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**The Imperial Year:
A Decade of Purpose**



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YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

CONTEXT

Nine Months In: Building Quietly, Deliberately, With Purpose

Nine months into 2026, Woodhall Capital Foundation's work sits at the intersection of two long-running conversations on the continent: how Africa builds durable institutions, and how those institutions, in turn, build people. Across Nigeria and the United Kingdom, the Foundation has continued to translate its mission — empowering leaders, strengthening communities, forging strategic partnerships and creating opportunities that transform lives — into programmes with measurable reach and, increasingly, permanent infrastructure.

The period this report covers, January through September 2026, combines two distinct rhythms of institutional life. The first is the disciplined, month-on-month delivery of flagship programmes: cohorts convened, campuses visited, partnerships signed. The second is the reflective, celebratory arc of a ten-year anniversary. Both matter. The former is what earns a foundation its credibility with the communities, partners and governments it works alongside. The latter is what allows an organisation to pause, take stock of a decade, and name the people who carried the weight of it.

This report brings both together: the programmes delivered, the partnerships formed, the leaders whose growth the Foundation has had the privilege to support — and, new to this edition, a formal accounting of the staff whose consistency and execution have made a decade of impact possible. If 2026 has a single theme, it is this: impact is not an event. It is the sum of everyday administration, done well, for ten years running.

“Africa does not need more aid. It needs to own the architecture of its own economy.”

— President Moji Hunponu-Wusu, Cranfield Africa Impact Summit

Her Executive Edge: Empowering Women to Lead

Her Executive Edge, the Foundation's flagship women's leadership initiative, rests on a straightforward thesis: Africa's growth over the next decade will be shaped disproportionately by how quickly capable women move into senior executive and board-level roles. Between January and September, the programme convened three cohorts — in Lagos, Abuja and London — equipping female executives, entrepreneurs and emerging leaders with the frameworks, networks and confidence required to compete at that level.

Lagos Cohort — 26 February 2026

The Foundation launched its flagship mentorship cohort for women navigating the transition into senior executive and board-level leadership. The intensive was facilitated by President Mojisola Hunponu-Wusu and Chairman Viavo Hunponu-Wusu, with guest faculty including Dr Kola Adesina, Group Managing Director of Sahara Group, and Mrs Tara Durotoye, Founder and Chief Executive of House of Tara International — pairing boardroom experience with



Her Executive Edge — Lagos cohort, 26 February 2026

entrepreneurial insight inside a single curriculum.

Building on that momentum, Her Executive Edge reconvened in Abuja on 25 March 2026, extending the same rigour to a cohort of executives operating closer to the seat of policy and public-sector decision-making. A third convening, in London, carried the programme to the diaspora — a deliberate acknowledgment that a growing share of Africa's senior female executive talent now sits outside the continent, and that leadership infrastructure has to meet that talent where it is.

Programme Locations

- Lagos, Nigeria
- Abuja, Nigeria
- London, United Kingdom

Curriculum

- Executive leadership
- Personal branding
- Entrepreneurship
- Resilience and influence
- Global business opportunities
- Wealth creation
- Building lasting legacies

Read together, the three cohorts trace a deliberate geography — a commercial capital, a policy capital and a diaspora capital — the three centres of gravity through which African leadership talent now moves. It is this geography, more than any single session, that gives Her Executive Edge its distinct positioning among leadership programmes on the continent.



GRIP: Raising a Generation of Purpose-Driven Leaders

If Her Executive Edge addresses leadership at its most senior point, the Global Generation Rising in Purpose (GRIP) initiative addresses it at its point of origin. GRIP is built on the premise that purpose-driven leadership is not discovered in a boardroom in one's forties — it is built, deliberately, on a university campus, years before that boardroom is a realistic prospect. This half-year, the initiative reached students on two continents through campus visits, mentorship and structured pathways into professional life.

GRIP Campus Tour — Redeemer's University

The Foundation hosted the GRIP Campus Tour at Redeemer's University, running sessions on purpose discovery, leadership development, financial literacy and youth empowerment. The programme reached hundreds of students, connecting them directly with mentors and forward pathways into internships and further leadership formation.

