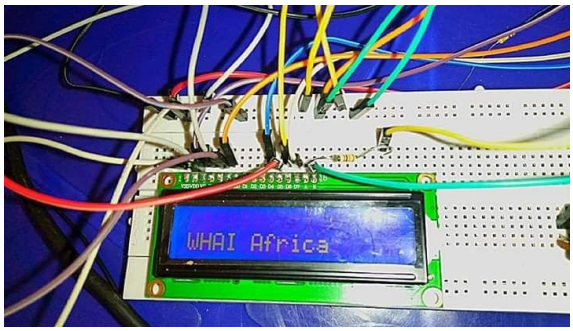




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Within weeks, we are marveled with the digital skills and all the exposures the kids have gotten through the WHAI Resource Centre (WRC). Most started with the typing tutor to computer appreciation, graphics, internet and then to programming. The smart kids who understood the skills faster taught other kids who missed the class or are slow learners. The kids not only learnt but practiced installing Windows OS in one of the laptops, after which they installed a driver pack followed by installing other software onto the laptop.
The kids in the slum learnt Python Programming Language, one of the most popular coding programs. It wasn't a theory class; everything was practical right from the scratch. The kids went online, downloaded the Python and the IDLE, Pycharm raw file and started coding. They copied raw files onto the flash and went round installing the software in all the laptops at the center all by themselves. The students want to learn and do more. They are becoming masters now in software installations.

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More slum students were coming but unfortunately we can't accommodate all because we lack more computers. Due to the shortage of computers to engage all the kids at the same time with the digital skills learning, we split them in batches.
More computers or laptops are needed.



We are looking for refurbished laptops from companies, firms, individuals for donation or at lowest cost so we can keep engaging the students and take them off the street with all the troubles they bring. Can you refer or recommend us to any? It hasn't

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been easy but we would keep pushing! Thanks to our tech volunteers!

The WHAIafrica kids who learnt computer hardware and installations started coaching other kids on how to install software. They also learnt basic electronics with practical knowledge. The kids learnt and saw how the components were positioned inside the computers and why they are so. They also practiced how to fix them.



Local2Global (L2G) Project

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The Local2Global project, supported by the World Connect, US is aimed at empowering rural-based girls to be educationally and economically productive; become decision makers and significant in the society.
The project has a number of components which stretched across two communities, Omor and Igbakwu:
1. Sensitization of the community stakeholders on the importance of allowing girls to complete high school and prevent child marriage through town hall meeting.
2. Establish and launch the **Girls Lead Club** in the select schools: Have 200 girls as members of the club exposed to digital skills and resource booklet
3. Educate parents through the school's Parents Teachers' Association (PTA) meeting and allow the girls participate in the tech programs of the club.
4. Back to school initiative: re-enroll 60 teen mothers and girls into high school while providing digital skill training and resources.

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5. Essay/Debate competition and entrepreneurship exhibition of the beneficiaries' works and mindset change.



The project has attracted a partner from Jamaica, EduTechAid, who is working on providing tablets to empower young girls on technology and digital skills.



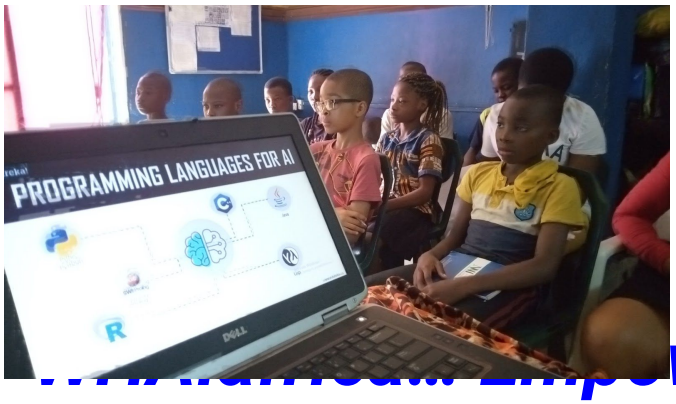
Engaging Kids In The Rural Communities



Money Bag Counting Game Learning Resource donated by Dunkins' family in Chicago in 2017 but none could decipher how to use it. To engage the rural kids, they were tasked during the lockdown to study and understand the game and lo, they discovered how to play it on their own and it has become their favorite that they have to fight for the team to play.

