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Q2 EDITION **2026**

NEWSLETTER

Theme: Upholding ASR Africa's mission through Women's leadership, Mentorship and Global Strategic Partnerships.



Abdul Samad Rabiu CFR, CON
Chairman ASR Africa

Chairman's Brief

We consider 2026 a unique year for ASR Africa as we set our focus on women issues, challenges and opportunities in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa. The bedrock for sustainable development in communities is the woman. She is the centre of gravity of every family. For this reason, we will target resources, programs and solutions to the woman this 2026 across our areas of intervention.

We expect a significant return on this investment as this increased capacity will have a ripple effect on the quality of life on her family and her community. We have begun at the UN Convention on the Status of Women (UNCSW) in New York and scaling the Mentor Meetup initiative for young women across Africa.

Join us as we make a difference on our continent.

From the MD/CEO's Desk



Dr. Ubon Udoh
MD/CEO ASR Africa

From our inception ASR Africa has prioritized interventions that addressed the key challenges of women in Nigeria and Africa. In health, ASR equipped the Maternal, Neonatal and paediatric Units of the Gwarimpa General Hospital, in Education ASR is building female hostels in tertiary colleges in 7 provinces in Niger republic, in Social Development we piloted the Mentor Meet Up program for women and girls in the Nigeria's female only STEM college: Federal College of Education Technical, Gusau. And most recently the IFC SHEWINS program that targets women led enterprises for financing to facilitate growth. The agenda for the empowerment of Women has been a priority at ASR Africa. Which is why the call to action for 2026 by our Board is not a surprise but a welcome mandate. ASR Africa will be scaling up our female empowerment programs, our entrepreneurship support initiatives and mentorship program to more beneficiaries and more sub-Saharan countries to create much more impact across communities in Africa. We hope to inspire more partners along the way to join us.

How *ASR Africa* is Turning Infrastructure into *Opportunity.*

Infrastructure isn't just about making concrete; it is about creating opportunities. With over 49 live projects across education, health, and social development sectors, ASR Africa is tearing down barriers, unlocking potential, and pushing Africa closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.



Between 2025 and early 2026, several institutions have witnessed the transformatory delivery of ASR Africa's infrastructural projects. Al-Qalam University in Katsina received fully furnished Administrative Block supporting programmes in Nursing, Public Health, Radiography, Physiotherapy, Optometry, and Medical Laboratory Sciences.



Similarly, Adamawa State University, Mubi, received a 500-capacity Lecture Theatre with improved teaching spaces and construction of WASH facilities–a dire need for the University.

Other recently completed programs include a 110-beded Students' Hostel for the Federal University of Technology in Minna, a state-of-the-art Sports



Complex for the University of Jos and a 60-bed hospital facility in Bauchi for the Nigeria Customs Service Hospital.

A worthy investment in the lives of the beneficiaries, the impact goes way beyond the buildings themselves and is interwoven into the delivery of these projects. From the human capital



development and financial empowerment to the status upgrade of the beneficiary institutions; these projects have strengthened local economies across communities and





states. ASR Africa's infrastructure projects are formed on the build back better policy. Students now study in clean, modern spaces, future healthcare workers train with real confidence and access to up-to-date equipment, athletic skills are horned and communities can access quality healthcare.

These achievements have not been without challenges. Inflation pressures impacted negatively on budgets and timelines yet through careful quantity surveying, smart design adjustments, constant on-site supervision, and solid partnerships with contractors and the communities, project successes were achieved.

As 2026 moves forward, the momentum keeps building under the passionate leadership of Chairman Abdul Samad Rabiu. More projects are on the way, each creating access and opportunities for sustainable development. Because at the end, infrastructure isn't just about making concrete, but about the impact and opportunities that lie therein.

ACHIEVING ZERO NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE THROUGH TARGETED PAEDIATRIC CARE IN GWARINPA HOSPITAL, ABUJA NIGERIA.

