

Better
things
are
Coming ♡

WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The birth.....

In the year 2011, Cathy, a passionate individual came up with a simple idea that “IF” ¹Children from financially challenged homes are empowered with education; ²Women given little finance and business tools; then a better life and future is guaranteed – and the world becomes a better place. Thus was born CATHINGENS (Cathy’s Income Generating Support).

Cathingens had since evolved, increasing activities and support to the NGO sector by not only financing and implementing projects that are beneficial to lives but also associating as a Philanthropy Partner to over 15 educational intuitions and religious centers across the country. Our special focus for the just concluded year amongst other enlisted projects was a selection and pledged academic sponsorship in a couple of institutions.

We remain relentless in our mission to support the cause for a better life.



CATHINGENS

At-A-Glance

Inspired by our '**Hope. Earn. Live.**' Mantra, the Cathingens' Initiatives incorporates model that solely focus on improving lives through sustainable solutions that ultimately create empowerment.

A Holistic Approach Based on 4 key operational elements:

1. YOUTH
2. WOMEN
3. EDUCATION
4. COMMUNITY

VISION

MISSION

Key Milestones of the Cathingens Initiatives

2011	Cathingens founded
2011-2013	4 groups of 20 women each, provided with business funds and seminars for healthy business
2013	A set of 21 pupils of a Government School selected and provided with basic academic facilities, including extra-moral fees and uniforms.
*	Cathingens groomed and monitored this set till they graduated from secondary school.
2014	Incorporation of the Community Initiative. Cathingens funded and sunk a borehole at Erefun village in Ogun State
2014	Incorporation of the Youth Initiative. Cathingens partnered with Southern Business Academy (Vocational academy) and sponsored 15 youths across various crafts (full tuition paid)
2014	Extended the Educational initiative to the Federal Government College, donating sets of computers and yearly paid internet access till date
2014	Took a step further with women, almost doubling business funds as incentives to well-performing women (Phase II). Admitted 2 more groups within the year
2015	Kicked off the Price money awards to 3 best performing students each in JSCE and SSCE and also 3 best performing teaches every term in FGC Enugu
2015	Sponsored and paid tuition for 30 youths in Southern Business Academy
2015	Admitted another group of 20 women for the year, funding their businesses and equipping with business tools
2016	Sponsored 15 students in Southern Business Academy
2016	In addition to the routine price money award to FGC Enugu outstanding performers, Cathingens extended the same package to FGC Nise, Anambra
2016	Sponsored 2 borehole projects in 2 villages in Ogun state.
2016	Funded two more groups from previous groups as phase II. In addition, added two more groups of women (37)
2017	Introduced Phase III to the WEI, giving funds about 3 times the fund for starters
2017	Added 3 groups of women, totaling 55 for the routine phase I for funds
2017	Donated a borehole project for the first time in Eastern part of the country, where it costs about 3 times the cost to sink a borehole in the west
2017	Funded the routine price money awards for the two schools
2017	Pledged and started funding a scholarships for 2 students (through secondary school) in St. Finbarr's' college
2017	Sponsored full tuition for a youth at the NAWA Lagoon school
2018	Donated a borehole to a place in Surulere Lagos
2018	Funded the routine price money awards for the two schools
2018	Added 2 more beneficiaries to the 2 up for sponsorship through secondary education at St. Finbarr's' college
2018	Added 1 more youth to the beneficiary at the NAWA Lagoon school
2018	Paid full tuition for 12 youths for vocational training at the St. Mathew women training Centre

Message from Cathy

It is always a pleasure to write a report when there is good news to convey. Cathingens and her team are doing such a great job for beneficiaries that reporting their achievements becomes a real joy. Cathingens is 7 years old and already we have crossed quite some notable milestones and achieved a great deal. During the just concluded year, our social works broke previous financial limits for the education and women empowerments. We notably also reckoned over four additional social partnerships (Cathingens as Philanthropic partners) in our consistent commitment to enact positive change towards quality of lives. Our achievements have been far from modest!! Let me tell you about some of them:

