



Annual Report 2017

House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM)

NGO No CAC/IT/No 21690

Preamble

In 2016, we celebrated our 10th anniversary and shared stories of children whose lives had been changed by the compassionate care and vital resources we were able to provide through the generous benevolence of our supporters. We also reflected on our mission and core values, focused on the critical needs of needy and vulnerable children, celebrated the diversity of our programmes and the commitment we have to accountability and transparency.

2017 has been a challenging and exciting year for us at House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM). As ever we are extremely grateful to our staff, supporters and friends, who together make our work possible. Through our programmes, expanded advocacy and strategic initiatives, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to deal not only with the complex situations faced by most vulnerable children but also to be a force for change in addressing issues of injustice and ending the cycle of poverty in Africa.

At House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we understand that the problems we face cannot be solved by a single person or organisation. This is the reason we endeavour to create wider awareness of current children's issues by highlighting the stories of the children we serve in every context through our website, social media and our advocacy efforts, in order to captivate people's attention and inspire them to take action.

We believe that, as human beings, we are capable of changing the world for the better and that through patience and empathy for our fellow human beings, each and every one of us can make a difference in the lives of children around us.

To gain further insight into our work, we invite you to visit our [website](#). A PDF version of our brochure titled [HOM in a Nutshell](#) featuring major highlights of our work from October 2006 to October 2017 is also available on our website.

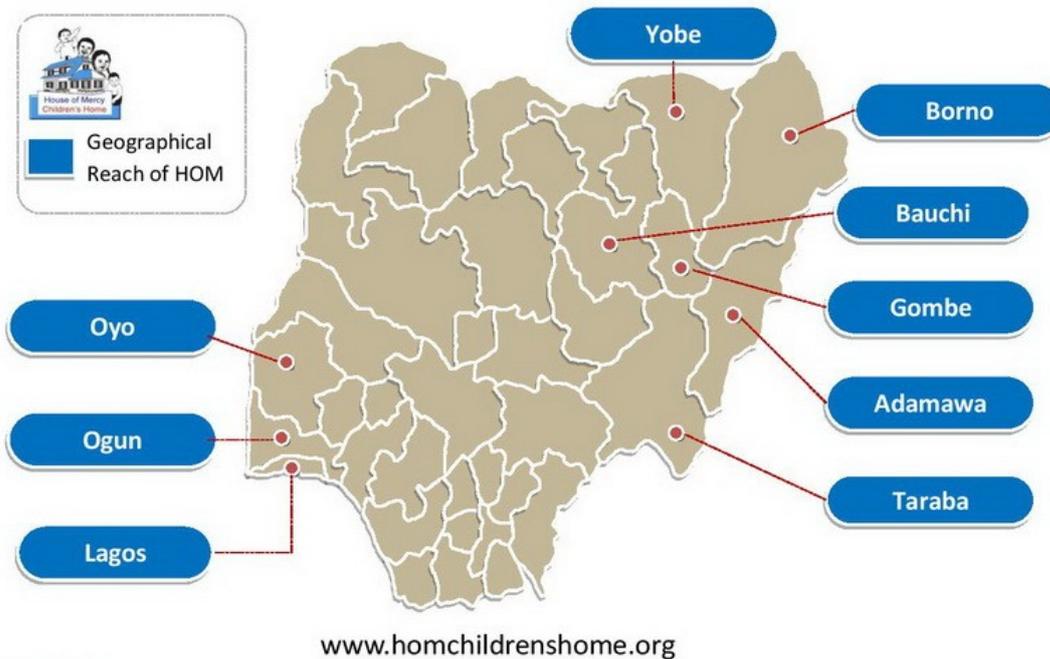


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Highlights for the Year

Geographical Reach: Lagos State, Oyo State, Ogun State & the Northeast Region of Nigeria



A lot can happen in 11 years. From the most humble of beginnings, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has grown in depth and breadth of programmes.

In 2017, we expanded our reach to Radev Early Education Centre, Leper Colony, Iberekodo, Abeokuta in Ogun State, a distance of about 197km from Lagos State where HOM is located.

The scope of assistance provided to needy and vulnerable children has been broadening, in terms of geographical reach. As at December 31, 2017, we have carried out charitable activities in Lagos State, Oyo State and Ogun state and also contributed to ongoing efforts to provide emergency assistance to children in crisis in the Northeast region of Nigeria.

We operate all our charitable activities from our main office in [Lagos](#). We do not have branch offices or agents in Oyo State, Ogun state, in the Northeast or in any other state in Nigeria.

Please [beware](#) of fictitious branch offices as well as fake agents and ambassadors!

As at December 31, 2017, we have carried out charitable activities in Lagos State, Oyo State, Ogun state and also in Northeast Nigeria.

Child Feeding Programme

Food security continued to be high on our agenda throughout 2017. While malnutrition and food insecurity have many causes, such as drought, floods, armed conflict or political disruptions, most of widespread hunger in the world results from deeply rooted poverty. Poverty prevents people from having sufficient access to nutritious food, as well as the means to buy farming equipment and other necessities to produce their own food.

