

Solidarity Fund For Innovative Project (FSPI-R)

Impacts in Nigeria (2023-2024)

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AU NIGÉRIA

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FOREWORD

In today's rapidly evolving Nigerian society, where societal norms are in constant flux, we must address the diverse needs and challenges faced by different segments of our population.

As we strive for progress and inclusivity, it becomes increasingly apparent that traditional approaches to social development may no longer suffice. Instead, we must embrace innovation, creativity, and collaboration to effect meaningful change and create a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

The projects in this report – National Breakdance Championship, Parasoccer, Para Powerlifting, Paralympics and Olympics Capacity Building for Coaches, and Menstrual Hygiene – exemplify the approach to social development. By harnessing the power of sports, arts, and health education, these projects aim to empower marginalized communities, promote inclusion, and address pressing social issues.

In Nigeria, unique social challenges call for innovative solutions. With the emergence of Breakdance as an Olympic sport, the National Breakdance project is more than just a display of athletic talent and creativity; it signifies the profound impact of dance in sports. Through breakdancing, young people from diverse backgrounds learn discipline, creativity, and teamwork.

The Parasoccer Tournament broke down barriers and redefined notions of ability and disability. By providing opportunities for men with disabilities to participate in competitive sports, the project challenged stereotypes and promoted inclusivity.

Similarly, the Para Powerlifting project empowered women with disabilities to achieve their full potential. With statistics indicating a 40% improvement in physical and mental well-being among participants, the project not only built strength but also broke down barriers to inclusion and promoted a culture of resilience and determination.

Lastly, the Menstrual Hygiene project tackled a critical yet often overlooked aspect of women's health in Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Abuja. By providing education, access to menstrual hygiene products, and safe spaces for discussion, the project empowered women and girls to manage their menstrual health with dignity and confidence.

PRESS STATEMENT (April, 2023)

FAME Foundation is proud to announce its new partnership with the French Embassy ahead of the Olympic/Paralympics Games to inspire and teach valuable life skills to young people – particularly those that are consistently underserved, excluded, or economically disadvantaged.

The Project will be officially launched in July 2023. As part of its commitment to creating more access and opportunity, FAME Foundation will implement a wide range of projects aimed at empowering youths, athletes and promoting crucial social causes.

These projects include, a Break-dance competition across 5 states in Nigeria, Para Soccer competition, Para Weightlifting, Girl-Child Education Workshops, Menstrual Health Hygiene -IDP camp, and Comprehensive training programs for Olympic and Paralympics coaches.

Through this partnership, opportunities will be created that will contribute to youth well-being, creativity, and talent discovery while fostering diversity within the sports community. The Para soccer competition will provide individuals with disabilities a platform to showcase their skills and inspire others to overcome challenges.

Since its inception, FAME Foundation has partnered with organizations that are purposefully using physical activity to positively impact communities around the world. With a shared belief that sport is so much more than a game, we are happy to collaborate with the French Embassy in its efforts to create opportunities for millions of young people to engage in sports and break down barriers for those who strive for more.

FAME Foundation remains committed in its mission to empower women and girls and also with these projects we aim to encourage athletes, promote social inclusion, and contribute to a brighter future for Nigeria.

NATIONAL BREAKDANCE CHAMPIONSHIP



FAME Foundation in partnership with the French Embassy in Nigeria organized the first ever National Breakdance Championship in Nigeria, a groundbreaking event aimed at fostering greater access and opportunities for the nation's youth while simultaneously empowering athletes and championing significant social causes.

Held in five states - Kano, Kaduna, Port Harcourt, Abuja, and Lagos - the championship attracted over 300 break-dancers, including participants from neighboring states like Plateau, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Edo, Gombe, Nasarrawa, Oyo, and Ogun.

After intense qualifiers in each state, 32 finalists emerged, showcasing the best of Nigeria's breakdancing talent. The grand finale, hosted at the Indoor Sports Hall of the National Stadium in Surulere, Lagos, saw two winners earning their places in breakdancing history and securing the chance to represent Nigeria on the global stage.

Beyond the competition, the championship leveraged its platform to campaign against social vices prevalent in Nigerian society. Through awareness campaigns and workshops, it addressed issues such as youth unemployment, substance abuse, rape, and crime, aiming to inspire positive change among Nigerian youth.

With 333 direct beneficiaries and over 10,000 indirect beneficiaries, the championship made a significant impact on both individuals and communities, serving as a vehicle for social transformation and empowerment.

This event set a precedent for future collaborations aimed at harnessing the potential of sports for social good. The championship not only celebrated Nigeria's vibrant breakdancing culture but also propelled it onto the global stage, affirming the nation's talent and potential in dance and social advocacy.



MAJOR IMPACTS (M&E)

Increased awareness of GBV and social vices among Nigerian youths.

Improved communication skills among youths.

Improved energy has developed between dancers from different states of residence.

Provided more awareness on different types of gender-based violence.

The participants pledge to serve as ambassadors for change especially to fight against GBV.

• It improved their confidence level.

Improved social media usage for good.

DATA

An average of **80%** of the participants have plans to campaign through social media.

Over 200 people participated in the qualifier including non-professional dancers.

> Qualifiers took place in five different states.

We had over **333** direct beneficiaries.

Over **25,000+** were reached through flyers, media reports, social media, bunk SMS, television, radio, newspapers etc.

LESSON LEARNED



Increased awareness creation as well as knowledge and understanding of the path of GBV and other vices.

A deeper understanding of the mentality of dancers towards dance as a sport.

A deeper understanding of the correlation of breakdance and sports.

Knowledge acquisition of breakdance as an olympics sports.

Technical know-how on utilizing dance for advocacy to make change and push for sustainable outcomes among Nigerians and youths.

A deeper understanding of the importance of relying on each other's strengths and fostering a sense of camaraderie to succeed as a team.

Increased awareness of the importance of persistence and determination.

All programs emphasized the importance of community engagement, support, and participation in promoting social change and creating a lasting impact.



Promotes the importance of gender equality.

The programs taught us the importance of using inclusive language and marketing strategies to promote programs and engage diverse audiences.







