



**HEADFORT  
FOUNDATION  
FOR JUSTICE**

# 20 25



**ANNUAL REPORT**

# 2025 AT A GLANCE

## IMPACT IN NUMBERS



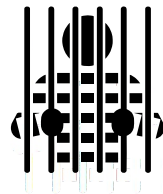
**15,600**  
Probono  
Hours Spent



**5,000+**  
Beneficiaries  
Of Legal Aid



**192**  
Indigent Pre-trial  
Inmates Released



**12**  
Correctional  
Facilities  
Engaged



**87**  
Court Engaged



**206**  
Volunteers  
Engaged



**637**  
Children Reached  
Through Legal Aid &  
Human Rights Advocacy



**44**  
Media Outlets  
Engaged in Human  
Rights Advocacy



**16**  
Cases Resolved  
Via Technology  
(Lawyersnow)



**2 Million+**  
People Reached On  
Human Rights Advocacy



**29**  
Partners  
Engaged

# TABLE OF CONTENT

**2025 At A Glance**

**Table of content**

<b>Message from our Executive Director</b>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>Message from the Chair, Board of Trustees</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>About Headfort Foundation for Justice</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Wellness behind bars charts</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Medical Care and Mental Health Support Provided to 200 Women at Kirikiri Female Correctional Centre, Lagos State</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>Water Provided for 3602 Inmates in Enugu State</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Provided to 143 Boys in Correctional Center in Lagos</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Medical Care, Welfare Support, and Mental Health Services Provided to 100 Men at Kirikiri Medium Correctional Centre, Lagos</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>Mental Health Sensitization and Counselling Provided to 150 Inmates in Calabar, Cross Rivers State</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Access to justice program</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>States Reached in Nigeria</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Impact Story one</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Justice Hub initiative</b>	<b>16-17</b>
<b>Access to Justice Demography</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Impact Story two</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Types of Cases Attended to in 2025</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>186 Indigent Inmates Regain Their Liberty in 2025</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>More impact Stories</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Leveraging Technology to Expand Access to Justice: The Impact of the LawyersNowNow App</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Human Rights Awareness and Social Justice Education Reached 118 Students in Kaduna State</b>	<b>24</b>

# TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>Human Rights Education and Inclusion Reached 110 Women with Disability in Ikorodu–Adamo Community</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Capacity Building on Survivor–Centred Justice Reached 71 Justice Sector Actors</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Press Freedom and Journalists’ Rights Advocacy Engaged 31 Media Professionals</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Child Rights and Digital Inclusion Advocacy Reached 174 Students Through Inter–School Debate</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Rights Education and Justice Pathways After Sexual Violence Reached 200 Women</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Digital Rights and Responsible Citizenship Education Reached 250 Students</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Civic Engagement and Human Rights Dialogue to Mark Human Rights Day</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Impact Reached by Age Demographic</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Climate Justice in Action: Advancing Sustainability, Dignity, and Circular Economy Practices</b>	<b>33–34</b>
<b>Challenges and Lessons from 2025</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Looking ahead 2026</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Financials</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Operating budget for 2026</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Events attended</b>	<b>40–41</b>
<b>Training/Fellowships</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Thank you to our partners</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Our Team</b>	<b>44</b>



# MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude, humility, and renewed determination. The year was one of meaningful growth, strengthened partnerships, and sustained impact, reaffirming our core belief that justice must be accessible, humane, and inclusive for all—regardless of status, circumstance, or ability.

In 2025, Headfort Foundation for Justice helped 186 innocent and wrongly incarcerated individuals regain their freedom. Each release represents more than a number; it signifies restored dignity, reunited families, and renewed hope. These outcomes were made possible through persistent legal representation, strategic court interventions, and unwavering advocacy within a justice system that too often fails the most vulnerable. 2025 also marked a significant milestone in our institutional development with the successful funding of two new projects: Dignity from Waste and Wellness Behind Bars.

Dignity from Waste reflects our commitment to restorative justice and human dignity by transforming fashion waste into clothing for indigent inmates, addressing both environmental sustainability and the basic human needs of people in custody.

Wellness Behind Bars responds to the often-overlooked mental and emotional wellbeing of incarcerated persons, providing psychosocial support and promoting holistic rehabilitation within correctional facilities. Together, these projects deepen our impact beyond legal aid, reinforcing our belief that justice must be both legal and humane.

Another important achievement in 2025 was the expansion of our legal education and human rights awareness programmes to persons living with disabilities. By adapting our materials and engagement methods, we took deliberate steps to ensure that legal knowledge and rights awareness are inclusive and accessible. This milestone underscores our broader commitment to leaving no one behind in the pursuit of justice.

Beyond direct service delivery, we continued to engage in strategic partnerships, community outreach, and justice-sector collaboration. Through these efforts, Headfort Foundation for Justice remained actively involved in conversations on reform, accountability, and the promotion of rights-respecting practices across Nigeria's justice system. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the collective efforts of dedicated individuals and institutions. I extend my sincere appreciation to our Board of Trustees for their guidance, oversight, and steadfast support. Your leadership continues to strengthen our governance and sustain our long-term vision.

To our staff, I am deeply grateful for your professionalism, resilience, and compassion. Your commitment to justice, often under challenging circumstances, remains the backbone of our work. To our volunteers, thank you for your generosity of time, skills, and service. Your contributions continue to amplify our reach and enhance our impact. To our donors and partners, thank you for your trust and belief in our mission. Your support enables us to challenge injustice, defend the vulnerable, and invest in sustainable, system-focused solutions.

As we look ahead, we do so with clarity, courage, and renewed resolve to expand access to justice, strengthen inclusive programming, and continue advocating for a fairer, more accountable justice system in Nigeria. Together, we are demonstrating that justice is not a privilege—it is a right.

## **Oluyemi Orija**

**Executive Director**  
**Headfort Foundation for Justice**



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Headfort Foundation for Justice, I am pleased to present this 2025 Annual Report, which reflects a year of resilience, impact, and continued commitment to advancing access to justice and human dignity.

Throughout 2025, the Board provided strategic oversight and governance support to ensure that the Foundation's work remained aligned with its mission, values, and long-term vision. We are encouraged by the organisation's ability to deliver meaningful outcomes in a complex operating environment, particularly in the face of financial and institutional constraints.

The Board commends the Executive Director and the entire team for their dedication and professionalism in securing the release of indigent and wrongfully detained individuals, expanding inclusive human rights education, and implementing innovative programmes such as Wellness Behind Bars and Dignity from Waste. These interventions demonstrate a thoughtful approach to justice—one that recognises the interconnection between legal access, dignity, wellbeing, and systemic reform.

We also acknowledge the challenges encountered during the year, including resource limitations and operational barriers within institutional settings. The Board is satisfied that these challenges were managed with prudence, adaptability, and respect for stakeholders, while maintaining the integrity of the Foundation's work.

As trustees, we remain committed to strengthening governance, supporting sustainable growth, and ensuring responsible stewardship of resources. We are confident in the leadership of the Foundation and encouraged by the strategic direction being pursued as we look ahead to 2026.

On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere appreciation to our donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters for their trust and continued collaboration. Your support makes it possible for Headfort Foundation for Justice to deliver justice where it is most needed.

We remain steadfast in our belief that access to justice is fundamental to a fair and accountable society, and we look forward to supporting the Foundation as it continues to advance this important work.

**Adesola Adeyemi**  
Chair, Board of Trustees  
Headfort Foundation for Justice

# ABOUT HEADFORT FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

Headfort Foundation for Justice is a Nigerian non-profit organization committed to promoting access to justice, protecting human rights, and strengthening accountability within the justice system. We work to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized individuals—particularly indigent persons, children, and people in detention—are not left behind by the law.

Our work spans legal aid and representation, juvenile justice and child protection, human rights education, and justice-sector engagement. Through direct legal intervention, community-based education, and strategic partnerships with government institutions and civil society organizations, we address both the immediate needs of individuals and the systemic barriers that perpetuate injustice.

We place strong emphasis on measurable outcomes, responsible stewardship of resources, and scalable solutions. Our programmes address not only legal barriers but also dignity, rehabilitation, and wellbeing—ensuring that justice is humane and inclusive. In recent years, this has included expanding legal education to persons living with disabilities and introducing rehabilitation-focused initiatives within correctional facilities.

