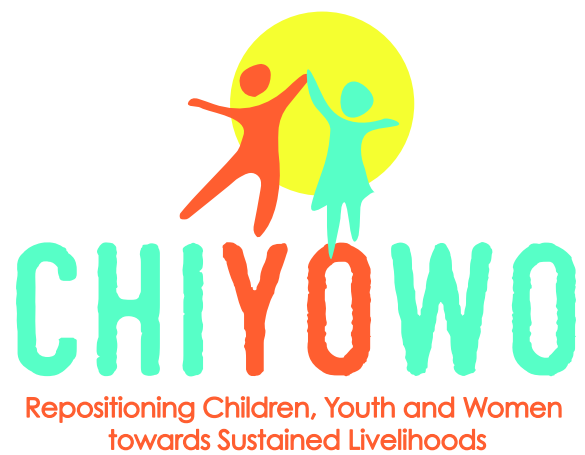


OUR 2017 REVIEW



The Executive Summary

Utmost on my mind in 2017 was the implementation of some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially on the Africa continent. Alarming, we need to be mindful of the exponential growth of the youth population on the continent. Research indicates that by 2050, youth in Africa will be 10 times more than the number of youth in the whole of the European Union.

Dire consequences seem to be halting the eradication of poverty by 2030. Without set development plans on how to design and implement progressive projects to aid sustained quality education, and the provision of vocational skills to train youth on how to 'get and stay in paid jobs', the continent will nose dive into underdevelopment. Clearly, the linkage of youth underemployed and unemployment is indicative of the levels of poverty experienced in Africa, especially Nigeria.

Although, we visited Ghana for some comparative studies and researched extensively on how other African countries were embracing the SDGs, Nigeria was our focal country especially in education and enterprise space. Nigeria, the country with 36 States, has been our base since setting up ChiYoWo Empowerment Initiative, a non-governmental organization registered in 2016 with the Corporate Affairs Commission in Nigeria. ChiYoWo is an acronym for Children, Youth and Women.

Our set mission is to reposition the mindsets of marginalised families towards developing sustained livelihoods. During 2017, we maintained our thematic focus by reaching out to people in hard to reach or underserved communities. We focused primarily on education in line with the SDG 4 – Quality Education. Education is the common thread that binds all our thematic focus areas. We



were absolutely privileged to design and implement projects and programmes which have enabled our NGO address and remove barriers that prevent sustainable livelihoods among the most vulnerable people in Nigeria.

The attainment of quality education was our main objective in 2017 and we set out to address the high levels of illiteracy in the nation where data indicates over 67 million Nigerians are illiterate. Our educational development initiative, rolled out across Nigeria, revealed a state of deep backwardness and, in some cases, stagnation in the education space. Our attention was on the lack of libraries and reading books in primary and secondary schools across the 6 geo-political zones of Nigeria.

The challenges seem to be growing with each new passing day. Nigeria has been dipping in and out of recession for a couple of years, which means the average Nigerian is concerned about staying alive. Education is

indeed slipping off the scale of development. Prevailing factors such as political, environmental, socio-economic and technological rear their heads and stifle the green shoots of progressive development and the most affected persons are children and youth. As you can imagine, NGO's like ChiYoWo are also on the receiving end of this phenomenon as donations towards development projects only trickle in. Nevertheless, ChiYoWo is resolved to keep on advocating, designing and implementing programmes that will improve and provide sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable families.

In my role as the Founder and President, my sincere gratitude goes to our Patron, Trustees, Advisory Committee and Volunteers who, through their tireless effort and care, made a huge difference in our work in 2017. A special shout out goes to our volunteers who travelled with me to terrains we had never visited before to donate reading books. Hard to reach and underserved communities remain a stumbling block to the eradication of poverty if they remain ignored. ChiYoWo will continue to initiate and implement intervention programmes geared towards uplifting the social, economic, technological and environmental status of all Nigerians through sustained collaborations with Government, Private Sector, NGOs / Civil Society Organizations and individual philanthropists. To this end, ChiYoWo is, and continues to be, proud of its accomplishments.

