



FEED & READ PROGRAM

20 YEARS OF IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITY

AUN-AID FEED & READ

EDUCATION NUTRITION HOPE INCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

The disproportionately high rate of out-of-school children in Nigeria is a national crisis, with the country accounting for 17% of the global out-of-school population despite comprising only 4% of the global population of primary school-age children. The factors contributing to this crisis are multifaceted, involving gender, poverty, and rural-urban disparities.

Research suggests that the children who are not in school are more likely to be female, impoverished, and living in rural and semi-urban areas, effectively facing a "double disadvantage" in their access to education. The poor quality of many public schools in the region also acts as a disincentive for school attendance, further exacerbating the challenge.

The consequences of this problem are far-reaching, as children who are not in school are less likely to acquire the benefits of education, including improved economic and social outcomes. This has significant implications for sustainable development, as out-of-school children may be more susceptible to a lack of employment opportunities, crime, violence, and other socioeconomic challenges. Without access to education, these children face limited opportunities for personal growth, skills development and social mobility, which can perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality within their communities.



MISSION OF A DEVELOPMENT UNIVERSITY

AUN was established in 2003 by His Excellency Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, GCON, Wazirin Adamawa, with a strategic vision to be a “development university.” The Feed & Read program aligns perfectly with AUN's mission by providing literacy and numeracy support, promoting basic hygiene among girls and boys, meeting their nutritional needs while giving them a sense of belonging.

AUN students teach the Feed & Read classes as part of their community service. Volunteering not only enhances the students' learning experience but also strengthens the bond between the university and the community, working together as partners for progress. The holistic approach of AUN ensures that students are not only academically equipped but also socially responsible and proactive in addressing the needs of their community.

BACKGROUND

The AUN Feed & Read program started in December 2015, after the trial phase in 2014. The initial enrollees were Almajiri boys, the girls segment was added with the support of the Irish Government. Many more donations have been received from public-spirited bodies like Friends of Nigeria (FON).

The Program is targeting out-of-school kids (ages 6 – 18). In this category falls marginalized, and homeless children who were not opportune to enroll in formal education. Most of them engage in begging, street trading, and other forms of labor. Their parents typically send away some of these children to learn religious studies in Quranic schools.

However, in many cases, they lack access to formal education, proper nutrition, and basic social needs. As a result, these children are at risk of growing up with little or no formal education, which perpetuates the cycle of poverty and exclusion. They boys among them are also easy recruit for insurgents and bandits while the girls are exposed to several forms of exploitation.

By addressing crucial issues faced by marginalized and at-risk children, especially the Almajiri boys and deprived girls, the AUN Feed & Read initiative has become an impactful intervention. By providing both education and nutrition, this program is offering a holistic solution to break the cycle of poverty and exclusion. The program empowers these children with the skills they need for a better future while also ensuring their basic needs are met.



OBJECTIVES



- To pull them off the streets and introduce them to Basic Literacy and Numeracy, offering them foundational education in literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy (basic arithmetic), we believe will help them develop essential skills that are critical for their academic and life success.
- To provide them with One Nutritious Meal a Day to promote their physical well-being and help them focus on their learning.
- The Program also focuses on emotional and social development to promote Holistic Child Development beyond literacy and numeracy.

ACTIVITIES

- **Daily Meals:** Establishing a sustainable system to provide at least one nutritious meal to each child per day, which is prepared by local food suppliers who are also in need of support. The Program has provided them an opportunity to put food on their table as well.
- **Educational Classes:** Offering basic literacy and numeracy classes tailored to the children's age and education level. These classes are taught by trained teachers, volunteers (mostly AUN students), or AUN community members who are passionate about education.
- **Community Outreach:** Engaging with local community leaders, religious figures, and families to raise awareness of the importance of education and encourage enrollment of Almajiri children in the project.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuously monitoring the progress of the enrolled children, tracking their literacy and numeracy development, as well as their overall well-being. Our recent endline Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) & Early Grade Mathematics Assessment (EGMA) assessment results show that the Feed and Read (Almajiri) boys performance surpassed all states in the north measured for comparison with the Feed and Read boys. The Feed & Read uses the Accelerated Basic Education Program (ABEP) curriculum. Learners are set to enroll in Junior Secondary School after the Feed & Read program.



Over 600 pupil have graduated from the program

Supporting data confirm that graduates of the AUN Feed & Read program excel in public and private schools, frequently surpassed their peers

Thousands more can be enrolled with funding support

PROSPECTS AND LONG-TERM IMPACT

- **Increased Enrollment and Retention:** We anticipate a steady increase in enrollment as the program gains recognition and more children are offered the opportunity to join. Providing daily meals and introducing education create a more attractive environment for Almajiri children and their families.
- **Sustainability:** The Program is designed with sustainability in mind, by collaborating with local schools, and establishing partnerships with spirited individuals and organizations.
- **Replicable in Other Communities:** With continued support and success, the Program can be expanded to other regions, replicating the approach to benefit more vulnerable kids across northern Nigeria and the rest of the sub-region.
- **Current Enrollees:** Currently, 25 children are actively enrolled in the Program.







CALL TO ACTION:

We invite partners, donors, and stakeholders to join us in expanding the impact of the AUN Feed & Read Program. Together, we can ensure that no child is left behind, providing them with the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.



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