

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT

Bold  
Partnerships •

Real  
Impact •

Sustainable  
Africa •



Sterling One Foundation



# Table of Content

- Introduction
- Letter from the Chairman of the Board
- Message from the Chief Executive Officer
- About Sterling One Foundation
- Our Strategic Pillars and Impact Approach
- 2025 Highlights at a Glance
- Our Thematic Impact Stories
- What Our Partners Say
- Awards & Recognition
- Governance and Financial Overview
- Looking Ahead- 2026 and Beyond





# Introduction

At Sterling One Foundation, we believe that bold partnerships are the catalyst for meaningful progress. Through collaboration with communities, governments, and partners across sectors, we turn vision into real impact, empowering young people, strengthening institutions, and creating sustainable solutions.

This is our commitment to a sustainable Africa: driving purposeful change where it is needed most and expanding opportunities for all.

# Letter from the Chairman of the Board



## Yemi Adeola

*Chairman, Board of Trustees,  
Sterling One Foundation*

Dear Friends, Partners, and Stakeholders,  
As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and optimism. The year marked a period of growth, resilience, and sharpened

purpose for Sterling One Foundation. We witnessed remarkable progress in our mission to catalyse partnerships and drive transformative impact across Africa.

Our work this year reinforced a simple but powerful truth: lasting development is not achieved in isolation. It is shaped through bold collaboration between the public and private sectors, between global institutions and local innovators, and in the shared space where vision is turned into action. Through platforms such as the Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) 2025 and initiatives like the \$100billion Women and Youth Investment Agenda in partnership with the African Union Commission and GIZ, we moved decisively from dialogue to delivery, mobilising resources, shaping policy, and accelerating change where it is needed most.

Across the continent, 2025 presented complex challenges, from climate pressures and inequality to fragile health systems and youth unemployment. Yet, in the face of these realities, we continued to see resilience, innovation, and hope. Guided by strong partnerships and a deep sense of responsibility, the

Foundation strengthened institutions, expanded opportunities, and supported solutions designed not just to respond to today's needs, but to endure for generations.

As we look toward 2026, our vision remains clear: to deepen trust, strengthen partnerships, and scale initiatives that deliver systemic and sustainable change across Africa. The continued support and collaboration of our partners, staff, volunteers, and the communities we serve form the backbone of everything we do. Together, we will continue to turn vision into action, challenges into opportunities, and possibilities into lasting impact for Africa and its people.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to Sterling One Foundation's work in 2025. Your trust, dedication, and belief in what is possible inspire us to act boldly, lead with purpose, and remain steadfast in our commitment to a sustainable Africa.

With gratitude, hope and resolve.

# Message from the CEO



**Olapeju Ibekwe**  
CEO, Sterling One Foundation

2025 marked a defining year for Sterling One Foundation, reaffirming our belief that Africa's progress is unlocked through trust, partnership, and purpose. Across our priority areas – Education and Youth Development, Healthcare Access, Climate Action, Gender Equality and Women's

Empowerment, and Food Security, we saw bold ideas evolve into collective movements, pilot initiatives scaled into programmes with national and regional reach, and communities strengthened through shared action.

In 2025, we mobilized people, capital, and partnerships at scale to advance Africa's development agenda. Leveraging convening platforms such as the Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) 2025, we brought together over 3,000 changemakers and catalysed more than \$230 million in social investment commitments. More than 2,000 leaders and 61 partners united around a shared ambition: translating collaboration into tangible solutions that ensure no one is left behind. Beyond the continent, we amplified Africa's development priorities on the global stage, engaging in high-level dialogues at the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80) to accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals through partnership, innovation, and equity.

Our work has translated into real impact across communities. Through initiatives like the Early Child Learning Advancement Project (E-CLAP), over 3,000 children and learners gained access to enhanced academic resources. Meanwhile, more than 5,000 people received essential healthcare services and benefited from strengthened medical infrastructure through partnerships with organisations such as the Maternal and Reproductive Health Research Collective (MRHR).

In line with our climate commitments, eight beaches were adopted and cleaned through sustainable recycling and community-led environmental initiatives, which were delivered in partnership with the Lagos State Government Ministry of Environment, Sterling Bank, Sunbeth, the African Cleanup Initiative, and other strategic partners. Over 800 women were reached through programmes focused on economic inclusion, entrepreneurship, and leadership, including the Women Investment Readiness Accelerator Programme, while more than 1,000 participants strengthened their governance and operational capacity through the NGO Development Series. Our ESG Series further empowered over 500 leaders with the tools and insights to embed sustainability at the core of their strategies.

These outcomes are not abstract. They are lived transformations; children learning with confidence, health centres saving lives, communities building resilience to climate shocks, and young Africans choosing hope, dignity, and possibility.

To all our partners, thank you for your trust and for walking this journey with us. Together, we continue to demonstrate that impact is not an act of charity; it is a strategic investment in Africa's future. Through bold partnerships, we will keep delivering real impact and building a sustainable Africa for generations to come.

# About

## Sterling One Foundation

Sterling One Foundation is a trailblazing non-profit organization dedicated to creating lasting social impact across Nigeria and Africa. Founded in 2018 by Sterling Bank Plc, we focus on five critical areas: Education and Youth Development, Climate Action, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Food Security, and Healthcare Access.

At the heart of our work is a simple belief: lasting change comes from addressing the root causes of poverty and empowering people to shape their own futures. Guided by a strategic impact approach, we design and deliver sustainable, scalable interventions that transform lives, from improving access to quality education and economic opportunities to promoting

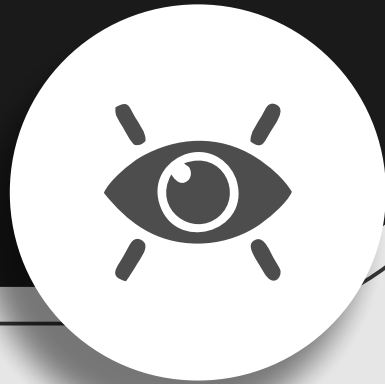
environmental sustainability, securing food systems, and providing essential healthcare.

Operating independently under an autonomous Board of Trustees, we combine strong governance with bold, people-centered solutions. Through trusted partnerships and targeted investments, we strengthen communities, empower young people, and support institutions to deliver meaningful, long-term outcomes.

Every action we take aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union Agenda 2063, reflecting our commitment to a resilient, inclusive, and prosperous Africa. Through bold partnerships, we are driving real change where it is needed most.

## Our Vision

To shape an inclusive and prosperous Africa where everyone thrives.



## Our Mission

To create and support sustainable impact solutions that address the root causes of poverty and inequality across Africa.



## Our Core Values

### Trust:

We build trust through integrity and accountability.

### Partnerships:

We create partnerships that amplify impact.

### Innovation:

We drive innovation to solve Africa's toughest challenges.



# Our Strategic Pillars



**EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**



**HEALTHCARE ACCESS**



**GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**



**CLIMATE ACTION**



**FOOD SECURITY**

# Our Impact Approach

At Sterling One Foundation, we know that Africa's most complex challenges cannot be solved in isolation. Real change happens when bold partners come together with a shared purpose. That belief shapes how we work— combining collaboration, innovation, and evidence-based action to deliver solutions that create measurable, lasting impact across Africa.

- **Expanding Access to Quality Healthcare**

We strengthen healthcare systems where they are needed most. Through initiatives like the Maternal Health Intervention and the Compassionate Care Recovery Initiative (CCRI), delivered in partnership with the MRH Research Collective, over 6,000 people accessed improved healthcare services in 2025 alone. By expanding access to quality care, we are empowering families, protecting lives, and building healthier, more resilient communities across Nigeria.

- **Strengthening Education and Capacity Where It Matters Most**

Education is the foundation of sustainable progress. Through initiatives like the Early Child Learning Advancement Project (E-CLAP), we have empowered over 3,000 educators and reached more than 5,000 learners, strengthening classrooms and expanding access to quality education. Strategic partnerships with organizations such as the Special Foundation, the Office of the Vice President of Nigeria, and UNICEF, ensure that even the most marginalized

communities are supported and included, leaving no child behind.

- **Advancing Gender Equality and Inclusion**

When women succeed, communities thrive. Through gender-focused leadership programs and enterprise support initiatives like the Women Investment Readiness Accelerator (WIRA) Program, delivered in partnership with the Development Bank of Nigeria, we have empowered over 2,000 women entrepreneurs, enabling them to build resilient businesses, create jobs, and drive economic inclusion within their communities.

- **Climate Action Rooted in Communities**

Our climate interventions connect environmental sustainability with economic empowerment. Through the Agroforestry for Climate Action Project, we combine reforestation with climate education, building resilience among students, teachers, and rural communities while supporting livelihoods.

The Beach Adoption Programme, delivered in partnership with organizations including the African Cleanup Initiative, LAWMA, Sterling Bank, First E&P, Rite Foods, Sunbeth, and Wastebanc, mobilises volunteers and institutions to tackle waste management and promote circular economy practices at scale, creating cleaner, healthier communities.

