



# Annual Report 2025

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

NGO No CAC/IT/No 21690

### Preamble

We are honoured to present the 2025 Annual Report for House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), a year that tested our resilience and strengthened our commitment to nourish, educate, shelter, and protect vulnerable children across the nation and beyond, while supporting the families and communities that sustain them.

Despite persistent social and economic challenges, we remained focused on six core programme areas: Child Hunger, Child Education, Child Homelessness, Family Preservation and Reunification, Child Protection, and Humanitarian Assistance.

Through our programmes, we provide access to education, alleviate hunger, support homeless children, reunite families, and deliver humanitarian assistance, guided by compassion, commitment, and decisive action.

Despite abundant natural resources, millions across our nation and Africa continue to face deprivation, malnutrition, and poor health. We work to address the underlying causes of poverty, insecurity, and displacement, while also responding to immediate needs through practical, lasting solutions grounded in local knowledge and African-led innovation.

With limited opportunities in their own country, many young people risk dangerous journeys across deserts and the Mediterranean in search of safety or a better life. Others, disillusioned by hardship and uncertainty, are vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups or paid to participate in online campaigns that inflame religious, ethnic, and political divisions.

We celebrate the extraordinary commitment of our Donors, Supporters, Staff, and Community Partners. Together, we have helped children and families turn adversity into opportunity and imagine brighter futures, demonstrating the impact of collective effort.

For more information about our work, we invite you to explore our [website](#). A PDF of our brochure, [HOM in a Nutshell](#), highlighting key achievements from October 2006 to October 2025 is also available for download.



### Key Highlights from 2025

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## Overcoming Insecurity: Lessons from the AES Countries

*"Children can only learn and thrive in a safe environment.*

*Before building schools, hospitals, or factories, security must be ensured.*

*Without safety, no lasting development is possible"*

*~ Adapted from Cheikh Anta Diop, Taxaw, no. 5, August - September 1977*



Another year has passed, yet insecurity continues to weigh heavily on families across our nation. Kidnappings, violent attacks, and displacement disrupt daily life, and nearly every family knows someone affected.

In June 2025, we released a three-part video series, "[Insecurity in Nigeria: Insights from AES](#)" highlighting African-led perspectives on the roots of insecurity. Written by African authors and available in English, French, and Portuguese, the series examines NATO's 2011 intervention in Libya, the instability it caused in the countries in the Sahel, and the rise of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), comprising Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, as a force of resilience.

On 16 September 2023, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger formed the AES, a defence pact to combat terrorism across the region. Following this, on 6 July 2024 the Heads of State, General Assimi Goïta of Mali, Captain Ibrahim Traoré of Burkina Faso and General Abdourahamane Tchiani of Niger, signed a treaty establishing the Confederation of Sahel States, marking a key step in regional cooperation and security.

Since then, the AES countries have shown that determined armies and volunteers can reclaim territories once controlled by terrorist groups, allowing hundreds of thousands of former Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to return home and rebuild safely. For years, these IDPs lived in overcrowded camps, lost their livelihoods, and faced daily uncertainty. Their return represents not only military success but also a step towards restoring dignity and hope.

Malian, Burkinabé, and Nigerien intelligence services have repeatedly uncovered foreign operatives and organisations channelling funds to terrorist groups and offering large sums of money to army officers, government officials, and other citizens to destabilise their countries. These successes show that determination, unity, and effective local action can achieve lasting security.

We extend our deepest sympathy to families who have lost loved ones. While insecurity persists across our nation, the successes of the AES countries demonstrate that lasting security is achievable. Reflecting on both the suffering in our nation and their progress, we renew our call: those in authority must act decisively. The future of our children and the safety of our communities depend on it.

# Our Year in Review

## Our Programmes and Projects

*"Since its launch 19 years ago, our Child Feeding Programme has delivered more than 1.9 million nutritious meals to child beggars, street children, waste pickers, and other vulnerable groups across six states: Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Akwa Ibom, Imo and Benue. Alongside this, over 70,000 families, older people, and individuals with disabilities have received essential grocery packs."*

### Child Feeding Programme



Despite Nigeria's abundance of fertile land and natural resources, hunger remains a harsh daily reality for thousands of children and families. For many, the struggle for food overshadows every other aspect of life, denying children the energy and opportunity they need to learn, play and grow.

Since its launch 19 years ago, our Child Feeding Programme has delivered more than 1.9 million nutritious meals to child beggars, street children, waste pickers, and other vulnerable groups across six states: Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Akwa Ibom, Imo and Benue. Alongside this, over 70,000 families, older people, and individuals with disabilities have received essential grocery packs, helping them bridge the gap between survival and dignity. Each meal served represents not just nourishment, but

a reminder that these children are not forgotten.

Child hunger is both a tragedy and a threat to the nation's future. A hungry child cannot concentrate in school, is more prone to illness, and faces lifelong consequences from malnutrition. The programme tackles this silent emergency head-on, giving children the chance to grow strong, stay in school, and break free from the cycle of poverty.

#### Scaling Up Support: Operation Hunger Relief

Launched in March 2024, [Operation Hunger Relief](#) has quickly become a vital extension of our mission to tackle hunger. The programme provides emergency food supplies to children, families, older people, and those living with disabilities who are struggling to make ends meet amid rising costs and economic uncertainty.

#### Our Ongoing Food Security Initiatives (Since 2006)

Since 2006, we have worked to address food insecurity in Nigeria and across Africa. Our work goes beyond feeding programmes to include advocacy, research, and community-based solutions:

- **2020 – [Food Security in Africa](#):** We produced a video featuring 76 resources by African authors and experts, offering practical strategies to strengthen food security across the continent. The video was launched on Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (30 October 2020) and is available on our YouTube channel.

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*"On World Food Day, 16 October 2025, we distributed food items and other essentials to vulnerable children, struggling families, street beggars, and people experiencing homelessness, reinforcing our commitment to those most at risk."*

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- **2021 – [Lake Chad Basin Food Crisis](#):** We highlighted the ongoing hunger affecting millions in the region, giving a platform to those directly affected and raising awareness of urgent needs.
- **16 October 2025 – [Marking World Food Day](#):** We distributed food items and other essentials to vulnerable children, struggling families, street beggars, and people experiencing homelessness, reinforcing our commitment to those most at risk.

**Further Resources and Annual Highlights:** Videos of these initiatives, together with annual highlights from our [World Food Day](#) activities and [Child Feeding](#) Programme, can be found on our YouTube channel.

## Children's Home



Since opening its doors in March 2011, our Children's Home has provided children in need with love, support, and a safe, nurturing environment. Over the years, it has become a pillar of guidance and reassurance, helping 100 children who have passed through our doors navigate profound challenges, including homelessness, family separation, and hardship, and pursue brighter, more hopeful futures.

We are pleased to share stories that illustrate the resilience, growth, and positive outcomes of children who have passed through our care:

- **From Care to Community Impact:** One of our children, who joined us at the age of 9 in 2011, graduated from Lagos State University in 2024 and is now serving in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), completing his journey from our care to making a meaningful contribution to the community.
- **Education Milestone:** Another young resident, who became part of our family in 2013, completed her secondary education in 2024 with steady determination. She has since secured admission to Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, Ogun State to study Accountancy, marking an encouraging step towards her future goals.
- **Family Reunification:** A significant part of our work involves reconciling children with their families. Over the years, many of the 100 children who have passed through our care have been reunited with their families, while those who cannot be safely reunited continue to receive love, support, and stability in our care.

*"One of our children, who joined us at the age of 9, graduated from university in 2024 and is now serving in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), completing his journey from our care to making a meaningful contribution to the community."*

Discover what life is like at our Children's Home by visiting our YouTube channel, where a dedicated playlist of [School Holiday Events](#) showcases the joy, growth, and sense of community that define our home.

