

Jan-Mar 2019

# Newsletter



Welcome to the first issue of the FlexiSAF  
Foundation quarterly Newsletter.



“  
Knowledge is power.  
Information is liberating.  
Education is the premise of  
progress, in every society, in  
every family.

KOFI ANNAN



# CONTENT

04

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A letter from the desk of Ahmad Salihjo, Chairman of FlexiSAF Foundation.

06

## CASE STUDY

A brief look at some of our beneficiaries. Their stories, struggles and triumphs.

08

## NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Learn about our new partners and what we hope to achieve with them.

10

## ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM

A Brief overview

12

## What Do You Think When You Look At Me?

An Almajiri Laments

14

## PHOTO NEWS

Our First Quarter in pictures



Back to School, Back to Life.

# Letter From The Chairman

## **The Future Will Indeed Be Wonderful If Only Every Child Is Educated**


Every day, we have the opportunity to build a nation where the incoming generation is better equipped to handle the issues that arise. Moreover, the most important tool to empower the incoming generation is education. It has been said that education is the best legacy and only until we give the children a qualitative, accessible and future-ready education can we indeed have made an impact on humanity.

At FlexiSAF Foundation, this is the goal we have set for ourselves. Since our inception in 2018, we have put forth a goal to ensure that every out-of-school child in Nigeria has access to quality and future-ready education. We also hope to implement accelerated learning modules and technology to ensure scalability. We provide lifelong mentorship to ensure that we only not provide basic education, but we offer education where the outcome transforms workplaces and changes the mindset of the community at large for a purposeful life. We are on this mission, and we would not back out until every out-of-school child gains their right - quality education.

However, we cannot make this happen alone; we need your support. We need everyone who reads this to be a part of this journey to build a future where education is a right and not a privilege, a future where every child in Nigeria has access to quality education. We believe we are onto something great and together we can achieve more. Be a part of us today by volunteering your time and also donate to ensure the sustainability of our efforts.

Thank you and God Bless





*"We provide lifelong mentorship to ensure that we only not provide basic education, but we offer education where the outcome transforms workplaces and changes the mindset of the community at large for a purposeful life. "*

**Ahmad Salihijo**  
**Chairman, FlexiSAF Foundation**

# Case Study:

## The Story of Two Brilliant Girls and Their Journey Back to School

A few months ago, we met Divine Efuegbu, 9, a cheerful young girl who lives in Gudaba, a small farming community on the outskirts of Kuje Area Council, Abuja mostly populated by Tivs, Igbos and a mix of other tribes. It was 10AM when we arrived at the community and noticed that most of the children had gone off to school, except Divine who was getting ready to help her mother sell food on the streets of Kuje. This has become her daily routine. Others like Divine, were either helping their mothers to process cassava to be sold that day, babysitting their siblings or were playing with their peers on the dusty footpaths between the red brick houses. Undoubtedly, this is the life of many out-of-school children in Nigeria.

We approached Divine's mother, Chinasa, to ask her a few questions about her daughter, life in Gudaba and the reason why Divine was not in school. After losing her husband a few years ago, Chinasa made the decision to leave her home in Cross River State to start a new life in Kuje. She was able to start her small "Mama Put" food business and use the profits she makes to take care of her seven children. Although she is proud of her business, she explains that having a small income means prioritizing on "more important" things like rent, balanced meals and good clothes for her children. "It has been a struggle. I have had to make tough decisions since my husband died. I want my children to go to school but there are other things I have to pay for first" Chinasa said. Unable to keep up the school fee payments, the school had no other option but to send her children back home. Three years later, Divine and her siblings are still not back to school.