Since the launch of our Mobile Kitchen Programme eleven years ago, we have provided over 140,000 highly nutritious and life-saving meals to child beggars, street children, child scavengers and other needy and vulnerable children and distributed grocery items to over 900 destitute families in Lagos State, Oyo State and Ogun State.



Also through our Emergency Aid Programme, we work to fight famine and acute malnutrition during humanitarian emergencies.

An integral part of our child feeding programme is the distribution of packaged drinking water to children. Access to clean water for hygiene and sanitation is something many take for granted but for vulnerable children, a lack of access to safe and clean water for drinking and hygiene purposes exposes them to preventable waterborne diseases often with lethal consequences.

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is striving to confront child hunger and give future generations the nourishment they need to thrive, one child at a time.

Child Hygiene Programme



Many children living in poverty lack appropriate clothing and shoes and most of these children must have shoes in order to attend school.

In 2017, we distributed clothing and shoes to 850 children and families living in extreme poverty to help protect them from over-exposure to the elements and help them actively participate in school.

Since the launch of our Mobile Kitchen Programme eleven years ago, we have provided over 140,000 life-saving meals to needy children and distributed grocery items to over 900 destitute families in Lagos State, Oyo State and Ogun State.

Children's Home

HOM champions every child's right to a safe, permanent and nurturing home. Since the establishment of our family-based residential home for boys in March 2011 and our home for girls in January 2013, 54 homeless street children, 21 girls and 33 boys between the ages of 2 and 17 years have passed through our children's home.

While some of the 54 children who have passed through our children's home since March 2011 have been reconciled with their families, those who have no home or parents to care for them; and those who cannot be safely reunited with their families remain in our care. We provide security and the right support to build brighter futures for children unable to live with their birth parents.

In 2017, we welcomed 9 children, 4 girls and 5 boys, aged between 3 and 14 years old into our children's home.

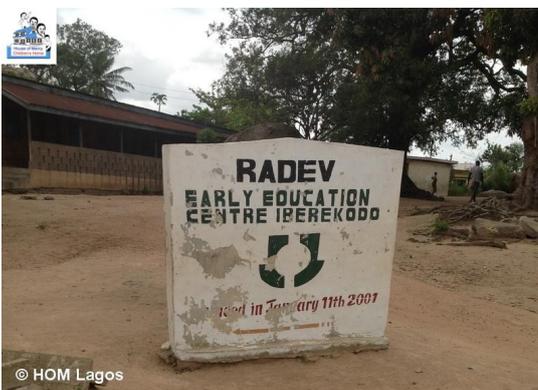
Our residential programme provides a safe home and a stable family environment where children can learn, grow, and ultimately achieve their dreams and aspirations. We provide high-quality care for our children which includes healthy meals and snacks, comfortable sleeping quarters, clothing, books and educational materials, educational opportunities and recreational activities.

In 2017, we prepared a video featuring our children playing in our children's home. The [video](#) can be viewed on our YouTube Channel.



In 2017, we welcomed 9 children, 4 girls and 5 boys, aged between 3 and 14 years old into our children's home.

Child Health Programme: Leprosy Outreach, Ogun State



House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos Nigeria (HOM) continued to expand into more locations in 2017 to provide support to needy children notably at the Radev Early Education Centre, Leprosy Colony, Iberekodo in Abeokuta, Ogun.

The video of the Leprosy Outreach is available on our [Video Gallery](#) and also on our [YouTube Channel](#).

Child Education Programme

The situation with regard to education continued to be of concern in 2017 with falling school enrolment rates, deteriorating quality of education and school systems struggling to overcome the recession.

Lack of access to school education is a source of deprivation and exclusion and it is only through education that every girl and every boy has an opportunity to find his or her right place in the rapidly changing world in which we live.

From mobile schools and school sponsorship to informal literacy programmes and educational support, HOM strives to ensure that girls, children with disabilities, child beggars, street children, and other categories of excluded children, whom no one thinks of educating, have access to learning as a step towards greater opportunity, freedom and empowerment.

The cost of satisfying the need for education is high, but the benefits produced are even higher and the example of the most prosperous societies shows that education is the most effective investment in bringing about growth.



From mobile schools to informal literacy programmes, HOM strives to ensure that excluded children, whom no one thinks of educating, have access to education.

Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities are among the most marginalised groups in Nigeria. Children and youth with disabilities have extremely limited access to proper education, rehabilitation services, medical services, employment, public transport, protection services and other facilities and there are no systematic interventions addressing their needs. Social norms and attitudes also hinder the inclusion of children and youth with disabilities.

At the core of our work ethic at House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos Nigeria (HOM) is the belief that every child, regardless of his or her physical or mental ability, deserves the same opportunities as all children and should be treated with dignity and respect.

In support of children with disabilities, HOM strives to raise awareness about the rights of children with disabilities and combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to children with disabilities.

