



State of Schools

A photo book on the challenges of basic education in Nigeria

Edited by Motunrayo Alaka and Gbile Oshadipe

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MacArthur
Foundation

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Special thanks go to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for its immense support towards the success of this project conceived to follow and report activities of government agencies, ministries, and institutions saddled with oversight functions in different sectors.

We worked with some of the best photojournalists and reporters in the media to capture through their camera lens the struggles of children denied education and the state of schools in the country. We appreciate Ayodele Adeniran of Guardian Newspaper, Kunle Ajayi of Independent Newspapers, Ademola Akinlabi of Leadership Newspapers, Innocent Duru of The Nation Newspaper, Nura, Annette Jeje of the BBC News, Kelechukwu Iruoma, Temitope Mustapha, Voice of Nigeria, Gambo Nababa of the Mass Communication Department of the Bayero University, Kano (BUK), Odutayo Odusanya of Punch Newspaper, Chidimma Okeke of Daily Trust, and Stephen Onyekwelu of BusinessDay.

The Editorial team led by the intentional Motunrayo Alaka played a vital role in this journey. Apart from conceptualising the idea of this photo book, she served as editor-in-chief. The investigative reporting, communication specialist, and the executive director of WSCIJ led from the front and provided visionary leadership.

We recognise Gbile Oshadipe, an instructor at the first-ever United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) training for photojournalists, who co-edited the photo book; also, Adeolu Adekola, Senior Programme Officer who coordinated the design of the book Adeolu Adekola. For the design, we are grateful to Yakubu Afuye, IT Officer. Finally, we thank Samson Ademola, Programme and Research Officer for sorting, compiling pictures, and doing initial proofreading of the documents.

The Regulators Monitoring Programme (REMOP)

The Regulators Monitoring Programme (REMOP) is conceived as a media initiative geared at following and reporting activities of government agencies, ministries and institutions that have the responsibility to perform oversight functions on particular sectors and or issues. REMOP is founded on the hypothesis that the failure or success of any sector depends on the vigilance of the regulator in charge. The pilot phase of the programme, which focuses on the basic education and electricity through the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), is implemented with support from the MacArthur Foundation. The argument here is that the status of basic education and electricity in the country would improve if the regulators are better monitored and made to be proactive, transparent and accountable in the discharge of their oversight functions. Activities lined up for the pilot include; a three-month monitoring of the twelve newspapers, the publication of status and annual reports on UBEC and NERC, stakeholders' meetings, capacity development activities for reporters and students of journalism, investigative reporting projects and social media campaign. The plan is to eventually extend REMOP to other major regulatory establishments in the country.

About the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people, effective institutions, and influential networks building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur is placing a few big bets that truly significant progress is possible on some of the world's most pressing social challenges, including over-incarceration, global climate change, nuclear risk, and significantly increasing financial capital for the social sector. In addition to the MacArthur Fellows Program, the Foundation continues its historic commitments to the role of journalism in a responsible and responsive democracy, as well as the strength and vitality of our headquarters city, Chicago. In 2017, the foundation approved a \$5million grant to nine media organisations to advance anti-corruption efforts in Nigeria by seeking to create a new atmosphere of accountability, transparency, and good governance in the country through the strengthening of locally-led anti-corruption efforts and reducing retail or “petty” corruption in key sectors. The Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism was one of these.

About the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism

The Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) is the pioneer organisation focused on promoting investigative reporting in Nigeria. WSCIJ is a non-governmental and non-partisan organisation with a vision to see a just, inclusive, transparent and accountable Nigeria stimulated by an ethical and sustainable media, using the tools of investigative and accountability journalism for exposing corruption, regulatory failures and human right violation. It was initially known as the Wole Soyinka Investigative Reporting Award (WSIRA) at inception in 2005, the change in name became necessary in 2008 to reflect the intentions of the coordinators to embrace a more robust line of activities that have greater capacity for engendering the right values of investigative journalism in the Nigerian media. The Centre is named after Professor Wole Soyinka in recognition of his life-long work in support of the freedom of expression, freedom to hold opinion, and freedom to impart them without fear or favour and without hindrance or interference.