*"As you see me, I've never been to school, a lot of times I'm ashamed because I cannot read. Do you think I want my kids to grow up like that?" she tearfully expressed. "Sometimes, tears come out of my eyes when I think of how Divine's brain is being wasted. She is my most intelligent child."*

It is not uncommon to find so many children kicked out of school because the finances are not available to keep them there. Like Divine, Alheri, a 13 year old girl we met last year from Jagindi, Kaduna State, spent her days doing household chores and hawking groundnuts in her community, instead of being in class because her parents could no longer afford her school fees. Not the least surprising, at 13 years old, Alheri spoke no English while her mates, who were more fortunate, were getting ready to write Junior WAEC.



Alheri Francis



Divine Efuegbu

Meeting these two promising girls was not by chance or sheer luck. For the past year, Flexisaf Foundation has been on a quest to actively identify, evaluate brilliant out of school children in several communities across Northern Nigeria and put them back in school. Today, Divine is enrolled in Primary 2 at Aflon Digital Academy on a full scholarship while Alheri's education is being sponsored through the Flexisaf Foundation Adoption Program (FFAP) and she has also been paired with a volunteer mentor who will regularly monitor her progress and connect with her through effective guidance and counselling. Like Divine, Alheri is also enrolled in primary school, is now fluent in English and has mastered her level's arithmetic.

A few weeks after our first visit to Gudaba, we went back and had a brief chat with Divine, who was eagerly getting ready to go to school. With her uniform on, we watched her as she hurriedly ran to her mother's shed to get her lunch before she takes a short walk to her school. She had a big smile on her face as always and told us how excited she was to meet her friends and teachers. "I love my new school, she says. I have so many books and the homework is fun, because I can show my siblings what I learned."



Divine Efuegbu with her mother Mrs. Chinasa Efuegbu.



---

Launched in 2018, The Flexisaf Foundation works to tackle the challenge of Almajiri and out of school children of primary school age by giving them access to basic quality education, and the guidance they need to excel in life. At the heart of our work is ensuring that young girls get the same opportunities as boys to learn and socialize in effective learning environments (SDG4)

Flexisaf Foundation is the non-profit body of Flexisaf Edusoft.

With only N50,000 a year, or N300,000 one-off payment, you can sponsor a child through our adoption program and receive termly reports all through primary school.

Visit [www.flexisaf.org](http://www.flexisaf.org) to learn more.

---

# Partnerships



**Center for girls  
Education, Zaria**



**Connected  
Development (CODE)**



**Lovatt  
Foundation**



**Future  
Assured**



**Vaccine Network for  
Disease Control**



**Human Development  
Foundation (HDFN)**



**Development Initiative  
of West Africa (DIWA)**



**Sustainable Education  
and Enterprise  
Development**





*“When we started flexiSAF Foundation, we came to the conclusion that technology and strategic partnerships are the keys to providing quality education for the large number of out of school kids in Nigeria.”*

**Faiz Bashir**  
**Co-Founder, FlexiSAF Foundation**

# Accelerated Learning Program

## **Securing the future of children through accelerated quality education**

The Accelerated Learning Program (AccLearn) is a Community Based initiative of FlexiSAF Foundation aimed at combating the high rates of out of school children in Nigeria through accelerated learning. It prioritizes quality as well as speed and accessibility.

By providing the regular Nigerian curriculum in a condensed and accelerated manner, out of school children will be provided the basic tools needed for them to integrate into the formal schooling system. Acclearn Program compresses the 3-year early learning curriculum into 18 months. The program also has the following features:

- Adopts the Montessori model for learning
- Flexible learning designed to fit the child as an individual
- Community-based
- Safe Spaces for learning
- Child feeding initiative
- Parent empowerment through the feeding initiative.

## **Beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries of this program are out of school children, who come from underprivileged homes, that are identified as eager to learn but vulnerable. These beneficiaries all have to be resident in the same community where the AccLearn center is located.

Currently, there are 50 children enrolled in the Acclearn Pilot Program. These children are aged 5 to 9 years and are all out of school.



