



#Project3S

OUR FUNDING STORIES

#FundEducationNG



FOREWORD

If you ask me why I started this project, the politically correct answer will be, 'to contribute my quota to the society' but the truth is that, it was fear. The fear of living in a country where there's a wide economic divide, the fear of a future that thrives on mediocrity and ignorance, the fear of National stagnation.

To conquer my fears, I took action with the support of several co-travelers who believe access to basic education is a fundamental human right.

I hope that with the stories shared here and with all we've achieved in OpenFees in the last two years, you'll be motivated to join us as we create the future we want to see.

#FundEducationNG

Elizabeth Okunlola
Founder, OpenFees

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to making this a success, particularly the 100 students who offered to tell their stories and their parents for the immense support. Thank you to the management and focal teachers of the 14 schools we worked in and the FCT Secondary School Education Board for their collaboration. We are grateful.

Finally, but most importantly, we are grateful for the strength and will God gave the OpenFees team to implement this project. From the amazing team members to our donors who were with us all through.

We hope these stories motivate all relevant government agencies and the public to do more in the area of basic education financing in Nigeria.



STORIES OF 100 STUDENTS FIGHTING FOR A GREATER FUTURE


Adamu Mardiya, Usman Hamza, Utsor Rebecca, Abdullahi Ismail, Adeniyi Faith, Akande Musibau, Nwabueze Favour, Kasimu Fatima, Pamnus Rwang, Umeh Miracle, Adamu Precious, Ayuba Promise, Chidiebelu favour, Jimoh Zuliat, Nwachukwu J. Chinedu, Oladejo Happiness, Tahir Ahmad, Daniel ThankGod, Eshiemokha Victoria, Iknot Mustapha, Jimoh Bilikisu, Osakwe Uchechukwu, Otokpa Patience, Sylvester-Atat Esther, Adetunji Barakat, Agu Favor, Christopher Cynthia, Emmanuel Ayogu, Idowu Blessing, Idris Rekiya, Joseph Friday, Mohammed Amina, Odofor Chidera, Ogbole Faith, Shuaib Fatima, Umana Esther, Usman fadimatu, Adamu Isah, Ahmad Abdulrahman, Bassey Esther, Ibrahim Saminu, Johnson Deborah, Olusegun Christiana, Orji Kingsley, Ibrahim Hajara, Idris Zainab, Idris Khadijat, Nasiru Ishaq, Onoja Monday, Peter James, Abubakar Nafisat, Alo Chinonso, Joshua, Ariyo Ann, Daniel Solomon, Muhammed Aisha, Nelson G. Victoria, Oni Emmanuel, Abdulraheem Hanatu, Adamu Hafiz, Bagiwa Abdulrahman, Dami Dami Faustina, Olatunde Olasunkunmi, Yohanna Gladys, Yunus Ulhaq, Abolade Isaac, Ibrahim Danladi, John Emmanuel, Okoh Joseph, Shellep Priscillia, Sunday Thankgod, Yusuf Halima, Egoro Michael, Ezekiel Michael, Longlife Ufuoma, Joseph Elizabeth, George Bisola, Onamali Desmond, Mohammed Hafsah, Abdullahi Abdulhalmid, Busari Asma'u, Enyi Nelson, James Nenthokmwa, Odey Racheal, Agbo Otsai Emmanuel, Inusa Nantap, Joshua Margret, Kasali Barakat, Musa Zakari, Oresanya David, Ugwanyi Kingsley, Abu Zoyeda Mubarak, Abdullahi Abdulmajid, Iliya blessing, Isah Abubakar Mark Happiness, Samuel Ayatum Josephine, Umar Zainab, Amanze Grace, John Solomon, Damaris

THE POWER OF EDUCATION

Understanding that knowledge is power,
these young students wouldn't let
poverty stop them.