WHAIafrica also acquired the FIRST AFRICAN LEADERSHIP BOARD GAME that supports SDG4 and builds kids on leadership lifestyle and attitude. None of our volunteers could decipher how to play the game.

The kids studied it and hurray, deciphered it. The volunteers only coordinated in explaining what each meant to enable their understanding and applying them in





their lifestyles as they prepared to return to school.
Thanks to the Young Protégé Leadership Foundation for creation of the game.

Igwe Chidume Oranu of Omor Community Endorses Support for L2G Project

On invitation by the traditional ruler of Omor Community to his palace, and before the 70 stakeholders including the President General, the Executive Director, Nkechi Tessie Udegboka gave a summary about WHAIafrica and how the initiative has helped for years in capacity building of young people.
In the last two years, WHAIafrica worked with the Ministry of Education in gathering facts on young girls that are school dropouts and young mothers in Ayamelum LGA. WHAIafrica undertook few other studies, focused group discussions, surveys and spoken to community president general, stakeholders and other community members based on the incidence of high school dropout rate and child-marriage.



WHAIafrica was before the community leaders to re-identify the key issues leading to school dropout and girl-child marriage; and for the stakeholders to look into the key interventions proposed for

g Lives

the L2G project. WHAIafrica has come up with implementation strategies, but with all the intervention plans in place, change cannot happen if the stakeholders and parents are not involved.

The audio message by a victim from the community kick started the discussions. The teacher from Migrant Farmers School (Nweke Fidelis) reminded the other stakeholders that more needs to be done to strengthen the parents' mindset so as to stop sending their girls to farm only rather to school. He also asks us to find ways through which the project will reach the most vulnerable in the community.



The discussions and dialogue facilitated ideas that will promote girls education and empowerment. The stakeholders' willingness, support and commitment to the implementation of the L2G project intervention plans were secured.

The traditional ruler, Igwe Chidume Oranu noted that early-child marriage is on the increase as a result of poverty and parents' mindset which the community is working on to address. He thanked WHAIafrica for bringing the project to his community and

assured his strong support for the project. The Igwe officially introduced WHAIafrica team his cabinet and assigned a High Chief to make sure we get all the support we need in the community.

The President General of Igbakwu thanked WHAI Africa for the good works and promised to organize a campaign to create awareness in the community, and sensitize the people.



WHAIafrica Partners Coscharis Farms on Anaku Youth

WHAIafrica… Empowering Lives

In partnership with Coscharis Farms, WHAIafrica, had a focus group discussion in August 2020 involving the youths in Anaku community of Ayamelum LGA. 34 youths (26 males and 8 females) participated excluding four staff members from Coscharis Farms and WHAIafrica.



We had 11 question-discussion guides that enabled us to understand more of their challenges and the interventions they seek for. The discussion went on for an hour and 30 minutes. During the discussion, we were made to understand that the major problems they as youths face in the Anaku community include their lack in basic skills needed for them to thrive e.g. education and entrepreneurship. Most of the youths who live on hard drugs are mainly school dropouts.

Sharing some of the challenges they are facing in their community, we understood that youth restiveness, drug abuse, lack of education and entrepreneurship skills constitute a huge problem. Lack of modern agricultural skills and facilities also pose a huge threat as they narrated that a good number of them have been duped on several occasions trying to access loans.

The participants showed signs of excitement for the engagement and requested for more of such once in a while and at the same time pleaded we start training them on some of the issues arising from the discussion.

From the discussion, we can deduce their pressing needs are: Value re-orientation; Train on agricultural skill; Capacity building on entrepreneurship including financial literacy; Booking keeping and



Lives

business structuring (for easy loan assessment); Providing access to market for their farm produce as sometimes they sell below the cost price.
It was recommended to the Coscharis Farms that the foremost need is value orientation to turn around their mindsets and promote confidence. Once their mindset is changed and positive, it will help every other intervention to work and be well received.he GBV, girls' education, child-marriage and issues relevant to women and girls.

