

Mission:

To build a network of international workforce, mobilizing communities to be self-sufficient, executing effective and efficient assessments, feasibility studies, and implementing projects for the complete physical, mental and social wellbeing of all ~Optimal Wellbeing.

What do we do?

A-Kins Analysts and Project Managers, a minority woman owned community based small business, is a specialty provider of Business Infrastructure Capacity Services including:

- Business Capacity Assessments
- Business Feasibility Studies
- Business Strategic Plan & Project Management

Executing efficient & effective, successful international business projects.

"Successfully implementing impossible projects in impossible places"

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AFRICA



The Heritage of an African Child

After the two-hour journey, as a little child traveling from the city of Lagos to the little town where my grandmother resides, I stepped out of the vehicle a little dazed from the long journey and nap, just to be greeted by a familiar voice calling my name, "Folórunṣò, ọmọ oníkòyí". Speaking words deeply rooted in the YORUBA language, it was my grandmother welcoming me. I stretched (from my nap) and started to walk towards her to say hello. Looking up, with squinted eyes, trying to keep the glare of the sun from my eyes, I smiled and continued to stagger towards her. She was still speaking those words to me and greeting me with such great **respect**, and I wondered why.

I got to my grandmother's feet, looked to the ground with respect, I knelt down on my knees, as this is the traditional way of greeting an elder. **She laid her hands on me, still speaking those**



PICTURE ABOVE: A YOUNG AFRICAN BOY, HELPING HIS MOTHER SELL VEGETABLES AT THE MARKETPLACE AFTER SCHOOL. THIS IS NOT CHILD LABOR, THIS IS LEARNING THE FAMILY TRADE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE AFRICAN CULTURE.

words, and blessed me with great words in YORUBA, deeper than I could understand. I was only five years old.

After the blessings, I stood up and gave her a big hug. I was only five and was already so curious. Grandma, I asked, "what are these words you speak to me?" She answered, "ọmọ oníkòyí", this is your heritage, who you are and who you will be. This is what your forefathers were, and this is what your lineage and Tribal clan is all about". Still very curious, I asked why she did not speak the same words to my maternal cousins, and she said, "Your lineage is of your father's clan, your cousins have your grandfather's lineage (she is my maternal grandmother). Still wondering about this new term, "lineage", I asked if she had to learn so many heritage chants for each grandchild, and she answered, "Only a few; yours, mine and your

What do African Children Need?

African Heritage Song for Sons and Daughters of IKOYI

A layman's English Translation of the Heritage Song -*òrikì*

Ọmọ ìkòyí ilé: a call to the Son and Daughters of ìkòyí residing in the Town;
 Ọmọ ìkòyí oko: a call to the Son and Daughters of ìkòyí residing in the Villages;
 Ọmọ ìkòyí ayé: a call to the Son and Daughters of ìkòyí residing all over the World.



The War Subject of Kings”

- You are Dignified
- You are Fearless
- You grow and grow so very old to the sun, before passing on to the sun
- You are so industrious, you make treasures out of nothing
 - You build mansions from bushy ruins
 - You make treasures out of spoilt places
 - You turn the dredges into marketplaces
- You are the warrior child, who returns from wars in victory, and you are carried up in triumph
- You are brave, even in death you are brave
- You will be celebrated in your death with trophies that ooze with ever shining triumph
- You fight wars till the heavens, you fight till the end, and you are very strong
- You return from war challenges with great grandeur and so you welcome a war challenge with excitement, knowing that you will go and come in victory
- You are the embodiment of war; you are war; you are the beginning and the end of all wars
- You rise up to the challenge, rise up to war

.....chanting, chanting, a welcome song to the warrior child,chanting.

*TRANSLATED BY FOLO WITH HELP FROM HER FATHER, AKIN (MEANING WARRIOR SON)

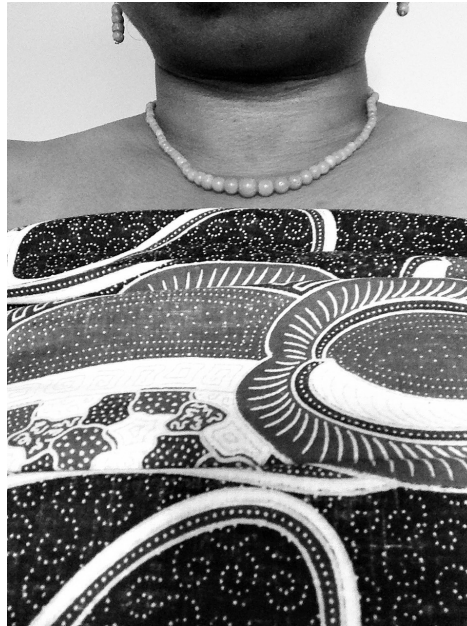
The African Child

grandpa's". Then she said, "I like yours the most, (that is my father's, I thought), I just had to lean it. It is a heritage of great subjects of kings and warriors". She smiled and welcomed me to her house, and we went off, hand in hand, to do all what grandmas and little granddaughters do.....

