



# **GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR KIDS INITIATIVE NIGERIA**



## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023**

# **2023**

[www.gskinitiative.org](http://www.gskinitiative.org)

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## **ABOUT US**

Global Support for Kids Initiative is a non-governmental organization dedicated to minimizing child abuse, listening to children, and promoting their interests. Our focus is on making a positive impact on children's lives, prioritizing vulnerable ones, and ensuring their safety, welfare, and well-being.

We collaborate with other organizations and agencies to achieve our goals, teaching essential life skills to help children survive off the streets and build a foundation away from street life. These life skills encompass goal setting, behavior management, anger management, financial management, improving communication, and study skills.

Our vision is driven by the urgent need to address social conditions leading to child rejection and neglect. As a nonprofit organization, we support quality education and meet the needs of children, young people, and families.

GSK Initiative is recognized by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Ministry of Education in Ekiti and Ogun States. Our primary focus is working with children in street situations, at-risk youths, and orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC), ensuring their general welfare and supporting their educational pursuits.

We are steadfastly committed to implementing international child rights laws, including the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

**JOIN US IN EMPOWERING CHILDREN, TRANSFORMING LIVES**



I want to express my gratitude for your interest in joining our mission to provide life-support services to millions of children in Nigeria, Africa, and the world at large. At GSKi, we have strategically designed tactical and operational means to

fulfill the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals 4, 1, 2, which have enabled us to make significant progress towards achieving these goals in Nigeria.

Throughout the year, we have endeavored to create an environment where young people can grow and define their roles as members of their communities. Our vision is to foster a society of love, care, and peace, where everyone supports one another, and global peace is achieved through care giving and embracing global citizenship.

Our initiative is deeply committed to reducing and ultimately ending child abuse and neglect, recognizing the importance of this fight to ensure a lasting impact. Our primary goal is to secure better futures for suffering children and young people by caring for their health, education, and social lives and encouraging them to embrace the vision that inspired our organization.

In times of crisis, we provide lifesaving assistance and help rebuild safer and stronger environments for children and families. At GSKi, we recognize the urgent need to support street children and vulnerable young people, providing them with the care they need to become active members of their societies. Our aim is to give these young individuals a reason to live and help resolve the crises of social denigration that have impacted ethics in Nigerian and African societies.

Every position at GSKi contributes to realizing our vision and mission. If you share our dedication to building a world fit for our children, I encourage you to support our important work. Let us collaborate to sustain and expand the vision that gave birth to this project.

Sincerely,  
Opeyemi Olajide Olowookere  
President/Executive Director

## **CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF CHAMPIONING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS!**

On January 23rd, 2023, GSKi marked a significant milestone - 20 years of tireless advocacy for vulnerable children, unwavering commitment to protecting their rights, and dedicated efforts to ensure the practicability of juvenile justice in our society.

To commemorate this remarkable achievement, GSK Initiative came together with staff, supporters, and well-wishers to acknowledge the hard work, resilience, determination, and unwavering support of the community. This momentous occasion was a testament to the power of collective efforts in making a positive impact on the lives of children.



## **EMPOWERING RESILIENCE IN STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN TO OVERCOME TRAUMA AND ADDICTION**

Street-connected children often suffer from a debilitating combination of depression, anxiety, and trauma, which can lead to substance abuse and suicidal tendencies. The stigma and social exclusion they face only exacerbate the negative impact on their mental wellbeing, leaving them vulnerable to a myriad of emotions including anxiety, fear, depression, guilt, loneliness, confusion, and anger.

Tragically, many of these children turn to drug abuse as a coping mechanism, often due to peer influence and a desperate desire for stress relief, group recognition, and a sense of belonging. To combat this, our organization is committed to providing monthly sensitization and chat sessions with the children and youths on the dangers of drug abuse and intake.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR STREET CHILDREN CELEBRATION

12<sup>TH</sup> April 2023, GSKi joined other bodies to commemorate the day with the theme: keeping street connected children safe at Lafenwa and its environment in Abeokuta, Ogun State. The event was aimed at sensitizing street-connected children on ways to keep them safe and how to overcome dangers they may encounter while also encouraging them to strive for a better future. The event was graced by notable representatives of government agencies, NGOs, community actors, and volunteers.





