



IMPACT REPORT 2024 Review

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A NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER



Dear A2S Family,

2024 brought us a season focused on operational excellence and bridging gaps as we entered our second full year of operations at our Youth Center in Nigeria. God gave us the gift of clarity as we shared our vision of building agency, restoring choice, and raising godly stewards with our communities in Nigeria and in the United States. With this clear vision of A2S's evolution, we approached our year with a resolve to relentlessly pursue each individual in our programs just as Jesus Christ pursues our hearts every day.



We talked about "adding color" amongst our staff to start the year off with an understanding of how to bring positivity and faith into every situation. We strengthened our "FIT" workplace culture focused on Faith, Integrity, and Teamwork to encourage each A2S employee to do their part in pursuit of our mission.

Towards the end of the year, we celebrated adding color with our U.S. family at Soulful Supper where we heard the testimony of Uchechi Ufochukwu and had our most successful night of fundraising in A2S history. The way you have wrapped your love around our children and youth as donors, volunteers, and partners never ceases to amaze us. We are so grateful to God for putting each of you in our path as we do this great work together.

This year, we saw amazing achievements from our students, scholars, and alumni that I am excited for you to read about in the pages of this report. While our numbers will give you a comprehensive look at our impact, it is the stories of each individual in our programs that speaks the loudest to why we do what we do, who we do it all for, and Whose plan for a brighter future is at play.

Thank you for believing in the dreams of our youth, for keeping our communities in your prayers, and for sharing your time, talent, and treasures with us in ways that allow us to work towards God's plan for a better Nigeria.

With Joy,

Andrew Lovedale



OUR MISSION



To provide sustainable programs that generate positive change for Nigerian children and their communities.

Taking a holistic approach to breaking the cycle of poverty through education, career development, and community empowerment programs.

Our Core Values



Faith In Action

We trust our Lord Jesus Christ and act on that faith by serving those most vulnerable.



Integrity We demonstrate strong ethics, honesty, and the highest standards at all times.



Teamwork and Family Spirit

We work in unity with passion, respect, and humility.



Sustainable Change

We empower people to bring about purposeful life change.



Passion for People

We understand each person's story and treating all with dignity and compassion.





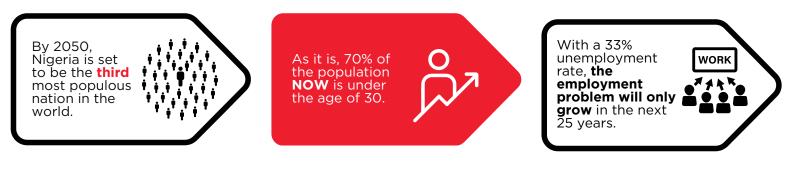
OUR VISION



Our vision is that each child/person in Nigeria finds a dignified path towards a successful life and is empowered to fulfill God's plan for a future filled with hope.

Why Nigeria?

How supporting locally in Benin City creates global impact...



Nigeria's labor problem is not just a local issue. We can prepare our kids for the labor market in a way that supports local and global advancement.

We are dynamic by design so we can meet our community at the point of their needs, just as Jesus Christ would.

"'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" - Jeremiah 29:11

CORE PROGRAMS

Our programs fall under the following categories:







Education

Community Empowerment



OUR APPROACH

Going beyond basic needs to empower youth to embrace the future.



Student-driven curriculum and career development opportunities build selfefficacy, personal control, and a desire to actively shape individual experience.



Material poverty takes away the gift of choice. Our programs provide opportunities for personal discovery so students can choose their own path forward.



Godly Stewardship

With agency and choice, this generation of leaders are using their time, talent and treasures in service of God and their community, reversing the cycle for the next generation.

A Dignified Path Towards a Successful Life

OUR STATEMENT OF MINISTRY

At A2S, our motivation stems from Jeremiah 29:11 that says "For I know the plans I have for you, 'declares the Lord', plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Access to Success (A2S) is an interdenominational, Christian Mission organization. A2S is dedicated to playing its part to eliminate poverty and provide hope through education and opportunity. Our ministry was founded on the premise that every child and youth should have an opportunity to dream, irrespective of location or circumstances. We are attempting to break the cycle of poverty and provide a dignified path.

Our ministry and approach hinge on a few major theological concepts.