 Open Fees

Miriam Dike

FIELD COORDINATOR

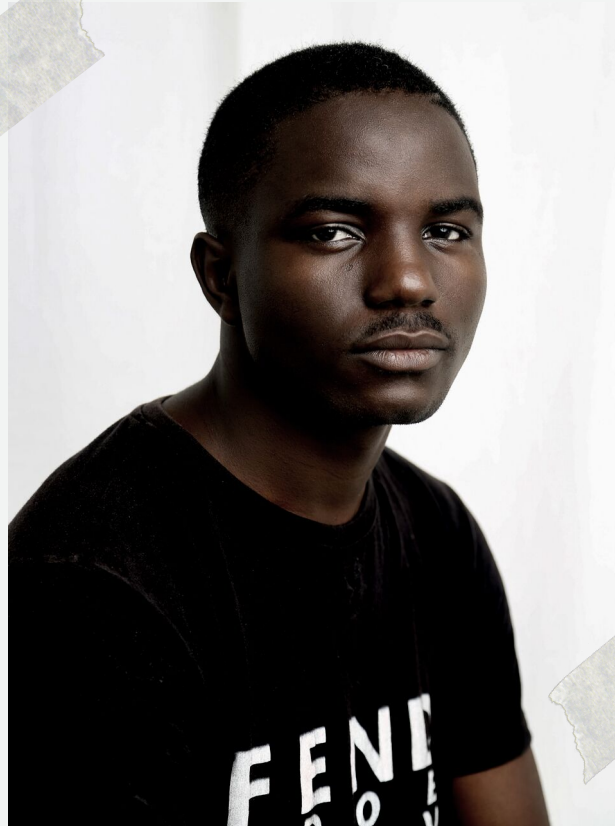
MY EXPERIENCE

My experience with Project3S has made me realise that with collaborative measures, education in Nigeria can be better and children do not need to suffer to get educated.



MABEL ALIYU

Communication
Coordinator & Field Pilot
Turning our thoughts to
reality



EXODUS DAVID

Documentary
Photographer
Telling our stories through
the lens




LANSIT LASS

Field Pilot (Volunteer)
Going far and beyond



****The stories in this document are real stories from our beneficiaries. However, to protect the children, we avoided quoting them verbatim. Some of the stories that are similar have been grouped and paraphrased.



*What does access to basic education
mean to you?*

DO YOU THINK INDIGENT CHILDREN AND YOUTHS
DESERVE BETTER?