The Travel Experience of Working In Ayamelum LGA

Carrying out the community service in Ayamelum has not been an easy one. It remains one of the hard-2-reach communities especially during the raining season. The WHAIafrica volunteers do not relent; they take all the risks to get in and improve the lives of the vulnerable people in those communities.
The journey to Omor, the venue for the launch of the Girls Lead Club began smoothly until we got to the Anaku road which was flooded. There are about 8 vehicles on the convoy including two buses conveying the guests for the event.
At the flooded point, the water level has risen and covered the whole road that people use canoes to cross over. It took an hour for the pre-arranged tractor to appear, which we all mounted on to convey the guests and dignitaries to other end of the road for the journey to continue. All the vehicles on the convoy parked as it is risky driving through the flood.



School is a bit flooded





Observation the names who dropped out from the school register



WHAIafrica's project vehicle has once been heavily damaged by the flood.
About three lengthy portions of the flooded road were crossed before we got to the end of

npowering Lives

Ekenedilichikwu Farms, where all boarded vehicles that conveyed all to the event venue, Community Sec. School Omor. It was a scary experience for the visitors who asked if this was what the volunteers passed through to access the communities.
On getting to the flooded part after the event, there was no tractor on site and it was getting late, hence the speed boat without life jackets was used to cross over to where the vehicles were parked. It was an excursion-like for those who took the speed boat as it was their first time experience of a boat ride. They didn't know a community with such a challenge exists in Anambra state.

The journey to and fro Ayamelum was not easy but worth the experience of what the people from the region suffer.



VIDEO LINK OF THE JOURNEY
https://youtu.be/HqioJ6sc-kU

WHAIafrica... Empowering Lives

Girls Lead Club Established in Two Communities

Girls Lead Club is a safe space to develop the positive mindsets of vulnerable girls with provision of learning opportunities as well as giving the girls and teen mothers access to new knowledge and skills. It is for the education, protection and safeguarding of vulnerable girls from dropping out of school and/or getting into early marriages.



Girls Lead Club is existing in 3 Community Secondary Schools in Ayamelum LGA and through it, has been encouraging and supporting the young women to return to school and complete their education. The Club is also sensitizing their parents on the effects of early marriage, the importance of education, digital skills etc.

Through the club, the young women are learning about their rights, including sexual, reproductive and health rights, and how to stay safe in a world where being female often carries many risks and dangers. The Club is broadening their horizons, and exposing them to role models and opportunities that will help reshape their lives.

WHAIafrica... Empowering Lives

Three Community Facilitators were trained, who on weekly basis are engaging and empowering the members of the club on different areas like Sustainable Development Goals, Sex Education, Addressing Girls Health, Empowering Girls to Lead Change, Personal Development, Visioning and Goal Setting for 2021 etc using video clips, presentations, case studies and exercises. WHAIafrica team monthly offers them counseling; socio-economic, tech and life skill exposures.



The girls are gradually developing new aspirations, which are leading to a renewed commitment to staying in school and delaying marriage. The program is helping the young girls to discover their talents and utilize them to better their lives and communities.
Girls Lead Club members meet monthly to empower themselves and help other girls and teen mothers build healthy self-esteem, learn skills, craftwork and discuss enterprising careers. The club leaders received top notch training on leadership and development to enable them continue championing the cause in the pilot communities and schools.

WHAIafrica... Empowering Lives

Girls Lead Club has a well-defined code of conduct and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) guiding their activities. There is also a Club Anthem composed by WHAIafrica volunteer, John Onuigbo. The girls will grow and be at the vanguard of movement for girls' education, gender-equity, women's rights and a voice to be reckoned with in their respective communities.
VIDEO LINK https://youtu.be/RQg7pWS-3Q0

Anambra Ministry of Health to Collaborates with WHAI's Girls Lead Club
...as Miss Nigeria Pushes for Educational Stability

The Anambra State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Vincent Okpala during the Breast Cancer Week promised to collaborate with Girls Lead Club initiated by Whispering Hope Africa Initiative (WHAIafrica).
He made this statement during a courtesy visit by the WHAIafrica team including the current Miss Nigeria, Beauty Etsanyi Tukura on 14th October 2020 at his office.
While welcoming the team, the Commissioner for Health said that the Ministry was working hard to educate young girls and women on the need to enhance their personal hygiene by proffering better ways to sensitize them on health education and personal development.
He added that the Breast Cancer Awareness was another opportunity the Ministry was using to reach out to women in such communities where WHAIafrica works. He said that the Ministry has a school health programme which was in the same vision with the Girls Lead Club

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He thanked the team for the Girls Lead Club Initiative, adding that it was important for women to know about their personal growth and development. In a special way, he thanked the WHAIafrica's team for aligning to work with the girl child. He said the Girls Lead Club is a noble project that would impact the society greatly.