GRIP Diaspora Series — Cranfield University

The Foundation also hosted the GRIP Diaspora Series at Cranfield University in the United Kingdom, opening a structured conversation on diaspora engagement, leadership, financial literacy, global opportunity and purpose-driven living for a cohort of Africans building careers abroad.

33+	12+	1,850+	2
DIRECT BENEFICIARIES	INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS	PARTICIPANTS REACHED	COUNTRIES

The internship placements are, in practical terms, the programme's most consequential output. They were coordinated through strategic partnerships with Woodhall Capital and Blackstone, and carried GRIP participants through a genuine interview, selection and placement process — giving young leaders not a certificate, but a functioning pipeline into two institutions with competitive hiring bars. The Foundation is now engaging stakeholders toward extending GRIP to Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), a deliberate next step in broadening its reach across Nigeria's tertiary landscape.

Coming Home to Opportunity: The Diaspora Series

Beyond Cranfield, the Foundation pursued potential partnerships with Imperial College London's African Business Society, on 22 April, and the Oxford University Africa Society during its 16th Annual Conference, on 16 May, to speak directly to the diaspora about the opportunities available within Africa.

The tour's theme, “Coming Home to Opportunity,” reflects a deliberate reframing of the conversation around African careers. For too long, returning home has been presented as sacrifice — a step down from opportunity abroad. The more accurate picture, and the one the Foundation is building its case around, is that Africa's finance sector is growing, its markets are opening, and demand for internationally trained professionals has rarely been higher. The Foundation is making that case directly, inside the institutions where the next generation of African leaders is being formed — which is, in effect, a long-term talent pipeline built one conversation at a time.

Honouring the Architects of African Progress

Professor Benedict Oramah's Honorarium

Professor Benedict Oramah, GCON, served for a decade, from 2015 to 2025, as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) — the multilateral institution most closely associated with building the financial infrastructure that has made intra-African trade possible. On 11 March, the Foundation welcomed him to its Global Headquarters, The Oak, to mark the completion of the Benedict Oramah Learning and Development (BOLD) Centre, a facility dedicated to developing Africa's institutional leaders.



Professor Benedict Oramah addressing guests, The Oak, 11 March 2026

The honorarium, and the Centre it inaugurated, sit close to the Foundation's institutional core: education and leadership development, delivered as infrastructure rather than as a single event. Naming a permanent facility after a builder of pan-African financial architecture is, in that sense, a statement of intent about the kind of institution Woodhall Capital Foundation intends to become.

Investing in Women Building Africa's Creative & Entrepreneurial Economy

Diary of a Naija Girl (DANG) Profitable Student Programme

Woodhall Capital Foundation funded 20 places on the DANG Profitable Student Programme, founded by Ifedayo Agoro and built around a community of nearly one million Nigerian women. The programme delivers financial education and business training to young Nigerians who are intentional about their entrepreneurial goals. For the Foundation, the investment reflects a long-standing conviction that economic empowerment at scale begins with the individual: twenty scholarships is twenty people whose trajectory the Foundation hopes to change — and, over time, twenty compounding case studies for what targeted, well-designed capital can do.

Creative Blueprint Masterclass

As part of International Women's Day celebrations, the Foundation donated ₦10 million to Funke Akindele's Creative Blueprint Masterclass, where over 400 young women building careers in film, storytelling, digital media and the wider creative economy addressed the gap between talent and sustainable income. The investment was a direct step toward closing that gap, funding the projects of women building careers in one of Nigeria's most dynamic and fastest-growing industries — and recognising the creative economy as a legitimate frontier for institutional capital, not a peripheral one.



DANG Profitable Student Programme cohort dinner



Creative Blueprint Masterclass, International Women's Day

The 10th Anniversary Celebration

Ten years ago, Woodhall Capital Foundation began as an idea about what African institutions owe the people who build them. In September 2026, the Foundation paused its programme calendar to mark that decade — not with a single gala, but with two deliberately different gatherings: a service of thanksgiving, rooted in gratitude, and a reception grounded in recognition of the people who did the work.

