

“My experience of leading a self-help group in the UK to improve education in Africa.”

Wole Sanwo, Director, NSF (UK).

St Anne's College 27th November 2019.



Overview

- ☐ Introduction.
- ☐ What is NSF(UK)?
- ☐ What sparked its creation?
- ☐ How did we turn our idea into a reality?
- ☐ What's the problem we're attempting to solve?
- ☐ What are the country's challenges?
- ☐ What solutions are being proposed?



What is NSF(UK)?

- ❑ Central body of alumni (of Nigerian Schools/ or associations with Nigerian connection) in the UK.
- ❑ Origins.
 - 2005-2011.
 - 2012 onwards.
- ❑ London Olympics 2012 legacy.
- ❑ Raising awareness among the Nigerian community about challenges faced here in the UK and particularly on education issues in Nigeria.



What sparked its creation?

- ❑ Aspiration for all Nigerian children to receive quality education.
- ❑ Recognition of the deterioration in education quality for the younger generations.
- ❑ Access to network of key stakeholders with the ability to influence education system.
- ❑ We recognised the threat to their economic future and the economic future and competitiveness of the Nigeria. Education has a role in combating poverty, social exclusion & cultural marginalisation.

FACTS 2012-2019		FACTS 2012-2018	
Events	15	EVENTS 2012-2018 13 CONNECTING Nigerians PROMOTING Awareness DEVELOPING Communities	ATTENDEES 8,040
Attendees	10,200	PEOPLE 44 Members "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts" ARISTOTLE	ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS "Volunteers are not paid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!"
Members	51	FUNDS RAISED- mainly from small businesses £105,200 2012 to 2018	VOLUNTEERS MAN-HOURS VALUED AT £85,500
Fundraising by members	£130,000		FUNDS RAISED by members in support of good causes £100,000
Volunteer man-hours	£100,000		
Recycled books donated	5,000	CHARITIES/ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED	AWARENESS RAISED ON
Charities supported	20+	ACLT, African Science Academy (ASA), AFRICA, Amaudo, BNET, CHIYOWO, Commonwealth Service (Westminster Abbey), Diabetes UK, Heal-D, Hope for Sickle Cell, Pensions Advisory Service, RARE, Sickle Cell Society, The Nous Organisation Ltd, Tobi Adeyemi Foundation, Total Parental Guidance Orphanage, Water Aid, World Child Cancer Charity, YACNCAY	Culture, Education, Healthy Living, Social Inclusion, Financial inclusion, Pension, Sports & Unemployment Support for UNESCO World Book & Copyright day. 3600 books collected and delivered to underserved communities across the 6 geo-political zones in Nigeria. (Book Drive)
Queen's Commonwealth Essay prize winners	12		CORPORATE SPONSORS
UK university scholarship opportunity enabled for a Nigerian student	1		Arik, Air Business, Ben TV, Hilton, Lebara, Mansard, Microsystems International, Mixta Africa, Nigerian Watch, Nimdel Capital, Olu Olu, Obaseki & Co, Lyca Mobile, Western Union, Yanga!TV.



How did we turn our idea into a reality?

❑ In simple terms..... The Nigerian community is an extremely diverse one.
(Controversy: Oscar/Academy award, rejection of a Nigerian movie- Lionheart for being too English. With over 500 languages ...it has no choice).

❑ **6 key decisions for the organisation.**

1. Find something that unifies. **Education.**
2. Exclude **divisive issues** e.g. religion, politics, tribes etc.
3. Ensure **grassroots** led.
4. Focus on **secondary** school level (not primary or tertiary).
5. Actively seek **partnerships** (from 2016-onwards).
6. Reinforce the **culture** of shared purpose/values within the organisation.

❑ **Business model** -A not-for-profit organisation highly dependent on volunteers, membership fees, event entry fees and corporate sponsorships.



How we reinforce our culture of shared purpose/values?

- ❑ **Our vision (2012):** Quality Education for all Nigerians. UN (2015) SDG 4 -sustainable development goal.
- ❑ **Our mission -:** To promote the need to maintain high educational and social standards of Nigerian Secondary Schools.
- ❑ **Our strapline:** **Connecting** Nigerians, **Promoting** awareness & **Developing** communities.
✓ So enabling education opportunities in the community.
- ❑ **Our values -** We hold no position on politics or religion. We expect anyone wishing to join the organisation will show great respect to all others, especially by honouring our traditions and ideals. Our duties are carried out in the spirit of friendship, solidarity, fair play and competition. Our members are primarily motivated to serve and give back to their community/alma mater. The leadership teams are expected to discharge their duties fairly, honestly and in a transparent manner at all times.

What's the problem we're attempting to solve?


- ❑ “What Africa badly needs are genuinely **educated persons**, able to use their learning to **improve society**” ¹⁴.
- ❑ Distance London to Lagos flying time- 6hrs -8hrs/
3110 miles.
- ❑ Distance from New York to London is -7hrs -10hrs
/3,470 miles.
- ❑ Nigerian history 3,000 years explained in 6 minutes.
<https://youtu.be/fMmkmHUA AOo>






What's the problem we're attempting to solve? (contd.)