"The Girls Lead Club is a good idea. If we raise a girl well, we raise a nation. This is why it is important for girls to understand their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing" he added

In her remarks, the 43rd Miss Nigeria, Beauty Tukura said that the Girls Lead Club was a platform to get young girls involved and to make them educationally stable. She added that the club was aimed at grooming girls especially the vulnerable and establishing them so that they can teach others even without the physical presence of their mentors. The club was aimed at reaching the 36 States in Nigeria and pleaded for support and collaboration.

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"It is our dream of reaching the 36 States in Nigeria with the core aim of targeting vulnerable girls...

Entrepreneurial Development And Skills Acquisition Training Facilitated By Senator Uche Ekwunife



On invitation by the Senator and the Ministry of Science and Technology, the ED of WHAIafrica, Udegboka Tessie Nkechi, chaired a session on Building a Sustainable Food Enterprise at Senator Uche Ekwunife Center in Awka on 26th November, 2020 She exposed participants on steps

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to achieving a sustainable business. She highlighted processes such as feasibility study, writing a business plan and identifying a problem or frustration that requires a solution.
The facilitator particularly noted the difference between a business and entrepreneurship. While a business is solely focused on making money, entrepreneurship is a process which offers a solution to a vital societal problem and creates a business that solves the problem.

The participants while responding, asked questions and sought clarifications on gray areas. They appreciated the session and expressed enthusiasm that the training outcomes will equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge they require to build a sustainable business enterprise

Mentored School and Entrepreneurs Won National Challenge Competitions

Beyond School Community Challenge is an annual Competition, organized by the Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni Association (MWFAAN) in partnership with the US Consulate in Nigeria. The competition is about students identifying problems in their community and finding solutions to those problems.
Coincidentally, our volunteer, John Onuigbo was the teacher mentor for the chosen challenge idea of the



Queen of the Rosary College, Onitsha while our ED, Nkechi, being a Mandela Washington Fellow was assigned fromLagos by the organizers to mentor and prepare the students for the virtual competition. 10 schools shortlisted from different states in Nigerian were to compete for the finals.

Both John and Nkechi spent sleepless nights and days preparing the students for the completion and on the D-Day, TEAM ARTECHUBS of Queen of the Rosary College, Onitsha clinched the 1st position.

Ezea Emmanual, our tech volunteer, who is also undergoing free mentorship under WHAIafria, won the 2nd place at the Ugwumba Enterprise Challenge held in Abuja. Emmanuel was very meticulous and was abiding by all the mentoring and enterprise tasks given to him**.** Satisfied with the growth seen in him, he was coached on business writing and applying for opportunities.

He came across the Ugwumba Enterprise Challenge and started working on the application. We structured and rated his application and the business was shortlisted for the finals in Abuja. We began the journey of preparing him and the business for the final competition in Abuja.