We advocate for the inclusion of children with disabilities, both physical and intellectual, into the society through inclusive preschool, school and vocational education, participation in community life and interaction with other children, protection from violence, abuse and neglect, prevention of institutionalization as well as inclusive work environments for youth with disabilities.

We have an article entitled [Children with Disabilities: An Invisible Group in Need of Attention](#) available in English, French and Spanish on our website.

Rights of the Child

Nigeria ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1991 and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) in 2001.

Despite significant progress in the realisation of children's rights in Nigeria, measures undertaken to ensure the right of children to health and education; the right to be protected from all forms of violence, child labour and juvenile justice as well as the right of children with disabilities to proper education, rehabilitation services, medical services and other facilities remain insufficient.

Much more remains to be done, because far too many children live in dire conditions without adequate concern by many policymakers.

It is with these challenges in mind that we chose to publish simplified versions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#) on our website to facilitate an awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The [Events](#) Page of our website also includes a list of dates for raising awareness and understanding of the key issues facing children. Our Events page is meant to be used as a guide for policymakers, child advocates, state legislators, elected representatives as well as individuals and organisations who are interested in developing new and innovative initiatives to improve child well-being.

Through advocacy, dialogue and knowledge-sharing, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) strives to promote understanding and knowledge of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and enlist advocates for children's rights.

For the fourth consecutive year in 2017, we continued to provide much needed assistance to children and families in crisis in the Northeast region of Nigeria particularly in the three worst-affected states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northeast Nigeria

For the fourth consecutive year in 2017, we continued to step up our efforts to provide much needed assistance to children and families in crisis in the Northeast region of Nigeria particularly in the three worst-affected states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.

The concentration of problems in the region, namely high rate of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalisation is fueling communal tensions, inter-religious clashes, intra-religious power struggles and fundamentalism emergence on which the insurgents have been capitalising on since 2013.

The complexity of the operational and security issues in the region continues to create challenges and constraints for humanitarian operations.

The video of our emergency humanitarian assistance work in the Northeast region of Nigeria is available on our [Video Gallery](#) and also on our [YouTube Channel](#). The video aims to raise awareness about the plight, courage, and resilience of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Northeast Nigeria.

Emergency Humanitarian Assistance



Humanitarian Assistance Programme Programme d'aide humanitaire Programa de asistencia humanitaria

Across the globe, it is estimated that more than 246 million children currently live in areas affected by armed conflicts and violence. In 2018, it is projected that half the world's poor and the majority of out-of-school children will live in fragile, conflict affected and risk prone environments. In these contexts, access to basic social services and the protection of child rights are largely hampered due to widespread insecurity leading to child deprivation and increased poverty.

Humanitarian crises often lead communities to rely on negative coping mechanisms to ease the financial burden on the family or to protect their children from harm. In some cases, this may lead to an increase in child marriage, trafficking or transactional sex. Boys are also married as children, but girls are disproportionately affected.

Given these complex challenges in humanitarian crises, it is critical for humanitarian action to include protection and assistance that not only meets the needs of children and their families affected by crises but also generates meaningful outcomes for them.

The geographical reach of our [emergency assistance work](#) includes the following:

- [Northeast region of Nigeria](#)
- [Central African Republic](#)
- [Ebola affected nations](#) (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea)
- [Democratic Republic of Congo](#)
- [The Sahel](#)
- [Horn of Africa](#)

Within the limits of available resources and in collaboration with like-minded organisations, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) will continue to meet the assistance and protection needs of people at risk in fragile and conflict affected settings while addressing child protection risks and concerns.

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Commemorative Events

World Leprosy Eradication Day



LEPROSY

Leprosy is preventable, treatable and curable.

La lèpre est évitable, traitable et guérissable.

La lepra es una enfermedad prevenible, tratable y curable.

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) observed World Leprosy Eradication Day on January 29 with a campaign titled **Leprosy is preventable, treatable and curable** with the aim of raising awareness about the plight of children with leprosy and also against the social stigma and misconceptions associated with the disease.

Since our inception in 2006, we have worked tirelessly to serve needy and vulnerable children regardless of tribe, ethnicity, or cultural identity.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March in memory of the lives lost on March 21, 1960 when police opened fire at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid pass laws in Sharpeville, South Africa, killing sixty-nine people and wounding eighty people including women and children.

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination serves as a reminder of the devastating effects of prejudice and discrimination. It prompts us to heighten awareness of the destructive effects of tribalism on a national scale; intensify efforts to reduce instances of tribalism and intolerance; and help build communities where all citizens can live in dignity, equality and peace.

Stereotypes, particularly negative characterizations about different tribes are extremely prevalent and problematic in Nigeria. These stereotypes are fuelled by the negative features that seem to support prejudice and they sometimes make it impossible to understand other tribes enough to work with them or live in harmony with them. Unchecked prejudice leads to discrimination and, in some cases, violence or even genocide in extreme cases.