For our donors and partners, Headfort Foundation for Justice represents a trusted platform for achieving meaningful, accountable, and people-centered justice outcomes in Nigeria. Your support directly contributes to freedom restored, rights protected, and systems strengthened.

Headfort Foundation for Justice exists to defend dignity, restore hope, and advance a justice system that works for everyone.

## VISION

To see a just and equitable Nigeria, where everyone has equal access to justice

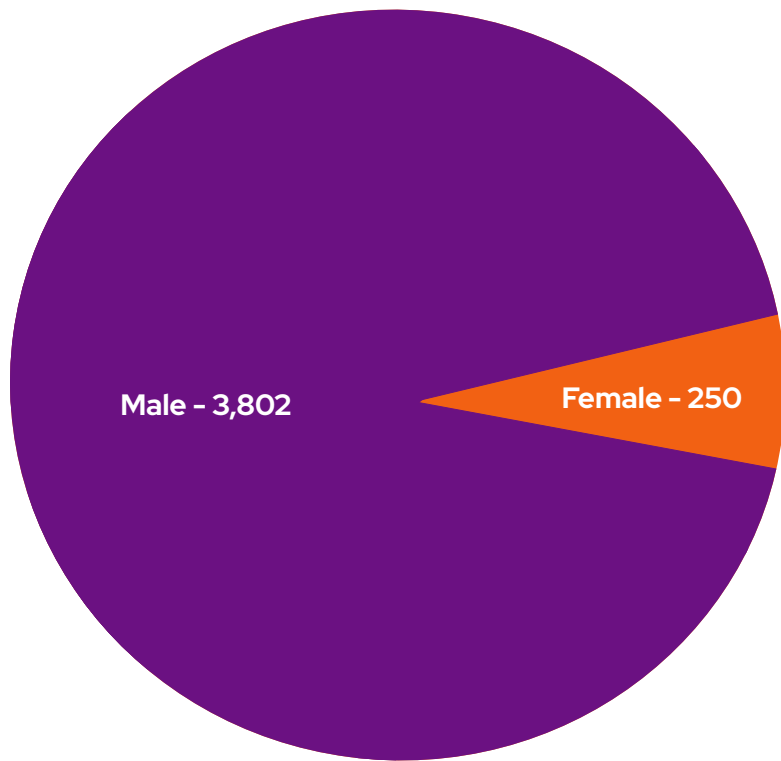


## MISSION

To significantly improve access to justice in Nigeria through human rights advocacy, legal aid and Innovative technology solution

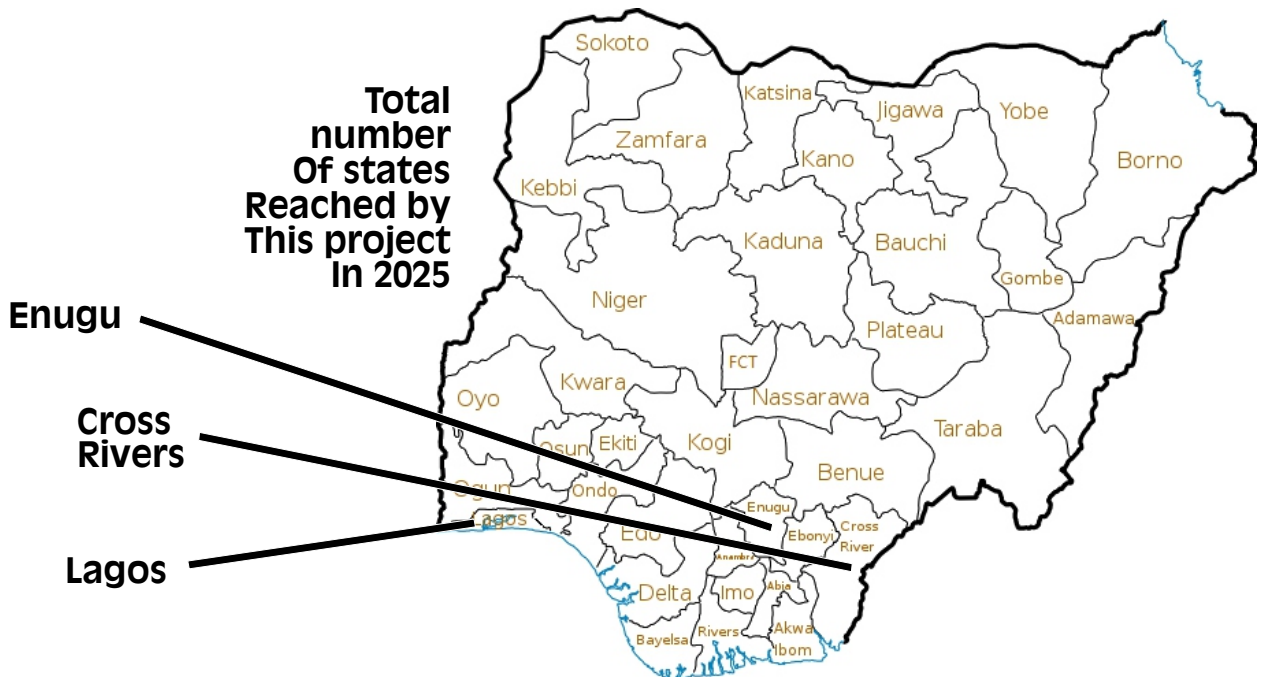


# WELLNESS BEHIND BARS



Total number of inmates Reached by This project In 2025

**4,052 INMATES**



# MEDICAL CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROVIDED TO 200 WOMEN AT KIRIKIRI FEMALE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, LAGOS STATE

On **23 July 2025**, Headfort Foundation for Justice implemented the **Wellness Behind Bars** initiative at the **Kirikiri Female Correctional Centre**, in collaboration with the **Development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC)**, to respond to urgent physical and mental health needs of women in custody—many of whom lack access to basic healthcare services.

The intervention reached **200 women**, including **pregnant women and nursing mothers with infant children**, a highly vulnerable population within the correctional system. Many of these women face compounded health risks due to pregnancy, post-natal care needs, childcare responsibilities, and prolonged detention without adequate medical support.

Through the programme, participants received **essential medical consultations and prescribed medications**, addressing immediate health concerns such as untreated illnesses, pregnancy-related complications, and general health conditions. The intervention helped bridge critical gaps in healthcare access for women who would otherwise remain without basic medical attention.

In addition to medical services, **mental health counselling and psychosocial support** were delivered by **Arogi Trauma Care Foundation**. These sessions provided trauma-informed counselling, emotional support, and coping strategies, particularly for women experiencing stress related to incarceration, separation from family, pregnancy in custody, and the responsibility of caring for infants in a restrictive environment.

This integrated intervention reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice's commitment to **gender-responsive and dignity-centred justice programming**. By prioritizing the specific needs of women, pregnant inmates, and nursing mothers, the programme promoted holistic wellbeing, safeguarded maternal and child health, and reinforced the principle that incarceration should not deny individuals access to basic healthcare and humane treatment.

# MEDICAL CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PROVIDED TO 200 WOMEN AT KIRIKIRI FEMALE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, LAGOS STATE



## BENEFICIARY VOICE

*"This is the first time since I came here that someone asked about my health and how I was really feeling. The medical help and counselling gave me hope and reminded me that I still matter."*

*— Female inmate, Kirikiri Female Correctional Centre*

# WATER PROVIDED FOR 3602 INMATES IN ENUGU STATE

In **February 2025**, Headfort Foundation for Justice implemented the **Wellness Behind Bars** initiative at the **Enugu Correctional Centre**, providing much-needed water access to address severe water scarcity within the facility. This intervention was designed to improve health, hygiene, and overall wellbeing for inmates while reinforcing dignity and humane treatment in custodial settings.

Through this intervention, **water was provided to 3,602 inmates**, directly improving daily living conditions and supporting basic sanitation and hygiene needs. Access to water is critical within correctional facilities, and this project significantly reduced the hardship faced by inmates arising from inadequate water supply, with positive implications for health and wellbeing.