The monthly group (Women) seminar that we started from February emphasized financial literacy designed to give low income business women the knowledge and tools they need to record daily business activities, save safely, reduce financial risk and make informed, intelligent financial decisions. The preliminary results from the survey we carried out indicated that no less than 60% of trained participants were able to save at an average rate per month that would (at least) double their current total business capital in 12 months. Many of the beneficiaries now find it easy to use their bank accounts while over 60% are aware of the cashless facility. This meant that the Cathingens monthly seminar for the women did not only make women financially literate but also positively changed their financial behavior. We aim to have trained another 2,000 women through this program by the end of 2019.

We set out at the beginning of 2018 with an ambitious challenge of expansion for the Educational program. Well, let me inform you that what started as a sponsorship programme of extra moral classes for selected pupils (from financially challenged homes) in 2011, through to price money awards to best performing JSCE & SSCE and teachers has now expanded into full-fledged Education Scholarship program that helps poor families cover the education cost of their children through school. Through a rigorous selection process, 6 students were selected and provided with scholarships. We keep our fingers crossed as we hope to add to this figure, while still maintaining the existing activities within the programme.

Cathingens also extended partnership with another training Centre for the Youth division, sponsoring 12 youths in Vocational training. And in terms of way forward, we are looking at evolving this program to creating a more holistic intervention where students are not only tracked during and post their training, but also helped with finance for start-ups and life skills training.

And so we look ahead to the next years of work and progress with renewed hope and enthusiasm. The Cathingens team are a great group who are full of enthusiasm and so far they have achieved close to the miraculous!! In the months and years ahead, Cathingens as an entity will evolve

because of the scope of the work we need to tackle. We face the future with faith, hope and charity!!

Cathy Echeozo

Founder, Cathingens

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS – Project Highlights

This year we achieved a significant milestone following our intent to increase in scope and impact. We continued to consolidate our work on improving lives. Because of our works, few more children are going to school, more women have been socio-economically empowered through small loans and more young people have been supported to receive basic skills or vocational training. Our Award programs have fostered better learning and outstanding academic performance, to say the least. We have also reached out to some communities we are hoping to support in the coming year, 2019.

The Unity Schools Academic Excellence Awards



Our award projects over the years have proven that recognition of students' academic outstanding efforts and performance is highly valued. Why should such a valuable tool be limited to the workplace? Imagine the profound effects on an ordinary student who is recognized for simply doing his or her best—an increased level of self-confidence, a sense of accomplishment and respect among the peer group. Such a feeling of accomplishment may carry

CASE STUDY

QUEST FOR RECOGNITION TURNED QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE

Ambrose Nnabuike was a student of the Federal Government College, Enugu that took part in the 2017/18 SSCE Examinations. He had witnessed the first edition of the Cathingens award in the school for the 2014/15 session during the school Valedictory service for the just graduated students of the school (2014/15). Cathingens recognized and awarded six students (3 JSCE, 3 SSCE) and three outstanding teachers by performance. But most profoundly, the award presentation was done by a Cathingens' representative, together with the state's Educational board chairman, who was representing the state's Commissioner for Education. The ceremony was going to be aired in the media.

Ambrose pointed out that his father, who is an English teacher in the school was also present at the occasion, where he (Ambrose) was not even close to being a top 15 best for the junior category. At once, he began to imagine what great honor and pride it would have been for him and his family on that kind of occasion.

He knew his 'down point' was Mathematics. From that moment, his quest for excellence was aroused, and he was going to be recognized and honored as a top 3 at the 2017/18 Senior School Certificate Examination.

He pointed out that his swift improvement in Mathematics paved way for easy grasps of other subjects. Ambrose passed his SSCE with grades: 7As, 2Bs.

forward throughout their lives and ultimately improve our world as a whole.

