

2024 Christmas with a Smile Report

Name of Organisation: Access to Learning and School Initiative Nigeria

Month: [December] **Year:** [2024]

Written By:

Approved By: ()

Executive Summary

Provide a brief overview of the **key activities, achievements, and challenges faced** during the month.

1 Introduction

ATLAS Initiative Mission Statement: [Access to Learning and School (ATLAS) initiative's mission is to promote accessible and continuous learning opportunities across all life stages through the creation of a pool of resources from individual, communities and organizations involved in Global Active Citizenship, volunteering, and knowledge sharing.

ATLAS Initiative provides access to learning platforms for personal and professional development opportunities as a crucial means to fight poverty and unemployment.

Christmas with a Smile is a yearly charitable event that seeks to address extreme poverty in underserved communities through social action. The project seeks to achieve SDGs 1, 2, 3 and 4 focusing on eradicating extreme poverty & hunger as well as promoting good health, wellbeing and quality education. The project focuses on mobilising the support of social actors, companies, philanthropic individuals and volunteers to address the following social challenges which include period poverty, child poverty, food poverty and health disparities.

2 Key Activities and Achievements

2.1 *Community Engagement*

Community Entry and Engagement:: Etesa Community, Iworo, Badagry. Lagos state.

The Atlas team, in collaboration with Ashade Grassroots Movement (AGM), successfully conducted community entry and engagement activities in Etesa Community, Iworo. This aimed to introduce Atlas Initiative and its Christmas with a Smile (CWS) project to the community.

Background

Etesa Community is a tranquil and peaceful fishing, farming, and hunting village with a high concentration of middle-class families. Despite its serene environment, the community remains underdeveloped.

Entry Process

Upon arrival in Badagry, the Atlas team was escorted by AGM partners to the community. We met with stakeholders, including the Baale, community youth leader, and other dignitaries. Our team introduced Atlas Initiative, its mission, and the objectives of the CWS project.

Mr. Ashade of AGM, a key partner and volunteer, also introduced himself and his organization, highlighting his role in the upcoming event. The community stakeholders appreciated our initiative and offered valuable suggestions to ensure the project's success.

Community Tour

We conducted a tour of the community, identifying a potential venue for the CWS event. We also inquired about security measures and were assured that the community is a crime-free zone with adequate security personnel.

Key Findings:

1. Presence of a riverside location, offering recreational and scenic opportunities.
2. Existence of a community school, indicating a focus on education and investment in local youth.
3. Proximity of companies within the community, suggesting potential employment opportunities and economic activities.

Conclusion

The community entry and engagement process was a success, paving the way for the implementation of the CWS project in Etesa Community. We looked forward to collaborating with the community stakeholders and AGM to make the CWS project a memorable one.

2.2 Projects

Summarize the main projects and programs carried out, including objectives, activities, and outcomes.

Here's a refined and detailed version:

Project Report: Christmas with a Smile

Objective: To spread Christmas cheer and provide essential items to underserved individuals in Badagry, promoting a sense of community and social responsibility.

Activity Overview: On Saturday, December 21st, 2024, the Atlas team embarked on a mission to bring joy and support to the Etesa community in Badagry.

Reach and Impact: Our efforts reached over 200 individuals, including children, young adults, and girls, providing them with essential items and gifts. The distribution of

these items aimed to alleviate some of the challenges faced by the community, promoting a sense of dignity and well-being.

Items Distributed:

- ***Clothing:*** We provided new and gently used clothing to community members, helping to keep them warm and comfortable during the holiday season.
- ***Food Items:*** Essential food items were distributed to families, ensuring they had access to nutritious meals and basic necessities.
- ***Menstrual Pads:*** Recognizing the importance of menstrual hygiene, we provided reusable pads to young girls and women, promoting health, dignity, and empowerment.
- ***Gift Packs:*** Children received gift packs filled with toys, treats, and other fun items, bringing smiles and joy to their faces.

The Christmas with a Smile project was a resounding success, demonstrating the power of community and compassion. By providing essential items and spreading holiday cheer, we helped make a positive impact on the lives of over 200 individuals in the Etesa community. We look forward to continuing our efforts and making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

2.3 Partnerships and Collaborations

Highlight any new or ongoing partnerships and their impact on ATLAS Initiative's work.

Atlas Initiative partnered with Ashade Grassroots Movement (AGM) and Mapoly's Banking and Finance 2014 Alumni on the Christmas with a Smile project.

Ashade Grassroots Movement (AGM) contributed 20 bags of 3kg rice and 25 bags of 5kg garri. They also assisted with mobilizing beneficiaries and volunteered in packing and distributing food items.