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Our intentionally shocking visual narrative of basic education in Nigeria

Is Nigeria investing in her future by paying attention to Basic Education? The children in the collection of pictures that we have exhibited in this photo book will disagree. The purpose of this desperate collection of images that point at the very bad state of many schools in Nigeria is to be the voice for these children, who represent the neglected lot and hope they are heard. We do this because we are aware, that government at all levels have already done a good job of promoting the fairly acceptable standards of visuals to photo shop their public image.

According to the Universal Basic Education (UBEC) figures of 2018, Nigeria holds the record of having 13.2million out-of-school children. The images in this book unfortunately corroborate the fact that the children who are in schools are not necessarily getting a better deal. Nigeria has a current and looming reality of danger that we all must amplify for the sake of the future.

It has not always been this bad, for at flag Independence in 1960, Nigeria had established a solid reputation in sound education, with the government, religious and funding organisations; and the society establishing schools that were training grounds for the country's growing population in fields of arts, medicine, law, business, administration and more.

The photojournalists have recorded a phase in the nation's developmental challenges children encounter in accessing basic education. This is only a part of the story. Yet, we choose to tell it alone because Nigeria is in dire straits. The intention is to redirect the discourse by bringing attention to Basic Education in Nigeria.

As we interrogate the difficulties children, teachers, communities and other stakeholders go through to access basic education we hope that these images will raise the level of awareness on the failure of policy and execution, systemic underdevelopment, decay of infrastructures and the damages of the cost of corruption.

As Nigeria turns 60, the most important point we hope this work highlights is the continued determination of the Nigerian child to access basic education and the fact that this resolve can be harnessed for the good of the nation if it is backed by quality investment. While these photographers are still evolving, we hope you take it upon your psychology that it is a depiction of social commentators who desire to transform basic education from a barely executed project into the needed catalyst for generational change.

Motunrayo Alaka & Gbile Oshadipe

What are you seeing? And what is implied?

In an analysis of the images presented, we are confronted with stark revelations of failed structures and neglect of the rights of the children who contend with poor or non-existent facilities or are out - of - school, and of an ignorant mass who daily risk their lives through living under power lines. One thing though is the interpretation of the images which correspond to all the relevant facts pertaining to the pictures. These interpretations make much sense in themselves. These are hypothetical arguments, though they are backed by evidence of what is within the photographs, which we can relate with as reality of existence.

What do these photographs mean? As we look at them, is our understanding of the society better enhanced with the dysfunctional governance architecture? Are the images honest and accurate renditions of the social reality that found no values in funding education and provision of regular electricity? Our understanding of these dynamics to a great extent will generally explain the psychology of perception and the need to urgently find a solution to them.



Infrastructure



Pupils of Kofar Hausa Primary School, Keffi, Abuja, learning in a dilapidated classroom

Photo credit: Chidimma C. Okeke



Students of JSS Paikon Kore, Gwagwalada Area Council, FCT, Abuja, learning in an uncompleted classroom

Photo credit: Chidimma C. Okeke



Classroom for early child education in Abaji Model School, Abuja

Photo credit: Chidimma C. Okeke



A toilet built and never put to use in JSS Gwako, Gwagwalada, Abuja, while students use the bush

Photo credit: Chidimma C. Okeke



Pupils urinating in the open at LEA Pilot Science Primary School Karshi, FCT, Abuja

Photo credit: Chidimma C. Okeke



A science laboratory built without equipment, now used as staff room for senior teachers in Junior Secondary School, Kiyi in Kuje, FCT, Abuja

Photo credit: Chidimma C. Okeke



A dilapidated classroom in Gora Primary School, Nasarawa State

Photo credit: Chidimma C. Okeke



Broken table at the technical workshop at JSS Karshi, FCT, Abuja

Photo credit: Chidimma C. Okeke



A classroom with damaged roofs at Gandu Model Primary School, Gezawa Local Government Area, Kano State

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa

Pupils of Early Education and Child Care (EECC) class receiving lessons under a tree at Gawo Primary School, with four blocks of classrooms, out of which two have collapsed, in Gezawa Local Government Area, Kano State



Pupils of Early Education and Child Care (EECC) class receiving lessons under a tree at Namaje Primary School, with one functional block of two classrooms, in Karaye Local Government Area of Kano State

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa



Primary 3 and 4 pupils take lessons together at Gawo Primary School, Gezawa Local Government Area, Kano State

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa



A dilapidated classroom at Gawo Primary School, Gezawa Local Government Area, Kano State

