



**YOUTH
HUB
AFRICA**



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



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ABBREVIATIONS/GLOSSARY

Abbreviations

AU	–	African Union
AEPB	–	Abuja Environmental Protection Board
CDC	–	Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
DMJX	–	Danish School of Media and Journalism
FGM	–	Female Genital Mutilation
FCT	–	Federal Capital Territory
GBV	–	Gender-Based Violence
GIZ	–	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German development agency)
GRESP	–	Gender-Responsive Education Sector Plan
ICT	–	Information and Communication Technology
JAG	–	Joint Advocacy Group
LGA	–	Local Government Area
NGO	–	Non-Governmental Organisation
SRH	–	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
SUBEB	–	State Universal Basic Education Board
SPA II	–	Strategic Partnership Agreement II
UBE	–	Universal Basic Education
UBEC	–	Universal Basic Education Commission
UNFPA	–	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	–	United States Agency for International Development
VR	–	Virtual Reality
YHA	–	YouthHubAfrica
YMN	–	Young Men's Network

GLOSSARY

Advocacy – Efforts to influence policies, raise awareness, and mobilise communities to support a cause or initiative.

Capacity Building – Developing the skills and competencies of individuals or organisations to enhance effectiveness.

Civic Engagement – Active participation of citizens in political, social, and community development activities.

Digital Literacy – The ability to use digital technologies effectively for communication, advocacy, and education.

Gender-Responsive Budgeting – A budgeting approach that ensures financial allocations address gender disparities.

Grassroots Engagement – Mobilising and involving local communities directly in advocacy or development initiatives.

Inclusive Education – Ensuring equal access to education for all, regardless of gender, disability, or socioeconomic background.

Leadership Training – Programmes designed to equip individuals with skills to lead initiatives, teams, or organisations.

Mentorship – A structured relationship where experienced individuals guide and support the personal and professional development of others.

Policy Analysis – The evaluation of existing policies to identify gaps and recommend improvements.

Reproductive Health – A state of physical, mental, and social well-being in all matters related to the reproductive system.

Social Inclusion – Ensuring all individuals, regardless of background, have equal opportunities to participate in society.

Stakeholder Engagement – Involving relevant groups such as government bodies, communities, and donors in decision-making processes.

Sustainability Strategy – Long-term planning to ensure continued impact and effectiveness of a programme or organisation.

Youth Empowerment – Equipping young people with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities to actively shape their futures.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



ROTIMI OLAWALE
Executive Director, YouthHubAfrica

“As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication, passion, and unwavering support of our partners, stakeholders, team and board.

At YouthHubAfrica, 2024 was a year of remarkable impact with deepened advocacy, empowered young people, collaborations, and expanded reach across different regions in the country and the West Africa sub-region.

From policy engagements that shaped transparency and Accountability in education budgeting, youth inclusion and participation in governance, to grassroots training that built the capacity of local communities to step into the agroecology value chain thereby producing their food and with more for the market, our cohesive team took bold steps to drive change.

We deepened our Youth engagement at the continental level by providing opportunities for young Africans through the 14-year-old opportunity web page and the “Africa is not a Country” project that has continued to empower young Africans through student exchange innovation. We expanded the EndFGM initiative to include a podcast that has now become a flagship.

Despite these successes, 2024 was not without challenges. Limited resources, socio-political barriers, and the evolving landscape of advocacy work tested our resilience. However, these challenges have only strengthened our resolve and deepened our commitment to making 2025 more impactful.

Looking ahead to 2025, I am committed to scaling our efforts, amplifying our impact, and

fostering sustainable change. We will refine our advocacy framework to ensure a more coordinated approach to tackling gender-based issues, expand digital advocacy and leadership training to equip young people with modern growth tools and strengthen our sustainability strategy by forming stronger partnerships with governments and communities. These efforts will ensure that our initiatives create lasting, transformative change.

Together, we will continue to challenge norms, amplify voices, and drive meaningful transformation in society. Thank you for your continued belief in our mission, our work is only possible because of you.”

With deepest gratitude,


ROTIMI OLAWALE

Executive Director, YouthHubAfrica





01

ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

ABOUT YOUTHHUBAFRICA

YouthHubAfrica is a mission-driven non-profit organisation founded in 2011. Officially registered in 2014 with the Corporate Affairs Commission, it serves as a platform for young people to learn and be actively involved in various activities for social change. YHA started as a blog profiling opportunities for African youths and has evolved into a policy advocacy agency, empowering youths and striving to create a society where every young person has the opportunity to attain success.



Through innovative programs, valuable partnerships, and a major focus on inclusivity, we equip the youths with the right skills and knowledge to achieve their potential. Although YouthHubAfrica is based in Abuja, Nigeria, our organisation is steadily making an impact across African countries like Kenya, Ghana, and Ethiopia. Over the years, it has become a platform for youths to interact, learn and celebrate in innovative and creative ways.

By addressing communal challenges and nurturing talents, we drive positive changes and create a sustainable future for emerging generations.

VISION STATEMENT



Young people as catalysts of Africa's sustainable development.

MISSION STATEMENT



To equip young people with skills and enabling environment to take the centre stage for Africa's development.

OUR CORE VALUES



The fundamental principles we have created shape our organisational culture and how the employees at YouthHubAfrica interact with our stakeholders.

These philosophies are:

Fairness: We create equal opportunities for all, ensuring that the barriers of inequality are broken. By fostering inclusivity and equitable access to learning resources, we provide an environment where every young person can grow and realise their full potential. Currently, over 101,000 African youths have signed up on our platform to be beneficiaries of our services, irrespective of their backgrounds and physical capabilities.

Innovative: Innovation fuels our drive towards the commitment to our vision. While we creatively share ideas, we also apply technology and new approaches to provide lasting solutions. This is because young minds need to be well-equipped with the power to sustain the world and build a more progressive future.

Partnership: This is one of our key values when it comes to making an impact in society. We extend hands of collaboration to the stakeholders of our organisation, and communities in order to foster strong alliances. These partnerships create an ecosystem of expertise and a shared vision for the growth of society.

Professionalism: We uphold the standards of ethical practices and accountability, positively impacting young lives. This implies that the level of excellent service delivery and trust makes YouthHubAfrica sustainable in the long term.

Ethical: Our operations are based on honesty, respect, and transparency. We ensure that every decision made in the course of our operations aligns with business values. By making these moral principles our cornerstone, we have created a platform that can be trusted by stakeholders.

Reliable: At YouthHubAfrica, we are a dependable support system. At every point, we stay consistent in delivering our promises to you. We are a thriving force in the lives of the youths, fostering resilience and ensuring that stability is achieved.

Teamwork: We firmly believe that collaboration unifies our diverse strengths to achieve a common goal. Our mission to inspire young people, and build a sustainable future is greatly supported by a culture of collective efforts and shared support.



OUR KEY STRATEGIES

Advocacy

YouthHubAfrica understands that real change begins with a strong voice. By advocating for youth-related issues, the organisation works to shape policies and influence decision-making processes. Through strategic advocacy efforts, we raise awareness, mobilise support, and drive meaningful change, ensuring that young people's concerns remain at the forefront of societal progress.

Policy Analysis

Effective policy-making requires informed decisions. YouthHubAfrica is committed to analysing existing policies, identifying gaps, and offering well-researched, evidence-based recommendations. By doing so, the organisation plays a key role in shaping policies that directly impact young people, driving necessary reforms at local, national, and regional levels. Through collaborations with like-minded organisations and government bodies, YouthHubAfrica leverages resources and expertise to amplify its impact. A good example is our work with the FCT Youth Development Secretariat which we have worked with and other youth-led organisations and bodies in drafting the first-ever FCT youth development policy currently awaiting the FCT minister assent.

Online Campaigns

The digital space is a powerful tool for change, and YouthHubAfrica capitalises on it to engage and mobilise young people. With social media's vast reach, we run online campaigns that educate, inspire, and rally support for key initiatives. These campaigns not only raise awareness but also create a platform for young voices to be heard, serving as dynamic tools for disseminating information and rallying support.

Voluntary Services

At the heart of YouthHubAfrica's work is a strong culture of volunteerism. By encouraging young people to participate in voluntary activities, we foster a sense of civic responsibility while creating opportunities for youth to contribute meaningfully to their communities. This hands-on approach strengthens social bonds and empowers young individuals to be active agents of change. Voluntarism has been a hallmark of how YHA carries out its programs, especially in fieldwork.

Strategic Partnerships & Collaboration

Collaboration is key to amplifying impact. YouthHubAfrica actively builds partnerships with like-minded organisations, government associations, and other stakeholders. By working together, we pool resources, share expertise, and extend our reach, making a greater difference in addressing youth challenges and opportunities. These alliances enable our organisation to reach a wider audience and address youth challenges more effectively.

Research & Surveys

YouthHubAfrica prioritises research to ensure its programmes are grounded in real data. By conducting studies on youth-related issues and managing information efficiently, the organisation tailors its interventions to meet the evolving needs of young people. Our research is tailored to the needs and aspirations of young people.

Capacity Building

For us at YouthHubAfrica, we believe empowerment begins with knowledge and skills. Recognising that many young people and institutions face capacity challenges, YouthHubAfrica invests in training, mentorship, and entrepreneurship support. Through workshops and skill-building initiatives, we equip young people with the tools they need to thrive, both personally and professionally.

Media Engagement

A truly inclusive society leaves no one behind. YouthHubAfrica actively promotes social inclusion by addressing issues of gender equality, diversity, and accessibility. Through media engagement, the organisation ensures that all young people, regardless of background, have equal opportunities to participate, contribute, and benefit from its initiatives.



OUR CORE COMPETENCIES

Over the years, we have expanded our reach and built capacity in these major areas;

Documentaries and Film Making: As one of the core competencies for YouthHubAfrica, documentaries and filmmaking enable us to create a narrative that amplifies the voices of the youth, drives advocacy and highlights the initiatives led by the youths. Through visual media, educational programs are promoted. Moreover, the young adults registered on the platform are best equipped with filmmaking skills. Making them document their realities and seek solutions inspired by empowerment.

