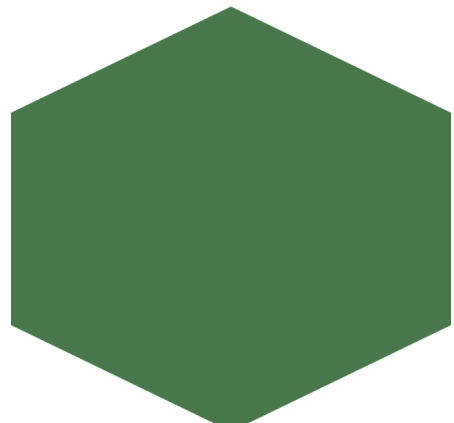
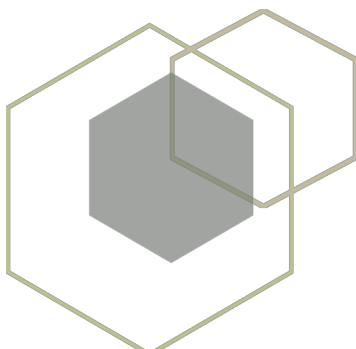


**FOOD DRIVE  
PROJECT REPORT  
OSUN STATE, NIGERIA**



**JUNE 23, 2019**





## Poverty and Food Insecurity in Nigeria

### Background

Approximately 1.2 billion people in the world live in extreme poverty (live on less than one dollar per day). Poverty leads to ill-health, because it forces people to live in conditions and environments lacking decent shelter, clean water and adequate sanitation, and makes them sick (World Health Organization, 2019). Although food is the most basic of all human survival needs, food insecurity remains prevalent in several countries, in spite of the fact that tremendous effort has been put in to improving the quality and production of world food supplies (Matemilola & Elegbede, 2017). Food insecurity is a widespread indicator of urban poverty in Africa, especially in informal settlements (Riley & Chilanga, 2018). The Countries with the highest number of extremely poor people in descending order include India, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh (Katayama & Wadhwa, 2019).

Nigeria has a large number of people living in extreme poverty, with an estimated 87 million Nigerians (about half of the country's population) living on less than \$1.90 a day (Adebayo, 2018). A study on poverty mobility in Nigeria revealed that between 1980 and 2010 more people fell into poverty than escaped from it (Dapel, 2018). In terms of the determinants of chronic poverty, in another article titled “Three Decades of Poverty Mobility in Nigeria”, the author argued that poverty is significantly as a result of factors such as household size, age, level of education, location, and gender (Drapel, 2018).

About 72-91% of Nigeria's poor are at risk of spending their entire life below the poverty line (U.S. News, 2018). Reports from the World Bank show that unemployment and underemployment remain high, each affecting over one-fifth of the labor force. In addition, high inflation rates continue, especially food inflation, which disproportionately affects the poor since food comprises about three-quarters of Nigeria’s consumption basket (The World Bank, 2019). Nigeria’s efforts at reducing poverty will have to yield immediate and long-term results given its growing population. Nigeria is set to become the world’s third largest country by 2050 (Kazeem, 2018).

Osun State is located in the South-Western region of Nigeria and covers approximately 14,875 square kilometers. There is an estimated population of nearly 4 million people in Osun State, with just over 1 million school aged children; 49% of these children are girls. About 50% of the school aged children are enrolled in school (The Partnership For Child Development, 2010).

**“31% of  
the  
children  
in Osun  
State  
have  
stunted  
growth”  
(National  
Population  
Commission,  
2018)**



### Rationale for the Osun State Food Drive Events

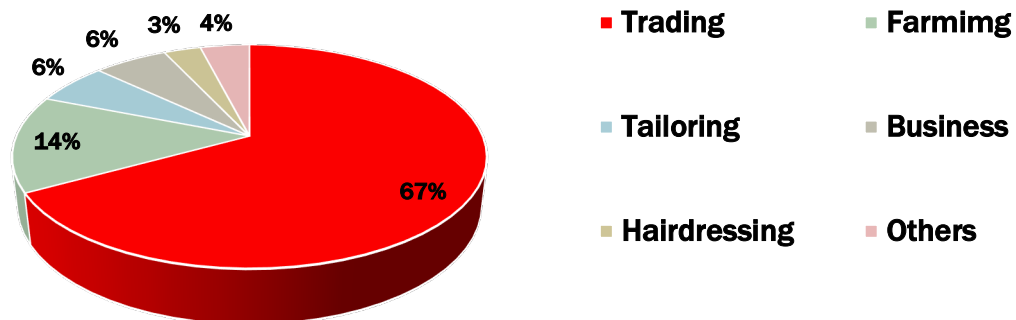
According to the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey conducted in 2008, 31% of the children in Osun State have stunted growth (National Population Commission, 2018). A study of 150 households in Osun State revealed that majority of the households surveyed are food insecure, that is, their daily per capita calorie intake falls below the recommended daily per capita calorie requirement. The food insecure households constitute 54%, surplus index of 0.36 per cent and food insecurity gap of 0.0038. The ravaging food insecurity requires collaboration between local, regional and international policy formulators (Adeniyi & Ojo, 2013). The revelation that majority of the households are lacking in caloric intake prompted FCFA to take steps to increase access to food and reduce food insecurity.

### Event Summary

FCFA hosted food drive events on May 26 and 27, 2019 in three villages in Osun State. The target population for this intervention were “heads of households” living in poor communities with limited access to food or resources. According to data from the United Nations “Household Size and Composition Around the World 2017”, the average household size in Nigeria is 4.6. The events were facilitated by Staff of FCFA and a team of 60 volunteers from diverse professional fields. Consent to obtain demographic data from the participants was obtained using consent forms. Every consenting participant completed a demographic form. Demographic data collected includes name, age, sex and occupation.



