Over the last six years, the Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs) has been in the forefront of advocating for meaningful youth engagement in the localization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. With the support of Oxfam in Nigeria, we have been able to celebrate the agency of young people for the SDGs using innovation challenge and the Youth Spotlight Awards.

This compendium is a testament of the tireless endeavours of young Nigerians for the attainment of the SDGs. Within its pages, you will encounter stories of individuals who have used their passions to address the challenges faced by the communities. From advancing quality education and eradicating poverty to fostering gender equality and promoting environmental sustainability, these narratives illuminate the boundless potential that resides within the youth of Nigeria.

Everyone being spotlighted is a spark igniting the flame of change, illuminating the shadows of doubt and indifference. They remind us that age is not a barrier to making a difference, and that even the smallest action can set in motion a wave of transformation. We are spotlighting the remarkable contributions of young Nigerians who have embraced the SDGs as a roadmap for progress and the need to meaningfully engage youth in the process.

As an organization, NGYouthSDGs believes that attaining sustainable development would not be possible without youth leadership and intergenerational collaborations across all generations. This compendium highlights our dedication for championing the rights of young people and the importance of inclusivity, diversity, and shared purpose for a sustainable Nigeria.

To the young people being spotlighted, your stories are beacons guiding us towards a more enlightened horizon. Your actions remind us that the challenges we face are not insurmountable barriers but opportunities to innovate, to adapt, and to evolve.

To you reading this, I hope that these stories inspire you to contribute towards the realization of the SDGs in your community. I hope that this compendium propels you and other young Nigerians to rise above limitations and leave an indelible mark on society. I hope it serves as a call to action for every individual and organizations, to join hands with youth in weaving the threads of hope into a tapestry of sustainable development, equality, and prosperity.

With boundless hope and unwavering resolve,

Joshua Alade
Executive Director, Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs)
In Nigeria, a nation rich in diversity, culture, and resilience, there exists a powerful force that has the potential to shape its future—the youth. The energy, hard work, passion, resilience, and unwavering determination of young Nigerians have ignited sparks of change, transforming their communities and inspiring others along the way.

Nigeria is often referred to as a Paradox ‘A rich nation of poor people’. Within the pages of this compendium, you will embark on a remarkable journey—a journey that unveils the extraordinary stories of young individuals who have risen above challenges, embraced their potential, and become catalysts for change. These inspiring tales bear witness to the indomitable spirit of Nigerian youth, who refuse to accept the status quo and instead forge their own paths, creating a brighter tomorrow. Each story within these pages is a testament to the power of courage, innovation, and compassion. From the bustling streets of Lagos to the serene villages of the Niger Delta, these young leaders have championed causes close to their hearts, whether it be education, environmental sustainability, renewable energy, gender equality, or social justice. Their initiatives have touched the lives of countless individuals, leaving an indelible mark on their communities and the nation at large.

As you immerse yourself in the narratives of these remarkable youths, you will witness the transformative power of their actions. Through their determination and resilience, they have shattered barriers, developed disruptive solutions, challenged stereotypes, and proven that age is not a limitation when it comes to making a difference. Their stories will ignite a flame within you, inspiring you to embrace your own potential and become a force for positive change.

This compendium serves as a celebration of the extraordinary youth-led initiatives that Oxfam in Nigeria through the Work in Progress project is doing to shape the landscape of Nigeria. Over the past 8 years, Oxfam has embarked on different initiatives aimed at improving the economic prospects of young people in Nigeria by building their skills and stimulating entrepreneurship. It is a testament to the power of dreams, the strength of unity, and the unwavering belief that a single individual can make an indelible impact on society. May these stories serve as a clarion call for all young Nigerians to rise, to lead, and to create a future that is truly inclusive, prosperous, and just.

Together, let us celebrate the indomitable spirit of Nigerian youth and embrace the transformative power of their stories. For within these tales lie the seeds of inspiration and the blueprint for a brighter Nigeria—a Nigeria where the torchbearers of change emerge from every corner, propelling the nation towards a future filled with hope and endless possibilities.

Princewill Ogbodo,
Project Coordinator,
Work-in-Progress
Oxfam in Nigeria
The Youth SDGs Spotlight compendium by Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs) unveils a collection of actions by young Nigerians towards sustainable development. These stories transcend mere accounts of achievement; they serve as powerful testaments to the transformative power of youthful energy, determination and innovation.

In a world grappling with complex challenges, the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have emerged as a universal roadmap toward a better future. In Nigeria, this roadmap has been embraced by a generation that refuses to be bystanders in the face of adversity. The youth of Nigeria have taken up the mantle, recognizing that these goals are not just lofty ideals, but tangible benchmarks for progress that demand tangible actions.

The stories within this compendium are a celebration of diversity and creativity. They are a testament to the resilience of young minds in the face of systemic barriers, limited resources, and the enormity of the issues at hand. From the bustling urban landscapes of Lagos to the remote rural corners of Kaduna, young change-makers are stepping forward to champion the various facets of sustainable development.

Within these pages, you will meet the minds behind innovative projects that are shaping communities and inspiring change. From initiatives that promote quality education, empower women and girls, and ensure access to clean water and sanitation, to those that combat climate change, reduce inequality, and foster economic growth, each story offers a unique glimpse into the determination of young Nigerians to build a more just and equitable society.

But this compendium is not just a collection of isolated success stories - it is an invitation. An invitation to join the chorus of change-makers, to participate in the dialogue of progress, and to take up the responsibility of realizing the SDGs in every facet of life. It is a call to action for governments, institutions, businesses, and individuals to recognize and amplify the contributions of youth in shaping the present and future of Nigeria.

As you immerse yourself in these narratives, we encourage you to reflect on the potential that resides within each of us to drive positive change. The journey toward sustainable development is a collective endeavour, and the youth are not just its beneficiaries but its architects. By highlighting these stories, we hope to inspire collaboration, spark ideas, and ignite a sense of urgency to build a world that is more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable for all.

So, with great pride and anticipation, we present the Youth SDGs Spotlight. May the stories within these pages serve as a guiding light, igniting the spark of inspiration in every reader and propelling us all toward a brighter, more prosperous future.
The objective of the Youth SDGs Spotlight is to shine a spotlight on the remarkable endeavours and accomplishments of young individuals who are at the forefront of driving actions for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria. By capturing and sharing these inspiring stories, our aim is to foster a sense of empowerment and a belief in the capacity of youth to effect positive change in their communities and beyond. We hope that this work will help raise awareness about the importance and urgency of the SDGs and promote collaboration between youth led initiatives, the government and other development partners to scale up effective solutions to drive meaningful change.
With seven years left to achieve the 2030 Agenda, Nigeria, a vibrant and diverse nation in West Africa, stands at a critical juncture in its pursuit of sustainable development. With a population predominantly composed of young people, the country’s youth have emerged as a potent force for change, shaping the narrative of progress and innovation across various sectors. Against the backdrop of its rich cultural heritage, rapid urbanization, and pressing development challenges, Nigeria’s youth are increasingly engaging with the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to drive positive transformation on both local and global fronts.

Nigeria has an estimated population of over 213 million, with an annual population growth of 2.4%. Young people 35 years and below comprise the largest part of the population, accounting for 74.22% of the country’s population and this number is projected to grow to over 200 million people by 2050. By this projection, Nigeria is expected to be one of the most youthful populations in the world, which could be positive, if the potentials of youths are realised and properly harnessed to contribute to the country’s development.

Nigeria’s demographic dividend presents both opportunities and challenges. The sheer number of young people position Nigeria to harness their creativity, energy, and passion for effecting change. However, without adequate education, employment, and empowerment opportunities, the youth demographic could also pose social and economic challenges.

The compendium present stories of young people shaping the trajectory of Nigeria towards sustainable development. By harnessing theory energy, creativity, and passion, and providing them with the necessary support and resources, Nigeria has the potential to become a model for meaningful youth engagement in SDG implementation. As the country continues on its development journey, the collaboration between youth, government, private sector, civil society, and the international partners will be crucial in achieving sustainable and inclusive progress for all.
PAUL Eweola
Founder and Executive Director, Aquaworld.

Paul is the Founder of Aquaworld - a youth-led organisation implementing innovative projects to address ocean challenges in Nigeria. Over 4 years, he has implemented multiple solutions to enhance the capacity of young people in Sustainable Ocean Practices, extended ocean literacy to over 10,000 school children in Nigeria, trained hundreds of youths in plastic upcycling and engaged over 10,000 African youths to become sustainability leaders in their communities. His tenacity towards environmental protection has earned him global recognition; He’s a Young National Geographic Explorer, Earthday Ambassador, and an Alumnus of the World Ocean Day Youth Advisory Council among others.

