



Transforming **Dreams** into impact

2023 Annual Report

Transforming Dreams into impact

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SAYDi

SAVING AFRICAN YOUTHS DREAM INITIATIVE

About SAYDi

Saving African Youths Dream Initiative (SAYDi) is a non-profit organization, in Nigeria, West Africa, advocating good governance, gender inclusion, and social justice. Its goal is to provide a supportive civic engagement system by implementing initiatives that enhance citizen participation, transparency and accountability in governance.

The organisation was founded in 2020 when its founder was still an undergraduate student of University of Ilorin. It was officially registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission as a Non-Profit Organisation in 2021, with the tripartite mission of enhancing effective education, promoting democratic governance, and sustaining social justice. SAYDi not only creates a feedback loop between citizens and the government, but also engages in community outreach, policy promotion, and knowledge mobilization.



Our Vision

To create an ecosystem of opportunities where young people, especially the underserved can fully harness their potential and optimally unlock it to their advantage and that of the entire society

Our Mission

Host and engage in activities that encourage active participation, social inclusion, climate actions, balances in education, governance, and decision-making processes.

Our Objectives

- Promote equity and stakeholders' inclusion in education development.
 - Promote Climate Change Engagement
 - Provide support and platforms for societal development through youth empowerment and affairs.
 - Promote gender equity as a principle of human rights and a developmental goal.
 - Advocate gender rebalancing in resource distribution, legal rights, and political participation.
 - Contribute positively to the achievement of good governance, transparency, accountability, and a people-friendly legal framework for youth dreams.
 - Encourage youth participation in politics and decision-making.
- 

— From Our Executive Director



Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and Supporters, It is with immense gratitude and pride that I present to you the annual report of the Saving African Youths Dream Initiative (SAYDi) for 2023. This year has been one of unprecedented impact, marked by steadfast dedication to our vision of creating a society where young people, especially the underserved, can fully harness their potential for personal and communal advancement.

Since its inception, SAYDi has remained committed to advocating for good governance, gender equity, and social justice. This year, we translated these values into measurable action, reaching over 30,000 individuals through our various campaigns and initiatives. From groundbreaking policy advocacy to grassroots education reforms, our work is deeply rooted in fostering inclusion, sustainability, and civic engagement.

Highlights of the year include the launch of our flagship policy paper, Equity in Education: A Policy Roadmap for Accessing and Meeting Education Needs in Rural Areas of Kwara North LGAs. This transformative document underscores our commitment to addressing the systemic barriers to education in underserved communities. Additionally, our "Kids Act for SDGs" campaign empowered the next generation to take proactive steps toward climate action and inclusion,

while our International Youth Day Impact Awards celebrated the exceptional contributions of young changemakers driving the Sustainable Development Goals and partnering on Popularization of Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law (POVAPP) project.

Our work is made possible by the unwavering support of our donors, partners, and collaborators. Together, we conducted over 30 community outreach activities, hosted town hall meetings, trained over 1,000 individuals directly, and impacted lives on a scale we once only dreamed of. Your belief in our mission fuels our progress and inspires us to push boundaries.

As we look ahead, we remain resolute in our commitment to addressing systemic challenges and advocating for policies that promote transparency, equity, and inclusivity. The challenges are significant, but so is our resolve. Together, we will continue to empower communities, champion the rights of the underserved, and pave the way for a brighter future.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Let us continue to dream, act, and transform lives together.

Abdul Kareem O. Abdullateef
Executive Director, SAYDi

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Our 2023 campaigns in numbers



16

Campaigns across communities

12

Townhall Meetings

+30

Community Outreach

5

Courtesy Calls for Project
Implementation

People Trained Directly



People Impacted



SAYDi began 2023 with a Youthhub Africa advocacy campaign, on January 17, 2023, for increased educational budget across states in Nigeria.

As part of YouthhubAfrica advocates for an increase in educational budget across states in Nigeria. They have so far taken an advocacy visit to 5 States in Nigeria. During their visit to Kwara State, we partnered with them to take the advocacy to the Kwara State House of Assembly.

