

# SWIFT



Rebecca Samuel, 65, travelled nine miles and spent N1,500 on transportation from Okpapata community to the nearest Mill to process cassava harvested from her farm. Besides the stress of travelling, the cost of transportation reduced her gains. Now, Rebecca and 39 other women in her milling multipurpose cooperative can save on transport, produce more quantity and support their wards as a result of the livelihood equipment donated by ActionAid Nigeria. Photo: ActionAid/Lola Ayanda

## What's New?

**ActionAid Nigeria (AAN)** held the maiden edition of its flagship biennial **Art for Development (#Art4Dev) Expo**. The exhibition seeks to bridge the gap between local and professional artists by creating linkages to market for local arts and crafts. The overarching goal is to encourage entrepreneurship and contribute towards the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 8 (Decent Work) and 10 (Economic Growth and Reduced Inequality). Highlight of the expo was the increased funding generated for AAN's Community Sponsorship initiative through the auction of art works donated by professional contemporary artists and the firm commitment by the office of the Vice President to support local artists and promote tourism as an alternative source of revenue for economic growth.

In response to the damning investigative reports on increased trafficking of young persons seeking alternative livelihood through illegal immigration to Italy and neighbouring countries, and migration to urban centres in search of greener pastures, **ActionAid Nigeria** trained and graduated 1252 youths in Edo states in various business ventures such as: auto mechanics/electrical/panel beating and painting, fishery, crop/vegetable, snail, poultry farming, carpentry, fashion designing, shoes/bag making & aluminium fabrication. The graduands were also supported with seed grants to start their business with a gross financial seed grants of 7.5million Naira and tools seed grant of 8.4 Million Naira. The trainings were facilitated in partnership with the State Government which assigned trainers and provided training facilities which largely reduced the cost of implementing the project.

As part of efforts aimed at building resilience against violent extremism in Kogi State, through enhanced capacity and structures to check radicalisation, **AAN** trained and handed over 9 factories to Youths and Women in the state. The livelihood support became necessary after unemployment was identified as a top driving factor for violent extremism during a baseline assessment conducted by AAN in the state. Factories handed over include; cassava processing factory & bakery in Osara, cassava processing and block moulding factory in Osaragada/Aku, cassava processing & maize milling factory in Ofuloko, rice & maize milling factory in Okpakpata, and maize milling factory in Fulani Community, amounting to N35.5 Million Naira. Highlight of the handover ceremony was when The Chief of Staff to Kogi State Governor, Mr. Edward Onoja, made commitments to leverage on AANs methodology to replicate the project in other neighbouring local governments who did not benefit from the pilot phase and support the farmers with seed grants to expand their production.

Also in the news, AAN carried out a comprehensive analysis of the 2018 Proposed Agriculture Budget which showed an increase in budget allocation from 1.7% in 2017 to 2.00% in 2018. The analysis was presented to the Joint Sector Review Steering Committee which AAN was part of, to draw a correlation between allocations and Nigeria's poor score within the Biennial Review at the African Union level. Findings and recommendations from the analysis was also presented at the joint public hearing on the 2018 budget organised by the Senate and House Appropriation Committee and have been used for various media engagements on live radio and television discussions to push for increased investment and support for smallholder women farmers.

Osaragada Women processing Cassava at the factory donated by ActionAid Nigeria  
Photo: ActionAid



# Osaragada/Aku:

## Kidnap Hotspot Turned Agricultural Hub

**Osaragada Aku** is about 100 metres away from the express road connecting travelers from the Northern to the Eastern part of Nigeria. It is a constantly busy road and a route for kidnapers and armed robbers.

Most of the high-profile kidnap and armed robbery cases reported especially in 2014, 2015 and 2016 occurred on the express road. So, it was always on security red alert, making the people to live constantly in fear.

The violence and armed criminalities crippled the agricultural exploit of the community, which once boast of high production of cassava value chain.

At a point many residents moved to other communities because of the incessant gun battle between state security personnel and armed – tight criminals.

This community was the real test of ActionAid System and Structure Strengthening Approach against Radicalisation to Violent Extremism project. All the signal of extreme radicalism was present, making it a security risk to site a development project. “This used to be a den of kidnapers, when they kidnap people, they bring them into the nearby bush” said Sadiku Otaru, the leader of the community.