### **Sustaining Food Systems and Livelihoods**

Recognizing agriculture as a critical pathway out of poverty, we have supported over 2,000 smallholder farmers, agripreneurs, and their families through alternative financing and public-private partnership models. These interventions strengthen food systems, boost productivity, and create sustainable income opportunities, helping vulnerable communities build resilient livelihoods and secure their future.

### **Strengthening Organisations and Leaders**

Sustainable development depends on strong institutions and capable leadership. The NGO Development Series, delivered in partnership with the Nigeria Network of NGOs and Giving.ng, has trained over 5,000 nonprofit leaders in governance, operational efficiency,

programme delivery, and impact measurement. The Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Series, implemented with partners including PwC Nigeria, UNIDO ITPO, Lagos Business School Sustainability Centre, NECA, and Sterling Bank, has engaged over 3,000 participants from 15 countries, equipping leaders to align strategy with global ESG standards and drive responsible, sustainable growth.

### **Convening for Collective Action**

As co-convenor of the Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) alongside United Nations Nigeria, we leverage our convening power to unlock collaboration and mobilize resources. Across four editions, ASIS has engaged over 5,000 participants from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, catalyzing partnerships and scalable solutions across education, healthcare, climate action, youth empowerment, and impact investing.

### **Using Technology to Multiply Impact**

Through Giving.ng, Africa's first free crowdfunding platform, we connect changemakers with funding and visibility. The

platform has mobilized resources for critical projects in education, healthcare, and sustainability, enabling collective action and amplifying impact across communities.

### **Removing Financial Barriers for Nonprofits**

Through Sterling CARES, Africa's first free nonprofit banking solution, which is delivered in partnership with the Nigeria Network of NGOs and Sterling Bank, we eliminate transaction costs and simplify financial operations. This enables nonprofits to focus their resources on delivering impact where it matters most, strengthening communities and driving meaningful change.

## **Measuring what Matters**

We embed data and learning into every programme. By leveraging analytics to track outcomes and optimize resources, we enhance transparency, accountability, and our ability to scale interventions that deliver proven, measurable impact.

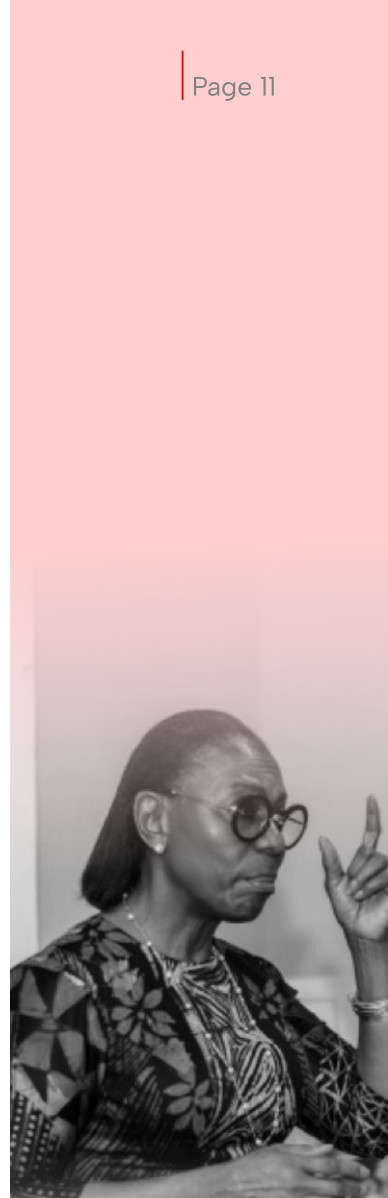
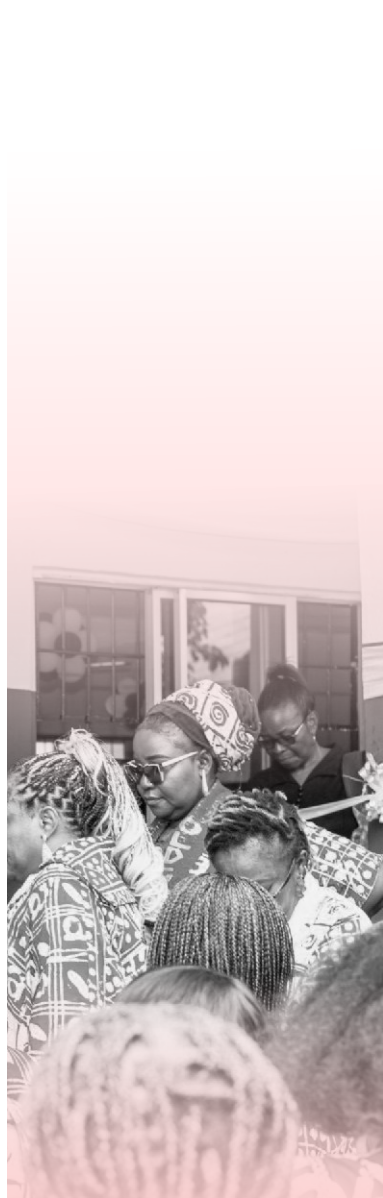
# 2025 Highlights

at a Glance



# OUR THEMATIC IMPACT STORIES

In 2025, Sterling One Foundation deepened its impact by leveraging strategic partnerships to drive scalable, sustainable results across five core pillars



# EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



# EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

In 2025, Sterling One Foundation amplified its efforts in education and youth development by turning strategic partnerships into tangible outcomes. Through targeted interventions in foundational learning, teacher development, digital skills, and youth empowerment, we positively impacted over 5,000 children, educators, and youth across multiple communities, strengthening classrooms and expanding access to quality education.

Our foundational learning programs focused on early literacy and numeracy, helping young learners build essential skills for academic success. Through structured lessons, learning materials, and active community engagement, children demonstrated measurable improvements in reading, comprehension, and numeracy skills.

To ensure sustainable transformation, we invested in teacher capacity building, equipping educators with modern pedagogical methods, inclusive classroom practices, and practical teaching tools. This enhanced classroom quality,

increased teacher confidence, and improved learner engagement.

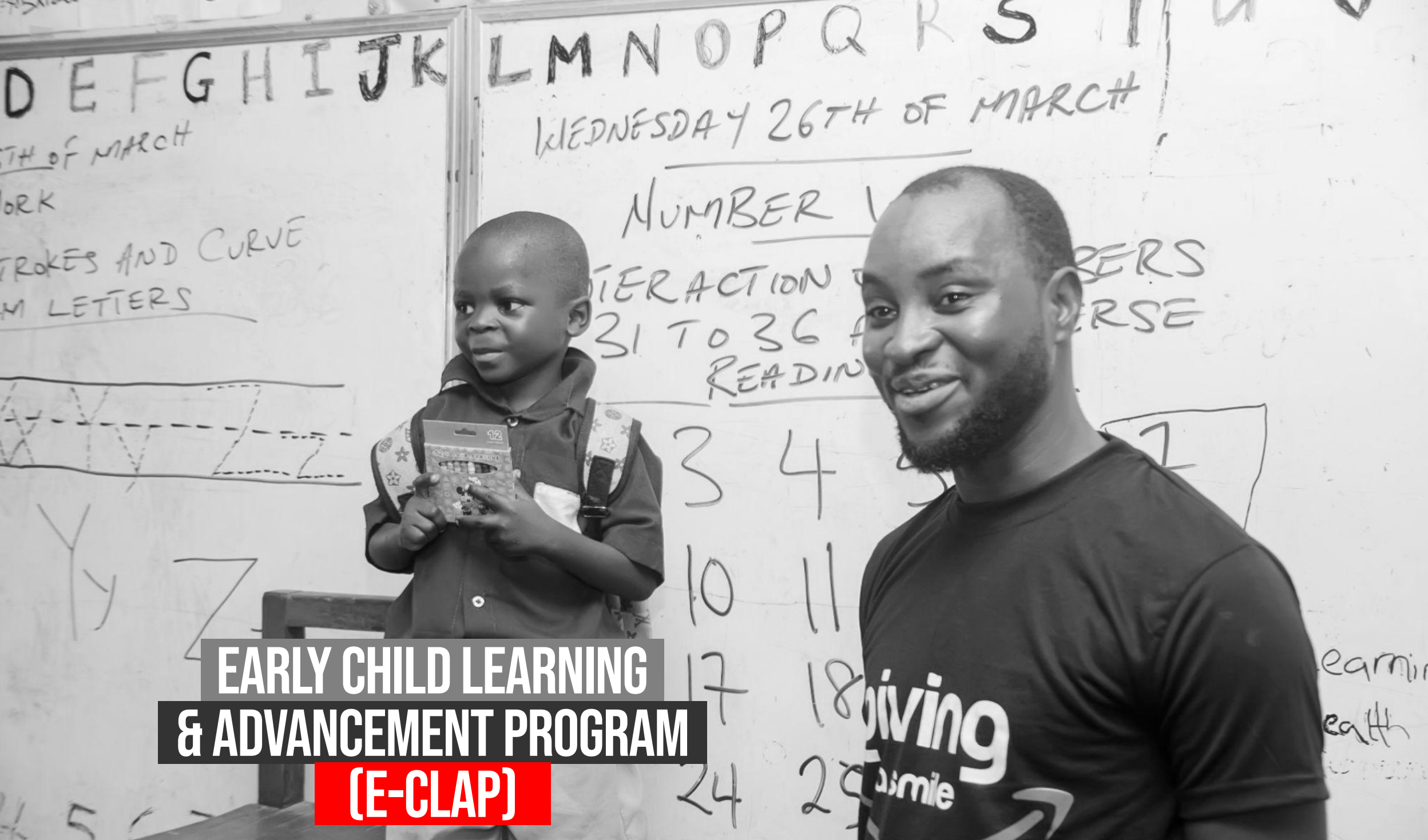
Recognizing the urgent need to equip youth for economic inclusion, our youth empowerment initiatives provided adolescents and young adults with employability training, digital skills, entrepreneurship exposure, and mentorship.