The team met with the Clerk of the Kwara State House of Assembly to also implore the house to work synergistically with the executive to ensure a large amount of quota is allotted to education in the state's subsequent budget. We also made some recommendations for the betterment of the educational sector.

The engagement, with the Project Manager of the Youth Hub Africa, was a great opportunity to share ideas, adopt best models and practice for the educational development in Kwara State.



Few days to Nigeria's general election in February 2023, SAYDi conducted a sensitization exercise. The steps required to exercise voting were given, along with the advice to vote for change and an indelible administrative system.



A poster with a purple and orange background. It features an illustration of hands exchanging a stack of money for a ballot paper labeled 'VOTE'. The SAYDi logo is in the top right corner.

Vote buying is a criminal offense under the law.

Anyone caught in the act is liable to 12-month imprisonment or a 500,000 naira fine.

Don't sell your vote and become the enemies of our dream nation

#Togetherwesavethedreamsofthisnation

  Saving African Youths Initiative  Saydinitiative



A poster with a purple and orange background. It features a vertical list of four steps for voting, each with an icon and a step number. The SAYDi logo is in the top right corner.

Voting Procedures and Safety Rules


Step 1 Join the queue, and confirm your PVC validity for voting using the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS).

Step 2 Stamp, sign and endorse your ballot paper from the presiding officer. Once given the ballot paper rolled with the printed side inwards, follow directions to the voting cubicle.

Step 3 Stain your finger with the ink given and thumb-print your preferred candidate/party. Roll the ballot paper in the manner you were given and flatten it.

Step 4 After voting, leave the voting cubicle and drop the ballot paper in the ballot box in full view of people at the Polling Unit then Leave the Polling Unit or wait if you so choose, in an orderly and peaceful manner, to watch the process up to the declaration of result.

  Saving African Youths Initiative  Saydinitiative




The Civic Enlightenment and Participation Programme (CEPP), was held 8th of March 2023 as 20 youths were inducted as the C E P P C h a n g e A g e n t s . The Senior Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation, and one of the speakers at the CEPP training, Dr. Amina Salihu, implored the participants to make all the knowledge they have acquired useful for a better future as she demand the need to sustain this insightful initiative for National Development.

A Development Professional, Busayo Oluwadamilare Marakinyo, who spoke on the importance of Youth Performance in Governance, stated that the youth need to play an active role in Governance by addressing public office mismanagement. He further added that this could be done by monitoring government projects and spending to hold them accountable.

The Global Director, Brain Builder Youth Development Initiative, Olasupo Abideen, who spoke on the topic, "the Critical Role of Stakeholders and Youth, stressed on the need to assess who has the resources to influence change. Then, conduct a Survey or Needs Assessment to identify the requirements for societal development. Afterward, the implementation can follow, and lastly, an Impact Assessment should be done to analyse and ensure the success of the project.

He emphasized that all these require the participation and carrying-along of stakeholders, which includes all the members of the society.



Speaking on Leveraging Social Media for Social Change, the Chief Executive, Spotlight for Transparency and Accountability Initiative, Mauzu Modu, stated that the formula for Social change is Vision, Skills, Incentives, Resources, and Action Plan.

Going further, he added that it is important to know what content thrives best on each Social media platforms to maximize it

The Founder of Enetsud, Dr. Abdullateef Alagbonsi, who spoke on the Role of the Office of the Citizens in State Development said that the Office of the Citizens, which entails the duty of the citizens to monitor government activities and ensure the proper implementation of policies is very important and needs to be functional for proper state development.

At the end of the program, the twenty inductees, which consisted of 10 seasoned Journalists and 10 others from other walks of life, were charged to play and make positive impacts as Change Agents by taking up roles needed to hold our public office holders accountable, promote the spread of genuine news information and ensure proper policies implementation in their various communities.



