



SOF News Letter Series four, 11<sup>th</sup>Sept. 2015

# **The Sidi Osho Foundation**

## **News Letter Series Four**

### **The SOF Enterprise, Skills and Leadership Project**

**Held at Akinyele Local Government,  
Oyo State**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

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**Message from the President of Sidi Osho Foundation (SOF)**

As universally recognized, beyond income measurements, lack of access to education, nutritious food, health care, employment, water and housing are all indicators of crushing poverty. Though Africa's impressive economic performance over the past decade has rekindled hopes for the continent's future, in Nigeria however, despite the relative impressive economic growth over the last 10 years, unemployment and the incidence of poverty has worsened since 2004. The figures recently released by the National Bureau of Statistics suggest that the incidence of poverty in Nigeria worsened between 2004 and 2010.

The report indicates that the number of Nigerians living below poverty line of \$1 a day, rose from 68.7m to 112.5m (63.7% rise in poverty incidence) during the period while the population rose from 139.2m to 158.6m (13.9% rise in population) over the same period. However, during the same period, Nigeria's economy grew strongly at an average annual growth rate in excess of 6.6%, making the country the 5th fastest growing economy in the World in 2010 at 7.87% real growth rate. The above represents the paradox of growth in the face of poverty and inequality.

The challenge for Nigeria and by extension, Africa, is to ensure that this paper growth translates into effective poverty reduction, job creation wealth making and narrowing inequalities. Today for instance, African youths represent a disproportionate 60 percent of the continent's unemployed, and of these 40 million youths, 22 million, many of them women, have given up on finding a job. In countries such as Cameroon, Cape Verde, Ghana, Rwanda and Zambia, poverty is at least three times higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

There is no doubt that the perennial chaos and human rights abuses of the gravest kinds which plagued the world in the last five decades have left indelible marks on humanity. In the African region, in addition to the debilitating effect of internecine wars and human rights abuses, the people of Africa continue to suffer incalculable harm from the prolonged effects of hunger, poverty and disease. The AIDS/HIV pandemic and other



communicable diseases have ravaged the continent while the nurturing of ethnicism has snowballed into genocide and large scale atrocities.

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African governments, leaders and concerned stakeholders continue their search for an environment conducive for freedom, equality, justice and dignity of the people of Africa. Inspired by the great achievements and legacy of the iconic Mandela on the African continent, SOF was established to impact the lives of the underprivileged and underserved, as well contribute immensely to the efforts made by concerned stakeholders over the years.

As we stand at the threshold of a new century, it is not only timely but also expedient to conscientiously begin to find lasting solutions and establish inclusive development initiatives that will advance humanity. SOF, in collaboration with other stakeholders will provide a world of equal opportunities for families, women, and youth through our development programs on education, food security, health, poverty reduction, women and youth empowerment.

It is my fervent hope that with your cooperation and support, SOF will attain its set objectives to improve and impact the lives of Africans and Africa at large.



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## **Sidi Osho Foundation**

### **Vision, Mission and Projects**

#### **Introduction**

Poverty has been shown to be on the increase in Nigeria and other African Countries where the population has been estimated to be living below poverty level is over 70%. All the Sectors of the Economy are affected by this poverty level.

**Sidi Osho Foundation (SOF)** is a private, voluntary, non-profit, non-faith based, non-governmental Organization based in Lagos, Nigeria.

SOF was conceived in 2012 by **Prof Sidi Osho** who is President.

#### **Description of SOF Logo**

Interlocking Human Beings which means unity, performance, cross organizational relationships, clear focus and the show of power. Apart from promotion of friendship, connecting and together building communities, nations and ensuring sustainability. The Color **Red** is the color of action, inner power and strength, optimism, connectivity and social activity. While the **Yellow** color is the brightness of the Sun and creativity, it stimulates the mind and encourages good business acumen



The Logo denotes good health and growth and vitality, a healing color with sense of generosity and compassion and the cultivation of trust, respect and integrity.

**Vision:** To provide a world of equal opportunities for families, women, communities and youth through empowerment for the realization and maximization of their potentials towards a better future.

**Mission:** To promote and contribute to the growth of human development and alleviate poverty in Africa through these development initiatives.

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## **SOF Projects**

### **1. EDUCATION**

- To provide leadership, skills and enterprise training to Nigerian youths in all higher institution.
- To provide access to basic and higher education for women, children and youths.
- To provide access to higher education through free-tuition initiatives and scholarships.
- To promote education and educational initiatives at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.
- To promote and provide Universal Basic Education through initiatives and policies.
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### **2. ENTREPRENEURIAL**

- To provide entrepreneurial and vocational skills to women, young graduates and youths
- To provide financial and technical support for small and medium-scale projects for graduates and youths
- To assist families and communities in identifying economically viable enterprises for income generation, in order to provide technical and financial support for their implementation.

### **3. FOOD SECURITY**

- To provide sustainable agricultural production systems, food security and qualitative nutrition initiatives
- To promote good nutrition, agricultural practices and nutritional status.

#### **4. HEALTH**

- To provide and promote quality and safe health care delivery
- To reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity

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#### **5. LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

To provide leadership skills for youths, as well as mentor youths as responsible and future leaders for the African continent

#### **6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- To develop a global partnerships for sustainable development

#### **7. GENDER AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**

- To empower children, women, youths, families & communities in developing countries for a better future
- To empower families and communities towards sustainable development
- To eradicate negative social and cultural factors affecting women and children



- To stabilize and enhance family structures and relationships, in order to promote discipline, leadership, and support projects such as, "Girl-Child Scheme", "the Boy Drop out" and "The Children in Distress."