Tokunbo Ifaturoti
Founder/President
ChiYoWo Empowerment Initiative



ChiYoWo EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE TEAM

Tokunbo Ifaturoti – *Founder/President*
Chief Tom Adaba – *Patron, Consultant*
Adegboyega Adelaja – *Vice President & Media Director*
Iwalenia Adelaja – *Finance Director*

GOVERNANCE TEAM

Tokunbo Ifaturoti - *Founder, President/Chairperson*
Adegboyega Adelaja – *Vice President & Media Director*
Iwalenia Adelaja – *Finance Director*
Chief Tom Adaba – *Patron, Consultant*
Aisha Abdulazeez – *Community Development Manager*
Ijeoma Ibe – *Human Resources & Welfare Lead*
Onyeka Titigbe – *Programmes Lead*
Stephanie Oreoluwa – *Executive Administrator/ Ast. Secretary*
Thelma Chiderah - *Monitoring & Evaluation Officer*
Olugbenga Oyewole -- *Public Relations & Digital Content Lead*
Yetunde Morafa – *Finance Administrator/ Secretary*
Caroline Ubrei-joe - *Groups Administrator*

WORKING GROUPS

Wuraola Solarin - Youth4Growth, Lead
Mary Arhuere - Sustainable Livelihoods for Women, Lead
Tamar Angyunwe - Child Protection and Safety, Lead
Francis Ogunleye - Youth Entrepreneurship, Lead

ADHOC WORKING COMMITTEE

Banji Oyewumi – Head ICT & Working Committee Lead

Bolanle Olausi

Musbaudeen Suleiman (Abuja)

Francisca Ahamefule

Kayinsola Olufade

Toluope Ogunleye

Mayor Ernest – Legal Adviser

Ubok Matthew

Ifeanyi Udoegbue

Ibukun Okunrotifa

THEMATIC FOCUS 2017

Education

Enterprise Empowerment

Environmental Awareness

Food and Nutrition

Creative Arts

Who We Are

We are the Children, Youth and Women (ChiYoWo) Empowerment Initiative, an NGO registered in Nigeria, whose primary focus is to enhance opportunities of disadvantaged children, youth and women to achieve sustained livelihoods.



Our Vision

A Nigeria where all children, youth and women achieve sustained livelihoods



Our Mission

To design and implement quality development initiatives to address and remove barriers that prevent development amongst poor, underserved and vulnerable families.



Our Core Values

Our organisation believes that the intrinsic values to which we subscribe underpin the way we extend our services and strengthen our ability to achieve the greater good for humanity. These values are:
Empowerment, Initiative, Creativity, Dignity, Partnership and Selflessness.

Key Event of the Year 2017 - #BookDriveNigeria2017

ChiYoWo worked on a major Programme which was a Book Donation Drive across Nigeria.

Our Support for Basic Literacy across Nigeria

One of the major barriers to accessing libraries and books is the lack of evolving educational supplies, especially in hard-to-reach communities, despite the intervention of the government. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlight the benefits of having access to a functioning library as “promoting universal literacy, including media and information literacy, and digital literacy skills”.

During the year, ChiYoWo, identified with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education. After 9 months of planning, the Programme was rolled out across the 6 geo-political zones in Nigeria in September 2017. The Programme titled #BookDriveNigeria2017 and themed 'Bring Back our Reading Culture', gained massive attention across Nigeria and was reported online on Channelstv.com and Nigerianewsflight.com and in several Newspapers including the Osun Defender. The Programme was also covered by Osun Broadcasting Corporation, Channels TV and Nigerian Television Authority's (NTA) flagship programme 'Weekend Deal'.



The Book Drive Programme was designed to support reading and basic literacy in Nigeria through the access of reading books (fiction, non-fiction and educational). We aimed to reach out to the whole of Nigeria and mapped out beneficiary schools and centres by signposting the 6 geo-political zones being South West, North East, South South, North West, North Central and South East. Over 3,520 children in 20 schools and centres across the zones received educational supplies. This was in the form of books, writing materials and library shelves. The Programme also provided basic training on how to manage the books, libraries and the users. We set up 20 ChiYoWo Reading Book Clubs in Nigeria.