Working in collaboration with security officials and other stakeholders’ ActionAid Nigeria empowered the community with the skills to monitor, identify and report suspicious movement in their community.

The incidences of armed robbery and kidnapping have significantly reduced. The agricultural exploits too have returned with residents boasting of increased production after ActionAid trained, built and handed over Cassava processing factory to the women and block moulding factory to the youths in the community.

“From a weekly manual processing of 200kg of cassava, we now have the capacity to produce 1 ton of cassava, because of the cassava processing machine donated by ActionAid.”

Before now, everyone will work in their different homes but now we join hands together and we produce more. It reduces stress and adds more income to us’. Audu Kaka, 36, - Treasurer of Osaragada Aku Women Garri Processing Cooperative.

**Editorial Board:**

- Ene Obi** - Country Director | **Funmilayo Oyefusi** – Director, Organisation Effectiveness | **Lola Ayanda** – Communications Coordinator
- Charles Petu** – I.T Coordinator | **Kemi Akinremi-Segun** – Sponsorship Communications Advisor | **Toluwalase Bello** - Graphic Design Intern
- Peace Eneja** – Communications Intern

**Contributors**

- Newton Otsemaye** | **Peace Eneja** | **Victor Emeruwa** | **Kemi Akinremi-Segun** | **Lola Ayanda**



# Art for Development: Unleashing A New Breed Of Creatives

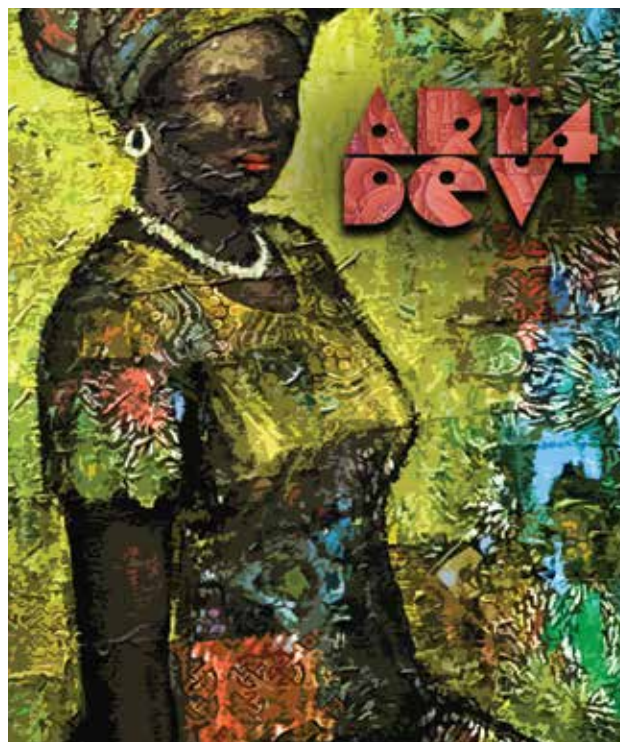
About 18 years ago, ActionAid commenced operations in Nigeria starting with 5 communities across 2 states, Nasarawa and Kaduna. A year later, the team expanded to 2 more locations, Gombe and FCT. Today, ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) has presence in over 200 communities across 30 states of the federation.

Through the years, AAN team have engaged with hundreds of talented and skilled women, men, young Nigerians and children across these communities who are passionate about making arts and crafts of various forms. However, even though, some of them have access to raw materials required for production of art and crafts like tree for woodworks and raffia for weaving; they do not have access to platforms and opportunities that their professional counterparts have, to make their works profitable. Promoting art as a profitable venture is particularly important at a time when art is selling for millions across the globe and Nigeria is tagged as one of the countries with the highest number of people living in poverty.

It is against this backdrop that ActionAid Nigeria held its flagship biennial art for development expo in July 2018. The four-day event, which was held in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture and other partner organisations, showcase the indigenous arts and crafts of artists living in poor and excluded communities as a viable means and source of sustainable livelihood.

The line-up of activities for the expo included a three-day art and craft exhibition by both professional and artists from selected ActionAid communities across Nigeria. Within these days, #Art4Dev proudly mobilised the crême de la crême of the art industry including Prof. Jerry Buhari, Prof. Bridget Nwanze, Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA) President, Oliver Enwonwu, Curator, Ifesinachi Comedy and SNA South-South Coordinator, Diseye Tantua as facilitators of workshops for Exhibitors.