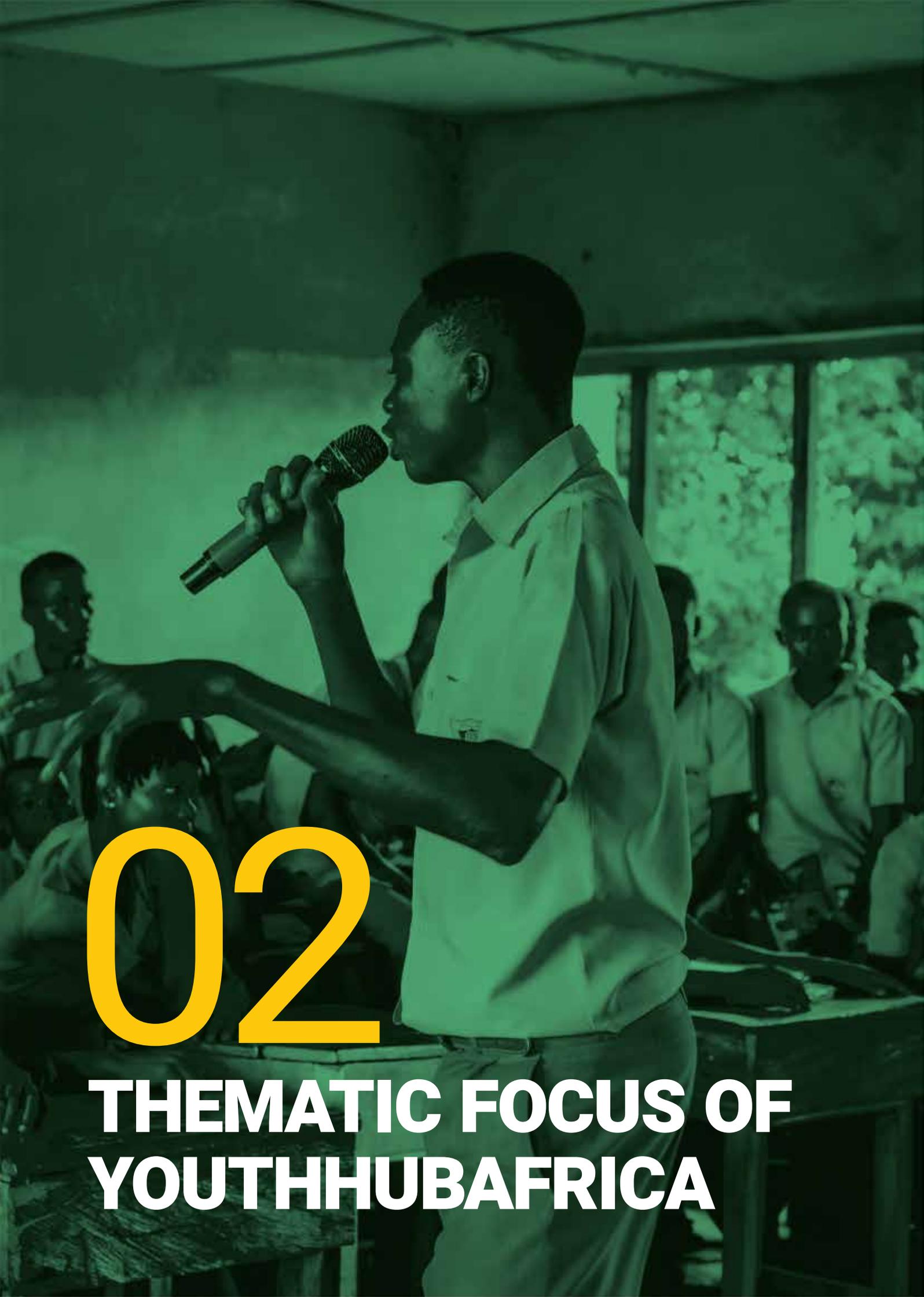
Policy Analysis: This philosophy allows us to influence, evaluate and reshape the policies which regard youth education, youth inclusion and participation in Nigeria and Africa's governance systems, and other youth issues that are in alignment with our program areas/focus. By enhancing our scope of work and assessing the impacts of our already-set policies, we ensure that the perspectives of the youths are duly represented in our decision-making processes.

Using ICT in Programming: We integrate technology-driven solutions into the platform. This is done to equip young people with essential digital skills. As ICT based programs are implemented, our support for digital literacy is amplified and we are working towards ensuring that every youth is well prepared for the ever-evolving digital landscape.

Profiling Opportunities for Young People: By building a blog that profiled scholarships and conferences available to young Africans, we are able to map out career pathways and foster mentorship to maximise their potential. Also, through networking opportunities and strategic partnerships, YouthHubAfrica ensures that participants gain access to quality training and internship opportunities.

Using Policy Briefs for Advocacy: At YHA, we have developed the ability to formulate policies, analyse data and advocate for every member by developing concise briefs that are based on evidence garnered from our impact. These policy briefs serve as tools for creating awareness and making informed decisions on youth advocacy and education.





02

**THEMATIC FOCUS OF
YOUTH HUB AFRICA**

YouthHubAfrica is an organisation committed to helping young people in Africa grow and succeed. To achieve our set goals and mission, we have focused on four cardinal areas: **Governance and Accountability, Education and Girl-Child Literacy, Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights, and Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship**. These areas guide our work and help us create a better future for young Africans.

Governance and Accountability

We strongly believe that young people in Nigeria and across Africa should have a say in how their communities and countries are run. Our role has always been promoting youth-specific policies and initiatives, and facilitating access and participation in decision-making. YouthHubAfrica is focused on helping young people participate in relevant discussions surrounding their growth, leadership training, and civic engagement. We aim to educate the youth to speak up for their rights and demand good governance through campaigns, workshops, and partnerships.

Education and Girl-Child Literacy Education

Education is fundamental to personal and societal development. However, educational challenges still persist in sub-Saharan Africa. Over one-fifth of children, aged 6 to 11 are out of school, and nearly 60% of youth aged 15 to 17 are not enrolled¹.

Additionally, the girl child who sits significantly at the center of our work faces educational hurdles. Approximately 34 million adolescent girls of secondary school age remain out of school in the region². Factors such as child marriage, early pregnancy, socio/cultural barriers and domestic responsibilities contribute to lower enrolment, completion and transition rates for girls.

1. <https://uis.unesco.org/en/topic/education-africa?>

2. https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/nasikiliza/critical-moment-to-prioritize-girls-secondary-education-in-sub-saharan-africa-afe-0424?utm_

3. https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8872493/?utm_source=

YouthHubAfrica's work in this regard has always focused on policy advocacy and systems strengthening and the Girls agency in order to remove these barriers. This year, we intensified our advocacy for a free and compulsory 12 years basic education, ensuring accountability and transparency in Education funding in key states, promoting citizens engagement in education budgeting, promoting gender response education sector and its plans and providing platforms for girls to develop their capacity for leadership.

We also intensified efforts that brought young Africans close to key opportunities, such as scholarship programs, conferences, and learning initiatives, assisting thousands of young people in gaining the knowledge and skills necessary for their futures. Our efforts aim to bridge educational gaps and empower the next generation.

Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights

In Nigeria, adolescents face significant challenges regarding sexual and reproductive health. Studies indicate that approximately 38% of adolescents are sexually active, yet only 53% are aware of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues³. Alarming, 76.6% have never visited a health facility for SRH concerns, and 56% are unwilling to do so if problems arise.

The average age of sexual debut among adolescent mothers is around 15 years, contributing to high rates of teenage pregnancies. In sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria included, the adolescent fertility rate remains high, with 143 births per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 years⁴.

Young people need the right information to make safe and healthy choices. In this regard, YouthHubAfrica provides education on sexual and reproductive health through training, campaigns, community outreach, and partnerships with healthcare providers. We are committed to ending stigma and making sure young people can access the services and information they need.

Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship

Africa faces a significant youth unemployment challenge. Each year, between 8 million and 11 million young Africans enter the labour market, but only about 3 million formal jobs are created annually, leaving many without employment opportunities⁵.

Entrepreneurship offers a viable solution to this issue. However, youth entrepreneurship rates vary across the continent. For instance, even though African countries such as Ghana, Uganda, Zambia report that about 40% of their youth population engages in early stage entrepreneurship ventures⁶, South Africa has a youth entrepreneurship rate of only 12.8%, indicating a need for increased support and resources to foster entrepreneurial activities among young people⁷.

YouthHubAfrica is committed to addressing these challenges by empowering young people with the skills necessary to build successful careers and businesses. This year, our programs have provided training in leadership, innovation, and financial literacy, equipping youth to create their own job opportunities and combat unemployment. Through mentorship and business support, we aim to foster a generation of young entrepreneurs capable of driving economic growth and development across Africa.

4. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/7038c93d-845b-5a77-9988-ed415c522024?utm_source=

5. <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2024/01/empower-africa-s-youth-to-create-jobs-growth-and-peace/?utm>

6. https://drp.dfccentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/2015-01-16_09-059KU-Katherine-Gough.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

7. https://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007/978-981-287-032-2_19?utm



03

2024 AT A GLANCE



2024 WAS A REMARKABLE YEAR WITH NOTEWORTHY SOCIAL PROGRAMS.

Here is an overview of our 2024 Programs/Projects/Activities at a glance;

1. The Y-Health Africa Project

In collaboration with GIZ and the Africa CDC, YouthHubAfrica kickstarted the implementation of the Y-Health Africa Project to support youth-led, youth-driven, and youth-focused projects and initiatives focused on bridging the gaps in health communication across Africa.

The project which overlaps into 2025 seeks to empower young leaders who are health enthusiasts by strengthening their capacity to take community-led action, mobilise and manage resources effectively, and establish sustainable structures that enhance health responses, particularly during crises. By fostering innovation and leadership, Y-Health Africa equips young people with the tools to develop long-term solutions that improve healthcare systems at the grassroots level.

Through funding from this grant contract, **the Y-Health Africa project actively supports the Bingwa Plus initiative**, which helps young people design and implement innovative health solutions in their communities. This initiative

enhances their leadership skills, technical knowledge, and problem-solving abilities, ensuring they can tackle pressing health challenges such as disease prevention and healthcare accessibility. Additionally, the project plays a key role in launching and implementing the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Youth Engagement and Participation in Global Health Strategy. This strategy, a core component of the Africa CDC's 2023–2027 Strategic Plan, seeks to institutionalise youth engagement in global health governance, ensuring young voices contribute meaningfully to policy and decision-making.

Following a rigorous selection process, 50 young health advocates from across the continent were chosen to participate in an intensive six-week structured learning programme. This programme equips them with the necessary skills and knowledge to scale their initiatives effectively. At the end of the programme, **15 outstanding participants will receive grants** to expand their projects, increasing their reach and impact in addressing critical health issues in their communities.

