

Anchor Heritage

**Chess As A Correctional Tool:
Transforming Lives in Nigeria
Prisons**

www.anchorheritage.org

@anchorheritageinitiative



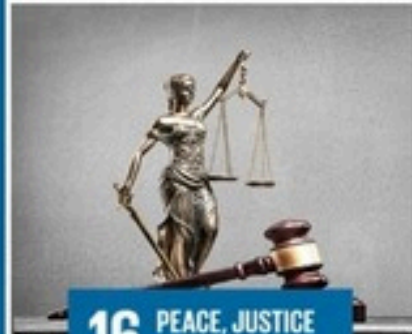
ABOUT US

AHI PILLARS

OUR PILLARS ARE
LINKED TO THESE SDGs



LEGAL AID
&
SOCIAL JUSTICE



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



WELFARE
&
COUNSELLING



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



EMPOWERMENT
&
SKILL ACQUISITION



1 NO
POVERTY



EDUCATION
&
TECH



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



AFTERCARE
INITIATIVE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



Anchor Heritage Initiative, we are a non-governmental organization committed to providing legal aid, welfare, counseling, rehabilitation, and empowerment programs to inmates in incarceration across the West and North Central prisons in Nigeria.

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the conditions within correctional facilities and ensure the successful reintegration of inmates into society, we have initiated various programs aimed at holistic inmate rehabilitation and empowerment. One of such initiative is our Inmate Empowerment and Rehabilitation Program (IERP), which includes courses in Computer Literacy, Coding, Website Design and Development, Computer Graphics, Videography, and Photography.

Currently, our IERP program is being conducted at our Ultra-Modern ICT Hub in Kirikiri Medium Correctional Center. We are pleased to inform you that our program has seen significant success, with 40 graduates from our first stream and 217 inmates enrolled in our ongoing second stream.



OVERVIEW OF THE 100-DAY CHESS INITIATIVE WE HAD

The 100-day Chess Initiative is a groundbreaking rehabilitation program aimed at teaching inmates the game of chess as a tool for personal development and reintegration into society.

Chess, a strategic and mentally stimulating game, was introduced to the boys at BORSTAL INSTITUTION to enhance critical life skills such as decision-making, patience, and conflict resolution.





IMPACT ON THE BOYS DURING THE INITIATIVE

Over the 100 days, the boys exhibited remarkable growth in:

- **Critical Thinking:** Learning chess strategies improved their ability to analyze situations and anticipate consequences.
- **Patience:** The structured pace of the game helped cultivate calmness and focus.
- **Conflict Resolution:** By participating in tournaments, the boys learned to handle winning and losing gracefully, fostering better emotional control.



THE ROLE OF CHESS IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

1

**Enhances
critical thinking,
patience, and
problem-solving
skills.**

2

**Promotes
discipline,
strategic planning,
and emotional
control.**

3

**Builds confidence
and fosters a
sense of
accomplishment.**

4

**Reduces stigma
and fosters
social inclusion
among inmates.**

WHY CHESS?

Chess has been proven to enhance cognitive abilities and emotional intelligence

In correctional facilities, chess provides a constructive activity that engages inmates mentally, reducing idle time and the potential for disruptive behavior.

It promotes discipline, problem-solving, and strategic planning—skills that are vital for successful reintegration into society.



WHY IS IT CRUCIAL TO EXPAND THIS INITIATIVE TO ADULT CUSTODIAL CENTERS?

Adults in Custodial Centers face more severe challenges such as higher recidivism rates and mental health issues. Introducing chess offers a cost-effective and impactful way to address these problems by fostering personal growth and providing tools for better decision-making.

HOW CAN CHESS CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE REHABILITATIVE AND LESS PUNITIVE ENVIRONMENT?

Chess shifts the focus from punishment to skill-building. It provides inmates with constructive engagement, encourages personal development, and fosters a sense of achievement, which can counteract the negative effects of incarceration.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THIS EXPANSION?

The initiative can lead to:

- Immediate benefits such as improved engagement and skill development.
- Long-term benefits like reduced reoffending, improved mental health, and better post-release reintegration, ultimately contributing to safer communities.

WHY IS A STRUCTURED TIMELINE IMPORTANT FOR IMPLEMENTATION?

A structured timeline ensures efficient use of resources, clear milestones for progress, and accountability among all stakeholders.