Additional curated playlists featuring our [Street Children Programme](#), [Children's Day celebrations](#), and festive [Christmas events](#) are also available. These videos capture moments of compassion, solidarity, and encouragement for vulnerable youth, widows, and families facing hardship. Our latest [Christmas Clothing Outreach 2025](#) is also available on YouTube.

## Child Education Programme

In the communities we serve, children have the ability to thrive academically and personally, but barriers such as poverty and overcrowded, under-resourced schools prevent many from learning, developing, and pursuing their dreams. Financial hardship often forces families into impossible choices, where sending a child to school competes with the need for them to contribute to household income. Denied education, children face fewer opportunities in life, and the cycle of poverty and educational disadvantage often perpetuates across generations.

### Our Educational Initiatives (Since 2006)

For the past 19 years, House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has been committed to breaking down these barriers. Through our educational initiatives, children can learn, grow, and shape their future.



From [mother-tongue education](#) and [non-formal learning programmes](#) to [school sponsorships](#), [digital literacy projects](#), and the [creation of a children's library](#), we are opening doors for young learners to develop their abilities, explore their interests, and achieve their aspirations.

- [Back-to-School Support](#): Since 2007, our Back-to-School Support initiative has provided essential financial aid to parents and families in need, including parents with disabilities. In 2025, we continued this support in January, April, and September, covering school fees, learning materials, and basic living costs, enabling children to stay in school and pursue their dreams.

### See Our Impact in Action

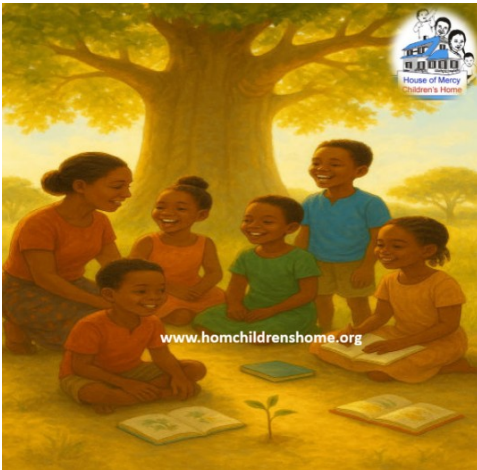
Explore the impact of our work online. From our [Child Education Programme](#) to our [Child Beggar Programme](#), these videos showcase the lives we are helping to transform. You can also view our special tribute to teachers, released on [World Teachers' Day](#), 5 October 2021.

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## Child Mental Health and Wellbeing



### The Impact of Hardship and Insecurity on Children's Wellbeing

Our work across the country continues to reveal the serious challenges children face amid rising poverty and growing insecurity. Many families struggle to meet basic needs while living under constant threat from kidnappings, armed attacks, and other forms of violence.

Children exposed to these conditions frequently experience anxiety, depression, and, in some cases, suicidal thoughts. Living with constant fear, whether from financial pressures at home or threats of violence in their communities, hinders children's ability to learn, play, and develop, leaving lasting emotional and psychological scars.

Through our programmes, we see clearly that providing safe spaces, consistent emotional support, and accessible mental health services is crucial in helping children cope with trauma and build resilience. Our frontline observations underline an urgent truth: tackling poverty and insecurity together is essential to protecting children's mental health, supporting their development, and giving them the chance to grow up in safety and hope.

### Our Commitment: Mental Health and Wellbeing Resources

In 2020, in response to the growing mental health challenges faced by children and families navigating difficult and unstable circumstances, we published a comprehensive collection of [134 Mental Health and Wellbeing resources](#) in English, French, and Portuguese. These resources were developed by a diverse group of professionals, including African, African American, Afro-Brazilian, Guyanese, and Martinican psychiatrists, psychotherapists, psychologists, doctors, researchers, and writers, to address a wide range of mental health and psychosocial issues.

The resources cover common mental health conditions such as ADHD, anxiety, depression, suicide, and substance abuse, as well as critical psychosocial challenges including domestic violence, child abuse, and intra-community violence. They aim to empower caregivers, educators, and communities to support children's emotional resilience and wellbeing in the face of ongoing stress and adversity.

### Our Actions Count

As we work to protect the mental health and wellbeing of children, we invite you to join us in this vital mission. Share these resources widely, spark conversations about mental wellbeing within your families and communities, and advocate for safe spaces, emotional support, and access to care for every child. Help us create a future where children can thrive despite the challenges they face. Your voice and support can truly change lives.

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*"In January 2025, we organised a school feeding programme supporting children who are blind, deaf, physically, or intellectually challenged, reflecting our continued dedication to care and dignity for every child."*

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## Children with Disabilities



### A Year of Advocacy and Support

Since its inception, House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has been dedicated to supporting children with disabilities and ensuring their voices are heard. Over the past year, our programmes have continued to provide essential care, guidance, and opportunities to children and their families, helping them navigate the distinct challenges they face.

- In January 2025, we compiled a [nationwide directory of schools catering to children with disabilities](#) across Nigeria, covering all 36 states. The list includes institutions for children who are blind, deaf, physically, or intellectually challenged, arranged alphabetically by state for easy access. This resource provides families with the information they need to make informed educational choices.
- Also in January, we organised a [School Feeding Programme](#) at Egbeda Special Basic School in Ibadan, supporting children who are blind, deaf, physically, or intellectually challenged. This initiative expanded on a similar programme held at the same school on [World Food Day in 2023](#), reflecting our ongoing commitment to supporting children with disabilities.

### Our Advocacy Work (Since 2014)

The impact of our efforts is reflected in the stories we encounter every day, with children discovering new skills, families finding support, and communities beginning to recognise the needs of children who are too often overlooked. These experiences shape and reinforce our mission to provide practical support while advocating for the rights of children with disabilities.

As part of our broader work, we continue to raise awareness through publications such as our article, 'Children with Disabilities: An Invisible Group in Need of Attention,' available on our website in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#). To explore more of our solidarity activities with children with disabilities, visit our dedicated [YouTube playlist](#).

Looking ahead, we will continue to strive to advocate, and offer practical support to children with disabilities and their families.

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*"Every child's safety is our shared responsibility. Toll-free rescue lines and guidance on reporting suspected child abuse are available on our [website](#)."*

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## Child Protection

### Protecting Children, Together

Tragically, many children still face serious and growing threats, from neglect and abuse to exploitation, trafficking, child labour, and attacks on schools. These experiences leave lasting scars, disrupting education, emotional development, and the simple joys of childhood. Children exposed to such harm may struggle to trust adults, concentrate in school, or play freely, and too often, their concerns about abuse are ignored. It is up to all of us to ensure children grow up in safety and confidence.



### Our Commitment to Child Protection (Since 2006)

- Since 2006, we have worked to raise awareness, educate communities, and advocate for stronger protections for children. Our articles, including [Child Abuse is Everyone's Problem](#), [The Little Match Girl](#), and [There is a Mouse Trap in the House](#) are available in English, French, and Spanish, helping to reach Anglophone, Francophone, and Hispanophone audiences across Africa.
- At House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we believe that protecting children is everyone's responsibility, from government authorities to local communities and the public. Every child deserves to grow up healthy, confident, and free from harm in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Simplified versions of this vital treaty are available on our website in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#), as well as a [calendar of events](#) that highlights key awareness dates and helps communities understand and respond to issues affecting children.
- Our video campaigns, such as [Stop Child Abuse](#) video and [Stop Violence against Girls](#) continue to reach audiences across multiple platforms, exposing the realities of abuse and motivating action to protect children, particularly girls facing targeted threats.

