

# ANNUAL WALK 2025

FOR SUPER SPECIAL  
CHILDREN

ACTIVITY REPORT PREPARED BY:

PUNUKA FOUNDATION MONITORING, EVALUATION,  
RESEARCH & LEARNING UNIT

# Executive Summary

On May 17, 2025, Punuka Foundation hosted the Annual Walk for Super Special Children, a flagship public awareness and advocacy event held at PAS World Centre, Lekki, Lagos. The event aimed to celebrate neurodiverse children, amplify visibility for their needs, and strengthen community support for inclusive development in Nigeria. This year's walk, themed around empathy, inclusion, and collective action, drew a diverse turnout of approximately 250 participants, including families, educators, caregivers, advocates, legal professionals, development partners, and children with neurodiverse conditions.

The walk began with warm-up exercises at 8:20 a.m. and proceeded from the PAS World Centre to Ikoyi Link Bridge and back. The event featured meaningful community interaction, physical engagement, and a shared sense of purpose as attendees distributed advocacy fliers, engaged road users, and visibly included children with special needs throughout the activity. The walk concluded with a reception where dignitaries, including Mrs. Elizabeth Idigbe, Executive Director of Punuka Foundation, and Chief Anthony Idigbe (SAN), delivered inspirational messages reinforcing the Foundation's commitment to inclusive child development. Mr. Ebuka Alumona, the National Programme Coordinator, opened the reception, while Mr. Oragwu, Administrative Partner at Punuka Attorneys and Solicitors, gave the vote of thanks.

The 2025 edition recorded strong partnership participation, with 16 organizations including Zenith Bank, Ecobank, First Bank, Salus Trust, and Migliore Construcziior Tecniche supporting the walk. In attendance were eight special schools and institutions catering to neurodivergent children, including the Down Syndrome Foundation, Modupe Cole Memorial Child Care & Treatment Home, Lagos State Special School, and the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi. Their presence added institutional strength and affirmed a shared commitment to supporting the unique needs of children with developmental conditions.

Key outcomes included raised public awareness, as many passers-by and road users engaged with participants and took interest in the mission of the Foundation. The walk created moments of emotional impact—highlighted by visible acts of kindness and unity among participants and children. The inclusion of neurodiverse children as active participants in the walk boosted their confidence and demonstrated Punuka Foundation's advocacy in action. Media personnel and photographers captured memorable moments, while security and emergency services ensured the safety and logistics of the event, with support from the Federal Road Safety Corps and Nigerian Police Force, and an ambulance provided by Salus Trust.

Challenges noted during the event included minor crowd coordination issues, water shortages, and concerns about plastic pollution from water bottles. The Foundation has already outlined mitigation strategies, including increasing volunteer numbers, improving hydration planning, and reducing single-use plastic through cleanup teams and reusable bottles.

The walk ended with new opportunities for partnership development, public engagement, and community-level follow-up. As the Foundation looks ahead, key recommendations include improving punctuality, establishing dedicated volunteer departments (e.g., for logistics, registration, media, and clean-up), and strengthening participant tracking mechanisms to enhance impact measurement.

Ultimately, the 2025 Walk for Super Special Children succeeded in affirming the dignity, rights, and visibility of neurodiverse children. It further strengthened the role of Punuka Foundation as a leading voice in advocacy for inclusion, neurodevelopmental support, and social change in Nigeria.

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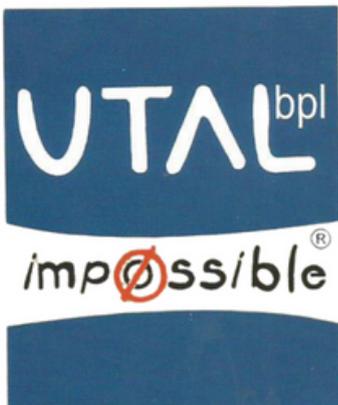
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# Our Partners



# Collaborators

- Ereko Methodist School, Onikan, Lagos.
- National Orthopaedic School, Igbobi.
- Modupe Cole Memorial, Akoka, Lagos.
- Friends of Jesus Orphange, Lagos.
- Down Syndrome Foundation Nigeria.
- New Oba Primary School Inclusive Unit.
- St John RCM school.Ibeju Lekki.

# ABOUT PUNUKA FOUNDATION



## OUR VISION

Our vision is to create a world where every child with a disability has equal opportunities and access to quality care and support. We envision a society that embraces and celebrates the unique abilities of these children and youths, fostering an inclusive and accepting environment that allows everyone to thrive.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide comprehensive and compassionate care for children with special needs through the childcare Centre projects; to give young people a reason to pursue their dream and contribute positively to society through our youth development programmes.



