

**100 Projects for Peace
Final Report - Summer 2007**

Title: PEACE IN THE MOTHERLAND

School: Cornell University

Student(s) submitting report: Bayo Paul Omole, attended Lester Pearson UWC

1. Project Summary

Location: The project was executed in Lagos, the economic capital of Nigeria. With a population of over 10 million, Lagos is home to many economically disadvantaged residents. Participants came from various parts of the state including Ikeja, Ogba, Isheri, Ojodu, Yaba and Lagos Island.

Timeframe: Project commenced on April 12, 2007. Main activities executed in May 2007. Project currently on-going and will continue beyond summer of 2007.

Participants:

Project Coordinator: Bayo P. Omole

Project Facilitators: Bukola C. Aluko, Chinelo Anagbogu, Uchenna Uchegbu

Beneficiaries: The Concerned Women Ministry and their facilitators, Girls and Young women from around Lagos, Adenuga Olabode, Abigail Aluko, Bashiru Isiaka, Temitope Ayeni (UMPI)

Scope of Work: Project entailed detailed planning and setting up of a chronogram of activities which includes public announcements to generate awareness and participation. The microcredit application process included application form pick-up, completion and submission, screening and personal interviews. We created a local bank account specifically for the microcredit component of the project. Beneficiaries were presented with equipments, checks, and cash grant at a presentation ceremony. Regular follow-ups have since been initiated.

Goals Intended:

- I. To achieve socio-economic progress and peace in the economically challenged communities of Lagos through the creation and/or support of profitable small scale businesses.
- II. To boost the impact and enhance the quality of the community outreach initiatives championed by The Concerned Women Ministry.
- III. To execute the project with a high level of discipline and professionalism.
- IV. To generate local media interest in the project.
- V. To execute a successful initiative that will promote the contribution of Nigerians abroad toward socio-economic growth and development in the motherland.

2. Project Results

Echoing the sentiments of everyone involved in the planning and execution of "Peace In the Motherland", I would say I am very pleased with the outcome. The project was successfully implemented.

Goal Achieved:

- I. We were able to improve the quality of the community outreach efforts of The Concerned Women Ministry through the support we provided.

- II. We successfully assisted in the creation/support of four small scale businesses. Two additional businesses are about to be created.
- III. The businesses we identified and supported are performing very well. Some beneficiaries have commenced regular repayment of the loans they received.
- IV. We executed the project with an acceptable level of discipline and professional sophistication. We have succeeded in setting a good standard for the continuation of the project.

Goals Not Achieved:

- I. Unfortunately we could not galvanize sufficient local media interest in the project.
- II. At this point we have not succeeded in pitching the project to a large enough Nigerian audience abroad so as to spur increased contribution towards socio-economic progress in Nigeria.

3. Implications

Implication for Peace: The project's implication for peace hinges on the fact that improvement of the socio-economic statuses of those who benefited from the project will translate into happier individuals, satisfied families and gradually trickle down into a more peaceful society down the line.

Future Prospects: "Peace in the Motherland" has a very bright prospect of metamorphosing into a much bigger program that could attract State support. The simple, yet powerful philosophy behind the project idea is one that will assume a more prominent role in the society as Nigeria's economy continues to show positive performance. The measurable impact of the project will be the improved income generation capacity of beneficiaries of the microcredit program, and the increased impact of the Concerned Women Ministry efforts on the lives of our young girl and women.

This experimental phase of the project will provide the needed information and experience to effectively redesign and re-launch it for future expansion.

Lessons Learnt:

- I. It is absolutely essential to engage local participation in any form of external development assistance or project. I relied a lot on active local contribution for the project to turn out successful.
- II. It is best to work with people of like minds and passion. My team of facilitators did a fantastic job of getting the project off the ground and keeping it running successfully. They are equally passionate about economic growth and development of our home communities. It was absolutely a delight to work with them.
- III. It is good practice to leave room for flexibility in the process of executing a project. On-site realities often times differ from what is written on paper. In our own case, we assumed that mostly women would participate in the Microcredit program. However, the prevailing economic realities made it such that more men actually participated than was expected.
- IV. Finally, there is no greater sense of accomplishment than the feeling you get when you are able to put a smile on someone else's face. The KWD 100 Projects for Peace has indeed made it possible for us to put a smile on the faces of people in our home communities. For this and much more we will always remain grateful.



1. UMPI beneficiary, Bashiru Isiaka with the sound equipment he purchased.



2. Project Facilitators: (L-R) Uchenna Uchegbu, Bukola Aluko and Chinelo Anagbogu.



3. Presentation of the cash grant and multimedia equipments to the Concerned Women Ministry, June 16, 2007.