**Distribution of Heads of Households by Occupation**





**FCFA Comprehensive Food Package** consists of non-perishable food items, including a bag of rice, beans, cassava flakes, canned milk, tea bags, sugar and salt. These items were distributed by our volunteers to 300 heads of households which will serve approximately **1,380 individuals**. We issued a total of **60 volunteer certificates**. The service of local police officers was engaged to ensure safety and successful implementation of events. The organizers worked closely with village heads and officials who helped secure event locations and assisted with participant recruitments.

The first event took place on May 26, 2019 in a village in Ila Orangun Local Government Area. Fifteen volunteers from the area were recruited to assist with this event. The beneficiaries at this location were one hundred older adult heads of households. These heads of households were predominantly widowed women, and majority were unemployed.

Later that day, the team conducted a second event in Ifedayo Local Government Area. Fifteen volunteers were recruited locally from this area to help coordinate the event. At this location, FCFA Comprehensive Food Package was distributed to one hundred heads of households (men and women). Majority of the beneficiaries were pensioners, and a few had special needs.

**“Although women in Nigeria play a very vital role in the country’s development, majority of them wallow in abject and protracted poverty”**  
**(Usman, 2015)**



**“In May 2019, 1,380 Individuals Were Beneficiaries of the FCFA Comprehensive Food Package”**

88% of Heads of Households Beneficiaries in Osun State, Nigeria were women.

## FCFA Food Drive Events in Osun State, Nigeria



On May 27, 2019, which was Children’s Day in Nigeria, the third event held, this time, in Boluwaduro Local Government Area. Baptist High School, Iresi hosted the event and students from two other schools (Ebekun Middle High School and Kiriji Memorial High School, Igbajo) joined in. One hundred heads of households (parents of students from the three combined schools) received food. Fifteen teachers from the three schools helped facilitate the program as volunteers during the food drive event. In addition, fifteen students from a local Polytechnic (Iresi Polytechnic) also helped with coordination of the event. On May 28, FCFA team hosted a debriefing meeting for all coordinators and volunteers to deliberate on the achievements, lessons learned, and next steps.



Children of recipients of FCFA comprehensive package



Children of recipients of FCFA comprehensive package

**“Every day, countless children across the globe turn up for school on an empty stomach, which makes it hard to focus on lessons” (World food program, 2018)**



### Outcome

We are delighted to have served raw food items in bulk to parents across the three schools and to families in different food insecure villages in Osun State, Nigeria. We particularly chose to visit the schools on Children's Day in Nigeria to help end hunger. Hunger keeps children out of school and limits their abilities to concentrate while there (World food program, 2018).

### Next Steps

FCFA will continue to embark on activities that are aimed at alleviating hunger and helping individuals become self-sufficient. We will organize food drive events and empowerment programs in various low-resource communities around the world. In addition, we will continue to advocate for the creation and adequate funding of programs by the Nigerian government, for the eradication of poverty in the country. FCFA will also create community empowerment programs that will support small businesses, improve food security in communities, increase skill acquisition, alleviate poverty, and improve overall economic growth. To achieve its set goals, FCFA understands that there is value in seeking funds and partnering with other organizations that have similar mission.



## References

- Adebayo, B. (2018). Nigeria overtakes India in extreme poverty ranking. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/26/africa/nigeria-overtakes-india-extreme-poverty-intl/index.html>
- Adeniyi, O., & Ojo, O. (2013). Food Security Status of Rural Farming Households in Iwo. *African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development*, 13(5).
- Dapel, Z. (2018, July 26). Will the Poor in Nigeria Escape Poverty in Their Lifetime? *Center for Global Development Working Paper No. 483*, p. 16.
- Drapel, Z. (2018, July 26). Three Decades of Poverty Mobility in Nigeria: The Trapped, the Freed, and the Never Trapped. *Center for Global Development Working Paper No. 485*, p. 40.
- Katayama, R., & Wadhwa, D. (2019). *Half of The World's Poor Live in Just 5 Countries*. The World Bank.
- Kazeem, Y. (2018). Nigeria is set to stay the World's poverty capital for at least a generation. Retrieved from <https://qz.com/africa/1421543/nigerias-poverty-crisis-is-worsening-oxfam-worldbank->
- Matemilola, S., & Elegbede, I. (2017). The challenges of food security in Nigeria. *Open Access Library Journal*, 4(e4185). Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.4236/oalib.1104185>
- National Population Commission. (2018). Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey. Retrieved from <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/PR118/PR118.pdf>
- Riley, L., & Chilanga, E. (2018). 'Things are not working now': poverty, food insecurity and. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 15.
- The Partnership For Child Development. (2010). Osun state home grown school feeding and health programme case study. Retrieved from <https://hgsf-global.org/en/.../94-osun-state-hgsf-and-health-programme-case-study>
- The World Bank. (2019). Poverty & Equity Brief. Sub-Sahara Africa, Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://databank.worldbank.org/data/download/poverty/33EF03BB-9722-4AE2-ABC7->
- U.S. News. (2018). Tracking Poverty in Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2018-10-23/tracking-poverty-in-nigeria>
- United Nations. (n.d.). Household size and composition around the world 2017. Retrieved from [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/household\\_size\\_and\\_composition\\_around\\_the\\_world\\_2017\\_data\\_booklet.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/ageing/household_size_and_composition_around_the_world_2017_data_booklet.pdf)
- World food program. (2018). School feeding. Retrieved June 22, 2019, from <https://www1.wfp.org/school-meals>
- World Health Organization. (2019). Health and Development: Poverty and Health. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/hdp/poverty/en/>