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa



A block of classrooms which accommodate Primary 3-6 pupils of Gawo Primary School, Gezawa Local Government Area, Kano State

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa



JSS 1 pupils sitting in their classroom with no furniture at Gawo Junior Secondary School, Gezawa Local Government Area, Kano State

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa



This tree was used to make desks for Gawo JSS 2 students, Gezawa LGA

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa



Primary 2 pupils in their class at Namaje Primary School, Karaye Local Government Area of Kano State

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa



Staff room and headmaster's office at Namaje Primary School, Karaye Local Government Area, Kano State

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa



Some Primary 2 pupils at Husama Primary School, Karaye Local Government Area of Kano State

Photo credit: Gambo Shehu Nababa



A dilapidated block of classrooms in Abata Gambari Junior Secondary School, Ilorin East Local Government Area, Kwara Central Senatorial District, Kwara State

Photo credit: Jeje Annette Oyiza



A block of classrooms in a state of disrepair at LGEA School Tepatan, Moro Local Government Area, Kwara North Senatorial District, Kwara State

Photo credit: Jeje Annette Oyiza



A thatched-roof class at Sobi Alagbado LGEA School, Kwara South Senatorial District, Kwara State

Photo credit: Jeje Annette Oyiza



Pupils of Practical School Igbeagu in Izzi Local Government Area, Ebonyi State of Nigeria sitting on the floor

Photo credit: Kelechukwu Iruoma



Pupils of Pratical School Igbeagu in Izzi Local Government Area, Ebonyi State, Nigeria, sitting on the floor to learn

Photo credit: Kelechukwu Iruoma



Pupils learning under bamboo palm at Ojigbe Primary School in Izzi Local Government Area, Ebonyi State, after the school building collapsed. Inset: Part of the collapsed building at Ojigbe Primary school in Izzi Local Government Area, Ebonyi State

Photo credit: Kelechukwu Iruoma



Bethel Nwoke and Kasarachi Odinaka in pink have turned teachers due to lack of teachers in Negede Migrant Primary School, Ebonyi State

Photo credit: Kelechukwu Iruoma



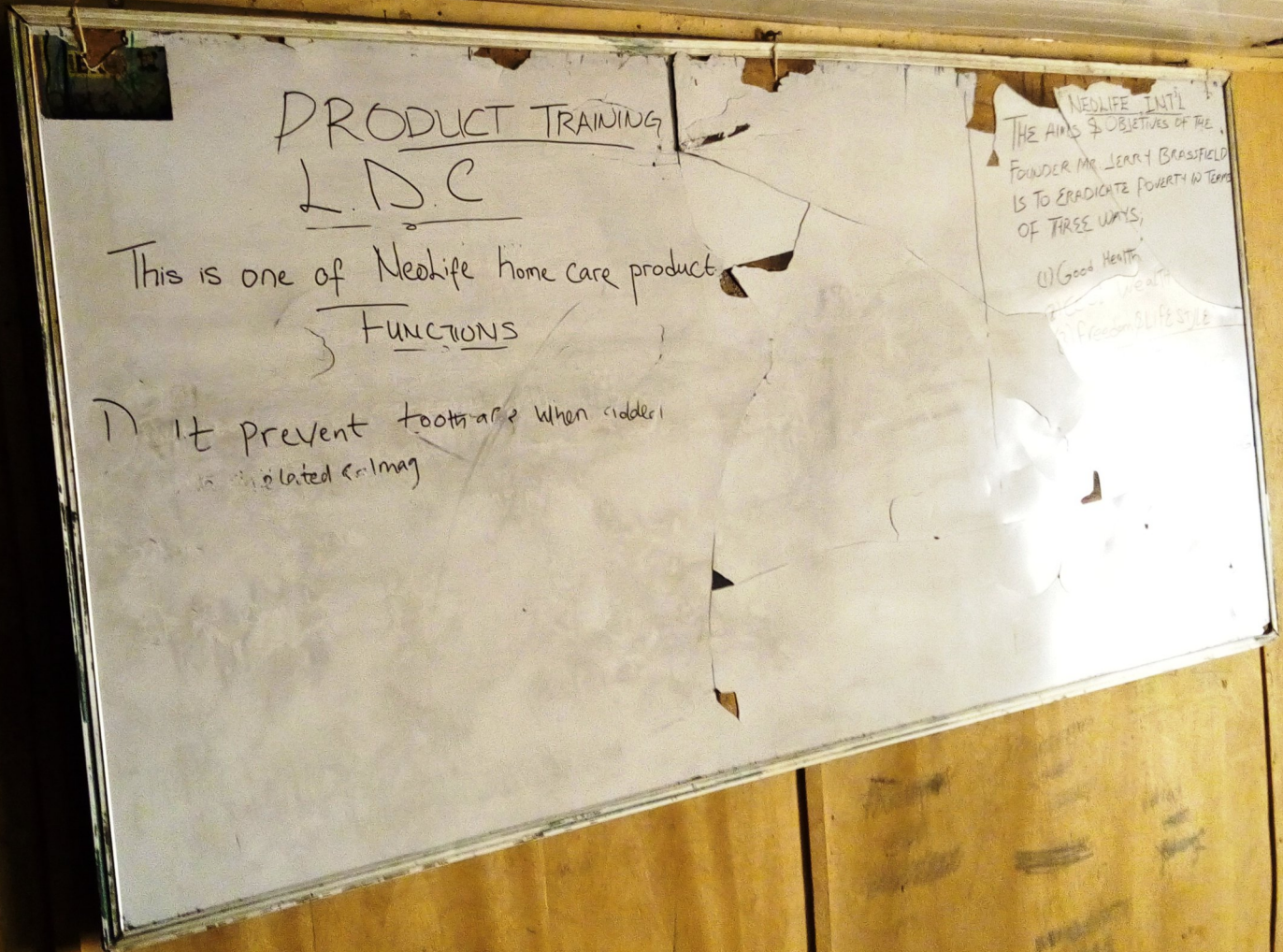
Collapsed and abandoned classroom at Primary School Abonyi Okpoto in Ishielu Local Government Area, Ebonyi State

