



HERSTEM

PROJECT IMPACT

Creating space and opportunities for Women and girls with Disabilities in STEM

2021-2025



www.famefoundationwg.org

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FOREWORD

Disability is an integral part of being human and is intrinsic to the human experience, affecting an estimated 1.3 billion people globally, as highlighted by the World Health Organization (WHO). This number continues to grow due to factors such as the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases and extended life expectancy.

Shockingly, women bear a disproportionate burden, constituting 16% of the world's population, with some facing a life expectancy up to 20 years shorter than those without disabilities. In Nigeria, where nearly half of the population comprises women, approximately 20 percent of them live with a disability, according to research conducted by Nigerian advocacy groups.

Women and girls with disabilities encounter substantial barriers to education, particularly in STEM fields. Research indicates that they have the lowest participation rates in education compared to men with and without disabilities, as well as women without disabilities. Unfortunately, societal discouragement often dampens their interest in STEM subjects from an early age.

In response to this disparity, FAME Foundation, through the HerSTEM initiative, seeks to equip women and girls with disabilities with STEM skills and knowledge. By empowering them to compete effectively in these fields, the initiative aims to enhance their prospects for employment, thereby reducing poverty and improving their overall well-being. This initiative aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

HerSTEM provides a platform for advocating for fair and equal opportunities for women and girls with disabilities in the workplace. FAME Foundation commits to pushing for policies that protect their rights and ensure inclusivity in all aspects of society.

ARABINRIN ADERONKE ATOYEBI
Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

FAME Foundation is a gender-based non-profit organization established solely to solicit, encourage and advance the social, emotional, and economic well-being of women and girls as well as formulates programs within the framework of the national development plan to enhance the participation of women and advocate for gender parity in the society.

We work with grassroots communities and emphasize the empowerment of relevant social groups – including Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and other relevant groups.

We strongly believe that through the empowerment and inclusion of these groups in challenging social vices, we can generate the momentum necessary to bring about constructive change and guarantee that their human rights are upheld.

FAME Foundation operates in Abuja and currently has nine full-time staff and hundreds of volunteers across Nigeria;

FAME Foundation through the HerSTEM initiative intends to reach younger girls and women with disabilities by empowering them with skills that will guide them towards being independent. This will be achieved by establishment of the HerSTEM Innovation Centre for Persons with Disabilities, periodic STEM certification programme-exclusively for women and girls with disabilities, and the HerSTEM Summer boot camp, couple with sustained advocacy and sensitization on the need to include women and girls, with or without disabilities in STEM.



Arabinrin Aderonke Atoyebi

Executive Director
FAME Foundation



HERSTEM INITIATIVE

HerSTEM is an initiative of FAME Foundation, that aims to equip women and girls with disabilities with the necessary skills and knowledge in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The initiative is designed to enable them to compete on equal footing with their peers and to foster their socio-economic empowerment.

WE ARE BREAKING BARRIERS AND FOSTERING INCLUSIVITY IN STEM FIELDS

HerSTEM initiative reaches out to young girls and women with disabilities between ages 10-30. Thereby, empowering them with skills that will guide them towards being independent.

HerSTEM also addresses the issue of lack of access to quality technology education that young women and girls with disabilities face. We plan to make use of a well-detailed and up-to-standard curriculum to guide our teachers in equipping the women and girls appropriately.

HerSTEM ACTIVITIES

- HerSTEM Innovation Centre for Persons with Disabilities

The Innovation Centre will provide a platform to educate and increase STEM enthusiasm in young women and girls with disabilities.

- HerSTEM Classes

Three months of basic, intermediate and advance class.

- HerSTEM Conference
- HerSTEM Summer Boot camp



**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND
MATHEMATICS**

WOMEN AND GIRLS IN STEM

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. It represents an interdisciplinary approach to learning and problem-solving that integrates these four disciplines.

Science involves the study of the natural world and how it works.

Technology refers to the application of scientific knowledge to create tools, systems, and processes that improve human life and solve practical problems.

Engineering involves the design, development, and construction of systems, structures, and products to address specific needs and challenges. Mathematics is the study of numbers, quantities, shapes, and patterns and the relationships between them.

STEM offers numerous benefits to women and girls with disabilities, empowering them in various aspects of their lives such as creating career opportunities. Women and girls with disabilities can pursue careers in STEM-related fields, including computer science, engineering, healthcare, and environmental science.

Accessible Learning Opportunities, advances in assistive technology and inclusive teaching practices make STEM learning more accessible and equitable for individuals with diverse abilities.

STEM provides women and girls with the tools, opportunities, and resources to excel academically and professionally, pursue their passions, and make a difference in the world. By promoting STEM education and careers for women and girls, we can build a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous society for everyone.