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# INTRODUCTION

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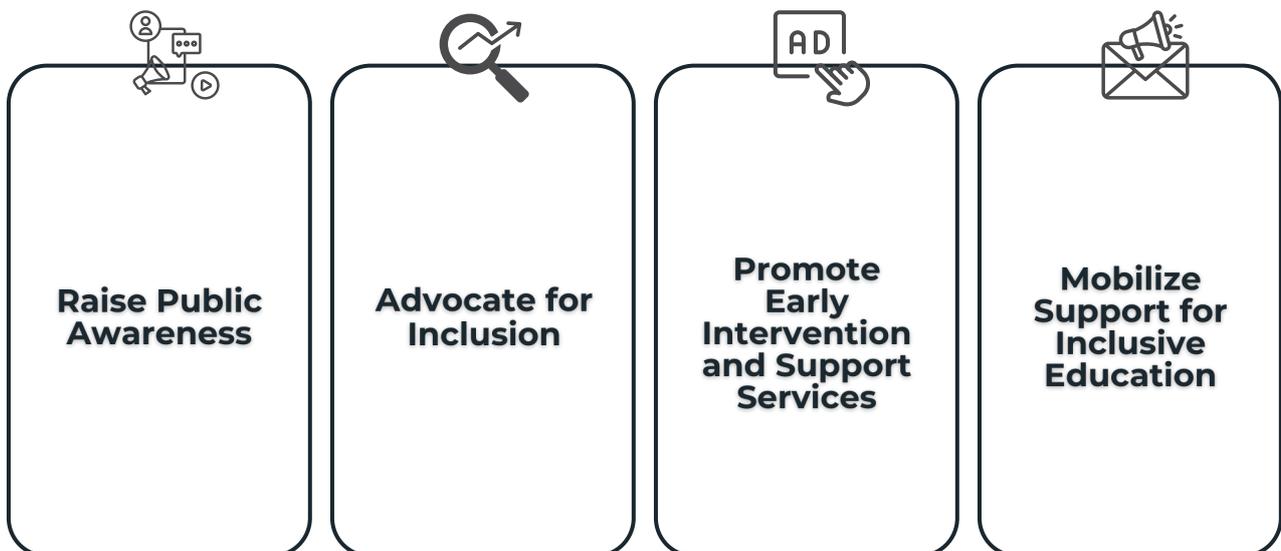
The Annual Walk serves as a significant project of the Punuka Foundation, aimed at raising awareness and advocating for children with developmental needs, with a particular focus on conditions such as autism, Down syndrome, and ADHD, among others. This initiative is designed to shed light on the challenges faced by children with developmental disabilities and to promote inclusivity and understanding within society.

The walk is an annual event that takes place across various states in Nigeria where Punuka Foundation maintains a physical presence. It serves as a platform for community engagement, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds, including families, caregivers, educators, healthcare professionals, and communities to participate in a collective effort to support children with developmental needs.

Through the charity walk, the Punuka Foundation seeks to raise awareness about the importance of early intervention, access to specialised services, and inclusive education for children with developmental disabilities. Participants in the walk are encouraged to actively engage in discussions, share personal experiences, and learn from experts in the field, fostering a greater understanding and acceptance of individuals with developmental challenges within their communities.

# OBJECTIVES

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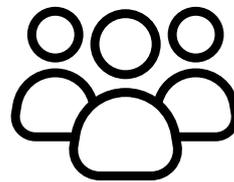
# IMPACT NUMBERS



The Annual Walk for Super Special Children 2025 recorded notable achievements in terms of participation, visibility, and stakeholder engagement. Held in Lagos, the event attracted over 250 participants, including caregivers, families, educators, legal professionals, and children with developmental needs. The walk covered a distance of more than 3 kilometers, symbolizing collective solidarity and advocacy for neurodiverse inclusion.

The initiative was supported by 16 partner organizations, whose involvement contributed to the success and logistical execution of the event. Additionally, 8 special schools and institutions catering to children with developmental disabilities were represented, reinforcing the Foundation's commitment to inclusive engagement and education. The walk also garnered attention from five major newspaper outlets, ensuring that the message of awareness, inclusion, and support for neurodiverse children reached a broader public audience. These impact figures reflect the growing momentum of Punuka Foundation's advocacy efforts and its role in shaping a more inclusive and informed society.

**3km +**  
Distance covered



## 250 Participants

present at the walk, comprising old and young individuals.



## 16 Partners

secured for the walk; financially, technically and strategically.



## 8 Inclusive Schools

participated in the walk in support of the neurodiversity awareness



## 5 Media Outlets

covered the walk cross print and digital news platforms.

# ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

## The Walk

Following the warm-up drills, the main walk commenced at 8:48 a.m., marking the central activity of the Annual Walk for Super Special Children 2025..