The expo rounded up beautifully on Sunday July 1st with an array of activities of the Gala Night. The primary objective of the gala night was to raise funds from auctioning art works donated and submitted by contemporary professional artists to support the poor communities where ActionAid works. It was invigorating to see the works of contemporary professional artists like Dr. Kolade Oshinowo, Duke Asidere, Bob Nosa, Sam Ovralti, Tolu Aliki, Jude Enunwa, Gerald Chukwuma amongst others, on display for exhibition, sales and auction with renowned Artist, Diseye Tantua behind the hammer as the auctioneer.



In a speech delivered by ActionAid Nigeria's Country Director, Ene Obi, she said "Art for Development Expo is unique in a couple of ways. First, it showcased Arts and Crafts of artists from rural communities, by creating linkages to market while providing learning and mentorship opportunities from established professional artists. Secondly, it created an opportunity to raise funds through the sales and auction of artworks donated by contemporary, professional artists to intensify ActionAid's work in poor and excluded communities in areas of human security in conflicts and emergencies, just and democratic governance, education, women's right, health, food and agriculture."

Engagement with the contemporary artists during the expo has evidently proved that art and craft can indeed be a direct source of employment and a tool for social engineering in Nigeria.

Art for Development Expo 2018 closed with sonorous rendition of songs by award winning soul singer, Timi Dakolo.

You can become a **Community Sponsor** by signing up to our **Community Sponsorship initiative** on **[www.actionaid-ngr.org](http://www.actionaid-ngr.org)** or send us an email at

**[communitysponsorship.nigeria@actionaid.org](mailto:communitysponsorship.nigeria@actionaid.org)** or call us on **07007070700** to learn more.



# SCEEP

Strengthening Citizens' Engagement in Electoral Process

## Creating Spaces ...Engaging Nigeria

The Strengthening Citizens' Engagement in the Electoral Process (SCEEP) project officially came to end on July 5, 2018 with a dissemination meeting held in Nigeria's Federal Capital.

ActionAid Nigeria and BBC Media Action, with support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID) implemented the project from 2014 to 2018 with the aim of strengthening the electoral engagement of women, youth and persons with disability in Kano, Kaduna, Plateau, Lagos, Imo and Akwa Ibom states of Nigeria, with some project intervention at national level.

### The four-year project boasts of the following results:

331 persons (50 females and 281 males) from Community Based organisations (CBOs) across all wards in the 23 LGAs in Kaduna State received capacity strengthening to facilitate the utilisation of the Community Development Charter (CDC) to ensure citizens' needs were reflected during the State's budgeting process.



01



Kaduna State Government adopted the CDC as the tool for aggregating community needs into the state budget. The advocacy efforts were supported by SCEEP project in collaboration with the DFID funded Mobilising for Development (M4D) project and Voice to the People (V2P) and community members to achieve this.



03



About 1,228 people participated in SCEEP supported media outputs (town hall meetings).



05



680 persons were engaged in budget accountability platforms and conversations on the CDC as a tool for budgeting and planning in the SCEEP States.



07



02



45 security agents and 39 electoral officers in Akwa Ibom and Plateau states were trained on inclusive electoral management to ensure that LGA elections were responsive to the issues of the project's target groups.

04



196 community-based election observers were trained for use in LGA elections in Akwa Ibom, Kano and Plateau states. The observers will also act as champions for free and fair elections in their communities.

06



40 staff (15 females and 25 males) of the National Orientation Agency (NOA) in Plateau state, at the local government and state levels, were trained on strategies, tactics and tools to mobilise citizens for participation in the electoral process and developed action plan for citizens engagement in the electoral cycle and in elections.

08



72 Master Trainers (MTs) were trained on using the 'Women in Politics and Voter Education' manual in SCEEP states. These MTs in turn trained 480 facilitators to use the manual for organising women and voter education in SCEEP communities.



## Child Molestation: **The Missing Point**

It has become an unavoidable issue, Children are molested daily and we have totally lost the point. Child sexual abuse in Nigeria is an offence under several sections of chapter 21 of the country's criminal code. UNICEF reported in 2015 that one in four girls and one in ten boys in Nigeria had experienced sexual violence before the age of 18. According to a survey by Positive Action for Treatment Access, over 31.4 percent of girls in Nigeria said that their first sexual encounter had been rape or forced sex of some kind. Child molestation can happen anywhere, in schools, religious houses, including the survivor's home. The possibility of victims turning perpetrators have been noted to be high, hence the need to protect children and put in place systems to help abuse survivors promptly.