STEM FIELDS OFFER DIVERSE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



FAME FOUNDATION
IN COMMEMORATION OF
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRLS IN ICT



Invites you to

HerSTEM Initiative Flagoff

Friday, 23rd
April, 2021

O. Aribisala Auditorium
Raw Materials Research and
Development Council,
No 17 Aguiyi Ironsi Str. Maitama, Abuja

9:30am
prompt

herSTEM HerSTEM herstem@famefoundationwgs.org

HERSTEM FLAGOFF

FAME Foundation in commemoration of the International Day of Girls in ICT 2021, flagged off HerSTEM Initiative for Women and Girls with Disabilities. The event, held on April 23, 2021, at the Raw Materials and Development Research Council in Abuja.

Esteemed guests including, Her Excellency, Mrs. Dolapo Osinbajo, Wife of the Vice President, Mrs. Aisha Atiku Bagudu, and Mr. Lukas Schifferle were present at the event. The initiative aims to empower women and girls with disabilities by providing them with STEM skills and opportunities in the digital economy. It garnered strong support from the Ministry of Science and Technology, with Minister of State Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi endorsing the project and highlighting STEM as foundational for Nigeria's digital advancement.

In alignment with the initiative's objectives, Mr. Lukas Schifferle, Charge d'Affaires of the Switzerland Embassy in Nigeria, expressed Switzerland's support for FAME Foundation and the HerSTEM Initiative. He emphasized the significance of STEM education and encouraged participants to embrace the journey with passion and determination, quoting Charlie Chaplin. The collaboration between FAME Foundation, government bodies, and international partners underscores the collective commitment to empowering women and girls with disabilities and fostering inclusive opportunities in the digital era.



PROJECT IMPACT



PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT AND SATISFACTION



High level of participation among the girls, with over 90% actively engaging in class with the assistance of a sign language interpreter.

80% of the girls are determined to pursue their careers in STEM fields

12

10

SAFE SPACE AMONG PARTICIPANTS

95% of the participants built friendship and connected with mentors.

The willingness of the participants to open up about their feelings and struggles demonstrates a remarkable level of trust within the program.



SHIFT IN GENDER STEREOTYPES

8

There has been a significant transformation in gender stereotypes, marked by a profound embrace of inclusion for individuals living with disabilities in STEM field.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT

25

participants were introduced to the basic operation of the computer system, basic programming and graphics design. It was observed that 70% of the participants exhibited competence in computer operation, highlighting the effectiveness of the training.

93.7%



INCREASED AWARENESS IN DISABILITY RIGHTS

During the mentorship session on disability rights, participants gained knowledge on equal opportunities, inclusion, and the key principles of the movement, such as full participation, non-discrimination, and respect for autonomy. Feedback from all participants indicated that they found the session highly insightful and educational.

PROJECT IMPACT



268 DIRECT BENEFICIARIES



HerSTEM directly upskilled and supported 268 young women and girls with disabilities, providing them with digital literacy, and computer skills, sports and mentorship.

2,680

INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES

Our initiatives created a multiplier effect, indirectly inspiring and impacting an estimated 460 peers, educators, and family members within our beneficiaries' communities.

2 STATE IMPACTED

HerSTEM successfully extended its programming and influence across 2 states, broadening our network of advocacy



1 SPORT TOURNAMENT HELD

To promote teamwork and well-being, we facilitated 1 HerSTEM inclusive tournament, strengthening community bonds among participants.



4 WEBINARS

We hosted 4 educational webinars specifically addressing inclusive design and accessibility in STEM, reaching a broad audience of allies and professionals.

7 GRASSROOT COMMUNITY OUTREACHES

We conducted 7 grassroots community outreaches to build foundational awareness and foster local support for STEM education.

30 TRAININGS



We delivered 30 specialized training sessions focused on digital literacy, basic computer skills, and canva designs.

69,348

OUTREACH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

HerSTEM's online advocacy sparked significant conversation, achieving 69,348 social media insights and expanding our digital footprint.

66

ONLINE CAMPAIGN

We ran 66 online campaigns to challenge stereotypes, highlight role models, and promote the importance of women in STEM.

HerSTEM Class

03.09.2021

HERSTEM CLASS

FAME Foundation held her first HerSTEM training on the 7th of May, 2021 which marked the launch of the first cohort at the Raw Materials Research and Development Council, Maitama, Abuja. The first cohort comprised classes held every Friday over a duration of 3 months. Attendance records indicated the presence of 40 girls, 1 teacher, 3 ad-hoc staff, 2 sign language interpreters, and 4 FAME Foundation staff members during the classes.

During the initial session, participants were briefed on training protocols, and class representatives were elected. Mr. Benjamin Wellington commenced the first class on Basic Application Operation, guiding participants through computer fundamentals with the aid of projectors and visual teaching materials.

He effectively communicated, encouraging questions and interactions with the assistance of a sign language interpreter.

