

GENOGRAPHIC LEGACY FUND
Application for Funding

REVITALIZING IGBO LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

Indigenous or Traditional Community's Name and Location:

Umuezeala Owerre, Ehime Mbano, Imo State, Nigeria

REVITALIZING IGBO LANGUAGE INITIATIVE

Main Goal(s) of Project:

To revitalize Igbo Language from total extinction.

To create Community Awareness and building Childhood/Youth Educational Development in Igbo Language.

Project Summary:

Executive Summary,

Revitalizing Igbo Language initiative:

Igbo Language is among the three official languages spoken by major indigenous tribes in Nigeria. Others are Hausa and Yoruba. The Nigerian official Lingwa-France is the English Language. Igbo Language is spoken in the five states of the South-Eastern Nigeria. Because English Language was intensively used for instructions in both pre-school and primary school level, most of the children can not speak or learn in their mother tongue, Igbo Language.

This has affected the language because both adult and children have abandon the language and it is about to go into total extinction. The situate is also affecting the education of the children. The reason why children were failing to learn, progress and complete primary school was because of the early use of English Language as a medium of instruction. As a result, at home it became impossible for parents to effectively support their children schooling by motivating them or helping with home work as they too did not understand the main language of instruction.

Work still, children and adults who speak in Igbo language are discriminated against as not well to do people. People who studied Igbo Language in school, solemnly found job. Most of the higher instruction learning does not offer Igbo as a linguistic profession. Most of the children cannot greet in Igbo language because of lack of interest.

The organization is initiating action in collaboration with Igbo indigenous communities to revitalize Igbo Language, preserve and sustain it. The project is targeted to benefit about 500,000 children in Ehime Mbano Imo State, Nigeria. The initiative will be an inclusive participatory action plan by indigenous communities and stakeholders in the Ehime Mbano Local Government Areas of Imo State.

The project aims to achieve this through awareness-raising and capacity building involving the children, parents – a local research team of academics and village scholars, including five

experimental centers.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ Building the capacity of the communities through awareness raising about the benefit of mother tongue based education and cultural sustainability.
- ❖ Mobilizing partners for the program activities including indigenous community leader, local research team of academics and village scholars, parents and children.
- ❖ Carryout baseline language situation survey and project assessment and planning.
- ❖ Develop curriculum, using Igbo Language as a medium of instruction, which contains Local content, yet maintains educational standard.
- ❖ Create indigenous language centres for pre-primary and primary age children and youths.
- ❖ Recruit and train bilingual volunteer teachers, writers, local culture experts and workshop facilitators.
- ❖ Community review of curriculum, educational and workshop materials.
- ❖ Build cooperation among governmental and non-governmental organizations, influential people in society, mass media for technical assistance.
- ❖ Set-up community members to oversee each level of activities. Each community has a centre management committee which has over all responsibility for managing, monitoring of activities at the centres.

How long will project take to complete?

The Project will be completed for two (2) years duration.

Who will participate in the Project?

The community stakeholders, local research team academics, parents and children, governmental and non-governmental organizations, the mass media. The stakeholders and participants will ensure successful implementation of the project to achieve the revitalization of Igbo Language to rescue it from total extinction.

Who will manage the Project and Why?

The Project will be managed by the community members and the staff to ensure support, participation and community ownership.

What is the biggest challenge for completing this project?

- Some parents, government officials and educators do not value Learning Igbo Language, and challenge the development of bilingual education. They see English as the language of economy, the one that will help children pass exams, get a higher education, and provide a better economic future for their family.
- Changing the attitude, behavior of children to have interest in learning Igbo language.
- Ability to place resources in time for prompt completion of the project.

How will the project continue after GLF?

The community and parental involvement will encourage and ownership of the project by the community. Advocacy at national, district and local level will enable policy makers to sponsor the improvement and sustainability of the project through continued financial assistance and support. The organization in collaboration with the community will continue to promote activities that will sustain the learning and teaching of Igbo language to save it from total extinction.

How will you measure the impact of the project?

To measure the impact of the project, a monitoring and evaluation frame work based on devised logical frame work using SMART indicators will be designed. This design will utilize knowledge, attitude and behavior eg. (KAB) questionnaires, pre and post training and learning forms. the form will contain number of activities per month, number of participant, topic treated and issue raised etc.

MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION PLAN OF THE PROJECT.

Activities	Baseline date	Target	Indicators	Means of verification	Frequency of reporting
Building Capacity Awareness Raising Education, information Communication (EIC) material. Mobilizing partners Recruitment of scholars and language and cultural experts.	Community sensitization-stakeholder meeting - parents children focus group discussions Key contact persons Local research team of academics village scholars interviews.	500,000 Adult & Children of pre-and primary age 10 persons	Number of times meeting held. No of people visited in the community	Reports Pictures/Video coverage. Attendance list	Quarterly.
Baseline language survey	Project assessment and planning	150,000 person	Number of survey conducted in the community.	Report	Quarterly.
Development of curriculum using Igbo language	Design and plan language learning and activities material. Develop lesson plans using local resources relevant to students local context, using an innovative theme base language approach	150,000	Curriculum designed and develop	Report	Quarterly
Creation of five indigenous language centers	Center for teaching, learning and research	Resource 25 persons	Teaching and learning facilities put in place	Pictures video coverage reports	Quarterly
Community review of curriculum. Conduct workshops	5 man community review panel workshop for 3 times	10 persons review panel on workshop facilitators	Training of trainers and workshops	Pictures video coverage reports	
Build cooperation with government and non-governmental agencies, influential people and the media	Advocacy visits and contacts	20 persons	Umber of visits and contacts	Reports	Quarterly
Set up community management committees in five centers	Comprising 5 men and 5 women each	50 persons	Overall oversight and management of learning centers	Reports	Quarterly

How much money are you requesting for the project?

Twenty two thousand dollars (\$22,000.00).