Photo credit: Kelechukwu Iruoma



A dilapidated building at Primary School Isimkpuma, Ndieze Okpoto in Ishielu Local Government Area, Ebonyi State

Photo credit: Kelechukwu Iruoma



A blackboard in Ajumoni Senior Grammar School, Okota area of Isolo, Lagos

Photo credit: Kolawole Aliyu



The deplorable state of some classrooms at Ajumoni Senior Grammar School, Okota area of Isolo, Lagos

Photo credit: Kolawole Aliyu



A classroom at Ajumoni Senior Grammar School, Okota area of Isolo, Lagos, in a bad state

Photo credit: Kolawole Aliyu



JSS1 students at Upper Basic Alkaleri, Alkaleri Local Government of Bauchi State, sitting on rubber mats in class

Photo credit: Nura Bashir Faggo



Classroom at New Generation Group of Schools in Benin City

Photo credit: Stephen Onyekwelu



Boarding school bags, buckets and other items belonging to Almajiri pupils of Gwarindjaji Tsangaya Model School, Kebbi State



Decayed mattresses at Tsangaya Model Primary School, Tarasa Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State

Photo credit: Temitope Mustapha



A girl sleeping in a stuffy room at Mallam Kabir Girls Almajiri School, Kebbi State

Photo credit: Temitope Mustapha

Congestion



Pupils of primary five sitting on bare floor in a dilapidated class at Baba Sidi Primary School, Bauchi

Photo credit: Nura Bashir Faggo



320 pupils jam-packed in a class at Ibrahim Bako Primary School, which shares perimeter fence with the Bauchi State House of Assembly

Photo credit: Nura Bashir Faggo

Environment & Sanitation



State of pit toilet at Vetland Junior Grammar School, Ifako Ijaye, Lagos



Millennium Secondary School, Egbeda, Lagos



Another toilet at Community Junior High School Akodo –Orofun, Lekki Town, Lagos

Photo credit: Ayodele Adeniran

Damaged by Conflicts



Pupils of Government Junior Secondary School, Okokolo in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State showing their school building burnt by suspected herdsmen in 2014 and abandoned since then. The entire compound has been overgrown by bush.

Photo credit: Innocent Duru



Photo credit: Innocent Duru

Pupils of Government Junior Secondary School Okokolo in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State learning under a tree in a public school not too far from their school that was burnt by suspected herdsmen.



