

AGENTS OF CHANGE INTERNATIONAL

AN OVERVIEW

About Us

Agents of Change is a non-profit organization with a mission of creating platforms conducive for raising a generation of youths who are adequately informed and empowered to birth **THE CHANGE** required for the emancipation of **THE NEW NIGERIA**. We help youths succeed and reach their fullest potential by empowering and equipping them with the essential **life skills** needed to make wiser decisions and avoid life's pitfalls.

We are a group of young Professionals (**YOUTHS**) from different disciplines working towards birthing a new paradigm in Nigerian youths towards the emancipation of a **NEW NIGERIA** where peace, hope, love, unity and justice will reign supreme . We believe that a small group of youths with the right orientation and mindset can kickstart the process of birthing a new generation of youths in Nigeria with intellectual and economic prowess.

Agents of Change International is passionate about seeing to the vision and dream of a country in which every one is actively involved in the transformation and development process, and in which individual gifts, talents, abilities and capacities are discovered, recognized, appreciated and translated into productive activities to aid the birthing of a **New Nigeria** for the common good of all.

Our mission is to provide training and development programs that will enhance the unlocking and discovery of creative expressions in individuals, and thereby creating the platform for the expression and implementation of their unique abilities. We provide opportunities for young people to discover and develop their latent potentials, gifts, talents and abilities. We also help to help raise disciplined, responsible and ethical youths for participation in building a positive and sustainable society. We are deeply committed to providing young people with opportunities to develop and imbibe a sound knowledge, understanding and appreciation of rich values and heritage, both culturally and career-wise, and translate this understanding to global context.

We teach the youths how to:

- build their self-esteem
- avoid peer pressure
- abstain from sex/drugs/alcohol
- be leaders
- be humanitarians
- make wise decisions
- be responsible
- communicate
- be productive
- be advocates
- set/reach goals
- find their purpose in life

Life Skills: Life Skills are the essential skills needed to help an individual make wiser decisions and avoid life's pitfalls. When applied, life skills help individuals have success in every area of their lives. Areas such as (but not limited to): Self, Family, Occupation, Spirituality, Community, Mental, Morals, Consciousness, Finances, Education, Relationships, Business, Health, Emotions and Physical can all be improved with the use of life skills.

Prevention & Intervention: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Our drive is to help prevent youths from becoming unproductive adults. We envision a culture where youths will apply life skills to their lives and grow up to be productive mentors which will be a benefit to the larger society. We also envision a society filled with individuals (youths) who seek to be changed, productive and empowered.

Partnerships: We have built and are building partnerships youth based organizations, individuals, schools, faith based organizations, notables, media and the community to achieve a more deep rooted outcome of success. We strongly believe that our world will change and be a better place, through the empowerment, development and self-improvement of each youth. By improving ourselves we will improve our neighborhood, city, state, country and eventually the world.

Workshops: We host training workshops throughout Nigeria. Our mission is to empower, educate, inform and change the lives of as many youth, parents, and individuals in every community. Our goal is to reach and help as many communities as we can throughout the country.

Our Vision

“To birth a new generation of **YOUTHS** who are fully equipped to **DRIVE** the change process for the **NEW NIGERIA**”

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower, educate, inform and change the lives of as many youth, parents, and individuals in every community. This will help in creating platforms conducive for raising a generation of youths who are adequately informed and empowered to birth **THE CHANGE** required for the emancipation of **THE NEW NIGERIA**

This is to primarily empower Nigerian youths with practical tools that will make them:

- Experience a change in their paradigm.
- Self discovery and development.
- Nation building.
- Take strategic roles in the workplace in order to birth the change at the workplace.

Our Goal

Our goal is to reach and help as many communities as we can throughout Nigeria, Africa and eventually reach the world.

Core Values

These are values that are core to the organization, and are the building blocks of our organizational culture. They guide and direct the flow of our activities from time to time.

These are as follows:

- Integrity
- Commitment
- Partnership
- Teamwork

- Innovation
- Creativity
- Sincerity
- Honesty

Main Focus

Our major focus areas are:

- Personal Development
- Poverty Alleviation
- Wealth Creation & Investment Opportunities
- Cultural & Political Awareness
- Health issues and HIV/AIDS Awareness
- Career Planning and Development
- Community Development services
- Capacity Building and Development

Institutional Partners

We are an organization that is networked with other youth based institutions and organizations who are into developmental and social activities that are primarily targetted at the youths and communities of their residence.

