



# **Life Skills for 5,000 Children in Niger State Arts and Culture Training Initiative**

**A Proposal Presented by Elite Star Foundation  
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**Requested Funding: \$5,000**

**Project Duration: 12 months**

## **Contact Information:**

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## **Executive Summary**

Elite Star Foundation proposes the "Life Skills for 5,000 Children in Niger State" project, a transformative initiative aimed at empowering underprivileged youth through free skills acquisition training in Arts and Culture.

### **Brief Overview:**

This project will provide 5,000 children aged 15-20 in Niger State with valuable vocational skills in various artistic and cultural disciplines. By offering free, accessible training, we aim to create sustainable livelihood opportunities and foster self-expression among vulnerable youth.

### **Key Objectives:**

1. Provide free skills training in Arts and Culture to 5,000 underprivileged children
2. Equip participants with practical, marketable skills for income generation
3. Foster creativity, self-expression, and cultural appreciation
4. Deter youth from harmful practices by providing positive alternatives
5. Contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty in Niger State communities

### **Expected Outcomes:**

1. 5,000 youth trained in various artistic and cultural skills
2. Increased employability and entrepreneurship among participants
3. Enhanced cultural preservation and promotion in Niger State
4. Reduced vulnerability to social vices among youth
5. Improved economic prospects for participants and their families

**Funding Amount Requested:**

To implement this impactful project and reach our target of 5,000 children, we are seeking a total funding of \$5,000. This amount will cover the costs of training materials, workshop facilities, skilled instructors, and necessary equipment to ensure a comprehensive and effective skills acquisition program.

## **Organization Background**

### **Mission and Vision:**

Elite Star Foundation, established in 2021, is dedicated to being steadfast guardians of children's well-being in Nigeria. Our mission is to provide comprehensive Child Protection Initiatives and transformative Child Education Programs, breaking the cycle of poverty and abuse. We envision a world where every child, regardless of circumstance, has the opportunity to thrive, creating a brighter and more equitable future for generations to come.

### **History and Achievements:**

Founded by Francis Ifeanyi Osiogou, Elite Star Foundation emerged as a response to the pressing need for child protection and education in Nigeria. Since our inception, we have:

1. Implemented child protection programs reaching over 10,000 children across multiple states in Nigeria.
2. Established partnerships with local schools to enhance educational opportunities for underprivileged children.
3. Successfully advocated for stronger child protection policies at the local and state levels.
4. Conducted awareness campaigns on child rights and protection, reaching over 50,000 community members.
5. Provided emergency relief and support to children affected by natural disasters and conflicts.

### **Organizational Structure and Capacity:**

Elite Star Foundation operates with a lean and efficient structure:

1. Board of Directors: Oversees strategic direction and governance.
2. Executive Director: Manages day-to-day operations and program implementation.

3. Program Managers: Lead specific initiatives in child protection and education.
4. Field Officers: Implement projects and engage directly with communities.
5. Administrative Staff: Support operations, finance, and logistics.

Our team comprises experienced professionals in child welfare, education, and community development. We maintain a network of volunteers and partnerships with local organizations, enhancing our capacity to reach and impact more children.

We have a proven track record of managing donor funds effectively and transparently, with robust financial management systems in place. Our organization is registered with the Nigerian Corporate Affairs Commission and complies with all relevant regulations for non-profit organizations in Nigeria.

Through our dedicated team, strategic partnerships, and community-centered approach, Elite Star Foundation is well-positioned to implement impactful projects like "Life Skills for 5,000 Children in Niger State," furthering our mission to protect and empower Nigeria's youth.

## **Problem Statement**

### **Description of the Issue or Need:**

Niger State, like many regions in Nigeria, faces a critical challenge in providing adequate opportunities for youth development, particularly in vocational skills and creative arts. Many children aged 15-20 lack access to quality education and skills training, leaving them vulnerable to poverty, unemployment, and social vices. The absence of structured programs in arts and culture not only limits their economic prospects but also hinders the preservation and promotion of local cultural heritage.

### **Supporting Data and Statistics:**

1. Youth unemployment in Niger State stands at 33.5%, significantly higher than the national average (National Bureau of Statistics, 2021).
2. Only 22% of youth in Niger State have access to vocational training programs (State Ministry of Education, 2022).
3. 68% of out-of-school children in the state cite lack of relevant skills as a barrier to employment (UNICEF Nigeria, 2023).
4. Cultural and creative industries contribute less than 2% to Niger State's GDP, indicating an untapped potential for growth (State Bureau of Statistics, 2022).
5. 75% of parents surveyed express concern about their children's lack of productive engagement and vulnerability to social vices (Local NGO survey, 2023).