A vandalized structure by suspected herdsmen at Tombo Community Secondary School, Logo Agatu Local Government Area, Benue State

Photo credit: Innocent Duru



Pupils of Ugboju RCM Primary School in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State learning under a tree where they experience a lot of distractions.

Photo credit: Innocent Duru

Working Children



Sheun Ali (left) and Hameed Kehinde are motorcycle apprentices at Ojokoro, Lagos, while Sheun dropped out at JSS 2 for reasons he could not explain. Hameed dropped out at the primary school to become an apprentice motorcycle repairer.

Photo credit: Ademola Akinlabi



Out-of-school food vendor along Abbatoir, Fagba, Lagos

Photo credit: Ademola Akinlabi



Segun Adigun, an eight-year-old, dropped out of school to become a trainee motorcycle mechanic with the approval of his parents. With his experience, he can now assemble a motorcycle.

Photo credit: Ademola Akinlabi



Hakeem dropped out at the primary school to become an apprentice motorcycle repairer



A child hawker at Agbado Crossing, Ogun State

Photo credit: Ademola Akinlabi



After completing her primary education, Promise is waiting for her mother to determine the next step. For now, she helps her mother who sells fried fish.

Photo credit: Ademola Akinlabi



Children doing bricklaying during school hours at Tata, Imoto-Yewa in the Yewa-North Local Government Area of Ogun State

Photo credit: Oduyayo Oduyanya



A child attempting to carry head pan containing mixed cement at Tata, Imoto-Yewa in the Yewa-North Local Government Area of Ogun State

Photo credit: Odutayo Odusanya

Journey to school?



Pupils of Fred Williams Primary School, Iju-Isaga, Ogun State, trekking several kilometres to receive education

Photo credit: Ayodele Adeniran



School children navigate a flood canal at Olajide Street, Aboru in Ogun State, a border community with Lagos State. Whenever it rains, the heavy flooding prevents the children from getting to school or returning home.

Photo credit: Ayodele Adeniran



A girl navigating a flood canal with school children at Olajide Street, Aboru in Ogun State, a border community with Lagos State

Photo credit: Ayodele Adeniran



Students of Ikoga Grammar School, Badagry, Lagos wading through the stream to access basic Education

Photo credit: Ayodele Adeniran



Children of Makoko Community in Ebute Meta area of Lagos passing through an elevated plank way on their way to school

Photo credit: Ayodele Adeniran

Abandoned...



Abandoned Ajegunle Junior and Senior High School, Ikorodu Road in Kosofe Local Government Area of Lagos

Photo credit: Kunle Ajayi

A classroom of the Ajegunle Junior and Senior High School on Ikorodu Road in Kosofe Local Government Area of Lagos

Photo credit: Kunle Ajayi



Otunba Segun Ilesanmi, Secretary of the Community Development Association, indicates what used to be the office of the School Principal

Photo credit: Kunle Ajayi



Staffroom of the Ajegunle Junior and Senior High School Ikorodu Road in Kosofe Local Government Area of Lagos



Otunba Segun Ilesanmi, Secretary of the Community Development Association, wades through the flooded Staffroom.



Student records and teachers' classroom notes



A flooded school library

Photo credit: Kunle Ajayi



A block of flooded classrooms donated by Ajegunle Landlords Progressive Association. Inset: Otunba Segun Ilesanmi, Secretary of the Community Development Association, holds a framed group photograph of the school football team.

Photo credit: Kunle Ajayi



An abandoned classroom in Narati Tsoho in Abaji Area Council, FCT

Photo credit: Chidinma C. Okeke



An abandoned block of classroom in JSS Paikon Kore, Gwagwalada Area Council, FCT



An abandoned project in LEA Primary School, Chibiri, Kuje Area Council, FCT

Photo credit: Chidinma C. Okeke

Bios of contributing reporters

Adeniran Ayodele is passionate about changing the world around him with his camera. A photojournalist with The Guardian, Ayodele has many awards to his credit, the most recent being the Diamond Awards for Media Excellence (DAME) award for the Action Photography category.

Ajayi Kunle is the Photo Editor at Independent Newspapers Limited, publishers of Daily, Saturday and Sunday Independent titles, based in Lagos, Nigeria. Ajayi is a recipient of many awards, including the Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting, 2014 and 2016; Promasidor Quill Award, 2015; and Photoshare Contest, USA, 2015 and 2016.