BACKGROUND

Kaduna State is located in north-central Nigeria and is known for its diverse ethnic and religious composition. While rich in cultural heritage, the state faces various challenges. Some challenges include ethnoreligious tensions, sporadic outbreaks of violence, inadequate infrastructure, and educational disparities. These issues contribute to social and economic disparities among its residents.

The Breakdance Project in Kaduna has played a significant role in addressing some of these challenges. By providing a platform for young people to engage in breakdancing, the project promotes social cohesion and cultural exchange. It serves as a means to bridge divides, fostering understanding and unity among participants from different backgrounds.

Additionally, the Breakdance Project offers a constructive outlet for the energy and creativity of the youth. It provides an alternative to negative influences, helping to redirect their focus toward skill development, teamwork, and self-expression. Through dance workshops and community events, the project contributes to building a more inclusive and harmonious environment in Kaduna.

Its impact lies in the positive influence it has on the lives of participants. By addressing social and cultural challenges at the grassroots level, the Breakdance Project contributes to building a foundation for a more resilient and interconnected community in Kaduna. In Kaduna, different people from neighboring states joined such as Plateau and FCT. We had a total of 45 people who came from this three states.

NATIONAL BREAKDANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (KADUNA)

FAME Foundation, a non-governmental organization based in Abuja organized a National Breakdance Championship qualifier in Kaduna, respectively.

This event aims to empower the youth through sports under the Play it Dream it Initiative, strengthening the inclusion of young people and vulnerable people through sport, will inspire and teach valuable life skills to young people – particularly those that are consistently underserved, excluded, or economically disadvantaged.

The championship which started on July 17, 2023 at the Alliance Francaise office of Kaduna state, had a total of 41 break dancers in attendance. Kaduna qualifiers, had 30 participants. Kaduna.

After the event, Executive Director of FAME Foundation, Ms Aderonke Ogunleye-Bello, expressed her gratitude, saying, "I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the French Embassy for their invaluable support in making this event possible.

Furthermore, I appreciate the technical support provided by the Nigeria Dance Sport Federation. Through the ongoing play it Dream it initiative, young, and vulnerable individuals will be included and empowered through sports."

The competition will continued in three more states, Port Harcourt, on August 2, 2023; Abuja on September 9, 2023, and Lagos on September 22, 2023, with the grand finale scheduled for October.

Two winners from the grand finale will represent Nigeria at an international breakdance championship in France with other consolation prizes for the runner-up.





















BACKGROUND

Kano State, located in northern Nigeria, boasts a rich history, cultural heritage, and economic significance. However, the state encounters challenges such as rapid urbanisation, unemployment, and limited access to quality education and healthcare.

These issues contribute to socio-economic disparities, particularly affecting the youth population. In response to these challenges, the Breakdance Project in Kano has emerged as a dynamic force for positive change. By leveraging the universal language of dance, the project provides a unique platform for youth empowerment and social integration.

It catalyzes breaking down societal barriers and fostering unity among participants from various socio-economic backgrounds.

The Breakdance Project has also played a role in addressing unemployment by offering dance workshops and mentorship programs. Through these initiatives, young people acquire valuable skills in dance, event planning, and leadership, enhancing their employability and entrepreneurial spirit.

This not only contributes to individual growth but also helps tackle the broader issue of youth unemployment in Kano.

However, the project acts as a cultural bridge, celebrating diversity and promoting understanding among different communities within Kano.

NATIONAL BREAKDANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (KANO)

FAME Foundation, a non-governmental organization based in Abuja organized a National Breakdance Championship qualifier in Kano, respectively.

This event aims to empower the youth through sports under the Play it Dream it Initiative, strengthening the inclusion of young people and vulnerable people through sport, will inspire and teach valuable life skills to young people – particularly those that are consistently underserved, excluded, or economically disadvantaged.

The championship which started on July 19, 2023 at the Alliance Francaise office of Kano state, had a total of 30 break dancers in attendance, five finalists, respectively.

An excited participant from Kano, Benjamin Samuel, aka Bboy Xsycho commended the organizers for organizing a breakdance championship in Kano for the very first time, "I have been a dancer for a very long time, like 15 years, and throughout my journey as a dancer, I have never had an opportunity like this in Kano where a qualifier of a National Breakdance will come to the Kano state, I want to say a big shoot-out to French Embassy and FAME Foundation for remembering Kano state, "he said.

The competition will continue in three more states, Port Harcourt, on August 2, 2023; Abuja on September 9, 2023, and Lagos on September 22, 2023, with the grand finale scheduled for October.

Two winners from the grand finale will represent Nigeria at an international breakdance championship in France with other consolation prizes for the runner-up.

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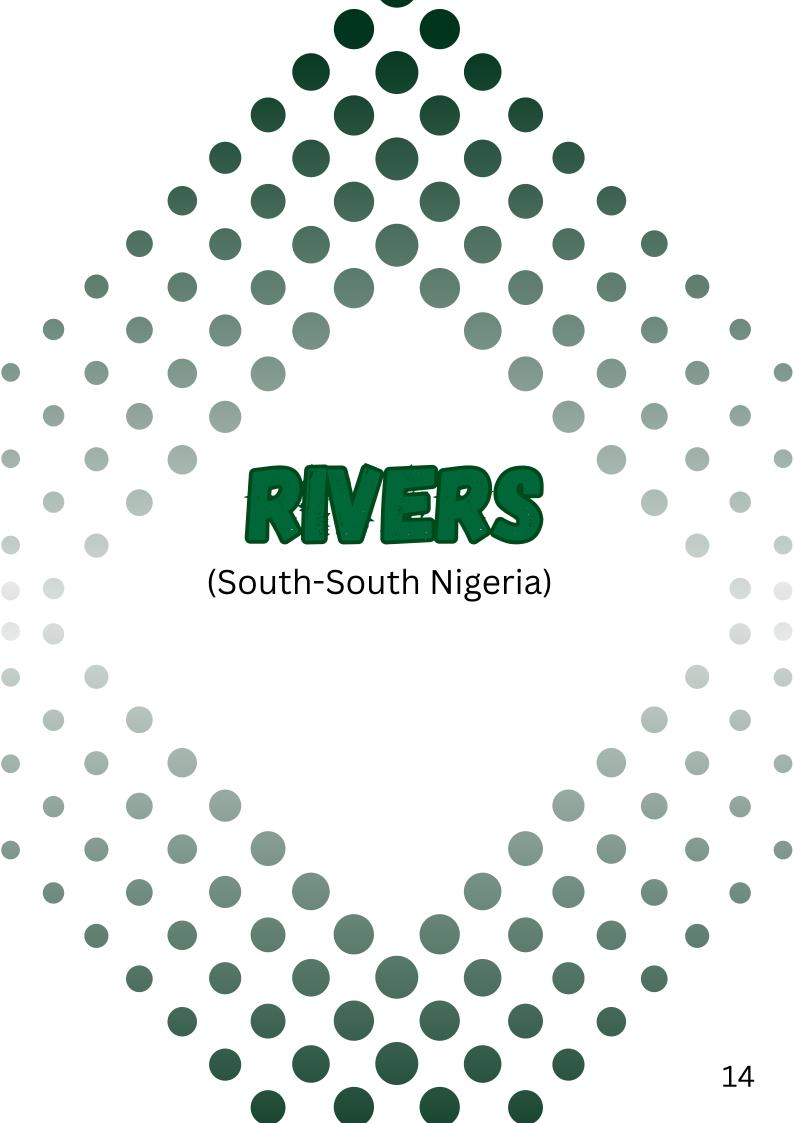
