THE Y-HEALTH AFRICA PROJECT



2. Malala Fund 2024 JAG Project

Launched in March 2024, the Malala Fund 2024 JAG Project supports education champions across Nigeria with implementation in Oyo State led by the Oyo Cluster. This initiative aims to harmonise existing education sector plans and develop a Gender-Responsive Education Sector Plan (GRESP) that promotes citizen participation, transparency, and accountability in education budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

The project also seeks to strengthen partnerships between the government and local communities, ensuring that education policies and activities are inclusive, gender-responsive, and aligned with citizens' needs. Ultimately, the goal is to increase girls' enrolment, retention, and completion of the first 12 years of schooling in Oyo State.

To date, the project has achieved significant milestones. It has conducted key research to assess the availability of a GRESP in Oyo State that meets transparency and accountability standards and has gone ahead to partner with the Oyo State Ministry of Education in updating the state sector plan so it is gender responsive

and has in it a transparency and accountability element. Additionally, it performed an analysis of the 2024 Oyo State education budget, developing a scorecard to track performance. A capacity gap assessment among key education stakeholders identified knowledge, skill, and resource gaps related to gender-responsive planning and transparency in the education sector.

This project has trained 34 media professionals on incorporating themes of transparency, accountability, and gender responsiveness into their reporting. To further amplify these messages, the initiative is supporting 17 of these professionals with out-of-pocket expenses to publish reports highlighting the importance of a gender-responsive education sector and community involvement in education budgeting.

Through its comprehensive approach, the Malala Fund 2024 JAG Project is driving meaningful change in Oyo State's education landscape, empowering both communities and policymakers to create a more equitable and effective system for all learners, particularly girls.



MALALA FUND 2024 JAG PROJECT



3. Accountability For Good Governance in Education Project

The Accountability for Good Governance in Education project, funded by USAID through Palladium under the SCALE intervention, was launched in 2021 and implemented across Ebonyi, Kwara, Kebbi, Kano, and Abuja. The project's goal was to enhance transparency and accountability in the education sector by ensuring the effective use of Universal Basic Education (UBE) funds.

The objectives include;

- To influence the government at the national level to increase budgetary allocations to primary and secondary schools by the end of 2023.
- To facilitate the institutionalisation of citizens' participation and engagement in the UBE processes in 5 states by 2023.
- To advocate for targeted states to increase budgetary allocation to education at primary and secondary levels, including timely release of UBE counterpart funding.

Although some objectives were slated for 2023, the team took the initiative to achieve these goals. Key activities in this project include desk reviews of UBE grants, community and local government stakeholder engagements, advocacy visits, public awareness campaigns via electronic media, policy briefs on UBEC funding, monitoring of UBE work plans, and capacity-building sessions for education stakeholders.

By the end of the project cycle in 2024, significant milestones had been achieved. Three out of five project states successfully developed and implemented a community engagement framework, strengthening public participation in education budgeting. In Kebbi and Ebonyi states, six school needs identified during budget town hall meetings were included in the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) budget, ensuring that real community demands were addressed. Additionally, at the national level, budget allocations to basic education increased by over 10%, further reflecting the project's impact.



ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE IN EDUCATION PROJECT



4. 2024 UNFPA Nigeria EndFGM Project

In 2024, YouthHubAfrica, in partnership with UNFPA Nigeria, implemented the EndFGM Project to combat Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Ekiti, Ebonyi, Osun, Imo, and Oyo states. This project built on previous advocacy efforts, focusing on community engagement, awareness creation, and policy advocacy to eliminate FGM practices.

The project was executed in collaboration with the Young Men's Network (YMN), a grassroots advocacy group established by YouthHubAfrica through UNFPA. YMN played a

vital role in leading social change, mobilising young men as advocates against FGM, and promoting gender equality within communities. The initiative targeted key stakeholders, including traditional leaders, policymakers, health workers, and youth groups, ensuring a broad-based approach to addressing the harmful practice.

Through a combination of community dialogues, media campaigns, training sessions, and stakeholder engagements, the project helped to strengthen the anti-FGM movement, reinforce legal frameworks, and empower local advocates.



2024 UNFPA NIGERIA ENDFGM PROJECT



5. SPA II ActionAid Project

In 2024, YouthHubAfrica (YHA) in partnership with ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) implemented the SPA II project activities across grassroots communities in six area councils of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), namely Waru, Dukpa, Bwari, Garki, New Jerusalem and Kabusa.

The project Objective is to ensure young people, particularly women and those experiencing marginalisation or vulnerability, can exercise their rights within an open and inclusive democratic space while accessing well-resourced programs and public services. It also seeks to enhance sustainable livelihoods for young people, especially women and marginalised groups, by promoting climate-responsible governance and fostering a green and accountable private sector.

YouthHubAfrica implemented the following activities in 2024 under this project:

1. Development of the FCT Youth Development Policy
2. Stakeholders Meeting on FCT Youth Development Policy Implementation
3. Youth Summit on Leadership (Commemoration of International Youth Day)
4. Stakeholders Engagement Meeting on the Assent of the FCT Youth Policy
5. Commemoration of World Environmental Day
6. Agroecology Training (1 & 2)
7. Commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child
8. Monitoring & Evaluation of Project Activities

These activities contributed to strengthening youth engagement, policy advocacy, and climate action at the grassroots level. The initiative fostered active participation among young people, particularly women and marginalised groups, in decision-making processes and sustainable development efforts.



SPA II ACTIONAID PROJECT





04

**HIGHLIGHTS AND
ACHIEVEMENTS**

This year hasn't been without some notable achievements in the groundbreaking projects we executed. Each project is tailored to our core focus and presented to fulfill the needs of the target audience.

The following are our highlights and achievements in 2024;

A. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY THEMATIC FOCUS

1. ActionAid Nigeria SPA II Project

As a show of its commitment to promoting accountability and inclusive governance. YouthHubAfrica was an active participant in the ActionAid Nigeria SPA II Project. The major focus of this initiative is to advocate for policy reforms, strengthen citizen participation and ensure the government's responsiveness to the needs of youth development.

Some of the major achievements of this project are:

- a. Drafting of the first-ever youth development policy in collaboration with the FCT youth secretariat. Over 300 active participants were recorded to have fully participated in the first-ever youth-policy of the nation. While this landmark policy has been prepared and currently awaiting the FCT minister's approval, successful advocacy efforts were made towards the establishment of the FCT youth secretariat. Additionally, our advocacy included that a young person should be appointed as the Mandate Secretary for Youth Development which the honourable minister graciously did.
- b. Beyond these decisions, YouthHubAfrica led the development of a 7-point agenda for the youth development secretariat which is currently being implemented by the Mandate Secretary.
- c. Additionally, about 100 youths attended the youth summit on leadership, held in commemoration of International Youth Day. One major outcome from the summit is the development of the "Abuja We Want

Declaration" that curates all the prioritised needs of young people in FCT. The declaration document was immediately transmitted to key policymakers (the FCT minister, the Youth mandate secretary, and the permanent secretary of the youth secretariat).

- d. A major achievement of this project is the participation of 100 youths at the commemoration of World Environment Day. The event highlighted the submission of a one-page recommendation to the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB).
- e. Trained 50 people, including women of the FCT communities in agroecological practices.
- f. Another achievement is the launch of the Youth Climate Innovators Lab -a strategic initiative designed to equip young people with the knowledge and skills to drive environmental advocacy in their communities.

The program provided a platform for ten young innovators to pitch their climate-focused solutions. Among them, three winners emerged, demonstrating exceptional understanding and implementation of climate solutions. These winners were awarded mini grants to scale up their ideas and received mentorship, guidance, and access to the Government Innovation Lab to further enhance their skills and refine their solutions for greater impact.

YouthHubAfrica continues to share relevant opportunities that align with their interests, ensuring they remain engaged in impactful climate action initiatives.

ACTIONAID NIGERIA SPA II PROJECT



● Youth Climate Innovators Lab

In a bid to demonstrate the vision to empower youths and build a sustainable development, YouthHubAfrica launched the Youth Climate Innovators Lab. This strategic initiative was aimed to equip young adults with the knowledge to drive environmental advocacy within their respective communities.

Through this outstanding project, YouthHubAfrica successfully provided a

platform for ten innovative young people to pitch their ideas. Out of these 10, three emerged winners as they had shown a rare understanding and implementation of climate solutions. These winners were presented with access to the government innovation lab in order to experience mentorship and further enhance their skills. By doing so, YouthHubAfrica is nurturing a generation of climate-conscious individuals.



2. Africa Is Not a Country Project

This initiative was developed to reshape the infamous notion about the African continent. Through this project, we made an impact and changed existing stereotypes.

One of our efforts which yielded a positive impact is our collaboration with the DMJX and SDU, funded by the World Best News to engage journalism students in global development through study trips to West Africa. Three journalism students: Shereefdeen Ahmad, Blessing Famose and Jesunimonife Adelegan-Henry from Usman Danfodio University, University of Lagos and Redeemer's University in Nigeria went on a study trip to Denmark.

Our aim is to equip 250 of tomorrow's journalists to cover the world in a more nuanced way and increase their engagement, despite the limitations in Africa. 16 students were

particularly engaged in the Global Goals and Development work via study tours and subsequent dissemination work. Their reports were used as a catalyst for increased engagement among their fellow students, who, in the project's teaching course, must themselves create similar products for their education in Denmark.

By engaging with students, policymakers, and global audiences, we have created meaningful conversations that challenge harmful misconceptions of African cultures. Through our advocacy and outreach, we have inspired a shift towards a better representation, ensuring that Africa is seen not as one nation. But as a collection of dynamic, evolving nations, each with its own history, challenges, and triumphs. This project remains one of our most significant contributions to fostering global awareness, and intellectual curiosity.

AFRICA IS NOT A COUNTRY



3. DARE Conference

Established in 2017, the DARE Conference, an initiative of YouthHubAfrica, serves as a platform to foster collaboration among African youths, governments, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The conference provides a unique space for learning, discussions, networking, and exploring opportunities across four key thematic areas: **Education, Health, Peace & Security, and Governance.**

As an annual gathering, the DARE Conference raises awareness about the potential of Africa's growing youth population and its crucial role in driving sustainable development. It aims to inspire and empower young Africans to actively participate in shaping the continent's future through meaningful contributions and leadership.

Since its inception, the DARE Conference has witnessed significant growth, successfully holding four editions—in 2017, 2019, 2021, and most recently in 2024. The 4th Edition, themed "**Youth and the Pact for the Future,**" convened over 500 participants, emphasising the critical

role of young people in shaping Africa's trajectory.