Beyond its immediate practical impact, the intervention was intentionally implemented as an **act of care and solidarity**. Delivered on February 14, the project underscored the Foundation's belief that incarceration should not strip individuals of their dignity or access to basic human necessities.

The Wellness Behind Bars intervention highlights Headfort Foundation for Justice's holistic approach to justice—one that extends beyond legal aid to address systemic welfare gaps within correctional centres. By ensuring access to water for thousands of inmates, the project demonstrates how targeted, dignity-centred interventions can meaningfully improve conditions within the justice system.

## BENEFICIARY VOICE

*"Having water may seem small, but for us it meant cleanliness, health, and peace of mind. It showed that someone outside cares about our wellbeing."*

*Inmate, Enugu Correctional Centre*



# MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED TO 143 BOYS IN CORRECTIONAL CENTER IN LAGOS

On **15 March 2025**, Headfort Foundation for Justice, in collaboration with the **Youth Arm of The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM)** and **Arogi Trauma Care Foundation**, delivered targeted **mental health and psychosocial support** to boys (within 10-17years) in custody at the **Boys' Correctional Centre, Oregon**.

Through this intervention, **143 boys received structured mental health support**, including trauma-informed engagement, emotional reassurance, and psychosocial care aimed at addressing the psychological impact of detention, separation from family, and prolonged exposure to the justice system. The intervention created a safe environment for healing, reflection, and emotional stabilization.

In addition to psychosocial support, the boys were provided with **legal counseling and guidance**, helping them better understand their rights, ongoing legal processes, and available pathways within the juvenile justice system. This combined approach ensured that emotional wellbeing and legal empowerment were addressed simultaneously. This intervention reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice's commitment to **holistic, child-centred justice**, recognizing that rehabilitation must extend beyond confinement to include mental wellbeing, dignity, and informed participation in legal processes.

By prioritizing mental health support alongside legal guidance, the Foundation continues to promote recovery, resilience, and the prospects for successful reintegration for justice-impacted children.



# MEDICAL CARE, WELFARE SUPPORT, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED TO 100 MEN AT KIRIKIRI MEDIUM CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, LAGOS

On **16 September 2025**, Headfort Foundation for Justice implemented the **Wellness Behind Bars** programme at the **Kirikiri Medium Correctional Centre**, in collaboration with the **development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC)**, to respond to the urgent health, welfare, and psychosocial needs of men in custody.

Through this intervention, **100 male inmates received comprehensive medical check-ups, essential medical consultations, and prescribed drugs**, addressing untreated illnesses and immediate health concerns. These services helped bridge critical gaps in access to basic healthcare within the correctional facility. In addition to medical care, the programme provided **welfare support**, including **food items and hygiene materials**, contributing to improved daily living conditions and personal wellbeing. Access to hygiene supplies is critical in custodial environments, and this intervention supported better sanitation and dignity for participants.

**Mental health counselling and psychosocial support** were delivered by **Arogi Trauma Care Foundation**, focusing on emotional wellbeing, stress management, and trauma-informed care. These sessions equipped inmates with coping strategies to manage the psychological impact of incarceration and promote resilience.

This integrated intervention reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice's commitment to **holistic, rights-based justice programming**. By combining healthcare, welfare support, and mental health services, the programme promoted dignity, improved wellbeing, and reinforced the importance of humane treatment within correctional environments.

# MEDICAL CARE, WELFARE SUPPORT, AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED TO 100 MEN AT KIRIKIRI MEDIUM CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, LAGOS



## BENEFICIARY VOICE

*"I had been sick for a long time and didn't know when I would get help. When they checked us, gave us drugs, food, and even simple hygiene items, it felt like someone finally saw us as human beings. Today gave me strength and hope."*

*— Male inmate, Kirikiri Medium Correctional Centre*

# MENTAL HEALTH SENSITIZATION AND COUNSELING PROVIDED TO 150 INMATES IN CALABAR, CROSS RIVERS STATE

On **15 June 2025**, Headfort Foundation for Justice implemented the **Wellness Behind Bars** programme at the **Calabar Correctional Centre**, delivering targeted **mental health sensitization and counseling** to inmates as part of its holistic justice and rehabilitation approach.

Through this intervention, **150 inmates received mental health education and counseling**, aimed at increasing awareness of mental health issues, reducing stigma, and strengthening emotional resilience within the correctional environment. The sessions equipped participants with basic coping strategies and encouraged healthier responses to stress, trauma, and confinement. The programme also created a supportive space for open conversations around mental wellbeing, reinforcing the importance of psychological health as a critical component of rehabilitation and reintegration. By addressing mental health needs within the correctional centre, the intervention contributed to improved wellbeing and a more humane custodial environment.

This engagement reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice's commitment to **integrating mental health support into justice interventions**, recognizing that effective rehabilitation requires attention to both legal protection and emotional wellbeing. The Calabar implementation of Wellness Behind Bars further demonstrates the Foundation's dedication to promoting dignity, resilience, and rights-based care for people in detention.

## BENEFICIARY VOICE

*"Before this session, I didn't understand what was happening in my mind. Talking about mental health and being listened to helped me feel lighter and less alone. I now know that what I'm feeling matters and that help is possible."*

*Inmate, Calabar Correctional Centre*



# ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN NUMBERS

**15,600**

Pro Bono Hours

**192**

Freed Inmates

**5000+**

Legal Advice  
Sessions

**8**

States Reached

**12**

Total Prison  
Facility Engaged

**250**

Pending Cases

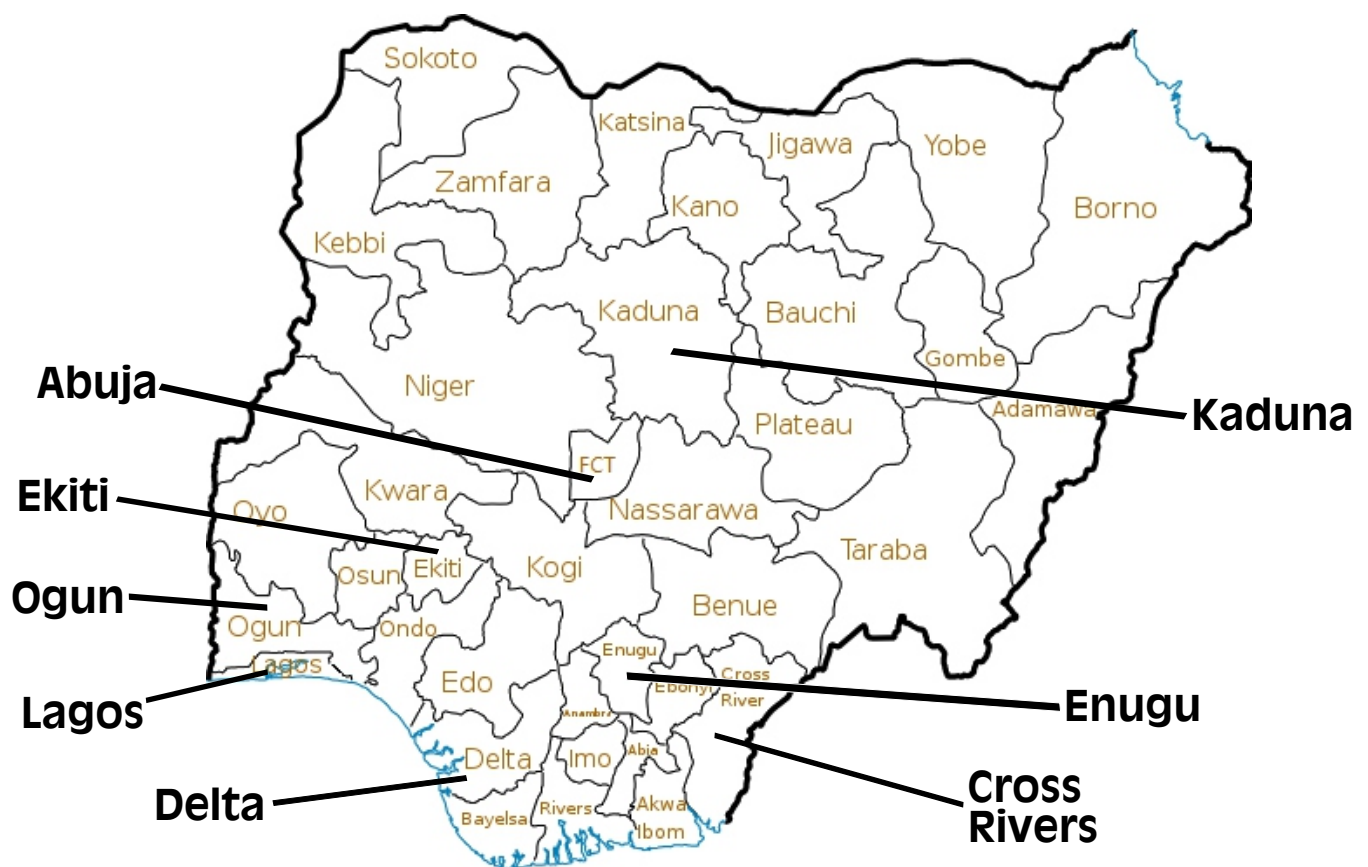
**87**

Courts Engaged

**16**

Cases Resolved  
Via Technology  
(Lawyersnownow)

