

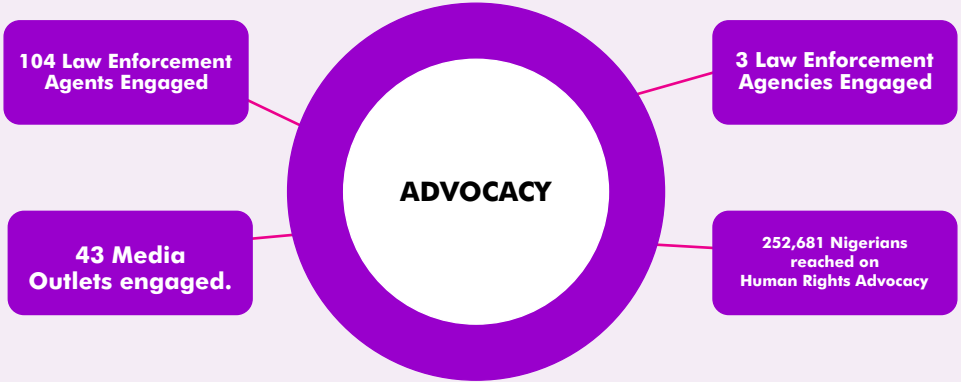


ANNUAL REPORT

2023



2023 IMPACT AT A GLANCE



ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Founded in 2019, Headfort Foundation is a non-partisan, registered, nonprofit organization committed and dedicated to upholding and advocating for Human Rights in Nigeria. We close the Nigerian justice gap through legal aid, evidence based advocacy and innovative technology solutions. We provide access to justice through free legal representation for indigent victims of human rights abuse in prison and underprivileged Nigerians stuck in the justice system. We have provided free legal aid to over 2000 Nigerians and have secured the release of 564 indigent and wrongly detained inmates from correctional facilities across five states in Nigeria. Our work has drawn the attention of national and international media such as Aljazeera, BBC Africa, Nas Daily and Guardian UK.

MISSION AND VISION

Vision

We envision a just and equitable Nigeria where everyone has equal access to justice.

Mission

To significantly improve access to justice in Nigeria through human rights advocacy, legal aid and technology

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the pursuit of justice and human rights, Headfort Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to creating a world where every individual's dignity is upheld and rights are protected. This year's annual report reflects our tireless efforts in advocating for equitable access to justice, empowering marginalized communities, and fostering a culture of respect for human rights.

Throughout the year, Headfort Foundation has actively engaged in impactful advocacy initiatives aimed at addressing systemic issues affecting vulnerable populations. Our focus on legal aid, school advocacy, and community outreach has been instrumental in bridging gaps in access to justice and amplifying voices often unheard.

Our strategic partnerships have enabled us to extend our reach and impact, significantly contributing to positive changes in communities we serve.

Key highlights of our initiatives in 2023 include securing the release of 139 indigent inmates, 252,681 people enlightened on human rights advocacy, showcasing our dedication to driving meaningful change and fostering a more just and rights-respecting society.

Despite the challenges faced, Headfort Foundation remains resilient and continues to innovate in its approach to advocacy, leveraging technology and community-driven solutions to address evolving human rights issues.

This report encapsulates our collective journey, achievements and the relentless commitment of our team, supporters, and beneficiaries toward a world where justice prevails and human rights are universally upheld.

As we look ahead, Headfort Foundation reaffirms its dedication to amplifying marginalized voices, advocating for policy reforms, and forging pathways toward a future where justice and human rights are accessible to all.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SPEECH

As I reflect on the strides we have taken and the transformative impact we've made in the pursuit of human rights in Nigeria, I'm humbled and inspired by the collective efforts of the Headfort Foundation community.

Since our inception in 2019, our commitment to upholding human rights has been unwavering. The mission to bridge the Nigerian justice gap through legal aid, evidence-based advocacy, and innovative technology solutions has been the cornerstone of our endeavors.

In 2023, our shared dedication and tireless work have borne fruits. Through the unwavering support of our team and the generous contributions of our donors, we have provided free legal representation to **139 indigent inmates** trapped in the justice system. These inmates, often overlooked and voiceless, have been given a chance at justice and dignity through our legal aid initiatives.

Moreover, our advocacy efforts have transcended boundaries. We have fostered vital relationships between law enforcement agents and the community, nurturing understanding, trust, and cooperation. This bridge-building is pivotal in ensuring a safer, fairer society where human rights are respected and upheld for all.