Children have a right to read

Increasingly, there is a need to sustain an educational system in the literacy and digital space which has continued to dwindle. At a societal level, poverty, poor health and social vulnerability adversely affect development, which is clearly visible in most families and the nation as a whole. According to UNICEF, 10.5 million children are out of school. While the highest number recorded is in North East Nigeria (UNESCO), our research indicated the problem continuously evolves across the nation. Our visit to educational centres in Ajegunle and Agege, Lagos revealed what happens in most schools situated in hard to reach communities. The lack of libraries and/or reading books was indicative of a broken down generation of children and youth with poor reading skills, poor grades, distracted and frustrated with visible behavioural problems. Equally, children and youth in Agwagune in Calabar at an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp, and in over 5 IDP camps ChiYoWo visited, tucked away from the global glare in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja faced similar social exclusion.

It was with this in mind that we began to seek strategic partners who could provide books, cash donations or both towards the actualisation of our Programme. The ChiYoWo Team came up with a Book Drive Initiative themed 'Bring Back our Reading Culture'. The hashtag #BookDriveNigeria2017 was our social media identity for the Book Drive throughout 2017.



Strategic Partners for the BookDriveNigeria2017: United Kingdom

Our main strategic partner was the Nigerian Schools Foundation UK (NSF(UK)). The organisation is based in London, United Kingdom. The synergy was dynamic. NSF(UK) actively requested book donations, sorted and sent them to Nigeria. Three dynamic businesses run by Nigerians in the diaspora provided the much needed assistance in the United Kingdom. Lagos Island and Mama Calabar, are 2 restaurants based in London that graciously became designated book donation hubs. The third business was a shipping company that wants to remain anonymous. This company shipped all the books donated to Nigeria for free. The contribution of these business and NSF(UK) were a key factor for the success of the #BookDriveNigeria2017 Programme.



Besides self-funding part of the Programme, we called on our friends, families and colleagues to donate financially from across the world. Without them we would have not been able to implement this Programme. ChiYoWo also set up a GoFundMe crowdfunding online page and payment portal. We had a total number of 29 people donate monies towards our cause on this platform.

Strategic and Development BookDriveNigeria2017: Nigeria

Our strategic and development partners in Nigeria formed a crucial part of our journey in Nigeria. They enabled us to access our target audience in each of the 6 zones with ease. We are grateful that the success of the #BookDriveNigeria2017 can also be attributed to our great partnership and working relationships developed over months. In Lagos, Nigeria, Terra Kulture also provided space for books to be dropped off on the Island. Books were also collected from donors. A special “thanks” goes out to a family who gave us access to their family library and encouraged us to take all we wanted.

The support received from all our partners, supporters and donors from Nigeria, United Kingdom and America enabled ChiYoWo's impact to span across Nigeria including Borno and Yobe States where the Boko Haram insurgency had created a development vacuum. Collectively, we can keep on making a positive difference.



LIST OF STRATEGIC AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (Book Drive Programme)

Atiti Sosimi
TAAI CONSULTANCY LIMITED

Wole Sanwo
NIGERIAN SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
(UK) - NSF (UK)

Bolanle Austen Peters
TERRA KULTURE LAGOS

Sola Oyebade
MAHOGANY EVENTS INTERNATIONAL

Femi Ifatureoti
BUREAU OF SOCIAL SERVICES
(DG) – OSUN STATE

Adamu Balat
ISAIAH BALAT FOUNDATION – IBF

Msheila Wayuta Birma
HOPE INITIATIVE – HI

Ubrei -Joe M. Mariere
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY
FOUNDATION – CODAF

Zainab Aliyu
HOPE FOR ALL FOUNDATION - HFA

Val I Uwaka
RURAL AWARENESS FOR GREEN
ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE – RAGE

Rashida Apahade
EDUCATIONAL SECRETARIAT (GENDER
AWARENESS) ABUJA –

Mr J. Sodeinde
Mrs L. Ajani
Ms V. Wya
Mrs S. Alabi
Mr L. Etti
Mrs L. Bamgelu
Ms T. Shonubi