Akinlabi Ademola, a photojournalist based in Lagos, Nigeria, is a recipient of the Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting, Nigeria Media Merit Award and Diamond Award for Media Excellence (DAME). His works have been published on various media platforms worldwide, including BBC's Focus on Africa, Voice Magazine of the Netherlands and The Capitol.

Aliu Kolawole is a graduate of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN). He currently works as Senior Officer/ Photojournalist with Leadership Newspapers. He is also the Assistant Secretary, Photojournalist Association of Nigeria (PJAN).

Duru Innocent is a correspondent with The Nation Newspaper. He won the Best Features Writer Award at the 2018 Nigeria Media Merit Award (NMMA). He possesses a Higher National Diploma in Mass Communication from The Polytechnic Ibadan, Oyo State and a master's degree in Communication Studies from Lagos State University (LASU).

Faggo Nura has garnered over 16 years' work experience in both radio and television journalism. A specialist in the reportage and production of programmes for public mobilisation in education, health, Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and agriculture, Nura is a member of many social mobilisation committees and associations.

Iruoma Kelechukwu is an award-winning Nigerian freelance journalist covering environment, education, agriculture, politics, conflict, health, and other development issues in Nigeria. He is a development and investigative journalist who is passionate about the sustainable development goals.

Bios of contributing reporters

Jeje Annette was formerly a news correspondent with DAAR Communications, owners of Africa Independent Television (AIT) and RaypowerFM. She is now a broadcast journalist with BBC News Pidgin Service. She is a Fellow of the Report Women Female Reporters Leadership Programme of the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism.

Mustapha Temitope is a senior news editor with Voice of Nigeria. She has 8 years' experience covering the education sector. She holds a bachelor's degree in education management from the University of Ilorin; a postgraduate degree from the International Institute of Journalism; and a master's degree from the National Open University of Nigeria.

Nababa Gambo worked with Daily Trust Newspaper as a news reporter until 2007, when he joined the Department of Mass Communication, Bayero University, Kano (BUK), as a graduate assistant. The doctorate degree holder in mass communication is presently a lecturer in the same department.

Odusanya Odutayo, a senior photojournalist with Punch Newspaper, has about two decades of experience in street photography, visual and text journalism, and videography. He has been recognised by several journalism awards for his works, including the Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting in 2015 and 2019; and Golden Pen Award in 2016 and 2018.

Okeke Chidimma is the Deputy Education/Environment Editor with Daily Trust in Abuja, Nigeria. She edits the newspaper's specialised weekly education publication, Teen Trust, which is the first Nigerian teenage newspaper. It focuses majorly on teenagers' academic activities in schools and affords them the opportunity to hone their writing skills as contributors.

Onyekwelu Stephen, formerly the head of BusinessDay's Education/Human Capital Development desk, currently reports on energy and the environment. He is passionate about making a difference and reporting on transparency and accountability.

Editorial team

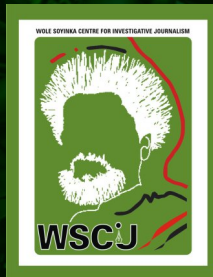
Motunrayo Alaka initiated the idea for this photo book served as editor-in-chief, led its design and implementation. She has worked in journalism, media innovation, communications, investigative reporting, civil society engagements and social entrepreneurship since 2005. She is one of the pioneer advocates for the development of investigative reporting and accountability journalism in Nigeria. Her leadership has enabled capacity development for over 1050 reporters and led the implementation of over 210 reports. Motunrayo is a John S. Knight Journalism Fellow.

Gbile Oshadipe served as the photojournalism expert for this project. He is the Director of Picture Perfect, a Photo outfit. He is a historian and journalist. In 2001, he was a participant/instructor of the first-ever United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) training of Photojournalists in Nigeria. Gbile is a Master Class Trainer, certified by the World Press Photo Institute in The Netherlands and the Poynter in St. Petersburg, Florida, United States.

Adeolu Adékola supported the design of the book. A Senior Programme Officer with WSCIJ, he has a wealth of experience cutting across Information Technology and Project Management

Yakubu Afuye led for the compilation of the photographs and graphic design for the book. He has over fourteen years' experience managing data, developing websites and designing information resources.

Samson Ademola sorted the photographs and did the preliminary proofreading of the book. A Programme Officer with WSCIJ, Samson has extensive experience working in the media.



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