



CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS
OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE
(CAPRIGHTS-VP)

STORIES OF IMPACT

AN ENCOUNTER AT IKOTUN MARKET THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

How Mrs. Bolanle Ashimolowo O. went from uncertainty at a market stall to becoming a certified bag maker, and what her story reveals about what it truly means to be empowered.



“

I thought it wasn't going to be real. But I decided to click on the link, and it became a testimony.”

”



ABOUT BOLANLE ▾

Mrs. Bolanle Ashimolowo O.
Market trader · Ikotun, Lagos State

Skills Acquired	Bag Making (Certified)
Programme	Skills Acquisition & Empowerment Programme
Duration	5 days · Ikotun-Igando LCDA, Alimosho LGA
Funded by	Freedom Fund (U.S. Department of State)

CHAPTER 1

An Ordinary Day, An Extraordinary Encounter

It began without announcement. Bolanle was at Ikotun Market going about her work when the CAPRIGHTS-VP team approached engaging market women about an upcoming 5-day Skills Acquisition and Empowerment Programme at the Ikotun-Igando LCDA premises. Free, practical, and open to all. They gave her a registration link. Would the programme really happen? Would she actually have the opportunity to learn a skill? She decided to register anyway, not with certainty, but with a quiet willingness to take a chance on something that might be real.

CHAPTER 2

Five Days That Became Something More

The programme was real. Bolanle chose bag making. Over five intensive days she learned the full arc of the craft: selecting materials, taking measurements, cutting, sewing, assembling, and finishing to a professional standard. Some techniques resisted her at first, the trainers were patient, meeting participants where they were and helping them move forward.

“At the beginning, some of the processes seemed challenging, but with the guidance and encouragement of the trainers, I gradually became more confident in my ability to create bags.” — Mrs. Bolanle Ashimolowo O.

CHAPTER 3

Then She Understood the Deeper Purpose

As the training progressed, Bolanle came to understand what sat beneath the programme. CAPRIGHTS-VP's work is rooted in a clear insight: many families send their children into domestic work not out of indifference, but because economic pressure leaves them feeling they have no other choice. A skill in a parent's hands can keep a child safely at home and in school. The training gave Bolanle not only a craft, it gave her a place in a solution.

VALUES SHE CARRIED HOME FROM THE TRAINING

Self-Reliance • Determination • Creativity • Hard-Work • Entrepreneurship • Patience • Confidence

CHAPTER 4

A Skill With Possibilities

For Bolanle, bag making is no longer just something she learned during five days of training. It is a skill she continues to develop, a source of income she is already building on, and a foothold on the kind of economic independence that changes what is possible for a family. Her experience gave her a new way of thinking about empowerment: it is not simply about receiving assistance. Sometimes it is about being given the knowledge, the tools, and the space to create something for yourself, and discovering, in the process, that you were capable all along.

“The programme taught me important values such as self-reliance, determination, creativity, hard work, and entrepreneurship.” — Mrs. Bolanle Ashimolowo O.

CHAPTER 5

A Voice for Many

Bolanle knows that her story is not hers alone. Every participant in that training hall brought their own version of the same journey , the uncertainty before registering, the challenge of learning something new, the moment when the skill began to feel genuinely theirs. She carries their experience alongside hers.

WHERE BOLANLE IS TODAY

Mrs. Bolanle Ashimolowo O. is a trained and certified bag maker who has already begun making and selling bags. What started with a registration link at a market stall is now a livelihood in her hands.



“

CAPRIGHTS has tried for me, not only me, but many of us that participated in the skill training. Thank you for investing in our future and empowering us to become self-reliant.

”

**– Mrs. Bolanle Ashimolowo O.
(Certified Bag Maker)**

PROGRAMME

Skills Acquisition & Empowerment
Programme (PCDW Initiative)

FUNDING

Freedom Fund
· U.S. Department of State

IMPLEMENTING ORGANISATION

CAPRIGHTS-VP

LOCATION

Ikotun-Igando LCDA, Alimosho,
Lagos State

There are more stories like Bolanle's. Partner with CAPRIGHTS-VP to extend the reach of economic empowerment and child protection across Nigeria.

CONTACT CAPRIGHTS-VP



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