Parents, mass media and educational institutions each play a significant role in forming and influencing people's attitudes and behaviour:

- **Parents:** It is a well-known fact that children model their parents' behaviour. As the primary agent of socialisation and the first educators, parents play a critical role in either contributing to or breaking down tribal discrimination and stereotypes. Daily, parents model attitudes and behaviour, verbally and nonverbally, even if they are not conscious of doing so.
- **Mass Media:** The mass media also plays an important role in either perpetuating or breaking down stereotypes. If the media characterises particular groups of people in certain ways, their viewers are likely to do the same. If tribal stereotypes are constantly perpetuated in movies, TV programmes, advertising, lyrics of songs and on social media, people will become convinced about the attribution of those qualities.
- **Education:** Educational institutions and teaching materials also have an immense impact on young minds and can affect stereotypes and hence influence inter-tribal relations. If textbooks teach about the treachery and villainous actions of other tribes, this will only perpetuate stereotypes from one generation to the next, entrenching the conflict for many years to come. This does not mean that history should be ignored but it should never be used as propaganda to spread tribal or ethnic hatred.

It is incumbent on everyone who wants a safe and just Nigeria to focus on promoting basic Nigerian values of respect, tolerance and solidarity.

Virtually all scientists accept the fact that there is no credible scientific evidence that one ethnic group, tribe or race is culturally or psychologically different from any other, or superior to another. It is a person's environment that influences the way he or she behaves and thinks.

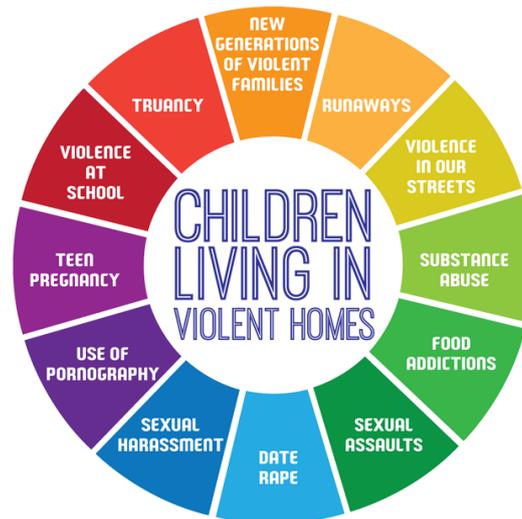
At House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we promote respect, non-violence and the value of linguistic and cultural diversity. Since our inception in 2006, we have worked tirelessly to serve needy and vulnerable children regardless of tribe, ethnicity, or cultural identity. We also promote mother-tongue language education by providing learning programmes for out-of-school children, nomadic and marginalised children in their mother-tongue language.

It is incumbent on everyone who wants a safe and just Nigeria - *one nation bound in freedom, peace and unity* - to focus on promoting basic Nigerian values of respect, tolerance and solidarity so that the hatred and bitterness of a past made up of divisions, wars and violence may be covered over by the foundations of our shared future.

Anything less is an abdication of our responsibility as adult role models for children and for future generations.

Challenges Encountered

Children and Domestic Violence



In 2017, we received requests for accommodation from women who were victims of domestic violence.

Domestic violence, often a taboo subject, is a serious and pervasive social problem that has devastating effects on all family members.

Children who live in homes where there is domestic violence grow up in an environment that is unpredictable, filled with tension and anxiety and dominated by fear. The children will see their mother threatened, demeaned or physically or sexually assaulted. They will overhear conflict and violence and see the aftermath of the violence such as their mother's injuries and her traumatic response to the violence. Children may also be used and manipulated by the abuser to hurt their mother. This can lead to significant emotional and psychological trauma, similar to that experienced by children who are victims of child abuse.

Furthermore, witnessing domestic violence is the single best predictor of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality and it is also the number one reason children run away from home.

In recent years, there has been an increased awareness of the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse. Men who abuse their spouses are also likely to assault their children and children may be directly targeted by the perpetrator and suffer physical abuse, sexual abuse and serious neglect.

Apart from the emotional, physical, social and behavioural damage abuse creates for children, simple observation and psychological research show that children often grow up to mimic the behaviour, beliefs, and attitudes of their parents. In other words, what goes around comes around, from one generation to the next. Children raised in homes that experience domestic violence wrongly assume that violence is an effective way to resolve conflicts and problems and are more likely to replicate the violence they witnessed as children in their adult relationships and parenting experiences. Boys who witness their mothers' abuse are more likely to batter their wives as adults than boys raised in nonviolent homes. Girls raised in violent homes are more likely to embrace the belief that threats and violence are the norm in relationships.

Challenges Encountered

Children and Domestic Violence

The good news however, is that the behavioural and emotional impacts of domestic and family violence improve when the violence is no longer occurring and when children and their mothers are safe and receive support.