20 Participants | 5 Facilitators



MEET OUR CEPP CHANGE AGENTS



In partnership with:

saving african youth initiatives saydinitiative



CIVIC ENLIGHTENMENT AND PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME (CEPP)

SPEAKERS



In partnership with:

Saving African Youth Dream Initiative Saydinitiative

Gallery Highlights



On May 2, 2023, and under the project “Civic Enlightenment and Participation Programme (CEPP),” we presented an open chat to discuss accountability and transparency on the part of the government in spending of public funds.

This was in a bid to enable citizens to fully participate in public life, help combat corruption, and protect citizens' rights.



+50 Participants

5 Speakers

SAYDi
CIVIC ENLIGHTENMENT AND PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME (CEPP)
#CEPPChangeMakersOpenChat

THEME:
THE E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL, FOI ACT, AND OPEN GOVERNMENT IN NIGERIA; ACCESSING GOVERNMENT SPENDING OF PUBLIC FUNDS

ADEMUYIWA ADEYEMI
Regional Project Tracking Coordinator Southwest of Nigeria (BudgIT)

OKUNOLA OLUWATOMISIN A.
CEPP, Change Agent

DAMILOLA GRACE AKANNI
CEPP, Change Agent

ABDULRASHEED HAMMAD
CEPP, Change Agent Moderator

Live On: Twitter Space
Date: Tuesday, May 2nd 2023
Time: 5pm (GMT +1)

Saving Africans Youth Dreams Initiative **Saydinitiative**

Community engagement in Moro Local Government Area

We conducted a community engagement session with stakeholders in the Moro Local Government Area on the 3rd of June, 2023, to address the issue of education system failure in the local schools. During the session, stakeholders expressed their concerns about various factors contributing to this failure in their various communities.

One prominent issue raised was the lack of facilities that are essential for students learning. This includes a shortage of tables and chairs, inadequate classrooms, and insufficient textbooks. These deficiencies hinder the quality of education and student's ability to learn effectively.

One prominent issue raised was the lack of facilities that are essential for students learning. This includes a shortage of tables and chairs, inadequate classrooms, and insufficient textbooks. These deficiencies hinder the quality of education and student's ability to learn effectively.

We reiterate our commitment to working closely with the stakeholders in the local government area to address these concerns and find viable solutions. By fostering collaboration and cooperation, we can strive to improve the education system in Moro. Supported by HEDA Resource Centre



Other Gallery Highlights



Community engagement in Patigi Local Government Area

On June 4th, we organized a Community Engagement exercise in Patigi Local Government Area, bringing together various stakeholders to address the state of education in our rural community.

During the interactive session, the stakeholders highlighted that the challenges facing education in our community are multifaceted, involving the government, teachers, and society at large. They strongly advocated for the appointment of teachers based on merit rather than political influence, recognizing the critical role that qualified educators play in fostering quality education. Furthermore, they emphasized the crucial need for effective supervision and oversight by the government to ensure accountability and improvement in the education system.

Another significant point emphasized by the stakeholders was the importance of political inclusiveness. They stressed the need for individuals with a genuine commitment to community development to actively participate in politics and hold positions of power. This inclusiveness, they argued, would pave the way for progress and ensure that the community's interests are effectively represented and addressed.

The Community Engagement served as a platform for valuable discussions, and the insights shared by the stakeholders will guide our efforts in addressing the challenges and working towards a better educational environment in the community.

Gallery Highlights



Community engagement with stakeholders in Kaiama Local Government Area

To provide more information about the Rural Education Needs Assessment Project, and promote community involvement for its success, we held a community engagement with stakeholders in K A I A M A L o c a l G o v e r n m e n t A r e a .

During the engagement, stakeholders identified significant factors contributing to the failure of education, including the lack of classrooms and the absence of laboratories and libraries

Other concerns included the need for more teachers, particularly in nomadic schools, and teachers' training.

We reaffirm our unwavering dedication to ensuring the triumph of the Rural Education Needs Assessment Project and our diligent efforts to bring about significant improvements in rural education.

S u p p o r t e d b y H E D A R e s o u r c e C e n t r e

Gallery Highlights



Community engagement with stakeholders in Edu Local Government Area

To examine the factors contributing to the failure of education in schools in Edu Local Government Area, Saving African Youths Dream Initiative with support from HEDA Resource Centre, held a Community Engagement with stakeholders in EDU LGA.