### Speak Up, Speak Out & Report Child Abuse

If you or someone you know needs assistance or wishes to report incidents of child abuse or domestic violence, we provide toll-free rescue lines and essential information on how to report suspected child abuse and neglect to the relevant authorities on our [website](#).

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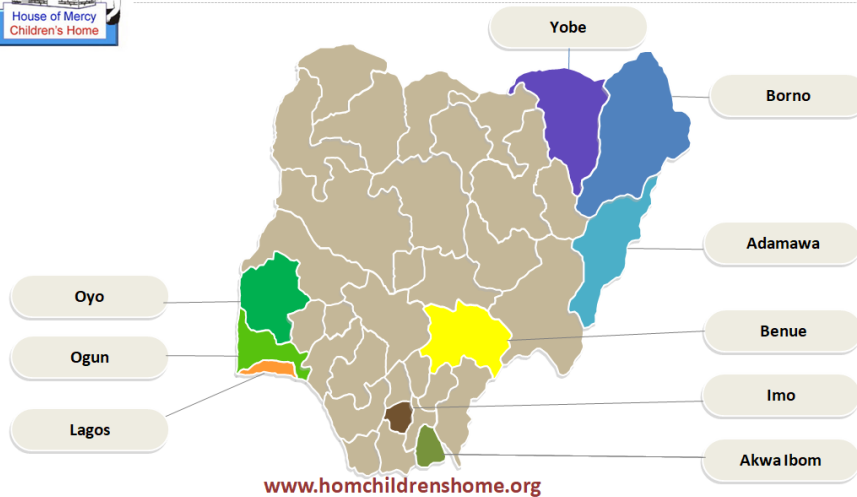
*"We remain committed to child protection and to building a society where every child grows up safe, cared for, and protected. #ProtectOurChildren #StopChildAbuse."*

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## Solidarity Activities with Children in Nigeria



### Mapping Our Impact in Nigeria (2006-2025) States Where We Support Nutrition, Education, and Resilient Communities



### Solidarity Activities in Nigeria – Oyo, Imo, Benue and the North-East

Throughout 2025, we carried out a series of solidarity initiatives across Nigeria, focusing on areas most affected by poverty, displacement and insecurity. These actions sought to nourish bodies, lift spirits and restore dignity, bringing moments of joy to children facing life’s hardest trials.

- **Oyo State:** In February 2025, a school-feeding initiative, titled Enhancing Education through Nutrition, was held at Community Central School, Olode, Ibadan, to support vulnerable pupils. The programme provided nutritious meals that improved concentration, health and learning outcomes.
- **Imo State:** In March 2025, the child feeding programme extended to the Amauzari community, Isiala Mbano LGA, where children received wholesome meals in a setting of care and encouragement. The video Meals for Children in Imo State, can be viewed on our YouTube channel.
- **North-East Nigeria:** On 27 May 2025, during Children’s Day celebrations, we honoured the resilience of internally displaced children at the Brighter Days event. The day was filled with games, shared meals and laughter, giving children a chance to feel seen, valued and supported. Since [2013](#), we have worked alongside displaced families, drawing strength from their courage in adversity. The video Children’s Day Celebration for IDP Children is available on our YouTube channel.
- **Benue State:** In August 2025, a Solidarity Meal was held in Benue, a region marked by violence and instability. The event reached children orphaned or made vulnerable by conflict, offering nourishment, comfort and a moment of peace. The video Solidarity Meal for Children in Benue can be found on our YouTube channel.

Through our work in schools, communities, camps for displaced families and conflict-affected regions, we continue to bring care, strength and hope to Nigeria’s most vulnerable children. #OurChildrenOurFuture

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*"Through our work in schools, communities, camps for displaced families and conflict-affected regions, we continue to bring care, strength and hope to Nigeria’s most vulnerable children."*

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## Solidarity Activities with Children in the Diaspora

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*"In 2025, we brought nourishment and joy to children in Haiti and French Guiana through feeding programmes and shared celebrations."*

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### Solidarity Activities with Children – the Diaspora

In 2025, we extended our support beyond Nigeria, bringing nourishment, care and moments of joy to children in Haiti and French Guiana.

- [Solidarity with Haitian Children](#): Our 5th Annual Child Feeding Programme, held in September 2025, continued our commitment to children's health and happiness in Haiti. The initiative provided nutritious meals and joyful moments, touching the lives of many young people.
- [Solidarity with French Guiana's Children](#): To mark Universal Children's Day on 20 November 2025, we organised a day of shared meals and play for children in French Guiana. The event brought smiles, laughter and community spirit, celebrating compassion that transcends borders.

At House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we believe that lasting change grows from shared effort. That is why we work closely with like-minded individuals, communities and partner organisations across Africa and the Diaspora.

A [playlist](#) showcasing our solidarity work with children across Africa (including Togo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Tanzania, Gabon, the Republic of Benin, Uganda and Burkina Faso) and the Diaspora (Haiti, Brazil and French Guiana) over the years is available on our YouTube channel. This collection reflects the reach and impact of our solidarity work.

Together, with our partners across Africa and the Diaspora, we uphold the African values of unity, empathy and mutual support, and we are building a brighter, more hopeful future for the next generation. #WeAreOurBrothersKeeper

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*"Together, with our partners across Africa and the Diaspora, we are building a brighter, more hopeful future for the next generation."*

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## Humanitarian Assistance and Advocacy Programme – Africa



### Our Reach across the Continent

Across Africa, we work where crises are deepest and needs greatest, helping communities to recover, rebuild and reclaim hope. Our humanitarian response delivers life-saving aid, supports education, and strengthens resilience in the face of conflict, displacement and climate-related hardship.

Since 2011, our [humanitarian assistance and advocacy](#) work has spanned some of Africa's most fragile regions including:

- [Northeast Nigeria](#) (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States).
- [Democratic Republic of Congo](#)
- [The Lake Chad Basin](#)
- [Horn of Africa](#) (Northern Ethiopia)
- [The Sahel region](#) (Burkina Faso, Far North region of Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger)
- [Central African Republic](#) and
- [Ebola affected nations](#) (Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea)

Each context brings distinct challenges, yet our purpose remains clear: to stand with communities, champion their voices and help ensure that hope outlasts hardship.

### Impact in Pictures

We invite you to explore stories of courage, recovery and renewal from across the continent through a dedicated playlist on our [YouTube channel](#). These images show children returning to classrooms, women leading recovery efforts and communities rebuilding their lives with determination. They remind us that humanitarian action is not only about saving lives today but about helping to secure a safer tomorrow.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to building lasting partnerships, amplifying the voices of the vulnerable, and ensuring that dignity and justice guide every step of our work.

## African Renaissance

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*"Democracy is not a bottle of Coca-Cola which you can import.  
Democracy should develop according to that particular country"  
~ Julius Nyerere, in a speech in June 1991, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*

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### AES Leadership and Achievements

General Assimi Goïta of Mali, Captain Ibrahim Traoré of Burkina Faso, and General Abdourahamane Tchiani of Niger are widely recognised as symbols of freedom, sovereignty, dignity, and hope. In a remarkably short period, they have shown that Africa can pursue its own path to development.

As Julius Nyerere, Tanzania's founding president and long-time advocate of African self-reliance, once said, "Democracy is not a bottle of Coca-Cola which you can import. Democracy should develop according to that particular country." These leaders reflect that principle, shaping governance and progress to meet the specific needs of their nations. They are among the most courageous leaders the continent has seen in recent decades, and their record of achievements is striking.

The Sahel renaissance began with General Goïta on 18 August 2020, followed by Captain Traoré on 30 September 2022, and General Tchiani on 28 July 2023. Despite persistent attempts to undermine their progress through foreign-backed terrorist attacks, psychological warfare and biased media coverage, they have restored sovereignty and control over their resources. These visionary leaders have launched bold initiatives to improve citizens' quality of life, expand infrastructure, boost local economies, and enhance national security.