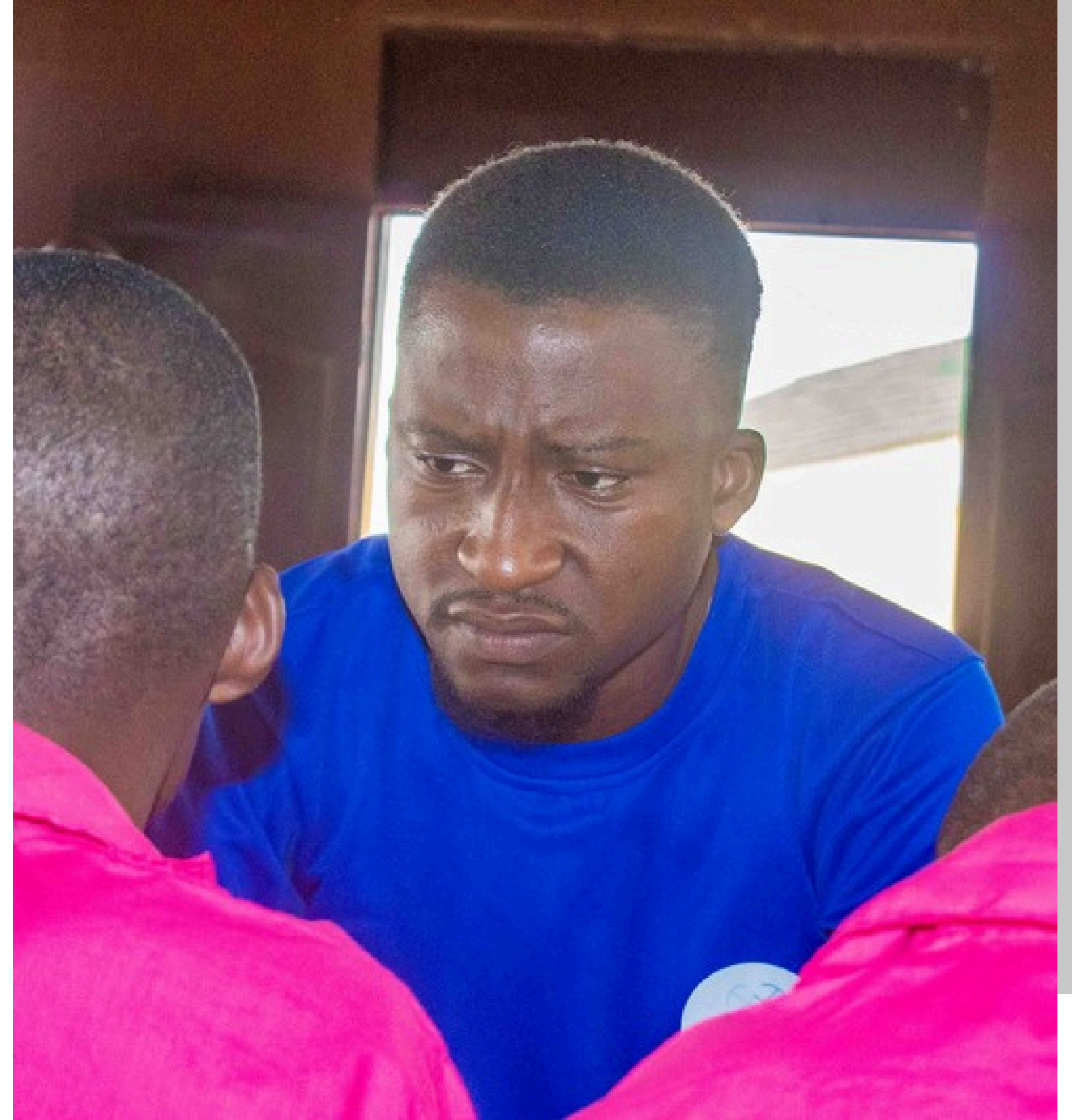
WHY ARE FUNDING AND VOLUNTEERS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS INITIATIVE?

Funding provides the necessary tools and logistics, while volunteers bring expertise and dedication, ensuring the program runs effectively and achieves its goals.

SUCCESS STORY

Testimonial

Ayo, a 17-year-old participant, shared how chess transformed his approach to anger management. He explained that learning to "pause and think" before making a move on the chessboard helped him apply the same principle in real-life situations, reducing impulsive reactions and improving his relationships with peers and staff in the institution.



EXPANDING TO CUSTODIAL CENTERS

Rationale

Expansion to adult Custodial Centers is essential to address:
1) Higher Recidivism Rates: Adults are more likely to reoffend, and chess can provide them with critical tools for behavioral change.

Rationale

Expansion to adult Custodial Centers is essential to address:
2) Mental Health Needs: Many inmates struggle with depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem. Chess offers a therapeutic outlet to improve mental health and foster a sense of achievement.

Potential Impact

Create a rehabilitative environment that prioritizes personal growth over punitive measures.

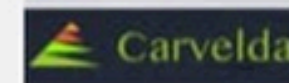
Potential Impact

Equip inmates with transferable skills that enhance their post-release prospects, such as critical thinking, patience, and discipline.

2025 EXPANSION PLAN

CREATION OF A CHESS CORNER IN THE ICT HUB

- 1) A dedicated Chess Corner for inmates to learn, play, and practice chess alongside ICT activities.
- 2) Integration of chess as a cognitive and strategic complement to tech education. Hosting regular chess tournaments to foster healthy competition and build confidence.
- 3) Providing digital chess training tools to enhance learning.





SUPPORT NEEDED

Collaborations with organizations that support inmate rehabilitation.

Partnerships

Financial contributions to cover operational costs.

Funding

Resources

Donations of chessboards, educational materials, and logistical support.

FINAL THOUGHTS

"Through the game of chess, we are transforming prisons into classrooms of strategy, discipline, and hope."

Thank you for the opportunity to share our work.

Get in Touch



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