The primary aim of this gathering was to provide more information about the Rural Education Needs Assessment Project (RENAP) and foster active community involvement for its success. During the engagement, stakeholders identified key issues: lack of security, classroom renovations, and provision of science laboratories.

Other concerns included merit-based teacher recruitment, government school supervision, JAMB center restoration at College of Education Lafiagi, NGO interventions, and promoting healthy competition among schools to motivate teachers and students.

We emphasized our unwavering commitment to closely collaborate with stakeholders in the local government area to achieve the goals and objectives of RENAP. Together, we will work tirelessly to address these concerns and bring about meaningful improvements to education.

Gallery Highlights



Our visit to schools in the Baruten Local Government Area

In June 2023, our facilitators visited 10 randomly selected schools in the Baruten Local Government Area.

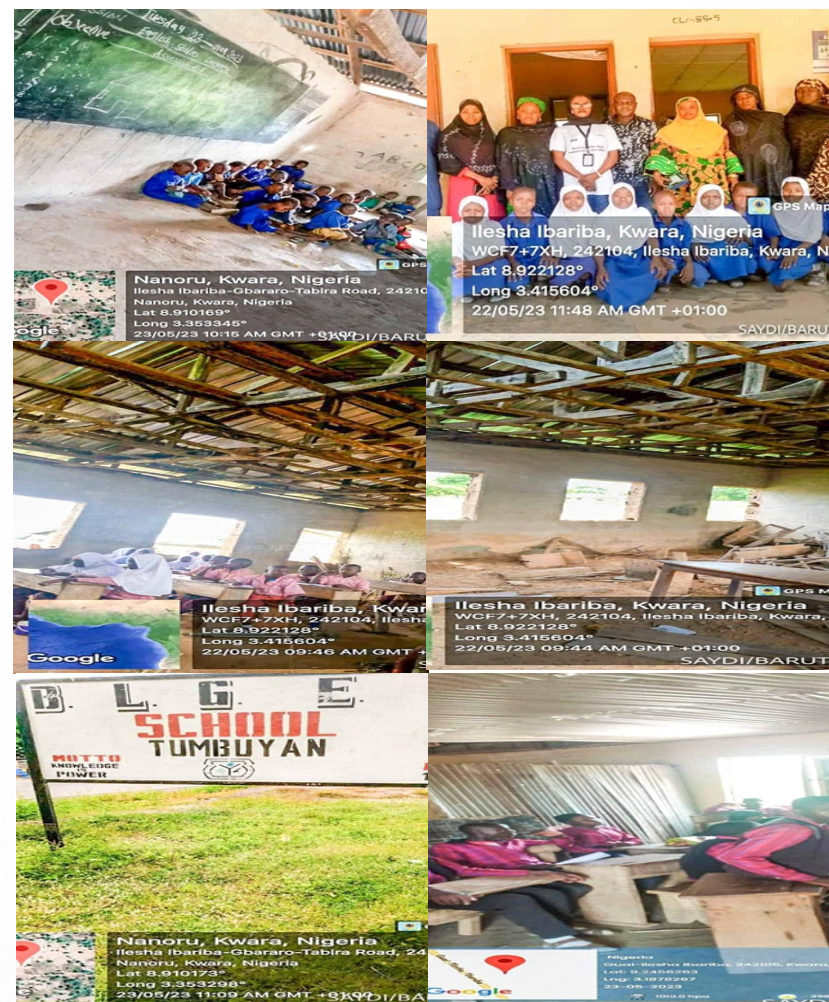
All the schools visited lack various educational facilities to enhance proper teaching, ranging from lack of good chairs and tables to dilapidated classrooms to lack of science laboratories, libraries, and computer labs. While some schools have these laboratories, they are not equipped.

The schools also lack toilets and portable water facilities for the learners and teachers.

