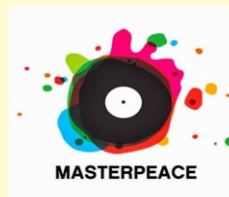


# CHALLENGES AND NEXT STEPS

SUSTAINABLE PEACE EDUCATION,  
EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM



# CHALLENGES

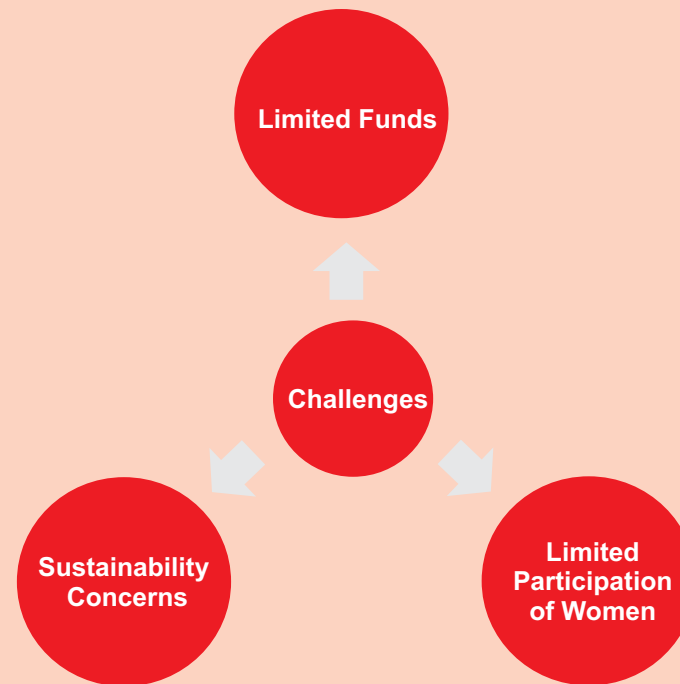
One intriguing element about peace and development is that great answers lead to even more challenging questions. **SPEED** is no different. Peace and development is a journey and not a destination (at least at this phase).



Thus along the path of impact, we encountered certain challenges (some of which have been addressed, some we will address). They include:

- ➡ Limited Funds
- ➡ Limited participation of women
- ➡ Sustainability concerns

# CHALLENGES



## 1 LIMITED FUNDS

The problem of funds has always been an issue in development and SPEED encountered its own financial challenges. Limited funds was a great stumbling block at the initial stage of the program as the partners struggled to find the needed financial resources for project execution. However, we were blessed to have Coach Heal as the lead consultant of the program as he looked at this challenge as an opportunity and was able to develop the butterfly project design model which seeks to harness and make use of available funds by focusing on mind development projects (which eliminates the material constraints of projects), redefining traditional perceptions of vulnerable communities (thereby broadening the scope of persons we can impact), making proximity of organisation to community and then to volunteers a project design criteria (This was a basis for temporary relocation of EESF to Nyanya where majority of its projects held. This reduced the cost of transportation logistics for both staff and volunteers) and increasing the partnership capacity of SPEED.

The butterfly project design model was a tremendous success and was a major reason SPEED was able to achieve the much it did within the past two years and has become a staple of projects emanating from EESF.

# CHALLENGES

## 2 LIMITED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

One of the flaws and gaps of SPEED was the limited participation of women. This was a course of concern for EESF considering the fact that the founder of EESF and National co-ordinator MasterPeaceNigeria was a woman who believes strongly in women development.

The absence of women was particularly glaring in our Community Development Ambassadors Project (CODAP) under SPEED where of the 44 young persons engaged in the selection phase, none were females. This was indeed a course of grave concern and was a strong reason why proposed replication of the project was paused for further reflection and research.

A lot of factors were identified as root causes. They included cultural, religious, and educational (mind-set and capacity building issues) amongst others. Going forward we intend to focus on one of these issues as we improve our capacity to empower young women as peace-makers and active players in the peace-education space. This will be our focal point between 2017 – 2020.

## 3 SUSTAINABILITY CONCERNS

First and foremost, SPEED has an internal knowledge sustainability component through its peer mentorship strategy present in all of its project design. Thus beneficiaries of SPEED are empowered with the capacity to replicate and become peer models of what they learnt. However over the course of the past two years, we have realized that this is not enough. We have to do more in terms of institutional sustainability. The peer mentors cannot grow in isolation of the institutions that regulates them. It is therefore necessary to position and carry the relevant stakeholder institutions along the process. This will be a focal point for all of our project design going forward.