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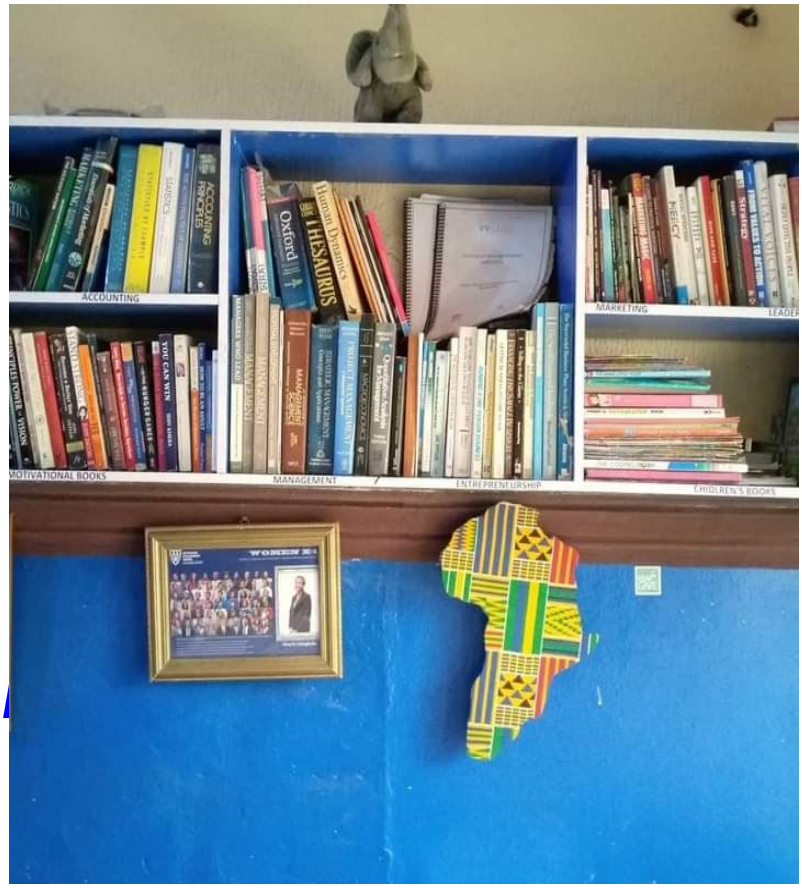
Our ED, showed up at the event which was held at the International Conference Centre, Abuja to cheer and support him and lo, we won and took 2nd place with a grant of N750,000.

Additional Bookshelf Attracting More Readers

With books donated by Emily J. Hart from Canada, we lack space in our book shelf to place them for easy pick from the numerous walk-in beneficiaries to WHAI Resource Centre.

In July 2020, we constructed a new shelf and placed the books which have attracted more readers than when they were placed in cartons.

We have a book range for children, students, start-ups etc. They are all for free for our beneficiaries to walk in any time to use the facilities we have in the Resource



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Centre or borrow books. They sign in to pick a book and return within a duration of 30 days.
WHAIafrica wants to see those living in the informal setting succeed in life.

Meet Our Volunteers





Ezea Emmanuel Chinecherem, is an undergraduate of Engineering at University of Nigeria Nsukka. He volunteers with WHAIafrica as a Grant Writer and graphics designer. Emmanuel is so passionate about helping disadvantaged children acquire digital skills like basic electronics, Arduino programming, OS and Software installation.

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Ezinwa Chinyere, is a graduate of Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University, she volunteers with WHAIafrica as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. She is a Girl-child advocate and has been working to empower young girls on building a healthy self-esteem and preparing them to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Chinyere has keen interests in humanitarian, gender and social change. Her career objective is to diligently work and excel in an environment where she can help in developing others especially women and girls.

Onuigbo John is an undergraduate of Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University, he volunteers with WHAIafrica as Communication Officer. John has been working to empower young people by awarding brilliant minds, providing coaching sessions and preparing them for the fourth industrial revolution.

His career objective is to equip slum and rural youths with necessary skills and providing support systems for their growing start-ups through hands-on inclusive training sessions, tech boot camps, group community projects and exhibitions.

Iwuoba Nkiruka Blessing is a law student at Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University Anambra state. She volunteers with WHAI as Grant writer

Aleke Perpetua Ifeyinwa is an undergraduate student of University of Nigeria Nsukka. She volunteers with WHAIafrica as a Social Media Manager. She has keen interest in modern communication and social media management.

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Bartholomew Marycynthia is an undergraduate student of Adamawa State University, Mubi. She volunteers with WHAIafrica as an Administrative Officer and Adamawa state rep. Her career objective is to provide a fear-free living environment for the Girl-child, for them to know their rights and speak up when they are abused.

Anyabolu Ifeanyichukwu Dominion is a student of Federal College of Dental Therapy and Technology Enugu. He volunteers with WHAIafrica as Project Officer. He has keen interest in Digital soft skills and Technology.

Akwuobi Somtoo Humphrey is an Economic student of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. He acts as the Account Officer.

Read more on our website

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15 Udegboka street, Obosi, Enekwasumpu layout, Obosi.

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