



24th October, 2022

Greetings!

You are receiving this mail because you are a friend (or a friend of a friend 😊) of Linking Hands Foundation (LHF).

This is to again **THANK YOU** for believing in and supporting our charity efforts to promote Solid Education, Sound Health and Strong Values across Nigerian children.

We are thankful to every person, group and organisation who has continued to support us prayerfully, financially and with words of encouragement towards keeping our work going. May God reward you immeasurably more. Amen.

As part of LHF's family, we would like to share with you, our work in the last academic year, as we picked up gradually following the "pandemic session", and its various "slowdowns" and many uncertainties. Also included on the following pages are our major commitments/undertakings to support children's education, health and values in this 2022-2023 academic year, which started in September.

With the understanding of the times that we are in, LHF is profoundly grateful for your commitment to support the children we serve the best you can.

Yours sincerely,

Efe FARINRE (Mrs.)
Founder, Linking Hands Foundation - LHF



SUMMARY OF 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

S/NO	PROJECT/ ACTIVITY	RESULTS
1.	Continued Education for our No Limits Education Project (NLEP) Children in Primary School	33 children in public primary schools and 5 children in community primary school.
2.	Continued Education for our NLEP Children in Secondary School	9 children in public secondary school and 1 child in community secondary school.
3.	“Stop Open Defecation” in 3 public primary schools by keeping their toilets clean	Monthly purchase of toilet cleaning and hygiene supplies & consumables for 3 schools/~3,000 pupils, and salaries for 3 toilet cleaners.
4.	Teaching Assistant in 1 public primary school	Paid the monthly salary of a Kindergarten Class Teaching Assistant in 1 public primary school.
5.	Sports Support to 3 public primary schools	Donated 3 trophies (1 each) and provided financial support to needs for interhouse sports competitions.
6.	End-of-Year Celebration	Supported the 2021 Sant’Egidio Christmas Lunch for 2,000 indigent children in the Makoko, Sogunro and Oko-Agbon communities.
7.	Children’s Day Celebration in Partnership with Women in PENGASSAN Lagos Zone	~100 indigent children from Sogunro and Makoko had a day filled with fun, games, motivational and health/hygiene talks (including mensural hygiene interactive session with the girls and distribution of sanitary pads), food, drinks and giveaways.
Others		
8.	Africans Build Africa Children’s Day Party	Linked Africans Build Africa to Topgoodness School, Ajah, and supported the planning of this event, which was memorable for the 50 pupils who also received school bags and stationery.
9.	Hospitals for Humanity (HfH)’s maiden Saving Little Hearts Gala	This was held in celebration of Children’s Day 2022, and LHF received HfH’s Humanitarian Award for Outstanding Partnership.
10.	Children’s Art Exhibition	This was an initiative of The Ogiemudia Kids, for which part of the sales proceeds was donated to LHF.



SUMMARY OF 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR GOALS

S/NO	PROJECT/ ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
1.	Continued Education for our No Limits Education Project (NLEP) Children in Primary School – 30 Pupils at N35,000 each <i>This amount covers school uniforms & berets, shoes & socks, bags, stationery & supplies, sports-wear, books and any dues</i>	N1,050,000
2.	Continued Education for our NLEP Children in Secondary School – 17 Students at N45,000 each Vocational Education for our NLEP Children in Secondary School – 17 Students at N40,000 each <i>The available options as at now from which the children will choose based on their interests are tailoring, shoemaking and hairdressing</i>	N765,000 N680,000
3.	“Stop Open Defecation” in AT LEAST 3 public primary schools by keeping their toilets clean – one-time purchase of water storage, cleaning equipment & materials, monthly purchase of cleaning & hygiene consumables, monthly salaries of 3 cleaners	N1,350,000
4.	Teaching assistants in 3 public primary schools – At least 3 employees at N25,000 each monthly	N900,000
5.	Installation of White Boards in 3 public primary schools – 50 units at N60,000 each	N3,000,000
	Other LHF and partnership charity projects & activities in alignment with our vision & mission: Volunteer children’s outreaches to orphanages, indigent communities & hospitals, LHF’s H3 Initiative, BooksForME, conferences, sports support, food drives, BooksForMe, and introducing Pass on the Books and From My Heart For Your Heart initiatives. We are getting back on the field! Contact us to join in!	N6,000,000
6.	Operations & Miscellaneous (20% of 1-5 above)	N2,749,000
	Sub-Total 1	16,494,000
Others		
7.	Education of internally displaced children to Life Builders’ Initiative’s (LBI) School Without Walls (SWW), Kuchingoro IDP Camp & Area 1, FCT, Abuja – At least 50 children at N45,000 each <i>This amount covers school supplies – books, stationery, uniforms, a meal-a-day and healthcare.</i>	N2,250,000
8.	Life-saving open-heart surgery in partnership with Hospitals for Humanity (HfH) – 8 children at N2,000,000 each. <i>6 children from Makurdi were screened on 5th October, 2022</i>	N16,000,000
	Sub-Total 2	18,250,000
	GRAND TOTAL	N34,744,000



