



Theory of Change Narrative

Overview

AMLI aims to contribute to the general well-being and development of Nigerian/African children. Our Theory of Change (TOC) helps AMLI frame its vision and understanding of the social change we seek to achieve with our partners. AMLI's Theory of Change revolves around supporting Nigerian/African children through education, psychosocial support, and opportunities for agency and development, addressing the multifaceted challenges they face.

Background

A Mother's Love Initiative (AMLI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the challenges of raising stable and balanced children in Nigeria/Africa. AMLI recognizes that the future of the nation depends on the general well-being and development of its children. Over the years, AMLI has been at the forefront of campaigns and interventions that address burning societal issues challenging the mental health and general well-being of children and directly impacting their psychosocial ability to safely grow through life and education.

Structure

AMLI's approach emphasizes collaborative partnerships where power and responsibility are evenly distributed among stakeholders. Children are not seen merely as recipients of support but as active participants in their own development, with opportunities to voice their needs and exercise agency. This approach fosters shared vision, goals, and mutual accountability, leading to more effective outcomes for children. AMLI continuously improves its collaborative efforts, envisioning a future where partnerships empower children and drive positive change.

Our Dream for Children and Youth

Nigerian and African children confront a myriad of challenges that affect their well-being, development, and prospects for a stable future. These challenges span various domains such as social, health, education, psychology, emotions, and nutrition. Our aspiration is to see every Nigerian/African girl and boy gain access to education at the appropriate age, enabling them to receive foundational learning. Through this, we aim to instill hope, provide opportunities, and empower every child to shape their own future.

The Role AMLI Plays

The psychological and emotional well-being of the Nigerian and African child is significantly impacted by the challenges they face. The pressures they experience in day to day life combined with limited emotional support, contribute to stress, anxiety, and mental health issues. Stigmatization and discrimination against

children with mental health conditions hinder their inclusion and well-being. AMLI can foster its objectives by:

- Enhancing program design and implementation through the input and expertise of relevant government ministries, NGOs/CSOs, and academic institutions.
- Ensuring the integration of comprehensive and coordinated interventions that addresses child development and well-being across multiple sectors.
- Leveraging resources, technical expertise, and global frameworks provided by international development partners to strengthen program impact.
- Promoting community ownership and participation through collaboration with community structures, traditional institutions, and local organizations.
- Tailoring interventions to cultural contexts and addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by families and caregivers affected.
- Establishing sustainable partnerships that contribute to long-term change, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange within the field of child development and well-being.

Safeguarding

At AMLI, our steadfast commitment revolves around safeguarding the well-being and future prospects of Nigerian and African children. Central to our mission is the provision of a reliable safeguarding resource, with a specialized focus on nurturing mental health and holistic development.

Wellbeing

At AMLI, promoting wellbeing is central to our mission. We prioritize both individual and collective welfare, believing it enhances our effectiveness in driving social change. We emphasize the wellbeing of our team members and partner closely with them to cultivate cultures of self-care. Understanding that wellbeing varies by region, we tailor our support to fit our partners' unique contexts. By prioritizing wellbeing, we aim to create a resilient ecosystem that positively impacts the lives of children and communities we serve.

Responding to Crises

Recognizing the complexity of fostering stable and balanced children, we advocate for a holistic and collaborative approach that spans multiple sectors. These encompass Education, Protection, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection (CP), General Protection, Nutrition, Health, Food Security, and Livelihood (FSL). By addressing these diverse areas, we ensure comprehensive support for every aspect of a child's well-being, including their education, physical and mental health, safety, and overall livelihood.

Our focus areas entail enhancing educational programs and school-based resources, fortifying protection and safety mechanisms, advocating for mental health and psychosocial support services, preventing and addressing gender-based violence, ensuring child protection and general safety measures, improving nutrition, food security, and livelihood opportunities, and promoting health and hygiene practices. Through this comprehensive approach, we strive to create a nurturing environment that fosters the optimal growth and development of every child.

Community-Based Collaborations

AMLI recognizes the pivotal role of local community leaders, traditional institutions, and community-based organizations in advancing its objectives. Through active engagement with these stakeholders, AMLI aims to foster community ownership and participation, crucial for driving sustainable change. Collaborative efforts with local leaders and organizations allow interventions to be tailored to diverse cultural contexts, ensuring relevance and effectiveness at the grassroots level.

AMLI supports grassroots organizations in addressing their most pressing needs, empowering them to become more effective agents of change. By building trusting relationships and providing tailored support, AMLI

assists partners in defining success within their specific contexts. Through this collaboration, partners strengthen their organizational practices, becoming more adaptable and resilient in navigating challenges.

Furthermore, AMLI empowers partners to deepen their engagement with families and communities, emphasizing trust, humility, and compassion in their approach. This collaborative mindset allows grassroots organizations to involve children and young people more meaningfully in shaping their work, resulting in programming that is truly children centered. By nurturing connections through thematic and regional partners, AMLI partners access opportunities for collaboration and collective action, further amplifying their impact at both local and regional levels.

A Thriving Ecosystem:

At AMLI, we operate on a foundation of collaborative partnership, where power and responsibility are shared among stakeholders. We reject the notion of children as passive recipients of aid, instead viewing them as active agents in their own growth, with the capacity to articulate their needs and exert agency. This collaborative ethos fosters a sense of shared purpose, mutual accountability, and ultimately leads to more impactful outcomes for children. AMLI is committed to continually refining and strengthening these partnerships, envisioning a future where collaborative efforts empower children and catalyze positive change.

The challenges faced by Nigerian and African children are multifaceted, spanning domains such as social, health, education, psychology, emotions, and nutrition. Our aspiration is for every child to access education at the appropriate age, thereby laying the foundation for lifelong learning and empowerment. Through education, we seek to instill hope, expand opportunities, and empower children to shape their own futures.

In pursuit of our vision, AMLI is dedicated to decolonizing the philanthropic sector's approach to learning and evaluation. By shifting power dynamics and prioritizing community voices, we aim to foster equitable partnerships that honor local expertise and insights. Our goal is to cultivate a thriving ecosystem where knowledge is shared, ideas are promoted, and actionable learning drives continuous improvement and social change.

Together with our partners, communities, and stakeholders, we strive to create a powerful, thoughtful, and supportive ecosystem that uplifts every child and youth, ensuring they have the resources and opportunities to thrive and contribute positively to society.