The schools lack adequate numbers of teachers, as some teachers are employed by the community to assist and are under the payroll of the community under the PTA payment.

The road leading to some of these schools, like Gberebereru, is very terrible. During the rainy season, there is no access to pass the road and most of the teachers come from Ilesha to Gberebereru which is about a 30+ minute drive. The communities that house these schools have been forgotten and deprived of government educational interventions and are in dire need of urgent attention. Supported by HEDA Resource Centre

Gallery Highlights



Our visit to schools in the Edu Local Government Area

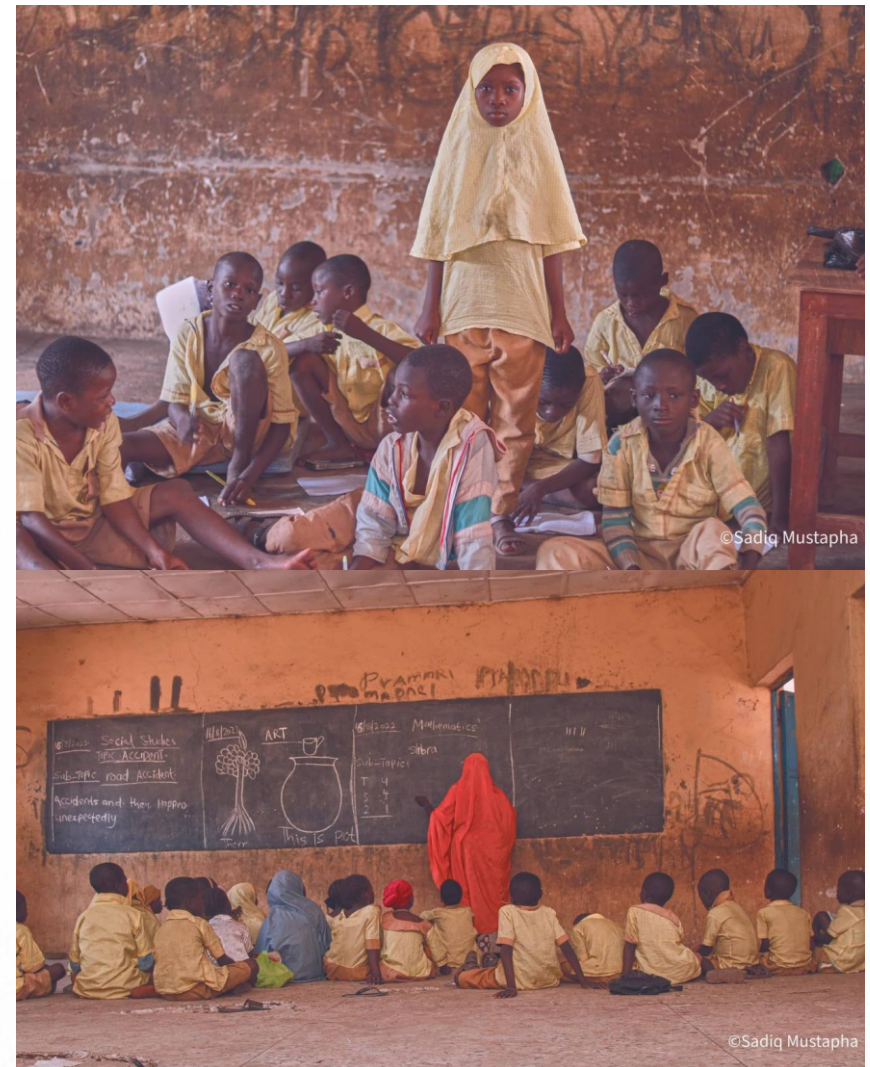
In fulfillment of the RENAP, our facilitators, in June, 2023, visited 10 schools in the EDU local government area, Kwara State.

The schools had bad building constructions with poor windows and no sitting materials. Most of the schools' environments were too poor for students to play and engage in recreational activities outside academics while some lacked security.

Even with few facilities in place, who will impact knowledge to these pupils? Most of the schools visited lack teachers. Some of the schools have just 6 teachers.