The following highlights represent only a selection of their achievements.

#### Mali: General Assimi Goïta

- **Education Reform & Skills Development:** Basic school curricula now include practical skills such as agriculture, carpentry, and woodworking.
- **Food Security:** Launch of the National Response Plan to Food Insecurity 2025, mobilising over 12 billion CFA francs for cereal distribution, subsidised rice, and support for farmers, fishers, and land restoration initiatives.

- **Healthcare & Social Services:** Expansion of health services and community support initiatives in rural areas.
- **Infrastructure & Public Services:** Oversight of storage facilities, aid distribution, and development of transport and logistics infrastructure.
- **Resource Management & Sovereignty:** Strengthening national control over resources and promoting policies for self-reliance.
- **Economic & Social Empowerment:** Programmes targeting vulnerable populations and ensuring equitable access to basic needs.
- **Language & Identity:** Mali has dropped French as an official language, while 13 indigenous languages, including Bambara, Fula, Songhay, Dogon and Tamasheq, now hold official status.

### **Burkina Faso: Captain Ibrahim Traoré**

- **Education Reform & Skills Development:** Nationwide patriotic immersion programme for 60,000 recent graduates to instil civic responsibility and national unity.
- **Food Security & Agriculture:** Distribution of tractors, power tillers, motor pumps, and motorcycles significantly increased crop yields, including tomatoes, millet, and rice.
- **Healthcare & Social Services:** Mobile clinics, solar-powered vaccine refrigerators, and free cataract surgeries deployed to rural communities.
- **Industrial Development:** Construction of tomato and cotton processing plants, a state-of-the-art gold mine, and a National Support Center for Small-Scale Cotton Processing; exports of raw gold have ended.
- **Infrastructure & Public Services:** Expansion of road networks, hospital construction, mobile health units, and new Ouagadougou airport under construction.
- **Economic & Fiscal Reform:** GDP growth, ministerial salary cuts, civil servant pay increases, and local debt repayment.
- **Language & Identity:** Burkina Faso has dropped French as an official language, while indigenous languages, including Mooré, Bissa, Dyula, and Fula, now hold official status.

### **Niger: General Abdourahamane Tchiani**

- **Education Reform & Skills Development:** Construction of schools and provision of incentives for parents to send children to school, enhancing literacy and human capital.
- **Food Security & Agriculture:** Initiatives to improve local agricultural output and food availability for vulnerable populations.
- **Healthcare & Social Services:** Improved access to healthcare services, social programmes, and support for disadvantaged communities.
- **Infrastructure & Public Services:** Development of transport, energy, and logistics infrastructure to support national growth.

- **Resource Management & Sovereignty:** Strengthening national control over natural resources and reducing foreign dependency.
- **Economic & Social Empowerment:** GDP growth from 2.0% in 2023 to 14.4% in 2025; and poverty reduction, lifting over 260,000 Nigeriens out of extreme poverty in less than two years.
- **Language & Identity:** Niger has dropped French as an official language, while Hausa has been declared the national language.

The collective achievements of the leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger demonstrate that Africa's challenges are neither insurmountable nor dependent on foreign intervention. These successes reflect Julius Nyerere's insight that self-governance and progress should emerge organically within a country, rather than being copied entirely from elsewhere.

The vision, discipline, commitment to national sovereignty, and deep dedication to the welfare of their people of General Assimi Goïta of Mali, Captain Ibrahim Traoré of Burkina Faso, and General Abdourahamane Tchiani of Niger show that decisive, principled leadership can move the continent from foreign-dominated marginalisation to genuine self-reliance.

Their example also proves that, with courage and determination, Africa already holds within its borders the people, resources, land, and capacity to achieve lasting transformation and prosperity.

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*"The AES experience raises a vital question: how can African countries deliver governance that truly benefits their citizens and delivers real progress?"*

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### **Effective Governance vs Decades of Electoral Stagnation**

While we are not advocating military takeovers as a model for political progress, the experience of the AES countries has prompted serious questions about the effectiveness of democracy across the continent. In a short time, their authorities have introduced initiatives that many citizens see as practical and responsive, providing a stark contrast to decades of electoral politics that have often failed to deliver meaningful change.

For many African countries, the promise of democracy has been undermined by persistent problems: weak institutions, chronic mismanagement and political systems that appear more attentive to elite interests than to public welfare.

More than sixty years after independence, it is clearly evident across much of Africa that electoral democracy has not advanced development or restrained corruption and elite influence. These failures have fuelled widespread disillusionment, leaving citizens to question why regular elections have not translated into better services, stronger accountability or tangible improvements in their daily lives.

It is within this environment that developments in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have sparked continent-wide interest. Their current leaders have taken visible steps to address corruption, reorganise country functions and engage more directly with citizens. These initiatives have prompted a re-evaluation of what effective leadership looks like and why many elected governments struggled to achieve similar momentum.

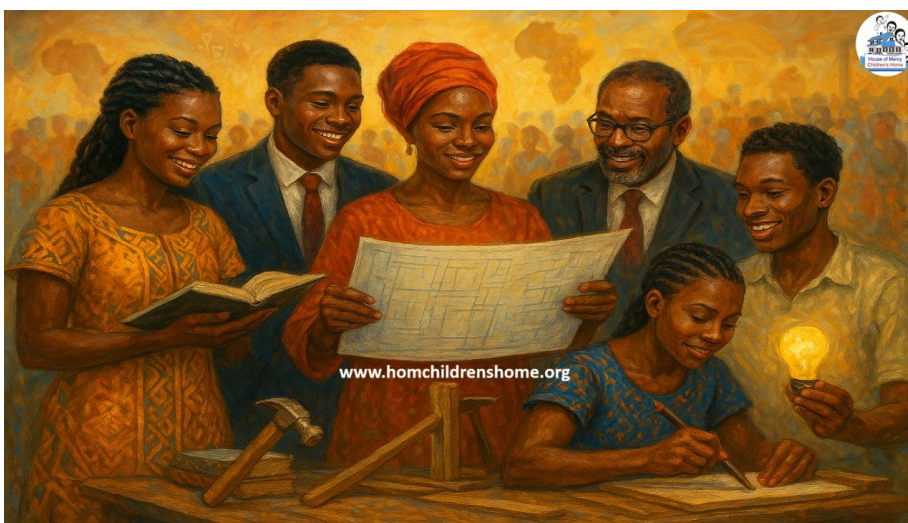
The discussion now emerging across the continent is less about choosing between military and civilian power and more about the quality of governance itself. The AES experience has simply sharpened a long-standing question: how can African countries construct political systems that genuinely serve their citizens, uphold accountability and deliver progress that people can see and feel?

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*"We are failing because we are willing to do everything for money but not willing to do anything for our people." ~ Muhammad Ali*

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### Our Ongoing African Renaissance Initiatives (Since 2018)



Since 2018, we have led a series of initiatives aimed at advancing Africa's self-reliance, prosperity, and empowerment.

Our '[Africa Wake Up](#)' campaign set the foundation by tackling poverty and injustice, paving the way for the launch of our '[African Renaissance](#)' initiative in 2020, which envisions a self-reliant and sovereign Africa where people are fully in control of their destinies.

To bring this vision to life, on Africa Day, 25 May 2020, we released '[Africa's Blueprint for Action](#)', a video highlighting books by African authors, academics, and practitioners in English, French, and Portuguese. These resources explore the root causes of Africa's challenges and offer practical solutions to achieve meaningful progress.

In addition, we curated the '[African Renaissance](#)' playlist on our YouTube channel, and our [website](#) hosts resources in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese, ensuring that Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora can engage effectively with our work.

