



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – MARCH 2026

What if the same boys society labels as “troublemakers” and “Problematic” are actually creators, leaders, and changemakers waiting for a chance? In the first Quarter of 2026, Mendaya set out to answer this question, not with words, but with action. From classrooms where boys learned they have the right to feel and speak, to football fields where competition became a tool for peacebuilding, to a safe space nurturing the creative potential of young boys, and finally to a community runway where confidence replaced fear, this quarter has been a journey of building trust and acceptance. Boys who once hid their voices are now telling their stories through fashion. Boys who once reacted with aggression are now leading with purpose. Boys who grew up in silence and unseen are now celebrated



A LETTER TO EVERY BOY—FROM THE FOUNDER

Dear Boy,

I see you. I see the strength you are expected to carry. I see the silence you have been taught to keep. I see the dreams and fears you are sometimes afraid to share.

But I want you to know this: You are allowed to feel. You are allowed to express yourself. You are allowed to dream boldly and freely. You are not just a future man defined by responsibility to provide for your family. You are a human being full of creativity, emotions, and potential.

At Mendaya, we are creating a safe space for you, a space where you can be heard, where your ideas matter, and where your dreams can come to life.

This is your story. And it is only just beginning.

With belief in you,
Emmanuel Adebayo

www.mendaya.org



Under A Tree, Yet Safe To Dream and Create

Imagine a boy who can design his own clothes, shoes, and bags, confidently expressing who he is and what he dreams of becoming.

Over the past 8 weeks, we found a safe space under a tree in an open compound for 18 vulnerable boys to explore their creativity in art and fashion and design their dream outfits. Free from judgment and pressure, they are given the freedom to imagine, create, and express themselves.

This space became more than a training ground. It became a dream factory. It became a place where boys learned self-expression, identity, personal leadership, emotional intelligence, teamwork, and social responsibility, while gaining practical skills in circular fashion design

Boys who have never been given a voice are now telling their stories through what they create, taking bold steps toward rewriting the narrative of boys the world often forgets.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.MENDAYA.ORG



FROM STREET TO RUNWAY

What if advocacy didn't happen in conference rooms, but on the streets, through creativity and self-expression?

On the 28th of March, we transformed an open community space into a vibrant fashion runway, bringing together children, boys, and the wider community to celebrate the creativity and resilience of children who grew up in marginalised communities.

Young people told their stories using their own creativity as a tool to speak up and envision the future they deserve.

At the event, 18 Mendaya boys brought their dream clothes to the runway. 20 street boys walked the runway with confidence, changing how the community sees them. 11 young tailoring apprentices presented innovative designs from waste.

With over 300 attendees, the runway became more than an event; it became a platform for visibility and a bold conversation reimagining how we advocate for the rights of boys and children.



Our Street Fashion Show Runway in Pictures



VISIT OF WEBSITE

WWW.MENDAYA.ORG



Turning Conflict into Peace: The Birth of the Peace League

In January, a violent clash broke out between boys from two different streets, an incident so serious it nearly turned bloody. Thankfully, community elders intervened in time. But it raised important questions: why are boys often at the centre of community violence? Why do the same boys who play together on the football field turn against each other? And most importantly, how can this be changed?. In response, we launched the PEACE LEAGUE. We brought together 120 boys from 12 different streets for an inter-street football competition. designed to go beyond the game.

Here, winning is not just about goals scored. Teams earn points for teamwork, behaviour, and their ability to identify challenges in their communities and propose simple, impactful solutions. Through this approach, football becomes more than a sport; it becomes a platform for dialogue, character building, and peacebuilding. We are already witnessing a shift. Boys are moving from aggression to accountability, from conflict to collaboration, beginning to see themselves not as problems, but as ambassadors of peace and change within the community.

In just three months, we have collected over 1000kg of textile waste that would have been burned or discarded.

Our goal is to turn these fabric wastes into wearable clothing and learning materials for underprivileged children and support the return of millions of out of school children across Northern Nigeria, proving that every piece of fabric still has value, purpose and impact.

Justice For Every Fabric Piece

Why should some fabrics be worn while others are discarded as waste? That is the injustice we are challenging. Fabrics are bought in rolls and yardage, yet once they reach tailoring shops and production floors, large portions are thrown away. But are they truly waste? Through our textile Waste Collection Drive, we are diverting fabric waste from landfills and give it a new life, and recycling it into resources that empower and uplift vulnerable and street children.





Who is a Boy?

We took this question to over 200 boys across secondary schools in Kudenda, Kaduna, through our Boys Bill of Rights Campaign, a school-based initiative focused on redefining masculinity and encouraging safe emotional expression among school-going boys.

In interactive sessions, boys explored their right to feel and express emotions, to speak up and ask for help, to love and be loved, and to exist fully as emotional human beings without shame. We also opened important conversations around sexual and reproductive health rights. How boys answered the above question: "A boy is a man who takes responsibility by providing for his family."

This response reflects how boys learned about masculinity from a performance-based view rather than from what makes them human.

We leave a question for reflection:
Who is a boy, and whom is he
allowed to become?

“

A boy is not a problem to be fixed. He is a human being to be understood. If we don't create spaces where boys can be heard, we will continue to live in a world where their silence speaks through crisis.

”



Help Us Move From Under The Tree To Our Dream Centre

CALL FOR PARTNERS



Do you work with street and vulnerable children? Are you looking for creative ways to amplify their voices and visibility? Runway For Change is more than a fashion show, it is a platform that brings creativity, confidence, and advocacy directly to the streets and open community spaces, where it matters most. We are looking to partner with organisations, communities, and changemakers to expand this impact.

Let's start the conversation. Send an email to us.



Join Us in Acquisition

MENDAYA DREAM FACTORY

Our work for the past three months has been from under a tree in an open compound where boys learned to make their first dream cloth.

But imagine what could happen if they had a safe, fully equipped space to grow.

Now, we have found a facility that can become a true home for creativity, learning, and transformation. A place where vulnerable, street, and abandoned boys and children can learn, play, heal, dream, build their future, and lead change in the community. But we cannot secure it alone.

Help us turn this space into MENDAYA DREAM FACTORY. Send us an email or call

info@mendaya.org

+2349136554281