Participants were introduced to basic computer functions, including disc drive navigation, Microsoft Word basics, keyboard mastery, and computer shutdown procedures. Mr. Wellington ensured comprehensive understanding through thorough reviews of previous lessons.

Subsequent classes featured various tutors on graphics design, programming using Scratch, English, and mathematics. Breakfast and lunch were provided at each session, and participants concluded the cohort with presentations showcasing their acquired skills, making for a highly impactful learning experience.



18.06.2021

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02.07.2021

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09.07.2021

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06.08.2021

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13.08.2021

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[e herstem@famefoundationwg.org](#)



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8.10.2021



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15.10.2021


“
 Aside from exposure to STEM knowledge, I have been mentored and inspired alongside others.
 I now have friends who understand me better because we have similar experience
Mary Etim

HerSTEM Beneficiary


“
 Regardless of gender, disability, social status or religion, it is important that women and girls are involved in STEM
Apeh Nomi

HerSTEM Beneficiary


“
 This training has shown me that women and girls with disabilities can do whatever we want, as long as we put our mind in it.
 My disabilities is not a barrier!
Gold Onome Peter

HerSTEM Beneficiary

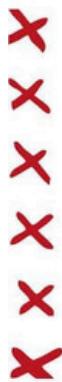

“
 HerSTEM training has been helpful to me in so many ways.
 Before I joined the training, I knew nothing about computer but now I can operate a computer. I can also run many programs such as Corel Draw and MS Excel.
Joy Mohime

HerSTEM Beneficiary

Did you know?

According to the World Health Organization, around 15% of the world's population, or more than 1 billion people, live with some form of disability.





HAPPY MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

EVERY WOMAN DESERVES TO HAVE A STRESS
FREE PERIOD AND AFFORABLE SANITARY
NAPKINS.

HERSTEM MENTORSHIP CLASS

During the HerSTEM class, an essential mentorship session led by Ms. Folake Oyebade, FAME Foundation's Lead Volunteer, provided invaluable insights into menstrual hygiene. Lasting 20 minutes, this talk addressed areas where women and girls often lack accurate information about menstruation. As participants enjoyed breakfast, Ms. Oyebade facilitated an open discussion where individuals felt comfortable sharing their experiences, posing relevant questions, and seeking knowledgeable advice on proper hygienic practices throughout their menstrual cycles.

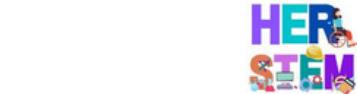
The mentorship session served as a safe and supportive space for participants to address personal concerns and receive guidance on menstrual hygiene. Ms. Oyebade's expertise and compassionate approach encouraged open dialogue, fostering a sense of empowerment and understanding among the participants. By debunking myths and providing practical tips, the session equipped women and girls with essential knowledge to manage their menstrual health confidently. Overall, the mentorship class played a crucial role in promoting holistic well-being and empowerment among the HerSTEM participants, complementing their STEM education with vital life skills and support.

**EVERY GIRL DESERVES A STRESS
FREE PERIOD**

#IT'STIMEFORACTION



FOLAKE OYEBADE
FAME Lead Volunteer and
Community Mobilization
Officer



IN COMMEMORATION OF
MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY

LET'S TALK MENSTRUAL HEALTH

Menstrual challenges faced by
women and girls with
disabilities

Date: 28 May 2021

Venue: Raw Materials Research and
Development Council, No.17 Aguiyi
Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja

@HerSTEM

herstem@famefoundationwg.org

#MHDAY2021

#CodeRed

#TIMEFORACTION



Miracle Oluwafemi
HerSTEM Project Officer

"THE MENSTRUAL HEALTH
NEEDS OF VULNERABLE
POPULATIONS NEED TO BE
PRIORITIZED.

EACH GIRL DESERVES TO HAVE
A SAFE AND DIGNIFIED
MENSTRUAL EXPERIENCE
IRRESPECTIVE OF HER
DISABILITIES."

#Code



Dorcas Abah
HerSTEM Participant

"GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES IN
RURAL AREAS DO NOT HAVE
ACCESS TO WATER AND
SANITARY NAPKINS, THEY ARE
MOSTLY STIGMATIZED AND
CANNOT MANAGE THEIR
PERIODS WITH DIGNITY.

EVERY GIRL DESERVES A
STRESS FREE PERIOD"

#Codef



Sonia Ikayaja
HerSTEM Participant

A GIRL LIVING WITH DISABILITY NEEDS
AN ASSISTANCE OF THE PEOPLE
AROUND HER AND CARE-GIVERS TO
PROPERLY OBSERVE MENSTRUAL
HYGIENE.