We invite everyone to explore these resources and join us in shaping a brighter, self-determined future for Africa.

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*"Explore these resources and join us in creating a brighter, sovereign future for Africa."*

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## Commemorative Events

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*"History is a clock people use to tell their political and cultural time of day. It's a compass that people use to find themselves on the map of human geography. History tells them where they have been, what they have been, where they are and what they are. But most importantly history tells a people where they still must go and what they still must be. The relationship of history to the people is the same as the relationship of a mother to her child." ~ Dr. John Henrik Clarke*

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Each year, we mark key [global events](#), especially those affecting children and communities across Africa and its Diaspora. These commemorations raise awareness, deepen understanding and inspire action. They also challenge stereotypes and misinformation about African history and heritage, highlighting the continent's enduring contributions to humanity.

Thank you for joining us in building a more informed, united and confident African society, one that honours its past, claims its heritage and shapes its future.

### International Mother Language Day - 21 February

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*"No nation has emerged from underdevelopment through the government's use of a foreign language, unless the process of acculturation has become irreversible. Are Africans different from others in this regard?" ~ Cheikh Anta Diop*

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As Frantz Fanon, Martinican psychiatrist and revolutionary thinker, observed in *The Wretched of the Earth*, "The colonial system nurtures the colonised people in such a way as to make them believe that salvation lies in their identification with the coloniser's values." This is evident in African colonial history, where indigenous languages and cultures were often suppressed in favour of European ones. Schools, churches and administrative systems taught European language, history and culture as superior. African children were educated to see European ways of thinking, speaking, dressing and behaving as 'civilised', while their own languages, traditions and customs were considered 'backward' or 'primitive'. In British colonial schools, for example, English was the language of instruction, and children were punished for speaking their indigenous mother tongues. Over time, many Africans internalised these messages, believing they had to adopt European values to succeed or be respected, even if this meant rejecting their own culture.

## Our Mother-Tongue Education Initiatives Since 2008

Since 2008, House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has organised and implemented [mother-tongue literacy programmes](#) for unschooled child beggars, children from nomadic communities, and other marginalised children. These programmes aim to give excluded children access to education in their mother tongue, while promoting literacy, cognitive development and cultural awareness.

On 21 February 2020, International Mother Language Day, we launched a video as part of these ongoing efforts, advocating for the educational rights of African children denied schooling, including those out of school, from nomadic or minority communities, refugees, displaced children and former child soldiers. The [video](#) features 35 books by African academics and experts, providing guidance on the use of African languages in education, and is available on our YouTube channel.

On 21 February 2025, International Mother Language Day, we published "[Unshackling Minds: Mother-Tongue Education as a Path to African Renaissance](#)", examining the lasting impact of colonial languages on African nations. The article shows how mother-tongue education nurtures cognitive development, preserves cultural heritage and drives national progress. Drawing on the visionary and pioneering work of Dr Cheikh Anta Diop, distinguished Senegalese historian and Egyptologist known as the "Pharaoh of Knowledge", the article highlights examples of linguistic empowerment from Ethiopia and Vietnam. The full article is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Portuguese](#).

Through these initiatives, we continue to empower African children to learn, grow and thrive in their mother tongues.

## World Health Day: 7 April

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*"In half a century of exploitation, uranium has brought Nigeriens nothing but misery, pollution, rebellion, corruption, and desolation, and to the French, prosperity and power."*

*~ Ali Lamine Zeine, Prime Minister of Niger, UNGA 80th Session.*

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In recent years, House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has tackled numerous public health issues affecting children, including [malaria](#), [developmental disabilities](#), [mental health challenges](#), [sickle cell anaemia](#), [albinism](#), and [HIV/AIDS](#).

### The Human Cost of Destructive Resource Exploitation

In 2025, we focused on the often-overlooked impact of destructive resource extraction on children's health. Oil exploitation in Nigeria's Niger Delta, uranium mining in Niger and mineral extraction in the Democratic Republic of

the Congo (DRC) have had devastating effects on children and their communities. On World Health Day, we highlighted these impacts, advocating for resources to benefit rather than burden local populations.

### **From Oil Spills to Heavy Metals – A Toxic Legacy**

Exploitative practices bring severe environmental and health consequences. Deforestation, soil degradation, water contamination, and habitat destruction worsen food insecurity and displace vulnerable populations.

- In Nigeria's Niger Delta, oil spills pollute rivers, damage fishing livelihoods and deprive communities of clean water. Gas flaring contributes to respiratory illnesses, while birth defects, skin diseases, and cancers remain high.
- In Niger, uranium mining exposes communities to radioactive dust, increasing long-term health risks and developmental complications for children.
- In the DRC, cobalt, coltan and other minerals are mined under hazardous conditions, often involving child labour. Heavy-metal exposure and inadequate sanitation lead to serious neurological problems and the spread of disease.

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*"Children bear the greatest burden of destructive resource extraction, with limited education, inadequate healthcare and polluted environments that perpetuate cycles of poverty."*

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### **Transforming Wealth into Well-Being**

Although Africa is rich in resources, local communities rarely benefit, as profits are diverted by foreign corporations and elites. As Niger's Prime Minister Ali Lamine Zeine noted, "In half a century of exploitation, uranium has brought Nigeriens nothing but misery, pollution... and to the French, prosperity and power." This economic inequality fuels poor health, conflict and weak public services. Children bear the greatest burden of destructive resource extraction, with limited education, inadequate healthcare and polluted environments that perpetuate cycles of poverty.

### **Resources for Action**

On World Health Day, 7 April 2025, we released a [video](#) highlighting 15 publications by African academics and experts that explore the effects of destructive resource exploitation on children's health and communities. The materials, available in English, French and Portuguese, offer practical solutions and policy insights.

### **Niger Takes Historic Steps to Protect Children and Communities**

Niger's recent actions mark a historic step: the nationalisation of uranium operations and the revision of its mining code aim to ensure that Nigeriens benefit directly from their resources, while also improving safety standards and limiting exposure to harmful radioactive dust. These measures provide a blueprint for other African countries seeking to reclaim control of their natural resources and invest in the welfare of their children and communities.

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*"The bold measures taken by Niger demonstrate how a country can reclaim its natural resources, protect its people and ensure they benefit directly, while offering a blueprint for others across the continent."*

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## World Day for International Justice: 17 July

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*"Of all the races on the earth, none has been as mistreated and humiliated as the Black race."  
~ Simon Kimbangu (c.1890-1951).*

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Centuries of injustice have been inflicted upon Africa and its people, from Arab-led slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade to colonialism, apartheid, and the ongoing oppression of neocolonialism. Africa, the cradle of powerful civilisations such as the Kingdom of Kush, Kemet (Ancient Egypt), the Nubian Kingdoms, the Kingdom of Benin, Great Zimbabwe, the Mali and Songhai Empires, the Oyo Empire, the Sokoto Caliphate and many others, has repeatedly faced exploitation, cultural erasure and economic plunder.

As Simon Kimbangu, the visionary Congolese leader whose activism challenged colonial oppression in the early 20th century, observed: "Of all the races on the earth, none has been as mistreated and humiliated as the Black race."

### **The Legacy of Slavery, Colonialism, and Apartheid**

The Arab-led enslavement of Africans, spanning 14 centuries, and the 4-century Transatlantic Slave Trade inflicted profound social, economic and cultural harm, shaping the destinies of millions. Colonial invaders compounded these injustices, seizing resources, erasing languages and rewriting histories. Apartheid in South Africa further entrenched racial oppression, marginalising indigenous Black populations and perpetuating cycles of exclusion and deprivation.