# STATES REACHED IN NIGERIA



# IMPACT STORY



**Rasheed (Not real name)** was arrested on 17 June 2025 and charged with attempted murder. From the moment he was arrested, everything changed. He maintained that he was innocent, but the charge against him kept him in custody while everyone waited endlessly for legal advice.

As the weeks turned into months, Rasheed's health began to fail. His family worried every day. He remained in custody, still waiting for the system to decide his fate. We came into the matter when our Justice Hub lawyer in Ekiti, Roli Etuwewe-Ibitoye, was assigned to follow up on his case.

After months of delay, the DPP finally issued legal advice, clearly stating that Rasheed had no case to answer. He should not have been charged in the first place. With that advice, the date for his matter was brought forward so the court could strike out the charge.

**But Rasheed never lived to hear those words.**

A day before his case was finally struck out, his condition got worse. He was rushed to EKSUTH, but he passed away. His family, who had prayed for his freedom, received instead the painful news of his death.

**Justice came, but it came too late for Rasheed.**

## **A SYSTEM THAT FAILED HIM**

Rasheed's story shows how a slow justice system harms innocent people. His right to a fair trial was denied, and if the DPP advice had come earlier, he may not have stayed in custody long enough for his health to deteriorate. His right to proper health care was taken from him too. He had been ill, and there were no working medical facilities, no basic equipment, and no urgent attention to help him before he collapsed. Even first aid or early intervention could have made a difference. And in the end, his right to life was taken. Not by evidence, not by conviction, but by delay, neglect, and a system that does not protect the poor.

# JUSTICE HUB INITIATIVE

The Justice Hub Initiative is Headfort Foundation for Justice's flagship court-based legal aid intervention, established to provide immediate and effective legal representation to indigent defendants who would otherwise remain unrepresented within Nigeria's criminal justice system. The programme is designed to ensure that lack of financial means does not result in prolonged or unlawful detention.

Through this initiative, we station qualified lawyers within courts, enabling real-time access to legal aid for persons in detention. Lawyers working within the Justice Hubs receive case referrals from a broad range of justice-sector stakeholders, including Magistrates, court registrars, prison officials, fellow legal practitioners, and members of the public. This proximity to the courts allows for early intervention, timely review of cases, and swift protection of constitutional rights.

In 2025, the Justice Hub Initiative operated across multiple jurisdictions, with active court-based presence at Ikorodu, Ogba, and Ebute Metta Magistrates' Courts in Lagos State, as well as in Abeokuta, Ogun State, and Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State. Across these locations, Headfort Foundation lawyers appeared in court daily, providing representation, filing bail applications, conducting case reviews, and advocating for defendants facing prolonged and unlawful detention

Complementing the court-based work, the Foundation conducted quarterly prison visits across its operational states. These visits served as an important access point for identifying indigent inmates without legal representation, reviewing cases of prolonged pre-trial detention, and ensuring that incarcerated persons were connected to timely legal assistance through the Justice Hub system. This approach strengthened the linkage between correctional facilities and the courts, ensuring that no innocent person is left behind bars without legal representation.

Through sustained court presence, strategic legal advocacy, and regular prison engagement, the Justice Hub Initiative secured the release of 192 indigent and wrongfully detained inmates in 2025 across all operational offices. These outcomes translated into restored freedom and dignity for beneficiaries, reunification with families and communities, reduced pressure on correctional facilities, and improved efficiency within the magistrate criminal justice system.

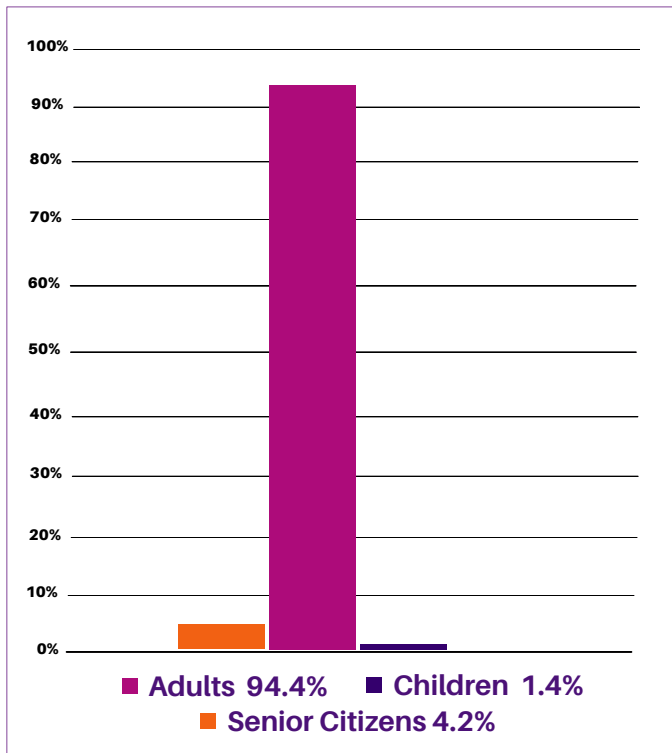
# JUSTICE HUB INITIATIVE

The Justice Hub Initiative demonstrates the effectiveness of proximity-based legal aid, where access to justice is delivered directly at the point of need. By embedding lawyers within courts and maintaining consistent engagement with correctional facilities, Headfort Foundation for Justice continues to bridge critical gaps in the justice system and ensure that justice is accessible, timely, and humane.

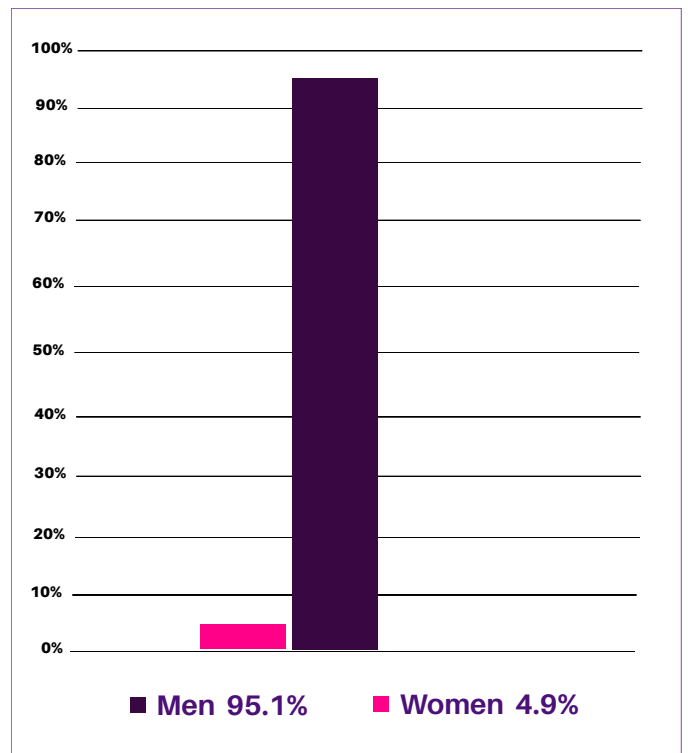


# ACCESS TO JUSTICE DEMOGRAPHY

STATISTICS FOR AGE



STATISTICS FOR GENDER



# IMPACT STORY



**Yekina (not real name)**, a young generator repairer from Osun State, found himself in trouble after picking up a broken phone and handing it over to a friend who collects condemned items. That person was later arrested and, when asked about the phone, mentioned Yekina's name.