None of this would have been possible without the steadfast support of our ever dedicated employees, volunteers, partners, and donors. Your unwavering belief in our cause fuels our determination and propels us forward, emboldening us to reach greater heights in the pursuit of justice and human rights.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, let us remain resolute in our commitment. There is still much work to be done. The challenges ahead may be formidable, but with our collective resolve and dedication, we can continue to affect meaningful change in Nigeria.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, let us continue to be champions of human rights, advocates for the voiceless, and architects of a more just and equitable society for all Nigerians.



OLUYEMI ORIJA
Executive Director

MEET THE TEAM



ENIOLA OMOSEHIN
Operations Manager



ORIIA OLUYEMI
Executive Director



MAUYON AMOSU
Head of Legal



OLUWAKEMI ADENEKAN
Project Manager



MICHAEL JOSEPH
Finance Manager



PETER ADIABOKPA
Fundraising Manager



ESTHER OGUNDEJI
Legal Associate



JULIET AKAH
Legal Associate



NAFEESAT AHMED
Ogun State Lead

MEET THE TEAM



ENDURANCE EZEALAJI
Ekiti State Lead



ZAINAB ADEWALE
Tech Officer



FUNKE OGUNDELE
Project Assistant



IBUKUNOLUWA LADEJOBI
Legal Associate



ABIMBOLA OGUNMOROTI
Administrative Assistant



TOPE ODUNLAMI
Administrative Assistant



TEMIDAYO ONODA
Volunteers Engagement Manager

PROJECTS EXECUTED

LAWYERS WITHOUT BORDER

91% of indigent victims of human rights abuses find themselves ensnared in the justice system, unable to access human rights lawyers or defenders due to their socioeconomic status. Their right to justice is often denied. In response to this disparity, the Lawyers Without Borders Project was inaugurated in 2020 with the Chief Judge of Lagos State's approval. The project establishes mobile offices within court premises, facilitating easy access to human rights lawyers for victims of human rights abuse and their families. In 2023, we deployed human rights lawyers to five mobile offices across three states in Nigeria, resulting in the unification of 139 families.

Expanding its reach to Ekiti and Ogun states in 2023, this project provided free legal aid to 2,050 indigent victims of human rights abuses and successfully secured the release of 139 inmates entangled in the justice system. This diverse group of inmates includes children, youth, and senior citizens, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of justice.

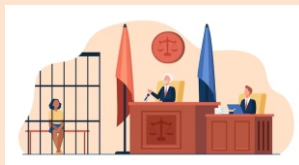
Number of people in
Nigeria Prison

78,446



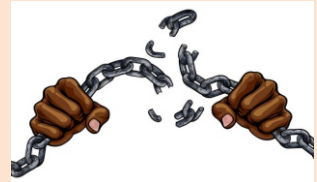
Number of people
awaiting trials

54,141



Number of people Headfort
Foundation released in 2023

139



Nyeche Macdonald.'s Story.

Nyeche, a 73-year-old man, was arrested by EFCC at the age of 60, he spent 13 years and 8 months in prison awaiting trial. His case file went missing and he was not before any court between 2019 and 2023. We traced his file to the DPP office and brought him before a court on 20th October 2023 when he was re-arraigned for the crime of stealing. We argued that Nyeche should be released because he has already served more than the provided sentence for the crime of stealing if found guilty. The court eventually discharged Nyeche of the crime of stealing since there was no evidence before the court to establish the crime of stealing.



Our representation in this case attracted the attention of media channels in Nigeria, blogs, stakeholders in the Nigeria Justice System, and over three million engagement on social media platforms. The light we shed on this case led to the meeting between the Attorney General of Lagos State and the Chief Judge of Lagos State to visit the prison and see to the release of inmates who have not been brought before any court for two years.

<https://x.com/headfortf/status/1722644657404805568?s=46>



Abayomi Adebayo's Story

Abayomi was arrested in March 2023 while buying food on his street by police officers during an unofficial raiding. He was initially taken to the China Shop Police Station in Lagos and later transferred to Cement Police Station. After spending one month at the police station against the law, he was charged with Armed Robbery and arraigned in court on 4/07/23 with no evidence. Mr. Abayomi spent four months in Kirikiri Prison before our team of lawyers at our Mobile Office in Magistrate Court Ogba intervened. We represented him in court at no cost and followed up on his DPP advice. With the legal aid provided, the DPP advice came out in due time and it stated that Abayomi had no case to answer, and he should be discharged. He was released by the court on 6th October 2023 after four months in prison.