Many beneficiaries transitioned into internships, entrepreneurial ventures, or

further learning opportunities, contributing to improved livelihoods.

Across all programs, strong community partnerships and a commitment to equity guided our approach. The impact achieved reaffirms the Foundation's belief that investing in children, teachers, and youth creates lasting change and builds a sustainable future.





**EARLY CHILD LEARNING  
& ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM  
(E-CLAP)**



# EARLY CHILD LEARNING & ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM (E-CLAP)

Under our commitment to education, the Early Child Learning and Advancement Program (E-CLAP) was launched to expand access to quality learning and strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy among children in underserved communities. Through collaboration with education policymakers, School-Based Management Committees (SBMCs), local authorities, communities, and other stakeholders, the program has positively impacted over 3,000 students across Oyo, Borno, Abia, Kano, and Lagos, equipping them with the skills needed for long-term academic success.

E-CLAP combines teacher capacity building, policy engagement, and targeted advocacy to foster structured and inclusive learning environments.

These efforts have strengthened classroom instruction, helping students improve literacy, comprehension, and problem-solving skills, while equipping over 1,500 educators and administrators with modern teaching



methodologies to enhance student engagement.

In 2025, in response to the urgent needs of out-of-school and at-risk early-grade learners in Epe, Sterling One Foundation partnered with the Epe Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) to strengthen learning outcomes across five public primary schools. We provided essential learning materials, trained teachers in child-centered and audio-visual instructional methods, and established an ongoing Community of Practice to sustain peer learning and collaboration. This initiative positively impacted over 500 early-grade learners by improving classroom engagement and learning outcomes, while also raising awareness among parents,



educators, and local stakeholders about the importance of early-grade education.

Sterling One Foundation remains committed to ensuring that early-grade children in underserved communities receive the support they need to thrive, laying the foundation for a brighter and more equitable future for all.





# FGGC ABULOMA STEAM CLASSROOM PROJECT



# FGGC ABULOMA STEAM CLASSROOM PROJECT

To promote smart learning, Sterling One Foundation partnered with the FGGC Abuloma Old Girls Association in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on the FGGC Abuloma OGA Alma Mater 50th Commemoration STEAM Classroom Project. The initiative established a modern, technology-enabled learning space, positively impacting over 1,800 students.

Designed as a long-term investment, the classroom is expected to support thousands of learners over the next five years, fostering innovation, skills development, and a sustained passion for learning. This project reflects Sterling One Foundation's commitment to equipping teachers and empowering students, ensuring that every child develops the skills and confidence needed to thrive today and in the years ahead.





# TrainDTRAINER

Teacher's SUMMIT 2025

# TRAINDTRAINER CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Presents

THEME:



# TRAINDTRAINER CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Believing that great teachers create great learners, Sterling One Foundation prioritizes teacher capacity building to ensure sustainable improvements in education. Educators were equipped with modern, inclusive teaching methods, practical classroom tools, and strategies to enhance student engagement, enabling them to deliver more effective lessons.

In partnership with TrainDTrainer Ltd., we delivered the Abuja Capacity Building Training for Teachers, engaging 520 in-person, and 200 virtual participants. Through interactive sessions, practical demonstrations, and peer learning, the program positively impacted over 700 teachers,

strengthening classroom quality, boosting educator confidence, and enhancing learning outcomes for thousands of students.

By investing in teachers, Sterling One Foundation reaffirms its commitment to building a generation of empowered educators who can inspire, guide, and transform the learning experiences of children across Nigeria, laying the foundation for lasting educational change and brighter futures for all learners.



# OWNING MY SPACE LEADERSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMME FOR MALE GRADUATES



# OWNING MY SPACE LEADERSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMME FOR MALE GRADUATES

As part of our commitment to youth empowerment and economic inclusion, Sterling One Foundation partnered with the Boys 2 Men Foundation to deliver the Owing My Space: Leadership & Life Skills Programme. Targeting male graduates of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), the initiative provided digital and employability skills, entrepreneurial exposure, and personal development tools to prepare participants for the workforce and beyond.

Through interactive workshops, mentorship, and practical exercises, over 60 young men gained the confidence, knowledge, and hands-on skills needed to secure internships, launch income-generating ventures, and pursue further learning opportunities. Beyond skill acquisition, the program nurtured leadership, resilience, and a proactive mindset, enabling participants to take charge of their personal and professional growth.

By investing in young men, Sterling One Foundation reaffirms its commitment to creating pathways for economic inclusion, empowering the next generation to thrive, and fostering a future where every young person can realize their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society.





# MAJEURS ACADEMY VOCATIONAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP



# MAJEURS ACADEMY VOCATIONAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

With youth unemployment remaining a critical challenge, Sterling One Foundation supported students at Majeurs Academy in acquiring practical vocational skills, including furniture making. The program equipped participants with the knowledge, tools, and confidence needed to pursue meaningful careers and entrepreneurial opportunities.

The initiative culminated in a graduation ceremony in February 2025, celebrating 70 graduates prepared to contribute to their communities and the workforce. Delivered in partnership with NIPOST, Trinity House, Mary Ojulari Foundation, and Ovie Brume Foundation, this program highlights the power of collaborative action in creating lasting impact.





# TECHNICAL/SKILL ACQUISITION TRAINING FOR STUDENTS



# TECHNICAL/SKILL ACQUISITION TRAINING FOR STUDENTS

In furtherance of our commitment to youth empowerment and economic inclusion, Sterling One Foundation partnered with Foliotech Skills Acquisition Centre to deliver a six-month intensive technical skills and development program. The initiative provided participants with practical, industry-relevant skills, preparing them for further education and professional opportunities.

Upon completion, the 10 beneficiaries graduated, and transitioned into universities and industry placements, gaining valuable experience to advance their careers. Implemented in collaboration with Foliotech Institute, this program reflects Sterling One Foundation's dedication to equipping young people with the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to thrive and achieve long-term economic independence.



# STERLING BEYOND EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SERIES (SLS)



## STERLING BEYOND EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SERIES (SLS)



With over 60% of Nigerian youths aspiring to higher education but facing limited access to quality resources, Sterling One Foundation partnered with Sterling Bank to host the Sterling Leadership Series (SLS), themed “Beyond Education.” The session provided a platform to explore innovative solutions for advancing higher education and promoting inclusivity, connecting visionary leaders with aspiring professionals to unlock their growth potential.

The event brought together over 500 stakeholders across the education ecosystem, including students, educators, and industry leaders. The achievements of beneficiaries from the previous scholarship cohort were celebrated, and a portal for new scholarship applications was officially launched, expanding opportunities for the next generation of leaders.

Through SLS, Sterling One Foundation continues to foster access, recognition, and opportunity in higher education, reinforcing its commitment to empowering young people to realize their full potential and drive meaningful change in society.



**BOLD**

**ACTIONS**

**SESSION ON**

**EDUCATION AT ASIS 2025**



The Education Bold Action Session at ASIS 2025, themed



## Aligning Education Reforms in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Out-of-School Children, and TVET for Results,

convened over 50 leading education stakeholders from government, civil society, EdTech, finance, and international development agencies. Moderated by Dr. Fidelis Ekom, Co-Founder and Managing Partner at Diniti8tive, the session featured speakers including Ms. Olanrewaju Oniyitan, Executive Director at SEED Care & Support Foundation; Dr. Aisha Garba, Executive Secretary at the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC); Tobi Ransomed, Education Specialist at Plan International

Nigeria; and Babagana Aminu, Education Specialist at UNICEF Nigeria.

