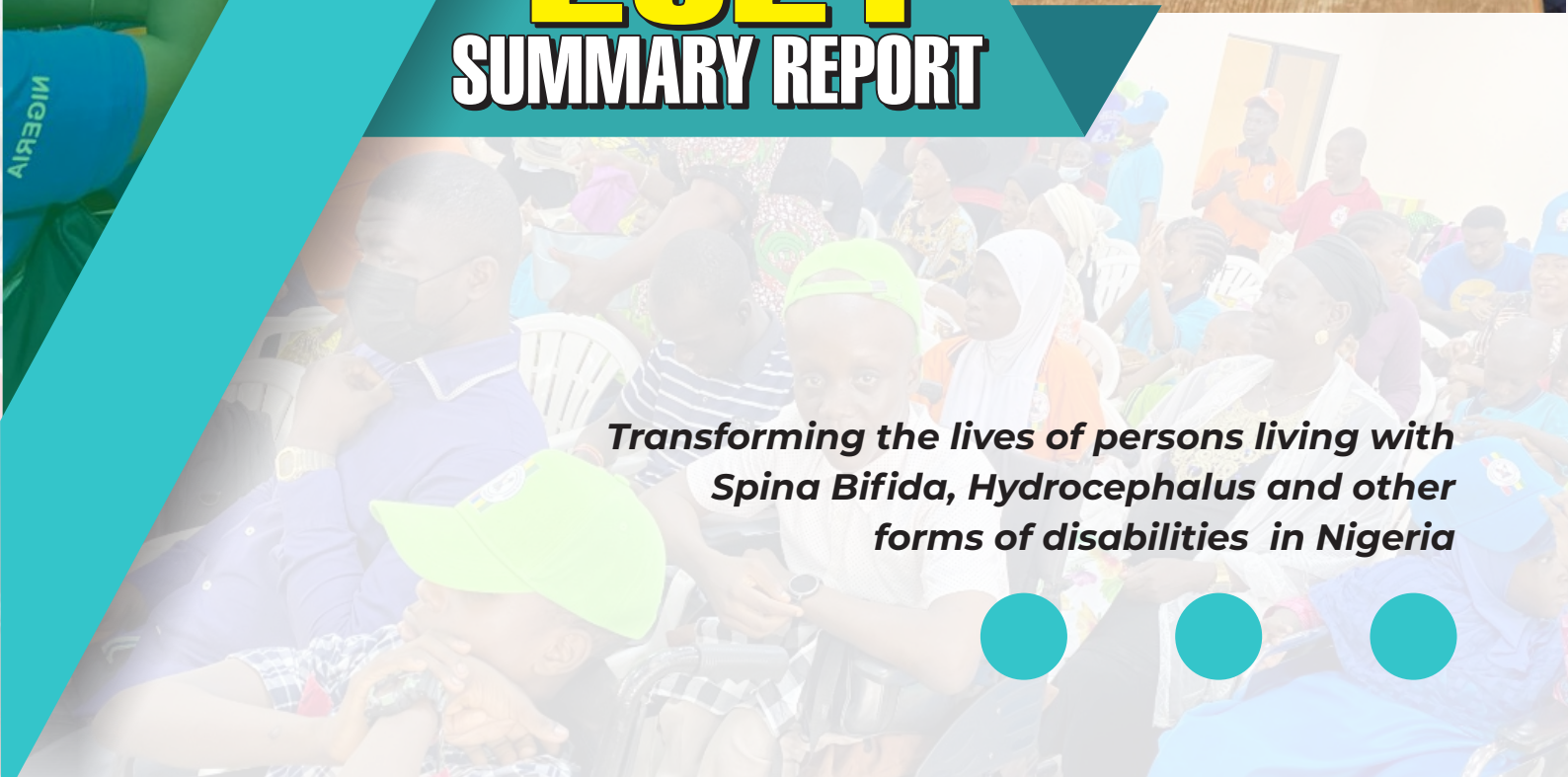
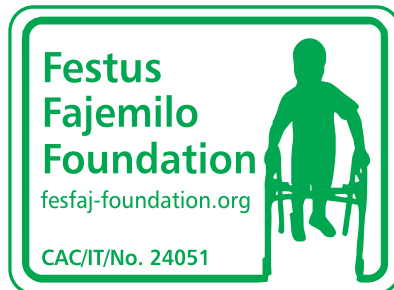