### **Relevance to the Funder's Priorities:**

This project aligns closely with several key priorities often emphasized by funders in the youth development and education sector:

- 1. Skills Development:** By providing practical, market-relevant skills in arts and culture, the project directly addresses the need for youth employability and entrepreneurship.
- 2. Cultural Preservation:** The focus on arts and cultural skills contributes to the preservation and promotion of local heritage, a priority for funders interested in cultural sustainability.
- 3. Poverty Alleviation:** By equipping youth with income-generating skills, the project contributes to long-term poverty reduction strategies.
- 4. Youth Empowerment:** The project empowers young people to take control of their futures, fostering self-reliance and creativity.
- 5. Community Development:** By targeting 5,000 children, the project has the potential to create a ripple effect of positive change in Niger State communities.
- 6. Sustainable Development Goals:** The project aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

By addressing these critical issues and aligning with key funding priorities, the "Life Skills for 5,000 Children in Niger State" project presents a compelling opportunity to create lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable youth and contribute to the overall development of Niger State.

## Project Description

### Goals and Objectives:

The "Life Skills for 5,000 Children in Niger State" project aims to empower underprivileged youth through skills acquisition in Arts and Culture.

**Primary Goal:** To provide free vocational training to 5,000 children aged 15-20 in Niger State, equipping them with marketable skills in arts and culture.

### Objectives:

1. Deliver comprehensive skills training programs in various artistic and cultural disciplines.
2. Foster creativity, self-expression, and cultural appreciation among participants.
3. Enhance employability and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth.
4. Contribute to the preservation and promotion of local cultural heritage.
5. Reduce youth vulnerability to social vices by providing productive engagement.

### Target Population or Beneficiaries:

The project will directly benefit 5,000 underprivileged children in Niger State, Nigeria:

- **Age range:** 15-20 years
- **Background:** Primarily from low-income families, out-of-school youth, or those at risk of dropping out
- **Gender:** Balanced representation of both males and females
- **Location:** Various communities across Niger State, with a focus on both urban and rural areas



## Project Methodology or Approach:

- 1. Needs Assessment:** Conduct surveys to identify the most relevant and in-demand arts and cultural skills in the region.
- 2. Curriculum Development:** Design comprehensive, practical curricula for each identified skill area, incorporating both technical and soft skills training.
- 3. Participant Selection:** Implement a fair and transparent selection process to identify eligible participants, ensuring diversity and inclusion.
- 4. Skills Training Workshops:** Conduct intensive, hands-on training sessions led by experienced artisans and cultural experts.
- 5. Mentorship Program:** Pair participants with local artisans for ongoing guidance and real-world experience.
- 6. Community Engagement:** Organize cultural showcases and exhibitions to promote participants' work and engage the wider community.
- 7. Entrepreneurship Support:** Provide basic business skills training and support for participants to monetize their newly acquired skills.
- 8. Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implement a robust M&E system to track progress, gather feedback, and measure impact.

## Timeline and Milestones:

### Month 1-2:

- Complete needs assessment and curriculum development
- Finalize partnerships with local artisans and cultural institutions
- Begin participant selection process

### Month 3-4:

- Launch initial training workshops in core skill areas
- Establish mentorship program
- Commence ongoing monitoring and evaluation

**Month 5-8:**

- Continue and expand training workshops to reach all 5,000 participants
- Organize mid-project showcase events in various communities
- Conduct mid-term evaluation and adjust approach as needed

**Month 9-11:**

- Complete training for all 5,000 participants
- Intensify entrepreneurship support and business skills training
- Prepare for final project showcase and exhibition

**Month 12:**

- Host grand finale exhibition and cultural showcase
- Conduct comprehensive impact assessment
- Develop sustainability plan for ongoing support and future iterations of the project

This structured approach ensures a comprehensive, impactful, and sustainable implementation of the "Life Skills for 5,000 Children in Niger State" project, with clear milestones to track progress and success.

## **Expected Outcomes and Impact**

### **Short-term Outcomes:**

1. 5,000 youth trained in various arts and cultural skills
2. Increased knowledge and proficiency in chosen artistic disciplines
3. Enhanced self-confidence and self-expression among participants
4. Improved awareness of local cultural heritage and its value
5. Reduced idle time and vulnerability to social vices among youth

### **Long-term Outcomes:**

1. Increased youth employment and entrepreneurship in the creative sector
2. Preservation and promotion of Niger State's cultural heritage
3. Reduced poverty rates among participant families
4. Enhanced community cohesion through cultural activities
5. Establishment of a sustainable arts and culture ecosystem in Niger State

### **Measurable Indicators of Success:**

1. Number of participants completing the training program (target: 5,000)
2. Percentage of participants demonstrating proficiency in their chosen skill (target: 80%)
3. Number of participants generating income from their new skills within 6 months of program completion (target: 40%)
4. Percentage increase in youth participation in local cultural events and activities (target: 30%)

5. Number of new small businesses or cooperatives formed by program graduates (target: 100 within the first year)
6. Reduction in reported cases of youth involvement in social vices in target communities (target: 25% decrease)
7. Percentage of participants reporting improved self-esteem and life satisfaction (target: 75%)
8. Number of cultural products or performances created by participants (target: 1,000 within the first year)
9. Increase in local government investment in arts and culture initiatives (target: 20% increase within two years)
10. Number of partnerships established with local businesses and cultural institutions (target: 50 within the project duration)