### **Neocolonialism Today**

Modern forms of exploitation persist through neocolonialism. The assassination of revolutionary leaders by foreign-backed actors maintains external dominance. Scholarships and study abroad opportunities fuel brain drain, depriving African nations of vital expertise. Wealth extraction continues, aided by complicit leaders who prioritise personal gain over national development. These dynamics perpetuate inequality and render national sovereignty meaningless.

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*"Across centuries of slavery, colonial pillage, apartheid, and neo-colonial exploitation, African people have been robbed of land, wealth, culture, and dignity — yet their fight for justice continues."*

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## Commemorative Initiatives and Advocacy for Reparation

House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) has marked World Day for International Justice and related commemorations through research, multimedia and advocacy.

- In 2022, we focused on "The Long Overdue Reparation", publishing a blog titled Justice and Reparation ([English](#), [French](#), and [Portuguese](#)) tracing calls for reparation from 1919 to the present.

We have also produced videos to honour victims and highlight their stories:

- [Transatlantic Slave Trade](#) (2019) paid tribute to courageous resisters, including the Haitian Revolution, shipboard insurrections, Maroon communities and the Brazilian Quilombolas.
- [Arab-Led Slavery of Africans](#) (2020) commemorated over 17 million victims across 14 centuries.
- [Justice and Reparation](#) (2020) featured 51 resources by historians and experts from diverse African and Afro-descendant backgrounds, exploring slavery, racism, and religion while advocating for justice.

Through these initiatives, we remember those who endured slavery, colonialism, and apartheid, honouring both the fallen and the survivors. We continue to advocate for reparative justice, actively supporting and advancing the African people's freedom to govern themselves, the recovery of their cultural identity—including the return of stolen heritage and artifacts—and full control over their resources and means of livelihood.

## Reparation: Confronting Historical Injustice

No financial compensation can fully erase the pain, suffering, and generational trauma inflicted on our ancestors. Yet reparation is essential, as it represents a crucial step in acknowledging past atrocities and restoring dignity and justice to Africans and the African Diaspora.

Reparation is a human rights issue grounded in law. Despite cynicism and obstacles, we must persist in demanding it, confronting the enduring effects of historical injustices on Africans and people of African descent across the Diaspora. #StandUpForYourRight #DontGiveUpTheFight

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*"We honour those who endured slavery, colonialism, and apartheid, and those who survived. We also recognise the ongoing impact of neocolonialism. World Day for International Justice reminds us to confront these atrocities and demand accountability, restitution, and reparation."*

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## Challenges Encountered

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*"I think every person who calls themselves a leader, a preacher, or a policymaker should ask and answer the question in their own lifetime: how will my people stay on this earth — educated, schooled, housed and defended? The answer to these questions will create enduring nationhood because it demands enduring responsibility. Whatever the solution, either we are in charge of our own destiny or we are not. On that point, we must be clear: you are either free, or you are a slave."*

*~ Dr John Henrik Clarke, Breaking the Chains of Slavery Lecture Series, 1994*

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### The Balkanisation of Africa: A Legacy of Western Interference



The arbitrary borders imposed on Africa during the Berlin Conference of 1884–1885 continue to fracture the continent today. Drawn with complete disregard for Africa's ethnic, cultural and historical realities, these borders have fuelled instability across many nations. Former colonial invaders historically exploited balkanisation to plunder resources, extend political influence and weaken unified opposition to foreign agendas. Balkanisation, driven by these external actors, has rarely brought peace and has deepened human suffering.

As John Henrik Clarke, historian and advocate for recognising Africa's place in global history, reminded us, his challenge for leaders and those in positions of influence — to take responsibility for the future of African peoples, to ensure they are educated, housed, governed and defended, and to overcome the legacies of division and interference — resonates today as African nations continue to confront these challenges.

The following cases illustrate the impact of balkanisation and show how some nations face severe instability, while others such as Mali demonstrate resilience against foreign-backed terrorist groups seeking to destabilise and divide the country.

## **Balkanisation: Impacts and Consequences**

- **Sudan and South Sudan**

The 2011 split of Sudan into two nations, influenced by international actors, was portrayed as bringing stability but instead intensified internal strife. Sudan continues to struggle with rebellions and economic turmoil, while South Sudan descended into civil war just two years after independence, leaving millions displaced and traumatised. Foreign involvement often motivated by strategic and resource interests, has deepened rather than eased these crises.

- **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

The DRC's mineral wealth has long drawn external powers seeking to profit from its resources. Repeated attempts, driven by Western and regional interests, to fragment the nation have fuelled decades of violence, lawlessness, and humanitarian suffering, particularly in the east. In this context, balkanisation has served outside agendas aimed at easier control of valuable resources rather than the needs of the Congolese people.

- **Nigeria**

Nigeria's civil war, the Biafra secession (1967–1970), demonstrates the enduring consequences of external interference. Foreign involvement, driven by political and economic interests, influenced the course of the conflict and left deep ethnic and regional tensions unresolved. Though Biafra was reintegrated into Nigeria, the underlying grievances that fuelled the secessionist movement persist, with continued calls for independence from pro-Biafra activists. External powers took advantage of Nigeria's internal divisions for political and economic gain, and decades on, these fractures continue to challenge the country's cohesion.

## **Defying Balkanisation**

- **Mali**

Mali has faced significant security challenges, particularly following the 2012 Tuareg rebellion and the subsequent infiltration of terrorist groups in the north. However, since 2022, Mali has made notable progress in securing its territorial integrity. The government, under General Assimi Goïta, has expelled foreign military forces that were fuelling instability and strengthened national security structures.

On 14 November 2023, the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) successfully regained control of the northern region of Kidal, covering 260,000 km<sup>2</sup>, ending a decade-long period during which Kidal was held by terrorist groups and separatist forces, restoring full Malian sovereignty over the region.

Furthermore, Mali is a founding member of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), together with Burkina Faso and Niger, to promote regional security and economic cooperation independent of external influence.

The recently concluded landmark Salon international de la défense et de la sécurité (BAMEX 2025 exposition), held in Bamako from 11 to 14 November 2025, highlighted Mali's leadership in internal security and defence, emphasising the country's proactive measures to secure its territory, protect its population, and strengthen regional cooperation against emerging security challenges.

These efforts have strengthened Mali's resistance against attempts to destabilise and balkanise the country, demonstrating that strategic governance and regional alliances can be effective tools for national unity. This resilience highlights the importance of nations controlling their own political and economic destiny in the face of external agendas.

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*"They don't want to see us unite.  
All they want us to do is keep on killing one another."  
~ Bob Marley & The Wailers, Survival*

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## **Balkanisation and the Illusion of Peace**

A recurring theme across these cases is that balkanisation rarely produces stability. Rather than resolving underlying tensions, the breakup of nations often intensifies ethnic, political, and economic divisions. The assumption that smaller, more ethnically homogeneous states will automatically be more peaceful ignores the realities of power struggles, economic dependencies, and continued external interference.

Sudan and South Sudan illustrate how fragmentation can lead to prolonged chaos instead of harmony, with civil conflict, economic collapse, and displacement persisting long after the split.

Similarly, attempts to divide the DRC and Nigeria have generated sustained instability, with wars claiming millions of lives and causing widespread suffering, all aggravated by foreign involvement.

Mali, by contrast, demonstrates that unity and resilience are possible when nations assert control over their own affairs, maintain national cohesion, and coordinate regionally. The country's recovery of Kidal in 2023 and its leadership in internal security and defence highlighted at the BAMEX 2025 exposition, show that strategic governance can counter attempts to destabilise and balkanise a nation.

These cases underline a broader reality: external powers have historically orchestrated balkanisation because divided nations are easier to influence, plunder for resources, and govern according to outside interests. Clarke's challenge remains urgent — African leaders and policymakers must take responsibility for the welfare and sovereignty of their people if their nations are to thrive independently.