Thanksgiving Service — Guiding Light Assembly, Ikoyi, Lagos

The anniversary opened with a Thanksgiving Service at Guiding Light Assembly in Ikoyi, Lagos, bringing together the Foundation's Board of Trustees, staff, partners, programme alumni and families for a service of gratitude for ten years of leadership, mentorship and partnership across Africa and the diaspora. The choice to begin the anniversary in a place of worship, rather than a ballroom, was deliberate: before the Foundation counted its cohorts, its beneficiaries or its partnerships, it wanted to acknowledge the providence that made a decade of continuous work possible in the first place.

Thanksgiving Reception — The Oak, Woodhall Capital's Global Headquarters, Lagos

The Foundation then hosted a Thanksgiving Reception at The Oak, Woodhall Capital's Global Headquarters in Lagos, convening the Board of Trustees and members of staff for an evening structured around a single idea: that an institution's tenth anniversary belongs, first, to the people who showed up for the other 3,650 days in between.

Celebrating the Pioneer Staff

The centrepiece of the reception was the formal recognition of the Foundation's pioneer staff — the individuals who joined at or near the Foundation's founding and have remained through a decade of institution-building. Each was celebrated and awarded for service, dedication and contribution over the years, in a ceremony that named, specifically and publicly, the people usually thanked only in passing at the end of an annual report.

This recognition reflects a deliberate framing decision behind the Foundation's 2026 narrative: this is the Year of Impact through Staff. Every cohort convened, every campus visited, every partnership signed and every honorarium delivered across the preceding nine months rested on a layer of administration, coordination and execution that rarely appears in a newsletter — programme officers managing logistics across three cities, finance and compliance teams closing out grant cycles, communications staff documenting each engagement, and an operations team holding the calendar together. The Foundation's 10th Anniversary made the deliberate choice to bring that layer into the light. The pillars behind the everyday administration and execution of impact are, this year, the story — not merely its footnote.

"A decade of impact is not built by the names on the letterhead. It is built by the people who answer the phone, close the budget, and show up on the day the programme actually happens. This anniversary belongs to them."

— Woodhall Capital Foundation, 10th Anniversary Thanksgiving Reception, The Oak

Preparing for Our 10-Year Anniversary: The Grassroots NGO Programme

Alongside the anniversary celebrations, Woodhall Capital Foundation launched the Grassroots NGO Programme Initiative to identify and support community-based organisations driving sustainable impact at the local level — a recognition that the Foundation's own decade of growth has been made possible, in part, by grassroots organisations doing comparable work with a fraction of the resources.

Programme Highlights

- Open call for applications successfully launched
- Applications received from 19 grassroots organisations
- Comprehensive review and assessment completed
- Four outstanding organisations shortlisted for final consideration

Shortlisted Organisations

01 Interbau Foundation

02 Lagos Food Bank Initiative

03 No Hunger Food Bank Initiative

04 Transcend Education Foundation

These organisations are undergoing the Foundation's final review process ahead of an official announcement and implementation during the 10th Anniversary celebrations — positioning the anniversary not only as a moment of reflection, but as the launch point for the Foundation's next decade of grassroots partnership.



Building Strategic Partnerships

Throughout the year, Woodhall Capital Foundation has continued deepening collaborations with organisations committed to creating lasting social and economic impact, providing financial and strategic support to initiatives including Dang Life, Creative Blueprint and The Ability Life Initiative.

In collaboration with The Ability Life Initiative, the Foundation delivered a Financial Literacy Engagement focused on equipping participants with practical financial knowledge and strengthening community impact — a further demonstration of the Foundation's commitment to empowering organisations that are transforming lives across diverse communities, including communities that mainstream development finance often overlooks.

Corporate & Executive Stakeholder Engagements

Woodhall Capital Foundation convened a series of executive and corporate engagement sessions this year, strengthening relationships across the public, private and development sectors.

Key Engagements

- Woodhall Capital hosts FirstBank UK
- Woodhall Capital hosts Bank of Africa
- Executive engagement with Adetokunbo Oguchi — Founder & Creative Director, MOKE Atelier; Executive Director, Mama Cass Group
- Women Corporate Evening — Honouring Legacy, Leadership and Generational Enterprise

Engagement Focus Areas

- Leadership conversations
- Corporate engagement
- Strategic networking
- Cross-sector collaboration
- Economic development

Championing Thought Leadership

The Foundation has continued shaping important conversations around leadership, governance, entrepreneurship and Africa's economic future, at two of the academic institutions most closely tied to the continent's policy and finance pipeline.