Yekina was arrested on July 16, 2023, and taken to SARS, Ikeja, where he was detained for 22 days. Rather than being charged for simply handling found property, he was slammed with conspiracy and armed robbery charges, accused of being part of a gang that robbed four homes and stole money and gold. Crimes he had no part in.

On August 8, 2023, he was arraigned before the Magistrate Court and remanded at Kirikiri Medium Correctional Centre, with his case awaiting legal advice from the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP). The advice, issued in 2023, clearly stated that Yekina had no case to answer. But the DPP advice was never transmitted to the court.

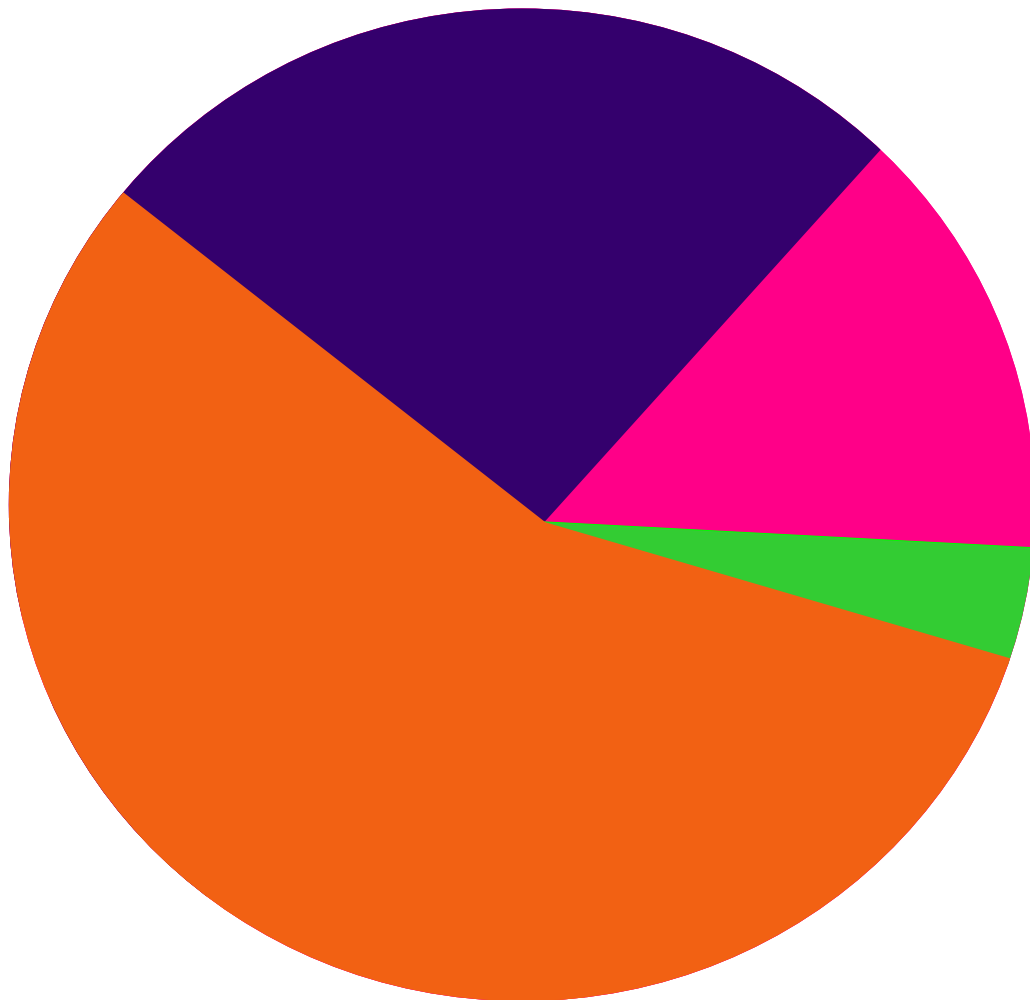
And because Yekina couldn't afford a lawyer, there was no one to follow up. No one to ask questions. No one to push for justice. So he remained in custody until May 2025, almost two years later, when the registrar referred the matter to one of our Justice Hub lawyers stationed @zoe\_theblessing in Ogba.

Our lawyer immediately began following up with the DPP and ensured the legal advice was issued and this was when it was discovered that the advice has since been issued since 2023 with the instruction that Yekina has **NO CASE TO ANSWER AND SHOULD BE RELEASED**.

On July 18, 2025, Yekina was finally brought to court, and the magistrate struck out the case, ordering his immediate release. Yekina walked free not because justice had worked, but because we stepped in to fix what poverty and neglect had broken.

# TYPES OF CASES ATTENDED TO IN 2025

In 2025, our organization addressed a diverse range of legal cases, reflecting our commitment to providing comprehensive access to justice. The types of cases we handled include, Minor Offense, Misdemeanors, Civil Cases with Criminal coloration and Felonies and the statistics is represented below.



- Felony 13.2%
- Misdemeanours 25.8%
- Minor Offences 59.9%
- Civil Cases with Criminal Coloration 1.1%

# 192 INDIGENT INMATES REGAIN THEIR LIBERTY IN 2025

Through the dedication of our team, we secured the freedom of 192 indigent inmates and victims of human rights abuse across four states in Nigeria: Lagos, Ekiti, Ogun, and Rivers. These cases were resolved through



■ Acquittal 12.6%

■ Withdrawal 11.5%

■ Restorative Justice 1.2%

■ Struck Out 67%

■ Sentences 7.7%

# More IMPACT STORIES

*"Ever since my case was resolved and I was discharged, I've been focused on getting my life back on track. It hasn't been easy, but your help gave me the chance to start over. I truly believe that without Headfort, I wouldn't be where I am today. I'm finally getting settled and just want to thank you for all you did"*  
**Joshua (not real name), beneficiary from the Ebutte Metta Office, who was in custody for two years.**

*"I had already given up hope of getting out of that situation but Headfort showed up and helped me"*  
**Ridwan (not real name), beneficiary from Ogba Mobile Office.**

*"I am grateful to headfort for taking up my case. Thank you Lawyer Nafisat, you will not cry over your loved ones"*  
**Rosemary (not real name), beneficiary from Abeokuta Mobile Office.**

# LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO EXPAND ACCESS TO JUSTICE: THE IMPACT OF THE LAWYERSNOWNOW APP



In 2025, we strengthened our access-to-justice strategy by embracing technology as a powerful tool for reaching marginalized and underserved populations through the LawyersNowNow digital application. The platform represents a significant advancement in our mission to remove barriers that prevent individuals from accessing timely legal support.

## Services



Through the application, individuals were able to request legal support for themselves and for loved ones who had been unlawfully arrested or detained, including persons affected by protest-related arrests across the country.



By enabling real-time reporting, referrals, and access to pro bono legal services, the app bridged critical gaps between vulnerable individuals and legal practitioners, particularly in situations where physical access to legal aid was limited or impossible.

This digital intervention proved especially impactful for third-party reporting, allowing concerned citizens to seek help on behalf of detained persons who lacked direct access to communication tools.

The integration of LawyersNowNow into the Foundation's operations demonstrates how technology and advocacy can work together to deepen impact, improve efficiency, and scale access to justice. By leveraging innovation, Headfort Foundation for Justice continues to expand the reach of legal aid, ensuring that the right to justice is not limited by geography, resources, or circumstance.

# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE EDUCATION REACHED 118 STUDENTS IN KADUNA STATE

To commemorate **World Social Justice Day**, Headfort Foundation for Justice implemented a **human rights sensitization and awareness programme** at **Queen Amina College**, Kakuri, Kaduna State on the 20th of February 2025. The initiative was designed to educate young people on the principles of social justice, human rights, equality, and civic responsibility.