# NEXT STEPS

**TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES EXPLAINED ABOVE AND STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF THE PARTNERS OF SPEED, WE HAVE OUTLINED 4 PRACTICAL STEPS WE WILL TAKE BETWEEN 2017 - 2020**

- ☞ Reposition the organisation to be more efficient within its space
- ☞ Strengthen existing partnership ties and increase institutional and policy based partnership
- ☞ Focus on inclusion and empowerment of young women in development of peace
- ☞ Create a potent community of practice

Focus on inclusion and empowerment of young women in development of peace



## NEXT STEPS

### 1. REPOSITION THE ORGANISATION TO BE MORE EFFICIENT

Bearing in mind the challenges faced by EESF and MasterPeace Nigeria in the execution of SPEED Program, it is necessary to reposition and improve the capacity of partners to deliver positive impact within the space. Three steps will be taken in this regard:

**THE FIRST IS THE RESTRUCTURING OF EESF VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT TO FOCUS MORE ON PEACE EDUCATION CONSIDERING THE DEMANDS FOR PEACE AND THE SUPPLY OF CONFLICTS.**

This will allow EESF pour its energy wholeheartedly in contributing to Nigeria's peace and development.

**THE SECOND STEP IS THE FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF CYRUS HEAL (KNOWN AS COACH HEAL IN THE CONSULTANCY WORLD) AS THE PRESIDENT OF EESF AND LEAD CONSULTANT MASTERPEACE NIGERIA.**



COACH HEAL IN TRAINING

## NEXT STEPS

**COACH HEAL** is a global peace-making expert with deep rooted expertise in project design and development, capacity building, positioning and partnership development; all areas that **SPEED** needs to improve in.

Coach Heal also comes with a high level of passion and purpose to match his skills. His ability to provide innovative leadership as lead consultant for **SPEED** program and his multi-disciplinary background in Law, design and psychology was a huge reason for the appointment. We are confident that with Coach Heal's leadership, we will be able to achieve our vision and mandate.



*Coach Heal*

**THE FINAL STEP WILL BE AN INTENSE CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR THE TEAM OF EESF AND IMPROVEMENT OF OUR VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING STRATEGY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2017.**



## NEXT STEPS

### **2 STRENGTHENING EXISTING PARTNERSHIP TIES AND ENHANCING INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY BASED PARTNERSHIP**

The partnership between EESF and MasterPeace Foundation has been a mutually beneficial partnership with both partners adding value to each other. In 2017, we intend to strengthen this tie. The executive director of EESF will be in Netherland by September, 2017 for a strategic meeting where improvements for greater sustained impact will be discussed.

At the same time, we will (under the umbrella of SPEED) increase and enhance partnership ties with institutions and government. Foremost on our mind is enhancing our existing partnership with the Ministry of Education, establishing a potent partnership with the Ministry of Women Affairs (bearing in mind our intention to focus on capacity building for young women in peace-making and education), Office of the Senate President on Partnership and Civil Societies and the University of Abuja. This will be our primary focus in 2017.

### **3 FOCUS ON INCLUSION AND EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT OF PEACE**

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## NEXT STEPS

### 4 CREATE A POTENT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

One challenge we faced in the past two years was the absence of a context relevant community of practice especially in the area of partnership. This is a huge gap, one we intend to fill before the end of the 2017.

MasterPeace Nigeria is already working on a book on partnership that will address the gaps we encountered (which we observed other organisations are experiencing) and provide innovative solutions.

We also intend to turn our SPEED concert into a potent community of practice where the best and most innovative ideas on peace-making and education will be shared and transferred.



## **CONCLUSION**

It's been an exciting two years. We look forward to a more impactful, sustainable and value driven partnership and development. We are open to more thoughts, suggestions and partnerships. Peace and education is everyone's business and if we all join hands, the sky will be our stepping stone.

The past two years wouldn't have been possible without God whose wisdom, strength and provisions remain the bedrock of our success and growth. Also, our projects wouldn't have been a success without the efforts of our community partners, volunteers, core team and other well-wishers. On Behalf of Egunec Education Support Foundation and MasterPeace Nigeria, we say thank you.

Peace and Love  
Ebere-UjamOjadua  
Executive Director. EESF &  
National Co-ordinator, MasterPeace Nigeria

To find out more about EESF and MasterPeace Nigeria projects, please visit <http://www.egunecsf.org/>

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