*“What did you learn today? What mistake did you make that taught you something? What did you try hard at today?”*

**Carol S. Dweck**  
Professor of Psychology, Stanford University

# What Do You Think When You Look At Me?

## An Almajiri Laments.

What do you think when you look at me?  
Am I a nuisance?  
A potential goon  
Or a dirty hungry rodent?  
Disturbing your peace

What do you think when you look at me?  
Are you scared of me?  
Afraid that I may smear dirt  
On your precious car?  
With my dirty hands  
And clumsily bare feet

What do you think when you look at me?  
That I am a "pick-poketer"  
At the market square  
Or a diseased little chap  
You need not near you

What do you think when you look at me?  
Do you want to dip in  
And throw some coins at me?  
And look away in disgust  
While I pick it up excitedly

What do you think when you look at me?  
Do you ever wonder  
How I was born  
What my childhood was like  
If I've ever been held with warmth?

What do you think when you look at me?  
That I don't have a heart?  
And want to be this way  
Gallivanting without a purpose  
Without a future to look forward to

What do you think when you look at me?  
That I want to clutch my dirty bowl  
For the rest of my life  
That my heart doesn't tear into pieces  
When I see kids in school

What do you think when you look at me?  
Am I not a fellow human?  
Disregarded nevertheless  
That I deserve a right to an education  
Just like your little boy

What do you think when you look at me?  
A potential hooligan?  
But is it necessarily so?  
Why not a potential president  
Of a rich country like this

What do you think when you look at me?  
Do you want to throw more coins  
Just to get rid of me  
And keep giving me dry fish  
Instead of teaching me how to fish

What do you think when you look at me?  
Do you not imagine  
if it were your little boy  
In my place instead of me?  
Don't you want to reach out to me  
Like I matter the way I am

What do you think when you look at me?  
Won't you take me off the streets?  
To teach and mentor me?  
To teach me about life and humanity  
And build a great future for me

What do you think when you look at me?  
I'll tell you what to think  
Am also a potential surgeon  
Just like your kid  
It's up to you to make my dreams true  
For am also like your kid

Am also a potential soldier  
Ready to defend you with my all  
But only if you make that happen  
By rescuing me today

You don't have to search by yourself  
All over for me  
For this medium has made it easy  
For you to reach out to me

Just hit the "donate" button  
And leave some funds for me  
These people know how to reach me  
And create a life for me