BE OF HELP TO GIRL LIVING WITH
DISABILITY

#MHDAY2021



@HerSTEM

herstem@famefoundationwg.org

@HerSTEM

herstem@famefoundationwg.org



HERSTEM EDUCATIONAL TOUR



EDUCATIONAL TOUR

FAME Foundation hosted HerSTEM Educational Tour on July 29, 2021, at the prestigious National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Wuye, Abuja. Upon arrival, the HerSTEM team and participants received a warm welcome from the NCAIR team and were escorted to the conference hall for an introductory meeting.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES

Engr. Yau Isa Garba, the National Director of the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, emphasized the agency's commitment to innovation and pledged support for the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

Ms. Aderonke Bello, the Executive Director of FAME Foundation, reciprocated the appreciation, providing an overview of the HerSTEM Initiative and highlighting the ongoing efforts for women and girls with disabilities. She encouraged participants to seize the opportunity for learning and expressed her own excitement to gain knowledge from the experience.

Following the introductory session, a knowledgeable tour guide led the participants through a comprehensive tour of the technological facilities, including the PCB lab and robotics laboratory. Participants received hands-on instruction on robot design and control using mobile devices via Bluetooth, providing invaluable insights into cutting-edge technology and fostering a spirit of exploration and learning.



HERSTEM



EDUCATIONAL

TOUR





HERSTEM MEETINGS

To advance and promote the HerSTEM initiative, the FAME Foundation actively engaged in various activities. This included participating in the UN Women Youth Showcase on March 23, 2023, which focused on advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in technology and innovation.

We also attended a stakeholder engagement meeting on Project Disability Inclusion (PDI) organized by Cedar Seed Foundation with support from UNDP. FAME Foundation received an invitation to the opening exhibition "Women in Science from Yesterday to Today" on March 8, 2023, by H.E. Mrs. Emmanuelle Blatmann, the French Ambassador to Nigeria, in honor of International Women's Day.

The Foundation held a meeting with Dr. Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, the Honourable Minister of State for Education, to discuss the HerSTEM Initiative's impact on empowering young women and girls with disabilities in STEM fields and explore partnership opportunities with the Ministry and its parastatals. Furthermore, we collaborated with the Deaf Women Association of Nigeria to host their 13th annual meeting and paid a courtesy visit to Her Excellency, Mrs. Dolapo Osinbajo.





HER

STEM

**Creating space and opportunities
for Women and girls with
Disabilities in STEM**



HERSTEM DONATION

The Federal Ministry of Science and Technology demonstrated their support for the initiative by donating 10 desktop computers, with an additional 5 provided by the Raw Materials Research and Development Council. These contributions aimed to facilitate training as promised during the HerSTEM Initiative Flag-off Ceremony on April 23rd.



Mrs. Valerie Ehimatie, representing the Director-General of RMRDC, affirmed the Ministry's backing of the HerSTEM project, designed to empower marginalized individuals in society. She encouraged participants to seize the opportunity, excel, and improve their lives, emphasizing that passion and dedication know no bounds.

Mrs. Ehimatie further urged participants to explore the Resource Center at the Council, suggesting it could inspire solutions to contemporary technical challenges.

Additionally, participants of the HerSTEM training received gifts from Her Excellency, Mrs. Dolapo Osinbajo, the Wife of the Vice President of Nigeria.





HERSTEM INNOVATION HUB

The HerSTEM Innovation Hub, situated within the LEA Primary and Secondary School in Jabi, embodies significant potential as a central hub for learning and advancement in STEM fields, with a distinct focus on catering to the unique needs of women and girls with disabilities.

The FCT Universal Basic Education Board, generously donated 5 dilapidated classrooms. Also, donations were received from African Centre for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL) and the MacArthur Foundation, this embodies a commitment to inclusivity and empowerment

Currently, significant progress has been made in renovating one of the classes within the hub, with completion reaching 60% However, our vision extends beyond mere renovation; we aspire to fully furnish the hub to ensure the utmost comfort and accessibility for disabled participants.

By creating a fully inclusive and accessible environment, we aim to eliminate barriers to participation and foster a supportive atmosphere where all individuals, regardless of disability, can thrive. The completion of the center will enable us to expand our programming and offer a wider range of educational opportunities, workshops, and mentorship sessions tailored to the specific needs and interests of our diverse participants.

HerSTEM Innovation Hub represents a beacon of hope and opportunity for women and girls with disabilities, providing them with the resources, support, and encouragement needed to pursue their passions and achieve their fullest potential in STEM fields. With your continued support, we are confident that we can realize this vision and create lasting impact.



HERSTEM

INNOVATION



HUB



HERSTEM PICNIC

FAME Foundation hosted a memorable HerSTEMpicnic on October 28, 2021, graciously hosted at the Swiss Residence. The event boasted a total attendance of Thirty-eight (38) participants, with additional support from four (4) sign language interpreters, three (3) volunteers, two ad-hoc staff, and five (5) dedicated FAME Foundation team members.

Commencing at 10:00 am, the picnic kicked off with warm greetings extended by H.E Ambassador Georg Steiner, the esteemed Ambassador of Switzerland to Nigeria. Ms. Aderonke Bello, the Executive Director of FAME Foundation, then delivered a poignant address, sharing her personal journey and heartfelt wishes for the participants as they neared the culmination of their HerSTEM Cohort training.