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT:

- **Join in!** TOGETHER, we can do much more
- **Reach out** to your friends and family to also join in
- **Make** one-time or periodic (monthly, quarterly, bi-annually) **donations**
- **Donate** as **an individual, a group/team or an organisation**
- **Sponsor** one or more projects/activities **in full or in part**
- **Create your own drive/ campaign** with any of the needs mentioned above on behalf of LHF with your friends, family, colleagues etc.: **you can pull a team/group together to support as one**

As we say at LHF, **“Your bit makes up the BIG!”** Please do not hold back; your support in any way goes a long way to make positive & lasting impacts on the lives of these precious children. Please include them in your immediate, end-of-year 2022 and/or short-term or long-term financial plans.

Kindly make your donations to:

Account Name - Linking Hands Foundation
Bank Name – GT Bank, Adetokunbo Ademola Branch
Branch Sort Code – 058152146
NGN Account Number – 0210438649
USD Account Number – 0226925937
GBP Account Number – 0226925951

Please reach out via email or telephone for any clarification and/ or additional information.

These children are counting on us; with your giving, **TOGETHER**, let's continue to invest in them today, and give them hope of a bright tomorrow.

We would be grateful to also have you join us “on the field” during our activities/ programmes/ outreaches. We would also like to have you visit and get to know the children we support. Kindly let us “know when”, and we will make it happen!

LHF also seeks volunteers in launching the new version of our website and keeping our social media platforms up to date. If that's you, please contact us; we have so much good to share!

THANK YOU and we look forward to your invaluable support.

Please scroll back to our 2022-2023 academic year goals' summary list as well as tips on how you can support and TAKE ACTION! 😊



GLOSSARY

NO LIMITS EDUCATION PROJECT (NLEP) CHILDREN

60 of the out-of-school children whose families were violently displaced from their Otodo-Gbame slum community to Makoko in 2017, and 1 child-mechanic, who had never been to school, were enrolled at our NLEP Learning Centre in February, 2018.

With a generous anonymous donation and the support of The Education Partnership (TEP) Centre, Corona School Victoria Island and NauNau Foods, these children were given FREE intensive academic and etiquette classes over 6 months, including FREE daily snacks, a healthy meal-a-day, uniforms, bags & water bottles, shoes & socks, books & stationery etc. They were then integrated successfully into Lagos State Public Primary Schools with the support of Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) in September, 2018, to continue with their education.

We are immensely proud of these champions, who continue to excel in character and academics at their schools.

Today, we have 47 children (25 in public primary schools, 16 in public secondary schools as well as 5 in a community primary school and 1 in a community secondary school) under our NLEP umbrella. We have had a number of our children relocate with their families, and a couple for which their choices and choices made for them have unfortunately taken them away from the path of education.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

We have realised that as the children get older, it is more enriching for them to be formally enrolled in skill-based trainings, in addition to their academic pursuits. This also allows us to continue to “make a case for education” with their parents, who mostly see it as an opportunity cost to the pursuit of added family income through trading, fishing etc. We are therefore including this vocational education opportunity in support of our 17 secondary school students.

“STOP OPEN DEFECACTION” WITH CLEAN TOILETS

On 11th June, 2019, LHF took Shalina Healthcare Nigeria’s “The Child Project” to the 3 public primary schools our NLEP children attend, which occupy the same compound. The Child Project is aimed at keeping Nigeria worm free through health and awareness talks, and deworming. At our outing at these 3 schools, about 3,000 children were dewormed.