The Mapoly Alumni donated cooking oil and salt, and participated in the distribution of food items on the event day.

Other project sponsors included:

- Team Colby, who donated reusable menstrual pads for the girls and women in the community.
- Onibag, who provided knapsacks for the children in the community.
- Food Clique, who made a monetary donation

2.4 Volunteer Contributions and Acknowledgement

Acknowledge the efforts and contributions of volunteers, including specific stories or examples.

The Atlas Initiative would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers and sponsors who made the Christmas with a Smile project a resounding success.

Volunteers:

- Ashade Grassroots Movement (AGM) team for their tireless efforts in mobilizing the community and assisting with the distribution of gifts.
 - Mapoly's Banking and Finance 2014 Alumni for their support and volunteer work during the event.
 - Prince Richard for his invaluable assistance and support throughout the project.
- All other volunteers who also gave their time and support in making this year's CWS project a successful one.

Sponsors:

- Team Colby for their generous donation of reusable menstrual pads.
- Onibag for providing knapsacks for the children.
- Food Clique for their monetary donation, which helped make the project a success.

Your selflessness, generosity, and commitment to giving back to the community have made a tangible difference in the lives of over 200 individuals in the Etesa community. We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to future collaborations. Capture anecdotal evidence from volunteers.

3 Impact and Outcomes

3.1 Impact Data

Present quantitative and qualitative data that demonstrate the impact of ATLAS's work. Include charts, graphs, and testimonials as appropriate.

The Christmas with a Smile project had a significant impact on the Etesa community. The following data demonstrates the reach and effectiveness of our efforts:

Beneficiaries Reached

- Elderly Women: Over 100 women received food items, with a focus on supporting elderly women in the community.
- Children: 50 children received knapsacks and gift packs.
- Girls :50 girls received reusable menstrual pads.

Category	Number of Beneficiaries
Women(Elderly)	100+

Children	50
Girls	50

The data demonstrate the positive impact of the Christmas with a Smile project on the Etesa community. By providing essential items and support, we improved the lives of over 200 individuals, with a focus on vulnerable populations such as elderly women and girls.

3.2 Beneficiary Stories

Share stories from beneficiaries that illustrate the impact of ATLAS's efforts.

3.3 Challenges and Solutions

The Christmas with a Smile project faced significant challenges, primarily in fundraising. The inability to meet the budgeted fundraising goals constrained the project's execution. Furthermore, technical issues with withdrawing funds donated through the Global Giving platform hindered smooth project execution, prompting a last-minute fundraising effort.

Another challenge arose when a volunteer in Badagry, responsible for purchasing food items, became unreachable before and during the project. As a result, the Atlas team had to purchase the food items on the project day, leading to delays, disorganisation, and the eventual packing of food items for distribution at the venue.

Despite these challenges, the decision to pack food items at the venue proved beneficial, enabling the team to reach a larger number of people than initially budgeted for.

4 Looking Ahead

During the feedback session with the Atlas team and volunteers, the challenges faced during fundraising for the project were discussed. To address this, it was suggested that:

1. A dedicated bank account be created for the Christmas with a Smile project.
2. Fundraising efforts begin as early as January and continue until December, when the project is executed.

Notable commitments were made during the session:

- Damilola, a Mapoly's Alumni member, pledged ₦20,000 to support the 2025 project.
- Prince Richard extended an invitation to Atlas Initiative to consider Akarakumo community for future interventions in Badagry.

5. Financial Report

5.1 Project Budget Overview

- Breakdown of funds allocated and spent on various project activities (e.g., outreach, materials, logistics

:OUTREACH materials.	#	
3 1/2 Bags of Rice		315,000
Rice carrier service		1500
1 carton Terra maggi.		6000
1 bag of mrchef salt+measurement.		11,500
Tomato.		1600. 1½ carton of Laziz sachet +1 bottle
groundnut oil	24,450	
Sweet and Toys for kids		15,000
Travel logistics from the market to the venue.		15,000
Purchase of cws Tshirt.		52500
Purchase of package nylons.		7900
Branding of Tshirts and nylon.		50,000
Accommodation fee in badagry.		80,000
Feeding and refreshments.		30,000
Travel logistics from ikd to badagry.		100,00
Point of no return fee.		15,000
Slave Trade museum fee.		15,000
Cws Advert fee.		33,150
Community entry for Cws.		26,000
Market runs logistics.		10,000
Total.		809,600

6. Appendices

Provide any additional data, charts, or documentation that support the report.