Our Academic award project was created in the spirit that, it would create meaningful moments of recognition that will inspire others and reinforce the behavior that led to the reward.

This year (as we always did since 2014/15 session), we recognized and awarded a total of 12 students with outstanding performance in Junior School Certificate Examination (JSCE) and in the Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE), for the 2017/18 session.

The Cathingens Award project do not only produce three good results for each category, but also not less than 90% good results, for which record shows that the era had bettered pre-award period. This is because the project fostered a healthy competition among the students as they look forward to examinations.

PROGRAMME EVALUATION

We are committed to continuous learning and evaluation of our programmes to understand the impact on our beneficiaries. A key focus this year was an internal evaluation of the Cathingens Award programmes within the beneficiary schools. The assessment was carried out by a Cathingens' volunteer, Ifeanyi Okonkwo and consisted of an analysis of existing data (All students JSCE and SSCE results from 2014/15 to 2017/18 sessions) available with the schools from the Examination governing body. The study was strictly result-based, setting a certain minimum grades combination as standard criteria.

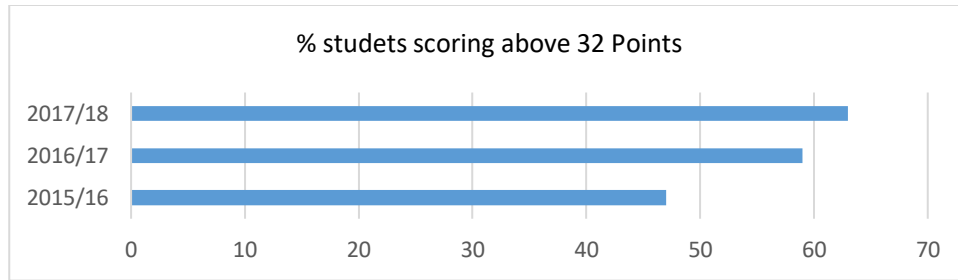
Please note that our study focus was not the best student's result relative to other schools' results within and outside states, but examination results trends since award project inception, i.e. impact of award for academic excellence within beneficiary schools.

Measuring Impact

The standard SSCE grades range from A to F. We decided to attach numerical values accordingly as follows: A-5, B-4, C-3, D-2, E-1 and F-0. For the sake of our impact measurement, we benchmarked a total 'high' points of 32 in the 9 subjects of offer, i.e. a combination of grades like 5Bs and 4Cs ((5x4) + (4x3) = 32) or 3As + 5Cs + 1D =32, etc.

For the Federal Government college, Nise, our impact evaluation referenced from the 2015/16 session (when the award programme was introduced to the school), highlighted thus: -

Exam Year	% students scoring above 32
2015/16	47
2016/17	59
2017/18	63



EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The award programme obviously led to an overall improvement in students work rate and results.

Our education programme has continued to expand in size. In 2018, we fully began our scholarship project for selected students, with records of promising academic performance whose parents or guardians cannot afford their tuition. Our education sponsorship programme include 4 children in secondary school, in the St. Finbarr's college, all starting from JSS 1 and with a pledged sponsorship through secondary education for the whole 4. In addition, we have also enrolled 2 more students for a special programme in the NAWA Lagoon College. With the support of a contact volunteer, we have started to track the progress of our students much closely. Our next report will show end of term performance and how they are improving.

Education is life itself. At Cathingens, we believe that education is the cornerstone of success and is the most important 'early' solution to breaking the vicious cycle of poverty. With a family income of less than 20,000-a-month, the urban ultra-poor often struggle to make ends meet. They are near or absolute bottom of the pyramid. The lower the household income level, the more desperate is the condition for the children. In such situations, education becomes the first thing to be dispensable. Every such drop-out is an opportunity lost. They eventually grow to take up a labour job with little pay and the cycle continues. Without education, a labourer's child will grow up to be a labourer. And it will take 25 years before another generation gets an opportunity for education. Cathingens Academic Programme attempts to break this cycle as much as we can.