OUR REACH

South West

Malticia Nursery & Primary School, Okota, Lagos State
Awori College, Ojo, Lagos State
Isashi Grammar School, Ojo, Lagos State
Heritage Homes Orphanage, Ajah, Lagos State
Heritage Homes Orphanage, Anthony, Lagos State
Iwoye-Ijesa Middle High School, Iwoye-Ijesa, Osun State
St Peter's Anglican Primary School, Erinmo- Ijesa, Osun State
Fem-Field Nursery & Primary School Abeokuta, Ogun State
Methodist Basic Primary School Okin – Apa, Ogbomosho, Oyo State
Okin High School, Okin-Apa, Ogbomosho, Oyo State

North East

ECWA Beckett Memorial College,
Kukar- Gadu, Yobe State

Krikasamma Primary School,
Maiduguri Borno State

UNICEF Child Friendly Space,
at an Internally Displaced Persons Camp,
Maiduguri, Borno

North West

LEA Primary School, Television,
Kaduna State

LEA Primary School, Kawo,
Kaduna State

SPECIAL GUESTS ATTENDANCE

Honorable Victor Akande
(Ojo Constituency) Lagos State

Oba (Professor) John Akintola,
The Alapa of Okin-Apa, Ogbomosho,

South South

New Era College, Benin City, Edo State.

Ogelle Primary School, Ughelli,
Delta State

Soaring Height Model Schools Asaba,
Delta State

North Central

Junior Secondary School, Apo
Resettlement, Abuja, Federal Capital
Territory

South East

Gifted Scholars, Onitsha, Anambra State

SESSIONAL CONTRIBUTORS:

Segun Ifaturoti
Benjamin Oniwinde
Esther Oniwinde
Kehinde Ojeyinka

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Participating States Spelling Bee Competition

In our bid to enhance Basic Literacy Skills, the ChiYoWo team designed a Spelling Bee Competition in 18 schools/centres across Nigeria. The degree of competitiveness amongst students to be winners of the Competition was extremely encouraging. The winner in each school was made the prefect for the library planted and administrator of the 'ChiYoWo Reading Book Clubs' set up in their school.

Lagos	Edo
Ogun	Delta
Osun	Kaduna
Oyo	Abuja (FCT)
Yobe	Anambra
Borno	

Challenges of the Book Drive Programme

We experienced some challenges associated with all the programmes delivered in 2017. However, this Report will highlight the main challenges of the key event, the BookDriveNigeria2017 Programme.

Quality Education

Infrastructure and Technical Support: The lack of basic infrastructure and technical support such as designated library spaces, reading tables and chairs, reading books, clean portable water, sanitary and hygiene facilities and librarians and support staff was evident. 85% of the schools visited requested infrastructure and 100% wanted more books

Curriculum-Based Books: 95% of the schools visited requested subject-based textbooks to enhance the educational experience for the pupils especially those from financially challenged backgrounds.

Government Stakeholder Support

The lack of clarity on how NGO's could liaise with government departments and work together created barriers in most states and reduced the number of schools we could work with.

Training

85% of teachers we liaised with requested building capacity workshops and training. Most of them stated they had low morale. They knew of the benefits of developing a reading culture and having functioning and well-equipped libraries. However, they stressed there was no provision for such laudable initiatives in their schools.

Partnerships (Private Sector)

Partnerships, especially with companies in the education space, seemed promising at the outset but we ended up relying heavily on individuals abroad to donate books towards the cause.

Funding Gap

There is a huge funding gap for library resources and services for public and some private schools especially in hard to reach and underserved communities in Nigeria.

Why 'Bring Back Our Reading Culture' matters

We are acutely aware that the lack of a decent reading culture in schools and homes significantly affects the development of a child. Every child has a right to basic education. Given the first-hand experience at the schools we visited and feedback from pupils and teachers, this right seems to be the missing pointer in their schools' curriculum.

How we determined impact

It was extremely difficult to obtain conclusive data at local and national levels but we have based our submissions on what we experienced on the ground. 97% of the pupils we worked with were excited. They wanted us to visit again and requested more reading books, writing material and educational activities. Headteachers and teachers needed infrastructure and more curriculum-based books. Government officials wanted more collaborative projects and our strategic development partners want to work with ChiYoWo again. Simply put, reading is integral to the development of our leaders of tomorrow and children want to be active contributors to their own development.