BACKGROUND

River State, situated in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, is characterized by its strategic economic importance, lush landscapes, and diverse cultural heritage. However, the state grapples with multifaceted challenges, including environmental degradation due to oil exploration, inadequate infrastructure, youth unemployment, and occasional tensions among ethnic groups.

In response to these challenges, the Breakdance Project in River State has emerged as a transformative force. By harnessing the universal appeal of breakdancing, the project provided a creative and inclusive platform for young individuals to express themselves positively. Through dance workshops and events, it serves as a conduit for skill development, fostering teamwork and discipline.

The Breakdance Project plays a pivotal role in addressing youth unemployment by offering participants not only an artistic outlet but also valuable skills in choreography, event planning, and collaboration. This not only enhances their employability but also cultivates an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth.

Furthermore, the project serves as a catalyst for social cohesion. By bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds, it promotes cultural exchange and mutual understanding, contributing to the social fabric of River State.

While River State faces complex challenges, the Breakdance Project stands as a testament to the power of grassroots initiatives in addressing social, cultural, and economic issues.

By empowering the youth, fostering creativity, and promoting unity, the project plays a meaningful role in enhancing the overall well-being of the community.

NATIONAL BREAKDANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (PORTHARCOURT)

FAME Foundation, a non-governmental organization in Abuja, in conjunction with the French embassy in Nigeria, organized a National Break Dance Championship qualifier in Port Harcourt as part of activities under the Play It Dream It Initiative.

The event that took place on August 26, 2023, at the Alliance Francaise in Portharcourt recorded a total of 21 break dancers in participation, a championship that proved to be a challenging competition, culminating in the emergence of six winners after a fierce battle from Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross Rivers states.

Speaking to the press, Ms. Aderonke Ogunleye Bello, executive director of FAME Foundation, acknowledged the exceptional talent and tenacity of the break dancers, she said,

"This Portharcourt qualifier has proven to be incredibly challenging, the level of skill and fierceness displayed by all the break dancers made it a difficult task for our judges. Fortunately, we had a capable and experienced jury that managed to select the best that will represent Portharcourt in the Finals."

Among the enthusiastic participants, Bgirl Kris stood out as the only female present, filled with joy, she disclosed,

"I have been a dancer since childhood, but fear initially gripped me when I got here and realized I was the only girl. But I had unwavering confidence in my abilities, which motivated me to give my all, so when my name was announced as one of the finalists, my happiness knew no limits."

Similarly, Bboy Prank, one of the finalists from Portharcourt, expressed his excitement, "I am grateful for this opportunity to participate in the break dance championship. I came from Akwa Ibom to participate in the qualifier, and being named a finalist fills me with immense pride. I am looking forward to delivering my best performance at the finals in Lagos."

The competition is set to continue in two additional states: Abuja on September 9, 2023, and Lagos on September 22, 2023. The grand finale is scheduled for November in Lagos after which, two winners will be chosen to represent Nigeria at an international breakdance championship in France, while runner-ups will receive consolation prize.





















BACKGROUND

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT), encompassing Abuja, Nigeria's capital, serves as the country's political and administrative hub. Despite its planned infrastructure, the FCT faces challenges such as traffic congestion, inadequate housing, and socio-economic disparities.

In response, the Breakdance Project in the FCT emerges as a dynamic initiative. By leveraging the universal language of breakdancing, the project engages youth in a positive and inclusive manner. Through workshops and events, it becomes a creative outlet, channeling energy towards skill development and teamwork.

The Breakdance Project plays a role in addressing urban challenges. By providing an alternative form of recreation and skill acquisition, it contributes to reducing idleness among youth, fostering a sense of purpose within the community.

Additionally, the project serves as a catalyst for community integration. As participants from diverse backgrounds come together to share in the joy of dance, it promotes social cohesion and mutual understanding, contributing to a more harmonious social landscape in the FCT.

NATIONAL BREAKDANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (ABUJA)

FAME Foundation, a non-governmental organization in Abuja, in conjunction with the French embassy in Nigeria, organized a National Break Dance Championship qualifier in Port Harcourt as part of activities under the Play It Dream It Initiative.

The championship which took place on September 9, 2023, at the Lycée Français Marcel Pagnol d'Abuja recorded a total of 17 break dancers in participation.

The event was attended by the ambassador of the French embassy to Nigeria, Emanuelle Blattman who acknowledged the creativity and skill of Nigerians, she said,

"Knowing the creativity and talent of Nigerians, we cannot be surprised to see the tremendous enthusiasm that today's competition has aroused, from the first qualifier in Kaduna, through the stages of Kano, Portharcourt, Abuja and soon Lagos. Dozens of young people from all over Nigeria have come to take part in this national competition organized by FAME Foundation hoping to qualify for the grand finale with the dream of representing Nigeria at prestigious competitions."