#### **Potential for Scalability or Replication:**

The "Life Skills for 5,000 Children in Niger State" project has significant potential for scalability and replication:

- 1. Modular Curriculum:** The developed curriculum can be easily adapted for different regions and cultural contexts.
- 2. Train-the-Trainer Model:** By training local artisans and cultural experts as instructors, the project creates a sustainable pool of trainers for future expansion.
- 3. Community Partnerships:** The established partnerships with local institutions and businesses provide a framework for replication in other communities.
- 4. Documentation and Toolkit:** Comprehensive documentation of the project methodology, challenges, and successes will create a toolkit for replication in other states or countries.
- 5. Digital Integration:** Incorporation of digital platforms for certain aspects of training can allow for broader reach and easier scaling.

**6. Cross-Sector Collaboration:** The project model can be adapted to include other sectors beyond arts and culture, such as technology or agriculture, broadening its applicability.

**7. Policy Influence:** Successful outcomes can influence local and state policies, potentially leading to government support for similar initiatives across Nigeria.

**8. Youth Leadership:** Graduates of the program can become ambassadors and leaders, facilitating organic growth and community-led replication.

**9. Diverse Funding Sources:** The project's structure allows for diversification of funding sources, including public-private partnerships, making it more sustainable and replicable.

**10. Measurable Impact:** Clear, quantifiable outcomes provide a strong case for replication and scaling to potential funders and partners.

This comprehensive approach to outcomes and impact measurement, coupled with the project's inherent scalability, positions "Life Skills for 5,000 Children in Niger State" as a potentially transformative model for youth empowerment through arts and culture across Nigeria and beyond.

## **Budget for "Life Skills for 5,000 Children in Niger State" Project**

### **Detailed Line-Item Budget:**

#### **1. Personnel Costs: \$1,500**

- Project Coordinator (part-time): \$1,000
- Administrative Assistant (part-time): \$500

#### **2. Training Materials and Supplies: \$1,500**

- Art supplies (paints, brushes, canvas, etc.): \$800
- Cultural craft materials: \$500
- Printed materials and handouts: \$200

#### **3. Facility and Equipment Rental: \$600**

- Training venue rental: \$400
- Audio-visual equipment rental: \$200

#### **4. Trainer Fees: \$800**

- Local artisans and cultural experts: \$800

#### **5. Transportation: \$300**

- For trainers and staff to reach various communities: \$300

#### **6. Participant Support: \$100**

- Refreshments during training sessions: \$100

#### **7. Marketing and Outreach: \$100**

- Promotional materials and community announcements: \$100

#### **8. Monitoring and Evaluation: \$100**

- Data collection tools and analysis software: \$100

**Total Budget: \$5,000**

### **Budget Narrative:**

#### **1. Personnel Costs:**

The project requires part-time staff to coordinate activities and handle administrative tasks. The Project Coordinator will oversee implementation, while the Administrative Assistant will manage logistics and record-keeping.

#### **2. Training Materials and Supplies:**

This covers essential art supplies, cultural craft materials, and printed resources for 5,000 participants. The diverse range of materials will support various artistic and cultural disciplines.

#### **3. Facility and Equipment Rental:**

Costs for renting suitable training venues across different communities and necessary audio-visual equipment for effective instruction.

#### **4. Trainer Fees:**

Compensation for local artisans and cultural experts who will conduct the training sessions. This ensures high-quality instruction from experienced professionals.

#### **5. Transportation:**

Covers fuel and vehicle maintenance costs for trainers and staff to reach various communities across Niger State.

#### **6. Participant Support:**

Provides basic refreshments during training sessions to maintain participant engagement and energy levels.

#### **7. Marketing and Outreach:**

Funds allocated for creating promotional materials and making community announcements to ensure widespread awareness and participation.

### **8. Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Covers costs for data collection tools and analysis software to effectively track project progress and impact.

### **Other Funding Sources:**

While this budget outlines the core funding needed to implement the project, Elite Star Foundation is committed to ensuring its success and sustainability. As such, we are actively pursuing additional funding and support through the following channels:

#### **1. In-kind Donations:**

- Local businesses have pledged to donate some art supplies and materials.
- Community centers have offered discounted rates for venue rentals.

#### **2. Volunteer Support:**

- Several local artists and cultural experts have volunteered to provide some training sessions pro bono.

#### **3. Government Collaboration:**

- We are in discussions with the Niger State Ministry of Culture and Tourism for potential matching funds.

#### **4. Corporate Sponsorships:**

- Local corporations have expressed interest in sponsoring specific training modules or community showcases.

#### **5. Community Contributions:**



- Local community leaders have committed to mobilizing small financial contributions from community members to support the project.

These additional resources, while not quantified in the main budget, will significantly enhance the project's scope and impact, allowing us to potentially reach more youth or extend the duration of training sessions. We are committed to maximizing the impact of the requested \$5,000 grant by leveraging these additional resources effectively.