## **The Balkanisation Threat and Africa's Continuing Vulnerability**

Even after centuries of divide-and-rule tactics by former colonial invaders, African nations continue to struggle to protect themselves from external manipulation. Weak institutions, internal political rivalries, and deep societal divisions leave countries exposed to both historical and contemporary forms of interference.

How do external powers exploit this vulnerability?

- They frequently manipulate national politics by installing compliant leaders or unscrupulous elites who prioritise personal gain over the public good and can be bribed or coerced to advance foreign agendas. These actors also take advantage of modern platforms, including social media, to inflame tensions, spread disinformation, and shape public perception, further deepening ethnic, religious, political, and regional divides.
- Foreign operatives often act as destabilising forces in African nations, covertly sowing discord and eroding stability. Yet, once the chaos is established, they frequently return, positioning themselves as indispensable problem-solvers. This pattern, in which they create the very instability they later claim to address, is reminiscent of the expression “pompier pyromane”, literally an arsonist firefighter who starts a fire so that they can later be called upon to extinguish it. By manufacturing crises and then offering solutions, they can manipulate public perception, gain influence and justify continued intervention, while the vulnerabilities they first exploited remain unaddressed.

## Tackling Divisive Tactics to Prevent Balkanisation

Calls for division, often along ethnic, religious, political, or regional lines, are increasingly amplified online, including on social media and in article comment sections. These messages frequently target young or impressionable audiences and may be sponsored by external actors seeking to fuel discord. Tactics such as bot farms, troll networks, and sock puppet accounts are deployed to spread misinformation, amplify divisive narratives, and create the illusion of widespread support for harmful ideas. Audiences are encouraged to think critically, verify sources, counter misinformation, and engage in dialogue that fosters unity.

As Mali demonstrates, national cohesion and resilience can withstand both visible divisions and covert attempts to manipulate public opinion. The path to enduring nationhood lies in strengthening African self-determination and remaining united rather than being swayed by internal strife or external interference, whether online or offline.

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*"My Black brothers and sisters – of all religious beliefs, or of no religious beliefs – we all have in common the greatest binding tie we could have.  
We are all Black people!" ~ Malcolm X*

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## Countering Balkanisation: Our Efforts Since 2019



Since 2019, our “[Africans United for Peace](#)” campaign has amplified the voices of [refugees](#), [IDPs](#), [child migrants](#), and [victims of conflicts](#) across Africa, addressing both the symptoms and root causes of division and offering practical solutions to prevent and address balkanisation.

On 6 April 2022, for the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, we published a [video](#) highlighting the role of sport in promoting social cohesion, dialogue, and peace, countering the divisions that balkanisation seeks to create.

These initiatives form part of our broader mission to counter divisions fuelled by external interference, promoting unity, resilience, and self-determination across African communities.

Join us in creating a peaceful and stable future for all Africans. By promoting dialogue, supporting humanitarian efforts, or highlighting local peace projects, you help strengthen unity and self-determination across the continent. Every action counts in creating a future free from external control.

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*"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion"  
~ Ethiopian Proverb.*

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## Financial Overview



In 2025, we continued to witness the extraordinary impact of generosity. Thanks to the steadfast support of our donors, we reached more children and families facing hardship than ever before, even amid ongoing economic uncertainties. Each contribution, whether a one-off gift or a regular donation, played a vital role in sustaining and expanding the programmes that transformed lives.

Our 2026 Strategic Plan will focus on deepening public engagement and raising awareness of our work. By reaching new audiences and strengthening existing connections, we aim to grow support for our programmes and maximise the impact of the services we provide.

Our [financial statements](#) can be viewed on our website. They provide a clear insight into our operations and reflect our ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and the responsible management of all resources.

House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is entirely funded by the generosity of individuals, companies, and foundations. Every donation, whether substantial or modest, one-off or regular, has a meaningful impact on the lives of the children and families we support.

As always, we ask all our supporters to remain alert to [fraudulent activities and donation scams](#).

Our official email address is [contact@homchildrenshome.org](mailto:contact@homchildrenshome.org), and we do not use alternative emails or request donations via personal accounts or platforms such as Western Union or MoneyGram. We also do not send unsolicited messages on social media or authorise any representatives to solicit funds on our behalf.

If you encounter any fundraising pages or campaigns claiming to represent House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), please report them immediately to [alert@homchildrenshome.org](mailto:alert@homchildrenshome.org). Doing so allows us to take prompt action to protect our supporters and safeguard the integrity of our work.

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*"We are deeply grateful to everyone who stood with us in 2025. Your generosity has reached more children and families than ever before, helping to create safer, brighter futures. Together, we are showing that #SupportersBuildBrighterFutures."*

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## 2026 Goals



At House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we remain dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children and creating brighter futures.

Over the years, we have expanded our reach across Nigeria, Africa and the Diaspora, providing essential services including education, vocational training, nutrition, child support, and emergency relief. We strive not only to meet immediate needs but to create lasting opportunities.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will build on this progress, focusing on the areas where our efforts can make the greatest impact. Our priorities for the year include:

1. [Alleviating child hunger and malnutrition](#) through the provision and distribution of nutritious meals.
2. [Advancing education](#) via school sponsorships, literacy programmes, and initiatives that equip girls with skills and opportunities.
3. [Strengthening families](#) by reintegrating children into family and community-based care.
4. [Addressing child homelessness](#) by providing safe, family-based residential homes.
5. [Promoting child protection and advocacy](#) via public campaigns and policymaker engagement..
6. [Providing humanitarian aid and advocacy](#) for children and families affected by crises across Africa.

In 2026, we remain committed to supporting children across Africa and the Diaspora through education, nutrition, and care initiatives, while amplifying their voices and stories.

Our [African Renaissance Initiative](#) will remain central to our mission, promoting dignity, self-determination, unity, and hope for a brighter future across the continent.

As we work towards these objectives, we remain dedicated to transparency and keeping our supporters up to date. You can follow our progress and read stories of impact on the [About Us](#) page of our website and across our social media channels: [Facebook](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), [YouTube](#) and [Blogger](#).

## History Corner

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*"Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history." ~ Carter G. Woodson*

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For centuries, colonial narratives sought to suppress African heritage — erasing languages, distorting identities, and rewriting history to deny the achievements of Africans. The result has been generations taught to look at themselves through a lens of falsehoods and omissions.

At House of Mercy Children's Home, Lagos, Nigeria (HOM), we strive to ensure that the achievements of African civilisations, from science and governance to art and philosophy, are fully acknowledged in classrooms across the continent. When children learn that Africa was not at the margins of human progress but at its very foundation, they begin to reclaim a truth that was denied to them and see themselves as heirs to a legacy of innovation, leadership and intellectual tradition.

Building on this, we use our [History Corner](#) to challenge these distortions and reclaim the narrative. We believe that knowledge of Africa's history is not merely about the past; it serves as a source of strength, inspiration and guidance for today and the future. #ReclaimingOurHistory #DecoloniseHistory

Resources in our History Corner include:

- [World Afro Day](#): Discover a diverse array of Afro hairstyles, from ancient times in Kemet (Ancient Egypt) to contemporary styles across Africa and the Diaspora.
- [Discovering Africa's Legacy](#): Peruse a curated collection of 29 must-read books on African history, authored by renowned African, Haitian, African American, Jamaican, and Guyanese historians, sociologists, researchers, and authors.