99%

99% OF PROJECT3S
BENEFICIARIES STRUGGLE TO
PAY THEIR TUITION FEES



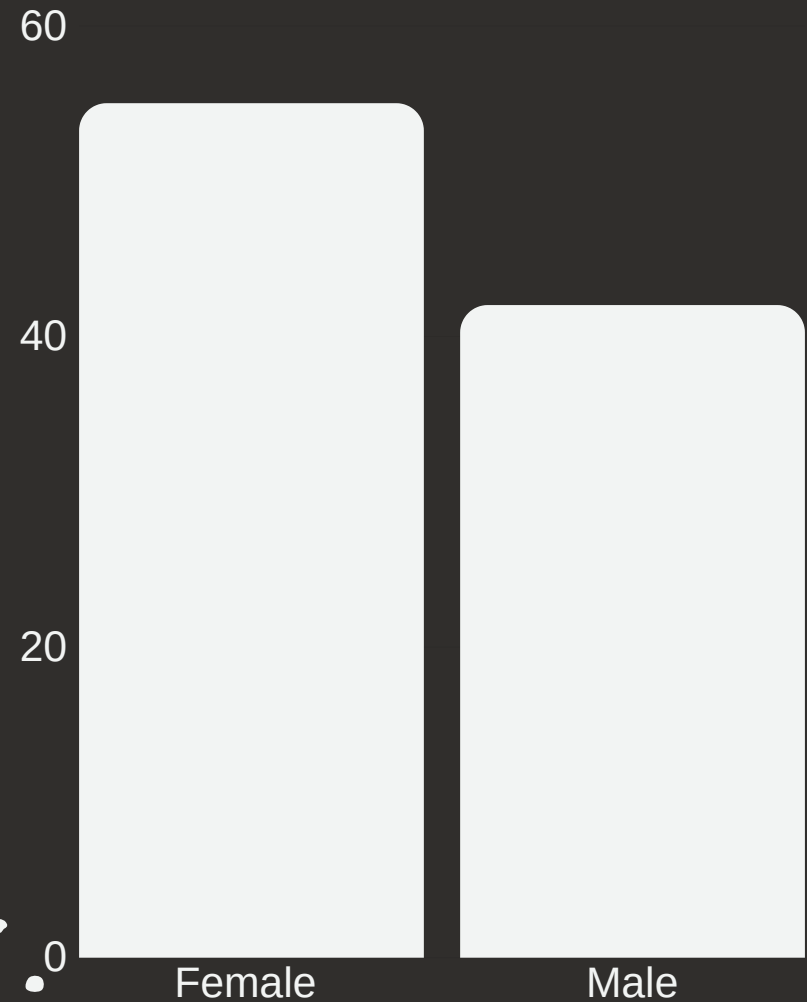
ABOUT PROJECT3S

Project Senior Secondary School Completion (Project3S) is a project implemented by OpenFees to ensure that indigent students complete their senior secondary school. The project objective is achieved through direct fee payment, Behaviour Change communication and policy influence.

THE BENEFICIARIES

To promote access to basic education for the girl child, Project3S had 55% of female beneficiaries and 44% of male beneficiaries on the scheme. The 97 beneficiaries were from 14 schools across the 6 Municipal Areas in FCT-Abuja, Nigeria.

These students are mostly from low income homes and had to go through several hurdles to gain access to education. **Read their stories!**







WORKING TO SURVIVE

To stay in school, I hawk everyday after school. This affected my school performance and it was very frustrating to know there was nothing I could do about this. I needed to support my mother because my father was bedridden-he died eventually.

My mum would insist I hawk after school no matter how tired I was but OpenFees' intervention through Project3S made it possible for me to negotiate my way out of daily hawking and concentrate on my education.

RATIONING MEALS

It's been quite a struggle for me. Since my junior school days, my siblings and I often take turns to go to school due to lack of fees.

It got so bad we started rationing meals and would eat only once a day to save money. With the help of OpenFees, I was able to complete my senior secondary school. I am glad I passed my WAEC and I look forward to a bright future.



SURVIVING THREE CHILD MARRIAGES.

My mother and uncles married me off three times to three different men because of poverty. Twice I ran back home and the third time, I ran far away. This had a negative impact on me in so many areas. Despite running to the church, I am often harassed by church members I am told to live with in order to pay my school fees.

With the help of OpenFees, I stopped living with church members and now live in the church. I also got stronger emotionally through the emotional intelligence training.

LIVING WITH THE STIGMITIZATION OF RAPE

I got raped by my school guardian because I had to stay in his place during the holidays as I could not afford the transportation fare to visit my family for the break. The things I have been through as a result of poverty and trying to get an education is not what I'll like to discuss today but I trust that with the consistent support I get from OpenFees, I will overcome my challenges and succeed.






CONSTANTLY ABUSED

I came from my village to the city to work as a house help and in turn go to school but my bosses were constantly abusing me & giving me chores that made it impossible for me to go to school as frequent as I would love to. Also, they often forget to pay my fees and I am forced to stay at home and do more chores but with OpenFees paying my fees, there was no excuse to keep me at home all the time as OpenFees kept a tab on my school attendance and made my school management pay more attention to my welfare.

ORHANED BUT NOT ALONE

Surviving without anyone to turn to was a nightmare (I lost my parents when I was younger and had to find a way to survive on my own). I often did things alone and would miss school on most days because I need to find petty jobs for survival. Meeting OpenFees improved my school attendance and I no longer feel alone in this world.