"The activities put together by FAME Foundation inspire and teach valuable life skills to young people, particularly those that are consistently under deserved, excluded or economically disadvantaged. FAME Foundation promotes sport as a vehicle for social inclusion and is a partner with the French Embassy on this project."

The idea behind this qualifier is that breakdance is a new sport in the Olympics for the first time ever next year Paris 2024 breakdance will feature as a sport and that is why we are here to create awareness about the existence of breakdance as a sport and subsequently use sports to empower women and youths.

We have been campaigning against drugs, rape, and other social vices. Breakdance is here to empower and educate the youth. The aim is to spread messages to other youths about thuggery, rape, and other vices while breakdancing."

The competition is set to continue in one additional state which is Lagos on September 22, 2023. The grand finale is scheduled for November in Lagos after which, two winners will be chosen to represent Nigeria at an international breakdance championship in France, while runner-ups will receive consolation prize.





















BACKGROUND

Lagos, Nigeria, is Africa's largest city by population and one of its fastest-growing urban centers. Despite its economic potential and cultural richness, Lagos faces significant challenges, including overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, poverty, unemployment, and environmental degradation.

The breakdance project in Lagos has played a crucial role in addressing these challenges by offering a unique avenue for youth engagement, empowerment, and social change.

The breakdance project has made a difference by providing alternative opportunities for young people who might otherwise be drawn into negative activities due to unemployment or lack of educational opportunities. Through dance classes, workshops, and performances, participants gained valuable skills, discipline, and confidence, which can enhance their employability and overall well-being.

Breakdance project fostered social cohesion and community building by bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds. Regardless of socioeconomic status or ethnic origin, participants bond over their shared passion for dance, creating a sense of belonging and solidarity within the community. This unity can help bridge divides and reduce social tensions, contributing to a more harmonious society.

NATIONAL BREAKDANCE CHAMPIONSHIP (LAGOS)

FAME Foundation, a non-governmental organization in Abuja, in conjunction with the French Embassy in Nigeria, organized a National Break Dance Championship qualifier in Lagos as part of activities under the Play It Dream It Initiative.

The event which took place on September 22, 2023, at the Alliance Francaise in Lagos recorded a total of 26 break dancers in participation, a championship that proved to be a fierce competition as all break dancers can with their A-game.

Speaking to the press, Ms. Aderonke Ogunleye Bello, Executive Director of FAME Foundation, applauded the passion and skill she witnessed in the championship, she said,

The Lagos qualifier turned out to be incredibly challenging, the level of skill, determination and passion displayed by the break dancers has exceeded my expectation and i am delighted to see the youth display so much creativity and originality.

She continued by saying,

"Breakdance is a new Olympic sport, and we must embrace it and raise awareness in Nigeria that dancing is now a sport. We also intend to use breakdance to empower the youths and also as a platform for campaigns against drugs, rape, cultism, fraud, and other social vices. We want to use breakdancing to communicate with other young people around Nigeria."

Additionally, Bboy Lil Vick, one of the Lagos finalists, expressed his excitement, saying, "I am grateful for this opportunity to compete in the break dance championship. Coming here and seeing so many bboys and bgirls made me nervous, but I was determined to make it, and being chosen a finalist fills me with enormous joy. I'm looking forward to giving my best performance at the finals in Lagos."

The qualifying phase of this competition has come to an end. The grand finale is scheduled for November in Lagos after which, two winners will be chosen to represent Nigeria at an international breakdance championship in France, while runner-ups will receive consolation prize.





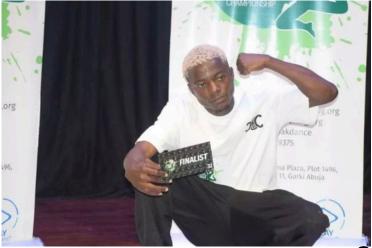












PLAY IT DREAM IT CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR BREAKDANCERS



PLAY IT DREAM IT CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR BREAKDANCERS

FAME Foundation, in partnership with the French Embassy in Nigeria, organized a capacity-building workshop for break dancers on January 13, 2024, in Lagos, leading up to the National Breakdance Championship Finale.

The aim was to educate and inspire the youth in the breaking community, covering various aspects of breaking.

Notable speakers such as Flavor Roc, Mozez Praiz, Funsho Olukesusi, a representative from the French Embassy, and other dignitaries graced the event.

The breakdancers gained insights into breaking elements, embracing sportsmanship, maintaining professionalism, showcasing uniqueness, being relatable, and attracting the attention of scouts.

The speakers emphasized on cultivating a positive competition mindset and steering clear of negative energy.

















NATIONAL BREAKDANCE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALE

FAME Foundation, in partnership with the French Embassy in Nigeria, organized a National Breakdance Championship Finale for Break dancers on January 14, 2024, at the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos.

The project aims to provide a stage for break dancers to not just showcase their extraordinary skills but also ignite inspiration, foster community, and build camaraderie within the vibrant world of breakdancing.

Empowering youth through the PLAY it DREAM it Initiative, this event fueled inspiration, community, and life skills.



















