

SOF VISITS COASTAL FISHERY SCHOOL



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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.”

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.

Picture Speaks