Also, the roads leading to these schools are bad. As a result, teachers get discouraged to make full attendance every week as most have to travel from neighbourhood villages.

Aside from these issues, there would be a need for sensitization to encourage teachers to always show up to perform their duties.



Our visit to schools in Kaiama Local Government Area

In a different outreach to KAIAMA LGA in Kwara North, in June, 2023, our facilitator visited 8 randomly selected schools in the Local Government Area.

The schools visited lacked security and basic facilities like chairs, tables, classrooms, teachers, laboratories, libraries, computers, and proper material teaching materials. All the schools lacked game equipment like volleyballs, basketballs, etc.

After administering our research checklist to these schools, the school management voiced the continuation of feeding programmes as inadequate feeding is a major challenge the primary school pupils face in the community.

Supported by HEDA Resource Centre



Gallery Highlights



Community Engagement with stakeholders in Shiya Community, Okuta District, Baruten LGA

On June 25, 2023, we conducted a community engagement exercise in Shiya Community, Okuta District, Baruten Local Government Area, Kwara State. During this exercise, the stakeholders shed light on the factors that contribute to the decline in educational standards within the communities. Several significant issues were raised, including the negligence and ineffective involvement of government entities at various levels in enhancing the learning environment.

The absence of science laboratories, library sections, ICT centers, and adequate toilet facilities in schools were also identified as key concerns.

Furthermore, the stakeholders emphasized additional factors such as high poverty rates, which discourage parents from enrolling their children in school, as well as insufficient teachers and inadequate government policies. These policies, such as the elimination of punishments for disobedient students and the non-repetition of underperforming students, were considered problematic.

Exploring Baruten's Educational Challenges

On July 1, 2023, stakeholders in Shiya Community highlighted the factors contributing to declining educational standards, including the concerning issue of poor girl child education.

Government's neglect inadequate facilities, high poverty rates, teacher shortages, and new government policies further compound the situation.





Rural Education Needs Assessment Project (RENAP) report featured in News Media

According to our research, a vast infrastructural deficit is evident in all public schools across all the five LGAs in Kwara North. With this in mind, the RENAP was launched.

The RENAP was a strategic move to encourage the government, the private sector and various collaborating agencies to promote the development of education in rural communities.

After several field research and meetings with stakeholders, RENAP got featured in News media, as we shared details about the project and the news was gracious enough to capture this initiative.

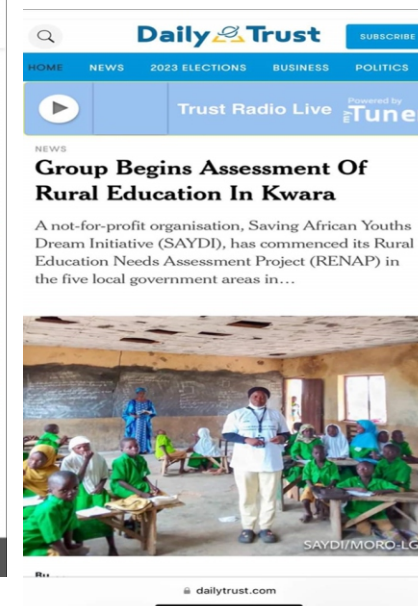
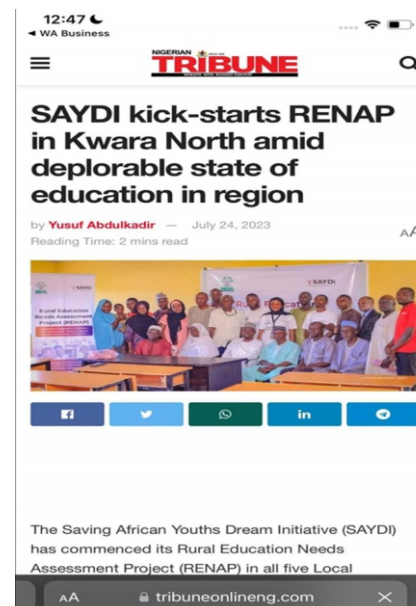
We are glad that we are changing the narrative in the educational sector and we are just getting started. One step at a time, we will get there.