# 2021

## SUMMARY REPORT

*Transforming the lives of persons living with  
Spina Bifida, Hydrocephalus and other  
forms of disabilities in Nigeria*





# ANNUAL REPORT - 2021

The year 2021 was by events and happenings not different from 2020 with the adverse impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the global economy which also disrupted largely the work of non-profit sector. However, despite the challenges, the Foundation continued to put smiles on the faces of its target beneficiaries. Thanks to our partners, donors and friends who continued to share in our vision by which you have stood by us from inception till date. Here, we present the summary of our achievements for the year 2021 showcasing the impact of our various programs and activities.



# Child Empowerment Program:

The program which commenced in 2009 has impacted 103 children & youngsters with disabilities (CYWD) with funding support from Liliane Foundation (LF) Netherlands in collaboration with the Strategic Partner Organization -Daughters of Charity. The program concentrates on the life areas that are crucially important for every person according to the World Health Organization's Community Based Rehabilitation matrix: (health, education, work and income, a social life and self-empowerment). The program operates on a twin-track approach of "Child Development" and "Enabling Environment" facilitating the improvement of the functional capabilities of children and youngsters with disabilities (CYWDs), including medical and paramedical rehabilitation, education, and livelihood opportunities. CYWDs are equipped with education and skills development to enable them to take up jobs and earn a living in the future, contributing to greater resilience. The program also facilitates the removal of infrastructural, behavioural and policy barriers that prevent them from participating in society, through awareness raising, advocacy, networking and collaborating with relevant government and non-governmental stakeholders, families and communities and organizations of persons with disabilities. In 2021, the program was renamed "Inclusion First" with the coming on board of the new LF's strategic Partner Organization in Nigeria – The Leprosy Mission Nigeria. So, we accomplished the followings in 2021:

- 56 CYWDs supported with school fees & educational materials
- 13 CYWDs supported with anti-seizure medications and other medications related to their disabilities.
- 19 children with rehabilitation (physiotherapy) for physical functionality, mobility and independence.
- 4 youngsters with equipment and tools for business start-up.
- Sensitized more than 2000 school children, teachers, community members and media sensitized on the rights of children with disabilities to Inclusive

education through the annual "we ring the bell activity".

- Strengthened the capacity of 30 teachers and school administrators in Lagos State public Inclusive schools to be able to deploy cooperative teaching & learning tools to improve delivery of inclusive education in Lagos State 44 public inclusive schools.



*Some of the children and youngsters in the CBR program*

# Continence management Program:

Incontinence is inability of a person to pass Urine and/or Faeces in a socially acceptable and hygienic way. It poses threat to the health of the affected persons, denies them of social interactions and intimate relationships thus lowering their self-esteem that may in the long run impact negatively on their mental health. Globally, continence management is regarded as one of the most important ways of improving the inclusion of children with spina bifida. Affected children identify this program as the changing point in their lives, enabling them to have friends, enjoy education and becoming accepted in their community. Since 2017 till date, we have worked along with our UK partner – Shine U.K. to save

lives and improve futures. We also thank Liliane Foundation Netherlands for supporting advocacy regarding the program in 2021.

## Impact:

- Supported 4 tertiary health facilities for provision of continence management services.
- Strengthened the capacity of 38 nurses from four tertiary health institutions in bladder & bowel incontinence management.
- Supported 50 children & adults with spina bifida with 614 free catheters



*Strengthening capacity of Health Care Professionals in Continence Management*





# Inclusive Education Project:

**F**estus Fajemilo Foundation (FFF) has, in the last 3 years been engaging the Lagos State government through advocacy to push for the institutional strengthening of relevant education MDAs for the purpose of achieving full implementation of the Lagos State Special People's Law and the Policy on Inclusive Education. In this regard, the Foundation has been implementing grants from the Liliane Foundation (Netherlands) and Disability Rights Fund (USA) to deliver on complementary components of its program on inclusive Education. Under this project, FFF has been working in partnership with other organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and critical governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to advocate for reform and strengthening of the Lagos State Inclusive

Education Policy. The goal of this intervention is to improve the quality of education delivered to children with disabilities (CWDs) in the 44 (now 47) public inclusive primary and secondary schools in Lagos State through the adoption of innovative policy measures that respond to identified institutional, human, and technical gaps which currently hinder the effectiveness of the policy.



