

Eno-obong Okpo

"You are the bridge to someone's tomorrow, so make today count"

Eno-obong is a polio survivor who currently runs numerous outreach programs focused on education, health and economic empowerment of women and girls with disabilities in Nigeria.

Eno-obong contracted polio at age 2, having not had access to the polio vaccine. Stigmatisation of disabilities in Nigeria saw her outcast from her community and subject to considerable abuse. When Eno-obong was young, children with disabilities were believed to be cursed and as schools were reluctant to allow her to attend classes due to misplaced fears of polio spreading to other students; she was often isolated, with few prospects from an early age. The community did not see education as being important for someone with a disability – especially not for a woman with a disability. However, despite these obstacles, with family support and encouragement, Eno-obong pursued her studies, helped by her siblings who carried her to and from school every day.

Whilst Eno-obong overcame the adversity of her physical disability, even today people are surprised that she does, indeed, lead *'Enabled to Enable'*, an organisation that advocates for the education, health and basic human rights of women and children with disabilities. Eno-obong's work includes sensitisation campaigns on the importance of having children vaccinated against polio and a support group for women and girls with disabilities, including polio survivors and those with other disabilities. *Enabled to Enable* ensures access to vocational training and decent jobs for women with disabilities.

Eno-obong is committed to driving action to meet SDG 3, and raising awareness of the impact of polio on children, believing that the pain and mental torture of the after-effects of polio in Nigeria to be even worse than the disease itself.