Every African Child born in Africa or elsewhere has an African heritage, a well of wealth in blessings that that the elders spoke over your generation before you were born, in anticipation of your birth, their future, generations after they are gone. These heritage blessings were a show of respect from the elders to the children, the future of the Land. Respect for the future of the clan, and the people. Words of blessings, a well of wealth.

From the heritage of blessings and respect from prior generations to the woe of slave trade; generations of mourning of the loss of African Children by the land (helplessly watching their children taken away across the ocean to the unknown; to this present generation of African Children who do not think there is anything left to pass. **Who have lost hope for their future, the future of the African Child.**

The African Child does not know that to have overcome so much and still exist is a blessing, the heritage songs chanted over you, generations before you, the future of Africa, were born. Being born to a poor continent (poor in the words of the capitalist economy), **lacking in access to good health,**



PICTURE ABOVE: AN AFRICAN CHILD IN TRADITIONAL BEADS AND OUTFIT

clean water, good nutrition, education, technology, political stability and constantly in unstable environments. Environments of ever-growing conflicts; with child soldiers, child kidnap, child maltreatment, and sex slavery. **Yet, the African child thrives, only waiting to be given the gift of stability to blossom.**

No "African Child" comes to the world choosing his/her gender, parents, community, nationality or race and so no child should be judged by his/her race or lineage. Every child deserves an opportunity, a chance to thrive and live with complete physical, mental and social wellbeing.

My Grandmother, Yèyè Qba Qlādùnì, one of the **foremost Educated Girls of her time**, trained as a teacher, she started her own schools and trained so many

children from her community. She is my model. As a child in school, I kept on saying to myself, if grandma could do it in the age where only boys were educated, I can!

She became the *Right Hand Wise Woman of Kings* – "**Yèyè Qba**". Always with the Kings of the land, offering wisdom and advice for the ruling of the land. Yes, there is a place for wise women in the courts of kings in Africa. There is also a place for African Women in the classroom.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Children in sub-Saharan Africa are more than 15 times more likely to die before the age of five than children in developed regions.

Malnutrition is the underlying contributing factor in about 45% of all child deaths, making children more vulnerable to severe diseases.

More than half of under-five child deaths are due to diseases that are preventable and treatable through simple, affordable interventions.

At least three quarters of malaria deaths occur in children under 5. Yet in 2013, only about 1 in 5 African children with malaria received effective treatment for the disease, 15 million pregnant women did not receive a single dose of the recommended preventive drugs, and an estimated 278 million people in Africa still live in households without a single insecticide-treated bed net.

What do African Children Need?

African Children's Heritage	African Children's Needs	African Children's Wants	The World Perception Of the African Child
Dignified & Respected		Good Health	Disease/Death
Fearless	Stability	Clean Water & Good Nutrition	Malnutrition
Industrious	Hope	Education	Poverty & Lack of Education Capacity/Capability
Resourceful (Rich, both inwards and outwards)	A Future	Technology	Child Kidnap & Child Soldiers
Triumphant in Challenges		A Trade/Jobs	Child Maltreatment & Child Labor

The African Child

I grew up knowing the TRUTH about “whom I am”, “where I am from”, “knowing and embracing my heritage”, and the blessings thereof. This is the first step towards stability, and the opportunity to thrive for the African Child.

United Nations International Children Emergency Funds (UNICEF)

More than 1,500 children still die daily from Malaria each year in Africa, a preventable and curable disease,"

United Nations (UN)

A United Nations treaty prohibiting the use of children in hostilities has been ratified by 126 countries, but at least 250 000 child soldiers are currently involved in armed conflicts

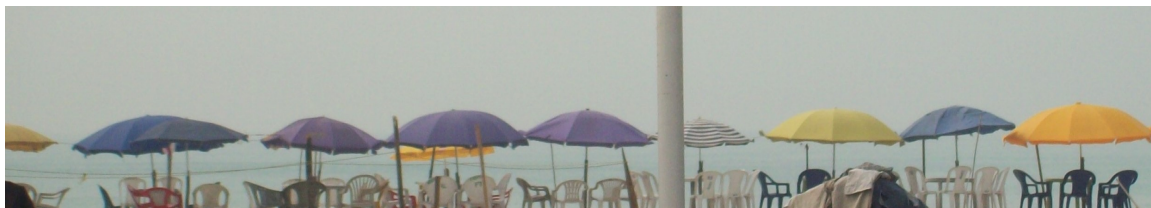


worldwide. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and its partners struggle to repair the damage. The physical and psychological harm done to so-called 'child soldiers' is not limited to the combat zone. The collapse of civil society resulting from protracted conflicts and the unchecked abuses of marauding militias expose children to a range of health risks.

PICTURE ABOVE: THE SUN RISING
AMIS A LINE OF TALL PALMTREES
IN AFRICA

THE SUN WILL RISE
AGAIN ON THE FUTURE
OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

Sources: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs178/en/>
<http://www.unicefusa.org/press/releases/despite-progress-1500-african-children-die-daily-malaria/8240>
<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/87/5/09-020509/en/>



The Best of Two Worlds: Bar Beach, on the Island, Lagos Nigeria



Published Letters to the Editor

Author: Folorunso Akintan MD MPH MBA

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