More important than scolding a child, is educating and having a good relationship with the child. A child is **not** expected to freely talk about a topic that is held sacred by adults, therefore we should be responsible for our children's first sex knowledge. No age is too young for sex education and parents should bear in mind that sex education is neither against religion nor morals. Once a child is of age to know his/her name, he/she should be taught of the "No Go Areas" in his/her body and should be made comfortable to discuss or report when anyone gains access to any of those areas.

From a local study carried out by Sample Humanitarian Consultancy on child molestation, it was discovered that 71 percent of the perpetrators take employment in professions where they have access to their victims. These caregivers position themselves in schools, playgrounds etc. Therefore, parents and guardians should always be watchful for the safety of their children and listen to every detail, said and unsaid. Children who are molested are often threatened by their perpetrators and it can only take a good relationship with an adult for a child to freely share his/her experience. The question is, what kind of relationship do you have with children around you?

Maryjacob Okwuosa  
okwuosamj@gmail.com

Ebonyi State Activista



Philip Atabo, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Gender Development Department, FCT  
Photo: ActionAid

## No Longer Business As Usual

### Sustainable Mechanisms for Improving Livelihood & Household Empowerment (SMILE)

Philip Atabo, 48 is not a run-of-the-mill civil servant—he is armed with impressive credentials. He is a graduate of Cooperative and Rural Development with a Post Graduate Diploma in Management and a Master's degree in Public Administration. Nevertheless, all his academic qualifications did not adequately prepare him for a challenging role in the civil service, as he admitted.

Atabo is the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer of the Gender Development Department at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), a position that puts him in charge of knowledge management of cases of child protection in the FCT.

“Before the coming of SMILE project, it was business as usual. If there was need for information on any aspect of Child Rights in the FCT, case management and data collation, we couldn't boast of any reliable document. But now, we have developed a global standard data management template, thanks to the training we received from ActionAid Nigeria” Atabo said.

Today, Atabo has been transformed from a lackluster civil servant to an upward mobile public executive. He now wears a chain of jump drive, where he stores up all necessary information regarding child protection in the FCT. He has information at the tip of his fingers and has developed a strong network of contacts that can help in the event of referral.

Atabo now understands the power of data: he knows that accurate data can help government make informed decision to improve the lives of people. “Data reliability is better now than before, we compute our data in standard format, we have trained all desk officers across the council on how to gather data in ways that reflects the real situation” he quipped. “SMILE has challenged me to sit up. I am now a changed person and that change reflects in my job.”

**Activista is ActionAid's youth network pushing for social justice across the globe.**

# WORDS ON MARBLE

Esther Uzoma

.....

The law has never ceased to be a tool in the hands of the executive. Laws are made when it pays the executive. If it took #NotTooYoungToRun Bill to awaken the mind of the Nigerian youths that they need to be involved in governance, then obviously something is wrong with our education system.

As electorates, we should be aware that it is in the interest of the politicians that we remain ignorant, hence the need for us to ask questions and constantly ensure we are involved in matters that affects us.

*Deputy Convener, Civil Society Situation Room, speaking at the SCEEP end of project dissemination.*

Alabi Jimoh

For 10 years, our community had no electricity, we had no water and we lived like that, until we learnt advocacy from ActionAid. We began to engage the local government, we wrote to the State government and the members of the house of representative for our community. Our advocacy yielded result, electricity has been restored and recently the government added additional five boreholes for water.

*Youth Leader, Osaragada/Aku Community, Kogi State.*

Lawal Abdulkareem

.....

Value for money (VFM) is about achieving the right balance between economy, efficiency and effectiveness. 'Cheap' doesn't necessarily mean 'Value'

*Itad, during ActionAid Nigeria VFM training for SCRAP-C partners.*

Ezenwa Nwagu

.....

Everywhere you go you will hear people say that the State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC) should be scrapped because they are almost nonexistent. Most SIECs have become an extension of the state government house and this is largely due to lack of financial and administrative autonomy for SIECs. We cannot call SIECs an independent body because the Governors determine how they function.

The media should start to amplify the need for SIECs to have financial and administrative autonomy. SIECs need statutory, institutional and operational independence.