Over the years, the **DARE stage** has featured notable personalities, including:

- **Joeboy**, a renowned Nigerian musician known for his Afro-pop hits.
- **Tunde Onakoya**, founder of the Chess in Slums initiative, which uses chess to empower children in impoverished communities.
- **Ms. Diene Keita**, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director (Programme) of UNFPA represented by **Dr. Sennen Hounton**, Regional Director of UNFPA West and Central Africa Office
- **Hon. Dayo Israel**, the APC National Youth Leader amongst others.

The conference has also served as a launch pad for many young creatives and youth-led startups, providing them with visibility and opportunities to showcase their talents and innovations.



DARE CONFERENCE



B. EDUCATION AND GIRL-CHILD LITERACY THEMATIC FOCUS

1. Accountability for Good Governance in Education Project Funded by USAID Through Palladium

YouthHubAfrica has shown its unwavering commitment to promoting girl-child education by playing a major role in the accountability for good governance in education projects funded by USAID through Palladium. This initiative was carried out to ensure that every child - especially girls - has access to good and quality education.

Through this project, our organisation developed and adopted the SUBEB community engagement framework in four states. By working closely with the local communities of these 4 states, budget meetings were held in the town halls to collect school needs from residents.

The impact of this education and girl-child literacy project was captured by SUBEB in 6 schools in Kebbi and Ebonyi states respectively. While an average of 10% increase was incurred at the national level in Kano,

Ebonyi, Kebbi, FCT and Kwara states, YouthHubAfrica still effectively maintained its dedication to creating pathways for girl-child education.

2. DORA Girls Club: Empowering Young Girls

As part of its commitment to advancing young people's leadership and empowerment, YouthHubAfrica successfully established the DORA Club across 10 secondary schools in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The club serves as a platform for engaging young people in digital skills, leadership development, critical thinking, and advocacy, with a focus on key issues such as education, climate change, health, and gender equality.

To ensure sustainability, teachers serving as Patrons and Matrons have been trained to mentor and support club members. Through the DORA Club, YouthHubAfrica is fostering leadership, advocacy, and empowerment among young people, preparing them for future success.

C. SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS THEMATIC FOCUS

1. UNFPA Nigeria EndFGM Project 1.0

The fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) requires collective action, shared responsibility, and strong collaboration across

all sectors of society. No single entity can tackle such a deeply entrenched issue alone. The partnership between UNFPA Nigeria, EndFGM and other strategic stakeholders has proven to be a critical foundation for the

success of the YouthHubAfrica EndFGM project in 2024. These collaborations have ensured that the project is not only well-executed but also that its message resonates across diverse communities, from policymakers to local leaders, and from students to parents.

These partners have brought together their resources, knowledge, and influence, empowering YouthHubAfrica to reach its full potential and achieve lasting change. Through these partnerships, we were able to tap into existing networks and frameworks, ensuring that its efforts were aligned with national priorities while addressing the unique needs of each community it serves. This collective approach is essential to impacting future generations and empowering communities to stand against harmful practices.

Here are some of our noteworthy achievements:

Mass Media Impact:

Through mass media, we were able to reach an impressive 13,900 individuals via both traditional and social media platforms. This widespread media coverage was vital in amplifying awareness of key issues such as FGM, women's and girls' rights, and gender equality. Our targeted campaigns and media outlets helped shine a light on the detrimental effects of FGM and started a wider public dialogue, encouraging both urban and rural populations to confront these practices head-on.

Community Engagement:

The grassroots impact of the project was particularly powerful. The oratory contest,

which engaged 2,530 participants from schools across various states, created a platform for young people to voice their concerns and aspirations regarding FGM. We encouraged students to take the stage and present their thoughts on eliminating harmful practices. The contest not only raised awareness but also gave participants a sense of ownership in the movement.

Active Participation by Men and Boys:

Breaking the cycle of harmful gender norms requires the active participation of men and boys. In 2024, the project engaged 1,208 boys and men in activities focused on promoting positive masculinity and gender equity. These activities were designed to address traditional notions of masculinity, encouraging men to challenge harmful beliefs and support the eradication of FGM. The peer-led dialogues and community discussions helped to reshape attitudes and emphasize the importance of men's voices in the fight against FGM.

Behavioural Change and Advocacy:

The oratory contest, complemented by the EndFGM podcast series, was instrumental in fostering a shift in attitudes and behaviours. By engaging young people in thoughtful discussions about the cultural, health, and social impacts of FGM and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the program provided a space for deep reflection and learning. In particular, the podcast served as an educational tool, offering accessible content that debunked myths surrounding FGM and provided survivors, advocates, and experts with a platform to share insights. This multi-faceted approach helped ensure that the conversation remained relevant and effective.

Community Mobilisation:

The success of the oratory contest was further amplified by the pledges made by participants and community leaders to become active advocates against FGM. These pledges not only symbolised a commitment to the cause but also created a ripple effect in local communities. By aligning their efforts with broader advocacy campaigns and leveraging media coverage, participants and leaders were able to expand the reach of the anti-FGM message, ensuring that it resonated across different levels of society.

Knowledge and Skills Development:

A core component of the project's success was its focus on building the skills of young participants. The oratory contest and podcast series served as platforms for participants to hone critical skills such as public speaking, research, and advocacy. These young advocates are now equipped with the tools needed to continue pushing for positive change, ensuring that the fight against FGM is carried forward by a generation committed to ending harmful practices.

Increased Public Awareness through Podcasts:

The EndFGM podcast was a key tool in increasing public awareness and driving the message of the project. By featuring discussions with experts, survivors, and advocates, the podcast provided valuable

insights into the cultural, health, and social implications of FGM. It also played a pivotal role in promoting men's involvement in advocacy efforts, emphasizing that both men and women must be engaged in the fight to eliminate FGM.

Sustainability and Long-term Impact:

One of the most promising outcomes of the EndFGM project is the sustainability it has built into its approach. The oratory contest not only raised awareness but also nurtured a new generation of advocates who are now equipped to continue the work of eradicating FGM within their schools and communities. The recorded podcast episodes further ensured that educational content would remain accessible, creating an ongoing resource that individuals and communities can turn to for continued learning and advocacy.

Collaborative Partnerships:

The partnerships formed with organisations such as the Ministries of Education, Women's Affairs and Health, and the Young Men's Network, played a pivotal role in the project's success. These partnerships allowed for the effective planning, execution, and monitoring of activities, ensuring that the project was implemented efficiently and in line with national goals. By leveraging these relationships, YouthHubAfrica was able to expand its reach and impact, bringing together the right resources and expertise to fight against FGM.

SUCCESS STORIES AND CASE STUDIES

As part of the 2024 annual report, we will highlight compelling success stories that showcase the personal and communal transformations facilitated by the EndFGM project.

CASE STUDY 1

YouthHubAfrica through UNFPA established The Young Men Network, a male network, to become partners and jointly implement activities in 5 states. During the planning meeting, we discussed methods to ensuring smooth implementation, activities, and approved concept notes. The YMN team has been leading social change and changing the narrative on harmful practices, most especially FGM, at the grassroots level. This is to contribute to increasing awareness and understanding of the harmful effects of FGM and its role in perpetuating gender inequality.

supported grassroots/CBOS, action groups including networks of youth, feminist and women's entrepreneurs and other relevant CSOs using the appropriate accountability mechanisms for advocacy on elimination of FGM."

The Young Men's Network, a grassroots-led CBO, successfully engaged with eight school health clubs across Imo State, integrating them into a broader movement to advocate against FGM. Through the oratory contest and subsequent activities, the initiative directly reached 243 males and 292 females, fostering a deeper understanding of FGM and its harmful impacts.

CASE STUDY 2

We worked with the state technical leads to map out communities and schools where the inter-school contest occurred. The States Ministry of Education approved the contest in the selected schools across the states.

The Young Men's Network and the school health clubs served as action groups, employing storytelling, debate, and peer engagement to hold stakeholders accountable and promote behavioural change. By integrating youth into the advocacy process, the activity not only raised awareness but also strengthened the capacity of these emerging leaders to sustain efforts against FGM.

CASE STUDY 3

YMNSGBV team successfully implemented the EndFGM School-based oratory contest in 8 schools across 3 LGAs in Ekiti State. The event succeeded in engaging students to speak out against FGM and it ended with students pledging to join the campaign against FGM in their community by signing commitment forms.

Through the contest and podcast, gender transformation was addressed by actively involving male participants and community leaders as advocates for ending FGM. Topics in the podcast explored men's roles in challenging gender norms and dismantling harmful practices like FGM. The oratory contest included sessions where participants examined how gender roles and expectations perpetuate FGM, encouraging both male and female youth to speak out against it.

Testimonial

When I got home after the preliminary round of the competition, I asked my parents what they knew about FGM, they replied that FGM is a normal procedure girls undergo and it has existed for a very long time. With the knowledge I have gained while preparing for this competition, I was able to educate them that FGM has no benefits for girls and women in our society rather it has negative health implications on them. Thank you to the organisers of this event.

SOLOMON DUROSARO AKANNI

Contestant, St. Patricks Grammar School, Orita-Bashorun

1. 2024 UNFPA Nigeria EndFGM project 2.0 (Community and School-Based Advocacy)

In 2024, State Technical Leads mapped out key communities and schools that would serve as the launchpad for the inter-school oratory contest. This strategic approach enabled targeted, impactful engagement in areas where FGM is most prevalent. By collaborating closely with state Ministries of Education, which approved the contests within selected schools, YouthHubAfrica was able to ensure widespread participation and lend legitimacy to the initiative. These partnerships allowed for seamless implementation of the contests, reinforcing their importance as a platform for advocacy and community mobilization.

Here are other milestones of this project;

YMNSGBV Leadership:

A crucial aspect of the project's success was the involvement of the Young Men's Network (YMN). Their leadership and advocacy efforts were central to shifting community narratives about harmful practices like FGM. The YMN played an instrumental role in educating students, families, and entire communities about the harmful effects of FGM and its strong connection to gender inequality. By engaging men and boys in these conversations, YouthHubAfrica was able to challenge longstanding patriarchal attitudes, highlighting that the fight against FGM must include the active participation of men who can act as allies for women and girls. Through peer-led dialogues and community outreach, the YMN amplified the project's message, catalyzing social change from within communities.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN EKITI STATE: A CASE STUDY

In Ekiti State, despite facing considerable challenges like state policies that restricted student movement, the EndFGM contest was successfully implemented across eight schools in three Local Government Areas (LGAs). This achievement was particularly notable because it demonstrated the project's resilience in the face of logistical and bureaucratic barriers. By working closely with local authorities and community leaders, the project was able to mobilize students, teachers, and community members to participate in the contest, raising awareness about FGM in a meaningful way. During the contest, students not only learned about the dangers of FGM but also took action by signing pledge forms and publicly committing to advocate for its elimination. This act of solidarity ensured that the message of change would extend beyond the contest as these students became agents of advocacy within their schools and communities.