The session addressed Nigeria's deep-rooted education crisis, affecting 10–20 million out-of-school children and exacerbated by a pervasive learning poverty rate, with up to 75% of children nationally unable to read or write by age 10. Panelists highlighted systemic barriers, including poverty, gender bias, conflict, inadequate teacher capacity, lack of harmonized data. They also noted a significant funding imbalance, with 70% of UBEC's budget directed to infrastructure while only 2% supports curriculum and learning innovations.

Discussions focused on evidence-based teaching models, innovative EdTech solutions, gender and community engagement, and financing and policy gaps. Participants explored Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) as a scalable methodology for improving literacy and numeracy, emphasized mother-tongue instruction for foundational learning, and

discussed restructuring tertiary education to integrate work-study models. EdTech innovations, including AI integration in teacher training, were highlighted as essential for improving teaching quality, monitoring, and scaling interventions. Regional breakout sessions identified localized barriers, such as mobilizing communities to keep girls in school in the North-East, underscoring the need for context-specific, community-driven solutions.

A recurring theme was the "pilot-to-scale gap," or the challenge of expanding successful small-scale interventions. Current funding and policy models often focus on startup costs rather than scaling proven programs, creating systemic barriers. Panelists emphasized that closing this gap requires strong implementation frameworks, capacity building, and financing mechanisms to enable the broader adoption of effective solutions.

The Education Bold Action Session at ASIS 2025 provided a critical platform for multi-

stakeholder collaboration, highlighting the importance of evidence-based interventions, innovation, and operationalizing scale. By focusing on practical strategies, localized solutions, and systemic reform, the session outlined a roadmap for transforming Nigeria's education landscape. Addressing the pilot-to-scale gap, prioritizing learning outcomes, and aligning resources with proven strategies were identified as essential to ensuring inclusive, quality, and resilient education for all children. The event reinforced the urgent need for a holistic approach integrating policy, funding, capacity building, technology, and community engagement to drive meaningful and sustainable change across Nigeria's education system.



# Recommendations

*from the* **Bold Session**

- **Increase Education Funding**

Public investment in education should be raised to at least 4% of GDP to provide sufficient resources for learning innovations, teacher training, and effective monitoring systems.

- **Scale EdTech Innovations**

Leverage AI and digital tools to enhance teaching, monitoring, and student engagement across regions.

- **Outcome-Based Financing**

Adopt financing models that tie funding to measurable learning outcomes rather than focusing solely on infrastructure.

- **Teacher Recruitment and Training**

Strengthen teacher recruitment pipelines, provide professional development, and offer incentives to retain quality educators.





# HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Health is the cornerstone of a thriving society and a sustainable economy. At Sterling One Foundation, we recognize that strong health systems are essential for Africa's development. Guided by Sustainable Development Goal 3 — ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all, Sterling One Foundation has forged bold partnerships to close critical gaps in healthcare delivery. Through innovative programs, capacity-building initiatives, and cross-sector collaborations, we reached thousands of individuals in 2025, demonstrating that strategic, scalable interventions can deliver real impact and drive a healthier, more sustainable Africa.



## Advancing Maternal Health through Mamabase

Every mother deserves access to skilled care and the information needed to make informed decisions about her pregnancy. Through the Mamabase initiative, in partnership with the Maternal & Reproductive Health Research Collective (MRHRC), Sterling One Foundation continued to improve maternal and child health outcomes in Lagos State.

In 2025, the program reached over 3,000 pregnant women, providing quality antenatal, delivery, and postnatal care. Women who previously lacked access to healthcare were successfully enrolled in health facilities, ensuring they received essential medical attention throughout their pregnancies. The initiative documented 1,230 live births across 12 local governments- Agege, Ajeromi, Alimosho, Amuwo-Odofin, Apapa, Epe, Eti-Osa, Ibeju-Lekki, Ikorodu, Kosofe, Mushin, and Ojo, contributing significantly to reduced maternal and neonatal risks.

Beyond clinical support, Mamabase's community outreach programs extended healthcare access to underserved women, strengthened awareness of maternal health, encouraged antenatal attendance, and built trust in healthcare systems. By collaborating with local health agencies, medical professionals, and community leaders, and leveraging strategic partnerships alongside continued investment, Mamabase has strengthened maternal care services and is driving progress toward safer pregnancies, healthier mothers, and improved birth outcomes across Lagos State.







**Mrs Olatunji Abidemi**  
*Alimosho (LGA)*

### **“MamaBase Saved My Life”**

“I was pregnant and staying at home. I was not registered at any health facility, and honestly, I had no plans to go to one. I thought everything was fine until a Community Health Worker from MamaBase visited my home.

She noticed that my face and feet were very swollen and insisted that I needed to be checked. Through MamaBase, I was referred immediately to the General Hospital. That is when the doctors told me I had severe pre-eclampsia. Treatment started right away. The doctors told me that if I had come later, I might not have survived. Although I lost my baby, I am alive today because help came on time.”



**Mrs Ababire Obedat**  
*Agege LGA*

“With my first pregnancy, I didn't attend ANC because I couldn't afford the fees. I had complications during delivery at home. This time, MamaBase found me early. They covered my registration, I attended all my ANC visits, and I learned so much about staying healthy. When I went into labor, I went straight to the health center.

The delivery was smooth, and my baby girl is strong and healthy. This program changed everything for my family.”

# Support & Recovery for Substance Abuse Survivors

At Sterling One Foundation, we recognize the challenges survivors face in overcoming substance use disorders and addiction. Many bright minds are held back by these struggles and require holistic support to heal and reintegrate into society.

In 2025, through our partnership with Compassionate Care Recovery Initiative (CCRI), we provided essential equipment and resources to care homes supporting substance abuse

survivors. This collaboration enabled survivors to access comprehensive care, therapy, and emotional support, empowering them to recover and rebuild their lives.

Our work with CCRI demonstrates our commitment to bold partnerships that deliver real impact, giving every individual the opportunity to rise stronger, contribute meaningfully to society, and realize their full potential.





**EXPANDING SAFE WATER  
ACCESS THROUGH THE STERLING  
WATER CREDIT PROGRAM**



# Expanding Safe Water Access through the Sterling Water Credit Program

In partnership with Water.org and Sterling Bank, Sterling One Foundation launched the Sterling Water Credit Program, a pioneering initiative designed to expand access to safe water and sanitation for households, MSMEs, and organizations across Nigeria. By combining sustainable financing with strategic partnerships, the program addresses critical gaps in Nigeria's WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) sector, creating a model that benefits both communities and businesses.



Over the next three years, the program aims to directly impact 43,500 people, enabling them to access safe water and improved sanitation services. The initiative demonstrates how bold partnerships and innovative solutions can deliver real, lasting impact on essential resources that sustain lives and livelihoods.





**BUILDING FUTURES THROUGH  
SAFE HOMES AND LEARNING**



# Building Futures Through Safe Homes and Learning

Street children remain one of the most vulnerable groups in Nigeria, facing limited access to basic needs and education. In 2025, Sterling One Foundation, through our health and gender-focused lens, supported the Kids Off The Street (KOTS) Shelter with essential supplies and educational support, ensuring children live and learn in safe, nurturing environments while attending school.

In partnership with Pistis Foundation, we continue to help these children pursue their dreams. Today, the shelter provides care for over 25 children, offering them the stability and opportunities they need to thrive.





**BOLD**  
**ACTIONS**  
**SESSION ON**  
HEALTH AT ASIS 2025



The Health Bold Action Session at ASIS 2025, themed



## “Advancing Bold Actions: Transitioning from Aid to Self-Sufficiency in Africa’s Healthcare Sector,”

brought together health leaders, innovators, and policymakers, including Dr. Mories Atoki, CEO, ABC Health; Dr. Amina Aminu Dorayi, Country Director, Pathfinder International; Njide Ndili, President, Healthcare Federation of Nigeria; Dr. Ola Brown, Founder, Healthcap Africa; and Dr. Chinonso Egemba, Co-Founder, AwaDoc).

The session addressed Africa’s heavy reliance on imported medical products, which account for over 70% of the continent’s healthcare needs. Key discussions focused on pathways to self-sufficiency, including boosting local pharmaceutical production, expanding telemedicine and digital health infrastructure,

integrating informal healthcare providers into structured systems, and leveraging EdTech to train health workers at scale.

Mental health was highlighted as a priority, with calls for dedicated budgets and policy recognition. Participants stressed the importance of cross-sector collaboration, linking health, finance, and power to ensure sustainable healthcare delivery. A recurring theme was overcoming Africa’s “valley of death” between pilot programs and large-scale implementation. Proposed strategies included pooled blended finance, de-risking local investments, and outcome-based approaches to ensure measurable impact and scalability.

The session concluded with a clear message: Africa has the talent and capacity to lead in healthcare innovation, but achieving self-sufficiency requires bold investment, strategic partnerships, and a relentless focus on scaling proven solutions. Participants left with actionable strategies to transform the continent’s health sector and reduce dependency on external aid.