Before ASR Africa's intervention, the Maternal and Paediatric units at Gwarinpa General Hospital struggled with limited and outdated equipment. Essential machines for neonatal and paediatric care were either unavailable or no longer effective, forcing staff to improvise during emergencies and in the critical first hours of a newborn's life. Their dedication was strong, but the environment restricted the quality of care they could consistently provide.



The turning point came when ASR Africa donated 85 pieces of modern medical equipment, a fully equipped ambulance, and later introduced an indigent patient fund dedicated to newborns and children. These investments immediately strengthened the hospital's capacity. Incubators, warmers, monitors, and oxygen concentrators became reliable tools in daily care, and the ambulance improved emergency referrals. The indigent patient fund also provided crucial support to families who struggled with the cost of care.



The results of these improvements are evident in the hospital's daily operations. The paediatric unit now manages 70 –140 neonatal admissions each month, with neonatal sepsis and perinatal asphyxia among the most common diagnoses. Yet, despite this demanding caseload, the neonatal ward has recorded zero mortality since February 2025, a remarkable shift for a unit that once faced preventable losses. The donated ambulance has also become an essential part of this progress, completing 5 –12 critical transfers each month, including night and after hours runs to National Hospital, Asokoro Hospital, and FMC. These timely referrals have proven crucial during the vital first 24 hours of life.

The impact of these improvements is reflected in the experiences of families who rely on the hospital. One mother

shared how her three-year-old son became severely ill with malaria and typhoid. She could usually manage basic healthcare costs, but this time her child needed additional treatment beyond what she could comfortably afford. The indigent fund helped her cover the extra expenses, enabling him to receive the full care he needed. Her son made a complete recovery. She expressed deep gratitude for the support and praised the staff for their kindness, responsiveness, and efficiency.

According to the Head of Department, the most significant impact has been the dramatic reduction in morbidity and



mortality within the unit. In her words, "The most impact is in the reduced morbidity and mortality rate in the department. We are truly grateful." She further emphasized that the intervention was especially critical in the first 24 hours of a newborn's arrival, a period that is now far safer than it once was.

Progress reached an extraordinary milestone in 2025. Since February of that year, the neonatal ward has recorded zero mortality. For a unit that once struggled with preventable losses, this achievement represents a profound improvement in care and other medical outcomes.

While further development & investments are still needed, the transformation is undeniable. Gwarinpa General Hospital is now a center of reliable, compassionate, and effective care. ASR Africa's support has strengthened the hospital, restored confidence among families, and given children a stronger chance to survive and thrive.





Shaping Africa's Next Generation of Problem-Solvers:

Inside the ASR Africa Professional Development Program

Across the continent, young graduates often find themselves equipped with knowledge but are unsure how to apply it meaningfully. The ASR Africa International Professional Development Program was designed to respond to that gap with structured, practical exposure. It's highly competitive selection process helps identify candidates who can fully engage with the program's intensive structure, as learning and knowledge begins immediately upon resumption.

Over three-months, interns rotate through ASR Africa's infrastructure, health, and social development teams, working alongside specialists and supporting active projects. They participate in field discussions, assist with project execution and documentation, and gain firsthand insight into how development initiatives take shape. Through this exposure, they learn how needs assessments are conducted, project concepts are developed, Monitoring & Evaluation frameworks are designed, and what tools are commonly used in the international development space. Weekly presentations further strengthen the interns communication and analytical abilities, helping them build the skills essential for international development practice.

One of the most impactful aspects of the program is the opportunity to observe decision-making firsthand. Interns sit in on stakeholder meetings and partnership discussions, watching how leaders engage, negotiate, and evaluate options. These moments offer a clearer understanding of the complexities involved in development work and the considerations that shape real-world interventions.

Mentorship also plays a significant role. ASR Africa's team provide guidance, context, and steady encouragement throughout the program. For many interns, that support becomes as valuable as any technical skill they acquire.