MOTIVATION

His inspiration was born during his undergraduate studies in Fisheries and Aquaculture, where he gained in-depth knowledge of challenges facing aquatic ecosystems due to unregulated human anthropogenic activities. Thus, understanding the devastating impacts of human activities on marine life and coastal communities ignited a deep sense of responsibility in him to take action. He realized that empowering and engaging young people, especially youths, is crucial to driving and effecting meaningful change.
Nurudeen is an experienced energy leader and climate activist with expertise in energy innovation and climate-related activities. He is founder and CEO of Sirius-X Energy, which aims to harness the power of renewable energy and leverage advancements in technology to bridge the energy gap in Sub-Saharan Africa. Sirius-X Energy was awarded the Best Climate Mitigation Startup by the Global Cleantech Innovation Program in collaboration with UNIDO. He also led his team to win the third best clean energy business idea in Africa by African Fellowship for Young Energy Leaders. Nurudeen has been invited by BP (British Petroleum) to serve as their delegate in One Young World Summit where he will share with thousands of young people across the world his work and how he is enhancing the global energy transition.

The inspiration behind Sirius-X Energy’s work stems from the pressing energy crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa. The region faces significant challenges in terms of energy access and reliability, with a large portion of the population lacking access to electricity. These statistics highlight the urgent need for innovative solutions to address the energy crisis and improve the lives of millions of people. Sirius-X Energy has developed the solar-wind hybrid system, which aims to overcome the limitations of conventional wind turbines and ensure consistent electricity supply, even in areas with low wind velocities.
Oluwamayowa Eleanora Boyo is a visionary leader and passionate advocate for the rights of Women and Girls With Disabilities (WGWDs). Her work focuses on promoting gender equity, addressing Gender/Disability Based Violence (G/DBV), advocating for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), WGWDs participation in politics, inclusive education and advancing socio-economic justice for WGWDs. As a visually impaired individual, Eleanora's resilience and determination has led her to establish the House of Eleanora Foundation, where she collaborates with private sector and non-profit partners to provide vocational training and empower WGWDs. Her dedication and leadership inspire others, demonstrating that disabilities should not limit one's potential, and advocating for a rights-based inclusive and equitable future for all.

MOTIVATION

Being visually impaired from birth and witnessing the stigmatization faced by persons with disabilities, Oluwamayowa was determined to be their voice. With a strong support system and quality education, she empowered herself to achieve independence, leading to the establishment of the "House of Eleanora Foundation (HoEF)." Through HoEF, she advocates for the Sexual and Reproductive Rights of women with disabilities and provides vocational training to empower them, fostering socio-economic independence. Her ultimate goal is to contribute to building a rights-based and equitable society that embraces diversity and inclusivity for all.
Jennifer Obiorah is an award-winning climate activist and visionary leader who has achieved significant breakthroughs in environmental sustainability, advancing gender equality, quality education, and climate change. Her initiatives have reduced greenhouse gas emissions in her community significantly. Through her organization TeamUpcyclers, she upcycles textile wastes into reusable sanitary pads and artworks. As an educator and SDG advocate, she has educated thousands of people on achieving carbon net zero emissions. Her commitment to gender equality is evident in her work empowering marginalized communities. Despite challenges, her resilience and empathy make her a global leader in advocating for gender equality.

Jennifer developed passion for gender equality and climate change during the Climate Actors Accelerators Programme by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network Nigeria (UN-SDSN). She learnt about the SDGs, climate change, and circular economy. This knowledge launched her passion for gender equality and climate change. Subsequently, she participated in the SDG Advocate Programme by UN-SDSN and got certified as an SDG Advocate. During the personal project phase, she came up with the idea of producing reusable sanitary pads from textile wastes as a way of empowering women and combating the climate hazards caused by plastic sanitary pads and textile wastes on the environment. Now called, TeamUpcyclers, her organization offers inexpensive and reusable sanitary pads to underserved women and girls particularly those who live in IDP camps, prisons, disadvantaged communities, and low-income groups.
Mohammed Bayero Yayandi has an academic background in Engineering and over five years of experience in tech and development, leading different development projects. He is a P/CVE Specialist, Transformation Specialist and the Founder of YandyTech Community. His work has directly impacted over thousands of young people in Abuja, Kaduna, Kano and Borno States through youth employability training, digital skills empowerment and entrepreneurship support. The digital community has successfully helped young people access decent jobs, economic growth opportunities, and valuable information, fostering positive change and transformation in their lives. Mohammed has been awarded awards and fellowships for his work in the SDGs, some includes the UNESCO-APCEIU, BeyGOOD Global Citizen, Equal Access International, RiseUp and Gidan Yanci.

The inspiration to start YandyTech Community stemmed from witnessing the untapped potential of young individuals, especially in underserved communities, and the transformative power of technology. Mohammed was driven by the desire to bridge the digital divide and provide equal opportunities for youth to access quality education and gainful employment. The belief in the positive impact of youth-led initiatives and the vision of a more inclusive and sustainable future also fueled his passion to start this SDGs action.
Anne is a social entrepreneur and innovative communications professional with over five years of experience in brand communication strategy development, TV presenting, event hosting, and audiovisual content creation. Over the past five years, Anne has leveraged the media in advocating for quality education, youth capacity development, and empowerment. She has designed advocacy campaigns, projects, training, online courses, documentaries, podcasts, YouTube shows, and social media content, impacting and reaching over 10,000 audiences worldwide. She is a professional master of ceremonies, transformational speaker, Author, Founder of Teens Connect Africa and Communications Officer at African Food Changemakers.

In 2015, Anne witnessed how two teenagers dropped out of school after one of them got pregnant and they were forced into early marriage. She was saddened by the increasing rate of teenagers' involvement in social vices such as high dropout rate, teenage pregnancy, cultism, gangsterism, gambling, and addiction, which is a result of poverty, lack of exposure, and access to mentorship and positive engagement. These issues motivated Anne to start Teens Connect Africa in 2020 to create a platform to access mentorship, resources, and opportunities for teenagers in underserved communities to develop their talent and become productive members of society. Teens Connect Africa has had a transformative impact on young people in Nigeria and across Africa providing mentorship, educational resources, and talent development opportunities which have significantly improved these teenagers' academic outcomes and personal development.
LUCKY Owoicho

Founder, Project Build A School

Lucky Owoicho is an International Development Worker, Digital Literacy advocate, Project Manager, and an SDG Advocate. He has gained over 7 years experience in active volunteering and has implemented several community projects and has led teams of young people in several leadership positions. Currently he is a Program and Impact Fellow at Aid For Rural Education Access Initiative- AREAi an initiative that focuses on providing quality education for children in marginalized and underserved communities with the use of technology. He leads an initiative called Project Build A School, an initiative that focuses on addressing education inaccessibility for underprivileged children.

Lucky’s inspiration was as a result of his foundational education background and how well this shaped his life. He believes a solid foundational education can tremendously affect a child’s future and not getting the opportunity to access quality education in the early start can hinder the growth and development of a child and the development of any community and nation at large. “For a house to be built it is important we lay the blocks a step at a time”.

Though Project Build A School, Luck works with children who were displaced as a result of the farmers/herders crisis in Benue state. He has directly supported in building the infrastructure, provided learning materials and mobilized volunteer teachers to help 200 affected children. As a Project and Impact Fellow at Aid For Rural Education Access Initiative- AREAi, Lucky has contributed to tackling the foundational learning crisis, supporting girls education and promoting digital skills in several internally displaced camps (IDPs) and other marginalized groups in Nigeria.
Yusuff Liadi Abiodun is a passionate global activist, social innovator, and digital advocate dedicated to empowering young people and marginalized communities. As the Chief Executive of iLEAD AFRICA and founder of Be The Change Initiative and YouthElect Initiative, his work revolves around promoting youth participation in politics, advocating for sustainable development, and reducing inequalities in Africa. With a focus on digital technology and social innovation, Yusuff strives to equip and amplify the voices of young leaders, inspiring positive change and fostering a more inclusive and just world. His mission is to be the catalyst for a better future, where every young person’s potential is realized and harnessed for the greater good.

**MOTIVATION**

The inspiration to start iLEAD AFRICA stemmed from witnessing the untapped potential of young people and the glaring inequalities that persisted in our communities. Yusuff was driven by the belief that youth can be powerful agents of change and catalysts for social transformation. Seeing the lack of representation of young people and marginalized communities in decision-making processes further fueled my determination to create platforms that empower and amplify their voices. The desire to build a more inclusive and sustainable future for Africa ignited the passion that led to the inception of these initiatives, and it continues to drive him. Through his initiatives, Yusuff and his team have empowered young individuals from diverse backgrounds, giving them the tools and confidence to actively engage in democratic governance and decision-making processes.