The programme reached **118 students**, fostering increased awareness and understanding of fundamental human rights and the importance of justice, fairness, and accountability in society. Through interactive discussions and age-appropriate engagement, students were encouraged to recognize their rights, respect the rights of others, and understand their role as active citizens in promoting justice within their communities.

This intervention reflects our commitment to **preventive justice and rights education**, recognizing that sustainable social change begins with informed and empowered young people. By engaging students in meaningful conversations around human rights and social justice, we continue to nurture a generation of informed advocates capable of promoting equity, inclusion, and respect for human dignity.



# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND INCLUSION REACHED 110 WOMEN WITH DISABILITY IN IKORODU-ADAMO COMMUNITY

To commemorate International Women’s Day, Headfort Foundation for Justice implemented a human rights sensitization and advocacy outreach in the Ikorodu-Adamo community, Lagos State, in partnership with Friends of the Deaf Academy and The Real Women Foundation. The programme was designed to promote women’s rights, gender equality, and inclusive access to justice.

The outreach reached 110 women including women living with disabilities, focusing on rights education using the My Rights, My Freedom manual (which is the translated version of the chapter 4 of the Nigerian Constitution). Participants were sensitised on their fundamental rights and freedoms, with emphasis on dignity, equality before the law, and access to justice. The sessions encouraged women to understand, assert and protect their rights within their families and communities.

A key strength of the programme was its **inclusive design**, which ensured the active participation of **women with hearing impairments**. By adopting accessible communication approaches and working with disability-focused partners, the intervention demonstrated the Foundation’s commitment to ensuring that human rights education is accessible to all, regardless of physical or sensory ability.

This initiative reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice’s commitment to **gender-responsive and inclusive human rights advocacy**, recognizing that empowering women—particularly women with disabilities—with legal knowledge is essential to advancing social justice and protecting human dignity.

### BENEFICIARY VOICE

*“We live far from places where information usually reaches. Being taught about our rights in a way we could understand gave us confidence and helped us see new possibilities for ourselves and our children.”*

**Participant, Ikorodu-Adamo Community**



# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## CAPACITY BUILDING ON SURVIVOR-CENTRED JUSTICE REACHED 71 JUSTICE SECTOR ACTORS

On **20 March 2025**, Headfort Foundation for Justice in partnership with African Women Development Fund implemented a **capacity-building programme for justice sector actors** aimed at strengthening the skills and knowledge of key stakeholders involved in the response to sexual violence cases. The programme brought together 71 participants, including lawyers, prosecutors, Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) staff, police officers, and field workers.

The training focused on **effective, survivor-centred handling of sexual violence cases**, with emphasis on trauma-informed approaches, rights-based investigation, inter-agency coordination, and ethical case management. Participants were equipped with practical tools to improve reporting, evidence handling, victim support, and prosecution outcomes, while minimizing secondary victimization.

By strengthening the capacity of frontline justice actors, this intervention contributes to improved accountability, increased confidence in justice processes for survivors, and a more coordinated institutional response to sexual violence. The programme reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice's commitment to **systems-level reform**, recognizing that sustainable access to justice requires not only legal aid for survivors but also a justice system equipped to respond with competence, sensitivity, and integrity.



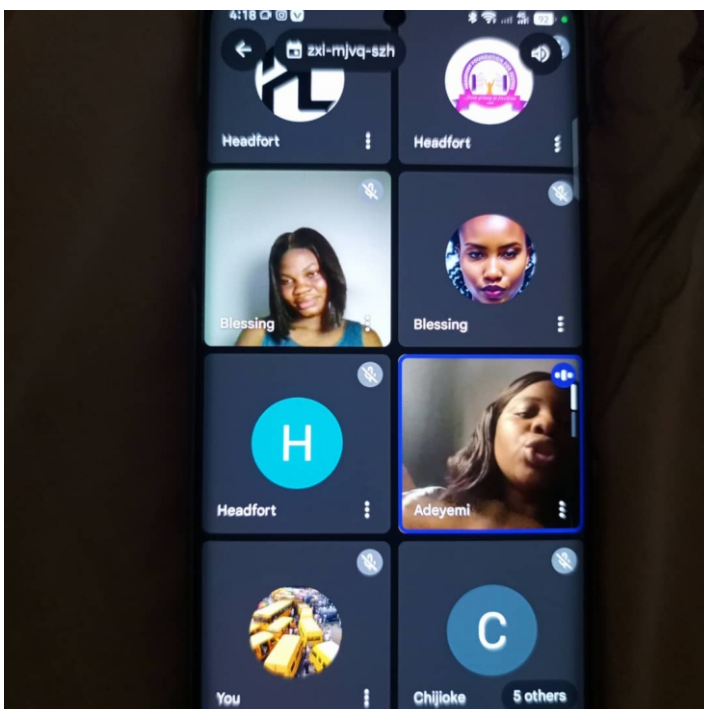
# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## PRESS FREEDOM AND JOURNALISTS' RIGHTS ADVOCACY ENGAGED 31 MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

To commemorate **World Press Freedom Day**, Headfort Foundation for Justice convened a **webinar on press freedom and journalists' rights**, bringing together members of the media to recognise their critical role in promoting human rights, accountability, and democratic governance.

The session engaged **31 journalists**, providing a platform to reflect on the challenges faced by media professionals in the course of their work, including harassment, intimidation, and restrictions on freedom of expression. Discussions highlighted the legal and human rights frameworks protecting journalists, while emphasising the importance of safeguarding press freedom as a cornerstone of democratic society.

By creating space for dialogue and recognition, the webinar reinforced the need for stronger protection of journalists' rights and greater public awareness of the risks faced by the press. This intervention reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice's commitment to defending civic freedoms and expanding safe spaces for expression, recognizing that a free and protected press is essential to the promotion and protection of human rights.



# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## CHILD RIGHTS AND DIGITAL INCLUSION ADVOCACY REACHED 174 STUDENTS THROUGH INTER-SCHOOL DEBATE

To commemorate **Children’s Day**, Headfort Foundation for Justice organised an **Inter-School Debate Competition** for members of its **Human Rights Clubs**, reaching a total of **174 students**. The initiative was designed to promote child rights awareness, critical thinking, and youth participation in conversations around education and equity.

The debate topic, “Is technology bridging the gap or widening the gap in access to quality education?”, encouraged students to engage in thoughtful analysis and constructive dialogue on the intersection of human rights, digital inclusion, and access to education. Participants explored the opportunities and challenges presented by technology, particularly in relation to inequality, accessibility, and the right to education.

Beyond the debate, the competition provided a platform for students to develop **advocacy, communication, and analytical skills**, empowering them to articulate informed perspectives on issues that directly affect their generation. The initiative deepened participants’ understanding of human rights and reinforced the importance of inclusive education in building a just and equitable society.

This programme reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice’s commitment to **child-centred human rights education**, recognising young people as active agents of change and investing in their capacity to advocate for rights, inclusion, and social justice.



# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## RIGHTS EDUCATION AND JUSTICE PATHWAYS AFTER SEXUAL VIOLENCE REACHED 200 WOMEN

On 29 November 2025, Headfort Foundation for Justice implemented the My Rights, My Freedom programme in partnership with African Women Development Fund (AWDF) to educate women on their rights following sexual violence and to strengthen access to justice, protection, and recovery.

The programme reached 200 women, providing critical information on legal rights and protections, available justice pathways, and mental health support options. Participants were sensitised on how to seek redress, access survivor-centred services, and navigate legal and institutional processes in the aftermath of sexual violence.

The sessions were designed to empower survivors and at-risk women with knowledge that supports informed decision-making, restores dignity, and reduces the fear and stigma often associated with reporting sexual violence. Emphasis was placed on dignity, confidentiality, and the importance of trauma-informed responses.

This intervention reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice's commitment to gender justice and survivor-centred human rights advocacy, recognising that access to information is a critical step toward accountability, healing, and long-term justice for women affected by sexual violence.

### BENEFICIARY VOICE

"Before this programme, I did not know what steps to take or where to go for help. Learning about my rights and the legal process gave me confidence. I now understand that reporting is possible and that there are pathways to justice and accountability."

