

Christmas With A Smile 2025



GlobalGiving



Progress Update Report

Date submitted: 7/12/2025

USD 450
Raised Locally

4
Partners Secured

30
Volunteers Ready

2
Sites Confirmed

Event Dates: 19th - 27th December 2025

Final Distribution: 27th December 2025



1. Introduction

This progress update captures the tangible achievements of Christmas With A Smile (CWS) since the completion of planning and strategy sessions earlier this year. Rather than revisiting previously documented plans, this report focuses on what has been accomplished, the resources now in place, and the confirmed arrangements for December 2025 delivery.

The CWS team has worked diligently to translate strategic intentions into operational reality. Despite the challenges inherent in grassroots fundraising and volunteer coordination, the initiative enters the final quarter of 2025 with a solid foundation: financial resources secured, partnerships formalised, a volunteer corps assembled, and event dates confirmed.

This year's delivery will focus on two correctional centres, reaching young people who are often invisible during festive celebrations. Whilst fundraising constraints have necessitated a more focused geographical scope than originally envisaged, this concentration allows for deeper engagement and more meaningful impact at each location.

2. Financial Progress: Building from the Ground Up

One of the most significant developments this year has been the shift towards locally-driven fundraising. In previous years, CWS relied heavily on external donations that arrived late in the planning cycle, creating procurement pressures and limiting the team's ability to secure favourable vendor terms.

This year, the team adopted a different approach: sustained, community-based fundraising throughout the year. The results speak for themselves. To date, CWS has raised **USD 450** in locally mobilised funds. Whilst this figure may appear modest in absolute terms, it represents a meaningful achievement in several respects.

2.1 Why Local Fundraising Matters

Ownership and sustainability: Funds raised locally create a sense of community ownership over the initiative, strengthening its long-term viability.

1. **Timing flexibility:** Early fundraising provides greater flexibility in procurement, allowing the team to take advantage of bulk pricing and avoid last-minute supply constraints.
2. **Reduced dependency:** Diversifying funding sources reduces vulnerability to the unpredictability of external donor timelines.
3. **Capacity building:** The fundraising process itself builds organisational capacity, developing skills in donor engagement, financial management, and community mobilisation.

The USD 450 raised to date provides a foundation for procurement whilst fundraising efforts continue. The team remains active in pursuing additional contributions to strengthen delivery capacity and potentially expand reach in future years.

3. Strategic Partnerships: Strength in Collaboration

CWS recognises that sustainable impact requires collaboration. No single organisation possesses all the resources, relationships, and capabilities needed to reach vulnerable populations effectively. This year, the team has invested significantly in building a partnership ecosystem that extends CWS's reach and strengthens its credibility.

Four formal collaborations have been secured, each bringing distinct value to the initiative:

Partner	Contribution to CWS
Bakersfield Bakery	In-kind food contributions; local business credibility and community connections
Abiboy Foundation	Civil society expertise; community mobilisation capacity; extended volunteer networks
Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development	Statutory legitimacy; facilitation of access to correctional facilities; policy alignment
AOK Children Initiative	Child-focused programming expertise; safeguarding knowledge; complementary service delivery

The partnership with the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development is particularly significant. Government collaboration provides the institutional legitimacy essential for accessing correctional facilities and signals alignment with broader state priorities for youth welfare. This relationship also positions CWS for potential future support through state-level social development programmes.

4. Volunteer Mobilisation: The Heart of Delivery

Volunteers are the backbone of CWS. They pack care packages, manage logistics, engage with beneficiaries, and ensure that distributions are conducted with dignity and respect. This year, the team has mobilised **thirty (30) volunteers** who are committed to supporting December delivery.

Early mobilisation offers several advantages. It allows time for thorough vetting, ensuring that all volunteers meet safeguarding requirements. It enables comprehensive training on respectful distribution, confidentiality, and emergency protocols. And it builds team cohesion before the high-pressure delivery period.

The volunteer corps includes individuals with diverse skills: some bring logistics and procurement experience; others have backgrounds in social work, education, or youth engagement; and several have first aid certification. This skills mix ensures that the team can respond effectively to the varied demands of distribution in institutional settings.

4.1 Health and Safety Readiness

In addition to volunteer mobilisation, CWS has secured **health testing kits** to support safe engagement. These kits strengthen the duty-of-care environment, particularly important when working in correctional settings where heightened health protocols may apply. The availability of testing capacity demonstrates CWS's commitment to protecting both volunteers and beneficiaries.

5. Confirmed Event Details

After careful planning and coordination with facility authorities, the dates and locations for CWS 2025 have been confirmed. The team is now working towards these fixed milestones with clarity and purpose.

5.1 Event Schedule

Milestone	Date
Engagements commence	Friday, 19th December 2025
Engagement and distribution period	19th - 27th December 2025
Final event and distribution	Saturday, 27th December 2025

5.2 Confirmed Distribution Locations

Due to fundraising constraints, CWS has focused its 2025 delivery on **two locations** where the intervention can achieve the greatest impact:

- 1. Special Correctional Centre for Boys, Oregon**
- 2. Lagos State Children Correctional Centre for Girls**

These locations were selected deliberately. Young people in correctional settings are among the most marginalised during festive periods, often overlooked by mainstream charitable activities. By concentrating resources on these two centres, CWS ensures that each beneficiary receives a meaningful, dignified package rather than spreading resources too thinly across multiple sites.

All distributions will follow facility protocols with enhanced privacy safeguards. Age-appropriate care packages will be provided to children, adolescents, and caregivers, with particular attention to the unique needs of young people in institutional care.

6. Looking Ahead: Immediate Priorities

With confirmed dates and locations, the team now focuses on execution. The following priorities will guide activity over the coming weeks:

- Finalise memoranda of understanding with both correctional centres
- Complete vendor agreements and secure price locks for care package contents
- Conduct comprehensive volunteer induction and safeguarding training
- Finalise procurement schedules and packing logistics
- Continue fundraising efforts to maximise delivery capacity

7. Conclusion

Christmas With A Smile 2025 is on track. The team has raised USD 450 locally, secured four strategic partnerships, mobilised thirty volunteers, obtained health testing kits, and confirmed event dates and locations. Whilst the scope of delivery is more focused than originally planned, this concentration ensures greater impact rather than broader reach.

The young people at the Special Correctional Centre for Boys and the Lagos State Children's Correctional Centre for Girls will receive care packages that remind them they are seen, valued, and remembered. For many, this may be the only festive acknowledgement they receive. That is both a sobering responsibility and a profound privilege.

CWS extends its gratitude to all partners, donors, and volunteers who have contributed to reaching this point. The journey from planning to delivery is never straightforward, but with continued commitment and collaboration, December 2025 will mark another meaningful chapter in the CWS story.