Click the link below to read the news report:

<https://dailytrust.com/group-begins-assessment-of-rural-education-in-kwara/>

<https://tribuneonlineng.com/saydi-kick-starts-renap-in-kwara-north-amid-deplorable-state-of-education-in->

<https://theinformant247.com/saydi-begins-rural-education-assessment-needs-project-in-kwara/north/>



Green Skills for Youth

Organized by SAYDi

"Green Skills for Youth," Webinar was held on August 12 to prepare youths to seize control of the future and emerge as a true champion of sustainability and climate actions.

02

Speakers

89

Participants

The poster is for a webinar titled "Green Skills for Youth" organized by SAYDi International Youth Day. It features a lightbulb icon filled with green leaves. The text "INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY SUMMIT 2023" is at the top. The theme is "GREEN SKILLS FOR YOUTH" with the subtitle "TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORLD". The event is scheduled for "12th AUG., 2023". The moderator is Ajayi Hannah Bolajoko, Communications Assistant at SAYDi. The speaker is Abdullahi Tunde Aborode, Climate Advocate. The meeting ID is 816 9738 0672 and the passcode is 207954. The poster also includes the SAYDi logo and the text "SAVING AFRICAN YOUTHS DREAM INITIATIVE".

SAYDi INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY SUMMIT 2023

Theme: **GREEN SKILLS FOR YOUTH**

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORLD

Climate Chat

10AM PROMPT

12th AUG., 2023

Moderator

AJAYI HANNAH BOLAJOKO
Communications Assistant, SAYDi

Speaker

ABDULLAHI TUNDE ABORODE
Climate Advocate

Meeting ID: 816 9738 0672
Passcode: 207954

Saydinitiative Saving African Youths Dream Initiative

Winners of the International Youth Day Impact Award on-air at Diamond 88.7FM

On Saturday, the 2nd of September, 2023, the winners of the International Youth Day Impact Award engaged in a thought-provoking session on air at Diamond 88.7fm

They spoke in-depth about the criminal justice system and the need for better involvement of Nigerian women and youth in politics. Also, about the need to see beyond gender and age to competence and capacity. Thus, giving more capable young persons and women a chance to drive impact.

They spoke about the need for more youth to become active in decision-making processes at all levels in order to build themselves by joining organisations such as ours which have similar goals and objectives.

Photo Gallery



+10,000

Active Listeners of
Diamond FM

06

Participants

16 LGAs

Coverage Frequency
Modulation



The International Youth Day Impact Award Debate

On September 4, 2023, we conducted the International Youth Day Impact Award Debate, in partnership with the Hadis Foundation. Winner and runner ups were presented with their well-deserved awards. It's important to take a moment to applaud these incredible young minds who are making a real difference in the world. Their dedication, passion, and commitment to positive change are truly inspiring.

Their outstanding performances in the debate not only showcased their eloquence but also their profound understanding of the critical issues our world faces today. They have set an example for all of us, proving that age is no barrier to impactful change.

To our winners, they contributed towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have not gone unnoticed. Congratulations on your well-deserved achievements! Together, we have all contributed to a remarkable celebration of youth empowerment and change-making. Let's continue to work towards excellence and work together to achieve a better tomorrow.

Gallery Highlights



Gallery Highlights



“Kids Act for SDGs” held

To commemorate Global Week to #Act4SDGs, we embarked on our action, "Kids Act for SDGs," on September 24, 2023, to sensitize children aged 8 to 15 years, on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and inspire them to take action on Climate Change and Inclusion. Our approach began with the fundamental principle of "catching them young." Recognizing the significance of early education, we designed engaging and age-appropriate activities to introduce the children to the concept of the SDGs.

Together, we discussed the urgency of addressing climate crises and how every small step matters. We also emphasized the power of inclusion. We encouraged them to embrace diversity in their classrooms and communities because inclusion is the key to a brighter future for all. These young minds are now armed with knowledge and determination to make a difference in their communities. They are ready to be the change from their corners.