Survivor Story:

A powerful moment during the contest came when a student survivor from Methodist Secondary School courageously shared her personal story. Having experienced the effects of harmful traditional practices in her village, she spoke about the physical and emotional scars left by FGM, as well as the ongoing stigma

faced by survivors. Her testimony was a poignant reminder of why YouthHubAfrica matters, not only as an educational tool but as a means to give voice to those who have been silenced by harmful cultural practices. Her brave act inspired many in the audience, and she pledged to continue sensitising her community about the dangers of FGM and advocate for its total eradication.

INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

To build on the success of the inter-school oratory contests and expand the reach of the EndFGM message, several innovative ideas for sustainability were introduced:

Engagement Formats:

As the campaign continues to evolve, one of the key strategies for expanding outreach and engagement is the introduction of virtual 'town halls' or live episodes. These real-time participatory events would enable individuals who could not physically attend the oratory contests or other events to still engage with the cause. By leveraging platforms, like social media or community radio, YouthHubAfrica could amplify its reach, particularly during significant awareness days like International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM. Additionally, creative formats like monologues, poetry, and skits are being considered to engage audiences in a unique way that resonates with different age groups and interests.

Expanded Access:

Recognising that digital platforms are not accessible to everyone, YouthHubAfrica is

considering the translation of episodes and materials into local languages. This will ensure that rural and underserved populations can access the valuable content and resources provided. Also, SMS-based summaries of podcast episodes will be introduced for individuals without internet access, enabling them to stay informed and engaged through a simple yet effective means of communication.

Students and teachers have already recognised the EndFGM initiative as an essential educational tool for understanding and combating FGM. These resources provide critical insights into the cultural, social, and health implications of FGM, fostering informed discussions in schools and communities.

The inclusion of these materials in the curriculum and extracurricular activities ensures that the conversation around FGM continues to evolve, creating a ripple effect across generations.

SURVIVOR IMPACT

Survivor stories, like that of the student from Methodist Secondary School, have played a pivotal role in driving the EndFGM project's impact. By giving these survivors a platform to share their experiences, YouthHubAfrica humanises the issue, making it more relatable and urgent for listeners. These stories are not just testimonies; they are powerful calls to action.

For example, the student survivor's story from Ekiti State not only raised awareness about the realities of FGM but also spurred many in the community to take a stand. Her personal journey encouraged others to think critically about the traditions and beliefs that perpetuate such harmful practices. She has since become an advocate herself, organising community outreach events to educate others and promote alternatives to harmful traditional rites.

Testimonial

I am a survivor. In my village, they would make all the eligible young girls in the community gather and the circumciser would cut us, then use the same instrument to mark us with incisions on our bodies. I remain grateful to God that even though it was a harmful practice, I was not infected. During my ND, when I did my project, I worked on the subject of FGM, because I know that in my village it is still being practiced, I made my village the area of my study. So, I went there to sensitise them on the need to end FGM and how harmful it is to the health of the girls that go through it.

I am so glad that events like this are being held, where students are taught and invited to learn the reasons why this needs to be stopped. Once again, I would like to say thank you to the organisers of this event.

MRS ARINOYE

Methodist Secondary School, Favos

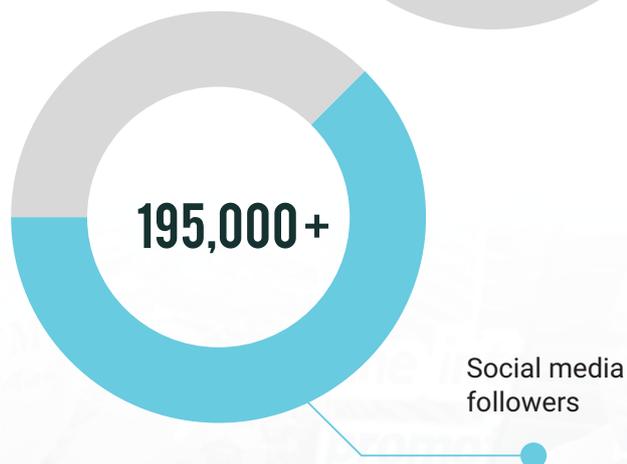
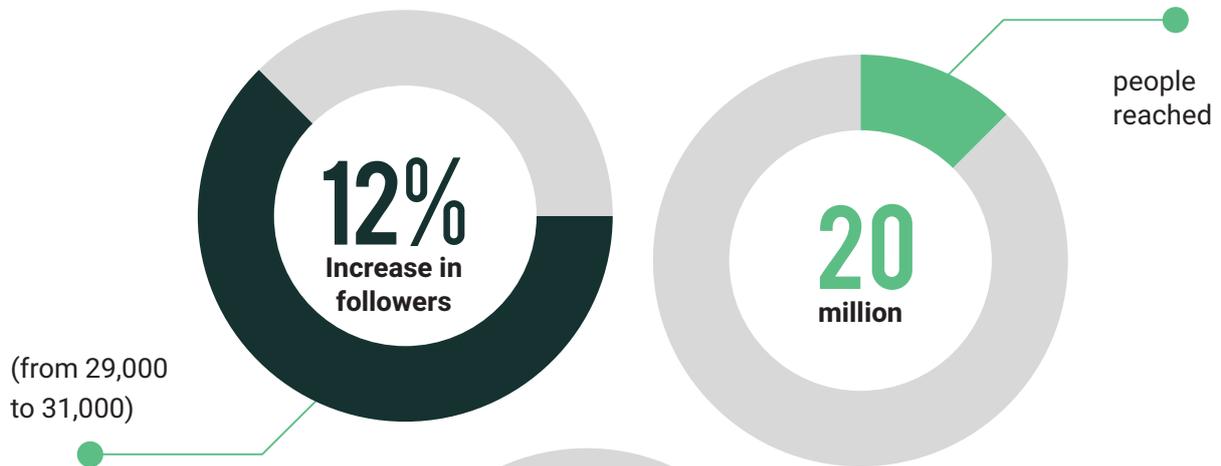
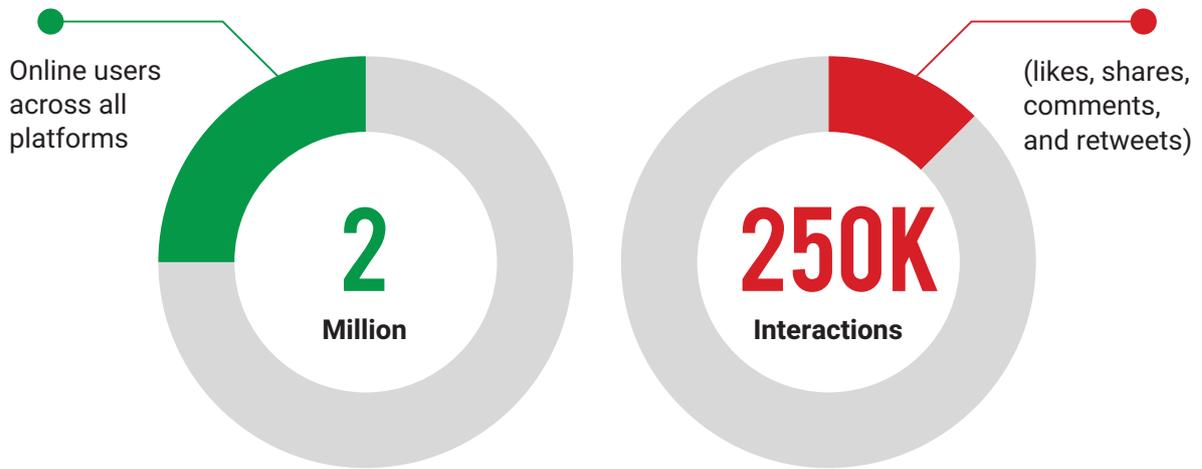
In conclusion, 2024 has been a year of monumental progress for us. Through the strength of strategic partnerships, targeted interventions, and sustained advocacy efforts, YouthHubAfrica has made significant strides toward the progress of the African youth.



05

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH AND CAMPAIGNS

One of our powerful tools for reaching our organisational goals is social media. As a technology-driven foundation, we amplify our social programs through our active online platforms. Our team of young volunteers create engaging and educational content, advocating for policy change and youth involvement in key decisions in the country.



Successful Media Campaigns
#SpeakOutEndFGM
#YouthGreenVentures.
#TheFCTWeWant

A photograph of a group of men in a field. One man in the foreground is kneeling and working on the ground. Several other men are standing around him, looking on. The image has a green tint. The text '06' is overlaid in large yellow font, and 'CHALLENGES FACED AND LESSONS LEARNED' is overlaid in white font below it.

06

**CHALLENGES
FACED AND
LESSONS LEARNED**

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY THEMATIC FOCUS

ACTIONAID NIGERIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (SPA) II

We faced several challenges in a bid to achieve our goals. However, overcoming them was essential for strengthening accountability and promoting sustainable growth. Below are the challenges faced and the strategies adopted to overcome them;

- **Delay in FCT Youth Policy Assent and Implementation**

In the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) of Nigeria, youth participation in government-related issues has been hindered for a very long time. This is due to the absence of a structured framework that can capably address their needs. Having recognised this gap, YouthHubAfrica under the ActionAid Nigeria Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA II), devised a plan to advocate for FCT Youth Policy's assent and implementation.

However, the delay in FCT youth policy assent and implementation poses a major threat. Although the drafting of the FCT youth development policy was completed on time, the assent and implementation were delayed due to a lack of political will and conflicting political interests. The former FCT minister believes that approving such a policy would undermine the efforts of the stakeholders and community leaders on the policy review.

Despite these impediments, YouthHubAfrica remained steadfast. We engaged the stakeholders to ensure the policy remained foremost on the agenda. Youths were mobilised in groups to advocate for assent and accountability. Also, we amplified the urgency of the policy implementation via media

channels. This was done to strengthen the need for action and add pressure on the decision-makers.

These efforts resulted in an increase in youth engagement and a stronger advocacy network. Although a challenging action, persistence and collective action enabled us to overcome it. Therefore, paving the way for policies which reform the lives of young people.

- **Economic and Political Barrier**

In the course of the ActionAid Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) II, YouthHubAfrica was faced with significant economic and political barriers, one of which was when the approved number of participants for the Climate Innovators Lab was drastically reduced to make room for the added costs incurred on refreshments and hall renting due to the inflation of the price of goods and services.

