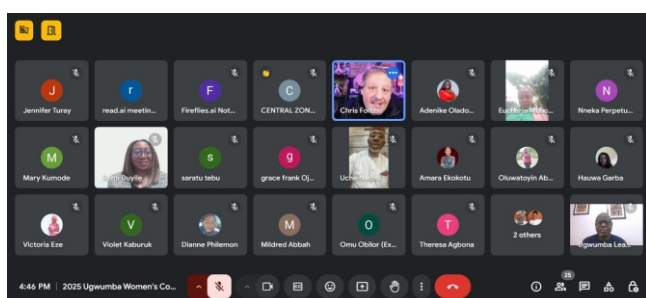




BROCHURE

U-Fund For Women



INTRODUCTION

U-Fund for Women is a grassroots economic empowerment fund dedicated to supporting petty traders, hawkers, and small street sellers—mainly women living in rural communities and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps.

Few weeks before International Women's Day, outreach visits are conducted to rural areas and IDP camps to identify and carefully select Female petty traders who are most in need of support. Selected beneficiaries receive financial assistance, basic business support, and empowerment resources.

The disbursement and empowerment activities are carried out during the celebration of International Women's Day and the Ugwumba Women Academy Annual Conference which happens to be the same period.

The initiative promotes income stability, self-reliance, and dignity for vulnerable women while advancing inclusive grassroots development.

The U-Fund for Women 2025 Empowerment Programme is a flagship grassroots economic empowerment initiative of the Ugwumba Women Academy, designed to support vulnerable women engaged in petty trading, hawking, and small-scale street businesses.

The programme focuses primarily on women living in rural communities and Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps, where access to financial services and livelihood opportunities remains limited.

The initiative was implemented as part of activities marking the 2025 International Women's Day (IWD) celebration and aligned with the 6th Ugwumba Women Conference, themed "Accelerate Action." Through strategic outreach, inclusive engagement, and direct financial intervention, the programme aimed to strengthen women's economic resilience, promote self-reliance, and restore dignity among underserved populations.

Programme Objectives

The key objectives of the U-Fund for Women 2025 were to:

Provide direct financial support to vulnerable women petty traders and

micro-entrepreneurs.

Improve income-generating capacity and business sustainability among beneficiaries.

Support women affected by poverty, displacement, and economic exclusion

Promote gender equity and inclusion through practical empowerment

Celebrate International Women's Day with measurable, grassroots impact

International Women's Day Conference and Stakeholder Engagement

As part of the 2025 International Women's Day activities, an online conference was held on March 10, 2025, bringing together women participants from across Nigeria and beyond. The conference served as a platform for dialogue, learning, inspiration, and collective action on issues affecting women's leadership, economic empowerment, and social inclusion.

Attendees and Dignitaries

The event featured distinguished attendees and leaders as highlighted

And many online guests, participants and Beneficiaries:

HRM Othman B. Usman

H.E. Ugwumba Uche Nwosu (President,

Ugwumba Leadership Center,
Uloma Rochas Nwosu (Vice President),
Remy Chukwunyere (Former Executive Director),
Chris Foltz (Chair, UCLDA International Advisory Board),
Blessing Chinyere Kala-Kala (Former National Coordinator, Ugwumba Women Academy).

Their participation reinforced institutional support for women-focused development initiatives and strengthened stakeholder engagement.

Guest Speakers

The conference hosted respected speakers from Nigeria and the international community, including:

Prof. Remi Duyile (Member, Ugwumba General Council),
Dr. Alisa Whyte (Chairman, International Advisory Board),
Omu Obilor (Snr Consultant, Omu Consulting Ltd.),
Jennifer K. Turay (National Coordinator Ugwumba Women Academy),
Engr. Mary Khumade (Deputy National Coordinator, Ugwumba Women Academy).

Speakers delivered thought-provoking presentations on leadership, women's economic inclusion, capacity building,

and the importance of accelerating action for women at the grassroots level.

Beneficiary Identification and Selection Process

In the weeks leading up to International Women's Day, the U-Fund for Women implementation team carried out field outreach, community engagement, and needs assessments in selected rural communities and IDP camps.

The identification and selection process focused on women who:

Were engaged in petty trading, hawking, or small street businesses.

Had limited or no access to formal financial services.

Were economically vulnerable due to poverty, displacement, or social exclusion.

Demonstrated commitment to sustaining or growing their micro-businesses.

Community leaders and local stakeholders were engaged to ensure transparency, fairness, and inclusion in the selection process. This approach ensured that the intervention reached women who were genuinely in need of support.

Empowerment Intervention and Fund Disbursement

Following the online International Women's Day celebration, the U-Fund for Women 2025 empowerment exercise was implemented.

Number of Beneficiaries

Total beneficiaries empowered: 100 women

Nature of Support

Each selected beneficiary received a N50,000 cash grant, provided as working capital to:

Restock goods

Restart stalled businesses

Expand existing petty trading activities

Improve daily income and household stability

The grants were disbursed as part of the International Women's Day celebration activities, reinforcing the programme's theme of practical empowerment beyond advocacy.

Conclusion

The U-Fund for Women 2025 Empowerment Programme stands as a practical demonstration of Ugwumba Women Academy's commitment to women's economic empowerment, gender equity, and inclusive development. By aligning International Women's Day celebrations with direct financial support, the programme moved beyond symbolism to deliver tangible impact.

The successful empowerment of 100 women with N50,000 each has contributed to improved livelihoods, enhanced self-reliance, and renewed hope among vulnerable women.

The initiative continues to position Ugwumba Women Academy as a key driver of grassroots women empowerment and sustainable community development.