*Partners for Electoral Reform, speaking at the SCEEP end of project dissemination.*

Prof. Bridget Nwanze

.....

With the responsibilities of motherhood and challenges of long-standing cultural impositions, women played second fiddle in all aspects of arts; we are changing that today, to raise giant strides .

*- On Staying Relevant as a Female Artist during the ActionAid Nigeria Art for Development Expo.*



Femi Falana at the Upright for Nigeria Campaign  
Photo: Centre for Communication and Social Impact

## #Upright4Nigeria: Changing the Narratives.

**I** imagine a Nigeria without corruption; good roads, employment based on merit, farmers smiling to the bank, low infant mortality, certainly, a wealthy nation like Nigeria will no longer be compared to India and its citizens will heave a sigh of relief. Sadly, there is no sector you won't find the hydra-headed monster, corruption but this is about to change. Corruption has a correlation with poverty, it increases the inequality gap, erodes both national and human dignity, it hinders socio-economic growth.

Between 1960 and 1999, an estimated sum of \$400 billion was stolen from Nigeria. Late General Sani Abacha alone is estimated to have stolen the equivalent of 2-3 per cent of the country's GDP for every year that he was a Military Head of State. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Executive Director, Antonio Maria Costa once said that it is a staggering – almost “astronomical” - amount of money because if you were to put 400 billion-dollar bills end-to-end, you could make 75 round trips to the moon!

Again between 2006 and 2013, in a country of 180 million people, only 55 people were alleged to have stolen N1,354,132,400,000.00, if you analyse this, it is obvious that an insignificant percentage of the total population of Nigeria looted over one trillion Naira. According to Prof Itse Sagay, The Chairman Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption, these monies can build a 635.18km of roads, 36 ultra-modern hospitals, 183 schools, educate 3,974 children from primary to tertiary level at N25.24m per child, and 20,062 units of 2-bedroom houses.

It is against this background that the ActionAid led SCRAP-C consortium, launched the #Upright4Nigeria Campaign which seeks to change public attitudes and perceptions against corruption. Speaking at the launch of the Campaign Femi Falana, the keynote speaker underscores the need for a collective response to corruption which must be driven by the Nigerian citizens. Falana also noted the role of policy makers and political actors “Everyone is a product of their environment. In my time, as a student, government was paying me bursary and employers were always looking for opportunities to come to the school to interview fresh graduates, we had options and there was job immediately you finished school. Now the reverse is the case. The idea of the ruling class is the overarching idea in the society. If you know that you will be punished if caught, you will behave yourself. Lack of sanction breeds indiscipline”.

#Upright4Nigeria was launched in Lagos in June, 2018 not to only change the perception of citizens but to also emphasise the need to strengthen systems and sanctions to reduce opportunities for corruption in public office spaces.

TAKE A STAND AGAINST CORRUPTION

Join the conversation:

@Upright4Nigeria #Upright4Nigeria  
on Twitter Facebook and Instagram.

Download the Upright4Nigeria Mobile App on  
Apple and Google Play store.  
Visit [www.upright4nigeria.org](http://www.upright4nigeria.org)





The Secretary to Kogi State Government (6th from the right), Commissioner for Women Affairs (6th from the left), ActionAid Director of Programmes (5th from the right), Assistant Commissioner of Police (1st from right), among others during the official launching of the Kogi State Action Plan on Peace and Security for Women and Children facilitated by ActionAid Nigeria.

Photo: ActionAid

ActionAid Board addresses the press on the state of the nation with clear recommendations to government on how to tackle brewing issues in the polity.

Photo: ActionAid



Ahead of 2019 general elections, ActionAid Nigeria team took to the streets of the Federal Capital Territory to campaign for citizens to register, collect their permanent voters card and play their part in ensuring a credible election.

Photo: ActionAid



A joint press conference held in Lagos Nigeria by Agriculture stakeholders to disseminate content of a communique developed during the Public Financing for Agriculture stakeholders consultative meeting that brought farmers, government, media and citizens together to make input into the 2019 Agric budget. The meeting was facilitated by ActionAid Nigeria and Oxfam in Nigeria.

Photo: ActionAid



ActionAid Nigeria unveils comedian, Mark Angel and blogger Chris Kehinde Nwandu as Brand Ambassadors during the Art for Development gala held at the Transcorp Hilton Abuja. The duo joins actress, Dakore Egbuson-Akande and Actor, Ali Nuhu in using their creative spaces to campaign for social justice for all.