## **GSKi COMMEMORATES DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD AND PROMOTES CHILD SAFETY CUM DIGITIZATION**

On April 12th, 2023, GSKi joined other organizations to commemorate the Day of the African Child, with the theme "Keeping Street-Connected Children Safe" in Lafenwa and its environment, Abeokuta, Ogun State. The event aimed to sensitize street-connected children on safety measures and ways to overcome dangers, encouraging them to strive for a better future. Notable representatives from government agencies, NGOs, community actors, and volunteers graced the occasion.

On June 16th, 2023, GSKi also celebrated the Day of the African Child with 250 students from Knowledge is Power Group of Schools, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. The theme was "The Rights of the Child in a Digital Environment". Mr. Gbegba Oyelakin, an IT Consultant, facilitated the event, imparting knowledge on the topic "Significance of the Digital World to Human Development".





## **GSKi ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND PROTECTION**

The primary objective of GSK Initiative is to advocate for a world that respects, cares for, and protects children, particularly the vulnerable ones. In a bid to fulfil the mandate, we engaged in advocacy by raising awareness and garnering widespread support for children's rights. This event took place at KUTO market in Abeokuta, Ogun State, and Fayose market, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. Our dedicated staff and volunteers united to sensitize the people, families, individuals, market vendors, and passersby within the market.



## **GSKI COMBATS HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION AMONG STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN**

Since COVID-19, hunger and under nutrition have become serious issues that have persisted in Nigeria, disproportionately affecting street-connected children. To address this, GSKI feeds her street-connected children and at-risk youths with sumptuous meals on a weekly basis.



## GSKI NIGERIA MARKS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD 2023

On October 11th, 2023, GSKI Nigeria joined the global community in celebrating the strength, resilience, and limitless potential of girls worldwide. We reaffirm our commitment to supporting and empowering every girl child, ensuring they grow up in a safe and nurturing environment. This year's theme, "Invest in Girl's Rights: Our Leadership, Our



## EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The initiative has empowered over 200 street-connected children, at-risk youths, vulnerable individuals, and parents of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) through comprehensive training programs. These programs focus on practical skills development in manufacturing various products, including liquid soap, hand wash, sanitizer, and more.

The primary objectives of this initiative, which was also held in 2023, are to equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to establish profitable business ventures, generate sustainable income, and achieve financial stability. Furthermore, the program aims to contribute to the nation's economic growth, promote entrepreneurship, create jobs, reduce unemployment, improve socio-economic status, and ultimately reduce poverty.

By providing these individuals with the necessary tools and support, the initiative is helping to create a brighter future for those who need it most.





## **EMPOWERING YOUTHS THROUGH FOOTBALL: GSKI FC TEAM LAUNCH**

In a world where adversity often threatens to diminish the brightest of futures, football has long served as a beacon of hope, a symbol of resilience, and a powerful tool for transformation. It is against this backdrop that GSKI proudly launched the GSKI FC football team in May 2023, a pioneering initiative designed to harness the transformative power of sports to empower and uplift the lives of youths at risk and children.

Comprising talented young individuals from diverse backgrounds, GSKI FC is more than just a football team - it is a vibrant community, a supportive family, and a launch pad for success. This innovative project aims to engage individuals interested in sporting activities, helping them reach their full potential, develop their skills, and cultivate a winning mindset.

Through rigorous training sessions three times a week, the team is guided by experienced coaches and mentors who impart valuable skills, strategies, and sportsmanship. This dedicated support enables the young players to grow exponentially, both on and off the pitch, preparing them for future success. As they train, they learn essential life skills like teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, which serve as the foundation for achieving their dreams.