The collective impact of his works is evident in the transformation of communities, the emergence of empowered youth leaders, and the growing momentum of youth-driven movements for sustainable development.
Uforo Nsentip is an award-winning education activist from Akwa-Ibom, Nigeria and founder of Nsentip Twins Foundation which serves humanity and nature by achieving the UNSDGs through initiating sustainable projects. She is most passionate about Quality Education and she aspires to transform education and orchestrate a global community of changemakers for change. The Rekindled World is an initiative she started to tackle the substandard educational approach in schools; she advocates for the inclusion of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) practices in schools and the teaching of UNSDGs in the educational curriculum. Through her work, Uforo has impacted tens of thousands of people, and has been recognized by prestigious organisations like Diana Award, UN Foundation and UN Women.

**MOTIVATION**

Uforo's inspiration for taking action for quality education originated from recognising the transformative power of education in shaping lives and societies and witnessing the breach in educational opportunities and its effects on individuals. Through understanding the benefits of accessible and equitable education, she became dedicated to advocating for change. Her Rekindled World project by Nsentip Twins Foundation, has impacted 23,000 people, and has sponsored 10 out-of-school children in the Ikot Okuubo community.
Favour Abatang is the founder of Campus Babe Initiative, a nonprofit organisation focused on providing support for teen mums by designing educational and mentorship support programmes such as skill acquisition programmes, healthcare programs, food bank projects etc. which has raised $3,000 in funding support. Favour is also a National Youth Gender Activist at UN WOMEN Nigeria and has received numerous local and international awards for her efforts in contributing to the SDG goal 4 and 5 including the Girl Child Education Champion Award and the Diana Award.

MOTIVATION

In 2020, Favour met a young 12-year-old girl who was pregnant. Her encounter with the young girl led her to look closer at her community, and to her surprise, she discovered many girls face similar challenges—teenage pregnancy was robbing them of their education and bright futures. To truly comprehend the scale of the issue, Favour delved into relevant statistics and uncovered the staggering fact that more than 10 million girls in Nigeria were out of school, with 15% of this concerning figure attributed to teenage pregnancy. This revelation ignited a fire within her, compelling her to question how she could be part of the solution and make a meaningful impact. The pursuit of this answer led her to start an initiative. Through her initiative, Favour has directly helped 3,600 teenage mothers by providing them with access to second chance education and skill development opportunities.
JABIR Yahya Zakari

Executive Director, Chanji Initiative for Development Empowerment & Leadership (CITADEL)

Jabir is a two-time winner of the Power of 18 Challenge by Yiaga Africa and a trained community organizer with over three years of experience in the developmental and civic space, he founded the #RCVAdamawa23 project, aiming to promote peaceful and inclusive societies by mobilizing young people for the 2023 elections. As the founder and executive director of Chanji Initiative for Development Empowerment & Leadership - CITADEL, his ultimate vision is to equip young people with the necessary skills, knowledge, and values to become exceptional leaders who drive positive change, promote social justice, and foster sustainable development.

MOTIVATION

Passion for youth engagement in inclusive democracy and development fueled the inspiration behind #RCVAdamawa23. As Adamawa State Power of 18 champion, Jabir yearned to address democratic challenges like voter apathy and exclusion. Adamawa's low voter registration rates and limited youth involvement further underscored the urgency to act. With millions of eligible young Nigerians not registering to vote, Jabir knew the time for action was now. With this determination, he and his team launched #RCVAdamawa23, believing that empowering young citizens to participate in the democratic process would pave the way for a brighter and more inclusive future.
Ayotunde Aboderin is a passionate youth advocate and educator based in Nigeria. With a background in Fine and Applied Arts, he currently serves as a teacher at Handmaids Catholic Schools, where he imparts knowledge in Social Studies, Government, and Cultural and Creative Arts. Ayotunde is actively engaged in various initiatives and organizations, including MUN Impact Nigeria and the Phoenix Rising Project, working tirelessly to promote quality education and empower young people to become leaders and change-makers. His dedication to social impact and sustainable development makes him a driving force in advancing youth development and global citizenship in his community and beyond.

**MOTIVATION**

Ayotunde’s passion for education and his belief in its transformative power inspired him to take action. He witnessed the challenges faced by children displaced by climate change and conflict, and felt compelled to do something to provide them with access to quality education. Seeing the positive impact of Model UN debates on students’ awareness and understanding of global issues also motivated him to continue organizing such initiatives to empower young minds and foster a culture of active citizenship and engagement in solving societal problems.
Idris Bilyaminu Ndasadu'Lau is social development activist, a Queen's Young Leader and a Multiple Award-winning Social Impact Leader, who has been featured by the UN Youth Envoy as one of the leaders who can inspire you to change the world. With about 6 years experience, he has been working to promote inclusive quality education, health, community development, civic engagement, human rights, social inclusion, democracy and youth and women participation at the grassroots. He is also a researcher and community development expert with experience in project management, grassroot advocate, communication and graphics design skills, content writing, community engagement, advocacy, policy making and good governance. He is currently a Member of Common Futures Conservations at Chatham House, Civic Leader at TransparencIT Nigeria, Talented Young Leader at Kectil Colleagues Program, Tostan Alumni, Their-World Global Youth Ambassador and a Global Actor for Sustainable Development Goals. Beyond these, he is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of YAPD4Africa.

MOTIVATION

Idris Bilyaminu was born in a semi-urban community into a low-income household. Ninety percent of the people were extremely poor in the community he grew up in. They depended on daily earnings and didn’t have access to adequate social needs especially in terms of education, health and cleaning facilities. Growing up with such an experience, he decided to take a path not only for his own community but for every human being facing critical social challenges. That is also why, one of his key priorities is to use education to unlock the imagination and fundamental rights for people to gain self-respect and even development.
Abigael is an Educational and gender equality professional with over six years of experience working at the intersection of technology for education, pedagogical innovation, women representation in STEM and research. Abigael currently works as a Programmes Associate with re:learn the education Practice at Co-creation Hub, Nigeria’s first open living lab, a social innovation centre dedicated to accelerating the application of social capital & technology. She is an Education Ambassador with HundrED and was recently selected as a member of HundrED’s advisory board to vette edtech solutions across the world, improving the learning outcomes of learners using gamification. She is also a Global Youth Ambassador with Theirworld, a global children’s charity committed to ending the global education crisis. She has previously contributed to youth-led innovations with organisations such as the UNSDSN, and UNAI.

Abigael was one of the delegates at the 2018 edition of the annual Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS) where she learnt about the challenges with Nigeria’s education system, the existing gender gap in STEM fields, and the power of education to transform economies and societies. As a secondary school student, she struggled to grasp abstract science concepts (but for her Chemistry teacher, Mr Adebisi who leveraged simulations to boost her confidence and performance in Chemistry). Following the discussions and learnings from the ISDS in 2018, Abigael decided to embark on a life-long journey of transforming education with a focus on introducing innovative teaching methodologies to teaching science concepts and a commitment to promoting gender equity.
Heritage Sanmi-Lawal is a graduate of Law from Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. She has over 7 years of experience in the community development sector, specifically focusing on gender equality. Heritage has worked and volunteered with organisations such as; Amnesty International UK, Women at Risk International Foundation, Malala Fund, Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY), and Gender Equality Action Group of the UN Foundation. She is a member of the Youth Advisory Panel for Plan International Nigeria and a UN Women Delegate for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67).

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". This is a quote by Edmund Burke that always spurred Heritage to action and encourages her to speak against social injustice. Being born and raised in Nigeria, her interest sparked towards social justice issues such as; climate justice in developing countries and exploring cultural roots of discriminatory practices against women and girls. Heritage's mission is to develop a career path in international human rights and development while playing her part in curbing discriminatory practices against women and girls such as child marriage.
Akachukwu Markfred Ijeoma is an accomplished individual with a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Michael Okpara Federal University in Nigeria. He is a certified Project Manager, HR manager, Social Intrapreneur, and UN Volunteer with over 5 years of experience in civic leadership and social impact. As the Founder and Team lead of GENTS_Hangout, a non-profit initiative, he has positively impacted thousands of millennials across Africa, promoting healthy living, quality education, decent work, and economic growth. Fred is dedicated to creating impactful solutions and has led campaigns to influence policies affecting millennials and community development. He is also a State Coordinator for YALI ABIA NETWORK, focusing on youth empowerment, entrepreneurship, and SDGs advancement. Fred's diverse skills include digital marketing, leadership, content development, and more, and he has worked with reputable organizations like Google, Facebook, WHO, UNICEF, and ASHOKA UK. He is a passionate advocate for social change, a Youth Ambassador for the SDGs, and a believer in humanity, faith, and love.