MEDIA REPORTS



The Guardian

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Other Sports

Lagos wins Fame Foundation National Breakdance







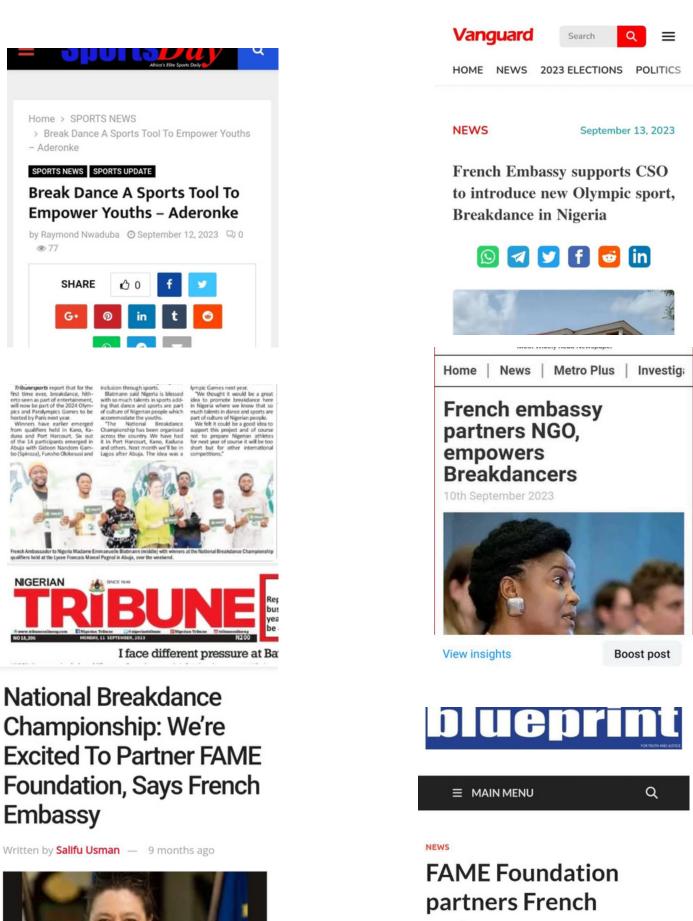
NEWS



Fame Foundation breakdance championship: Two Lagos breakdancers emerge tops



MEDIA REPORTS



embassy, empowers

youths through sports

MEDIA REPORTS



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Other Sports

Nigeria set for International Breakdance Championship in France







FEATURED

Excitements, As Lagos Host Fame Foundation's National Breakdance Championship Qualifier On Friday

Published 5 months ago on September 20, 2023 By **The Gleamer**







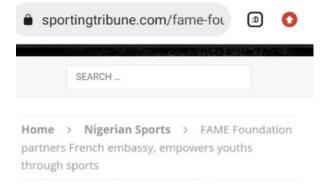
To Empower Youths Through Sports



ABUJA – FAME Foundation is proud to announce its new partnership with the French Embassy in Nigeria, ahead of the Olympic/Paralympics Games 2024.



sports



FAME Foundation partners French embassy, empowers youths through sports

July 6, 2023

KANO PLAY T Start Start

BACKGROUND

Kano, Nigeria, is the commercial and industrial hub of northern Nigeria, with a rich cultural heritage. However, the city faces several challenges, including high levels of poverty, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to education and healthcare, unemployment, and occasional outbreaks of violence.

The parasoccer tournament project in Kano has emerged as a unique initiative to address some of these challenges, particularly those affecting people with disabilities.

The parasoccer tournament project has had a tremendous impact by allowing persons with disabilities, particularly those with mobility difficulties, to participate in sports and physical activities. The project helps individuals enhance their abilities, confidence, and sense of belonging in the community by organizing competitions and training sessions that are specifically customized to their requirements.

In addition, the project serves as a forum for increasing awareness about disability rights while also combating preconceptions and stigma connected with disabilities. The project showcases the abilities and achievements of persons with disabilities through public events and media coverage of the competitions, thereby influencing societal perceptions and attitudes.

Likewise, the project promotes social and economic empowerment by offering chances for employment, entrepreneurship, and leadership development in the disability community. By involving people with disabilities in roles such as coaches, referees, and event organizers, the project not only promotes inclusivity but also helps to build capacity and self-reliance.

The parasoccer tournament project in Kano represents a pioneering approach to addressing social challenges through sports and community engagement. By promoting inclusion, empowerment, and advocacy, the project offers tangible benefits for people with disabilities while contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

PLAY IT DREAM IT INCLUSION PARASOCCER TOURNAMENT (KANO)

A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), FAME Foundation, in conjunction with the French Embassy in Nigeria, has organized a two-days parasoccer inclusion tournament in Kano, in commemoration of the International Youth Day

The event began on August 12, 2023, at the Mahaha Sport Complex and was concluded on August 13, 2023, at the Sani Abacha stadium.

The match, which featured 8 professional teams from Kano state, provided an opportunity for people with disabilities to showcase their skills and abilities on the field and seek for inclusion and equal access for Youth living with disabilities, especially para athletes.

Each team was given a distinguished name that aimed at promoting inclusion and increasing awareness about the abilities and potential of persons with disabilities. Speaking to the press, Ms. Aderonke Ogunleye-Bello, Executive Director, highlighted how important this Para soccer tournament is and how it will benefit and contribute to society,

"This game is undoubtedly a thrilling display of sportsmanship, but it extends beyond the game itself. It is an effective tool for youth, especially those living with disabilities. Our decision to center the Youth Day celebration on a Para Soccer Inclusion Tournament demonstrates our commitment to empowering all people, regardless of their abilities."

"People living with disabilities are no different from others; they ought to be treated fairly and equitably, and they must be involved in all aspects of society, including sports. "

"I hope this event inspires those living with disabilities to never feel excluded and to always believe they are capable of doing amazing things."

She continued, "watching all teams play with so much enthusiasm and dedication has been nothing short of amazing, and we hope to see more of it in the years to come." "I hope that this event inspires sports teams, organizations, and government agencies to see beyond these wonderful people's limitations and give them a chance to showcase their potential."

The final match ended 3 – 2 in favour of Team Equality, champion of the tournament.

SOME PICTURE MOMENTS

















Fame Foundation in collaboration with the French Embassy in Nigeria has organised a Para Soccer tournament for People Living With Disabilities (PWDs) in Kano.



