

AJOKE AYISAT AFOLABI FOUNDATION
TEENAGE MOTHERS' EMPOWERMENT PROJECT
PROGRESS REPORT, AUGUST 2023

Nigeria population index reveal that about 44.5 million young women aged between 10-24 years got pregnant in 2016. This figure has increased due to population explosion, and the rising economic hardship. Research on health reveals that this represents the highest death index among teenagers. Unsafe abortion, poor ante-natal care, pregnancy complications, unstable family life, unprepared motherhood are all resultant consequences of teenage pregnancy. Numerous socio-cultural and religious practices, patriarchy contribute to impact how young women are perceived when they get pregnant at an early stage of their lives. Girls who fall pregnant with little or no education face increased levels of poverty and financial dependence.

As a result, the Foundation interventions targets implementing programmes and activities that address the raised concerns. This position informs the design of the Teenage Mothers' Empowerment Project, as a means to educate and skill-up young girls, and, strengthens existing institutions and structures within Abia state and across Nigeria. It is expected that the approach will enhance the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls.

In this regard, 6 girls were enrolled in school and vocational skills training in Abia state in a bid to enhance their economic and leadership capabilities, as well as, strengthen their ability to exercise agency. For girls who dropped out of school due to poverty and stigmatization, this intervention was considered a lifeline. Similarly, efforts at institutional strengthening resulted in the provision of administrative tools to the Nigerian Police in Lagos

Outcome:

The sole candidate enrolled in the 2022/23 West African School Certificate Examination (WASCE) in Abia State scored 100%-Pass as shown in figure 1 below.

Figure 1 Blessing's WASCE Result – 100% Pass

Examination	WASSCE FOR SCHOOL CANDIDATES 2023
Centre	AMAZING GRACE HIGH SCHOOL UMUCHIKATA
Subject/Grade	
DATA PROCESSING	A1
ECONOMICS	B3
CIVIC EDUCATION	B3
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	C4
MATHEMATICS	A1
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE	B3
BIOLOGY	B3
CHEMISTRY	C6
PHYSICS	C4
Card Information	
Card Use	1 of 5
Click Here to Print	

2. Project upscale to improve the Operational efficiency of sexual and gender-based violence response by the Nigerian Police. One HP laptop, a photocopier machine, Wifi and CCTV were

presented to the Gender Unit of the State Criminal Investigation Department of the Nigerian Police, Pantì, Lagos

Figure 2: Presentation of Operational Tools to improve the Gender Unit of Law Enforcement



Project Goals

- i. Eradicate or minimize Teenage Pregnancy and Trafficking in Young Girls
- ii. Strengthen institution and services on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
- iii. Sensitize and educate students and other participants on factors responsible for Teenage Pregnancy and Trafficking in Young Girls.
- iv. Build the capacity of the students to know their rights and acquire the skill to protect these rights, prevent any abuse and also take appropriate actions against any violation of these rights.
- v. Create a platform for interaction between the students and other Stakeholders for collaboration and partnership in order to address causes and also cases of teenage pregnancy and trafficking.
- vi. Stimulate government and community response mechanisms for prompt attention and ownership of initiative.

Project Objectives

- i. To end or reduce the increasing rate of Teenage Pregnancy and Trafficking in Young Girls.
- ii. To provide knowledge and capacity for the students to make informed decisions over their conducts and sex life.
- iii. To create the platform for collaboration and partnership between communities and government institutions for timely response and ownership.