Markfred Ijeoma was inspired to take action towards achieving SDG 6 by witnessing the dire consequences of water scarcity and poor sanitation in marginalized communities in his state. He observed how lack of clean water affected health, education, and economic opportunities, particularly for women and children. Witnessing these hardships ignited a deep sense of responsibility to make a positive impact and improve people's lives. Recognizing the transformative power of access to clean water and sanitation, Markfred Ijeoma committed himself to advocate for change, empower communities, and collaborate with various stakeholders to create sustainable solutions that would address these pressing challenges and contribute to a more equitable and prosperous world.
Salim Yunusa is a freelance journalist, bilingual writer & literary curator. He’s the founder of Poetic Wednesdays Initiative, and the event coordinator of Hausa International Book and Arts Festival (HIBAF). He graduated from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria with a Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Disaster Risk Management. He was awarded The Outstanding Literary Promoter in Northern Nigeria by the Yobe Literary Society in 2021. He is a Digital Rights Champion. He was recently awarded the 30 under 30 Arewa Stars for social activism in literature by PRNigeria & Daily Nigerian Newspapers.

Having come from a low income neighborhood in Zaria, Salim saw young and talented people waste away due to lack of access to quality education. This is not peculiar to only his community, but the whole Northern Nigeria where there is a high number of out-of-school children. This inspired him to start small from his immediate community, teaching and encouraging young people to explore their talents in creativity with writing. This provides them with opportunities to learn and earn.
Azeezat Adekanye is a passionate advocate for gender equality dedicated to promoting women's rights and interests. She's a social entrepreneur with three years of experience in the nonprofit sector, managing projects while using strategic communications. As a graduate of the Young Women Political Leadership School, she's organized intervention projects for young women such as Making Her Story Speak, The Run and Win Workshop, Democracy Bootcamps to mention but a few. She has also actively participated in various research projects exploring the intersection of gender, leadership and sustainable development. In 2022, she founded 'She Speaks Power,' bridging the gender gap in students' leadership across African tertiary institutions.

For Azeezat, growing up in a conservative family in Nigeria where gender roles were emphasized was the beginning of her journey. She began to see that other young women are being caged by these gender norms. With the passion to break these barriers, she focused on women and leadership. This was the inspiration behind her action - that there are millions of other young girls who face the same plight as her. Hence, Azeezat’s work has been at the intersection of advocating for, educating, empowering and engaging women. Her work at She Speaks Power aims to bridge the gender gap that exists in student leadership across tertiary institutions in Africa. In the last three years, her work has reached over 25,000 people both online and offline.
Samuel is a passionate advocate for global leadership and sustainable development and founded STYLCON to empower leaders. With over 7 years of experience, he has impacted 9,540 leaders. In the last 2 years, Samuel has achieved a remarkable feat by hosting two successful editions of the Mega Students Leadership Conference in Imo State, Nigeria. The first edition in 2022 saw 1500 youths in attendance, and the second edition in July 2023 had an impressive turnout of 2000 participants for the purpose of educating young leaders on the need for effective leadership and transformation. Through The Legacy Leadership Project, he inspires hundreds of undergraduates to pursue Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) projects, fostering positive change. Samuel was honored by the Jamie Pajoel International organization in 2022 as an outstanding young leader from Southeast Nigeria. His dedication to inspiring 20 million stylish leaders in his lifetime showcases his commitment to a better future.

Samuel was motivated to take action due to his nation's severe deficit in leadership capital, coupled with concerning behaviors among young people and leaders. Recognizing the urgency for positive change, he founded Stylish Leaders Consults and Network (STYLCON) to empower and inspire transformation. The lack of quality facilities for leadership education further fueled his determination to bridge the gap and foster sustainable leadership development. Through impactful initiatives like The Legacy Leadership Project and the School Leadership Acceleration Program, Samuel aims to equip young minds with the necessary skills and mindset to become catalysts for a better, more inclusive future.
Nwaiwu Elizabeth Chiamaka is a communications strategist in the development space. She works at the intersection of gender equality, communication, feminism, and development. She collaborates with organizations to design and implement strategies that increase awareness, drive conversations, and promote positive societal change. Apart from developing and executing strategic communication plans, Elizabeth creates compelling content and cultivates relationships with key stakeholders through various channels such as social media, newsletters, and websites. Elizabeth has volunteered for numerous organizations in various capacities. Currently, she volunteers as the President of Girl Up Nigeria. In this role, she leads a team of young people in developing and implementing projects aligned with the Girl Up Campaign's objectives. One of her significant projects at Girl Up Nigeria is the International Women's Day Mentorship Program. This program connects young girls to mentors in their respective fields.

Elizabeth developed her passion for gender equality after having seen the treatment women and girls were given in her community that was grossly unfair to them. Having grown up in a community where women and girls were often subjected to inequity, Elizabeth witnessed this injustice first hand. At age 12, she witnessed the shaving of a young woman's hair because her husband had recently died. She had to endure through so many "rituals" to prove that she didn't have a hand in her husband's death. Her daughters were stopped from returning to school, as relatives could only afford to send the boys to school. As a result of this experience, Elizabeth grew to want to work towards a world where women and girls do not have to face any discrimination because of their gender.
Favour Adeleke is a visionary entrepreneur with a strong commitment to creating a positive impact in society through agriculture. With over 10 years of experience in farm management and production, Favour has developed a deep love for nature and a passion for sustainable agriculture practices. He believes that agriculture has the potential to transform the economy and create a healthier, more prosperous nation. Favour's vision is to build a brand that makes a positive impact on society and contributes to a healthier, more prosperous nation. He is committed to using his knowledge and expertise to drive sustainable agriculture practices that promote food security and economic growth. Favour's goal is to feed at least 1% of the Nigerian population by 2030, which would contribute significantly to reducing food insecurity and health care problems in the country.

MOTIVATION

Favour was inspired to start Qiqi Farms because while growing up with his Grandmother for ten years, he witnessed her grandmother struggle with diabetes for over 15 years. This made him recognize the importance of nutrition and access to healthy food in promoting well-being. Additionally, the alarming statistics of over 20,000 annual deaths from foodborne diseases in Nigeria further motivated him to create a solution that prioritizes food safety, affordability, and accessibility. Favour's passion for addressing health challenges in our community, combined with a strong desire to revolutionize the agricultural sector through technology and sustainability, fueled him to establish Qiqi Farms and make a positive impact on people's lives.
Shamsiyyah Umar is an enthusiastic recent graduate with a degree in International Relations and a master’s in International Affairs and Diplomacy from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Her fervent dedication lies in advocating for the inclusion of persons with disabilities across all sectors of society. She is passionate about creating inclusive learning environments, ensuring quality education, and fostering entrepreneurship through skill acquisition and digital literacy programs for individuals with disabilities. Shamsiyyah extends her advocacy to politics, healthcare, and infrastructure, striving for representation and inclusivity. Through her organization, the Special Physically Challenged Care Foundation, she educates people with disabilities and orphans, empowering them with essential skills for independence and financial stability, while combating marginalization. Shamsiyyah’s achievements include providing learning materials, organizing skill acquisition training, and conducting conferences and workshops. With her robust educational background, office management experience, and entrepreneurial skills, she is well-equipped to make a transformative impact in advocacy and social inclusion. Shamsiyyah’s ultimate aspiration is to represent her country, champion gender equality, and provide support to persons with disabilities, leaving a lasting legacy of positive change.

As a person living with physical disabilities, Shamsiyyah has personally experienced stigmatization, stereotypes, and the challenges of accessing services. However, these experiences have only fueled her determination to make the world a better place for individuals with disabilities. Shamsiyyah’s advocacy work primarily focuses on promoting inclusion in all aspects of life. She aims to rekindle hope among people with disabilities for social, economic, and political inclusion. Providing a safe and supportive space for educational inclusion is crucial to nurturing their talents and intelligence, ensuring they have equal opportunities to thrive. Shamsiyyah understands the importance of addressing the emotional toll that disability-related challenges can take on individuals. To support those who may feel overwhelmed or see their disability as a burden, she is working towards establishing a trauma counseling center to offer them the necessary emotional support and guidance. In essence, her goal is to create a more inclusive society that values and respects the abilities of people with disabilities. Through her advocacy, she hopes to break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, and create an environment where everyone can lead fulfilling lives, regardless of their physical abilities. Together, we can foster a world that celebrates diversity and ensures that every individual feels valued and included.
Ayisat Adamu is the Co-founder and CEO of Danwawo Innovation Hub, a clean energy startup. Over the years she and her team have been able to come up with ideas for different products that aim at solving global crisis such as Vacci-Safe (this is a solar powered vaccine fridge for storing heat sensitive items such as vaccines, insulins and blood for transfusion especially in rural communities in Nigeria. This has helped to bridge the gap between healthcare and vaccination) She is a clean energy enthusiast and an advocate for improved healthcare. She is also a recipient of Leap Africa Youth Development Leadership Program certification and an ambassador for Gender Mobile Initiative. If there is one thing she believes in, it is the fact that change begins with you.