Also, a work plan for the FCT Youth development policy was supposed to be assessed before the end of 2024. Currently, its approval has been adjourned to 2025 as a result of the Minister's interest in the Junior minister under whose office the Youth Secretariat is domiciled.

To overcome these barriers, YouthHubAfrica implemented a multifaceted approach. By engaging policymakers and empowering communities through capacity-building initiatives, youths are well-equipped with the right knowledge to seek accountability. Furthermore, our partnerships with other organisations in grassroots communities strengthened the collective efforts.

These concerted efforts produced measurable results. From increased government responsiveness to improved policy implementation, youths that were once sidelined, are actively participating in decisions that impact their lives. This has forged us ahead and increased YouthHubAfrica's interest in driving sustainable change.

UNFPA EndFGM Project

While the UNFPA EndFGM Project made significant progress, we encountered several challenges along the way:

• **Logistical hurdles**

The mission of the End FGM project is to eradicate female genital mutilation. However, during operations, we experienced logistical hurdles. This was due to the late responses from school authorities, which affected the preparation of students and consequently delayed our schedules.

Also, the high turnout of students led to an insufficient supply of materials such as attendance sheets and commitment forms. In addition, the time allocated for contests, although limited, clashed with other school activities. Also, there was resistance to participation, which implied that some schools prioritised academic activities over the contest. This made it difficult for us to gain their involvement. However, we identified and engaged replacement schools that had strong enthusiasm for the program.

To overcome this challenge, we employed our knowledge and strategic networks to facilitate involvement in the program. Furthermore, we employed the use of a digital outreach system to reach more people beyond physical attendance. While health workers in the

targeted regions helped ensure our advocacy ran smoothly, our adopted strategies ensured that this outreach service reached those in dire need.

• **Cultural Barriers**

In many Nigerian communities, female genital mutilation (FGM) is often perceived as a rite of passage to womanhood. Hence, we faced cultural barriers in spreading vital education on this topic. While many women themselves were resistant to change, some boys and male teachers were initially hesitant to discuss FGM, viewing it as a "women's issue." This required additional sensitisation sessions to emphasise the importance of inclusive advocacy and male involvement in ending FGM.

To tackle this challenge, we adopted an inclusive learning approach. Rather than imposing change, we educated them and reinforced a shift in their perception of the topic. This education program has been tailored to deal with cultural insensitivities. Hence, we were able to implement changes within the existing social structures of many communities.

Despite these challenges, the project achieved remarkable success, engaging students,

communities, and stakeholders in meaningful discussions and actions to end FGM. With the lessons learned, we are better positioned to

improve and expand our advocacy efforts in the coming years.

INSIGHTS AND LESSONS TO INFORM FUTURE PLANNING

The best practices are usually highlighted to serve as guidance for future engagements. Some of the adoptive approaches we devised to strengthen inclusive development and create a lasting impact are:

● **Inclusive Engagement**

In marginalised communities where many voices of the youths are usually unheard, our youth empowerment platform is set to make a change. Firstly, the essence of empowerment is based on inclusion - in words and action. Employing traditional outreach methods did not make it entirely possible to reach many of those who are marginalised. Hence, we changed our approach and uncovered the major barriers of language and accessibility to ensure that total participation is guaranteed.

By involving young people from diverse backgrounds in our solution-oriented activities, we saw a transformation. Outreach programs became a more community-based interaction. Voices that were once silent got involved in the policy-making processes and programs.

This journey of inclusive engagement served as an important lesson to us. Not only by the numbers that participated but also by the depth of engagement. Moving forward, we will ensure that our activities are not only based on inviting youths to a program but include all in the decision-making and planning processes.

● **Challenging Stereotypes in Youth and Agriculture**

One major insight is the need to change the

perception of youth and agriculture. Many young people see agriculture as unprofitable or labour-intensive, which deters them from engaging in the sector. Addressing this challenge requires an effort to highlight agriculture as a dynamic industry.

An important lesson is the need to align agricultural initiatives with innovative practices, modern tools, and market-oriented approaches that make farming more appealing and lucrative for young people. By addressing profitability and sustainability, the agricultural sector can attract more youth, fostering their active participation and contribution to national food security and economic growth.

To address this learning, we requested that Participants of the Agroecology Training step down lessons learnt with other young people within their community and so far, 15 other young people have benefited from the training. Our future planning will focus on sustained advocacy and investment in youth-centered agricultural programs. This will change the stereotype narratives and foster economic empowerment.

Ultimately, the implementation of the SPA II project by YouthHubAfrica has made remarkable progress. Despite the challenges faced, the impact of our initiatives will have a stronger impact as we have learnt strategies for building democratic processes and setting a strong foundation for sustainability.



07

**LOOKING AHEAD:
2025 GOALS**

As YouthHubAfrica steps into 2025, we remain dedicated to deepening our impact across Africa through strategic advocacy, sustainable interventions, and capacity-building initiatives. The focus for the year is to strengthen policy and advocacy engagements, empower youth and communities and advance gender equity.

The key goals for 2025 include;

1. Policy and Advocacy Engagements

- Conduct one pre-budget retreat to convene key stakeholders to develop strategies that promote gender-responsive budgeting. 10 advocacy visits will be carried out across various regions to engage local leaders and communities, raising awareness and gathering input on the importance of integrating gender considerations into policies. Additionally, 4 legislative meetings will be held with policymakers to advocate for the adoption of gender-equitable practices in budgetary processes.
- Produce and validate a comprehensive budget review report, analysing current spending patterns. To enhance awareness and support advocacy efforts, 5 tailored materials, including infographics, policy briefs, and fact sheets, will be designed to communicate key findings and recommendations effectively. These materials will be widely disseminated to stakeholders, ensuring broader reach and influencing decision-makers to prioritise gender equity in planning.
- Support youth-led policy reviews in 2 African countries, empowering young people to critically assess existing policies and identify areas requiring amendment for greater inclusivity. By providing resources and capacity-building opportunities, the initiative aims to strengthen the ability of young advocates to engage with policymakers and push for meaningful reforms.

2. Community Engagement and Capacity Building

- Develop and validate a citizen engagement framework designed to enhance participatory governance by providing structured opportunities for citizens to actively contribute to strengthening democratic participation and accountability across African communities.
- Organise one town hall meeting to bring together community members, leaders, and stakeholders, creating a platform to gather grassroots insights on local challenges and solutions while fostering inclusive dialogue. Additionally, one community actor training session will be conducted to equip local advocates with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively champion change.

3. Empowering Girls and Advancing Education

- Train 50 girls in essential digital, advocacy, and leadership skills, empowering them to become active agents of change within their communities and beyond. Alongside this, the organisation will host 2 essay competitions designed to encourage creativity, critical thinking, and innovation among participants.

- Host 2 high-level dialogues on girls' education to commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child, bringing together policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to address barriers to equitable access. These dialogues will serve as platforms to amplify advocacy efforts, highlighting the importance of inclusive educational policies and resources for girls across Africa.
- Produce one Virtual Reality (VR) video and publish 2 advocacy documents to highlight the gender-based challenges faced by communities, offering viewers a firsthand perspective on these issues while showcasing potential solutions.

4. Youth Empowerment and Employability

- Register 1,000 NGOs on the YODA (Youth Organisation Data Alliance) platform, creating a centralised hub for advocacy and networking. This initiative will enable organisations to share resources, collaborate on projects, and amplify their collective impact.
- Facilitate mentorship opportunities for 100 young Africans, connecting them with experienced professionals who can guide their career growth and personal development. Likewise, 1,000 individuals will be trained in CV writing and portfolio development, equipping them with the tools needed to showcase their skills effectively and improve their chances of securing employment.
- Fifty young people will be offered internship opportunities, providing them with hands-on experience in their fields of interest. These internships will focus on skill-building, exposure to real-world challenges, and professional development, helping participants gain valuable insights and enhance their employability.

5. Innovation and Climate Action

- Support 20 young innovators in launching and scaling solutions aimed at tackling climate change and promoting sustainability. This initiative will provide these innovators with access to resources, mentorship, and funding opportunities to bring their ideas to life, ensuring that their projects have a tangible impact on environmental challenges.

6. Conferences and Leadership Development

- Host 2,500 young people at the DARE Conference, a platform dedicated to fostering dialogue and innovation in key areas such as education, governance, health, peace, and security. This event will provide participants with the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions, network with experts and peers,
- Launch fellowship programs in 4 African countries to promote youth participation in governance, health, and education. These programs will provide young people with the skills, knowledge, and platforms needed to actively engage in policy development and implementation within these critical sectors. By fostering leadership, advocacy, and innovation among fellows, the initiative aims to strengthen systems and promote sustainable development across the selected countries.

2025 GOALS FOR THE ENDFGM PROJECT AND THE FORD EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Expansion of the EndFGM Project

In 2025, YouthHubAfrica will expand its EndFGM initiative to other states like Kaduna State, adding to the existing focus states of Ebonyi, Ekiti, Imo, Osun, and Oyo. The expansion of this project aims to reach more communities, particularly those with deep-rooted cultural practices that perpetuate female genital mutilation (FGM). The project will continue leveraging school-based programs, media campaigns, and community dialogues to educate the public about the dangers of FGM and promote alternative rites of passage in the community.

A major component of this expansion is also to strengthen collaborations with key stakeholders, including state ministries, traditional leaders, youth advocates, and grassroots organisations. This multi-stakeholder approach ensures that advocacy efforts are not only effective but also culturally sensitive. Additionally, the EndFGM podcast will be further developed to provide an interactive platform for individuals, activists, and policymakers to share their knowledge and drive the conversation on FGM elimination.

The EndFGM project is expected to increase awareness and encourage community-driven abandonment of FGM in Kaduna and the other focus states. By fostering greater male participation in advocacy efforts, the project aims to challenge harmful gender norms and promote collective action against FGM.

Ford Project: Empowering Voices against Gender-Based Violence

The Ford Project by YouthHubAfrica is designed to address the culture of silence among men regarding Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and equip young men with the knowledge and skills to advocate for gender equity.

This initiative will focus on changing harmful social norms, encouraging male allies in the fight against gender-based violence, and creating safe spaces for conversations on consent, healthy relationships, and masculinity. These efforts will involve targeted community workshops, mentorship programmes, and digital campaigns that will be used to engage men and boys as active partners in gender equality. Additionally, partnerships with local organisations and policymakers will help sustain these efforts, ensuring long-term impact in the fight against gender-based violence.