Geo Political Zones in Nigeria	States	Number of Schools/Centres Visited	*Percentage of Libraries/ChiYoWo Reading Clubs in Use
South-West	Lagos	5	80%
	Ogun	1	100%
	Osun	2	80%
	Oyo	2	100%
South-East	Anambra	1	50%
South-South	Edo	1	60%
	Delta	2	80%
North-East	Borno	2	80%
	Yobe	1	100%
North-West	Kaduna	2	100%
North-Central	Abuja	1	80%

**Data compiled by ChiYoWo showing impact of the Book Drive by December 2017*



CONCLUSIONS

From our research into the reading culture, especially in designated library spaces, it is obvious that much more needs to be done to realise an optimized 'reading culture' across Nigeria. The stark reality is that so many factors have pre-determined the attainment of quality education especially in the underserved and hard to reach communities. As part of ChiYoWo's educational campaign, and in line with the SDG4, we are committed to promoting quality education and enabling every child to partake and enjoy the reading culture habit. No child should be left out of this learning process in Nigeria. Throughout the #BookDriveNigeria2017 Drive programme, we spoke with and listened to pupils, teachers, headteachers, non-teaching staff, parents, guardians and civil servants in the education space who wanted to be a part of or support the new generation of readers but who were held back by poverty, lack of adequate support and poor infrastructure. The Sustainable Development Goals offer a platform for collaborative synergies which was embraced during the Programme. A stronger commitment to partnership is needed. Collaboration with third parties in Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), Edo, Kaduna, Lagos, Osun, Oyo and Yobe States in the form of government officials and/or Chiefs in their communities created an enabling environment for the success of the #BookDriveNigeria2017 Programme. Evidence gathered during our initial monitoring and evaluation exercise indicated a commitment from more schools and teachers to work together to provide a 'school-based working strategy' for the library and ChiYoWo Reading Clubs to function effectively. Some schools have now liaised directly with government ministries and have requested more synergy between all parties.

Across a comprehensive range of areas, the SDGs could be used as a framework and benchmark by the private sector to address the high illiteracy rate in Nigeria through different collaborative practices while harnessing other socio-economic and environmental issues. Many of the development obstacles faced today in similar communities have poverty as the root cause. Experiences varied across the 6 geo-political zones. Most of the people interviewed, including the pupils, mentioned that the lack of good amenities (such as electricity, clean portable water and sanitation), hygiene, hawking, sibling and child care, poor housing, low income, locality, religion and dyslexia were the significant impediments to achieving quality education. Most importantly, the education system, teachers and poor/lack of proper infrastructure in all contexts were markers highlighting limited development, especially in the educational space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In promoting the reading book culture, we recognise the need to work with various third parties including the schools and pupils to devise an all-inclusive and effective approach to development. Besides reading curriculum-based textbooks, there is a need for literacy to be developed in schools at a young age. This will transform lives and encourage pupils to reflect and relate to others at different levels. Our Spelling Bee Competitions, debate and drama sessions were effective strategies we devised to support the Book Drive and the results were amazing. Soft skills that had been overlooked by some schools became visible.

This has raised their achievements in delivering good communication and teamwork skills. It also provided different ways to share and gain new information in a fun-loving environment with a can-do spirit. The journey has just started for ChiYoWo and we look forward to doing more work in this space. Advocacy and commitment will help close the funding gap with recognition and assistance from the government, funding bodies, philanthropists, NGO's and private companies alike.

Watch out for #BookDriveNigeria2018 and we look forward to you helping us to build the next generations' literacy hub in their respective schools and centres across Nigeria.

COMMUNITY VISITS

Teenpreneuers Hub

15 Teenagers receive ongoing training on how to code as an afterschool initiative for Digital Literacy Awareness
#BookDriveNigeria2017

6 GEO-POLITICAL ZONES VISITED, 11 STATES
2,553 Books Donated,
20 Libraries Planted,
3,520 Pupils Empowered

STREET KITCHEN OUTREACH (AGEGE)
300 children received hot nutritious meals and beverages

Education and Environmental Assessment (Ajegunle)

Child Rights: Identified patterns of social and educational exclusion of over 200 children living in the slum area

Child Safety and Protection (Ajah & Anthony)

Crisis Intervention: First-hand knowledge of impact on the Right to Protection, Education, Adoption and Foster Care for 36 Children and Youth