Children have the right to a home environment that is safe, secure and free of violence and addressing the issue of domestic violence requires a communitywide response. Now, more than ever before, it is essential for child welfare professionals, domestic violence victim advocates, courts, and other community stakeholders to work together to raise awareness about domestic violence and establish a zero-tolerance to domestic violence by:

- Educating the public about the problems of domestic violence and the solutions. The message to all must be that domestic violence is damaging to everyone, including children who are exposed to it, and that it can be stopped. Perhaps more important is a change in the mindset of those who hold traditions and customs that validate domestic violence and dismiss its impact on children.
- Establishing early detection programmes that train social workers to ask women about domestic violence can also help to break the silence and encourage abused women to seek help.
- Enhancing social services that address the immediate safety of survivors and their children and provide support to domestic violence survivors. Women experiencing domestic violence, particularly those with limited economic resources, are at increased vulnerability to homelessness. The great majority of victims of domestic violence are unable to afford their own homes and have difficulty finding affordable housing. Support for locating safe and affordable safe housing should be considered as means to assist all victims of domestic violence.
- Creating legislation and policies that protect children and reinforce the message that domestic violence is a crime; that perpetrators will be punished; and victims will be protected. Perpetrators of domestic violence should be held accountable for stopping the violent behaviour in order to protect children. Enforcing protective laws and holding offenders accountable sends a clear message that violence is not a private matter and it is unacceptable.

As an organisation working with children, we are deeply committed to ensuring that children are safe from abuse and exploitation. We have published an article entitled [Child Abuse is Everyone's Problem](#) in which we highlight steps to take to prevent, recognise and react responsibly to the reality of child abuse and neglect.

Although we do not have the capacity to provide accommodation for victims of domestic violence and their children, we will continue to work tirelessly to assist victims of domestic violence and their children in any way we can by providing guidance, counselling and referring them to organisations that are able to offer the appropriate support.

We earnestly hope that the criminal, civil, and social justice systems will improve their responses to victims of domestic violence and cooperate with one another so that children and women in Nigeria can live in safe and loving homes.

Challenges Encountered

Africa: From Neocolonialism to True Independence



According to a research carried out by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), an estimated 50 billion dollars leave Africa illicitly every year mostly to Western countries while at least one trillion dollars have left Africa secretly over the last 50 years. About 75% of resources that leave the continent's shores in secrecy are traceable to corporate tax avoidance in the form of trade mispricing by multinational corporations, many with headquarters in G7 countries; debt burden or colonial tax imposed on many former colonies; and criminal networks engaged in drugs and human trafficking, animal poaching, and plundering of the natural resources, wood, oil, minerals, the flora and even the fauna. Only 5% of the illicit financial flows are traceable to official corruption such as payment of bribes and kickbacks by foreign corporations to government officials so that African countries can relinquish control of their natural resources and resource extraction operations.

These funds could otherwise have been used for investments in power supplies, schools, hospitals, housing, sanitation, transportation, safe roads and other much needed public services.

One of Africa's foremost liberation heroes and anti-colonial leader Patrice Lumumba (1925-1961) assassinated in a coup d'état in 1961, in his speech at the All-African Conference in Leopoldville in August 1960 said:

The colonialists care nothing for Africa for her own sake. They are attracted by African riches and their actions are guided by the desire to preserve their interests in Africa against the wishes of the African people. For the colonialists, all means are good if they help them to possess these riches.

Ironically and unfortunately, African governments who are supposed to support the liberation and development of Africa instead all too often merely replicate many of the toxic dynamics that caused much harm to those who grew up in colonial Africa and this has to stop.

Let us have the courage to face the facts and call things by their true names. Africa has the resources necessary to provide wealth, growth, employment and better lives for all Africans. Yet, Africans are suffering appalling hardship and are dying of hunger and disease as a result of the greed, lack of political judgement and the inhumanity of their leaders. It is high time African governments realise that they have a duty to ease that suffering as quickly and effectively as possible.

Challenges Encountered

Africa: From Neocolonialism to True Independence

- **The Need for Credible, Independent and Effective Organisations**

On the basis of our field experience working with most vulnerable children and populations across Africa; on-the-ground perspective of corrupt, oppressive, socially controlling and silencing systems; and our collaboration with grassroots organisations in the development sector, it is obvious that the answers to the most pressing problems in Africa come from the people most affected – Africans, and that the solutions to these problems are political and not charity.

What Africa needs more than ever before are credible, independent and effective organisations and institutions that will boldly challenge and break down structures and systems of injustice that stage coups when meaningful change is afoot, finance violence and wars for profit, use humanitarian aid to support despotic regimes, perpetrate genocide, topple governments, orchestrate the election of docile and subservient presidents and enforce colonial currency and colonial taxes on former colonies.

It will take the collective and integrated efforts of efficient, credible and solid organisations to denounce and combat deeply ingrained systemic injustices that allow foreign powers, with the wilful participation of passive and complacent governments, to steal African heritage items and works of art, plunder natural resources, mastermind and sponsor rebel groups, send foreign mercenaries to create a climate of fear and terror, displace populations and destabilise African countries. And yet all these injustices go unpunished.