The project will be implemented in eight states which are, Osun, Oyo, Imo, Ebonyi, FCT, Bauchi, Kano, and Cross River through targeted training programs, community dialogues, and mentorship opportunities. Adapting an already existing training manual to include culturally relevant content, YouthHubAfrica will ensure that young men receive accurate and context-specific education about SGBV.

The expected outcome of this project by 2025 is to break the cycle of silence and empower young men to become vocal advocates against gender-based violence. In addition, by engaging participants through interactive training sessions, the project will bring more males together who challenge harmful cultural expectations and advocate for healthier and more respectful relationships. The long-term impact of the initiative includes a shift in societal attitudes, leading to reduced instances of gender-based violence and increased male involvement in advocacy efforts.

2025 Vision and Goals

By 2025, YouthHubAfrica envisions a continent where young people are empowered, gender equity is a reality, and innovative solutions drive sustainable development. Our goals include:

- **Cross-Cutting Advocacy:**

Integrate key lessons learned from the EndFGM and Ford projects to develop a comprehensive framework for addressing gender-based issues effectively. This framework will incorporate successful strategies, best practices, and community-driven solutions identified through these initiatives, ensuring a holistic approach to tackling deep-rooted gender inequalities.

- **Sustainability:**

Strengthen partnerships with government bodies and local organisations to ensure the continuity and scalability of its initiatives. These partnerships will facilitate knowledge sharing, improve program delivery, and create sustainable frameworks that support long-term development goals across Africa.

- **Capacity Building:**

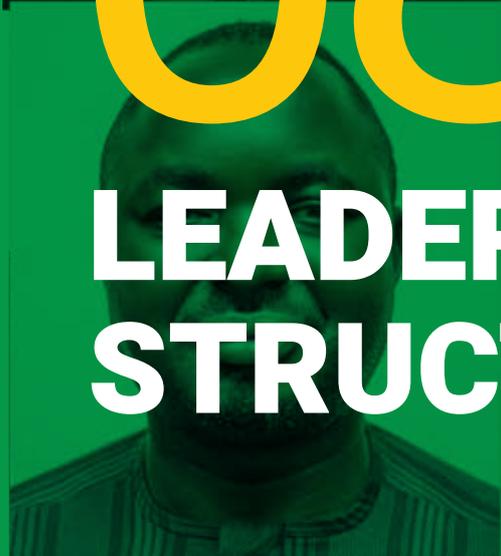
Develop a robust mentorship and peer-learning system to enhance and amplify its advocacy efforts. This system will connect experienced advocates with emerging leaders, providing guidance, skills development, and networking opportunities to strengthen their capacity.

YouthHubAfrica's 2025 goals will drive impactful change through education, advocacy, and community engagement by expanding the EndFGM project and launching the Ford initiatives. These efforts will raise awareness, challenge harmful norms, and implement sustainable solutions to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM) and gender-based violence. Through this, significant improvement will be made in identified areas in regions and Africa as a whole.



08

LEADERSHIP
STRUCTURE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

YouthHubAfrica is governed by a team of seasoned professionals across diverse fields whose passion for steering change has elevated the organisation. Below are the board members;



BUKKY SHONIBARE - CHAIRPERSON

Bukky Shonibare is the Executive Director of Invictus Africa, a civic organisation that promotes human rights and gender equality. She is also a Ford Global Fellow, an Oxford-Commonwealth Scholar, a Developing Solutions Scholar, a Mandela Washington Fellow, and a Malala Fund Education Champion.

Bukky holds a first-class degree in Law (LL.B) from Baze University, Nigeria and a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in International Law and Development from the University of Nottingham, UK. She is actively involved in campaigns promoting human rights, peace and security, quality education, gender equality and women's political representation.

In serving as the chairperson of the board of directors, Bukky uses data to drive evidence-based advocacy, plan legal and policy reviews and build organisational capacity. She provides the required strategy and insights to YouthHubAfrica, ensuring that our organisation's mission is sustainably effective.



ROTIMI OLAWALE - SECRETARY

Rotimi Olawale is an accomplished public policy expert and Executive Director of YouthHubAfrica, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young people in Africa. With over two decades of experience in youth advocacy, Rotimi has played a pivotal role in shaping the youth ecosystem on the continent.

Throughout his career, Rotimi has actively participated in various national, regional, and global processes, supporting the development of young leaders in Africa. His expertise lies at the intersection of youth in health, education, and governance.

He has provided consulting services to numerous international organizations, including the World Bank, the United Nations System, and GIZ, among others.

Rotimi's passion for education as a transformative tool to alleviate poverty drives his unwavering commitment to creating platforms that provide opportunities for young people. He believes in the potential of education to uplift individuals and communities.

Rotimi is widely recognized for his dedication to youth empowerment and his significant contributions to the field. His leadership, expertise, and advocacy have profoundly impacted the lives of countless young people across Africa.



DANIELLE SOBA – MEMBER

Danielle Soba is a prolific project management professional with vast experience in youth mobilisation and capacity building. Her drive for community inclusion and emancipation is fuelled by an unwavering passion for equitable, community-centred development on a local, regional, and global level.

She has worked in diverse organisations, both profits and non-profits, where her expertise in leading cross-functional teams and adept knowledge of project implementation and data analysis resulted in meaningful progress. Danielle's work aims to reduce systemic barriers that prevent the most vulnerable from having a seat at the decision-making table.

She has obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in International History from the University of California, Davis and an MA from Boston University. Her drive for social inclusion, African development, education, and civic engagement has contributed to helping YouthHubAfrica make a measurable impact across diverse states in Nigeria.



ANGE UMUTONI - MEMBER

Ange Umutoni is a pharmacist who cares deeply about improving healthcare for people in need. She graduated with honours from the University of Rwanda's top pharmacy school and works with the Health Development Initiative (HDI) to help communities access better healthcare, support youth, and promote health rights.

She is also a Youth Ambassador for the East African Community and previously served as the Regional Coordinator. In this role, she speaks up for young people and encourages them to take on leadership roles.

Ange's passion for healthcare and youth empowerment makes her a valuable team member.



PROFESSOR CRISTINA D'ALESSANDRO, Ph.D. - MEMBER

Professor Cristina D'Alessandro is an expert in economic geography with over 20 years of experience in teaching and research. She is responsible for statistical cooperation with Sub-Saharan Africa at the French National Statistical Institute and is a member of the Centre on Governance at the University of Ottawa, Canada. She also serves as a Senior Research Fellow at the Research Centre PRODIG (Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, France) and an Honorary Associate Professor at Riara University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Throughout her career, Professor D'Alessandro has worked with prestigious institutions such as Sciences-Po Paris and has provided expertise to international organisations, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations.



SOLA FAGORUSI - MEMBER

A development sector professional, animator, and coach, Sola Fagorusi has a wealth of experience in leading social impact programs that cut across various societal issues. He is currently in charge of Operations for the Onelife Initiative, a youth-serving organisation in Nigeria, managing programs around governance and policies, sexual and reproductive health & rights, and enterprise development. Over the years, Sola has rendered professional service to several organisations, including UNICEF Nigeria, the African Union Commission, and COLEACP.

Sola Fagorusi has designed and implemented over 14 multi-year programs for young people between the ages of 15 to 35. He has continued to prioritise the young and vulnerable populations, offering his expertise as a tool for transformative change. Sola holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Economics from the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University and a master's degree in Development Communication.



DEBRA ANDITI AJWANG - MEMBER

Debra Anditi Ajwang is the Secretary and Head of Legal at the Development Bank of Kenya. She holds a Bachelor of Laws from Moi University and is a Certified Public Secretary (C.P.S. K) and an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration (ACI Arb).

With over 18 years of experience in financial services, Debra has held key legal and company secretarial roles in leading banks, including Absa, Kenya Commercial Bank, Co-operative Bank, Family Bank, and UBA Bank. Before joining the banking sector, she worked at the law firm Hamilton Harrison & Mathews (now Dentons H.H.M) and in the

NGO sector, where she actively advocated for the rights of women and children -a cause she remains passionate about. Her expertise in law, governance, and social justice makes her a valuable member of our board.





OLA OMOSEBI - MEMBER

Ola Omosebi is a purpose-driven management and development consultant and an influential public speaker. He is the Managing Consultant of Creole Mosaic, a consulting firm that specialises in Strategy & Advisory Services, Training & Capacity Building, PR & Report Development, and Youth Development. Ola is well-versed in business development, social advocacy, and corporate communication.

Over time, he has consulted for governmental and non-governmental organisations and international NGOs. Some notable names include KPMG, USAID, and UNDP. Under his leadership as the Lead National Trainer for the Federal Government's YouWIN boot camp training, he displayed a profound knowledge of entrepreneurship and impacted the lives of about 1,300 awardees.

Ola's insights on youth development and social change have assisted YouthHubAfrica in reaching its benchmark and making ground-breaking transformation.



DAMILOLA ANWO-ADE - MEMBER

Damilola Anwo-Ade is a dedicated professional with extensive experience in the technology industry. She is the Managing Partner of Sprout Digital Development Limited (Sprout) and the founder of CodeIT. With a background in IT project management, she possesses the skills to take on complex technological projects. Having mastered the use of agile methods, Damilola creates solutions that boost the efficiency and growth of the organisation.

She has worked in various capacities as an ICT-Training Consultant, with Intel, International Trade Centre, and Multichoice and project-based management roles, delivering successful strategic projects to aid educational or IT development globally.

As a board member, she provides guidance to ensure that YouthHubAfrica remains mission-driven and impactful. She has built a career supporting women in tech and promoting digital skills, including programming and coding skills.



MANAGEMENT TEAM

Our team comprises experienced, ambitious, and result-driven individuals passionate about youth advocacy. They include;



ROTIMI OLAWALE - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rotimi Olawale is an accomplished public policy expert and Executive Director of YouthHubAfrica, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering young people in Africa. With over two decades of experience in youth advocacy, Rotimi has played a pivotal role in shaping the youth ecosystem on the continent.

Throughout his career, Rotimi has actively participated in various national, regional, and global processes, supporting the development of young leaders in Africa. His expertise lies at the intersection of youth in health, education, and governance.

He has provided consulting services to numerous international organizations, including the World Bank, the United Nations System, and GIZ, among others.

Rotimi's passion for education as a transformative tool to alleviate poverty drives his unwavering commitment to creating platforms that provide opportunities for young people. He believes in the potential of education to uplift individuals and communities.

Rotimi is widely recognized for his dedication to youth empowerment and his significant contributions to the field. His leadership, expertise, and advocacy have profoundly impacted the lives of countless young people across Africa.