## Reception

The walk concluded at exactly 10:00 a.m. and was immediately followed by a reception to wrap up the event. Participants gathered at the reception venue where they were welcomed by Mr. Ebuka Alumona, the National Programme Coordinator of Punuka Foundation, who officially opened the session.

## Warm-up drill

The warm-up drills conducted at the beginning of the Annual Walk for Super Special Children serve as an essential preparatory activity for all participants. Typically held 20-30 minutes before the walk commences, the drills include light stretches, mobility exercises, and coordinated movements designed to energize the body and reduce the risk of muscle strain or fatigue during the walk.

## Flyer Distribution

An integral component of the Annual Walk for Super Special Children 2025 was the distribution of informational flyers and active engagement with passersby along the walk route. Participants shared flyers that highlighted the mission of the Punuka Foundation, the importance of supporting children with developmental needs, and the role of inclusive practices in education, healthcare, and community life.



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# WARM-UP DRILL

Beyond the physical benefits, the warm-up session plays a symbolic and communal role—it sets a unified tone, creates a sense of anticipation, and encourages interaction among participants from diverse backgrounds. For many neurodiverse children, structured movement in a supportive group setting helps ease anxiety and enhances their sense of inclusion from the very start. As such, the warm-up is not only a health precaution but a key ritual that reflects the spirit of care, unity, and preparedness that defines the walk.



# THE WALK

This year, participants walked over 3 kilometers, beginning at the PAS World Centre and proceeding to Ikoyi Link Bridge and back. The route was carefully selected to ensure safety, accessibility, and visibility, allowing participants to walk together in solidarity while engaging the broader community along the way. The walk itself is a core aspect of the event as it physically symbolizes collective advocacy and movement toward inclusion. It aims to create a visible and impactful presence in public spaces, drawing the attention of passersby, road users, and local residents.



# FLYER DISTRIBUTION

This outreach activity served as a direct form of public advocacy, transforming the walk into a platform for education and awareness-raising. Passersby, motorists, and local residents responded with interest—many slowed down, accepted flyers, and engaged in meaningful conversations with volunteers. This interaction helped extend the impact of the event beyond registered participants, fostering greater community involvement and amplifying the message of inclusion across Lagos. Through this simple yet effective act, the walk reinforced its purpose as both a symbolic movement and a practical tool for public enlightenment.



# RECEPTION

The reception created a space to reflect on the significance of the walk and the collective efforts towards inclusion and awareness for neurodiverse children. Following the opening, goodwill messages were delivered by Mrs. Elizabeth Idigbe, FCI Arb (UK), Executive Director of Punuka Foundation, and Chief Anthony Idigbe (SAN), both of whom appreciated the turnout and reinforced the Foundation's vision. Mr. Oragwu, Administrative Partner at Punuka Attorneys and Solicitors, gave the vote of thanks, after which the event was brought to a close with a prayer led by Father Efe. Light refreshments were shared, providing an opportunity for participants to relax and network in a warm, communal atmosphere.





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# Key Lessons Learnt

## **Crowd Coordination Needs Improvement**

One of the most notable challenges faced during the walk was managing the large crowd of over 250 participants. Although safety marshals and traffic officers were stationed along the route, the sheer number of people caused brief delays at some intersections and high-traffic zones. While the event remained incident-free, the experience highlighted the need for better crowd management strategies. For future walks, recruiting more marshals and volunteers will help maintain order, ensure participant safety, and minimize disruption to vehicular traffic. Real-time communication tools such as handheld speakers or megaphones can also be used to provide instructions and guide the movement of the crowd more effectively.

## **Water Supply Should Be More Adequate and Structured**

Hydration is critical during any physical activity, especially for events like this walk, which covered more than 3 kilometers. Despite efforts to provide bottled water, many participants found the supply insufficient. One contributing factor was the use of small-sized water bottles, which prompted people to take multiple bottles. This not only depleted the available supply quickly but also led to dissatisfaction among some participants. Moving forward, organizers should consider using larger water bottles or increasing the total quantity to match the expected turnout. In addition, establishing clearly marked water distribution points with controlled access will ensure fair distribution and help avoid unnecessary shortages.

## **Need for a More Sustainable Approach to Waste Management**

The walk unfortunately led to a noticeable increase in plastic waste along the route due to the use of disposable water bottles. Although a few conscientious participants tried to pick up discarded bottles, it was challenging to clean up the entire area, especially given the length of the walk. This raised concerns about the environmental impact of the event. To address this, future walks should adopt a more sustainable approach. Participants could be encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles, which would significantly reduce the volume of plastic waste. Additionally, assigning dedicated cleanup teams responsible for specific zones along the route can ensure a more thorough and timely waste collection. Partnering with local waste management services or recycling organizations can also enhance efficiency and promote environmental responsibility.