Now, more than ever, there is a clear and urgent need for credible, independent and effective organisations to make full use of their influence and do their utmost to speak out forcefully and clearly about the obligation of political leaders to ensure that the people of Africa have a chance to chart their own course, to reach their own destiny, to rule themselves and to build better lives for themselves and their children, without foreign interference or predatory elements disguised as development aid.

These deep-rooted social and political issues will not be resolved by a single action or 'one size fits all' approach but, rather, by the individual and collective efforts of many aspiring for the same goal.

We are at a crucial turning point in our history, as a people and as a continent, where we should be making critical choices and taking prompt and decisive actions that will have a direct impact on the lives of millions of children on the African continent and none of us can afford to sit on the sidelines any longer.

Now, more than ever, there is a clear and urgent need for credible, independent and effective organisations to make full use of their influence and do their utmost to speak out forcefully and clearly about the obligation of political leaders to ensure that the people of Africa have a chance to chart their own course, to reach their own destiny, to rule themselves and to build better lives for themselves and their children, without foreign interference or predatory elements disguised as development aid.

Challenges Encountered

Africa: From Neocolonialism to True Independence

- **The Need for Audacious Policies**

Thomas Sankara (1949-1987), a revolutionary hero and visionary leader assassinated in a coup d'état in 1987, in his quest to see the liberation and development of Africa, left us with these words:

Our revolution is not a public-speaking tournament. Our revolution is not a battle of fine phrases. Our revolution is not simply for spouting slogans that are no more than signals used by manipulators trying to use them as catchwords, as codewords, as a foil for their own display. Our revolution is, and should continue to be, the collective effort of revolutionaries to transform reality, to improve the concrete situation of the masses of our country.

Although Thomas Sankara was President of Burkina Faso for only 4 years (1983–1987), he launched one of the most ambitious programmes for social and economic change ever attempted on the African continent in the areas of literacy, public health, gender equality, women empowerment, infrastructure, economic self-reliance, food security, environmental conservation, climate change, fight against corruption and debt relief, all without foreign aid or external assistance.

Thomas Sankara was a selfless and incorruptible transformational leader with a high sense of integrity who not only had the ability to articulate a clear vision and translate it into policies to change the lives of the Burkinabe people for the better but also the aptitude to anticipate and lead on major development issues likely to impact future generations.

Indeed, the African continent would be a mighty one if political leaders, who use subterfuge to control the masses and get rich on the misery of the people they claim to serve, were driven by patriotism and public-spiritedness and if government policies were truly in the public interest.

Across Africa, there is an extremely urgent need for audacious policies to solve critical problems of grinding poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, air and water pollution, squalid surroundings, high infant mortality and low life expectancy.

There have been some observations that grassroots organisations have not stepped up to the plate in the past. A lot of charitable organisations pride themselves on their neutrality, and they explicitly stay out of politics. Trying to resolve existing problems without addressing the root causes of these problems is counterproductive. We cannot continue to accept fundamental injustices while trying to mitigate the consequences of the injustices. We can and must do better because as grassroots organisations, we have the opportunity as well as the obligation to pressure governments to bring about needed change. We must send a strong message out in favour of reform and accountability. And this accountability must start with governments so that our fine words about the values of independence, democracy and self-determination are translated into concrete action and tangible results for the children and people of Africa.

Our overarching goal at House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is to be a force for positive change. We will continue to challenge perceptions and existing practices and advocate for the establishment of audacious policies for child protection, food production, access to clean water, education, sanitation and basic health care so that the next generation and the generations that follow will live in an Africa that is far better than the one we live in today.

History Corner

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has created a ['History Corner'](#) where we hope to draw your attention to the rich histories of Africa's past.

We have compiled historical documents and pictures in the form of videos that offer glimpses back to the very beginnings of the human race, as well as several historiographies about specific periods in Africa's history. Our videos are rich with images, artifacts, and histories that will fascinate and inspire.

- **Africa**

Did you know all living humans descend from one common ancestor who lived in Africa and that remarkable inventions like mathematics, medicine etc originated from Africa?

Be sure to check out our [Africa](#) video to find out more.

- **Nigeria**

Did you know the Nigerian city of Ile-Ife was paved as early as 1000AD on the orders of Queen Oluwo with decorations that originated from Ancient America, about 500 years before the days of Christopher Columbus?

Discover little-known moments and facts about Nigeria as far back as 9000BC in our [Nigeria](#) video.

- **The African child**

Also available in our History Corner is a [video](#) we created to commemorate the Day of the African Child (DAC), featuring children from different African countries in their traditional costumes.

These three videos are available in English and French on the [Video Gallery](#) page of our website and also on our [YouTube channel](#).

Financial Overview

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is committed to financial accountability and operational transparency. We are committed to helping as many children as possible today while ensuring that we have the funds available to help tomorrow's children and our strategy reflects this position.