*Participant,  
My Rights, My Freedom Programme*



# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## DIGITAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION REACHED 250 STUDENTS

On **2nd and 9th July 2025**, Headfort Foundation for Justice implemented the My Digital World Project for members of its Human Rights Clubs, in partnership with **Junior Achievement Nigeria**. The programme was designed to strengthen digital literacy while promoting awareness of rights, responsibilities, and safety within the digital space.

The initiative reached **250 students**, equipping them with essential skills to navigate the digital world responsibly and confidently. Participants were guided on key issues including digital citizenship, online safety, ethical technology use, and the relationship between digital access, human rights, and civic participation.

By integrating digital literacy with human rights education, the programme empowered students to engage online in ways that are informed, responsible, and respectful of the rights of others. The sessions also encouraged critical thinking around technology's role in access to information, education, and participation in society.

The My Digital World Project reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice's commitment to preparing young people for rights-respecting participation in an increasingly digital society, recognising digital literacy as an essential component of modern human rights advocacy and youth empowerment.



# HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE TO MARK HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2025



To commemorate Human Rights Day, Headfort Foundation for Justice convened a webinar focused on the theme “Justice Begins With Us: Citizens, Law, and Lasting Change.” The session created a reflective and interactive space for dialogue on the shared responsibility of citizens and institutions in advancing justice and protecting human rights.

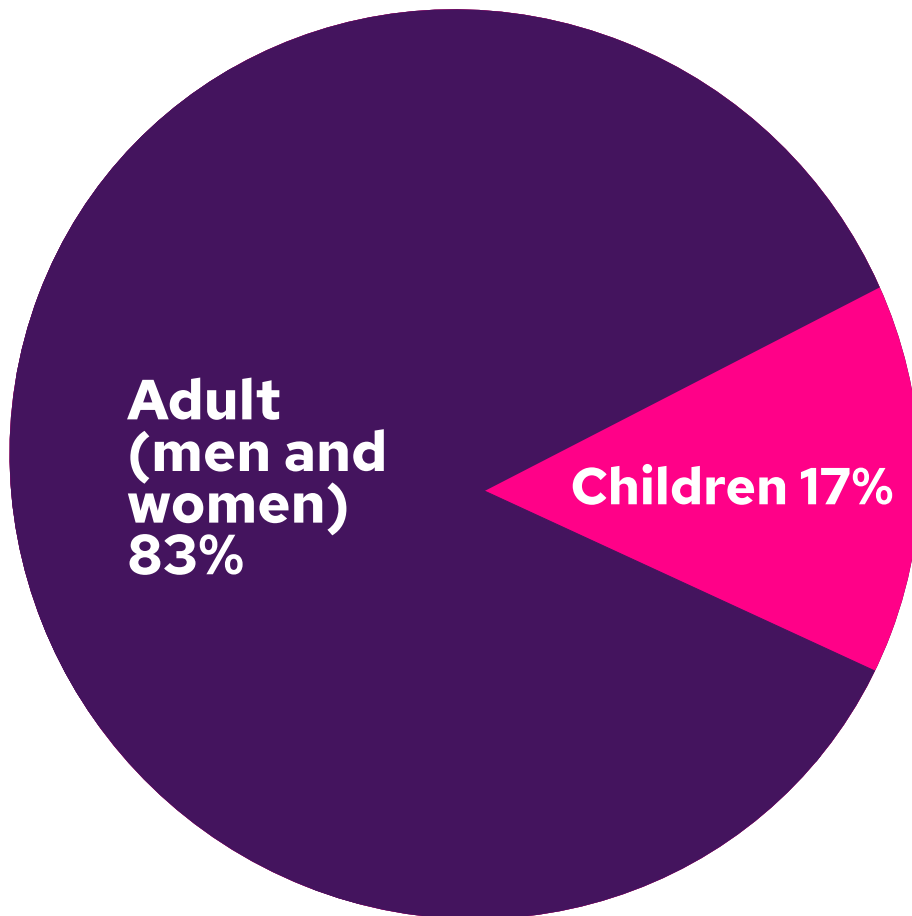
The webinar engaged 20 participants, facilitating discussions on the role of legal frameworks, civic responsibility, and active citizenship in driving sustainable social change. Participants explored how everyday actions, informed by knowledge of the law and human rights principles, can contribute to accountability, inclusion, and justice within society.

This engagement reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice’s commitment to rights education and civic empowerment, recognising that lasting change requires informed citizens who understand both their rights and their responsibilities. By fostering dialogue around justice and

human rights, the Foundation continues to promote a culture of participation, accountability, and respect for human dignity.



# IMPACT REACHED BY AGE DEMOGRAPHY



# DIGNITY FROM WASTE

## CLIMATE JUSTICE IN ACTION: ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY, DIGNITY, AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRACTICES

The **Dignity from Waste** project is a climate justice-driven intervention designed to address the intersection of environmental sustainability, human dignity, and access to justice. Introduced in **2024** and successfully implemented in **2025**, the project responds to two critical challenges: textile waste in the fashion industry and the lack of dignified clothing for indigent inmates within Nigeria's justice system.

The pilot phase involved the **collection of waste materials from fashion houses**, alongside an **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) analysis** to assess responsible production practices and sustainability standards. Implemented with the support of the **Innocent Chukwuma Fellowship**, the project seeks to recycle these waste materials into **new clothing items**, promoting circular economy practices and reducing environmental harm.

Beyond its environmental impact, Dignity from Waste project directly addresses a **systemic justice barrier**. Many indigent inmates lack basic clothing, a condition that prevents them from appearing in court with dignity. In several instances, inmates deliberately avoid court appearances due to the absence of decent clothing, leading to repeated adjournments of their cases. This often results in **months of prolonged detention**, not because of legal complexity, but due to the inability to appear before the court in a dignified manner.

By providing clothing through recycled fashion waste, the project restores dignity and removes a practical barrier to court attendance, enabling inmates to participate in their legal proceedings and reducing unnecessary delays within the justice system. In this way, Dignity from Waste project demonstrates how **climate-conscious solutions can unlock access to justice**, improve court efficiency, and protect fundamental rights.

# DIGNITY FROM WASTE

## CLIMATE JUSTICE IN ACTION: ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY, DIGNITY, AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRACTICES

The project reflects Headfort Foundation for Justice’s commitment to **innovative, cross-sector solutions** that integrate climate justice, environmental responsibility, and human rights. By transforming waste into dignity, the initiative advances sustainable production while addressing one of the hidden drivers of prolonged pre-trial detention.



# CHALLENGES AND LESSONS FROM 2025

The 2025 operational year presented both opportunities for impact and significant challenges that shaped the scope and pace of our work. While we remained committed to expanding access to justice and dignity-centred interventions, a combination of financial and institutional constraints affected the full realization of planned outcomes.

One of the key challenges faced in 2025 was **limited funding**. At the beginning of the year, we set an ambitious target to secure the release of **300 indigent and wrongfully detained inmates**. Despite sustained legal advocacy and court presence, we were able to secure the freedom of **192 inmates** during the year. This gap was largely attributable to funding constraints, which affected the scale of legal representation, the number of cases that could be simultaneously handled, and the frequency of prison engagements required to identify eligible cases.

In addition to financial limitations, **institutional and operational barriers** also influenced programme delivery. Some interventions, particularly those implemented within custodial environments, required extensive approvals and coordination. In one instance under the Wellness Behind Bars programme, a planned intervention could not be carried out at a particular correctional facility due to internal administrative considerations. To ensure continuity and impact, the programme was subsequently implemented at an alternative facility that was receptive to the intervention. While this required adjustments to planning and logistics, it reinforced the importance of flexibility and constructive engagement in sensitive institutional contexts.

These experiences highlighted the realities of operating within complex justice and correctional systems, where access, approvals, and institutional readiness can vary significantly. They also underscored the need for **stronger stakeholder engagement, sustained dialogue, and adequate resourcing** to support effective programme delivery.

Despite these challenges, we remained resilient and adaptive, ensuring that available resources were strategically deployed to achieve meaningful outcomes. The lessons from 2025 continue to inform our planning, partnerships, and advocacy, strengthening our resolve to scale impact while navigating systemic constraints with professionalism and respect.

# MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL)

Headfort Foundation for Justice applies a results-oriented Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) approach to strengthen accountability, improve programme effectiveness, and inform strategic decision-making. In 2025, MEL processes were embedded across all interventions to track outputs, assess outcomes, and adapt programming within complex justice and correctional environments.

Monitoring focused on clear and measurable indicators, including the number of beneficiaries reached, cases handled, releases secured, and stakeholders engaged. Data was collected through court records, case tracking logs, prison visit reports, attendance registers, referral documentation, and participant feedback. Under the **Access to Justice Programme**, MEL systems tracked case referrals, court appearances, legal actions, and outcomes across Justice Hub locations in Lagos, Ogun, and Ekiti States. This enabled accurate documentation of the **192 indigent and wrongfully detained inmates released in 2025**, while informing prioritisation of cases at highest risk of prolonged detention.

For the **Wellness Behind Bars** programme, monitoring ensured targeted delivery of health and dignity-centred interventions. In 2025, the programme provided water to **3,602 inmates in Enugu State**, delivered medical care and psychosocial support to **200 women** (including pregnant women and nursing mothers) at Kirikiri Female Correctional Centre, supported **100 men** at Kirikiri Medium Correctional Centre with medical, welfare, and mental health services, reached **150 inmates** through mental health sensitization in Calabar, and provided mental health and legal support to **143 boys** at the Oregon correctional facility.

Evaluation in 2025 was learning-focused and highlighted the effectiveness of **court-based legal aid**, confirming that proximity to courts significantly improves case resolution and reduces unlawful detention. Learning from **Wellness Behind Bars** reinforced the importance of integrating legal aid with health, dignity, and mental wellbeing interventions. Insights from the **Dignity from Waste** pilot further demonstrated how dignity-related barriers, such as lack of clothing, contribute to repeated court adjournments and prolonged detention.

Findings from monitoring and evaluation informed programme adaptations throughout the year, including flexible implementation strategies in response to institutional constraints and resource limitations. These lessons are shaping programme design, partnerships, and scale-up plans for 2026.

Headfort Foundation for Justice remains committed to strengthening its MEL systems through improved data tools, standardised reporting, and deeper outcome tracking, ensuring that programmes remain evidence-based, adaptive, and focused on sustainable justice outcomes.

# LOOKING AHEAD 2026

As we look ahead to 2026, Headfort Foundation for Justice remains committed to deepening impact, strengthening systems, and expanding access to justice, dignity, and opportunity for justice-impacted individuals. Building on the lessons and achievements of 2025, our focus will be on scaling proven interventions while introducing new programmes that address long-standing gaps within the justice system.

In 2026, we will prioritise the expansion of the **Justice Hub Initiative**, strengthening court-based legal aid and increasing the frequency of prison engagements to identify indigent inmates at risk of prolonged detention. Early intervention, improved case tracking, and stronger referral pathways will remain central to improving outcomes.

We will also deepen and expand **Wellness Behind Bars**, strengthening access to mental health support, medical care, and dignity-centred welfare interventions within correctional facilities. These efforts will continue to complement legal aid by addressing non-legal barriers that undermine access to justice.

A key focus for 2026 is the scale-up of **Dignity from Waste**, integrating climate justice with access to justice. By increasing clothing production through recycled fashion waste and aligning distribution with court appearances, the project will further reduce dignity-related barriers that contribute to prolonged detention.

In addition, the Foundation will introduce two new programmes aimed at long-term rehabilitation and reintegration. **Second Chance Scholars** will support incarcerated persons by paying **NECO examination fees** and sponsoring successful candidates into the **National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN)**, enabling access to education as a pathway to rehabilitation and reduced recidivism. **Tech Behind Bars** will equip justice-impacted individuals with basic digital and technology skills, improving employability and preparing participants for reintegration into an increasingly digital economy.

Across all programmes, Headfort Foundation for Justice will continue to strengthen human rights education, invest in technology through the LawyersNowNow platform, and improve monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems. As we move into 2026, our commitment remains clear: to advance a justice system that is fair, humane, inclusive, and transformative.

# FINANCIALS

## HEADFORT FOUNDATION INCOME STATEMENT JANUARY 2025- DECEMBER 2025

FINANCIALS			
1		2025	2024
2	<b>PARTICULARS</b>		
3	<b>REVENUE</b>	\$	\$
4	Net Income B/F	10,928.66	2,127.00
5	Individual donation	13,982.10	11,987.00
6	Corporate donation	2,412.99	1,006.00
7	Fundraising Events	2,388.92	3,990.00
8	Donation in kind	683.50	1,033.00
9	Grant	14,039.30	21,000.00
10	Loan	0	0
11	Lawyers NowNow	230.00	
12	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>45,446.18</b>	<b>41,144.00</b>
13			
14	<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	\$	\$
15	Project cost	17,039.00	18,108.00
16	Operational cost	4,427.30	839
17	Overhead cost	16,924.38	7,144.00
18	<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>38,390.68</b>	<b>26,091.00</b>
19	<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>7,055</b>	<b>15,053</b>

# OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2026

1	CURRENT FISCAL YEAR				PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR	
2	REVENUE	BUDGETED	ACTUAL		BUDGETED	ACTUAL
3		AMOUNT	RECEIVED		AMOUNT	RECEIVED
4		\$	\$		\$	\$
5	NET INCOME B/F					10,929
6						
7	CORPORATE DONATIONS	13,333			13,333	2,413
8						
9	INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	27,143			20,000	13,983
10						
11	FUNDRAISING EVENTS	13,333			13,333	2,389
12						
13	LOAN	0			0	0
14						
15	LAWYERS NOWNOW	2000			2000	230
16						
17	GRANTS	120,000			120,000	14,039
18						
19	DONATIONS IN KIND	3,334			3,334	684
20	<b>TOTAL YEARLY REVENUE</b>	<b>179,143</b>			<b>172,000</b>	<b>45,446</b>
21						
22	EXPENSES	BUDGETED	ACTUAL		BUDGETED	ACTUAL
23		AMOUNT	RECEIVED		AMOUNT	RECEIVED
24		\$	\$		\$	\$
25						
26	PROJECT COST	100,000			100,000.00	17,039
27						
28	OPERATIONAL COST	3,334			3,334.00	4,427.30
29						
30	OVERHEAD COST	24,400			24,400.00	16,924
31						
32	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES/ACTUAL</b>	<b>127,734</b>			<b>127,734.00</b>	<b>38,391</b>
33			PREVIOUS YEAR ACTUAL COMPARISM			\$
34			Total Revenue			45,446
35			Total Expenses Incurred			38,391
36			Surplus			7,055

# CIVIC SECTOR EVENTS ATTENDED



Commemoration of Nelson Mandela Day: Hosted by CELSIR on the 18th of July 2025



Commemoration of International Human Rights: Hosted by NBA Lagos Branch on the 10th of December 2025



Digital Democracy Exhibition: Hosted by Yiaga Africa on the 25th of June 2025



Amnesty International's Stakeholders Dialogue on Death Penalty

# CIVIC SECTOR EVENTS ATTENDED



Women Empowerment and Legal Aid (WELA) Graduation Event: on the 19th of December 2025.



Capacity building and establishment of State level monitoring committee on ACJL organised by CLEEN Foundation Ekiti State



Prison Visitation to Children Correctional Center in collaboration with the Child Protection Network (CPN) in Ekiti State.



Commemoration of International Youth Day: Hosted by Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development on the 12th of September 2025.



Legal Aid Coordinating Committee Meeting

# TRAININGS/FELLOWSHIPS



Innocent Chukuma and Social Impact Fellowship



CivicTech Fellowship



Non Profit Leadership and Management Program, Lagos Business School



Stage One of Orange Corners Incubation Program by Fate Foundation

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



# OUR TEAM



## For Donations

6199153012, FCMB, Headfort Foundation Or  
through Globalgiving: <https://goto.gg/63830>)

## Contact Us

**Office Address: No 16a, Association Avenue,  
Shangisha, Magodo, Lagos State.**

  @headfortfoundation   @09150577777

 @Headfort Foundation For Justice  @headfortF

 [hello@headfortfoundation.org](mailto:hello@headfortfoundation.org)  [www.headfortfoundation.org](http://www.headfortfoundation.org)