- [Unveiling Africa's History](#): Delve into a compilation of historical documents and historiographies that illuminate specific periods of Africa's rich past, offering valuable insights into the continent's history.
- [Unveiling Nigeria's History](#): 9000BC - October 2013: Explore Nigeria's history, uncovering lesser-known facts and moments dating as far back as 9000BC, with a focus on events up to October 2013.
- [African Kings](#): Browse a captivating collection of images featuring resilient and fearless Black African Kings and Warriors, meticulously curated by James C. Lewis, a distinguished African American researcher and photographer.
- [African Queens](#): Navigate a striking array of pictures showcasing brave and fearless Black African Queens and Warriors, thoughtfully compiled by Shaira Leiza, a talented Afro-Brazilian artist and author.
- [African Rulers in Defence of Sovereignty](#): Honour the brave African Kings, Queens, Chiefs, Spiritual Leaders, Authorities, and countless others who staunchly defended their sovereignty against imperialism, colonialism, slavery, foreign occupation, and apartheid.
- [The Arab-Led Slavery of Africans](#): Remember and reflect on the victims, resisters, and survivors of the Arab-led slavery of Africans, a period predating the Western Atlantic Slave Trade by about a millennium.
- [The Transatlantic Slave Trade](#): Bear witness to the victims, resisters, and survivors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, a period marked by unspeakable crimes and severe human rights violations.
- [The Haitian Revolution and the Birth of the Republic of Ayiti](#): Learn about the largest and most successful rebellion of enslaved Africans in the Western Hemisphere, a pivotal moment in the history of the abolition of slavery.
- [Homage to African Revolutionaries and Freedom Fighters](#): Celebrate both renowned and lesser-known African heroes and heroines who dedicated their lives to the freedom and independence of African nations.
- [Day of the African Child](#): Commemorate and pay tribute to the unarmed young Black protesters tragically killed by white policemen during the 1976 Soweto uprisings in South Africa.
- [Justice and Reparation](#): Engage with 51 resources advocating for justice and reparations for the atrocities committed against Africans and people of African descent in the Diaspora.



## Acknowledgements

### Grateful Beyond Words

This year, with its twists and turns, has shown us the profound power of compassion. The generosity of our Donors, Supporters and Friends, and their belief in our mission, has continued to guide our work, bringing hope and opening doors to new opportunities for countless children.

Every act of support, whether through financial contributions, skills-sharing, or helping to raise awareness of our work, has played an essential role in making a meaningful difference. Thanks to your generosity, children are accessing the education, nutrition, and safe spaces they need for their growth and well-being.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all contributors, including those recognised here and those who wish to remain anonymous. Your kindness and dedication have created real change in 2025.

### We are immensely grateful to the individuals listed below for their generosity and dedication:

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Mr. Amaechi Okonji - ₦1.19M	Ms. Patience Akinkuowo - ₦200K	Mr. David Adeoye - ₦10K
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Mr. Damilola Buroh - ₦23K		

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Ms. Chidera Nwaokoro - ₦45K	Mr. Ifeoluwa Akinbode - ₦25K	Ms. Adebola Solomon - ₦800K
Mr. Joseph Eze - ₦5K	Mr. & Mrs. Ayisire - ₦200K	Ms. Ndifreke Essien - ₦100
Mr. Mustapha Jibril - ₦10K	Mr. Daniel Osagie - ₦5K	Ms. Olajumoke Agoye - ₦20K
Ms. Ibukun Adebisi - ₦15K	Mr. Andre Immanuel - ₦1.5K	Mr. Innocent Emmanuel - ₦2K
Mr. Isaac Oyinsan - ₦34K	Mr. Emmanuel Odinakachukwu - ₦26.6K	Ms. Ruth Akwubo - ₦9.75K
Mr. Israel Sunday - ₦15K	Ms. Ruth Aipoh - ₦50K	Mr. Kolawole Akeredolu - ₦30K
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Mr. Ikenna Afoenyem - ₦65K	Ms. Joy Ochigbo - ₦14.2K	Mr. Paul Ogbona - ₦50K
Mr. Michael Eko - ₦65K	Mr. Segun Adesemoye - ₦10K	Ms. Chinenye Izundu - ₦20K
Mr. Fiyinfoluwa - ₦5K	Ms. Uchehara Chidinma - ₦50K	Mrs. Peter Uche - Essential supplies
Mr. Oluwale Esan - ₦30K	Ms. Philomina Ogbebor - ₦20K	Mr. Abiodun Ajayi - ₦72.65K
Ms. Tonye Amabibi - ₦3K	Ms. Omolola Odesola - ₦10K	Ms. Abiola Shodiya - ₦20.07K
Mr. Emmanuel Akinrodoye - ₦5K	Ms. Ejiro Eghagha - ₦100K	Mr. Sunday Adebayo - ₦3K
Mr. Emmanuel Omole - ₦2K	Mr. Oluyemi Ogunsalu - ₦100K	Mr. Oghale Jeremy - ₦250K
Mr. Emmanuel Imoh - ₦1K	Ms. Felicia Joshua - ₦60K	Mr. Rotimi Akinyemi - ₦5K
Mr. Emmanuel Ukachu - ₦8.65K	Mr. Junior Ebose - ₦50K	Ms. Cecilia Akinnusi - ₦1K
Ms. Dorcas Daramola - ₦26K		

**We are equally grateful to the Corporations, Foundations and Institutions whose generous support has been essential in advancing our mission:**

Church of Pentecost Anglican Church - ₦50K	Ruth Foundation - Skills acquisition
Chrio Foundation - Bulk food items	AT & S Investments Limited - ₦50K
Enavec Pharmaceuticals Limited - ₦155K	Old Knights of the Altar St. Jude's Catholic Church Ma- foluku Oshodi - ₦236.5K
UBA Group - Food items	Zenith Bank - Food, household & learning items
TKM Energy Limited - ₦300K	Step-Up Academy - Skills acquisition
Cavey Consult Limited - ₦53.75K	Toric Building Services - ₦5K
H.E. Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu - Food items & ₦500K	Inne Rwall Limited - ₦50K
John Holt PLC - ₦500K	Oluwaseyi Global Business Enterprises - ₦20K
RCCG, City of David Atlanta GA, USA - ₦255.35K	



Heritage Day Nursery - ₦120K

Primus Foundation - Food items

TDS Hitech Solutions Limited - 4 solar lights and one computer.

Friends of Joseph Foundation - Food items

Opelocity Collections - ₦3K

Electoral College Nigeria - ₦70K

### **A Tribute to Our Community Partners**

Across Africa and the Diaspora, our community partners provide essential guidance and support to the communities they serve, ensuring that children have access to education, nutrition, and safe spaces. It is through your efforts, day by day, that our programmes reach further and transform the lives of children. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and the hope you bring to so many young lives.

### **Deep Gratitude to Our Staff**

We are deeply grateful to our staff, whose dedication and commitment sustain our work. In particular, we honour our esteemed Coordinator, whom we call Grandma. Grandma, each day your skill, care, and perseverance bring our mission to life. Thank you for handling difficult situations with grace and professionalism, always guiding us towards our goals with wisdom and insight. Your example of service inspires and strengthens us every day.

### **Together for Brighter Futures**

To our Donors, Supporters, and Friends, your support enables us to achieve our goals and create meaningful change in the lives of the children we serve. We look forward to continuing this journey with you, reaching new milestones together and building brighter futures for every child.

For a brighter future for our children,

*Bunmi Awoyinfa*

Bunmi Awoyinfa



## House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria



## La Maison de la Misericorde

## Casa de la Misericordia



Our Motto is "[Touching Lives, One Child at a Time](#)"

Founded in October 2006, House of Mercy Children's Home Lagos, Nigeria (HOM) is a grassroots NGO dedicated to tackling critical issues such as child hunger, child poverty, child homelessness, child illiteracy, and child protection, while also providing emergency aid to children in crisis across Africa.

House of Mercy Children's Home (HOM)

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

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