Cathingens Academic Scholarship Programme is designed to transform the lives of the underprivileged children by providing them access to high quality education through Academic sponsorships. It is a hands-on programme and adopts a holistic approach with regard to their development and counseling

support. That is why Cathingens strategically selected a missionary school for better guidance of beneficiaries.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME



In 2014, Cathingens began partnership with a skilling center (Southern Business Academy), which was targeted at providing the underemployed and unemployed youths with vocational skills to make them employable or to earn a living.

Nigeria is a country fairly teeming in youth, with 60 % of people below the age of 40 years. There is a dire need to develop the youth's contribution to the Gross National Income. In

fact, youth today, is a major resource for not only development of financial prosperity but for social changes as well. Despite holding such importance, youths often face hurdles on a daily basis, with their energy still not being channeled in the right direction. This challenge is not restricted to the Government, but also to the entire private section in the country. The need to empower youth for a better tomorrow is connected both, to the financial elevation as well as increment of the standard of living. At present it is one of the most effective means that our society possess to confront the challenges of the future.

In 2018, Cathingens partnered with the St. Matthews’ Women Training Centre, sponsoring 12 youths in Catering, Dress Making and Art. Overall, 99 youths have been sponsored and empowered by Cathingens since 2014.

YEAR	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION	SPONSOR	NO OF YOUTHS
2014	Southern Business Academy	Cathingens	15
2015	Southern Business Academy	Cathingens	30
2016	Southern Business Academy	Cathingens	25
2017	Southern Business Academy	Cathingens	15
2018	Women Training Centre	Cathingens	12
2018	NAWA Lagoon	Cathingens	2

CASE STUDY: FROM LIFE WITHOUT HOPE TO LIFE OF HOPE, EARN AND GOOD LIVING!



This is Mercy Oloh, 19years from Abia State. Her mother is late, and abandoned by father since she was 5. She and her sister, who are the only children born by their mother have barely survived ever since. Consequently, she had lived under many shelter homes to survive. During conversation, we discovered she had been through extremely traumatic childhood; often being a victim of verbal and physical abuse.

She eventually came to Lagos with her elder sister, and have lived and survived for about 5 years until her sister advised she takes an enrollment form with the Women Training Centre (St. Matthew). She had always demonstrated her love for cooking and confectioneries. The elder hoped she could work harder to pay her tuition, but she could not.

Luckily for Mercy, she got introduced to Cathingens through the WTC principal. After screening, Cathingens awarded her a training scholarship for the entire programme that lasts for 24 months. She just finished her 1st year training at the Centre. During graduation Ceremony for students who have completed their 2 years training at the WTC, Mercy revealed to our representative at the ceremony that she already started making money from the baking skills she had acquired so far. She already started making and supplying Meat pies, cupcakes and some other snacks on demand. She looks forward to completing her 2nd year training which mainly focuses on business marketing and simple branding.

We do not like to imagine what life could have been if people like Mercy do not get this kind of opportunity. She most possibly could have chosen the ‘Popular’ *easy-way-out* to get by every day.

OUR YEI ALUMNI

Every Cathingens youth beneficiary’s story is unique. How they choose to take advantage of the opportunities to be trained, and then flourish is up to them. Each year, we scrutinize and select set of youths who are enthusiastic and willing to make the most of the sort of opportunity we offer, but who have no financial means to see themselves through any formal training.

Before 2018, Cathingens have sponsored the vocational training of 85 youths. Let us take you through an exciting story of how this project transformed the life of a past beneficiary.