<https://x.com/headfortf/status/1712783662637367783?s=46>

Emmanuel Kaosarat and Zachariah Mana's story

Kaosarat was heavily pregnant when she was arrested by the Police on the 2/10/23 alongside her friend Bola for stealing a radio set worth \$15.

On October 3, 2023, they were brought before the court and charged with two counts of conspiracy to steal and stealing.

We took a keen interest in the case, particularly due to Kaosarat's pregnancy. During arraignment, Kaosarat admitted to stealing the radio set, but Mana claimed to have no knowledge of it and stated that they only lived together.

Kaosarat further states that she took the radio set because her boss, who is the complainant, has refused to pay her salary for three months.



Our lawyer conducted their trial and represented both Kaosarat and Mana. The court delivered its judgment on December 18, 2023, based on our lawyers allocutus, Kaosarat was sentenced to one month imprisonment for stealing a radio set, starting from the day of arraignment. She was however allowed to go home because she has already spent over one month in prison. On the other hand, Mana was discharged and acquitted after spending two months in prison. The court established that she had nothing to do with the crime, she was only Kaosarat's friend and roommate.

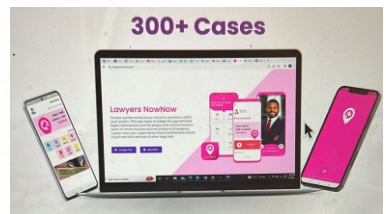
SUNDAY NIFEMI'S STORY

Nifemi is a 15 year old boy charged to court for the offense of Stealing. He was alleged of stealing "provisions" (Biscuit, Milo and Milk) worth less than \$2 and for damaging the CCTV in the Super Market. He was arraigned in June 2023 before Magistrate Court Ikorodu, Lagos. The court remanded him at the Special Correctional Centre for the Boys Oregun. While he await trial, his family could not afford a lawyer but on the 30th November 2023, our team at Headfort visited the Special Correctional Centre for the Boys where we met him and took up his case and represented him in Court. We applied to the Court for the matter to be struck out since he was forgotten in prison and there is no witness in court to prove the allegation against him. Our visit to the Special Correctional Center for the Boys and this case has birth the advocacy for juvenile justice in Nigeria by our organization and other civil society organization



LAWYERS NOWNOW

The critical period between arrest and legal representation often witnesses numerous human rights abuses. In an effort to minimize this timeframe and prevent human rights violations in Nigeria, we introduced the Lawyers NowNow App. This innovative platform swiftly connects victims of human rights abuses with human rights lawyers within a minute, ensuring rapid access to legal representation. The participating human rights lawyers offer their services free of charge, promoting accessibility and affordability for those who may otherwise be unable to afford legal assistance.



In 2023, the app made a significant impact on the youth community it serves. 244 cases were reported on the app and 212 of the cases were successfully resolved. Our Lawyer NowNow stands as an initiative dedicated to overcoming the challenges of affordability and accessibility in legal services, particularly for vulnerable individuals facing human rights abuses. The app is readily available for download on both the App Store and Google Play Store through www.lawyersnownow.com.

In the course of providing legal aid to vulnerable Nigerians, we realize that many got to prison because they are ignorant of their basic human rights like right to a lawyer, right to an interpreter, right to bail etc. We designed the "My Right, My Freedom" project to educate marginalized Nigerians on their human rights and how to navigate the justice system should their rights be violated and this education is done in the language of the people. The project translates Chapter IV of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which outlines fundamental human rights, into the three basic indigenous Nigerian languages. Bridging the language barrier is a significant step toward providing equal access to knowledge about the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights.

In 2023, the project engaged the students of Ikosi Junior and Senior Secondary School, Drivers at Ojota Motor park and we engaged the Nigerian public via different media platforms to educate them of their rights in the language they understand. 252, 681 Nigerians were reached through this project in 2023



LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS TRAINING (LEAT)

The issue of prison congestion, a problem we are actively tackling through the provision of free legal aid for access to justice, is predominantly caused by Law Enforcement Agents. Factors such as arbitrary arrests, illegal detentions, police corruption, torture, and inadequate investigations contribute significantly to this challenge. Without a reform in the Nigerian Police institution, the problem of prison overcrowding is likely to persist.