- We are inspired by examples set by our Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed many by loving them unconditionally.
- The A2S ministry follows the teachings of Jesus who instructed us to be not only "hearers but doers." We profess our faith openly, but we also have a deeply rooted conviction that our actions should align with our proclaimed beliefs.
- As Ephesians 4:11 says, Jesus "grants us all different gifts to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" and Proverbs 11:14 requests "an abundance of counselors." On these two tenets, A2S works to empower leaders in all different parts of God's community through encouraging each individual to embrace their diverse gifts and connect with mentors.
- As Jesus embodied as our greatest Teacher, we believe that access to education and opportunity should be basic rights for all. And following in the steps of Christ, A2S welcomes all. Regardless of background or religious preference, everyone who is touched by what we do and wants to be a part of this work is welcome. Children in need are of diverse backgrounds and religions; our policy supports providing hope and promoting change irrespective of race or religion. We embrace supporters and volunteers from all backgrounds.
- Whether a donor or a beneficiary, we hope to empower more Godly Stewards. We hope to help everyone to be responsible managers of individuals' diverse and unique gifts of time, talent, and treasure, to help build a more holistic community.

To this effect, we operate a hands-on approach of expressing love through action. A2S ministry acts by providing year-round educational and entrepreneurial opportunities, feeding programs, and other community-based initiatives to help provide hope and a future to those who are not as fortunate as we are.

AGENCY

Agency is the first building block to set a child on a dignified path towards success. Through our educational programs, we help our kids understand that they can take an active role in shaping their own lives. We use a variety of activities and lessons to empower our kids to be storytellers, dream big, and pursue their passions with reckless abandon.

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CAUTION

WORK ZONE





Taking the first steps on the dignified path towards success...



Education by the numbers





13 After School Academy Graduates









3434 Education hours delivered





50% of our kids transition successfully into higher education institutions within the first year of graduation.



AGENCY

Taking the first steps on the dignified path towards success...

Key Education Activities







Our After School Academy kids went on field trips this year to learn about the past, present, and future of their city. They visited museums, learned all about media at a local news station. and more in 2024!

Talent Delve 烂



Our third annual "Talent Delve" talent competition took place last summer. We have LOVED watching our kids explore their passions and talents as they build confidence by taking a chance on the big stage at Pete Johnson Hall. This is unlike anything else offered in our community!







Our After School Academy kids have a variety of clubs to choose from as they start to discover who they are. We encourage them to become writers of their own stories, both literally and figuratively, as they participate in our clubs ranging from music and drama, to literary and debate.

ICT Classes 🚢



After launching in 2023, our computer classes continued for a select group of 40 kids at the After School Academy at our Information and Communication Technology center. They learned about typing, design, coding, and more!





Taking the first steps on the dignified path towards success...



Thanks to the MONAT Gratitude Grant we received in 2023, this year we launched our Storytelling Project. The goal of this project was to provide avenues for our kids to explore storytelling across genres and mediums in a way that helps each child to build agency within themselves and feel empowered to share their own personal stories. Over holiday breaks in 2024, our After School Academy held special classes where our kids learned, played, and engaged in fun storytelling projects. As a result, they wrote their own songs for a music album, created their own music videos, newscasts, drama performances, and more. We could tell you how awesome this project was for the development of each child in our programs, however we think the content of what they came up with speaks for itself.





<u>"Amazing Love"</u> <u>Music Video</u>





<u>"I Have Conquered"</u> <u>Music Video</u>

SHATTERED BUT UNBOWED



<u>"Shattered but Unbowed"</u> <u>Drama Performance</u>





Taking the first steps on the dignified path towards success...

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Workforce Development Workshops





Facilitators engaged

Our workforce development workshops are designed to fill gaps in the learning of our university scholars by providing soft and hard skills development sessions that apply directly to workforce experiences. This allows our scholars to build agency by giving them the tools they need to take charge of their chosen career path.









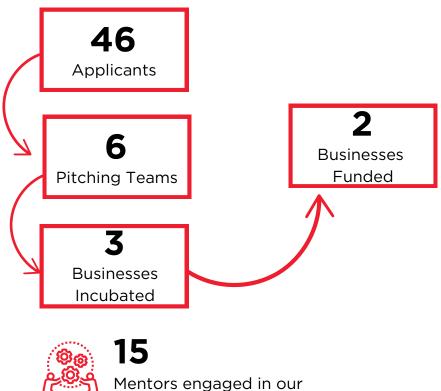
2024 Graduate Temisan shares about the Workforce Development Workshops and her overall experience as an A2S Scholar.