MOTIVATION

Ayisat was inspired by the urgent need to address the challenges faced in vaccine storage and distribution in northern Nigeria. Witnessing the devastating impact of preventable diseases and deaths, especially among the most vulnerable populations, motivated her to work with her team to develop a solution that could make a tangible difference in the life of humanity. She was driven by her commitment to the SDGs and the belief that every individual deserves access to quality healthcare. Her team’s work aligns with SDG 3, as we strive to ensure good health and well-being for all, leaving no one behind.
AbdulBasit Bashir is an accomplished entrepreneur and visionary leader in the renewable energy sector. As the founder and CEO of Revnics Energy, he has made significant strides in transforming e-waste into sustainable solar power systems powering rural communities and businesses in Nigeria. With a deep passion for environmental sustainability and a keen understanding of technological advancements, he has successfully positioned Revnics Energy as a frontrunner in the renewable energy sector. Driven by a desire to create a greener and more sustainable future, his aspirations revolve around expanding his solution across Nigeria. AbdulBasit continues to propel Revnics Energy forward, leveraging his entrepreneurial spirit, technical expertise, and commitment to environmental sustainability. With a relentless drive to make a positive impact, he is dedicated to building a more sustainable future by harnessing the power of e-waste conversion and renewable energy solutions. AbdulBasit's unwavering commitment to innovation and his ability to drive impactful change have garnered him recognition within the industry. His pioneering work in developing efficient recycling techniques and sustainable energy solutions has led to a significant reduction in electronic waste and a tangible positive impact on the environment.

Observing the growing increase in electronics waste (e-waste) problem and the lack of access to clean energy in rural communities, has been AbdulBasit’s drive and desire to make a positive impact. His vision to transform e-waste into renewable energy systems stemmed from a passion for environmental sustainability, social impact, and the potential to empower underserved communities with clean and affordable energy.
Donatus Ozemhoya hails from Edo state, Nigeria. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Abuja in 2020. He also holds a Master of Science (in-view) degree in Policy Analysis from the same university. Currently, Donatus, having secured the European Commission’s Erasmus+ scholarship in 2022, is pursuing an international joint master’s degree in European Studies from the University of Glasgow, Britain. Since joining the Rotary International, as a Rotaractor in 2014, Donatus has led and facilitated several projects and initiatives that have contributed both explicitly and implicitly to the attainment of the SDG 10.

**MOTIVATION**

Donatus believes the core values of the international system, especially the SDG 10, are greatly undermined by some of these international benchmarks. Accordingly, he sees the English conditionality placed on Nigerians/Anglo-Africans as an unjustifiable act; one that only fans the embers of inequality. Meanwhile, given his lived experiences, Donatus is particularly pained by how these conditions have continued to truncate the global prospects of average Africans, dashing several hopes and aspirations. Consequently, he concluded these issues needed to be talked about, hence his decision to add his voice to their cause anytime he found the opportunity to.
Solabi Olajumoke Omoteniola is a dedicated Community Health graduate from Ogun State College of Health and Technology and currently in her final year at Lead City University. As the Executive Director of Foam Foundation, she spearheads initiatives to improve maternal and child health in Nigeria. She is passionate about empowering others, she convenes "The Health Talk Initiative", an online platform where experts address vital health topics. As an advocate for women and children, she serves as a change agent committed to fostering a healthier society. With vast talents in writing, public speaking, and teaching, she mentors and collaborates with diverse organizations to promote the SDGs, leaving a positive impact on over 5000 students and countless lives.

FOAM Foundation was inspired by Olajumoke’s aunt who died due to birth complications. The pregnancy which was seven months when the complications arose posed a threat to her health and especially her kidney which was said to have failed because the foetus died three days before. The caesarean section was successful but her health kept deteriorating and she gave up the ghost on the third day. This became a serious challenge to Olajumoke as she knew that if there was enough education on how to manage pregnancy as related to the older age the death would have been averted. Years later Olajumoke decided to have a foundation to her names as a medium to solve maternal and child-related issues.
Oluwadunsin Bolaji, the founder of DunsinCraft Collection LTD, is a prominent figure in the Afrocentric Accessory Brand industry, promoting sustainable African-inspired bags and accessories. Her innovative approach to empowerment includes collaborating with esteemed organizations, offering skill acquisition, business development training, and entrepreneurship support. Oluwadunsin's commitment to sustainability is evident through her upcycling initiative, where fabric scraps are transformed into school bags for underprivileged children. She also imparts valuable entrepreneurial skills and knowledge of Sustainable Development Goals. Engaging with prestigious programs like the Tony Elumelu Foundation, AWE, She Leads Africa and Fate Foundation, Oluwadunsin demonstrates her dedication to continuous learning and networking. Her passion for empowering young girls and women, coupled with her commitment to sustainability, establishes her as a remarkable leader driving positive change and socio-economic development in various lives and communities.

Oluyadunsin started The School Bag Initiative because of her interest in climate change and the realization that many underprivileged students lack school bags. Seeing fabric scraps accumulate, she decided to repurpose them into school bags for these children. But Oluyadunsin wanted to go beyond that and make a real impact on their lives. As an entrepreneur, sustainability expert and SDG advocate, she saw an opportunity to share her knowledge on SDGs and entrepreneurship with these students. Oluyadunsin's goal is to empower these children while promoting sustainability and education for a brighter and more equitable future.
Abdulkareem O. Abdullateef is an activist and community development facilitator. He is committed to causes such as quality education, open government partnership, transparency and accountability in education, climate action, and engagement in community-based groups. Abdulkareem has garnered over three years of invaluable experience in the social development ecosystem. As the Founder and Executive Director of the Saving African Youths Dream Initiative (SAYDi), a prominent non-governmental organization, he has spearheaded transformative initiatives. Abdulkareem’s visionary leadership, recognition from international platforms, and partnership successes underscore his exceptional ability to effect transformative change and inspire a brighter and more inclusive future for all.

MOTIVATION

Personal experience and the commitment to make a positive impact inspired Abdulkareem to start the Saving African Youths Dream Initiative (SAYDi); Realizing how financial struggles hinder education in rural communities sparked a deep desire for change. The story of three kids who were unable to attend school because their father could not afford to pay their school fees resonated deeply with him. Consequently, Abdulkareem established SAYDi, with the goals of improving educational infrastructure, providing free access, offering teacher training, and supporting marginalized groups. SAYDi’s mission is to promote literacy, gender equality, and ensure all children have access to quality education.
Ismail Bello, an accomplished professional, has made significant contributions to youth empowerment and entrepreneurship in Nigeria. As the founder of YES-Hub, he has connected young business owners and graduates with vital resources, training, and funding support. Through YES-Hub, Ismail has facilitated job creation and economic growth, supported entrepreneurs in securing the TEF grant, and provided an enabling environment for mentorship and capacity development. His dedication has gained international recognition, including a nomination by the US Embassy in Nigeria for the Prestigious IVLP on Youth Civic Engagement and Human Rights in Washington DC, United States. Ismail’s visionary leadership has transformed the youth entrepreneurship landscape in Nigeria, making a lasting impact on the country’s socio-economic development.