## Recommendations from the **Bold Action Session**

### **Invest in Scaling Proven Solutions**

Support African-led innovation and strategic investments to scale interventions with proven results, promoting replicable models for continent-wide impact.

### **Boost Local Production & Self-Sufficiency**

Expand local pharmaceutical and medical manufacturing to reduce import dependence and strengthen domestic supply chains for sustainable healthcare production.

### **Strengthen Cross-Sector Coordination:**

Promote collaboration across health, finance, energy, and other sectors, aligning policies and investments to ensure sustainable, high-impact healthcare delivery.

### **Expand Digital Health & Telemedicine:**

Invest in digital health infrastructure and scale telemedicine solutions to improve access for underserved populations, while leveraging EdTech and e-learning to train health workers at scale.



# GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



# GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Across Nigeria and much of Africa, persistent structural inequalities continue to limit women's and girls' access to education, economic opportunities, and leadership. Despite policy progress, women remain underrepresented in decision-making and disproportionately affected by insecurity and social exclusion, slowing progress toward inclusive and sustainable development.

Recognising that gender equality is not only a social imperative but a development multiplier, Sterling One Foundation aligned its 2025 interventions with Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Through a combination of advocacy, capacity-building, and strategic partnerships, the Foundation implemented targeted actions designed to dismantle systemic barriers and expand opportunities for women and girls.

By translating commitment into action, Sterling One Foundation drove measurable progress—strengthening women's voices, supporting leadership pathways, and advancing inclusive systems that enable women and girls to participate fully across sectors, lead confidently, and contribute meaningfully to Africa's long-term growth and resilience.

## ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

In 2025, Sterling One Foundation deepened its commitment to gender equality and youth empowerment by convening high-level engagements that elevated young voices and influenced leadership at the highest levels of governance. Through a strategic collaboration with global education and gender equality advocate Zuriel Oduwole, the Foundation amplified the call for sustained, systemic action to expand inclusive opportunities for women, girls, and young leaders across Africa.

As part of this engagement, Sterling One Foundation facilitated a courtesy visit to the Lagos State Governor's Office, bringing together Zuriel Oduwole, a Nobel Peace Prize nominee and one of the world's youngest global advocates for education and gender inclusion, with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu. The dialogue focused on strengthening youth participation in leadership, advancing gender-responsive policies, and accelerating progress through policy-aligned, cross-sector partnerships.

This engagement reflects Sterling One Foundation's belief that gender equality is accelerated when advocacy intersects with governance and visionary leadership. By creating platforms where young people, especially women and girls—move from the margins to the centre of decision-making, the Foundation continues to translate dialogue into action, building inclusive systems that empower the next generation to lead, influence policy, and drive lasting progress toward a more equitable and sustainable Africa.



# EMPOWERING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS THROUGH WIRA



Sterling One Foundation’s economic inclusion initiatives transformed opportunities for women entrepreneurs in Nigeria, equipping them with the skills, resources, and networks needed to thrive in competitive markets. Through the Women Investment Readiness Accelerator (WIRA) Program, implemented with support from the Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD), 100 Nigerian women were provided a platform to become investment-ready and scale their businesses. The program offered targeted training, mentorship, and exposure to international best practices, culminating in a Demo Day where semi-finalists pitched their ventures to prospective investors.

Through WIRA, Sterling One Foundation turned potential into tangible opportunity, empowering women entrepreneurs to grow profitable businesses, strengthen communities, and contribute to inclusive economic development in Nigeria.





**BOLD**

**ACTIONS**

**SESSION ON**

**GENDER INCLUSION AT ASIS 2025**



At ASIS 2025, the Gender & Women Empowerment panel, themed

## “Women Empowerment, Access to Finance and Health Choices,”

convened leaders, practitioners, and advocates, including Omowunmi Akingbohunbe, Executive Director at WIMBIZ; Dr. Akinwumi Akinbajo, Maternal Health & Family Planning Analyst at UNFPA; Oyebisi Oluseyi, Executive Director at Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO); and Immy Nakyeyune Ainomugisha, Founder & Lead at Mkazipreneur. The panel explored practical levers for advancing gender equity and enabling women to take greater control over their health, finances, and decision-making.

Discussions highlighted pathways to strengthen women’s agency, including improving access to sexual and reproductive health services, promoting financial inclusion, creating supportive work environments that recognize and value the care economy, and leveraging mentorship as a tool for empowerment. Panelists also emphasized integrating health services into development and humanitarian planning, alongside fair pay and flexible policies to acknowledge unpaid care work. Financing barriers for women entrepreneurs were identified as a critical challenge, with recommendations to adopt gender-smart investment vehicles that provide equitable access to capital.

The session set a foundation for coordinated policy reforms, strategic investments, and mentorship initiatives that will empower women to take control of their health, finances, and opportunities, paving the way for inclusive and sustainable development across Africa.







# CLIMATE ACTION AND FOOD SECURITY



2025 marked a defining moment for Sterling One Foundation’s Climate Action and Food Security efforts. With climate change and food insecurity posing growing risks to livelihoods across Nigeria, our focus shifted decisively from awareness to action. We adopted a livelihood-centered approach that placed people, resilience, and long-term sustainability at the heart of our work.

Through strengthened partnerships, evidence-driven insights, and the delivery of impactful environmental and food systems interventions, we advanced practical solutions that protect ecosystems, support vulnerable communities, and strengthen food security in the face of a changing climate.



# STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH NATIONWIDE CLEANUPS



# STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH NATIONWIDE CLEANUPS

In 2025, Sterling One Foundation deepened its commitment to environmental sustainability through the Sterling Environment Makeover (STEM) and beach adoption initiative, implemented across **18 locations**, including Lagos and Abuja. Focused on combating plastic pollution, protecting marine ecosystems, and promoting sustainable waste management, SOF partnered with government agencies, environmental organizations, local communities, and industry leaders to foster collective action and environmental responsibility.

Eight beaches in Lagos State—Aivoji, Iberekodo, Obadore, Ebojo, Okun-Mopo, Onijebu, Alpha, and Elegushi beach, were supported reaching over **16,000** beneficiaries. Through coordinated cleanup exercises and recycling efforts, the initiative removed **50kg** of general waste and **1,000kg** of recyclable materials, while empowering local coastal communities to take ownership of their environment and create sustainable income streams through environmental stewardship.

Beyond cleanup, STEM integrates structured recycling systems, community engagement, and education, fostering long-term environmental awareness and accountability. By combining



practical interventions with capacity-building, the program is actively restoring Nigeria's coastlines, supporting marine life, and promoting sustainable environmental practices for generations to come. The continued growth of STEM underscores SOF's enduring commitment to preserving natural ecosystems and building a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment across the country.







**ADVANCING NIGERIA'S LANDSCAPE RESTORATION THROUGH A 10,000-TREE PROGRAMME.**





# ADVANCING NIGERIA'S LANDSCAPE RESTORATION THROUGH A 10,000-TREE PROGRAMME.

As part of our commitment to climate action and environmental stewardship, Sterling One Foundation partnered with the African Finance Corporation (AFC) and Sterling Bank to drive large-scale reforestation and landscape restoration across Nigeria.

A key milestone of this collaboration is the planned planting of 10,000 trees across Nigeria. This agroforestry intervention is designed to enhance carbon sequestration and soil health, while serving as a model for scalable reforestation in future cycles.

The initiative builds on Sterling One Foundation's longstanding commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action. In 2023, the Foundation partnered with the Unity Schools Old Students Association (USOSA) and Green Sahara Farms to launch the Sterling Agroforestry for Climate Action Project (SACAP), a nationwide programme aimed at planting economic trees across 24 Unity Colleges in Nigeria's six geopolitical zones.

Through initiatives like this, SOF continues to demonstrate its commitment to restoring degraded ecosystems, advancing climate resilience, and building a greener, more sustainable future for Nigeria.





**OUR**

**FOOD**

**SECURITY**

**FOCUS**



# STRENGTHENING FARMERS' LIVELIHOODS THROUGH TARGETED AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENTS

In 2025, Sterling One Foundation strengthened its role in advancing Africa's agricultural transformation through active participation in the Agriculture Summit Africa (ASA). The summit brought together government representatives, development organizations, and agribusiness innovators to tackle systemic challenges across the agricultural value chain.

At the Nigeria Feed, Fodder, Livestock, and Agribusiness Investment Deal Room held during the summit, 31 high-potential projects were showcased, with cumulative funding requests of over N90 billion across key agribusiness and livestock sectors. By facilitating strategic partnerships, promoting access to finance, and encouraging the

adoption of innovative technologies, ASA 2025 demonstrated how coordinated action can build resilient food systems.