FAME Foundation organises parasoccer tournament in Kano

🗆 14th August 2023

Com	ono'a lat	o gool go	nda	the goal, the likeh Allah re sponded with a long range efforts which goalkeeper Anozie Chinedu parried to	handed the task blasted his effort wide from the spot, as Shooting Stars earned a second win.
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NEWS

August 14, 2023

Sports veritable tool to take persons with disability off street begging – Ex-NFF Chair

Team Equality wins FAME parasoccer tournament in Kano

by **Femi Akinyemi** — August 15, 2023 Reading Time: 2 mins read

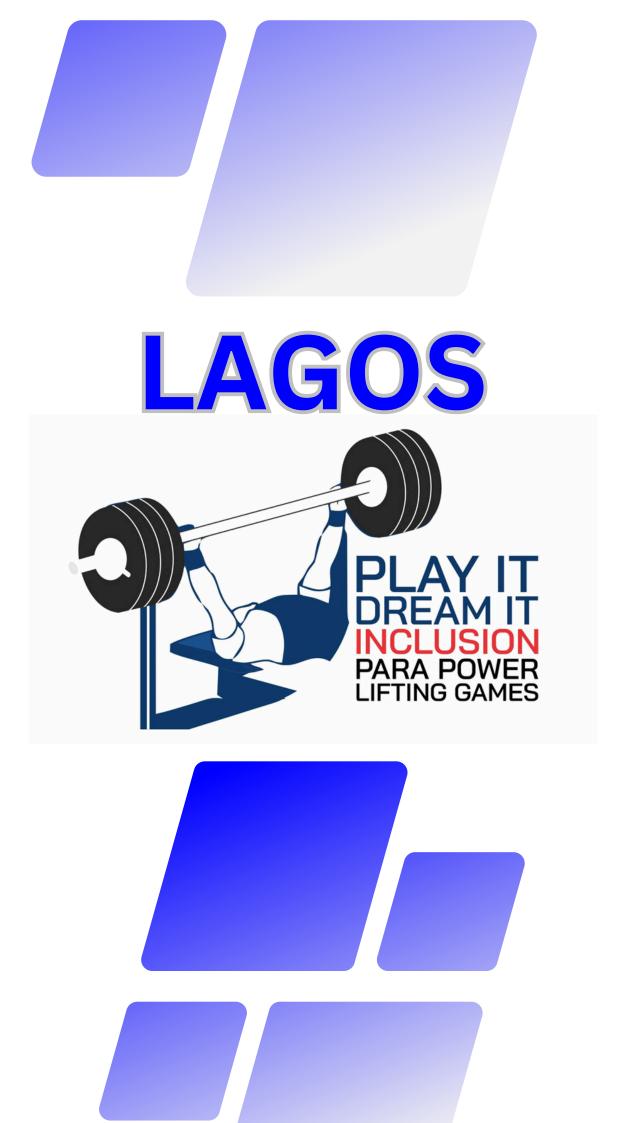
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FAME Foundation Calls For Inclusivity TREAMING 1 ON YOUTUBE, WHATSAPP +2348029478575 ****** AIT CLOUD TV NOW LIVE AND AV

WORLD YOUTH DAY: FAME Foundation Calls For Inclusivity



BACKGROUND

Lagos, Nigeria, is a bustling metropolis facing a myriad of challenges, including overcrowding, inadequate infrastructure, poverty, unemployment, and environmental degradation. These issues often contribute to social unrest and inequality, posing significant obstacles to the city's development and the well-being of its residents.

The para powerlifting tournament project in Lagos has emerged as a transformative initiative to address some of these challenges, particularly those affecting people with disabilities. Unlike previous interventions, which may have focused primarily on charity or medical interventions, the para powerlifting tournament project takes a more comprehensive approach to promoting inclusion, empowerment, and social integration.

One significant way the para powerlifting tournament project has made a difference is by providing opportunities for people with disabilities, particularly those with physical impairments, to participate in competitive sports. By organizing tournaments and training sessions specifically tailored to their needs, the project enables individuals to showcase their athletic abilities, build confidence, and foster a sense of pride in their achievements.

Moreover, the project serves as a platform for raising awareness about disability rights and challenging stereotypes and stigma associated with disabilities. Through public events and media coverage of the tournaments, the project highlights the strength, determination, and resilience of athletes with disabilities, changing perceptions and attitudes within society.

Additionally, the para powerlifting tournament project promotes social cohesion and community building by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds. Participants, whether they have disabilities or not, come together to compete, support each other, and celebrate each other's accomplishments, fostering a sense of unity and mutual respect.

PLAY IT DREAM IT PARA POWERWEIGHLIFTING TOURNAMENT (LAGOS)

FAME Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), partnered with the French Embassy in Nigeria to host a two-day Para Powerlifting Inclusion Games in Lagos, in commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The event kicked off on 2 December, 2023, at the National Stadium Surulere, Lagos; Para Powerlifting Gym and wrapped up on December 3rd, 2023.

The competition featured 8 female professional para-athletes from diverse regions across the country. It offered a platform for women with disabilities to display their talents and capabilities in sports while advocating for inclusion and equal opportunities, particularly emphasizing the inclusion of women with disabilities, especially para-athletes.

The competition was divided into two sessions: the Lower Weight and Heavy Weight. Four participants competed at the Lower Weight session and four at the Heavy Weight session.

The event welcomed esteemed figures including Mr. Chiemeka Charles Ezenwanne, the President of the Para Powerlifting Federation of Nigeria, Mr. Ahmed Abdullahi Libata, General Secretary PPFN, along with two distinguished guest speakers, Mr. Peter Omagbemi, a sports administrator and Coach Oluwakemi Oyebola.

On the first day of the Games, athletes engaged in a qualifier, participating in their individual sessions.

On the concluding day of the event, coinciding with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, speakers took the stage to emphasize the significance of inclusion for individuals with disabilities. Coach Oluwakemi Oyebola, the first speaker, celebrated the Para-athletes, emphasizing their remarkable abilities and urging them to take pride in themselves and maintain confidence in all their endeavors.

The athletes engaged in rounds of weightlifting, culminating in the selection of three deserving winners representing each session of the competition. These winners were presented with medals. The winners of the Lower Weight session were awarded their medals by the Executive Director of FAME Foundation, while those in the Heavy Weight category were honored by Ketty Regis, the representative of the French Embassy in Nigeria.

SOME PICTURE MOMENTS















Times



but also fostered inclusivity

French Embassy, FAME Foundation host special event for female power-lifters in Lagos

This event aligns with the FAME Foundation's ongoing commitment to promoting the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.



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Sports

Fame Foundation, French Embassy Celebrate Paralympians



BACKGROUND

In Abuja, as in many other parts of the world, menstrual health and personal hygiene are significant challenges for women and girls, especially those in marginalized communities. These challenges stem from various factors, including cultural taboos, limited access to resources, inadequate education, and socio-economic disparities.