- ☐ Transforming the economic landscape in the long term by ensuring that all Nigerians have access to quality education.
- ☐ Following independence from Great Britain in 1960, Nigeria moved to an **agrarian economy**, then to being an **oil dependent country**¹³ but never fulfilled its potential as an industrialised and /or knowledge based economy with rising income levels for its citizens.
- ☐ Countries like Malaysia managed the transition from agrarian to an industrialised nation in slightly over 50 years and according to Malaysians in the know, the key to their success was **education**.
- ☐ So success in education can indeed enable wider society goals.



Does the Nigerian have the ambition or appetite to solve problem?

- ☐ Policies /strategies to widen access to education, early childhood intervention, learning achievements/outcomes and reduce inequalities are typically in the tool kit of any **responsible government**.
- ☐ Nigerian independence in 1960 was an opportunity for the transformation of the Nigerian society through the development of **local policies and development programmes**.
- ☐ Nigeria has indeed been **attempting** since to **develop/implement policies and social programs** and lately and education system that's fit for the 21st century.



Does the Nigerian have the ambition or appetite to solve problem?(contd.)

- ❑ Plethora of policies, strategies and initiatives from the government to tackle the problem , examples include:
- ❑ ***Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 states Government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy To this end the Government shall as and when practicable provide -free , compulsory universal primary education -free secondary education -free university education free adult literacy programme.***
- ❑ Subscribes to the International framework.
 - ✓ Universal declaration of human rights (1948).
 - ✓ Universal basic education act 2004 (in response to UN Millennium Development Goals 2000- Goal 2 - to achieve universal primary education).
 - ✓ *Education for all (EFA) UN 2015 (SDG 4) -sustainable development goal .*



So what are the country's challenges?

- ☐ Resource constraints: Nigeria as with other resource challenged countries, other priorities gain an edge over social servicing.
- ☐ Opportunity costs: With scarce resources the added value to the society longer term, of investment in education are a difficult business case to make.
- ☐ Other issues: Since independence include ; political unrest, poor economic environment, poorly funded education system, compounded by frequent unrest within the academic sector.



Interesting facts: Size matters?

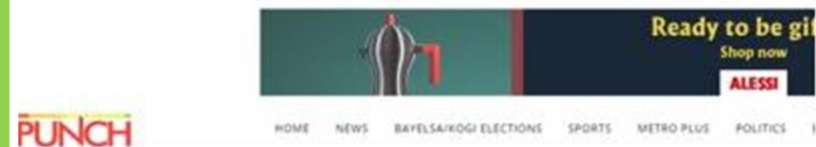
Facts	Nigeria	Malaysia	UK
Years since independence. ¹²	59 (1960)	62 (1957)	218 (1801)
World population ranking 2018 (233 countries). ¹²	196m (7 th)	32m (44 th)	67m (21 st)
Population growth from 1960 to 2018.	45.1m (434.5%)	8.1m (395%)	50.2m (33.4%)
Cultural diversity index (language basis). ⁵	0.805 (18 of 159)	0.5960 (59 of 159)	0.324 (110 of 159)
GDP per person ²	\$5,980	\$31,630	\$46,180
Unemployment ²	23.1%	3.3%	4.1%

Interesting facts (contd.)

Facts	Nigeria	Malaysia	UK	Other
Special Needs-School age with disabilities.	3.3m (only 5%/ 155,000 in formal schooling). ⁶	271,000. ¹⁰	1.2m. ⁷	Population 2018 ¹² Bosnia & Herzegovina 3.3m Puerto Rico 2.9m Jamaica 2.9m
Out of school Children 2005/6.	10.5m ¹⁶	n/a	n/a	Population 2018 ¹² London 8.9m Sweden 9.9m Portugal 10.2m Greece 10.5m
Enrolled in primary school.	24.8m ¹¹	2.9M ¹²		Population 2018 ¹² Taiwan 23.7m Australia 24.8m Cameroon 25.2m
Additional teachers required.	500,000 ⁸	n/a	n/a	UK – 498,000 teachers in state-funded schools ¹¹
Pupil-teacher ratio (PTR). ⁹	37.55 1,500,000 teachers ¹¹	11.41 182,000 teachers ¹¹	17.39 498,000 teachers ¹¹	World -23.75 OECD 15.89 Sub-Saharan Africa -41.68 Europe & Central Asia 18.26 North America -14.74

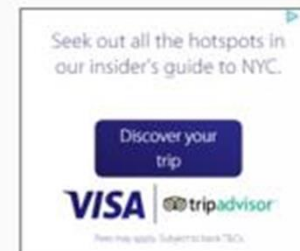
What solutions are being proposed by NSF(UK)?