Our engagement at the Deal Room highlights our commitment to placing smallholder farmers at the center of agricultural development, ensuring that investments translate into real opportunities, improved livelihoods, and a stronger, more sustainable food ecosystem across Nigeria







**1,000 SMALLHOLDER  
FARMERS REACHED**



# 1,000 SMALLHOLDER FARMERS REACHED

In strategic partnership with Bread for the World and Bopping, Sterling One Foundation is advancing efforts to strengthen Nigeria's food systems by supporting smallholder farmers, the backbone of agricultural production and rural livelihoods. Through this collaboration, 1,000 smallholder farmers have been reached, with a focus on improving productivity and resilience, enabling communities to better navigate climate, economic, and market-related challenges.

To ensure lasting impact, the Foundation complemented this partnership with a strong emphasis on evidence and institutional sustainability. A nationwide research initiative was launched to establish a baseline for the forthcoming Young Farmers Accelerator Programme, generating critical insights into the barriers and opportunities facing young people seeking to build careers in agriculture.

These efforts reflect SOF's strategic, long-term approach to empowering farmers, strengthening food systems, and securing more sustainable livelihoods across Nigeria.





**CLIMATE**

**RESILIENCE**

**PANEL SESSION AT ASIS 2025**



The Climate Resilience for Food Security panel at ASIS 2025 explored ways to mobilize capital and support smallholders in building climate-smart agriculture. The panel moderated by Bankole Oloruntoba, CEO of the Nigeria Climate Innovation Center (NCIC), featured Kola Masha, Managing Director at Babban Gona; Olushola Obikanye, Group Head, Agric Finance & Solid Minerals, Sterling Bank; and Ojuolape Kolawole, Technical Advisor at GIZ.

Panelists examined practical solutions to close Africa's climate finance gap, including blended finance models, risk mitigation tools, and inclusive approaches that integrate smallholders into resilient food and land systems. They highlighted how technology, targeted funding, and capacity-building can transform small-scale farms into sustainable, climate-adapted enterprises. Discussions also stressed that environmental sustainability must be embedded in all agribusiness strategies and that processes for accessing climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund, should be simplified to broaden reach.

The session laid the groundwork for actionable solutions, demonstrating that unlocking climate finance, supporting smallholders, and embedding resilience into agricultural practices are essential to securing Africa's food systems and ensuring long-term sustainability.





**THOUGHT**

**LEADERSHIP**

for Africa's Development



# STRENGTHENING NGO CAPACITY THROUGH THE NGO DEVELOPMENT SERIES

**one** Foundation

**ining**  
Innovating for Development

**giving**

**Olapeju Ibekwe**  
CEO, Sterling One Foundation

**Akinwunmi Akowonjo**  
Social Impact Strategist

**Bridget Azubuikwe**  
Economist, Statistician & Research Expert

**Oyebisi, B. Oluseyi**  
Executive Director, Nigeria Network of NGOs.

[onefoundation.ng/NDS](https://onefoundation.ng/NDS)

## MONITORING & EVALUATION

and Data Analysis for NGOs

📅 28th May, 2025 | 🕒 11am



# STRENGTHENING NGO CAPACITY THROUGH THE NGO DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Grounded in the critical role that non-governmental organisations play in advancing Africa's development agenda, Sterling One Foundation delivered three focused sessions under the 2025 NGO Development Series, in collaboration with the Nigeria Network of NGOs and Giving.ng. The series addressed pressing capacity gaps facing the sector, with sessions examining how NGOs can navigate tightening foreign aid flows, strengthen monitoring, evaluation, and data analysis practices, and plan and execute development interventions in rural settlements. Through expert-led discussions and practical insights, participating organisations were equipped with actionable tools, frameworks, and strategies to improve operational effectiveness, strengthen accountability, and deliver sustainable, community-led impact.



# DRIVING ESG DISCOURSE THROUGH THE ESG WEBINAR SERIES



# DRIVING ESG DISCOURSE THROUGH THE ESG WEBINAR SERIES

As businesses and organisations across Africa increasingly recognize the importance of sustainable practices, Sterling One Foundation continued its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG Series), partnering with PwC Nigeria, Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX), UNIDO ITPO Nigeria, Lagos Business School Sustainability Centre, Lagos Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI), Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), Sterling Bank, and B Lab Africa. The series engaged participants across three in-depth sessions that explored advancing social sustainability as a pillar of ESG, corporate governance and accountability, and driving the circular economy. Participants were equipped with actionable tools and strategies to embed ESG principles into decision-making, foster sustainability, build organizational resilience, and create lasting value and sustainable growth.



## ESG Series

# DRIVING THE GROWTH OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN ESG



**Dr. Natalie Beinisch**  
Executive Director,  
Circular Economy Innovation  
Partnership

📅 **5TH NOV. 2025**  
🕒 **11AM**  
📍 Microsoft Teams



**Olapeju Ibekwe**  
CEO, Sterling One Foundation



**Fabian Sukulu**  
Business Development Manager,  
B Lab Africa

**Register now**  
[onefoundation.ng/ESGSeries](https://onefoundation.ng/ESGSeries)



# Driving Africa's Sustainable Development at **ASIS 2025**



The Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) 2025, themed



**“Scaling Action: Bold Solutions for Climate Resilience and Policy Innovation,”**

brought together global leaders, policymakers, private sector innovators, and development stakeholders to advance actionable solutions to Africa’s most urgent challenges. Co-convened by Sterling One Foundation and the United Nations, and hosted by the Lagos State Government in partnership with over 60 organisations, ASIS has solidified its reputation as a premier platform for shaping Africa’s development agenda.



**AFRICA  
SOCIAL  
IMPACT  
SUMMIT**

# STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT ASIS INVESTMENT ROUNDTABLE

Ahead of the main summit, the pre-ASIS Investor Roundtable convened more than 300 investors in Lagos, a critical hub for regional growth, to explore transformative opportunities across the continent. The roundtable, hosted by the Lagos State Government in partnership with Sterling One Foundation, offered insights into high-impact investment projects, presenting a total value of \$13.74 billion across six key ministries: Transportation; Innovation, Science & Technology; Health; Environment & Waste Resources; Energy & Mineral Resources; and Climate Change & Circular Economy.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, represented by Deputy Governor Kadri Obafemi Hamzat., highlighted Lagos State’s investment potential, showcasing a vision for economic resilience and sustainable development. The discussions set the stage for significant financial commitments, signaling Africa’s readiness to leverage partnerships and innovative financing to bridge infrastructure gaps and drive inclusive, sustainable growth.



## \$100B INVESTMENT PLEDGED FOR AFRICAN WOMEN & YOUTH AT ASIS AU'S WYFEI

As part of the lead-up to ASIS 2025, the African Union Private Sector Breakfast Meeting brought together public and private sector leaders to advance financial inclusion for African women and youth. Hosted by the African Union Commission's Women, Gender, and Youth Directorate, in partnership with Sterling One Foundation and supported by GIZ, the convening focused on mobilizing \$100 billion in private sector investment to support 10 million women and young people by 2030 under the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI 2030) Initiative.

The discussions centered on designing gender- and youth-responsive financial products, building market infrastructure, strengthening data systems, and providing technical support to scale women- and

youth-led enterprises. The meeting also featured the launch of EmpowerHer Africa, a transformative program aiming to provide 50 million adolescent girls and young women across Africa with access to financing, technology, and entrepreneurial resources.

This high-level engagement marks the beginning of a coordinated series of public-private initiatives across Africa, driving strategic partnerships, unlocking innovative financing, and removing systemic barriers to economic inclusion. By aligning private sector action with continental priorities, the meeting set a bold course for transforming opportunity into measurable impact for Africa's women and youth.





**MATERNAL**

**HEALTH INVESTMENT**

**at ASIS 2025**

# MATERNAL HEALTH INVESTMENT AT ASIS 2025

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Nigeria convened a strategic session during the Pre-ASIS 2025 summit to showcase social impact investment opportunities in maternal health. The briefing provided private sector actors, organisations, and individuals with pathways to address the urgent challenge of maternal mortality by supporting critical pillars of the solution, from delivering essential maternal care to individual women, to training and equipping midwives.

By linking investment to measurable outcomes, the session demonstrated how targeted partnerships can transform maternal health services across Nigeria, reinforcing the power of collaboration to drive sustainable, life-saving impact.





# PHOTO REELS







## TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT DELIVERED THROUGH GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN 2025

In 2025, Sterling One Foundation strengthened its global partnerships across the public and private sectors, turning shared vision into tangible, life-changing impact. Together, we moved beyond intent to action, accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), tackling systemic challenges at their roots, and delivering scalable solutions that reached and empowered underserved communities.



## ADVANCING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE SDGs AT UNGA 80

At the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 2025) in New York, global leaders, policymakers, and private sector actors came together under the theme, “Better Together: 80 Years and More for Peace, Development and Human Rights.” The conversations reflected a shared urgency: strengthening collaboration, deepening global solidarity, and accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

On the sidelines, we engaged with Ms. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General, and other global leaders to deepen collaboration for SDG delivery. These engagements reinforced a critical insight: transformative, measurable, and lasting impact is only possible through intentional partnerships across governments, the private sector, and civil society.