We will keep supporting and celebrating these young leaders as they pave the way for a sustainable and inclusive world.

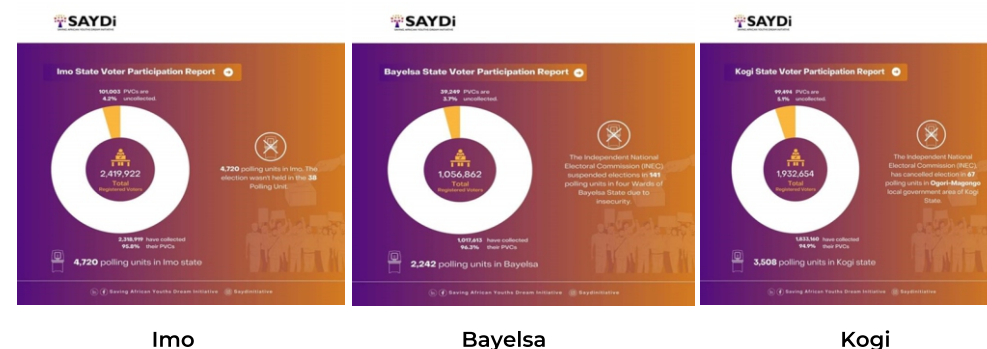
10 schools visited 200 students impacted 5 communities covered with the campaign
#FlipTheScript #Act4SDGs UN SDG Action Campaign SDGAction #flipthescript
United Nations Abuja Global Goals for Sustainable Development

SAYDi's Report on Guber Elections Conducted in Kogi, Imo, and Bayelsa states

On the 11th of November 2023, citizens from Kogi, Imo, and Bayelsa exercised their right to vote in the Gubernatorial elections. In Kogi, with 1,932,654 registered voters and 1,833,160 PVCs collected (94.9% collected), elections were conducted in all 3,508 Polling Units, except for 67 polling units in Ogori-Magongo LG where elections were canceled.

In Imo, with 2,419,922 registered voters, 2,318,919 PVCs were collected (96.8% collected), and there were only 101,003 uncollected PVCs. Elections were held in all but 38 polling units out of 4,720 in the state.

Bayelsa, arguably the smallest state with 1,056,862 registered voters, had all but 39,249 PVCs collected, representing a 96.3% collection rate. Despite having just 2,242 Polling Units, elections were suspended in 141 polling units.



Key observations:

1. There is an increasing PVC collection rate in all three states, although it's uncertain if this will lead to a significant voter turnout.
2. Despite a significant reduction, electoral malpractice remains a challenge in Nigeria's electoral system, with cases of cancelled and suspended elections in all three states.



SAYDi's Blog Post on Empowering Women in Politics

On Nov 20, 2023, we shared a blog post on empowering women in politics.

Women assume some key roles, which are: mother, producer, home manager, community organizer, and socio-cultural and political activist. In line with global trends, Nigerian women constitute nearly half of the population of the country.

Groundbreaking Policy Paper Launched

On Dec 19, 2023, SAYDi officially launched the groundbreaking policy paper, titled 'Equity in Education: A Policy Roadmap for Accessing and Meeting Education Needs in Rural Areas of Kwara North LGAs.' The document marks a significant step towards bridging the education gap in the various communities within Kwara North. The press briefing on December 18th, 2023, highlighted the innovative strategies and commitments outlined in the paper. Together, we're paving the way for a brighter, more equitable future for the youth of Africa.

HEDA Resource Centre

Over 10,000 individuals were directly impacted through the sustainability and reporting

For this project, we conducted a thorough examination of the educational landscape across all Local Governments in Kwara North. We looked into different rural communities, listening, learning, and understanding their educational needs that often remain unheard. The presentation was not just about statistics and figures; it was also about the stories, dreams, and aspirations of every child, teacher, and community member striving for a brighter future.





SAYDi Team



Partners



Hadis
Habiba Dangana Foundation
Giving a head Start in life



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