Taking the first steps on the dignified path towards success...

Pitch Competition



Mentors engaged in our entrepreneur community.

Our Pitch Competition is designed to empower unique ventures to solve community problems and grow in a way that creates new jobs in the local area. In Nigeria, 9 out of 10 businesses fail in the first 10 years. With the right mentorship and access to things like consistent electricity, wifi, and business center resources, our goal is to support businesses that sustain and grow over time. Since 2017, businesses funded through our Pitch Competition have created 45 local jobs.

Meet our 2025 funded businesses...



Reyah Apparel 2025 A2S Funded Business

Reyah Apparel is a brand where innovation meets elegance for every size woman. They believe in creating fashion that not only looks good but also does good for the environment by prioritizing ecofriendly materials.



Basket Crafts 2025 A2S Funded Business

Basket Crafts creates character and culture-rich baskets in a market flooded with bland, mass produced options. Their handcrafted baskets expertly blend traditional craftsmanship with modern design to fill a variety of needs.





Taking the first steps on the dignified path towards success...

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

ASA Parent Support

We also need short-term solutions while we work towards longer-term change. In order to create the welcoming and engaging environment we want for our kids in our education programs, we need to ensure that their parents are supported and allowed to build agency as well. Here are a few ways we have done this in 2024...

520



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Grants for small businesses of After School Academy parents.



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Adult Literacy
hours delivered to
10 students
throughout the
year.
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Households Supported in Holiday Food Drive





Articles of clothing distributed



Meals distributed to community



Meals served at



850 Pairs of shoes distributed



Meals distributed to scholars

CHOICE

We believe that God's desire and design for mankind is to have CHOICE. People living in material poverty are often robbed of their gift of choice because of the limited options one has for basic survival. At A2S, our goal is to restore choice by meeting basic needs, helping our youth build agency, and then empowering them to CHOOSE their path forward. We know God has called each of His children to something unique in this world, and by championing empowered choices we hope that each of our beneficiaries find their calling.

CHOICE

Here are a few ways we helped to champion empowered choices in 2024...

EDUCATION





07.

Clubs at the A2S After School Academy

Something we often take for granted in the U.S. is the ability to choose to pursue our various interests as kids growing up. At A2S, kids choose clubs based on their passions and they engage and create all year long! These are opportunities not otherwise offered in our community.



250 Kids participated in our After School Mentorship Program

At the After School Academy, our kids get to choose a personal mentor amongst our staff as a part of our mentorship program. This helps us connect more with the kids, learn about their passions, and guide them as they navigate life's challenges with an adult in their life that they trust.





26 Different majors in our scholars program

In Nigeria, studying in your desired major is not a given. Students must test into their field as a part of entrance to the university. Many youth spend years retaking tests to get into their desired field. At A2S, we encourage that choice and are working on future solutions to ensure youth have options in between their years in secondary school and starting university. One way we fill this gap now is through our departmental internships. See below for more.







Here are a few ways we helped to champion empowered choices in 2024...

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Meet our interns...

In 2024 we had 8 amazing interns learn about all things A2S across departments at our Youth Center.





Goodluck Finance and Operations

I enjoyed the way the finance department collaborates to get the work done. My biggest takeaway was communication. I had low self esteem when I came in, but now I am more confident. Next I am working towards gaining my admission into the university.



Franklyn Nelms Entrepreneur Hub

I enjoyed learning how to use the Canva App. My biggest takeaway was communication, because it was something I needed to learn. Next I plan on pursuing admission into the university.



David

Operations and Finance

I enjoyed getting to learn about the professional space. My biggest takeaway was time management. I was not a good time manager and it was something I felt was important for me to learn. Next I am looking forward to starting my studies in Entrepreneurship at the university.



Progress

Nelms Entrepreneur Hub

I enjoyed learning about workplace communication, but the most important takeaway was learning about workplace culture. A2S helped me develop a strong workplace ethic, which has shaped me a lot. I am currently studying Geoinformatics at university in my second year.

Success O. After School Academy





Praise

After School Academy

What I enjoyed learning the most was every bit of it! I love teaching. I am currently a 200 level student at the university studying Computer Science.