# WHAT OUR **PARTNERS** SAY



"In addressing displacement and humanitarian needs, no single organisation can achieve lasting impact alone. Strong partnerships are essential to expanding reach and deepening support for those affected. Our partnership with Sterling One Foundation reflects this reality, strengthening coordinated efforts to deliver protection, dignity, and practical support to vulnerable communities across Nigeria"

— **Arjun Jain,**

Representative for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Nigeria.



"Our collaboration on the Women & Youth Investment Agenda has clearly demonstrated the transformative power of African partnerships. By bringing together vision, capital, and action, Sterling One Foundation has shown how intentional collaboration can unlock opportunities at scale. Their leadership has set a strong benchmark for inclusive economic growth—one that places women and young people at the center of Africa's development and delivers results that are both sustainable and far-reaching."

— **Prudence Ngwenya,**

African Union Commission

# WHAT OUR PARTNERS SAY



“What sets Sterling One Foundation apart is its ability to convene bold partnerships that drive real change. Through platforms like the Africa Social Impact Summit, the Foundation is not just bringing stakeholders together, it is aligning ambition, unlocking collaboration, and accelerating impact at scale. Our partnership reflects a shared belief that meaningful progress happens when we move beyond silos and commit to collective action. This is how lasting impact is built, through intentional partnerships that are designed to solve real problems”

— **Abubakar Suleiman,**  
CEO, Sterling Bank



“At Teach For Nigeria, we believe lasting impact in education is only possible through strong, purpose-driven partnerships. Partnering with Sterling One Foundation has reinforced what is possible when organisations come together with a shared vision and a commitment to action.”

**Molade Adeniyi**  
CEO, Teach for Nigeria



# AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Sterling One Foundation  
Honoured for  
**SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY  
EXCELLENCE**

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

In 2025, Sterling One Foundation's commitment to innovative, inclusive, and sustainable development was recognized with the Social Responsibility Excellence Award at the Ogun State CSR Forum. Our CEO, Olapeju Ibekwe, also received the Social Responsibility Award of Excellence for her leadership in driving measurable social impact. These honors reflect the Foundation's transformative initiatives, including MamaBase which promotes safe childbirth; E-CLAP, which strengthens early literacy and numeracy; and ASSEP, which enhances STEM learning across six states.



## Accelerating Impact: Our CEO Joins UNGCNN Leadership

In the same year, our CEO, Mrs. Ibekwe was appointed to the Board of the UN Global Compact Network Nigeria (UNGCNN), further underscoring the Foundation's dedication to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across Nigeria and Africa. Under her leadership, Sterling One Foundation continues to deliver transformative initiatives such as the Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS) and the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI 2030) Initiative, driving sustainable, measurable impact for communities, women, and youth across the continent



# GOVERNANCE

---

The Sterling One Foundation’s Board of Trustees is a powerhouse of experienced leaders and innovators from diverse sectors, united by a bold commitment to Africa’s sustainable development. Leveraging expertise in finance, governance, policy, and industry, they steer the Foundation with strategic oversight, ensuring every program delivers measurable impact and drives inclusive, lasting change across the continent.



## Yemi Adeola, Chairman

Yemi Adeola is a distinguished business leader and legal expert with over three decades of experience spanning banking, corporate law, and governance. He is a graduate of Obafemi Awolowo University and the Nigerian Law School, with further studies at the University of Lagos and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.

As former Managing Director and CEO of Sterling Bank Plc, Yemi led the transformation of the institution into one of Nigeria's most innovative financial institutions, achieving industry-first milestones in corporate sustainability and customer-driven solutions.

At Sterling One Foundation, Yemi's unmatched expertise in corporate governance and strategic planning ensures that the Foundation's mission is executed with precision and measurable impact, advancing key Sustainable Development Goals and creating lasting pathways to prosperity for vulnerable communities.



## Omolara Akanji, Member

Omolara Akanji is a visionary economist and financial strategist with over 30 years of experience shaping economic policy and markets. A graduate of the University of Reading and the Harvard Kennedy School, she served as Director of Trade and Exchange at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), driving transformative reforms that stabilized Nigeria's foreign exchange landscape.

At Sterling One Foundation, Omolara applies her strategic insight to design and guide programs that are not only inclusive and high-impact but also closely aligned with national and global development goals, creating sustainable change for communities across Nigeria.



## Abubakar Suleiman, Member

Abubakar Suleiman, affectionately known as "Abu," is a pioneer in sustainable finance and corporate transformation. As CEO of Sterling Bank Plc, he has spearheaded initiatives that align the bank's operations with global sustainability standards. An alumnus of the University of Oxford and Harvard Business School, Abu is widely recognized as a thought leader in reimagining financial systems to deliver social impact.

At Sterling One Foundation, Abu leverages innovative financing models to drive scalable solutions in education, healthcare, and climate adaptation, using his visionary leadership to tackle systemic challenges and create equitable opportunities across communities.



## Alhaji Bashir Borodo, Member

Alhaji Bashir Borodo is a highly respected industrialist and thought leader in Nigeria's economic landscape. With academic credentials from Dalhousie University, Canada, and Université de Besançon, France, his career spans leadership in manufacturing, diplomacy, and business.

As former President of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Alhaji Borodo played a key role in driving industrial growth and economic stability. His strategic vision and ability to bridge public and private sector collaboration make him an invaluable asset to Sterling One Foundation, strengthening its mission to create sustainable impact across communities.

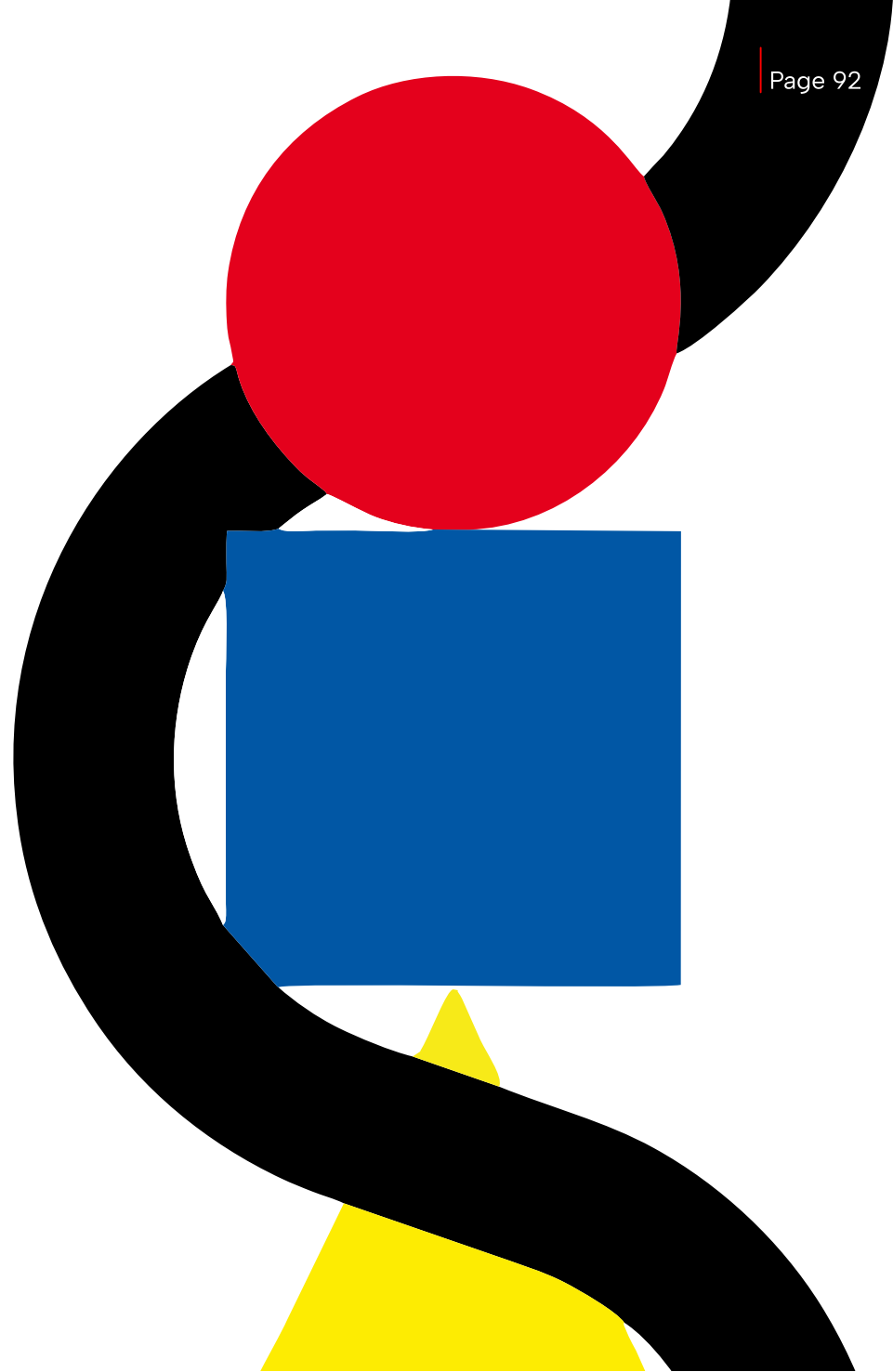


## Ben Akabueze, Member

Ben Akabueze is a distinguished economist and public administrator with a remarkable career spanning both the private and public sectors. As Director-General of the Budget Office of the Federation, he has led transformative reforms that strengthened fiscal responsibility and spurred economic growth in Nigeria.