Throughout the HerSTEM training session, FAME Foundation embraced moments of celebration alongside the educational journey. Warm wishes were extended to Zainab Sanni, a participant of the program, on her birthday, while a lunch date with students from the FCT School for the Blind in Jabi was organized as part of the HerSTEM Initiative, coinciding with the 60th birthday celebration of philanthropist Femi Otedola. As the session concluded, a farewell pizza party was held for Mr. Obinna, a dedicated volunteer returning to the United States, marking his departure with appreciation for his selfless service and commitment to FAME Foundation and HerSTEM.





FCT SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, KUJE

In collaboration with the US Mission in Nigeria, FAME Foundation organized a three-day Master Class Training for breakdancers as part of the 2024 Sports Envoy Program. This initiative aimed to engage and inspire participants through various activities, including mentorship sessions and interactive workshops.

Part of the program was a mentorship and interactive session held at the FCT School of the Deaf, Kuje. Sports Envoy, Lyon 'Kujo' Jacobs and Macca Malik visited the school to conduct this session, focusing on fostering team-building skills among the school students with hearing disabilities through breakdancing.

They led a series of interactive sessions and breakdancing activities, creating an inclusive and supportive environment for the students. Bgirl Macca kicked off the session by introducing breakdancing and sharing her personal journey into the art form.

Her captivating performances, showcased through videos, inspired the students and reinforced the message that breakdancing is for everyone, regardless of gender or disability.

Bboy Kujo engaged with the students using sign language, sharing videos of his dance performances. Through this approach, the Sports Envoy effectively connected with the students, bridging communication barriers and fostering a sense of inclusion and belonging.

After the program, the students had the opportunity to ask questions and express their gratitude to the envoy for their presence. Their participation and expressions of appreciation demonstrated the impact of the session and the importance of initiatives that empower and uplift marginalized communities.





FCT SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, KUJE DANCE CLUB INAUGURATION

FAME Foundation officially launched the Dance for Good Initiative on November 8, 2024, building on the momentum of the 2024 Sports Envoy Program, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State.

The launch event, held at the FCT School for the Deaf in Kuje, Abuja, was met with enthusiasm. The event featured an introduction of FAME Foundation and the Dance for Good Initiative, followed by a mentorship session with renowned dancer and coach Somtochukwu Okoli, who shared his inspiring journey and highlighted the numerous benefits of dance, including improved physical and mental well-being.

The Dance for Good Initiative aims to empower young people through dance, promoting creativity, physical wellness, and inclusivity.

During the launch event, participants were introduced to the initiative and its goals. They were inspired by Somtochukwu's story and eager to learn new dance moves. A group of ten talented dancers, five male and five female, showcased their skills, inspiring their peers.

The Coach then led an interactive dance workshop, teaching participants various dance styles and techniques. The participants were amazed by the Coach's expertise and were motivated to practice regularly.

The event concluded with the official launch of the dance club at the FCT School for the Deaf, Kuje.

FAME Foundation also plans to expand this initiative to other LEA schools in Abuja, empowering more young people through the joy of dance.





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES OUTREACH

On December 3, 2024, FAME Foundation under its HerSTEM Initiative, organized an outreach program to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD). The event, which was held at the FCT Disable Emirate Council, aimed to raise awareness on disability rights, empower persons with disabilities (PWDs), and inspire them to advocate for their rights and inclusion in society. There were also a total number of 50 participants (15 men and 35 women and young women).

The event began with an introduction to the HerSTEM initiative and emphasized the objectives of the project to empower women and girls living with disabilities with STEM skills. There was also an impactful session on "Speaking Up for Your Rights" which taught them self-advocacy and the role of individuals in ensuring their rights are respected. They were also educated on legal frameworks protecting PWDs and how these laws are designed to ensure accessibility, equality, and protection from discrimination.







PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

FAME Foundation is pleased to announce our partnership with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) for the implementation of HerSTEM Cohort 3.0 in 2025. This collaboration enhances our ability to deliver inclusive, high-quality digital literacy and STEM training for women and girls with disabilities in Nigeria.

With the support of FIRS, the program's reach and impact will significantly be strengthened, enabling us to provide improved learning resources, expand access to underserved communities, and deepen the overall effectiveness of the HerSTEM initiative. Together, we are advancing opportunities, championing inclusion, and empowering more girls and women to thrive in the technology ecosystem.



FAME Foundation Launches 2025 HerSTEM Cohort 3.0

FAME Foundation in partnership with Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) is excited to announce the launch of HerSTEM Cohort 3.0, an initiative designed to equip women and girls with disabilities in Nigeria with essential digital literacy and basic computer skills.

