



# OMEP NIGERIA

## ORGANISATION MONDIALE POUR L'EDUCATION PRESCOLAIRE (WORLD ORGANISATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION)

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### UPDATE ON OMEP NIGERIA ACTIVITIES IN THE COVID 19 ERA

Since the outbreak of COVID 19, OMEP Nigeria has continued in the drive to educate, create awareness about health and safety, raise a voice for the Nigerian child and also provide palliatives for the vulnerable children of the less privileged in the communities.

### CHALLENGES

- The schools are still closed to date while little or nothing is been done about the plight of the early childhood practitioners that work in private settings.
- 80% of crèches and nurseries/education settings are owned by private sector.
- Such settings have been faced with multiple taxation without any support from the government.
- There is no stimulation whatsoever from government to support private investment.
- Many of these educational settings are low fee paying settings that could barely pay staff salaries before the onslaught of COVID 19.
- The country lacks basic social amenities and there are no measures in place to care for the carers and teachers.
- Over 90% of the people live below poverty level, there is no evidence of palliatives that government claims it has given out.
- No health or insurance policies for child care givers/early childhood practitioners.
- No form of education support whatsoever to these private investors who are contributing their quota to keep a good number of children in school.
- The school feeding programme initiated by the current government is only focusing on public primary schools not even the nursery.
- A number of parents have lost their jobs so the possibility of allowing their children to go back to school is low.
- The population in crèches and nurseries are likely to drop as parents may opt for some form of home schooling especially a few of the educated parents who may have access to internet.
- Many carers, teachers, administrators and even consultants in private settings are now without salaries or any means of income.

## **ADVOCACY FOR THE NIGERIAN CHILD**

- OMEP Nigeria is limited in her capacity to make wide impact as majority of members are equally adversely affected by all challenges highlighted above.
- Being an NGO and without financial support from any quarters, the organization is self-sponsored from members' dues which is not always regular.
- However, we have taken up the responsibility of raising strong advocacy for the Nigerian child and their carers with the hope that with persistent outcry to the stakeholders –Federal, State, local government, companies, parents, school owners etc will bring about improvement in quality of service, practice, health, safety and care of both children and carers/teachers .

**Between March and June 2020, the following activities have been implemented by OMEP Nigeria:**

### **1. AWARENES DRIVE & DELIVERY OF PALLIATIVES BY OMEP STATE CHAPTERS IN NIGERIA**

- With the realization that a large percentage of OMEP Nigeria members in various state chapters are private school owners and administrators, OMEP Nigeria secretariat sent out information on OMEP state chapter WhatsApp platforms to create awareness about the COVID 19 and encouraged members to disseminate information to carers, teachers, parents, children etc about hand washing and positive hygienic practices.
- Members at state chapter levels were advised to come up with palliative measures, or other activities to enlighten staff, parents and children.
- Due to financial constraints a number of state chapters opted for information dissemination instead of providing palliatives in form of food stuff, face masks etc.
- However a few state chapters were still able to raise some fund to get food stuff, facemasks, Vitamin C etc for children in very poor environment.

### **2. CREATION OF JINGLES (attached)**

- 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020- Jingles were released to celebrate the Nigerian Children's Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2020- Jingles were released to celebrate World Play Day.  
**The importance of indigenous play/games and locally sourced materials for child's play and learning.**

### **3. POSTING ARTICLES ON FACEBOOK POSTS**

**Activity Based Low Cos, No Cost Project: Focus on Sustainable, Experiential Play, Learning and Development**

- Posts on facebook page of Soams Creative Education & Consultancy, OMEP Nigeria Accredited on **importance of indigenous play and relevance of project on "Activity Based Low Cost, No Cost project"**
- ❖ ***The need for urgent implementation of the project is very high at such times as this especially with the economic down turn.***

- ❖ ***The realization that we need to look around our environment for resources that can up cycled and recycled into play, teaching and learning resources is also obvious.***
  - ✚ Outcome: Production of locally made play and learning resources
  - ✚ Training of carers, practitioners /teachers areas such as:
    - Play and learning
    - supportive strategies to learning through play
    - Teaching strategies
    - Adult –Child interaction etc
- ❖ All posts are aimed at educating, creation of awareness on COVID 19 and raising of advocacy for the child’s rights, education, care, health and safety.

Posts on Soams Creative education Facebook page include:

- ✚ “During and After COVID 19. What Next?”
- ✚ ‘HighScope at Home’ covering: parent /child interaction
- ✚ Learning journey- Communication, language & literacy, developing Resilience in children etc.
- ✚ Reflection on Mental health and trauma in children.
- ✚ Is COVID 19 Sign of end Time?
- ✚ Advocacy: *"The Voice of the Child"*
  - Who Speaks?*
  - Who Cares?*
  - Who Cares?*
  - Who Listens & Acts?*

#### 4. ONLINE TRAINING

- ❖ We are still working on modalities to start training parents and educators etc, online on sustainable ways to support children's play, development and safety through use of indigenous games, free, open ended materials and waste.
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- ❖ A major challenge is getting people to volunteer to be facilitators for the oneline training. Many feel they can’t afford to train for.

#### 5. DISTRIBUTION OF PALLIATIVES POOR NEIGHBOURHOODS AND YOUNG CHILDREN IN GOVERNMENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- ❖ Posters were designed and face masks and exercise books were branded by OMEP Lagos State chapter and Abuja chapter for distribution.
- ❖ 300 children benefited from distribution of palliatives at Makoko area of Lagos state.
- ❖ Items distributed included packs of food items (Spaghetti, noodles), snacks (Biscuits, sausage rolls) beverages, milk and soft drinks were distributed to vulnerable children in poor communities.



**OMEP (Nigeria) Lagos chapter giving health Education talk to children  
Children were taught health songs and educated about coughing into the crease of arm.**



**Packs of branded face masks**



**Posters on The Five Finger guide lines also distributed to children in poor areas and to government public primary schools in Lagos state.**



**Packs of food items (Spaghetti, noodles), snacks (Biscuits, sausage rolls) beverages, milk and soft drinks were distributed to vulnerable children in poor communities.**

**Gift items to government public nursery & Primary schools Lagos state Ministry of Education**  
**Donation of relief items such as face masks, sanitizers, Exercise Books, Vitamin C to pupils in the public schools through Director General, Quality Assurance at the Lagos State Ministry of Education.**

**6. WRITING OF SONGS**

**A song on COVID 19 was composed by 2 children of one of our members in OMEP Lagos chapter.**

**7. CONTINUOUS DISCUSSIONS ON HEALTH, SAFETY, LEARNING THROUGH WEBINER**

**Members continue to participate in discussions online through webinar etc on matters relating to health, safety, care of children, practitioners etc.**

**8. POSTPONEMENT OF OMEP NIGERIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND MARKING OF 40 YEARS OF OMEP IN NIGERIA.**

Due to the prolonged lockdown of schools and the downturn of the economy, the OMEP Nigeria national conference initially planned for October 2020 has been postponed to October 2021

Yours Sincerely,



Oyindamola Sonola  
National Secretary, OMEP Nigeria