Strengthening capacity of OPDs and other administrators on delivery of qualitative Inclusive education



## In 2021:

### Liliane Foundation grant enabled us to:

- train 30 regular/special education teachers and school Heads/Principals on the use of inclusive teaching and learning tools
- develop and produce 200 copies of “Cooperative Teaching Manual” for Lagos State SUBEB and Ministry of education.
- produce 40 copies of report of mapping & assessment of the 44 public inclusive primary and secondary schools in Lagos state.

### While the Disability Rights Fund enabled us to:

- support 7 OPDs in Lagos State to conducted step down training on understanding Inclusive education, local and international policies and legal frameworks that support implementation of inclusive education, advocacy strategies as well as strengthened their confidence to engage with the state government and other critical stakeholders in the implementation of the policy.
- strengthen the capacity of 33 regular/special education teachers, school heads/Principals and administrators to be able to deploy cooperative teaching in Lagos State public inclusive schools.
- train 14 PWDs and 3 members of Lagos State school-based-management committee (SBMC) on inclusive schools monitoring and partnership building.

## Readdress Inclusion Rights & Empowerment (RIRE) Project:

In 2021, FFF implemented a core mental health project tagged “Readdress Inclusion Rights & Empowerment (RIRE) project under the Inclusive Build-Back Better micro grants of Pan

African Network of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities (PANPPD) with support of Open Society Foundations (OSF) and International Disability Alliance (IDA). The interest of FFF in Psychosocial disability stemmed from the fact that mental health is rarely acknowledged or spoken about within the disability community and in the wider society. FFF has also paid keen attention to mental health and wellbeing of people with complex physical disabilities such as SBH since it was established. The four-month advocacy project:

- Heightened media awareness and demystified profound cultural and spiritual stigmas associated with mental health.
- Provided a baseline assessment of the impact of Covid-19 on Persons with Psychosocial disabilities.
- Generated talking points among relevant stakeholders on the plights of Persons with Psychosocial disabilities (PPDs) during Covid-19, mitigation against the challenges and their inclusion post Covid era.
- Establishment of an advocacy network among PPDs and other disabilities to sustain conversation and awareness about Psychosocial disability.





# Support Group Activities:

Living with spina bifida and hydrocephalus and associated challenges can be overwhelming. Therefore, for individual/family to know that they are not alone is therapeutic and reinforces hope. FFF has been running support group (paediatric/adult) since 2008 and 2017 within the premises of Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (bi-monthly) and Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Complex (Quarterly) respectively. Benefits include knowledge and experience sharing, counselling, peer support and establishing long lasting friendships. In 2021, we held:

- 3 virtual meetings owing to Covid-19 pandemic
- 6 In-Person meetings
- 62 children & 181 adults in attendance



passage of disability bill to guaranty the rights of more than 57,000 persons with disabilities in the state. Immediate outcome from the visit was the construction of a ramp at the entrance of the state assembly's complex to aid accessibility which commenced before the advocacy team left the assembly complex.

- 30 Lawmakers including the Hon. Speaker sensitized of issues of disabilities and persuaded on passage of disability bill in the State of Osun, Nigeria.
- 5 Organizations of Persons with disabilities gained & shared advocacy experience.



## Advocacy to State of Osun House of Assembly:

FFF in collaboration with Osun State Joint National Association of Persons with disabilities paid an advocacy visit to members of State of Osun House of Assembly to persuade the parliament members for a speedy





## 1-Day Respite for parents/Caregivers:

To promote physical and mental wellbeing among parents / caregivers of children with disabilities who most times are overwhelmed with the care for their challenged children, the Foundation organized one day beach event at Elegushi beach Lagos.