- ❑ Effective collaboration between stakeholders.
 - ✓ *NSF (UK) keen to be a part of the solution.*
- ❑ Decision makers on education to be inclusive not just well-off technocrats, academics & Politicians.
 - ✓ *NSF (UK) ambition to increase influence on policy making & resource allocation with leveraged resources.*
- ❑ Brain gain partnerships required
 - ✓ *NSF(UK) to facilitate the collaboration with Nigerians in the UK diaspora to support the transformation of the education sector.*
- ❑ Significant improvement in investment in Education finance.
 - ✓ *Members committed to annual fund raising drives to cover student tuition, teacher compensation, ICT, Libraries, & renovation of dilapidated buildings.*



President of the Old Grammarians Society of the CMS Grammar School in Lagos, Mr Olu Vincent, has said that old pupils of the school spent more than N1bn to develop its infrastructure in the last 18 years.

Speaking during the 2019 Merit Award ceremony of the institution, Vincent added that the old boys had upgraded the status of the school, which was founded on June 6, 1859 by the Church Missionary Society, to be at par with global standards.



He said there was a need for individuals, associations, corporate bodies to participate in the development of schools since government alone could no longer bear the burden

Vincent said, "A nation that fails to invest in education will not grow. What we have seen is that we can partner with the owners of the school. What I think the government should do is to pump more funds into the schools and reinvent the disciplines that we had.



He said there was a need for individuals, associations, corporate bodies to participate in the development of schools since government alone could no longer bear the burden

What solutions are being proposed by NSF(UK)? (contd.)

☐ Improve the quality of teaching

NEED (launched October 2019)

- ✓ *Research has shown that of a major part of successful schools – large or small – was their teachers, their relationships with students, and their high expectations of student achievement.*

Our ambition:

- ✓ *To systemically support our network of schools to improve the quality of teaching and raise academic standards.*
- ✓ *To support the development of new curricula in our networks of schools that work together to identify local problems and solutions .*



NEED

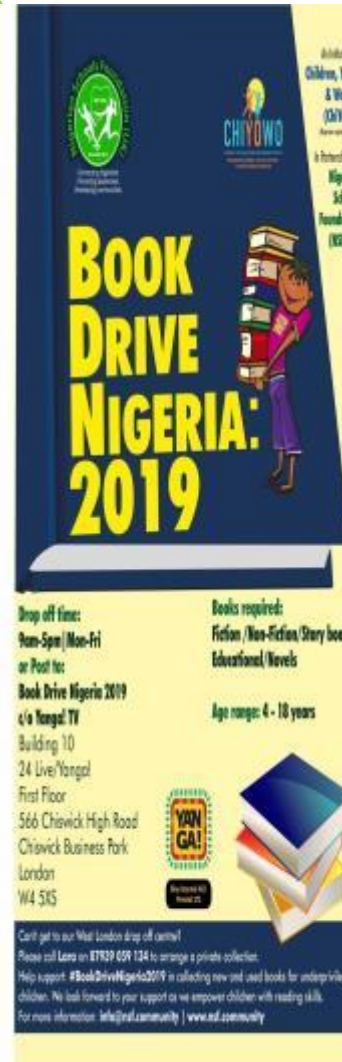
**NSF(UK) Excellence in
Education Development**

Education Development
NSF(UK) Excellence in

NEED

What solutions are being proposed by NSF(UK)? (contd.)

- ❑ Support the development of new tools and strategies for students with special needs.
 - ✓ *The **disabled**.*
 - ✓ *The **disadvantaged** e.g. nomads (travellers) /migrant fishermen.*
 - ✓ *The **gifted**.*
 - ✓ *Out of school youths including **pregnant girls** and **young mothers**.*



Initiated by Children, Youth & Women (CYW) in partnership with Nigerian Schools Foundation (NSF) UK

BOOK DRIVE NIGERIA: 2019

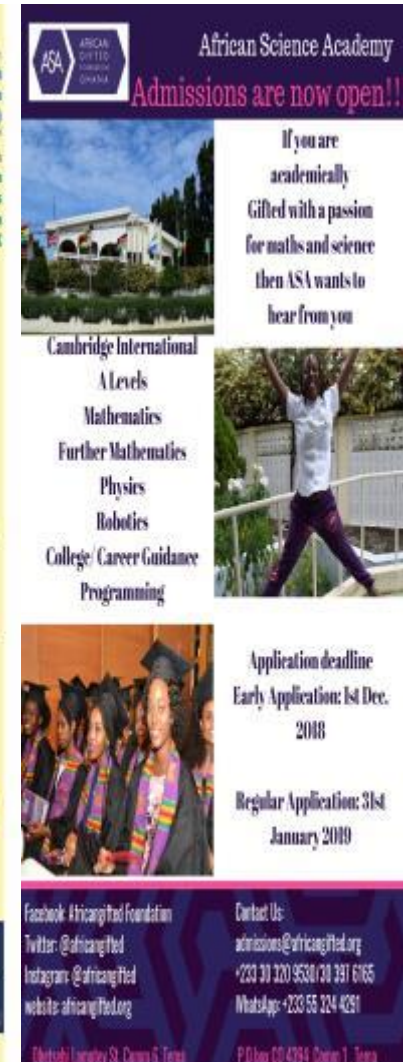
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Over to the audience/pose questions to /from the audience.



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