

Teach For Nigeria is planning to scale nationally with a network approach

Snapshot

Teach For Nigeria (TFN) aims to provide quality education across the nation by building a learning network of locally-led organizations in states across the country. Recognizing the diversity of Nigeria and the differences in each of Nigeria's 36 states, TFN aims to give state entrepreneurs as much power as possible to drive meaningful community impact through local visions. This shift in Teach For Nigeria's operating model, by cultivating a center organization that can feed learning across local organizations, is a bold experiment that hopes to have operating state member organizations by 2024.

Context

Nigeria is one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world, with more than 500 languages, over 250 ethnic groups, and 36 states, each feeling like a different country. Nigeria has enormous educational needs, with over 40 percent of the 190 million-strong population being under the age of 15. Even though primary education is free, more than 10 million children aged 5-14 years are not in school. TFN started working in two states of Nigeria in 2017. To date, TFN has run five cohorts with 1000+ fellows and will have about 600 alumni by the end of 2022.

Choice

TFN wants to be able to reach as many children as possible in Nigeria and to do so in a way that is in close partnership with communities. They've come to the conclusion that, given the diversity and scale of the country, it won't be impactful to do that in a centralized way. Instead, they want to recruit local entrepreneurs in each state who will launch locally-driven programs to meet the needs of students in each given community. Given the uniqueness of this approach to scale, they are still exploring questions around governance, structure, etc. They know they want to maximize entrepreneur's ability to customize the program based on context while pursuing the same vision, mission, and theory of change. And they want to make sure that these local programs are a part of a thriving learning network that helps them have a bigger impact faster than they otherwise would by sharing insights across local programs. They are currently determining how to operationalize that vision by 2024.

Collective leadership

The TFN Network hopes to grow collective leadership at multiple levels. First, local state leaders, Fellows, and alumni will work in partnership with students, parents, and others in communities across Nigeria to drive change together. And, the state programs will also exercise collective leadership within the broader nation-wide Teach For Nigeria community by sharing learning with and supporting each other.



Community impact

The TFN Network is currently being designed to have a large-scale impact at the system level, by fueling local impact across many communities and supporting them to learn from each other. Rooted in a shared vision and core values, the TFN Network partners will develop and support local leaders in the two-year fellowship and a movement of alumni across the nation to contribute to improve education for all children. Collectively, the Network will ensure the students, regardless of socioeconomic background, attain excellence, fulfill their potential, and become leaders of themselves and their communities.

Further resources

- [Teach For Nigeria](#)
- [Teach For Nigeria's CEO Folawe explaining the why/what of TFNX](#) (pass: tfall)
- [One-Pager Overview of TFNX](#)