In Abuja, menstruation is often surrounded by stigma and silence. Cultural taboos may prevent open discussion about menstrual health and hygiene, leading to misinformation and shame surrounding menstruation.

Many women and girls in Abuja face barriers to accessing affordable menstrual hygiene products, clean water, and sanitation facilities. This lack of access can result in unhygienic practices and increased health risks.

Comprehensive education about menstrual health and hygiene is often lacking in schools and communities. As a result, many women and girls may not fully understand their menstrual cycles or proper hygiene.

The menstrual health programs contribute to community empowerment by fostering open dialogue and challenging cultural taboos surrounding menstruation. By creating safe spaces for discussion, women and girls are empowered to advocate for their rights to menstrual health and hygiene.

Through this outreach, Fame Foundation distributed menstrual hygiene products such as sanitary pads to women and girls in need. This helps alleviate financial burdens and ensures that women and girls have access to essential hygiene products.

MENSTRUAL HEALTH & PERSONAL HYGIENE OUTREACH (ABUJA)

In commemoration of the Humanitarian Day 2023, FAME Foundation in partnership with the French Embassy in Nigeria organized a Menstrual Health and Personal Hygiene Outreach under the PLAY it DREAM it initiative.

The outreach took place at the Durumi IDP camp, Area 1, Abuja, on August 19, 2023.

The outreach was held under the PLAY it DREAM it Initiative, and it was aimed at educating women and girls on how to take adequate care of themselves before, during and after menstruation.

The outreach also gave the women and girls the opportunity to learn how to produce their own reusable sanitary products as a way to eradicate period poverty.



SOME PICTURE MOMENTS

















LIVING 7 LIGHTUNG



NEWS

Foundation Empowers IDPs On Menstrual Health, Hygiene

Fame Foundation in collaboration with the French Embassy in Nigeria, on Saturday, empowered internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Durumi camp, Abuja, on menstrual health and...

Fame Foundation's 'Play It, Dream It' Initiative Excites Durumi IDP Camp In Abuja



NGO decries rising lack of access to sanitary products

19th August 2023





Times Reporters > Blog > News > Health > Fame Foundation's 'Play

HEALTH NEWS

Fame Foundation's 'Play it Dream it' initiative Excites Durumi IDPs Camp In Abuja

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR OLYMPIC COACHES (ABUJA)

On June 25, 2024, FAME Foundation and the French Embassy in Nigeria organized a Capacity Building Workshop for Olympic Coaches at the Media Center, National Stadium, Abuja. The workshop aimed to enhance coaching strategies and athlete management techniques in preparation for the upcoming Olympic Games. It featured sessions by Mr. Olumide Bamiduro and Dr. Robinson Okosun, focusing on pivotal aspects of elite coaching and sports psychology.

Mr. Bamiduro's session emphasized maintaining ethical standards in coaching, effective periodization strategies tailored to Olympic sports, personalized nutrition plans, and advancements in sports psychology. His insights provided coaches with practical tools to optimize athlete performance and foster integrity within their teams.

Dr. Robinson Okosun built upon these foundations by exploring the complex dynamics influencing athlete performance, including physical, emotional, and social factors. He highlighted the role of sports psychologists in creating a supportive team environment, managing athlete stress and enhancing resilience through practical strategies and case studies.

The workshop facilitated a collaborative platform for coaches to integrate ethical standards, advanced coaching methodologies, and psychological insights into their practices. Participants left with enhanced knowledge and practical tools to elevate athlete performance and foster a culture of excellence in Nigerian Olympic sports.

The Capacity Building Workshop for Olympic Coaches was a transformative event that equipped coaches with advanced strategies to navigate the challenges of elite sports, contributing to the enhancement of coaching competencies and athlete outcomes in Nigeria.

SOME PICTURE MOMENTS













CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR OLYMPIC COACHES (ABUJA)



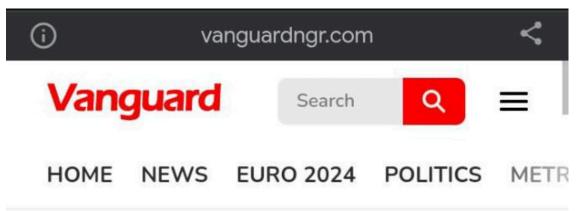












NEWS

June 24, 2024

2024 Olympics: Foundation, French Embassy build capacity of Nigerian coaches



MEET ADERONKE OGUNLEYE-BELLO THE PROJECT LEAD

Aderonke Ogunleye-Bello is an international and multiple award-winning investigative Journalist, development worker, policy analyst, good governance, gender, and peace advocate with a career spanning over 18 years.

She was a Special Assistant (Digital Media) to the Minister of State, Federal Capital Territory. A Special Adviser/spokesperson to former Minister of Women Affairs. Currently, she is serving as Media Assistant to the Honorable Minister of Solid Minerals and Technical Assistant, Broadcast Media, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

She worked with the Nigeria Football League as Deputy Director, protocol department; Country Manager, at Kingston University, London; Sports editor and eventually elevated to the role of Managing Editor at NAIJ.com (now known as legit.ng); she worked as Senior Reporter, Premium Times; Senior Editor, Nigerian Pilot Newspaper; Northern Bureau Chief, MTN Football; Editor, Online, The Sun Newspaper. She had freelanced for the Nigerian Pilot Newspaper, TV Continental, and Africanfootball.com. Her opinion piece has been published by top Nigerian media outlets like Vanguard, Leadership, Blueprint, Tribune, Daily Trust, Newspapers, and others.

Outside Nigeria, she worked for TRT World, Turkey; Sports Integrity, Ireland; Play the Game, Denmark, and has been featured on BBC 'Have You Say', Wits University Newspaper, South Africa, and Malawi Broadcasting Corporation.

In recognition of her advocacy and passion for women's and girls' rights in Africa, she was specially invited by FIFA to participate in the 2018 Women's Football Convention in France. She is an Alumnus of the 'Global Sports Mentoring Program' an exchange programme by the US Department of State, a global program for leaders in which she fully participated with others from around the world in the United States of America in 2019. She is a fellow of the Global Investigative Journalism Network, New York. She was selected and sponsored to attend the GIJC conference in Lillehammer, Norway in 2015.