For Vivian Ogochukwu Mbah, being selected from over 4,000 applicants was encouraging, but the true impact came from the learning that followed. She describes the program as one that broadened her understanding of community development and strengthened her readiness for global opportunities. For Muhammad Bello Abdulrauf, the experience helped him see how technical knowledge connects to real development challenges, building his confidence in navigating the field. Their reflections are not about rapid success, but about steady, meaningful growth.

Now in its fourth cohort, the ASR Africa International Development Program continues to evolve. It remains a learning space that helps young people develop skills, awareness, and the mindset to thrive in the sector. One cohort at a time.





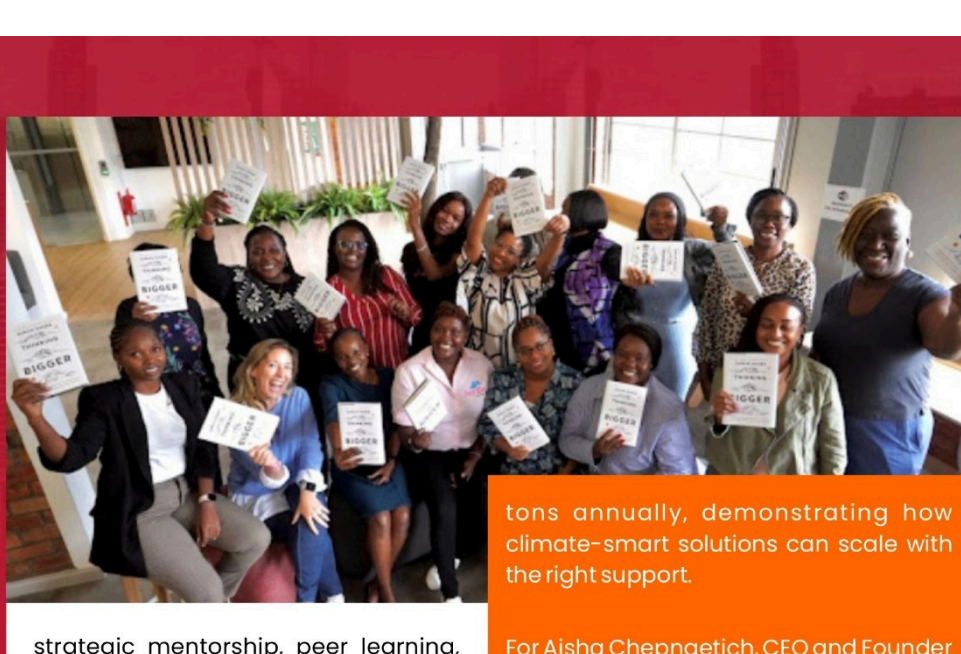


How ***ASR Africa*** is Transforming *Women-Led* Enterprises Across the *Continent.*

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, in partnership with the Abdul Samad Rabiu Africa Initiative (ASR Africa), have announced a major scaleup of the She Wins Africa program from supporting 100 women entrepreneurs to reaching 1,000 across sub-Saharan Africa. The decision follows strong results from the inaugural cohort and growing institutional commitment to improving opportunities for women-led startups to access early-stage financing.

At the heart of the She Wins Africa program, are the women founders whose journeys reflect the program's true impact—growth not only in business, but in confidence, leadership, and community influence. An initiative of the International Finance Corporation with support from ASR Africa, the program aims to improve opportunities for women-led startups to access early-stage financing.

Julie Crémieux, is the co-founder of Néopharm in Senegal. Working at the intersection of agriculture, sustainability, and food security, Julie's venture transforms organic waste into protein for animal feed and organic fertilizer through black soldier fly farming. While the entrepreneurial path can be lonely at times, She Wins Africa reaffirmed that she was part of a powerful community of women building practical, high-impact solutions for Africa. Through the program, Julie gained access to



strategic mentorship, peer learning, and investor engagement that helped her strengthen her funding strategy and clarify her path to industrial scale. The results are tangible: Néopharm recently inaugurated a new farm capable of producing up to one tonne of organic fertilizer daily, supporting local agriculture and resilience. As Julie shared, "She Wins Africa is not just a business accelerator—it is a trust accelerator."