The GSKI FC team launch marks a significant milestone in our commitment to empowering youths and driving positive change through football. As we celebrate this exciting journey, we honor the resilience, passion, and potential of our young players, who are the true champions of this initiative. Join us in championing their cause and empowering them to become the leaders of tomorrow!





SUPPORT FOR KIDS



## EMPOWERING LOCAL LEADERS: GSKI NIGERIA'S SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY HEROES

In a society where community heroes often go unsung, GSKI Nigeria is dedicated to shining a spotlight on those who make a real difference in the lives of others. One such individual is the leader of the street-connected children at Lafenwa, Abeokuta, Ogun state, affectionately known as Sobatan alanu wapco. This remarkable individual has consistently demonstrated a remarkable commitment to supporting our activities with the children and serving as a beacon of inspiration to those on the streets, despite his own limited resources.

Recognizing the significant impact Sobatan has on his community, GSKI Nigeria sought to empower him further through economic support. We noticed that many children depended on him economically, and we wanted to help him continue his good work. To this end, we presented him with a Pepper Grinding Machine, a practical tool that will enable him to generate income and continue making a positive difference in the lives of those around him.

This small act of kindness represents our organization's commitment to empowering change-makers like Sobatan, who are the true unsung heroes of our time. By supporting him, we aim to encourage him to continue his selfless work and inspire others to follow in his footsteps. Together, we can create a ripple effect of kindness and empower others to make a meaningful difference in their communities.





## **COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN: GSK INITIATIVE WEEK**

In a world where the innocence of childhood is often marred by the harsh realities of violence and abuse, it is imperative that we come together as a collective force for change. The GSK Initiative Week, held from August 18th to 22nd, was a beacon of hope in this endeavor, providing a platform for concerned individuals, organizations, and communities to unite against violence against children.

With a focus on "FOSTERING INCLUSION: CHANGING COMMUNITY'S PERCEPTION TOWARDS STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN," this week-long program aimed to raise awareness, share knowledge, and implement effective strategies to combat child abuse. Through a series of workshops, seminars, educational campaigns, and community events, participants engaged in various activities designed to make a meaningful impact.

These activities included a novelty match, advocacy initiatives, community service projects, visitations to children's homes, and skill acquisition programs. Each of these endeavors was carefully crafted to promote a culture of inclusivity, understanding, and compassion towards street-connected children.

As we reflect on the successes of this initiative, we are reminded that the fight against violence against children requires a sustained and collective effort. Let us continue to stand together, united in our quest for a world where every child can thrive in safety and dignity.

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." - Cesar Chavez

This quote highlights the importance of addressing the needs of the most vulnerable members of our society, including street-connected children. By working together, we can create a more just and equitable world where every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.



## **GET INVOLVED AS YOU JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO ADVANCE OUR CHILDREN**

Are you passionate about creating a safer and more compassionate world for children? Do you want to make a meaningful difference in your community? We invite you to join us in our efforts to combat violence against children. Here are some ways to get involved:

**Contact Us:** Reach out to us to learn more about our initiatives and how you can be a part of them.

- **Volunteer:** Join our team of dedicated volunteers who are making a difference in the lives of children every day.

- **Donate:** Support our cause by making a donation that will help us continue our vital work.

- **Spread the Word:** Help us raise awareness about the importance of combating violence against children by sharing our message with your network.

- **Participate in Events:** Join us at our events and activities designed to raise awareness and support for our cause.

Together, we can create a world where every child can thrive in safety and dignity. Let's work together to make a difference.

### **Administrative office:**

No 3, Moferere street,  
beside Agape Church,  
Ajilosun, Ado Ekiti Nigeria.

### **Field office:**

Shop 20 & 21, Trinity Complex,  
124 Sokenu Road,  
Ijaye, Abeokuta, Ogun State Nigeria

**Toll free Number:**

08051041300, 08025707826,  
08147291932, 09029278563

**Email address:**

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

Facebook: gskinitiativenigeria

Instagram: gskinitiative4kids

Twitter: gskinitiative