Photo: ActionAid



Members of ActionAid Nigeria #Art4Dev technical working group live on air discussing the link between art and development during Radio Nigeria nationwide network news.

Photo: ActionAid



Human rights activist, Oby Ezekwesili at the launch of ActionAid's Whose City Report in Abuja. The report presents the results of an evaluation of women's safety in urban spaces in a broad selection of countries in which ActionAid works: Bangladesh, Brazil, DRC, Jordan, Liberia, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Photo: ActionAid



YIAGA Africa presenting an award to ActionAid Nigeria for the exceptional contribution towards the passage of the #NotTooYoungToRun Bill. The Bill called for the reduction in age limit for contesting elections for governors and presidents from 35 to 30 and 40 to 35 respectively.

Photo: ActionAid



ActionAid Board visit to Pasepa community in the FCT to interact with beneficiaries of the AAN ICT for development pilot project aimed at bridging the technology gap between excluded communities and urban centers.

Photo: ActionAid



Timi Dakolo performing at the Art4Dev Gala Night

Photo: ActionAid



The Chief of Staff to the Governor of Kogi State, Edward Onoja commissions 9 livelihood support factories donated by ActionAid to youths and women across communities in Adavi and Igalamela Local Government Areas of the State.

Photo: ActionAid





**Dr. Jummai Umar-Ajijola**  
Board Chairperson



**Ms. Ene Obi**  
Secretary to the Board and Country Director

# One More **THING!**

Feminist leadership is not just about placing women at the helm of affairs—it is about enabling women to lead differently, with feminist values and ideology, to advance social justice for all. At ActionAid, women’s leadership is at the core of what we do, hence, it was no surprise when ActionAid Nigeria’s (AAN) Board appointed Dr. Jummai Umar-Ajijola as its new Chairperson. Jummai succeeds Prof. Patricia Donli, an eclectic feminist who retired to join AAN General Assembly after serving for 6 years.

Jummai until her appointment was a member of the Board. With over 23 years working experience that spans across the Public and Private Sectors and Multilateral Development Organisations, Jummai holds a PhD in Public Administration & Policy Analysis and is a Fellow of the United Nations University, Maastricht, Netherlands. She is a recipient of several awards, including the prestigious Executive Leadership Award for support to the Women and Children of Liberia.

Like the saying goes, similar souls wonder in similar place, they touch the same winds, they step on the same leaves; this saying highlights the similarities in Ene and Ojobo’s leadership styles. The appointment of Ene Obi as the new Country Director for ActionAid Nigeria in February 2018 also further strengthened AAN’s feminist agenda. Ene succeeds Ojobo Atuluku who is now ActionAid International Head of Country Support, Africa. Ene until her appointment, was a Consultant on Gender Responsive Public Service. She previously took up roles in AAN as the Governance Team Lead as well as Regional Training Development Advisor, Ms Training Centre for Development Cooperation, Arusha Tanzania, under ActionAid Denmark. Ene holds Masters Degree in Political Science and Masters in International Law and Diplomacy (MILD) both from the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Speaking at her send forth ceremony which coincided with AAN’s 36th Board Meeting held in Abuja, the outgoing Country Director, Ojobo Atuluku said, “I am elated to have served and I am stepping aside to take on another role that will enable me contribute objectively to the anti-poverty fight in Africa. I thank the staff, Board, General Assembly and partner organisations and communities that made my term a success”

Indeed, Malala Yousafzai was right when she said, “We can only succeed if none of us is held back”. What are you doing to promote feminist leadership in your sphere? Feminism is not a battle of the sexes, it is about changing the way we perceive the strength of women.

**act:onaid**

📍 Abuja  
Plot 477, 41 Crescent,  
off Sa’adu Zungur Avenue,  
Gwarinpa, Abuja

📍 Lagos  
1A, Adeboye Solanke Street  
Off Allen Avenue  
(behind Zenith Bank)  
Ikeja, Lagos.

Tel: +2348126644268

📍 Maiduguri  
No 3, Gombole Street,  
Off Gombole Road  
Old GRA, Opposite Giwa  
Barracks, Maiduguri

☎ +234 (0) 812 8888 825-7  
✉ info.nigeria@actionaid.org  
🌐 www.actionaid.org/nigeria

📘 ActionAidNigeria  
🐦 @ActionAidNG