In Kenya, Mary Nyambura, founder and CEO of Ecocharge Limited, is also redefining what sustainable innovation looks like. Her company rescues and repurposes agricultural and industrial waste materials such as sawdust, coffee husks, and other biomass residues into biomass briquettes. These briquettes provide homes, schools, and businesses across Kenya with a more environmentally friendly and cost-effective source of heating and cooking.

Ecocharge now produces over 20,000 tons annually, demonstrating how climate-smart solutions can scale with the right support.

For Aisha Chepngetich, CEO and Founder of Sulma Whole Foods, the She Wins Africa experience has been equally transformative. She shared how the opportunity to connect personally with investors and learn from other remarkable female founders across Africa strengthened her entrepreneurial journey. Aisha was among 17 founders who gathered in Cape Town for a week of mentoring, training, networking, and pitching to investors—an experience designed to help women-led startups scale and reach new markets. She is part of the broader cohort of 100 participants in the She Wins Africa accelerator, which provides women entrepreneurs with access to funding, training, and valuable networks.

Stories like those of Julie, Mary, and Aisha reflect the broader transformation experienced by the inaugural cohort of 100 women entrepreneurs across 23 countries, who collectively mobilised over USD 4 million in financing, supported by 123 hours of technical assistance, 100 mentors, and 275

investor connections. Beyond the metrics, these founders are creating ripple effects—generating jobs, strengthening communities, and inspiring the next generation of women leaders.

As She Wins Africa scales to reach 1,000 entrepreneurs, the journeys of women like Julie, Mary, and Aisha remind us that when women are empowered with skills, confidence, and community, transformation follows—far beyond the business itself.





FEATURED NEWS



AKEHOLDERS IN NEW YORK ON THE NEXT PHASE OF ITS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Abdul Samad Rabiu, Africa Initiative, held a stakeholder meeting on the future of its mentorship program for young women in tertiary institutions in Africa. The event, which was held in New York on the sidelines of the 70th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW 70), brought together old and new mentors of the program to engage in strategic conversations that will guide the next phase of the program.

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ASR AFRICA MARKS SUCCESSFUL CLOSE-OUT OF ITS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY ASSANE SECK, ZIGUINCHOR, SENEGAL

The Abdul Samad Africa Initiative (ASR Africa) graduates a new set of Mentees at the closing ceremony of its mentorship program in the University Assane Seck, Ziguinchor, Senegal. This Francophone edition was designed to meet the personal, entrepreneurial, and career development opportunities for young women in the French speaking parts of Africa with the University of Assane Seck, Ziguinchor Senegal as its pilot.

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OUR FOUNDER/CHAIRMAN, ABDUL SAMAD RABIU, CFR, CON PLEDGED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE SUPER EAGLES AT THE ONGOING AFCON 2025 TOURNAMENT IN MOROCCO.

To encourage you, I pledge USD $500,000 to the players upon winning the semi-final, with an additional USD $50,000 for every goal scored. Should you go on to win the final, I further pledge USD $1,0000,000, plus USD $100,000 for each goal scored in the final. Wishing you continued success as you carry Nigeria forward.

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About ASR Africa

ASR Africa is the brain child of African Industrialist, Philanthropist and Chairman of BUA Group, Abdul Samad Rabiu CFR, CON. It was established in 2021 to provide sustainable, impact-based, homegrown solutions to developmental issues affecting Health, Education and Social Development within Africa.

The Initiative was set up with an annual pledge of $100,000,000 (USD) with Nigeria to benefit $50,000,000 (USD) yearly and the rest of Africa, $50,000,000 (USD) in what is the largest private philanthropic giving of its kind by an individual in Africa.

abdul samad rabiu initiative ASR AFRICA
AFRICA FUND FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & RENEWAL

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