Women Empowerment and Environmental Awareness, (Otodo Gbame & Sagbokoji Communities)

Capacity for Disaster and Resource Management: Improved understanding of Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Strengthening in Host Communities for 60 Displaced Women

Christmas Party, Orphanage (Ajah & Anthony)

Champion the Rights of Children and Youth to influence self-awareness and development by hosting educational workshops in a fun filled environment through creative arts

COLLABORATION

10 Strategic Partners for the #BookDriveNigeria2017

The Street Kitchen

Heritage Orphanage Homes For the End of Year 2017 Christmas Party

EVENTS	LOCATIONS COVERED	DATE	MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS
The Street Kitchen: Feeding Project	Agege Community, Lagos	March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Theme: "<i>Hunger is Real</i>" - Food and Drink Donations
Teenpreneuers Hub	Ipaja, Lagos	May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information Technology - Coding for Kids
Street Children Empowerment Foundation (SCEF)	Ghana	September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundraising - Donation of Educational Materials to Children and Youth on behalf of SCEF
Digital Literacy Awareness – ISPACE Hub & African Science Academy	Ghana	September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technology - Business - Entrepreneurship - Science - Engineering - Mathematics Community Programmes
Book Drive Programme 2017	6 Geo-political Zones in Nigeria: Ogun, Lagos, Osun, Oyo, Anambra, Delta Edo, Borno, Yobe, Kaduna, Abuja.	September – December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Book Donations - Librarian Trainings - Library Setups
Spelling Bee Competition	18 Schools/Centres, 10 States and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja	September-October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness Basic Literacy Skills

EVENTS	LOCATIONS COVERED	DATE	MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS
NTA Interview (Book Drive Programme 2017)	Abuja	November 2017	- Exposition on the Reading Culture
*Universal Children's Day #kidstakeover	Social Media Platforms	November 2017	- Media Awareness on Child Rights ' <i>I am the Future, I am Nigeria</i> '.
**Community Awareness visit to Internally Displaced Persons in Sagbokoji	Sagbokoji Community in Apapa, Lagos	November 2017	- Skills Acquisition for Women evicted from Otodo Gbame Community
Christmas Party for 2 Orphanage Homes	Anthony, Lagos	December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gift Donations: Books, Bibles, Textile Material, Toys and Writing Material - Arts and Craft Workshops - Christmas Party

****Led by ChiYoWo's Child Protection and Safety Team **Led by ChiYoWo's Sustainable Livelihoods for Women Team. All other Projects/Programmes were implemented by members from all our departments.***







MEDIA OUTREACH

Website: www.chiyowo.org
Facebook: [chiyowoinitiative1](https://www.facebook.com/chiyowoinitiative1)
Twitter: [@chiyowoini](https://twitter.com/chiyowoini)
Instagram: [@chiyowoini](https://www.instagram.com/chiyowoini)
LinkedIn: Tokunbofaturoti
Tag: #BookDriveNigeria2017
Telephone: +234(0)818 243 8231

PUBLICITY

Interview with Nigerian Television Authority (NTA)– Weekend Deal: 'Bring Back Our Reading Culture in Nigeria' – Highlighting the demise of libraries in schools and its impact on literacy and development in Nigeria.

<https://youtu.be/0dN5UikHCZU> Part 1

<https://youtu.be/xBjjHS8yZpY> - Part 2

<https://youtu.be/l97qqbaolhs> - Part 3

<https://youtu.be/AIZcJi63jLo> - Part 4

YouTube Video Titled: ChiYoWo Book Donation Drive – A Short Documentary on Library Planting in Nigeria. Our documentary shines a light on the 'forgotten young leaders of tomorrow' and their willingness to Always Seek Knowledge (ASK). According to UNESCO (2015), 65 million Nigerians are illiterates and ChiYoWo believes reducing illiteracy is a right. No one should be left behind.

<https://youtu.be/x33T3oKuq3A&>

Print Media Interviews

Thank you to all our trustees, patron, volunteers, supporters and donors. It would have been impossible to breathe hope into the lives of many young future leaders without your kindness.

ChiYoWo Empowerment Initiative is an NGO registered in Nigeria (CAC/IT/NO86097)

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