With academic credentials from the University of Lagos and several international institutions, Ben brings unmatched expertise in financial management and public policy to Sterling One Foundation. His strategic guidance ensures that the Foundation's programs are not only impactful but also sustainable, driving lasting development outcomes across communities.

# EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT





## Olapeju Ibekwe, Chief Executive Officer

Olapeju Ibekwe is a seasoned sustainability leader and social impact advocate with over 20 years of experience in corporate strategy, brand management, and social entrepreneurship. As CEO of Sterling One Foundation, she leads transformative programs across healthcare, education, climate action, gender equality, and food security.

Under her leadership, the Foundation has forged innovative partnerships and pioneered alternative financing solutions, including Africa's first free crowdfunding platform, Giving.ng, driving measurable impact and sustainable change across communities.



## Godfrey Orji, Project Lead

Godfrey Orji is a skilled brand communications professional and project manager who blends storytelling with technical expertise to drive sustainable development through business innovation. As Project Lead at Sterling One Foundation, he manages the multi-sectoral platform Africa Social Impact Summit (ASIS), which accelerates action on the SDGs in Africa through partnerships and policy advocacy.

Through ASIS, Godfrey hosts an annual deal room connecting young entrepreneurs with impact-focused businesses, investors, and advisors to scale their solutions. Over the past three years, he has facilitated over 35 businesses securing investment opportunities and convened around 4,000 development professionals from the private sector, public institutions, and civil society to reimagine Africa's development landscape.



## Chiwendu Isaiah, Communications & Digital Marketing Strategist

Chiwendu Isaiah is a Communications and Digital Marketing Strategist with over seven years of experience working with brands across diverse industries, including professional services, technology, public relations and communications, and the development and sustainability sectors. She specializes in strategic communications, crafting compelling narratives and executing integrated marketing campaigns that help organizations engage target audiences and stakeholders, optimize ROI, and drive revenue and impact.

Throughout her career, Chiwendu has managed media crises, developed sustainability initiatives, and led successful communications and marketing campaigns, ensuring seamless execution and measurable results. She holds an MSc in Digital Transformation from Nexford University, USA, and a BSc in Mass Communication (Second Class Upper) from Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ogun State, and is a graduate member of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations.



## Gideon Achomhi, Grants and Research Lead

Gideon Achomhi is the Grants and Research Lead at Sterling One Foundation, bringing extensive experience in sustainable development across enterprise, health, education, agriculture, and governance. Throughout his career, he has successfully implemented both local and international donor-funded programs, including initiatives supported by Bread for the World (BFTW), Port Harcourt Refining Company (PHRC), Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) Livewire projects, and USADF-LSETF.

A trained Economist and Statistician, Gideon is a member of the Chartered Institute of Loan and Risk Management of Nigeria (CILRM) and a Chartered Secretary and Administrator with membership in the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria (ICSAN). Passionate about knowledge sharing, he has lectured in Corporate Financial Management at ICSAN's Rivers State study centre, shaping the professional development of many emerging leaders.



## Tina Fasugbe, Admin & Operations Lead

Tina Fasugbe is a dedicated gender advocate and marketing professional with over a decade of experience in girl-child development and empowerment. She is the founder and Creative Director of Tiqimage, a platform focused on raising confident, self-aware girls, and has been creating supportive environments for young girls to overcome gender-based challenges since 2016.

A former Vice President of SIFE (now Enactus) during her undergraduate studies, Tina began her career in customer service and now serves as an Associate at Sterling One Foundation, overseeing administration and operations. Her tireless dedication continues to positively impact the lives of countless young girls. She is happily married and blessed with three children.



## Nneamaka Okenwa, Communications & Digital Marketing Strategist

Nneamaka Okenwa is a dynamic, results-driven communications strategist with extensive expertise in digital marketing, media strategy, and brand communications. With a background in media advertising, she has successfully developed and executed high-impact, multi-channel campaigns for leading multinational brands.

A first-class communicator and strategist, Nneamaka excels in content marketing, social media management, paid advertising, and campaign analytics, consistently using data-driven insights to optimize performance. She holds a B.A. in Communication and Language Arts from the University of Ibadan, underpinning her excellence in marketing strategy. Beyond strategy and numbers, Nneamaka believes in the power of words to transform businesses and lives. Whether managing campaigns or driving social impact, she brings heart, insight, and innovation to every project she touches.



## Samuel Ajayi, Program Lead, Education

Samuel Ajayi is a Program Design and Operations professional at Sterling One Foundation, a role he has held since August 2023. With over 12 years of experience in governance and social development, he holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Sociology from the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Throughout his career, Samuel has led high-impact initiatives supported by Ford Foundation, USAID, ECOWAS, Trust Africa, Disability Rights Fund, and ActionAid, specializing in program design, monitoring, evaluation, research and learning (MERL), evidence-based advocacy, and gender and disability mainstreaming. As a member of the senior management team, he has been instrumental in fundraising, system strengthening, and strategic growth, fostering impactful collaborations with national and international partners.



## Banjo Oluwaseyi, Product Manager

Banjo Oluwaseyi is a Product Manager with over 7 years of experience in product management. With a strong background in Digital/Virtual Banking, E-commerce Product Development, and Management, as well as conventional banking processes/operations, she excels in redefining UX/UI and customer journeys to enhance convenience, attract new customers, retain existing ones, create loyalty, and drive revenue growth.

Oluwaseyi is an innovative thinker who is passionate about social impact, driving innovation and delivering exceptional products that cater to customer needs. With a profound understanding of the product life cycle and a demonstrated history of successful outcomes, Oluwaseyi possesses expertise in transforming market insights into actionable strategies. Collaboration, open communication, and a results-oriented mindset are values that Oluwaseyi holds dear.

**LOOKING  
AHEAD**



**20  
26**



**As we reflect on the progress made in 2025, SOF looks to the future with renewed focus, ambition, and commitment. The past year has reinforced a simple truth: lasting, meaningful change happens when organisations, communities, and partners come together with shared vision and purpose. Building on our successes, SOF will continue to champion bold partnerships that unlock real impact and drive sustainable development across Africa.**

In 2026 and beyond, SOF will focus on five key priorities:

#### **Deepen Strategic Collaborations**

We will expand alliances with governments, civil society, development actors, and private sector partners who share a commitment to transformative solutions. By connecting

expertise, resources, and networks, these partnerships will target high-impact initiatives in education, environmental sustainability, maternal and child health, and economic empowerment, ensuring that every intervention addresses systemic challenges and creates lasting benefits for communities.

#### **Scale Programs that Deliver Measurable Impact**

Drawing on lessons and evidence from 2025, SOF will prioritize programs that combine innovation, local knowledge, and data-driven insights. From equipping NGOs with tools to improve operational efficiency to supporting life-saving maternal health interventions, all initiatives will be grounded in measurable outcomes, demonstrating tangible improvements in the lives of those we serve.

#### **Empower Communities and Local Leaders**

Sustainable development begins at the grassroots. SOF will invest in capacity building, mentorship, and knowledge-sharing, empowering local leaders, women, and youth to lead initiatives that affect their communities. By fostering leadership and ownership at the local level, we ensure that change is not just delivered, but nurtured and sustained by those it is meant to serve.

#### **Embrace Innovation for a Sustainable Future**

In 2026, SOF will leverage digital tools, monitoring frameworks, and creative financing models to amplify impact. We will explore new pathways for social investment, strengthen the use of data for decision-making, and integrate climate-conscious and sustainable practices into every program, ensuring that progress today does not compromise tomorrow.

### **Advocate for a Collaborative, Sustainable Africa**

SOF will continue to act as a catalyst for collective action, inspiring stakeholders across sectors to unite around shared goals. By promoting best practices, facilitating dialogue, and advocating for evidence-based policies, we aim to strengthen the ecosystem of actors committed to sustainable development, so that the collective impact is far greater than the sum of individual efforts.

## Looking ahead,

SOF envisions an Africa where bold partnerships translate into measurable, lasting change, an Africa where real impact is not just possible, but inevitable. Together with our partners, communities, and supporters, we are committed to building a sustainable future that leaves no one behind, where innovation, courage, and collaboration drive progress across the continent.