INTERNALLY DISPLACED BUT RESTORED

I am one of the internally displaced persons from Nassarawa and I ran to Abuja to take refuge in the church. The church sometimes have to donate to pay my fees but couldn't afford it when I got to SS3, I almost gave up but OpenFees restored my hope.



FARMING MY WAY THROUGH

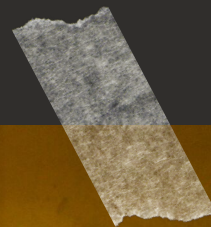
I have spent more than 3 years in senior secondary school because my brother and I take turns to farm for survival. During each raining season one of us have to stay back to make money for the next school year. However, the story was different this year because OpenFees came to my aid.





POVERTY IS NOT A CRIME

'Through our mentorship classes, we now understand that poverty is not something to reduce our self esteem for. Instead of being sorry for ourselves, we are more determined to change our own story through education.'





"It is in fact a part of the function of education to help us escape, not from our own time – for we are bound by that – but from the intellectual and emotional limitations of our time. "

– T.S. Eliot



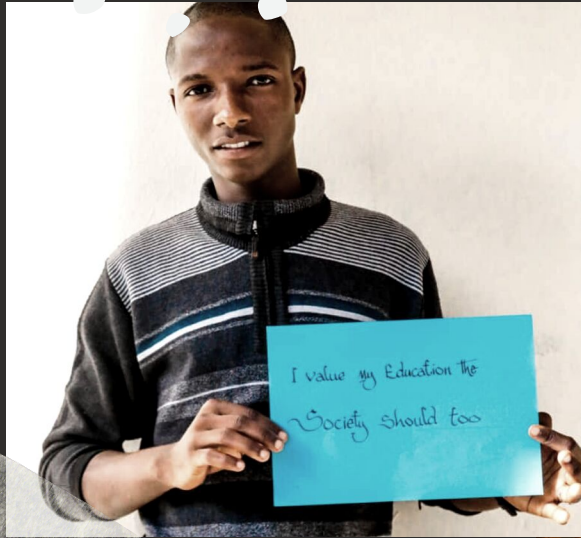
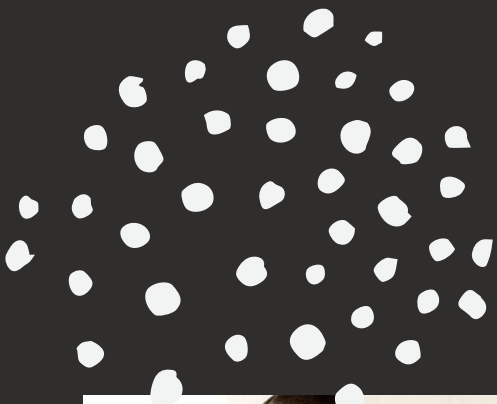
TREKKING TO FREEDOM

'I trek for over 7 kilometers everyday to get to school due to lack of funds. Before the intervention of OpenFees, I went to school only twice a week but when they started paying my fees, I got motivated to trek to school everyday with the hope that i'll be free someday.'

MY ILL HEALTH WON'T STOP ME

'A few years ago, I got diagnosed for Hapatitis B and this became a burden to my mum as we struggled to get medical care. Due to my health challenges, we ran out of funds to pay my school fees and I was often embarrassed for owing the school. As a result of the frequent embarrassment and the fact that I was always supporting my mum in her shop so that we could earn more, I gave up on writing SSCE.'

However, OpenFees came to my aid and I was able to complete my SSCE while my mum focused on paying for my medical bills. although I am constantly taking drugs and I fear my liver may fail due to lack of quality care, I wouldn't stop trying to get an education.'