FROM A COMMERCIAL MOTORCYCLE RIDER TO A CONFIDENT BRICKLAYER AND BUILDER

The Journey of Taiwo Hassan

Taiwo Hassan was one of the students of the first set of Cathingens youth beneficiaries to the Southern Business Academy (SBA), who graduated in 2015. He is 27 years old. The then SBA Projector Director, Ifeanyi Okonkwo boarded his motorcycle and then a discussion ensued. Out of curiosity, Ifeanyi asked him he was enjoying what he was doing or if he had a dream he could have opted for, had he a been offered a chance to. He immediately replied that he always had passion for building and bricklaying, but preferred to learn in a formal or Vocational school. He was recommended to Cathingens for consideration of sponsorship later that year, and was awarded a free training after screening.

He enrolled in the Building and Tiling & Fitting department of SBA. The training was thorough for him, which was a 40-60 system of theory and practical respectively, supplemented with soft entrepreneurship skills to enable him get a fair share of the market.

Taiwo revealed that, since graduating on May 27, 2015, he got and executed over 7 major contract jobs ranging from 38,500 Naira to 880,000 Naira (between the time of graduation to December 2016) ranging from maintenance to building/installation works, turning in profit margin of over 500,000. The experience he garnered from these jobs had raised his confidence and edge to go for bigger contracts. He says '*Life had been simply better since graduating from SBA*'.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

This is one of the foremost projects of Cathingens and has been maintained from inception. Here, Cathingens present opportunities for economic transformation to women, through a unique combination of loans and regular technical assistance i.e. Entrepreneurial Empowerment. We have so far empowered about 257 women.

Since its creation in 2011, the foundation has collaborated with various partners to empower 295 women with funds and business skills, as a part-measure to poverty reduction. It also reduced the women's vulnerability and dependency.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT – YEAR REVIEW

1. Monthly Series Seminars for small business women

Our 2018 strategy for women's empowerment has brought about significant positive changes in the beneficiary women's economic lives. In addition to the routine funds made available, Cathingens funded a monthly business seminar programmes for each group of women. The pilot session of the seminar focused on Financial Literacy.

The beneficiaries were taught concepts like the importance of Bookkeeping, financial planning, budgeting, savings and modern banking facilities such as regular saving accounts, ATM, Cheque books, cashless and facilities. The beneficiaries were also taught and assisted to open savings bank accounts with banks in their vicinity.

The Women Empowerment Seminars is one of Cathingens' largest program in terms of reach and is designed to give low income business women the knowledge and tools they need to save safely, reduce financial risk and make informed, intelligent financial decisions.

Before year-end 2018, the preliminary results from the survey we carried out to determine the impact of the programme indicated that ---% of trained participants were able to save at a monthly average that will enable them to double the business capital in 12 months, 70% find it easy to use their bank accounts while 77% are aware of the cashless facility. This indicated that Cathingens monthly Seminar did not only make women financially literate but also positively changed their financial behavior.

FROM BUSINESS STAGNATION TO BUSINESS EXPANSION

The story Agatha Ngozi Ajoku



This is Agatha Ngozi, a member of the St. Jude women beneficiary, currently in Phase III. Agatha, who started from the Phase I stage had seen her business grow, but never as much as she envisaged, *had she had the knowledge of what she learned during the February 2018 Seminar.*

She narrated that sales had always been good and stable, but whenever she counts

the money from sales at the end of each business day, it barely commensurate with the volume of sales by speculation. Most times, she assumes it is due to expenses made or she simply let the worry off her mind. This continued for almost two years, until she attended the Cathingens Seminar in February. There she learned the importance of bookkeeping, savings and budgeting.

Determined to see her business grow, Agatha purchased a sales book and started recording sales and all expenses with thorough discipline. She decided to take stock after two business days. She immediately noticed that cash at hand plus all credit sales granted was more than 4,000 less than the book figure. After thorough check for leaks, she turned suspicion to her sales girl who had been with her for over 2 years. After denying all allegations, Agatha took a step further and got her arrested by the police for simple questioning, because she was undauntedly sure sales money was missing. The sales girl eventually confessed that she had been responsible for all that had been happening to the business.