In Katsina State, 2 out of every 20 youths can only access digital, entrepreneurship, and employability skills, needed to spur them up for creating businesses and participating in employment opportunities. Ismail initiated YES-Hub, to provide training, funding, and employment opportunities for young people, as well as created an incubated opportunity profiling platform that provides equal access to technology, start-up and venture capital ecosystem.
Precious Azuonwu is a visionary social entrepreneur, tech evangelist, and digital business consultant who is making a significant impact in Africa's technology and business landscape. With a passion for empowering young people and underserved communities, Precious has been recognized for his contributions to entrepreneurship and technology education, including his acceptance into The Aspire Leaders Programs at Harvard University and The Queen Commonwealth Trust. Known affectionately as "Emperovial," Precious has developed and delivered digital courses to over 15,000 entrepreneurs across 150 countries on Udemy. He is a graduate of the Aspiring Entrepreneur Program Digital of Fate Foundation, funded by Facebook Nigeria, and has been coaching entrepreneurs on customer care, cryptocurrency, digital marketing, and other digital business opportunities since 2017. Precious has served as a lead facilitator for various programs and initiatives, including the Rivers State Youth Economic Pathway, Port Harcourt Designer Community, Hultz Prize Rivers State University, Peace First USA Lagos Meetup, Google CS Programs of Junior Achievement Nigeria, Ford Foundation-funded events, and Ken Saro-Wiwa Innovation Hub. As the CEO of Emperovial Business Enterprise and the founder of Bankable Wisdom and Director of Creativity Zone Developmental Initiative, Precious is committed to creating jobs and profitability in Africa's technology sector. He has been accepted into the Idea Hub Program by Lagos State Employment Trust Fund to accelerate the growth of Bankable Wisdom and increase its impact. Precious is also a respected advocate for cryptocurrency education and adoption in Africa, having served as a Remitano Ambassador in 2021 and a Binance Instructor for its 'MyBinanceClass' program. He has also reached audiences in 90 nations through his YouTube channel, "Emperovial World," which focuses on cryptocurrency education. In recognition of his contributions to entrepreneurship and technology education, Precious has been highly recommended as a mentor for The Tony Elumelu Foundation Entrepreneurship Program, guiding over 200,000 African entrepreneurs in 2020/2021. He continues to serve as a mentor and role model for young people across Africa who aspire to make a difference through entrepreneurship and technology.

Precious' inspiration behind starting Bankable Wisdom stemmed from witnessing the untapped potential of individuals in underserved communities. He saw bright minds with limited access to opportunities and realized the transformative power of tech skills and digital entrepreneurship. Witnessing the positive impact that acquiring such skills had on individuals' lives and the potential for driving sustainable economic growth, he was driven to create a platform that could bridge the gap. Precious wanted to empower people with the tools and knowledge to unlock their potential, contribute to their communities, and build a brighter future for themselves and their families.
Amrah Aliyu is a poet and a Gender and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) advocate with years of experience in Advocacy and Communications. She is a published author of a poetry book titled “Breasts are names of flowers”. Amrah is the Founder, Salma Attah foundation for women & girls Support, a non-profit designed to positively make an impact in the lives of young girls. She is a trained campaign strategist and advocate with the RNW media Netherlands. She has leveraged the use of multimedia platforms with creative writing to advocate for a safe environment for women in her community.

MOTIVATION

Amrah witnessed the effects of marginalisation and gender inequality which inspired her to create a lasting change for vulnerable women and girls, empowering them with skills and opportunities for a brighter future. She and her team thus developed an advocacy presence in 4 northern states, including Niger, Kano, Kaduna, and the FCT, involving hundreds of volunteers, reaching more than 5000 target audiences in more than 11 underserved communities.
Chioma Ukpabi is a visionary social entrepreneur and change-maker. As the Founder of Skill Up With Kahdsole (SUWK), she is dedicated to reducing inequality and creating access to opportunities for marginalised Nigerian young people. Her passion for social impact and commitment to empowering marginalised communities drive her mission to bridge the opportunity gap and foster a more inclusive society. Through SUWK, Chioma is making a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of beneficiaries, transforming their future prospects and inspiring positive change. As the founder of Skill Up With Kahdsole (SUWK), Chioma actively contributes to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality) by establishing a dynamic social tech enterprise. Through vocational centres and an innovative marketplace platform, SUWK provides skills training and economic opportunities to underserved Nigerian youth.

Chioma was inspired to create Skill Up With Kahdsole (SUWK) due to her deep concern for the inequalities and limited opportunities faced by young individuals in underserved communities in Nigeria. After discovering the potential and talent within these communities, she was driven to take action and create a platform for empowering youth through skills training and economic inclusivity. The vision of reducing inequality and transforming lives motivated her to establish SUWK, leveraging her passion for social impact and entrepreneurship. By addressing the root causes of inequality and fostering sustainable change, Chioma is committed to contributing to SDG 10 and empowering Nigerian youth for a better future.
Elona Erezi is a management consultant with expertise in climate change, health system strengthening, and project management. She has participated in global efforts to build climate-forward solutions as a delegate to COY17 and COP27, advocating for mitigation, adaptation, and climate financing, in the global south. Elona leads the implementation of impactful programs and interventions by utilizing her technical skills in policy formulation, program design and evaluation and contributing to working texts and documents within YOUNGO. She is a board member of IGNITE including several youth networks, namely YCHN, CSDevNet, YOUNGO, YALI, SDG7 YC, UN1FY and an OMYV fellow at FES.

The statement made by UN Secretary-General António Guterres on the 27th of July, 2023, “The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived,” gives profound context to Elona’s inspiration for climate action. This compelling declaration backs her commitment to addressing climate change on various fronts. Elona’s focus remains unwavering on driving concrete action for SDG 13. Recognizing that climate change significantly impacts all other SDGs, she is dedicated to prioritizing people and the planet over profit, as we confront challenges like climate mobility, weakened health systems, loss of livelihood and poor access to clean water.
Morenikejimi Olaniran is a child advocate who has six years experience collaborating with organisations on projects involving education, child welfare, and child abuse. The MO Reusable Pad Project reaches out to underserved and underprivileged communities to educate young women and girls on how to make, use, and maintain reusable pads. Morenikejimi received her bachelor's degree in Child Development and Family Psychology from Olabisi Onabanjo University. Over the years, she collaborated with organisations that support children, particularly girls. She has also worked with Child Protection Network Nigeria and Today Orphans Empowerment Society among others. Her goal is to increase access to quality education, eradicate period poverty, and enhance quality of life in her community and environment. Morenikejimi strives for a society where young girls can thrive to be better, a Nigeria where underprivileged girls won’t have to dread their menstruation.

MOTIVATION

As a young girl growing up, Morenikejimi did not have access to sanitary pads and had to use notebooks and other unhealthy items to stay clean which was not effective. This has shaped her life and having to see underserved girls and women go through the same challenge made her ponder on a way to mitigate the situation and give back to her community.
Saba Abd-Basit Olanrewaju is a poet, activist, motivational speaker, an advocate for sustainable development goal 13 (CLIMATE ACTION), waste management and recycling. He is also a Lagos state youth ambassador, a global youth ambassador at Their World UK.

Through his environmental sensitization and sanitation projects, tagged "Climate and Environment," actively engages secondary school students, instilling in them a profound understanding of SDG 13 and its significance in combating climate change. Saba, in collaboration with the prestigious Carrington Youth Week, has organised impactful environmental sensitization webinars, creating a ripple effect of awareness, with attendees certified by the esteemed US Consulate. Saba contributes to achieving SDG 13 by driving change through education and action. To ensure lasting impact, he has established environmental societies in these schools, empowering the next generation to carry the torch of advocacy for SDG 13. Saba remains committed to his goals as he continually volunteers in tree planting projects and beach cleaning initiatives, epitomizing my commitment to hands-on environmental action.

MOTIVATION

As a resident of Lagos state, Saba noticed the unbearable sight of improperly disposed waste tainting the beautiful city. The streets were filled with litter, and it became obvious that lack of awareness was a major contributing factor. Pushed by this environmental crisis, he felt an inner calling to take action. The profound desire to create change and make a positive impact on his community sparked the birth of his initiative - Climate and Environment. Saba envisioned a cleaner, greener Lagos, where every individual understood the importance of proper waste disposal and its impact on the environment. This driving force pushed him to embark on the journey of environmental advocacy and sensitization, determined to transform his city for the better.
Lawi Justice is a social innovator determined to improve the well-being of vulnerable people across the world. Through his work in eliminating hunger, promoting quality education and advocating for gender equality, he has brought significant positive changes in the lives of the people he serves. Lawi’s undying commitment to his work has helped him become a driving force in the fight against poverty, social injustice, and inequality. His passion, hard work, and innovation in creating meaningful solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges have established him as a leader in the field of social entrepreneurship. Lawi established the ZeroProject which provides nutritious meals and raw foods for low-income households to help alleviate hunger, skill acquisition to empower women and youth in the underserved community to help them build a sustainable livelihood, engaging and partnering with local farmers, to cultivate crops to ensure the sustainability of the project.

**MOTIVATION**

The rising inflation rate has led to a rise in the cost of food and living in general, making more families poorer and poorer, this is eminent in the lives of families of the underserved Mararaba community of Nasarawa state where many families could barely afford a square meal a day leading to malnutrition. This challenged Lawi to start project Zero as a way to combat the food crisis in his community.
Abdulsamad Abdulrasheed studied Geography and Environmental Management at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and has a keen interest in sustainable development. Through his entrepreneurial ventures, advocacy efforts, and commitment to innovation, he aims to contribute significantly to the advancement of society and environmental stewardship. Abdulsamad has spearheaded initiatives to promote innovation and knowledge sharing by organising workshops and training programs, inviting aspiring entrepreneurs and young talents to learn about the latest design and printing technologies. Abdulsamad actively engages with local businesses and startups, offering pro bono design and branding services to promising ventures with limited resources.