A TORN SHIRT ISN'T A 'TORN' LIFE

My guardians could barely pay for my fees and my transportation fare to school every term so having an extra pair of uniform wasn't an option. I was wearing the same pair of uniform for over two years and would use patches to put them together when they tear. My class mates would laugh at me and my friends were always embarrassed because my shirt buttons will come off and the boys will always stare... this made me really shy and afraid to come to school.

When OpenFees visited my school and engaged me in the mentorship class, I was always absent because I didn't have the courage to face my class mates in a smaller group. The mentor observed this and called me for a chat where I shared my frustrations and sadness. She gave me money for a new pair of uniform and encouraged me to show up for the mentorship class always. Attending the mentorship class helped me see things differently, through our group work and several games, I saw that my torn shirt was only a distraction and I am working hard to make sure my experiences doesn't define me.



AGE RANGE

Students on the Project3S scheme are between the ages of 14 and 21

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT.....

- Gratitude: we understand now through our essays and researches during our oracy classes that challenges are opportunities to solve problems and learn.
- Leadership: because we have to take charge and change our own stories, we understand responsibilities and service better.



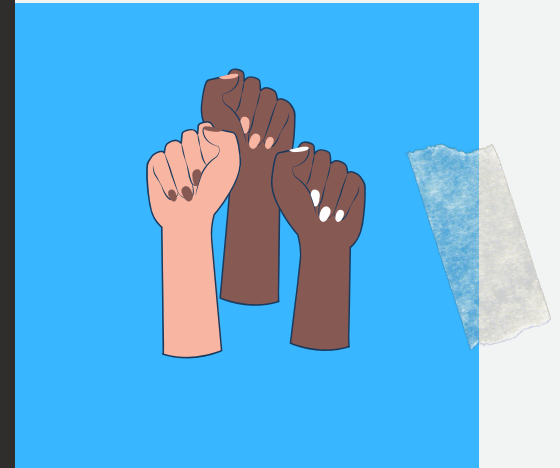
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT



We are the
change we want
to see



Sharing your problems
with reliable friends and
mentors can help you
achieve your goals



Education is our
fundamental
human right





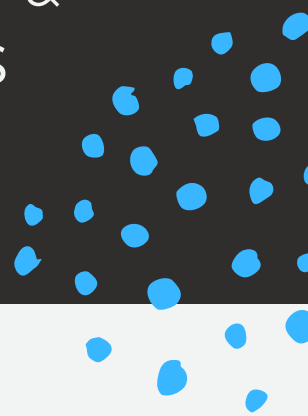
33.3%

33.3% OF THE
BENEFICIARIES ARE
ORPHANED AND LIVE
ALONE



22.2%

22.2% OF THE
BENEFICIARIES ARE
WORKING YOUTHS.
THEY ARE INVOLVED IN
VARIOUS ECONOMIC
ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT
THEIR FAMILY &
THEMSELVES



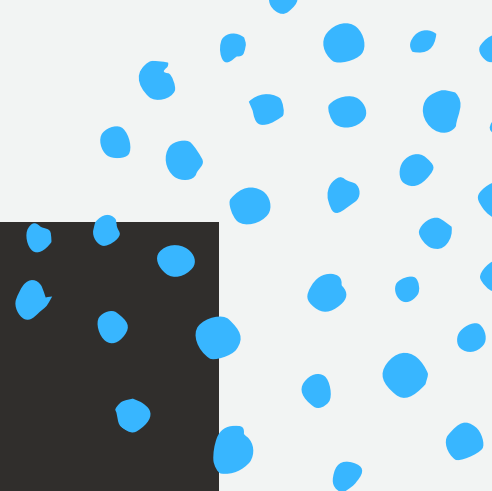



Why fund education?

EDUCATION IS CENTRAL TO ACHIEVING ALL THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.







It is not beyond our power
to create a world in which
all children have access to a
good education.



NELSON MANDELA





PROJECT SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPLETION #PROJECT3S

Project Report

<http://bit.ly/project3Sreport>



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