Some of our partners are:

- Paradigm Initiative Nigeria (**PIN**) – This is a youth based organization managed by Gbenga Sesan and its main focus is on Information and Communation Technology for Development (**ICT4D**). The official website of Paradigm Initiative Nigeria is <http://www.pin.org.ng>
- Nigerian Professionals (**NiPRO**) International Network – This is a network of young Nigerian professionals both at home and in diaspora. The primary goal of the organization is to provide platform for young Nigerian professionals to effectively network to create an enabling environment for nation building.
- Global Youth Action Network n (www.gyan.org).
- TakingITGlobal (www.takingitglobal.org).
- A Better Community For All (www.ABC4All.net)
- Grassroots Organization (www.grassroots.org).

We are proponents and supporters of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations.

OUR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Economic Empowerment Program

It was discovered that majority of the youths in the country struggle to survive despite the fact that some of them are gainfully employed and fairly paid. This gave us a major concern and we decided to look into this area.

Therefore the development of Financial Intelligence and Empowerment cannot be overemphasized; we need to affect the mind set of the people for urgency in overall utilization of their financial resources. Financial intelligence and empowerment will help provide the youths with sufficient and adequate information that will help to provide clear direction, awareness, confidence, empowerment and new capabilities that may help them to achieve achieve greater financial success and security.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Program

Based on statistic the population of people living with **HIV/AIDS (PLWA)** hit the four millionth rank in the month of July (Journalist Against AIDS website) with most of these people being youths and this gave us a sense of urgency in coming up with ways in which the epidemic can be tackled.

Each year there are more and more new HIV infections, which shows that people either aren't learning the message about the dangers of HIV, or are unable or unwilling to act on it. Many people are dangerously ignorant about the virus, with surveys around the world showing alarmingly low levels of awareness and understanding about HIV amongst many groups. Education can help to overcome such ignorance, and thereby prevent HIV infections from occurring.

Education needs to be an ongoing process, because each generation of young people need to be informed about how they can protect themselves from HIV as they grow up. Older generations, who have already hopefully received some **AIDS** education, may need the message reinforced, so that they continue to take precautions against HIV infection, and are able to inform younger people of the dangers. We partner with other relevant bodies to plan, develop and execute projects and events aimed at accomplishing our goals.

Mentoring and Networking Program

The platform upon which present generation and future generations can be brought to a place of harmonious and profitable agreement is through mentoring and networking. Mentoring and networking provides the platform for the matured to impart the youths with the wealth of their experiences thereby impacting them for exploit.

Our mentoring and networking events and programs are aimed at bringing experienced and matured personalities in the society in contact with youths and creating the platform for positive influence and relationship between both parties.

There are four stages of mentoring we are focussing on namely; **Community, Schools, Workplace and E-mentoring.**

Social Entrepreneurship Program

This program is about the craft and discipline of using entrepreneurial skills to solve social problems. It is a field that is rapidly emerging world wide and is beginning to have a profound impact on the social sector, for-profit philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. This program will explore the context and major trends for the application of entrepreneurial approaches in the social sector. Further, the program will focus on how to master entrepreneurial skills and apply them to social problems. These skills are urgently needed and are a great source of hope to creating lasting solutions to many challenges in our society and around the world that were once perceived as intractable.

Self Awareness and Discovery Program

The greatest challenge anyone can have is the problem of not knowing why such a person exists. The program is aimed at helping youths discover themselves thereby making the most out of life. There problem with most youths is the problem of self discovery and identity crisis where people try very hard to become like someone else simply because such people are making it in their chosen fields without taking cognizance of their individuality.

Get Involved

We are seeking representation, sponsorship and partnership from purpose-driven, result-oriented and credible individuals and organizations who are passionate about seeing the emergence of the NEW NIGERIA.

There are three main levels of involvement namely;

Ambassadors

You can decide to become our ambassador in your locality and state by signifying your interest in writing to agochint@yahoo.co.uk. You must be passionate about developmental issues and willing to devote time to developing resources that can be of help to the youths and the nation at large.

Sponsorship

Corporate organizations are welcome for corporate sponsorship of our events and training programs. These are the financial backbone of Agents of Change International and as such are highly valued. Sponsorship could be program based or a continuous basis. Please mail us at agochint@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

Partnership

Partners are invited in planning, developing and executing developmental projects in different part of the country. We are open for partnership throughout the year and from any part of the country. Please mail us at agochint@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

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A Clarion Call

We are calling on all Nigerian, both individuals and corporate bodies! **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We need your assistance to help us equip and empower Nigerian Youth. Your assistance does not necessarily have to be in financial term, it could be the provision of venue for our events, volunteer services, donation of resources and others.

NOTE: These document is still evolving.