Many thanks to you in advance  
For building my future today



# Photo News



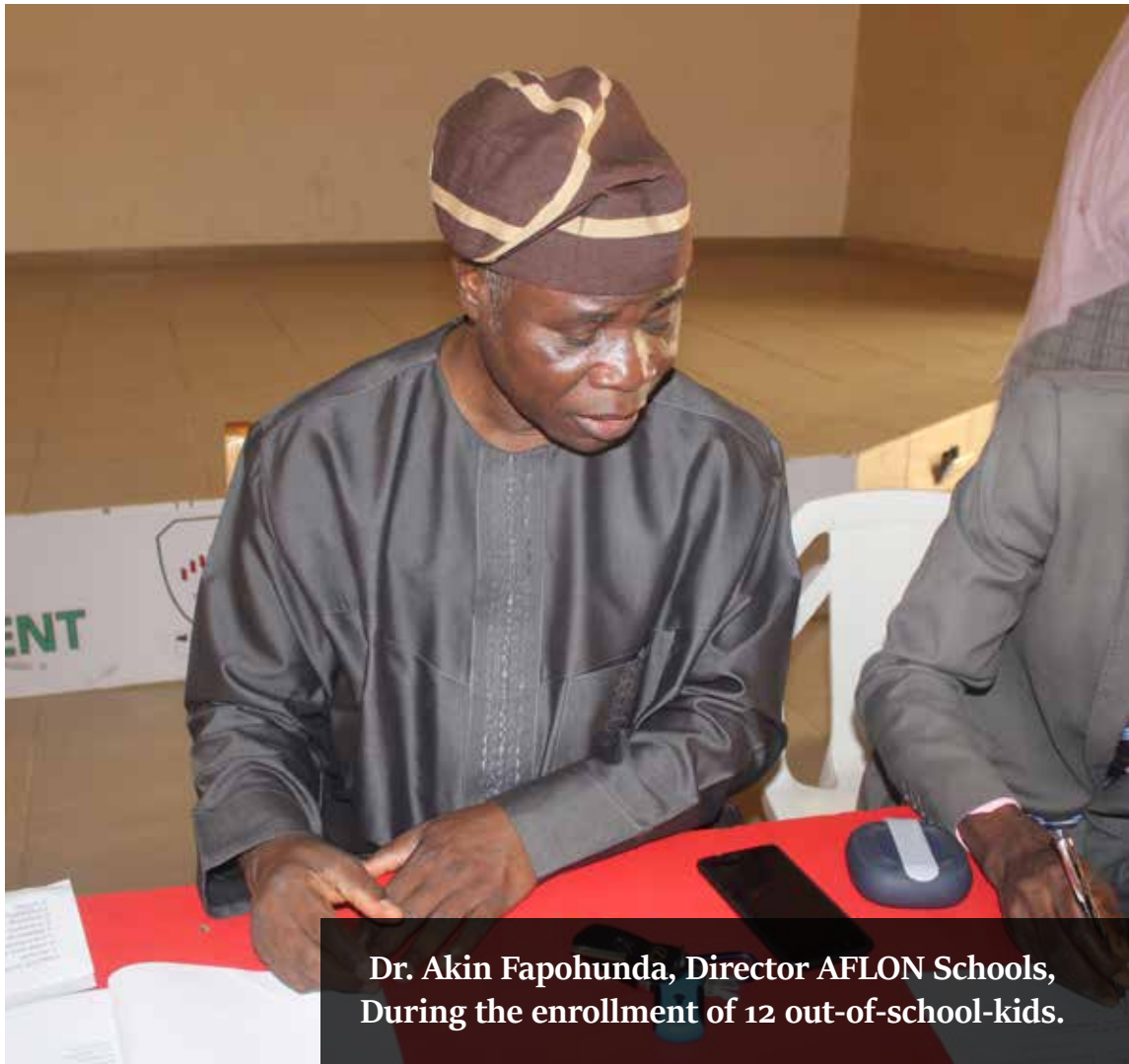
MOU Signing with GCE, Zaria.



MOU Signing with CODE.







**Dr. Akin Fapohunda, Director AFLON Schools,  
During the enrollment of 12 out-of-school-kids.**



**The beneficiaries with their parents.**





**Benjamin Tokpa, Pri. 2**



**Mercy Akpati, Pri 2.**



Saudat Abubakar, Kindergarten.



Richard Gabriel, Pri 3.



**ACCLEARN SAFEPLACE.**



**INSTRUCTORS AND STUDENTS AT THE ACCLEARN PROGRAM.**



**Ahmad Salihijo,  
Chairman, FlexiSAF Foundation**



**Ustadh. Nurudeen Lemu,  
Director, ALLI Initiative.**



**Fiona Lovatt,  
Founder, Lovatt Foundation**



**FlexiSAF Foundation team with volunteers.**



**Samir Abubakar (C.I.O FlexiSAF Edusoft),  
with friend**



**Invited Guests at the FlexiSAF**




Ustadh. N Lemu, Fiona Lovatt with guests



iSAF Foundation Launch



Thanks for reading. We can't wait to share more of our activities with you,  
feel free to contact us anytime. See you in our next issue.

 +234 (0)808-407-7424  
+234 (0)905-370-0992

 [info@flexisaf.org](mailto:info@flexisaf.org)

 [fb.com/flexisaffoundation](https://www.facebook.com/flexisaffoundation)

 [@flexisaf\\_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/flexisaf_foundation)

 [@flexisaf\\_fdn](https://www.twitter.com/flexisaf_fdn)

 [www.flexisaf.org/donate](http://www.flexisaf.org/donate)