President Muhammadu Buhari appointed her to serve as representative and member of the Federal Government Team on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Line Up Live Up Programme (LULU). A project that uses sports as a tool to strengthen youth resilience to crime, violence, and drug use by enhancing their personal and social skills and increasing their knowledge of the risks associated with these phenomena. She was a member of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) at the Asaba 2022 National Sports Festival. In 2020, the FCT Minister appointed her to serve as a member of, F.C.T Covid-19 monitoring and implementation Committee. F.C.T. Covid-19 media and publicity committee.

She won the 'Sports Category' at Wole Soyinka Investigative Award in 2013; Leadership awards from the Rotary and Lions Club in 2015 and 2016 respectively; and humanitarian awards from the Goodwill Ambassador Awards in 2016.

A former President of Malawi, HE Joyce Banda, awarded her the Girl-Child Education Champion in Africa, 2017; African Union honored her with a leadership award for her work in women and girls' empowerment, 2018; She was a finalist in the 2016 CNN African Journalist Award for her report on sexual abuse of female athletes by male coaches.

Aderonke Bello singlehandedly led the 2016 African Champions Super Falcons #PayFalcons (a hashtag that trended on Twitter for 2 straight days), protested to the Presidential Villa when allowances were not paid after winning the African Women Championship (AWC), they were paid under 48hours. She has organized, volunteered, and led several campaigns to advocate for peace and gender rights. She has volunteered with UNAIDS, UNICEF, UN Women, UNDP, grassroots agencies, and community outreaches.

In 2017, she founded FAME Foundation www.famefoundationwg.org, an award-winning notfor-profit organization set up to formulate sustainable programs for women and girls in Nigeria. Since its founding, the organization has directly impacted over 10, 000 women and girls and indirectly impacted over 22, 000 Nigerians. The organization has worked with top local and international NGOs and won grants to carry out projects, UN Women, MacArthur Foundation, UNDP, US Embassy, Australian High Commission, UN, AFD, USAID, UNAIDS, European Union, Netherlands Embassy, Finland Embassy, Slovakian Embassy, Laureus Sports for Good, US Department of State, French Embassy, and many others. The NGO currently has 12 administrative staff and over 40 volunteers spread across Nigeria.

Wife of the Former Vice President, Mrs Dolapo Osinbajo attended and launched HerSTEM Initiative for girls with disabilities in 2021, an initiative of FAME Foundation. Minister of Women Affairs, Dame Pauline Tallen, kicked off FAME Foundation's Women's Day Football Tournament in 2020 and 2022 respectively. Honorable Minister of Youth and Sports, Barrister Solomon Dalung refereed and Chief Sunday Dare kicked off the Women's Day Football Tournament in 2019 and 2022 respectively, among other high-profile attendance at FAME Foundation's past events. In 2024, Wife of the Vice President, Hajia Nana Shettima kicked off the International Women's Day Football Tournament in Abuja.

During her charitable engagements, she has worked with notable Nigerians like Tonto Dikeh, Empress Njamah, Victor Moses, Mikel Obi, Odion Jude Ighalo, John Utaka, Victor Osimhen, Kelechi Iheanacho, Asisat Oshoala, Godfrey Oboabona, and several others. She is a respected and relevant stakeholder in the sports ecosystem with influence around the world.

With a strong network and great working relationship in the Diplomatic Community in Nigeria, Aderonke Bello has worked with embassies, envoys, and High Commissions, in carrying out sustainable Community-based projects in key areas of the Federation since 2015 till date. She is a highly respected and sought-after figure in the Nigerian diplomatic community. She stands for everything that has to do with peace, women, and girls' rights. She has undergone several trainings on first aid, child protection, fact-checking, digital reporting, public speaking, women empowerment, climate change, advocacy, etc.

Aderonke is a change agent, mentor, and life coach who believes in Gender Equality and Equity, an international speaker who has spoken at different events in Denmark 2015, Netherlands 2018, South Africa 2013, Malawi 2019, Tanzania 2019, Norway, Mozambique 2019, TEDx Jabi 2015 and other local events. Aderonke has been privileged to visit over 30 countries carrying out development works. She is highly recognized by UN Women, UNFPA, and UNAIDS in Nigeria.

With over 14 authors from around the world including Asia, America, Europe, United Kingdom, Australia, Africa, etc., she co-authored a book titled, Restoring Trust in Sport: Corruption Cases and Solutions. It examines the loss of trust at both national and international levels.

Drawing on cutting-edge research, the book includes both on-field and off-field. It's a solutions-focused collection of sports corruption case studies, leading researchers to consider how to re-establish trust both within sports organizations and in the wider sporting public.She also authored a book for Internally Displaced Girls in conjunction with FAME and FARE Network, London.

In March 2023, she was appointed by the President-Elect as his Representative in the Media and Publicity Sub-Committee of the Presidential Transition Council that ushered in the current President of Nigeria (President Bola Ahmed Tinubu).

She is a go-getter, focused, and committed individual with sound self-esteem and a sense of identity, a team player with a positive attitude and outlook toward life.

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ADERONKE OGUNLEYE-BELLO

Founder and Executive Director, FAME Foundation

INTRODUCING THE FAME TEAM



ADERONKE OGUNLEYE-BELLO Executive Director



KEMISOLA IBITOYE Program Manager



EXPLOIT OFEM Accounts & HR Officer



MIRACLE OLUWAFEMI Esq. Program Analyst, (Legal and Partnerships)



SEWUESE UGBIR Program Analyst (Research, and M&E)



INYENE IDIONG Program Officer (PLAY it DREAM it)



GOODNESS GARBA Project Assistant



EBUNOLUWA ONI Project Officer

(HerSTEM Initiative)



MOLABO ALLEN -TAYLOR Media and Publicity Assistant Office Assistant



DOMINIC JOSEPH



JOSEPHINE BAKO Administrative Assistant



SULE ADAMA Office Assistant







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