Cranfield Africa Impact Summit

President Moji Hunponu-Wusu delivered a keynote address challenging African leaders to rethink development through ownership, innovation and economic independence — the same conviction captured in the quotation that opens this report.

Cambridge University Nigerian Society

At St John's College, Cambridge, President Moji Hunponu-Wusu delivered a Democracy Day address titled “Beyond the Ballot: Leadership, Youth Participation and Nigeria's Future,” challenging young Africans to embrace responsibility and emphasising that true leadership is demonstrated through service rather than titles.

Investing in Future Leaders

Beyond its flagship programmes, the Foundation has continued creating opportunities that equip young professionals and entrepreneurs with practical knowledge, mentorship, leadership exposure and professional networks — through internship placements, financial literacy programmes, executive mentorship opportunities and leadership development initiatives. The Foundation also completed the distribution of support items and gifts to GRIP participants, reinforcing its commitment to recognising excellence and encouraging continued growth.

Internal Strategy & Institutional Development

Throughout the year, the Foundation strengthened its operations through continuous planning and coordination — internal strategy meetings, 10th Anniversary planning sessions, programme coordination meetings, partnership review meetings, compliance and implementation discussions, and monitoring and evaluation activities. These internal efforts, largely invisible in any single newsletter, are what ensure every programme is delivered with excellence, accountability and long-term sustainability — the same pillars honoured at the anniversary reception.

Our Impact at a Glance

Between January and September 2026, Woodhall Capital Foundation:

- Delivered Her Executive Edge across Lagos, Abuja and London
- Hosted the GRIP Campus Tour at Redeemer's University
- Hosted the GRIP Diaspora Series at Cranfield University
- Reached over 1,850 participants through leadership and empowerment programmes
- Facilitated 12+ internship opportunities through partnerships with Woodhall Capital and Blackstone
- Supported impactful initiatives including Dang Life, Creative Blueprint and The Ability Life Initiative
- Hosted strategic executive and corporate stakeholder engagements
- Launched the Grassroots NGO Programme Initiative and shortlisted four organisations for final review
- Delivered financial literacy programmes and youth empowerment initiatives
- Advanced plans to expand GRIP to Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU)
- Celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a Thanksgiving Service at Guiding Light Assembly, Ikoyi, and a Thanksgiving Reception at The Oak
- Formally recognised and awarded its pioneer staff for a decade of service, dedication and contribution
- Strengthened partnerships across academia, the private sector and nonprofit organisations
- Advanced conversations on leadership, governance, entrepreneurship and Africa's economic future

Looking Ahead: Q4 2026

As Woodhall Capital Foundation enters the final quarter of its tenth anniversary year, it remains committed to:

- Finalising and announcing the Grassroots NGO Programme Initiative
- Expanding GRIP to additional tertiary institutions, including OAU
- Deepening strategic partnerships across academia, the private sector and development finance
- Advancing women's leadership across Africa and the diaspora
- Investing in youth through mentorship, internships and financial literacy
- Strengthening community-driven development initiatives
- Building innovative solutions that promote inclusive and sustainable growth
- Continuing to invest in the staff and systems that make the Foundation's impact possible

Conclusion

The first nine months of 2026 reflect Woodhall Capital Foundation's unwavering commitment to empowering leaders, strengthening communities and creating opportunities that inspire transformation. Through impactful programmes, strategic partnerships and visionary leadership, the Foundation continues to shape a future in which individuals and communities are equipped to thrive.

But 2026 has also been a year of turning inward, briefly and deliberately, to acknowledge the people who make that outward-facing work possible. As Woodhall Capital Foundation marks its 10th Anniversary and looks toward the decade ahead, it does so with a renewed and public appreciation for its pioneer staff — the pillars of everyday

administration and execution without whom none of the preceding pages would exist. It is on that foundation, quite literally, that the Foundation's next ten years will be built.

WOODHALL CAPITAL FOUNDATION

2026 Impact Report — The Imperial Year · January – September 2026

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE



Computer Training.