Success E. After School Academy

I enjoyed learning a lot of new things, including how to create instructional materials for classes. My biggest takeaway was learning teamwork. Next I am working on developing my skills to pursue work.



Sonia

Communications and Sick Bay

What I enjoyed most was learning the hard skills like Canva and Google Sheets. I think the most important thing I learned was how to be proactive and open to new tasks. Next I am excited to pursue admission to the university.

CHOICE



Here are a few ways we helped to champion empowered choices in 2024...

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT Sustainability for the IDP

A2S has been serving a local Internally Displaced Persons camp since 2016 by providing at least a week's worth of food every month. This camp is home to anywhere between 2,500-4,000 individuals at a given time - mostly widows and orphans. All camp residents have escaped tragedy and terrorism in their home in the northern part of Nigeria where Boko Haram operates.

As years have passed and returning home has remained unsafe, we've come up with a plan at A2S to help the camp become less reliant on handouts from local organizations and churches. In addition to feeding them for a week out of every month, our Entrepreneur Empowerment team is hard at work with A2S Scholar, Jeffery, and some of our best mentors alongside lead camp residents and local authorities to help the camp start growing its own crops. The idea is that these crops will in part supply food to the camp residents, while the rest will be sold at the market to be able to generate income and help the camp purchase other needed food items and supplies. Our hope is by leveraging the assets and expertise of camp residents, we can set them on a path towards self-sustainability and empower them to be able to make their own choices going forward.

In 2024 the camp was able to plant plantain, banana, cassava, and vegetables with a variety of other rotating crops planned for the future.









Read more

of Jeffery's

story here or

by scanning

the QR code.

IDP PROJECT: 2024-2025 FARMING OUTLINE

PHASE 01

Mid Rainy Season

A2S helps the IDP community acquire banana and plantain suckers with the Ministry of Agriculture, and oil palm seeds with a former A2S-funded business. We begin planning pineapple farm expansion.

PHASE 02

Late Rainy-Early Dry Season

As rainy weather slows, the camp can start learing and grooming the land. After testing the soil pH, plowing, fertilization, and the irrigation system installation can begin. Afterwards, planting will start.

PHASE 03

Dry Season

For several months, workers will weed, re-apply fertilizer when necessary, and observe all crops for signs of disease and pests. Greenhouse construction will begin and A2S will help the farm acquire pepper and tomato seeds. Banana and plantain will be harvested and replanted.

PHASE 04

Forwards

Workers will continue monitoring for signs pests and disease, and assess beginning income. A2S will start transition its oversight to farm staff.*





GODLY STEWARDSHIP

As we walk a journey alongside each of our youth, our hope is to empower them to be stewards of their time, talents, and treasure in the world. As they make use of their agency and make empowered choices, we hope all that they do allows them to walk in their faith and honor God in the unique ways they've been called to in this world. In this way, our program alumni will go out as godly stewards to build healthy, thriving communities that further break the cycle of poverty in Nigeria.

STEWARDSHIP



Here's a few ways our youth are demonstrating godly stewardship both within and after their participation in our programs... For more stories, visit a2sfoundation.org/stories/

Catching up with Aisosa



Aisosa is an A2S Scholar Graduate and former Intern. After his compulsory year of service in Kaduna, Nigeria, he choose to stay and start his own foundation.

"I faced a difficult choice and a life changing decision —return to Benin

City, where my family, friends, and A2S awaited, or stay in Kaduna to serve the children and communities in need. Going back was the easier path, offering familiarity and support, while staying meant stepping into the unknown.

The decision was a deep struggle. How could I help the people ? Where would the resources come from? Who did I know in Kaduna? Who would support me? How would I take care of myself? What about my safety? How would my family and friends react?

In the end, I chose to stay." <u>Read more about Aisosa's</u> experience here.

Glory's Story



"Glory fondly remembers A2S's summer camps, from where she learned important lessons of resilience and perseverance."

Read <u>this story on our website</u> about Glory's journey from being a basketball camper to serving as an example to our kids every day as an A2S Librarian.





After School Community Service

As a part of our After School Academy curriculum, we teach kids about giving back to their community and provide opportunities to serve. Check out these pictures from our Community Clean Up in 2024!





PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

We are so grateful for our partners in 2024.