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### SOF Core Values

**Sidi Osho Foundation (SOF)**, is a non-profit, non-faith-based and non-governmental organization, that is geared towards encouraging public mindedness, accountability, truthfulness and transparency in the society. SOF aims to empower and transform lives in different sectors and to ensure that respect for human rights is adequately attained. We aim to promote and contribute to the growth of human development; alleviate poverty in Africa and impact lives.



**REPORT OF SOF MEETING WITH CENTER FOR GRASSROOTS WOMEN**

**ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (SEGWAD)**

Mrs. Titilayo Adefioye Executive Director CEGWAD read the opening remark "our dear Prof, it is our pleasure to welcome you to our office in Ibadan, Oyo State. CEGWAD is a community based NGO established in 1999 with a focus of raising economic empowerment of women.

SEGWAD has over 550 women farmers spread across Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Ondo, and environs. CEGWAD cares also for widows, Orphans and the physically challenged humans. The health of CEGWAD women is important to the organization therefore, the women reproductive health has been a focus of our organization.

CEGWAD has so far diversified her programs in recent times to cultivation, processing, packaging and marketing.

Our valued Professor Sidi, you are highly welcome to CEGWAD and on-behalf of SEGWAD and on-behalf of the group leader present - WELCOME

Prof Sidi Osho appreciated the efforts of the Executive Director Mrs. Titilayo Adefioye Executive Director CEGWAD, she also appreciated everybody present.

She went further to introduce SOF and various programs lined up to help the situation of the Nigerian economy thereby initiating entrepreneurial programs such as Skill Acquisition and Development, Entrepreneurship Training, Business Developments and Leadership Training.

Prof. Sidi Osho stated that she has come to the realization that many groups over time will start up a group and make it effective but after a while will destabilize the group due

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to lack of trust and lack of commitment. She applauded CEGWAD for longevity. She said the main reason why SOF was created was to help Women, establish Enterprises, assist youths across the nation and establish agricultural integration to foster surplus in agric productions.



Since SOF was registered by CAC, SOF has started youth programs, entrepreneur programs, and empowerment programs, to mention few.

It should be noted that our primary objective for this meeting is to deliberate on how SOF can assist SEGWAD setting up integrated agriculture, assist youths and empower women.

Agriculture which has been the main focus of SEGWAD, and has also been identified to serve as the bedrock for the SOF/SEGWAD partnership.

SEGWAD will sign an MoU with SOF and it will serve as a proof of commitment and will enable all individuals to have an identity card representing coalition of SEGWAD and SOF. Apart from this, individual members will join the SOF clubs with the sum of #2,000.

This partnership will concentrate and dwell on the food security club which entails:

- Production
- Processing
- Branding
- Marketing

Furthermore, the sum of #5,000 to open an account with NOUN microfinance bank; this will enable members to access a NOUN Microfinance Bank Loan

- Free training
- SOF will link you up with the Microfinance bank for access to loans
- Training for Twelve(12) weeks

You are required to get the land to build an agric integration farm that will bring together all aspects of farm production in just one environment. Spaces from this land will be apportioned to only registered members who have dully joined SOF club and have also registered with NOUN microfinance bank. Furthermore this farm integration will open different opportunities as well as different innovations such as exchanging goods for

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goods (trade by batter) this explains that goods/product produced at the farm can be exchanged without the involvement of money.

Cassava can also be exchanged for garri; while yam can be exchanged for fish depending on the quantity. This farm land will also can also serve as a depot where people can come and buy raw materials in bulk, so it depends on each individuals area of interest.

SOF will take it upon itself to bring agencies that will help in turning this project to a community based integrated farm. Furthermore day care services would also be established in the farm to curb the fear/worries from nursing mothers. With the establishment of this institution mothers can be rest assured that their babies will get maximum care and protection because they will be very close to their babies.

This also will serve as an opportunity to people who are job hunting, old fathers who are idle can also serve as watch men to the farm and the gadgets in the farm.

What SOF and NOUN MFB is advocating is for the Nigerian youths, especially undergraduates to start learning one skill or the other while in school and even after school, to graduate without depending on government jobs after graduation..

Researchers have revealed that the reasons why the interest of learning skills have deteriorated in many Nigerian youths is because skills learned were not usually linked with access to finance. This is why SOF and NOUN came up with this program, to provide youths with skill acquisition trainings and also to provide means to finance any choice of skill interested in. NOUN microfinance bank has been mandated by the School to provide maximum and adequate financial support to already trained student/youth.

### **Conclusion**

Mr Adegbite, the project manager buttressed and spoke more on the importance and benefits attached to joining SOF clubs and also the great benefit attached to opening an account with NOUN microfinance bank.

Finally, Mr adegbite appreciated the organizer of the meeting and the individuals present, he specially appreciated Mrs Adefioye for a job well done and the wonderful hospitality provided for the guest, he then encouraged them to keep the fire burning.





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### Outcome

- 1) MoU
- 2) Establishment of an integrated farming centre
- 3) Job and Wealth Creation
- 4) Poverty Alleviation