- 57 parents/caregivers had fun, exposed to different activities that could enhance their physical and mental health as well as change of perception that there is need to pay attention to their personal health despite their burden of care for their children with disabilities.







## International Day of Persons with Disabilities:

FF collaborated with Lagos State SUBEB to celebrate children with disabilities across the state. The theme for the year was “Leadership and Participation of Persons with disabilities towards an Inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable Post Covid-19.

- About 250 children with disabilities had fun and displayed their latent abilities during the event thus explained the shared value persons with disabilities can contribute to the growth and development of the society.

### Challenges:

- Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the long-term stigmatization, discrimination, and exclusion of Persons with disabilities across critical sectors including health, education, rehabilitation etc. in the society.
- We experienced funding shrink during the year as against growing needs by our beneficiaries. Most donors channeled their funds towards Covid-19 related activities with reduced support for other interventions.

*Continued on Pg. 9*

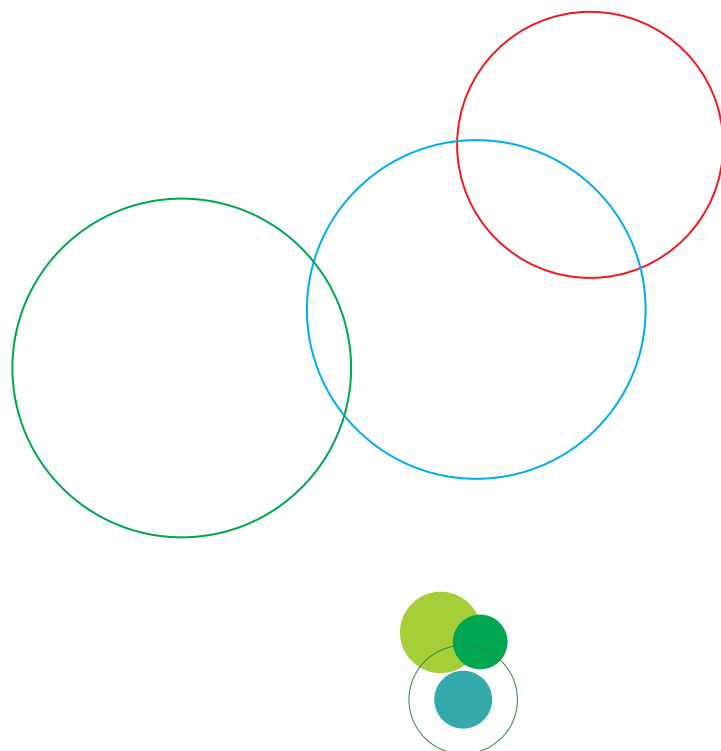




*Cross section of children and LASUBEB officials at the celebration of IDPD - 2021*

### Lessons:

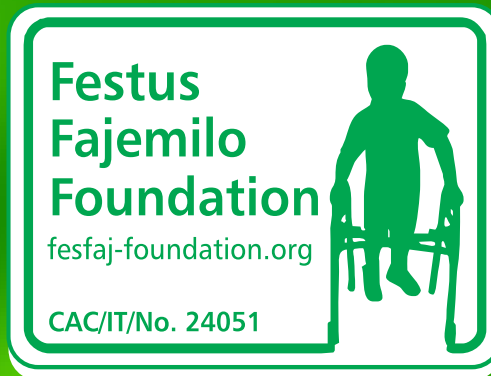
- Due to Covid-19 pandemic, increasing number of our beneficiaries and their parents learnt the use of technology to access information and exchange communication regarding care for their children with disabilities.
- Perceptions of disabilities is largely based on ignorance, fear of unknown and negative societal disposition to persons with disabilities. The society would rather be more receptive of persons with disabilities if there is good knowledge of the issues. This was evident during our home visitations as neighbours show love and acceptance to children with disabilities as a result of their closeness and understanding of disabilities.







*To all our donors;  
you are the*  
**BEST**



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