Agatha realized the importance of bookkeeping, and how it would have helped her save, spend prudently, plan and budget for the future of her business. Currently, Agatha plans to rent another shop in 2019 with the money she had been saving after she dismissed her sales girl.

2. Women Empowerment Business Loans

In 2018, Cathingens disbursed funds to two groups of women for phase I and III.

Women petty traders in the urban informal sector help to provide goods and services to needy persons at the right time, in the right places, in the right quantities and at reasonable prices. Cathingens see them as indispensable within the distribution system, catering to the needs of particularly the lower middle-class and the poor, hence the Women Empowerment Initiative. There are, in fact, certain commodities sold exclusively in the informal trade sector. In the process, this sector provides jobs to the jobless and offers fairly good remuneration to those largely unemployed before trading.

FROM STRUGGLING TO SELL SERVICE TO HAVING A NAFDAC REGISTERED PRODUCT

The Story of how Justina Nwachukwu became a supplying of her own registered product.

Justina Nwachukwu is a member of the St. Jude women group. She started as a stage I beneficiary when funds amount was 30,000 Naira. She is currently in stage III in the group of women that received a sum of 150,000 Naira in 2018.

Justina explained that she had mastered the process of making Soya Milk powder, but due to lack of funds, she restricted herself to just making for people who purchased the materials for making the soya milk and provide burner for frying the soya beans, and then gets paid after the full processing. When she got her first loan from Cathingens, she was able to purchase her own materials and started to make in small quantities and sell to average customers.

In 2016, she received a phase II sum of 50,000 Naira. With this amount, she implemented her plan to customize her products with stickers to the product, and started supplying small retail shops. Within 6 months, sales had increased significantly that she started saving 7,000 Naira monthly. She often got feedback from retailers to get a NAFDAC approval and registration number for her product so that she can supply bigger retail stores where customers are much skeptical about the NAFDAC status of edible products.

In 2018 June, Justina's group received a sum of 150,000 Naira for phase III. With this sum plus her savings, Josephine registered her product with NAFDAC and increased the quantity of product output as fresh demand for product came glaring. Today, she is grateful to God and Cathingens for the opportunity to be a beneficiary and how they helped nurture her business from inception to where it is today.

In the year 2018, Cathingens had a total of seven 7 groups of beneficiaries (Totaling – 130) for the Women Empowerment Initiative of Cathingens:

- 1) **OUR LADY OF LOURDES**: - This group of women were screened and selected in February 2018. After routine inducting seminar, funds of 50,000 naira each was disbursed to each beneficiary to either aid start-up or bolster their business.

- 2) ST. MATHEW, AMUKOKO: - This parish has two groups of women within our initiatives – the phase I and the phase III. They are on course to successfully complete activities for their phases in 2019.
- 3) ST. MICHAELS, LAFIAJI: - This group of women in Phase III of the Cathingens WEI will complete their phases in 2019.
4. ST. JUDE, MAFOLUKU: - Phase I and Phase III groups are here. The phase III group were funded with 150,000 Naira each in 2018, while the phase I group are on course to finish in 2019
5. ST. THERESA, BONNY CAMP: - This group of women were freshly inducted in 2017 into CEI program. They have been furnished with both capital and every necessary business tools for startups and running their various businesses.
6. ST. KIZITO CLINIC, JAKANDE: - This group of women were also freshly inducted in 2017 into CEI program. They have been furnished with both capital and every necessary business tools for startups and running their various businesses.
7. ST. DENNIS, BARIGA: - This group of women were the final group of women to be inducted in 2017 into CEI program. They were given capital and every necessary business tools to startup businesses.