SHAMAKI DALTON - ADMIN MANAGER

Dalton Shamaki is the proficient Human Resource Manager for YouthHubAfrica. He possesses 5 years of valuable expertise in administration, procurement and logistics in the voluntary organisation sector.

He is also the National Secretary of Young Men's Network Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and a member of The Girl Generation. Dalton is skilled in office maintenance, logistics, solicitation and negotiation in improving standard practices and procedures of organisations.

Over the years, Dalton has worked in the development sector for about 4 years, mainly in youth empowerment and ending violence against women.

As the human resource manager, he has continually ensured effective governance and sustainable impact in YouthHubAfrica. Dalton is passionate about his current area of focus as he oversees the running of our organisation. He has an interest in women and child rights and actively participates in advocacy programs.



FOLAKE AKINDELE – FINANCE MANAGER

Folake Akindele is a skilled finance professional with a strong background in accounting and auditing. She holds an M.Sc. and B.Sc. in Accounting and is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.

She has over seven years of experience as an internal auditor and credit control officer. Folake has worked across the information technology, non-profit, and service industries. Her drive for excellence has led her to explore various sectors, allowing her to build a well-rounded career in finance and risk management. As part of the YouthHubAfrica management team, she brings her expertise in financial oversight and internal controls to support the organisation's mission.



OLUSEGUN MEDUPIN - PROGRAM MANAGER

Medupin Olusegun Paul is the program manager at YouthHubAfrica, a position where he has recorded great successes with his strategic initiatives and ability to work with teams. With over nine years of professional experience advocating youth development causes, Paul's dream is to champion sustainable innovations for youth empowerment and community development. He believes skills development and job creation are significant in the journey to sustainable growth in any society.

He is also passionate about advocating for the rights of women and girls and actively participates in programs that raise awareness around this. Aside from his fulfilling duty at YouthHubAfrica, Paul looks forward to spending his life in a remote village.





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DONORS, PARTNERS, AND STAKEHOLDERS

YouthHubAfrica extends heartfelt appreciation to all our donors, partners, and stakeholders who have been instrumental in driving our advocacy, youth empowerment, and community development initiatives throughout 2024. Your staggering support has enabled us to make a meaningful impact, fostering positive change in communities across Nigeria and beyond.

Our deep gratitude goes to **UNFPA Nigeria**, whose support strengthened male engagement in the fight against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) across five states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Additionally, the UNFPA regional office played a crucial role in mobilising young people across Africa, amplifying the call to end FGM on a continental scale.

We also acknowledge the invaluable contribution of **ActionAid Nigeria**, whose backing through the SPA II Project facilitated the development of the Federal Capital Territory Youth Development Policy. Their commitment extended beyond policy work, supporting the capacity building of young people in agriculture and agroecology—empowering them with skills to drive sustainable livelihoods.

In the area of youth exchange and knowledge-sharing, The **World's Best News** partnered with us on a student exchange program, made possible through funding from Globus. This collaboration provided young people with opportunities to expand their perspectives and engage with global advocacy efforts. Our work in health advocacy was significantly bolstered by the **AU Centre for Disease Control and GIZ**, which funded the Youth Leadership in Health Program. This initiative has equipped 50 young people across Africa with essential leadership skills in public health, preparing them to become changemakers in their communities.

Education remains a vital pillar of our work, and we are grateful to the **Malala Fund** for supporting our education advocacy program in Oyo State. Their contribution has been instrumental in promoting access to quality education for girls, reinforcing the importance of learning as a tool for empowerment. Additionally, our Advocacy for Gender Awareness (AGA) Program received support from **USAID-funded Palladium**, helping us advance conversations on gender equality and human rights.

Beyond these contributions, we deeply appreciate the collaboration of our local and international partners, whose efforts have strengthened our impact:

- **One Life Initiative for Human Development**
- **Bridge Connect International**
- **FCT Youth Development Secretariat**
- **Campus Health Rights Initiative, Ile-Ife**
- **Young Men's Network Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence**

Your dedication and commitment to these shared goals have been invaluable, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the years ahead.



The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the United Nations agency dedicated to sexual and reproductive health. Its mission is to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.



ActionAid Nigeria is an autonomous national organisation established in 1999. It is a member of the ActionAid International Federation, a global movement that works to advance human rights and defeat poverty.



World's Best News is an independent news organisation dedicated to constructive journalism, focusing on solutions and progress in global development.



The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is a specialised technical institution of the African Union (AU), established to support public health initiatives among AU Member States. Its primary mission is to strengthen the capacity of these nations to detect, prevent, control, and respond swiftly and effectively to disease threats.



The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a German development agency dedicated to international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work.



The Malala Fund is an international non-profit organisation co-founded in 2013 by Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani education activist and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate, along with her father, Ziauddin Yousafzai. The organisation's mission is to ensure 12 years of free, safe, and quality education for every girl worldwide.



Palladium is an international advisory and management firm that collaborates with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on various development initiatives. Palladium has a significant presence in over 90 countries, employing more than 2,500 professionals.

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CONCLUSION



As we bring this annual report to a close, we reflect on the journey that has shaped our organisation over the past year. 2024 has been a year of growth and impact—one defined by our collective commitment to excellence, innovation, and service. Throughout the year, we have worked tirelessly to advance our mission, strengthen our operations, and create meaningful value for our stakeholders.

The progress we have made is evident across multiple areas of our work. From expanding our reach to deepening our impact, we have set new benchmarks that reinforce our dedication to sustainable growth. Our commitment to operational efficiency has yielded significant results, ensuring that we continue to maximise our resources for optimal performance. The numbers and key milestones presented in this report highlight not only the strides we have taken but also the unwavering dedication of our team, partners, and supporters.

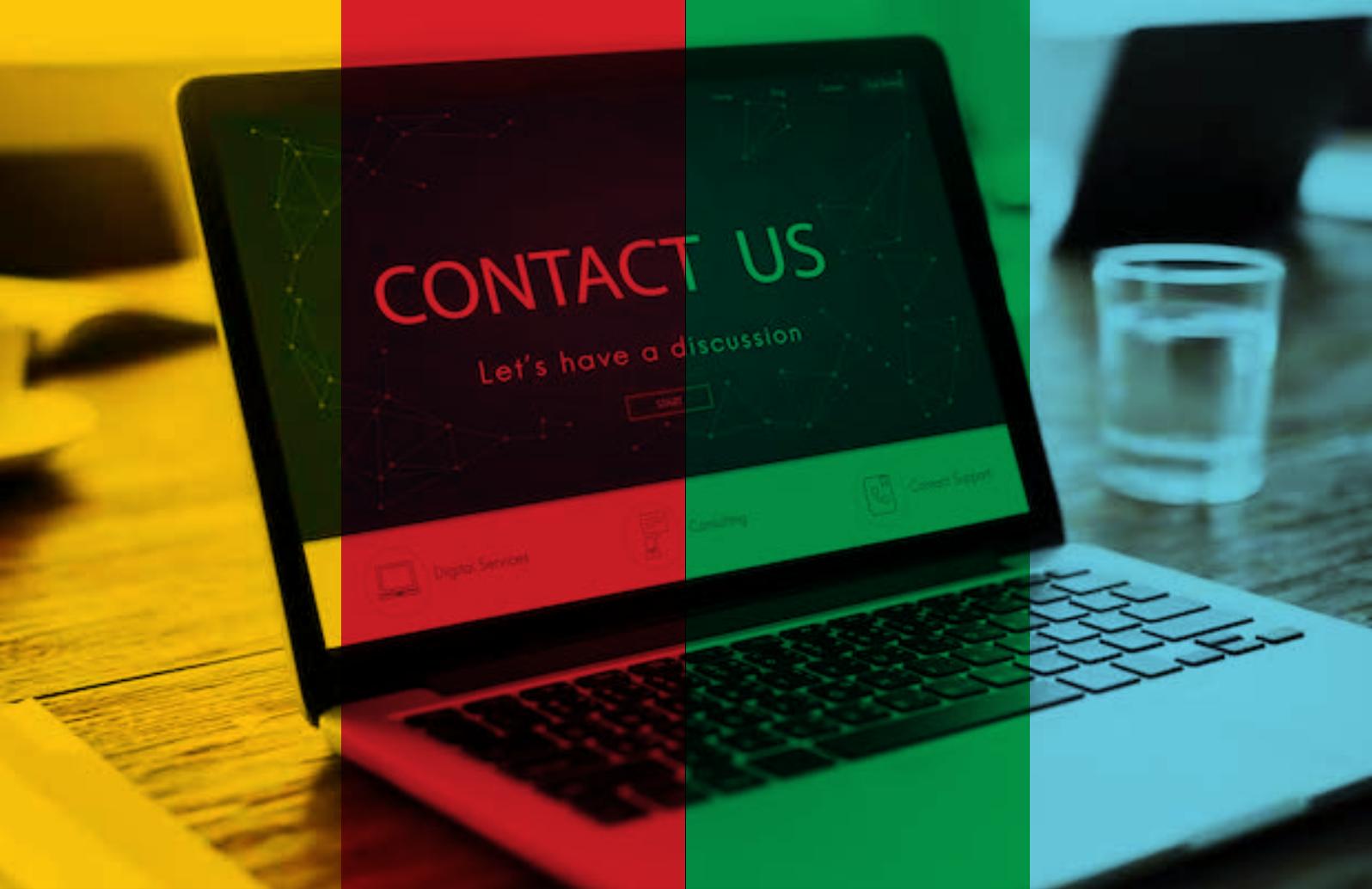
Among our key achievements this year, we have reached more beneficiaries, launched innovative initiatives, strengthened partnerships, and improved financial performance. These milestones reflect our organisation's ability to adapt to changing circumstances while staying true to our core mission. We have also continued to prioritise transparency and accountability in all our operations, ensuring that every decision aligns with our strategic goals.

The dynamic and often unpredictable nature of our operating environment has required us to remain agile and proactive. We encountered challenges like economic constraints, policy shifts and industry changes, but through strategic planning and strong leadership, we steered through these obstacles effectively. As we step into the coming year, we remain committed to innovation, efficiency, and collaboration.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our team, the unwavering support of our partners, and the trust of our stakeholders. To our employees, we extend our deepest gratitude for your hard work and passion, which continue to drive our organisation forward. To our partners and supporters, your contributions have been instrumental in our success, and we look forward to strengthening our collaborations in the years ahead.

At YouthHubAfrica, we will continue to push boundaries, overcome challenges, and achieve new milestones. As we close this chapter and prepare for the next, we do so with determination and belief in the power of collaboration to drive positive change.

Thank you.



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