Note: Worms infect more than one third of the world's population, with the most intense infections in children and the poor. Worms are everywhere and contaminate public areas such as schools and playgrounds. The infection is long-term and chronic, and can negatively affect all aspects of a child's development: health, nutrition, cognitive development, learning and educational access and achievement.



One of the major causes of worms is open defecation. We found out that the pupils in these 3 schools struggle with this, both at home due to a lack of toilets in indigent communities where most of them live, and at school where the toilets were not well maintained and hygienic for use. Aside dilapidation and limited to no running water, none of the 3 schools had dedicated cleaners for the toilets.

As LHF's way to "walk the talk", and with the generosity of our donors, in the last 3 academic sessions, we have taken on the financial responsibility associated with keeping the toilets in these 3 schools clean and usable for the ~3,000 pupils daily. This includes purchase of cleaning and water storage equipment and materials, monthly payments of salaries of 3 toilet cleaners as well as payment for the supply of soap and antiseptic for washing the 3 school toilets.

TEACHING SUPPORT

As is well known about Nigerian public schools, the teacher-student ratio is very high. It is therefore common for schools to seek support from NGOs and parents in volunteering time to teach and/or making financial provisions for teaching assistants.

WHITE BOARDS IN CLASSROOMS

Most of the classrooms in the 3 primary schools our NLEP children attend have aged or broken black boards. Aside struggling to wipe them after each use, the chalk particles are a health concern to the pupils, especially those with allergies and respiratory issues.

OTHER LHF AND PARTNERSHIP CHARITY PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES IN ALIGNMENT WITH OUR VISION & MISSION

***Children's Day & Christmas Outreaches**

This is part of our efforts to bridge the gaps across classes of Nigerian children through our Adopt-A-Buddy and Share-A-Snack Initiatives, as we take our children volunteers on outreaches to orphanages, indigent communities and hospitals.

***BooksForME**

This is part of our Readers-are-Leaders Initiative which places libraries made of metal cabinets and filled with reading books in indigent communities. **Our goal is to place 4-6 this session.**

***Head, Heart & Hands (H3) Initiative**

This initiative supports projects and programmes created by children, teenagers and youths to give of themselves to humanity and the world, from their skills and abilities (Head), passion (Heart) and works (Hands).

***Pass on the Books**

This is aimed at passing on used and in excellent condition text books to low cost/community school owners and teachers for use in their lessons and classroom.



***Others/General**

Initiating, supporting and partnering in programmes that touch, transform and add value to the lives of children, like health outreaches, education support, conferences, character building, self & improvement initiatives, food drives, sports, notable celebrations etc.

EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED CHILDREN

After our visit to IDP Communities in Nasarawa and FCT Abuja, in 2016, through the generous donations of our friends, LHF started to sponsor the education of children internally displaced by insurgents, in partnership with Life Builders Initiative for Education and Societal Integration (LBI). These children attend LBI's School Without Walls (SWW) at New Kuchingoro IDP Camp and Area 1, FCT, Abuja.

The 2021-2022 academic session ought to have marked our 6th cycle of this endeavour.

It is our hope that we are able to continue from where we paused, this session, with the sponsorship of the education of at least 50 internally displaced children.

SAVING CHILDREN'S HEARTS

LHF partners with HfH in addressing Congenital Heart Defects (CHD), which affects a significant portion of children in Nigeria.

To reduce the number of children living with CHD in Nigeria, on 27th May, 2022, HfH held its maiden Save Little Hearts Gala in FCT, Abuja and in that week, 5 children underwent free open-heart surgery.

HfH has reduced the cost of surgery from \$112,000 per child as obtainable in the United States to \$5,500 performing it in Nigeria, through innovative cost saving measures and working with a team of experts who volunteer to perform these surgeries at no cost.

In 2019, LHF facilitated the donation of \$5,500 for 1 of the 14 children who received life-saving heart surgery by HfH.

LHF is introducing our **From My Heart For Your Heart Initiative**, which will be our dedicated fundraising drive for surgeries at the first FREE Paediatric Cardiology Hospital in Africa, being built by HfH in FCT Abuja.

On 5th October, 2022, 6 of 8 children with CHD that require open heart surgery urgently who were transported between Makurdi and FCT Abuja by LHF, completed the first phase of their treatment with free screening by HfH.

LHF's next step is to raise ₦16,000,000 for their surgery.