To address this, we have developed the Law Enforcement Agent Training (LEAT), a program aimed at capacity building for law enforcement agents across Nigeria. Our goal is to train them on their role in upholding human rights in the country. The LEAT program focuses on making law enforcement agents people-oriented and conscious of human rights while carrying out their duties. Our emphasis is on ensuring that, in the process of combating crime, they do not engage in criminal activities themselves.

In 2023, we successfully collaborated with three Law Enforcement Agencies, conducting capacity-building sessions for a total of 104 law enforcement agents.

HERO SPOTLIGHT



Lawal Garba

Lawal Garba is a final year Business Administration student at National Open University. He volunteers in the communication department of Headfort Foundation as a Graphics Designer. In addition to the designing role, he participates in the monthly prison visitation, engages with both inmates and individuals awaiting trial and gathers essential briefs that he shares with the legal team.

In his words, "Deciding to volunteer with Headfort Foundation stemmed from the organization's commitment aligning with one of my core values of ensuring no one is unjustly punished. So far, it has been a rewarding experience and I look forward to more impacts we will make together".

Ajibike Oshodi joined Headfort Foundation after retirement from the civil service which was as a result of her exposure to the other side of the law during her time as a company secretary in Lagos State.

She has appeared several times in court on behalf of Headfort Foundation and has successfully secured the release of an inmate. She currently handles 7 cases pro bono for Headfort Foundation.

In her words, " I was really impressed with Headfort Foundation's commitment in assisting the less privileged in accessing justice in the Nigerian criminal law and I decided to be part of it. I therefore recommend it to everyone to be part of what the organization does"



Ajibike Oshodi

Ajibike Oshodi won the Most Outstanding Volunteer of the year 2023(Lawyers Category)

MEDIA



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CyTEqblM7KC/?igshid=MmU2YjMzNjRlOQ==>



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CyTEqblM7KC/?igshid=MmU2YjMzNjRlOQ==>



<https://www.facebook.com/share/vomtuGTLGLhsSwqko?mibextid=PqCtX>



<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CyTEqblM7KC/?igshid=MmU2YjMzNjRlOQ==>



<https://www.facebook.com/share/vomtuGTLGLhsSwqko?mibextid=PqCtX>



OUR PARTNERS



FINANCIALS

HEADFORT FOUNDATION INCOME STATEMENT JANUARY 2023– DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2022–DECEMBER 2022.

PARTICULARS	2023	2022
REVENUE	\$	\$
Net Income B/F	783	0
Individual donation	8,797	12,349
Corporate donation	3,984	1,383
Fundraising	5,562	0
Donation in kind	0	1,599
Grant	3,998	0
Loan	0	3,982
Total Revenue	23,124	19,313
OPERATING EXPENSES	\$	\$
Project cost	15,695	12,915
Operational cost	4,059	2,290
Overhead cost	819	3,325
Total Operating Expenses	20,573	18,530
NET INCOME	2,551	783

Currency Used	USD
Exchange Rate used	1,250,50
Date of Exchange	08/02/2024

INTRODUCING 2024

4 New Projects To Be Executed .



Human Rights Club



Tech Behind Bars



Skill- Up Rights Defenders



Justice Corner



My Rights, My Freedom

54

**Local Governments to
be Sensitized**





Lawyers Without Border

5

Mobile Offices to be mounted

(Ikorodu, Delta, Port Harcourt, Ibadan and Enugu State)



Inmates to be Released

200

innocent and indigent inmates to be released from prisons.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENTS TRAINING (LEAT)



Capacity building for

1000

Law Enforcement Agents

SUPPORT US

The height to which our goals for 2024 can be achieved is largely dependent on your support either as a Partner, Volunteer, or a Donor, without which we can only do so much but with everyone's support, we can most definitely move mountain

To Partner or Volunteer with us, kindly check the cover page for our contact details.
For donations, kindly use the details below

6199153012 (Naira donations)

6199153029 (Dollar donations)

HEADFORT FOUNDATION FCMB BANK

You can also use other channels such as **Flutterwave** or **Gofundme** for donations. Simply click on <https://dashboard.flutterve.com/donate/4ft55ojl0oow> or <https://gofund.me/05f5e63b> and you will be taken to our donation page.

THANK YOU!

ADDRESS:

 **16A, Association Avenue, Shangisha,
Magodo, Lagos State.**

OUR CONTACT:

 **0906 423 4900, 0915 057 7777**

SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES:

 **hello@headfortfoundation.org**

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