**ASSOCIATE**  
**CONSULTANTS**



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# Recommendations

## **Adjust Event Timing for Better Coordination and Attendance**

The event started later than scheduled, causing early attendees to wait unnecessarily. This can affect overall experience and reduce punctuality in future. It is recommended that future walks begin earlier by 7:30 a.m. for warm-up drills and 8:00 a.m. for the walk itself. This shift will create a more structured timeline, discourage lateness, and encourage more disciplined participation. External stakeholders can support this by helping with time-sensitive logistics such as early morning traffic control, transport, and breakfast support for neurodiverse children and caregivers.

## **Establish Dedicated Volunteer Departments with Defined Roles**

There was no centralized registration desk or structured volunteer system during the event, which made it difficult to collect accurate attendance data and coordinate key functions like welfare and cleanup. For future events, the establishment of clearly defined volunteer departments; registration, logistics, welfare, media, safety, and cleanup—is crucial. External stakeholders, especially corporate sponsors and development partners, can help by providing staff volunteers, branded kits, or technical support to streamline these functions and enhance the professionalism of the event.

## **Strengthen Water Supply and Reduce Environmental Impact**

The walk noted a shortage of drinking water and the resulting increase in plastic waste due to small bottles being discarded along the route. To resolve this, future walks should include better hydration planning such as providing larger water bottles, setting up refill stations, or partnering with eco-friendly vendors. Stakeholders in health, environment, and water sectors are encouraged to collaborate by donating reusable bottles, offering mobile refill units, or sponsoring waste management services to reduce pollution and promote sustainability.

## **Improve Crowd Management and Safety Mechanisms**

Managing a large crowd of people, especially across busy urban roads, posed some coordination challenges. Even though security and traffic personnel were on ground, traffic disruptions were still observed. To improve this, it is recommended to increase the number of marshals and safety volunteers, particularly at intersections and road crossings. External stakeholders—especially those in security, transportation, or logistics—can contribute by providing personnel, reflective gear, traffic signage, and real-time communication equipment to ensure smoother crowd control.



## FUNDS RAISED

## TOTAL DONATIONS

**NGN 9,640,000**

Funds raised for the 2025 Walk for Super Special Children came through generous donations and strategic partnerships secured in the lead-up to and during the event. This funding represents a significant milestone for Punuka Foundation and underscores the growing community support for children with neurodiverse conditions. The proceeds will be directed towards the operations of the Punuka Foundation Childcare Centre, located in Sangotedo, Lagos. This Centre is dedicated to providing high-quality care, developmental support, and therapy for neurodiverse children, ensuring they receive the specialized attention they need in a safe and nurturing environment. Additionally, 70% of the funds will support the Centre's 2025 scholarship program, which aims to offer financial assistance to families who cannot afford therapy or specialized education for their children.

**Visit Our Child Care Centre Office:**

**[Ajayi Apata New Town Estate Beside Fara Park Estate Sangotedo, Lagos](#)**

# NEXT STEPS

The Annual Walk for Super Special Children is more than a one-day event—it's a growing movement. This report is not only a reflection of what we've achieved, but also a commitment to sustaining the momentum. It serves as both a milestone and a roadmap.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on deepening awareness, expanding our support for children with neurodiverse conditions, and strengthening our partnerships with caregivers, schools, healthcare professionals, and corporate allies. Our strategy includes scaling outreach through year-round advocacy, improving access to early intervention services, and securing more scholarships for developmental therapy at our Childcare Centre.

Details of Annual Walk 2026 coming soon



## 01. Donate Today

You can make 2026 walk possible by donating towards logistical arrangements:

<https://punukafoundation.org/donate/>



## 02. Partner With Us

You can partner with us to make 2026 walk a success by sending an email to

[info@punukafoundation.org](mailto:info@punukafoundation.org).



## 03. Become A Volunteer

You can also support the 2026 walk by volunteering in any of our available units:

<https://punukafoundation.org/volunteer/>



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## **PUNUKA FOUNDATION**

**Head Office:** PAS World Centre  
Plot 7, Block A10, Layi Yusuf Street, Off Admiralty Way,  
Lekki Phase 1, Lagos.

**Child Care Centre Office:** Ajayi Apata New Town Estate Beside Fara  
park Estate Sangotedo, Lagos State.

**Youth Centre/Museum Centre Office:** 7 Anwai Road, Asaba, Delta  
State.

**USA (New Jersey):** 605 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, New Jersey  
07086

**Phone:** +2347049984638

**Email:** [info@punukafoundation.org](mailto:info@punukafoundation.org)

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