With the recession in 2016 and the spill over of the economic challenges into 2017, considerable effort was undertaken to ensure that HOM continued to provide high-quality services to most vulnerable children in the most cost-effective and sustainable way whilst identifying ways to further develop our geographical and demographic reach.

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, companies and foundations. All donations, large and small, regular and occasional, make a huge difference in the lives of the children we serve.

Copies of our [financial statements](#) are available on our website.

Our 2018 Strategic Plan looks at strategies to increase not only public awareness of our programmes but also to increase the support that will flow from this raised awareness.

2018 Goals

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos Nigeria (HOM) is dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged and excluded children through both compassionate outreach and strong financial accountability. It is a lofty goal, but one we believe is achievable, one child at a time.

Going forward in 2018, within the limits of available funds, we will continue to work on improving the services we provide to poor, homeless, marginalised and disconnected children through our focus areas.

Our six focus areas reflect our aim of tackling children's issues from different angles.

1. [Reduction of Child hunger and malnutrition through provision and distribution of free nutritious meals](#)
2. [Education through school sponsorship including girls' empowerment and literacy projects](#)
3. [Family preservation and reunification through reintegration of children into family and community-based care](#)
4. [Reduction of Child homelessness through provision of family-based residential home](#)
5. [Child advocacy and counselling](#) and
6. [Emergency Aid programmes and health care to children in crisis across Africa](#)

As stated earlier in the section on **Africa: From Neo-colonialism to True Independence** (pages 13-15), the solutions to the problems facing the African child are political. These problems cannot be solved by charity or by handing them over to non-governmental organisations.

At HOM, it is our sincere hope that our advocacy work will translate into tangible realities like access to primary health care, basic education, safe drinking water, adequate nutrition and a better life for children and families in Nigeria.

It will take political measures and political decisions to solve critical problems of poverty, malnutrition, child hunger, children living and working on the streets, child abuse and neglect, child labour, disease, illiteracy, air and water pollution, high infant mortality and low life expectancy.

Unfortunately, while these same problems have been rehashed for decades, as far back as the 1960s, what has often been missing are the clear roadmaps and policy agendas to address the problems and move the entire continent forward, particularly for children.

In comparison to the 1960s, however, we have a clearer picture today of what is needed to address the range of challenges encountered by the different countries in Africa.

2018 Goals

The Africa to which we all aspire will not occur unaided. It will require political will, courage and determination by political leaders to tackle the problems facing Africans with a proactive set of solutions that will change the current state of affairs.

Call to Action

This call is a nonviolent response to poverty and injustice. To overcome the challenges we face, we must all play our part.

- **Spread the Word**

Our article **Africa: From Neo-colonialism to True Independence** is available in English and French at the following addresses: <http://africa-wake-up.blogspot.fr> and <http://afrique-reveille-toi.blogspot.fr>

We encourage you to share this article with your family, friends and colleagues by email or on social media.

- **Join in the Struggle for Social Change**

Together, irrespective of tribe, ethnicity, religion, regional differences or political affiliation, let us raise our voices and call on the government to develop clear roadmaps and policy agendas to address the pressing problems facing Nigerians.

Let your voice be heard until legislators, members of parliament, federal, state and local government officials and other policy makers pay attention and devise and implement policies designed to solve critical problems of poverty, malnutrition, child hunger, children living and working on the streets, child abuse and neglect, child labour, disease, illiteracy, air and water pollution, high infant mortality and low life expectancy.

We believe that together in unity our voices will be heard and our advocacy efforts will translate into tangible realities like access to primary health care, basic education, safe drinking water, adequate nutrition and a better life for children and families across the country.

- **Solidarity with Our Fellow Nigerians**

Social change requires not only political measures and political decisions but also a wholesale change in the way we think and the way we act.

In the face of the extreme poverty and misery which so many Nigerians are exposed to, and the economic recession that affects millions of inhabitants across the country, we must all show solidarity and help those in dire need.

- **Be an Agent of Social Change**

Finally, we must keep discussing, not just with ourselves, but with our communities, participating in national and local debates, to express our views and to promote values of integrity, tolerance, love for one's neighbour, respect for the sanctity of human life, civic responsibility and patriotism.

May it be said, in our lifetime, that a new generation of Africans with a different mindset stepped forward who changed the course of history and erased the shame of slavery, colonialism, apartheid, poverty, hunger and disease!

And may we embrace the future with the confidence of a people who know that in spite of all the great tragedies that have marked African history, the best of Africa is yet to come.

Acknowledgements

We would like to recognise the contributions of all those who supported House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM)'s growth and development during 2017. Without the generous benevolence of our amazing supporters, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM)'s achievement as set out in this Annual Report would have been impossible.

On behalf of the children we serve, we owe tremendous thanks to all our friends, donors, supporters and stakeholders who help us, in both large and small ways, to achieve our mission of "Touching Lives, One Child at a Time!" We are so grateful!