The 2025 project will run in three phases over a nine-month period, with each cohort lasting three months and culminating in certification and graduation.

Phase 1 will focus on the basics and is designed for young women and girls with disabilities, especially those with little or no previous access to digital education. Phase 2 will provide intermediate-level training, while Phase 3 will offer advanced-level skills development.

Across all three phases, participants will also benefit from mentorship and exposure to opportunities in technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation.





HERSTEM CLASS

The first class of HerSTEM Cohort 3.0 began on 17 June 2025. It started with a morning session specifically designed for pupils from the Abuja School for the Deaf in Kuje. The training, which ran from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, created a space where each participant could begin their digital skills in a supportive learning environment.

In the afternoon session, which ran from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM, a different group of learners, adult women with disabilities from various communities were brought together for the same training structure.

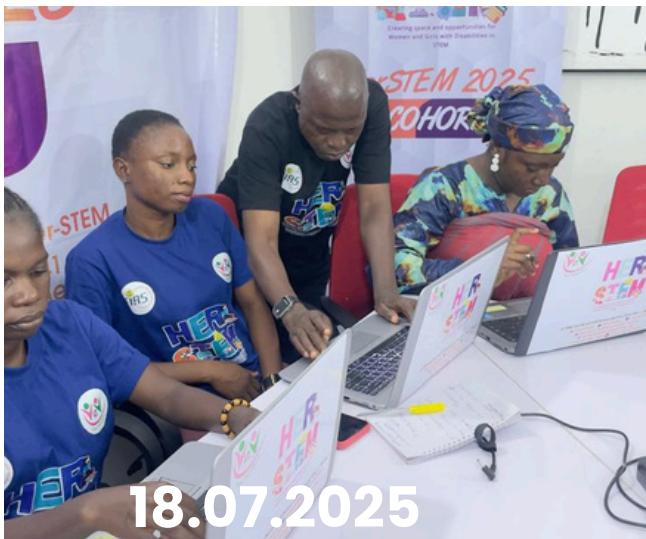
They were introduced to the basics of using a computer, including how to power it on and off, how to identify desktop icons, how to manage files, and how to save their work.

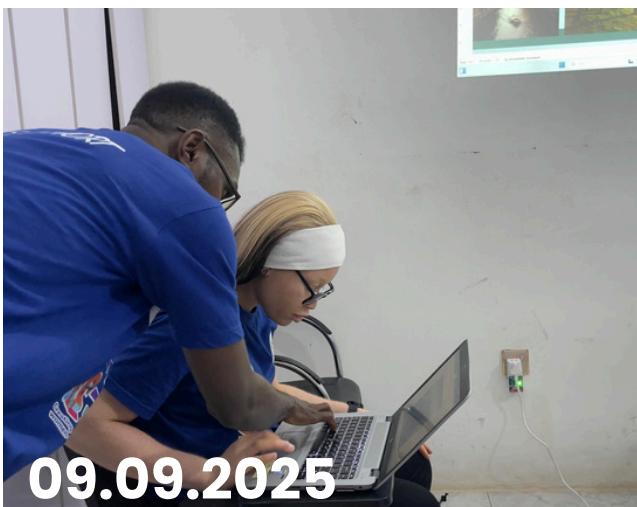
For many of them, this was their first time using a computer. Throughout the classes, communication was supported by professional sign language interpreters, making sure every participant could understand the content being delivered. Questions were encouraged, and the teaching was adapted to match the pace of the learners.

HerSTEM Cohort 3.0 demonstrated the program's commitment to accessibility, learning at each participant's pace, and building foundational digital skills in communities that are often overlooked. By the end of the day, both groups had taken their first steps into the world of technology, and many expressed a willingness to continue learning. The first phase of the program continues every Tuesday for three (3) months.











HERSTEM CLASS - PHASE 2

The first week of Phase 2 for the HerSTEM Cohort 3 commenced on October 14, 2025, with students from the Abuje School of the Deaf in Kuje attending the morning session, followed by a separate afternoon class for women with disabilities.



14.10.2025



14.10.2025



21.10.2025



21.10.2025





Impact Stories from Participants



“ Atikatu O. Adiniyi

Thank you once again. I learned how to use the computer. Before, I did not know how to type or use the mouse, but today I know how to use it and how to design. I now know how to move a picture from one place to another. I learned about Excel; I now know how to calculate with Excel. Thank you.



“ Ladi Gimba

I had no idea about anything related to computers. When I started this class, I began learning how to use the computer. Though it was not easy at the beginning, I enjoyed the class and did not like missing any sessions because I would miss a lot. I am now very proficient in using the computer. I can use shapes and insert functions. I have a laptop, but did not know how to use it; now I can get pictures from Google and place them in a document. I can browse and more.