The inspiration behind Abdulsamad starting these actions stems from his belief in the transformative power of creativity, innovation, and technology. Witnessing the immense potential that graphic design, printing, branding, gift making, and photography have in driving positive change, he felt a strong desire to utilize these skills for the greater good. The Sustainable Development Goals served as a guiding framework, motivating him to align his entrepreneurial journey with a higher purpose.
Shede Habila is a climate action advocate who has set up initiatives to mitigate the climate change crisis in his community and world at large. This drive led him to organize an awareness campaign on climate change which later transformed to be part of his sacred action project submitted to the Center for Climate Justice and Faith at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. The project tagged Climate Action and Mitigation Sustainability Initiative (CAMSI-Project) was later launched with the supporting grant from the Seminary. Through his initiative, he promoted sustainable practices by engaging with the locals as well as encouraging sustainable practices such as Community garden, advising communities to reduce food waste by planning meals and also supporting local and sustainable food production and consumption. Shede is committed to reducing the effects of climate change and also launched a tree planting campaign to help in addressing the harmful impacts of climate change, 350 trees are planted in various communities as an example to encourage community members to do more.

MOTIVATION

Shede’s journey into climate justice action originated from his childhood being born and brought up in the village where he enjoyed the freedom and liberty of enjoying God's beautiful creation and gift of nature. His passion and love for nature grew day by day, however, he suddenly began to notice that his community was experiencing a shift and change that led to the destruction of biodiversities. The community also experienced shortage of water for drinking and other domestic purposes. After taking a course on Climate Justice and Faith at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Shede was exposed to the fact that climate change related issues are human induced, and therefore human beings must account for their actions. Therefore what is happening in our world today is as a result of our own actions. Therefore it is our responsibility to speak-out, to take action, and also push for more climate justice solutions.
Onyinye is a law graduate, and a social innovator. She is the founder of LAWSANAID, an initiative that provides an enabling platform and access to a better and quality education for law and aspiring law students with disabilities in Africa. She also founded Kate Centre for Arts and Creativity (KACAC), an organisation that inspires, grooms and promotes creativity and innovation among teens and youths. She is very passionate about the SDGs, especially SDG 4, and has received an award from the United Nations for her contribution to the attainment of the UN SDG 4. Onyinye has several certificates and awards to her credit, including from the prestigious Harvard University, and the Diana award. She is keen and champions discussions on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She is a Queen’s Commonwealth Trust (QCT) Young Leader, a Theirworld Global Youth Ambassador, and a 2022 GE’DA fellow - an initiative of Donors for Africa and Meta. She has volunteered with several international organisations, and has attended several conferences with the United Nations, European Union, Youth Assembly, among others. Onyinye is a certified Arbitrator and Mediator with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) (UK), and Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC). Through LAWSANAID, Onyinye works to ensure persons with disabilities have access to quality education by providing them with opportunities, and resources to ensure their all round growth and development and prepare them for the workforce.

MOTIVATION

Onyinye witnessed a relative denied access to quality education for being a person living with disabilities. This propelled her interest in education as it relates to persons living with disabilities. I resolved at that moment to assist students living with disabilities achieve their goals, and have a fulfilled life through Education. Onyinye has since focused on the UN SDG 4, especially Targets 4.1 and 4.5 by ensuring everyone has access to quality and equitable education including persons with disabilities.
ALIYU Abdullahi Kure

Founder, Lapai Innovation Lab and Lapai Tv

Aliyu Abdullahi kure, is a socio-preneur, a digital Business Innovator, a blogger, an Environmentalist and a serial volunteer. He adopted digital creativity and innovation in bringing the Lapai community to the spotlight by training over 300 less privileged and orphans on makeup, bag making and baking. He also engaged in tree planting to combat climate change, erosion among others. Aliyu offered free home academic lessons and basic skills acquisition for 225 pupils during the public school teachers strike which lasted for a complete term. Aliyu also initiated the Safe Zone, a safe crossing path for pupils using major highways to access their schools.

MOTIVATION

The need to be successful, add value and make a difference has spurred Aliyu to create initiatives that will foster the development of his community. Having witnessed Lapai Local Government gain more digital presence through his efforts, Aliyu has become determined to see his community be a part of the digital world and experience growth in every facet.
Iresalewa Muhammed-Bello works in the financial industry and is a Communications graduate from the University of Lagos with a major in Public Relations & Advertising. Iresalewa went from co-hosting radio shows on UNILAG FM, working in TV production to healthcare fundraising. Iresalewa contributes to SDG3 by fundraising for medical expenses of sick Nigerians. Through outreaches and first aid kit distributions, she has positively impacted 130 children and 15 schools. With over $200,000 raised and 260 beneficiaries, her efforts have provided life-saving interventions to 95% of beneficiaries, covering surgeries, cancer and neonatal care. She also volunteers to support those in need. The financial assistance from Iresalewa and her team has helped fight common ailments, complex illnesses, as well as funding major surgeries and aiding safe delivery of over 40 babies. Through her involvement with NGOs and collaborating with young changemakers, she works tirelessly to promote health, access to quality education, and mentorship.

**MOTIVATION**

The loss of Iresalewa’s 9-year-old cousin to a kidney disease began her healthcare fundraising journey. Witnessing her aunt’s desperate efforts to get the best treatments, including surgery in India, only to lose him, made Iresalewa realize the role of finances in life-saving healthcare. While she was an undergraduate, Iresalewa promised to assist anyone with health-related needs, making a difference with even the smallest contribution. Little did she know this determination would lead to her creating an NGO. Through this journey, Iresalewa realized the incredible power of compassion and community.
Precious Adigwe Obayuwana is a gender advocate and entrepreneur. She works as a gender mainstreaming and inclusion programs officer with Public Private Development Center (PPDC). She founded Soteria Aid and Development, an organization that focuses on tackling various gender issues, design advocacy programs aimed at sensitizing and educating individuals on gender-based issues. Her work in the development space involves community-based mobilization, organizing and facilitating training, and leveraging digital platforms to sensitize and educate people on gender information. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Supply Chain Management, a graduate of Religious Studies from the University of Benin and currently pursuing a masters degree in Development Studies at the Nigerian Defense Academy. She believes “You can only make a difference when you show up”. Over the years, her work as a gender advocate has grown tremendously and has reached over 500 women and girls in rural communities in Northern Nigeria.

Growing up, Precious saw girls being given away in marriage against their will while being told it was the solution to their problems, of course, she soon realized it was not and only made things worse. This experience motivated Precious to dedicate herself to the fight for gender equality. She believes that girls have the right to make their own decisions about their lives, and she will not stop until they have that right. Her dedication to gender issues is born not only from passion, but also from necessity.
Roseline is an advocate for girl child empowerment and gender equality in Nigeria and has been actively championing this cause for over seven years. With a background in French Literature and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, she specializes in feminist theory, which enhances her advocacy work. Roseline has worked as a translator and interpreter for the African Union and received recognition for my contributions to Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in education and gender equality. Through public speaking, mentoring, and strategic programs, she addresses gender barriers and promotes awareness on social media and within communities. Through her project, ENGENDERS (Ending Gender Stereotypes in Schools), Roseline organizes programs and awareness campaigns in schools to sensitize students and teachers about the impact of gender stereotypes against girls and boys.

Having witnessed some educational institutions meant to promote enlightenment, perpetuate harmful gender stereotypes, Roseline was inspired to take action. She saw young girls being discouraged from leadership roles and limited by ingrained gender biases. This unsettling reality compelled her to initiate the project "ENGENDERS (Ending Gender Stereotypes in Schools)" to challenge these norms. Through programs and awareness campaigns, she aims to sensitize students and teachers about the impact of gender stereotypes, fostering a safe and inclusive space where all can thrive, regardless of societal expectations.
Covenant is a medical student of the University of Ibadan with the mission to build a conducive campus community that contributes to economic and national development. Alongside his academic pursuit, he is very passionate and heavily invested in social entrepreneurship and innovation, alongside civic engagement, with about three years of experience in volunteering and managing social impact projects. Covenant founded Students on LinkedIn, a social enterprise at the forefront of helping university students capitalize LinkedIn profitably and maximize opportunities, reaching 3000+ students in over 15 countries, for which he was recognized with the 2023 Diana Award. The Students on LinkedIn community has also grown to accommodate over 3000 users from over 20 countries. Covenant has also hosted a LinkedIn Local event in Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho to educate students on career development.