Grateful Thanks go to following individuals as well as to those who chose to remain anonymous:

Mr. & Mrs. Animashaun and Family - ₦110 000

The entire Babington-Ashaye Family - ₦431 600

Mr. Morakinyo Beckley - ₦100 000, bulk food items, toiletries, Flat Screen TV, DSTV decoder including cost of installation and subscription fees for one year

Ms. Taiwo Orishayomi - £200

Mr. Kolawole Oki - ₦90 000

Mr. Olusegun Adebayo - ₦300 000

Ms. Ndidi Dike - food items

Ms. Obianuju Iwobi - ₦8 000

Ms. Folasade Isaac - ₦20 000

Ms. Jordan Clark – clothing and miscellaneous items

Mrs. Theodora Ojogun - ₦5 000

Mr. Pius Ikedia – a he-goat

Ms. Blessing Okai - ₦60 000

Mrs. Fadekemi Soremekun - ₦15 000

Mr. & Mrs. Olaleye-Akib - ₦100 000

Ms. Joan Samson - ₦5000

Mr. & Mrs. Nebdal and Family - €300

Mrs. Anna Ughutevbe - ₦175 494.25k

Mr. Robert Kerry - ₦2 000

Mrs. Oyovwi Attah - ₦71 200

Ms. Patricia Folarin - ₦33 500

Mr. & Mrs. Janice Adetolu - ₦5 000

Mr. Olanrewaju Lateef - ₦55 000

Prince Enitan Olaide - ₦10 000

Princess Vitarah - ₦75 000 and snacks

Ms. Dallas - ₦12 000

Mr. & Mrs. Eze - ₦10 000 and food items

Ms. Joan Samson - ₦5000

Ms. Georgina Akhigbe - ₦24 000

Ms. Karen Capener - miscellaneous items

Ms. Ayisat Agbaje - clothing, shoes and toiletries

Mrs. Olajumoke Oshodi-Glover - ₦20,000

Dr. Mrs. Patricia Ibraimoh - ₦20,000

Mrs. Rebecca Omodiale - Christmas party

Acknowledgements

A Hearty Thank You goes to the following Corporations, Foundations & Institutions:

British International School, Lagos - ₦126 390 and books

Caleb Primary & Secondary School - ₦5 000, clothing, shoes and snacks

Ferscoat International School - ₦15 000, food items and clothing

Super International Travels - ₦85 000

Hedge & Risk Limited - ₦100 000

NYSC Charity CDS Group, Alimosho Local Government - Food items and toiletries

Church of Pentecost Anglican Church - ₦30 000

Help & Reconciliation Min. - ₦30 000 and food items

Miracle Prayer Group - food items

Beth-Help Foundation - food items, beverages, toiletries and sports equipment

God's Dynamic International Mission - ₦10 000

Stanbic IBTC Pension Managers - refrigerator

NeshPrint - food items, toiletries, bicycle and school bag

Lydia Auxilliary, Ireti Ogo Baptist Ass. - ₦10 000

Melchisedec Graduate Bible Academy - ₦29 000

Archbishop Vining Church - food items and gifts

Akinwande and the Blessed Teens - ₦35 000 and milk

Association of Chinese Women In Nigeria - food items, toiletries and snacks

Cratus And Caerus International Ltd - ₦13,000

Happy Kids: Promising Purpose - Christmas party

Applied Preneur Technology Ltd - miscellaneous items

Jesuloba Orire Caring Foundation - Christmas party

Classic FM 97.3 - Toys

Make A Child Happy Project - Christmas party

Last but certainly not least, we are deeply grateful to our incredibly committed staff. Without the dedication, commitment and hard work of our HOM Team, often in very difficult circumstances, our funds would achieve nothing. Our sincere appreciation and special thanks to our Coordinator - we are extremely grateful to have such a devoted long-service volunteer who is totally committed to the success of our mission.

Thomas Sankara who paid the ultimate price for improving the well-being of the Burkinabé people once said "I want people to remember me as someone whose life has been helpful to humanity." If truth be told, he left us an inspiring example to follow.

In the same vein, the children whose lives have been touched by the collective efforts of our friends, donors, supporters, volunteers and staff will remember them as people who left a positive imprint on the world as well as a legacy of goodness.

We are so thankful beyond words for your generosity, enthusiasm, and dedication and for the confidence you have placed in us over the past year.

We look forward to 2018 with great anticipation and enthusiasm as we stand together in service to needy and most vulnerable children.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Bunmi Awoyinfa

Bunmi Awoyinfa



House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria



La Maison de la Misericorde

Casa de la Misericordia



Touching Lives, One Child at a Time!

Founded in October 2006, House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is a grassroots NGO focusing on child hunger, child poverty, child homelessness, child illiteracy, child advocacy as well as emergency aid to children in crisis across Africa.

Questions, comments or feedback? Get in touch with us.

House of Mercy Children's Home (HOM)

44 Adebambo street, off Orelope street,

Egbeda, Lagos

Nigeria

+234 803 722 3417

+234 803 722 3417

contact@homchildrenshome.org

www.homchildrenshome.org

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