Impact Stories from Participants



“ Jamila Abdullahi

I have achieved a lot. Before this program, I did not know how to use a computer and was afraid when I was told about it. When I got here, our tutor was excellent. He teaches well, and I learned quickly because he has a good teaching method. Now I am used to a computer and can do many things, such as using formulas and designing my own certificates. I am so happy about it.



“ Sarah Maikuri

I was not present at the beginning of the training; I joined in the second week. Before, I did not know how to type at all. Now I can design; I knew nothing about it before. I like the way the tutor has been teaching us. What I learn each day is added to what I already know, and I enjoy it.

Impact Stories from Participants



“ Joy Mohima

From the beginning of the training, I knew nothing about computers. I did not know how to operate a computer or a keyboard, but now I am doing well. I would give myself 80%. I can operate a computer, and I designed a beautiful wedding invitation by myself. I have really learned a lot.



“ Ruth David

Since I started the training, I now know how to type. I have learned how to make designs and improve on them. I now know how to use Excel and some computer tools. The tutor taught quickly before, but after complaints, he changed his method. Now the participants are enjoying the class very much.

Impact Stories from Participants

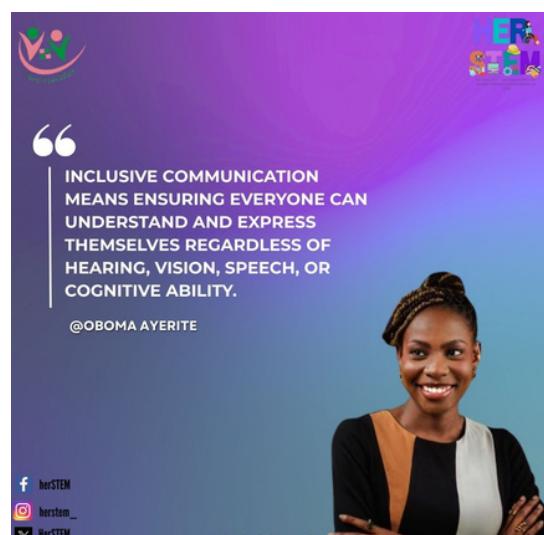


“ Dorcas D Yakubu

I am very, very happy with this program; I have enjoyed it very much. I learned how to design and how to use Excel and the computer very well. I did not know any of this before, but since I came here, I know how to do it. This place is good; when participants make mistakes, they are assisted, and they improve.

Inside HerSTEM

A Look at Our Webinars



Inside HerSTEM

A Look at Our Webinars

FAME FOUNDATION
Presents

Breaking Barriers: How to Advocate for Disability Rights



Muhammed Opaliwa
Program Manager, HerSTEM

Hawa-Kullu Saidu
Advocate of Gender Equity & Inclusion

Ruth Laraba Barnabas
Woman & Disability Right Advocate

Monday 29 September, 2025 Time 01:00 - 02:00 PM Live Microsoft Teams

www.famefoundationwg.org/herstem

Facebook: herSTEM
Instagram: herstem_
Twitter: HerSTEM_

“

People with disabilities need to be bold and form allies in activism while advocating for people with disabilities both online and offline

”

@Hawa-Kullu Saidu



Facebook: herSTEM
Instagram: herstem_
Twitter: HerSTEM_

www.famefoundationwg.org/herstem

“

We still have a problem with representation and inclusion. People host a lot of workshops for persons with disabilities but do not reserve slots for them at work places.

”

@Ruth Laraba Barnabas



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Instagram: herstem_
Twitter: HerSTEM_

www.famefoundationwg.org/herstem

“

We need to implement policies to support people with disabilities because even with the right attitude, if there are no right policies, nothing will be achieved.

”

@Hawa-Kullu Saidu



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“

We have over 8 million people using sign language, yet sign language is not regarded as an official language in Nigeria.

”

@Ruth Laraba Barnabas



Facebook: herSTEM
Instagram: herstem_
Twitter: HerSTEM_

www.famefoundationwg.org/herstem

“

We need to remove the self-centered mentality barrier and become more emphatic and humane towards people with disabilities

”

@Hawa-Kullu Saidu

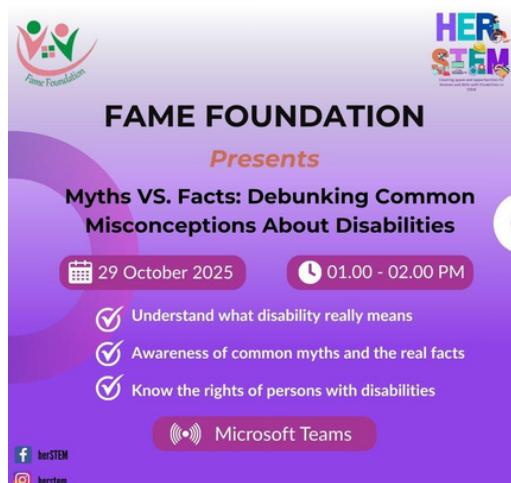


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Inside HerSTEM

A Look at Our Webinars




Myths vs. Facts: Debunking Common Misconceptions About Disabilities
@Mamman Jamilu