SUMMARY OF WOMEN GROUPS OF THE CATHINGENS' INITIATIVE, 2019

S/N	NAME OF GROUP	NO OF WOMEN	PHASE/STAGE	LOAN AMOUNT/BENEFICIARY (NAIRA)
1a	ST. JUDE, MAFOLUKU	6	ONE	50,000
B	ST. JUDE, MAFOLUKU	19	THREE	150,000
2	ST. THERESA	20	ONE	50,000
3	ST. KIZITO	30	ONE	50,000
4	ST. DENNIS	17	ONE	50,000
5a	ST. MATHEW, AMUKOKO	12	ONE	50,000
B	ST. MATHEW, AMUKOKO	3	THREE	100,000
6	OUR LADY OF LOURDES	20	ONE	50,000
7	ST. MICHAELS, LAFIAJI	3	THREE	100,000

COMMUNITY WATER BOREHOLE PROJECTS

Many communities still remain outside the realm of social inclusion, even in this age. Cathingens reaches out to these slum communities, by specifically providing water borehole which helps to mitigate the suffering of travelling to get clean water source and also the outbreak of water-borne diseases associated with drinking untreated water from natural water sources available to them.

FROM A DIRTY MULTI-USED RIVER TO A CLEAN PIPE-BORNE WATER FOR AN ENTIRE VILLAGE

How Imoro Village evolved from being disease-prone to almost zero risk drinking water



You could feel the excitement in the air, see the smiles on their faces and hear their laughter as the people of Erefun filled their buckets with clean water from the tap.

With smiles covering her shy face, Fausat Adeyemo, a 15-year-old Secondary 6 schoolboy, said, “I no longer have to wake up at 5 a.m. to fetch water from the stream because God has blessed us with a borehole.” Well, God did; through the Cathingens Empowerment Initiative.

Imoro is a village in Ogiyo Local Government Area of Ogun State, having a population of about 850 people in about 110 households that make up the community. Before Cathingens funded the borehole construction, the people had no access to safe drinking water. Their only source of water supply was a stream some distance to the community. It takes about 30 minutes to get to the small river and this affected the school children mostly as they were constantly late to school because they ran the errand of fetching water for their families.

For the women, household chores like cooking was a huge problem due to water scarcity. Members of the community were also exposed to the risks of snake bites and attack by wild animals on their trips to the stream.

“Since I was born, the only source of water I knew was the stream, which is very far from my house,” Master Yusuf, the Imoro schoolboy, said. “Every day, I slept with the thought of waking up as early as possible, rushing down to the stream and doing other house chores. “I fetched water from the stream four times before going to school. That means the best time to wake up was 5 a.m. considering the distance. “After school, all I wanted were a shower and a nap, but how can I do these when there is no more water in the buckets? This only means that I had to go to the stream to fill all the buckets in the house.”

The Cathingens Community Programme has now reached 6 communities covering over 250 families, including a community in the eastern Nigeria where it is extremely expensive to locate and sink a borehole. Although, we did not meet our goals for 2018 to fund another two borehole projects, we continued adequate maintenance routine for all existing boreholes. To date, all boreholes are still functioning efficiently.

WAY FORWARD

WEI + (MARKET WOMEN OPEN SEMINAR)

We spent the latter part of 2018 planning an open seminar for market women through 2019. Through this programme, Cathingens plans to reach out to more women, by not necessarily providing funds for their businesses, but by empowering them with business skills through tailor-made seminars. We have developed a set of syllabus for 25-series classes starting from March to December 2019. The contents of this syllabus have been carefully developed to address the general problems encountered at business places as noted during the monthly group seminars for Cathingens beneficiaries in 2018.

With WEI +, Cathingens aspires to empower 10,000.

YEI POST-EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

The Youth Empowerment project was initiated in 2014 to empower youth with vocational skills with which they can make a livelihood. However, three-quarters of the total youths trained opt for a self-startup rather than taking up a job within relevant industries. As much as this is a positive step – considering the alarming rate of unemployment – startup capital had always been a limiting factor.

We hope to implement a post-training empowerment and mentoring programme, where we not only help aspiring youth entrepreneurs with money for startup, but also mentor and follow-up to help nurture their businesses till a certain stable level.