The 'Myths vs. Facts' approach is more powerful than a simple list of 'dos and don'ts' because it reshapes perception at its core. By dismantling stereotypes with truth, we foster genuine empathy and understanding, giving people the why behind inclusive actions toward persons with disabilities.

www.famefoundationwg.org/herstem



Myths vs. Facts: Debunking Common Misconceptions About Disabilities
@Mamman Jamilu

The belief that an employee with a disability is inherently less capable is incorrect. We should shift our focus from perceived limitations to actual problem-solving abilities.

www.famefoundationwg.org/herstem



Myths vs. Facts: Debunking Common Misconceptions About Disabilities
@Mamman Jamilu

People with disabilities can be encouraged by having role models who demonstrate their impact in society, and by receiving life skills training that equips them to live fruitful and fulfilling lives.

www.famefoundationwg.org/herstem



Myths vs. Facts: Debunking Common Misconceptions About Disabilities
@Mamman Jamilu

People with disabilities surely do need help, and the proper way to provide it is to first ask, rather than making assumptions.

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Inside HerSTEM

A Look at Our Webinars

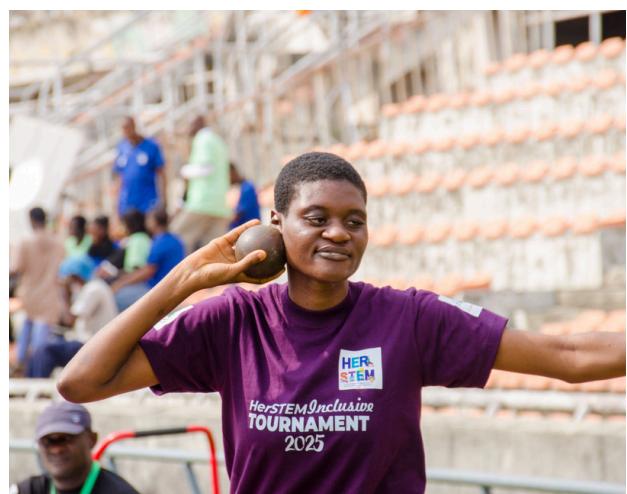


HERSTEM INCLUSIVE TOURNAMENT 2025



HERSTEM INCLUSIVE TOURNAMENT 2025

FAME Foundation, in partnership with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), hosted the HerSTEM Inclusive Tournament on December 3, 2025, at the Mainbow National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos State. The event commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities under the 2025 theme, "Fostering a Disability-Inclusive Society for Advancing Social Progress." The tournament showcased the core mission of the HerSTEM Initiative: to advance inclusion, empowerment, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities through a dynamic blend of sport and STEM-focused advocacy.



HERSTEM INCLUSIVE TOURNAMENT 2025



HERSTEM INCLUSIVE TOURNAMENT 2025



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HERSTEM INCLUSIVE TOURNAMENT 2025





HerStem

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**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

MacArthur
Foundation



United States Diplomatic
Mission in Nigeria



Join in to

PARTNER

and

SUPPORT

We firmly believe that investing in the HerSTEM Innovation Hub is an investment in the future of women and girls with disabilities.

We invite you to join us in our mission to champion diversity and empower individuals to reach their full potential. Your generosity and support will make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless women and girls with disabilities.

VISIT

www.famefoundationwg.org

OR CALL

08101418237



MEET ARABINRIN ADERONKE

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 not-for-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.

Aderonke@famefoundationwg.org



Arabinrin Aderonke Atoyebi

Founder and Executive Director,
FAME Foundation

MEET THE TEAM



**ARABINRIN ADERONKE
BELLO**
Executive Director



KEMISOLA IBITOYE
Director of Programs



EXPLOIT OFEM
Finance & HR Manager



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



INYENE IDIONG
Program Manager
(PlayitDreamit)



SEWUESE UGBIR
Safeguarding Officer



MUHAMMED OPALUWA
Program Manager
(HerSTEM)



OLAYINKA WELLS
Project and Mobilization
Officer (Lagos)



SECHIVIR ORHENA
Project Assistant



JEFFREY EDUNG
Project Assistant



OLAWALE OMOTEGO
Greenball Project &
Safeguarding Assistant



FOLAKE OYEBADE
Lead Volunteer



DOMINIC JOSEPH
Office Assistant



JOY ZACHARIAH
Administrative
Assistant



Creating space and opportunities for
Women and Girls with Disabilities in
STEM



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HerSTEM_



FAME Foundation



info@famefoundationwg.org



FAME Foundation



+234 810 141 8237



www.famefoundationwg.org



Plot 253, off Defense Quarters, Garki Area 1, Durumi 1, Abuja. Landmark: The Apostolic Church, Area 1. Federal Capital Territory.