In August 2021, after coming across a fact stating that a LinkedIn URL is likely to become the new CV, Covenant decided to host a LinkedIn optimization session for my classmates which was unsuccessful. This spurred him to assess the knowledge of the general student demographic about LinkedIn, and discovered that there was a knowledge deficit as 8 out of 10 students didn’t know about LinkedIn, and as a result, have not been able to access some opportunities. Upon identification of this problem, Covenant founded “Students on LinkedIn” to bridge the knowledge gap about LinkedIn, thereby giving the needed leverage students need for professional development and networking.
Ayodele Ayo-Akande, also known as AY Nigeria, is an accomplished Speakingpreneur, Broadcast Journalist, and Tech and Governance Pundit. He hails from Igede in Ekiti State, Nigeria. With over 8 years of professional experience in broadcast media, AY Nigeria has worked with notable organisations such as DAAR Communications Yenega and NewCruse 92.7FM. He now manages his private media outfit, The AY Nigeria Media Company, which gained recognition for promoting youth participation in the political process during the Ekiti State gubernatorial elections. AY Nigeria has received numerous awards for his work in the broadcast media industry. He is also a renowned MC and social media influencer, promoting various brands and causes. Additionally, he serves as a He 4 She Ambassador and Vice President of The Convergence. AY Nigeria’s dedication to a better Nigeria and African continent shines through his advocacy and impactful work.

Ayodele during his NYSC in 2016, noticed a rise in obscenity, teenage prostitution, and a concerning silence on the growing incidents of rape and abuse. Upon investigation, he found a link to the tragic events that occurred years earlier in Odi, a suburb of Bayelsa state. The Nigerian military’s devastating actions and rumors of rape and murder had driven an increase in wayward behavior. Having experienced similar hardships myself, Ayodele felt compelled to take action and change this distressing situation, leading to the birth of his initiative.
Peace Kpaba is an advanced digital literacy tutor and a climate champion. He dedicated his time to teaching kids, teens, youth and vulnerable groups through a digital program hackathon. He actively supports donations to schools and is a climate change supporter. He has partnered with organisations to promote the global goals and trained over 700 youths in graphic design, employability skill, web design, content creation and scratch programming for kids and vulnerable groups. He is also a climate change advocate in schools in Nasarawa State communities on plastic recycling, waste to energy and keeping a safe earth.

MOTIVATION

Peace Kpaba noted his passion as a driving force and draws inspiration from global leaders/institutions such as Tony Elumelu, American Innovation and Support, and his faith in Jesus Christ. He actively participated in several high school digital and climate projects such as The High School Digital literacy program for the vulnerable at ERCC school for deaf and dumb, Akwanga, Nasarawa State, Climate Change and Wash Project in Akwanga community and has taught 1,000 to 1,500 employability skill in tech and office via Tech4Dev project, Arc - P, AKCONNECTHUB and Nasarawa Tech Bro in Lafia, Nasarawa state.
Ifebuchechukwu, an adept social Innovator and the Founder of Touch to Heal Initiative, is a serial volunteer who is passionate about solving gender-related issues. With over 5 years experience that cuts across Humanitarian interventions, working on issues of governance, justice systems, gender and sustainable communities. Skilled in program development, project Management, etc. She has managed a highly transformational project amongst which is submitting a policy report to the Enugu state government on Gender Inclusion. She also coordinated the youths in League of Women Voters of Nigeria Enugu to strengthen the work of gender inclusion in Enugu state. She created a girl's hub in 4 Tertiary institutions within the City of Enugu state Nigeria as a support group for Gender inclusion advocacy in Student Union Government of these campuses.

MOTIVATION

The under-representation of female students in the Student Union Government of University of Nigeria, Nsukka) and in different sectors of Nigeria leadership inspired her to start advocacy for women inclusion in different sectors of life. Motivated to advocate on gender-related matters due to certain cultural norms that endangers the welfare of girls and women. She volunteered for social impact projects after discovering that volunteering services creates positive and sustainable change without government intervention. She carries out training for girls aimed at increasing their passion for leadership and politics and organised digital governance campaigns online and offline.
ZAKARI Emmanuel
Lead ARTvocacy Movement, Street Project Foundation

Zakari Emmanuel is an award-winning youth leader, deeply connected to a diverse community of over 1000 young people. With heartfelt poetry, he compassionately promotes the SDGs in Nigeria. As the creative lead of ARTvocacy Movement, he harnesses his artistic talents to tackle development issues and foster democratic engagement among youths in Nigeria. Being a feminist, author, and community organiser, Zakari genuinely inspires action on social justice and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within Nigerian youth. Through the power of his poetry, he amplifies the voices of marginalised communities, igniting cross-cultural dialogues and propelling policy advancements. Zakari’s debut book, "The Autopsy (A Poetic Compendium)," received the prestigious Book for Peace Award in Rome, Italy, in 2020. Embracing the role of a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, he wholeheartedly empowers marginalised communities to access inclusive participatory governance and essential public services.

Zakari was spurred to action after witnessing the dreams of young adults in his community in Gwagwalada, Abuja shattered due to societal setbacks. This filled him with empathy and a burning desire to make a positive change. Their struggles and aspirations fuel his determination to use his creative talents and leadership to raise awareness about the SDGs and inspire meaningful action. It is a journey filled with empathy and hope, as we work together to build a brighter future for everyone. Through his play, he addressed themes on gender equality, access to education, and environmental sustainability, weaving them into a compelling narrative that resonated with the audience’s emotions. Additionally, he led his team to produce a 16-episode podcast series, delving into each SDG and discussing their relevance in our local context. Through insightful interviews, personal anecdotes, and thought-provoking discussions, he aims to empower his listeners to take meaningful actions towards the SDGs in their daily lives.
VICTOR Chimezie

Founder and Team Lead, Mind Reformers Network

Victor is a passionate Peacebuilder, youth inclusion advocate and a personal development advocate with passion towards achieving a safer and a saner world for all. He is a Dettol Hygiene Champion 2021, Institute for Economics and Peace Ambassador 2019, Yiaga Africa Community Organizer, a Commonwealth Correspondent, United States Institute for Peace Generation Change Fellow and a Rotary Positive Peace Activator. He is the Founder and Team Lead at Mind Reformers Network where he helps to inspire young people into peacebuilding and has led the team to reach thousands of young people across seven Nigerian cities in Peacebuilding projects. Victor has made initiatives such as; a Peace Talk with students against social vices in collaboration with the office of the Special Adviser to the Governor of Cross River State on Youths and reached 1500 students in Calabar (June - July 2017), Peace outreach at Bakassi IDP Camp Calabar where his team reached about 500 displaced persons with support and words of encouragement in partnership with Hype Foundation Calabar (August 2017), organized the Mind Empowerment Summit in partnership with Hit FM Calabar and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Governor of Cross River State on Youths and Students Affairs to reach youths on peacebuilding and countering vices with about 100 youths in attendance SDGs for Peace online training (via WhatsApp) to educate 120 African youths from six African countries on the SDGs (March 2018), Victor also facilitated and organized a Peace-building and Anti Hate Speech workshop for 30 youths in partnership with Commonwealth Youth Peace Ambassadors Network at the University of Calabar (May 2018).

MOTIVATION

As a resident of Kaduna, Victor experienced the Sharia clash in 2000 with about 5000 Nigerians reported dead due to the religious clash. Victor luckily was able to escape the crisis with his family. This incident, coupled with the insecurity challenge in the country which has worsened in recent times with youths being used and manipulated as instruments of violence and extremism and terrorism has inspired Victor to get more young people to choose peace and work towards achieving tranquillity in the county.
Afeez is a Serial Entrepreneur and Educator and co-founder of 247 Entrepreneurship Express focusing on human and agricultural development in Nigeria. He is also a farmer who is passionate about waste to wealth and renewable energy. To curb the alarming rate at which trees/vegetation which are natural carbon sink, were fast disappearing. In May 2023, he was part of the seed drive and tree planting exercise focused on afforestation, flood mitigation and climate awareness and advocacy programs in Kwara state. KAROM Global hosted The Zero Visa Africa program, the event enlightened Africa business owners on the need to work accurately with data and correct data interpretation. It targeted North Central Nigerian Youth and business mogul, engaged youths and villagers in planting, processing and production of crops thereby creating jobs at Tapa-Ayetoro Oja, Oke-Oyi. The organisation built partnership with ICOYACA (Independent Continental Youth Advisory Council On AfCFTA) and has participated with MoBririmah foundation in the distribution of fertilisers to farmers in the local government area reaching 500 potential farmers in the state.

"Ti owo ebi ba yo, ise bu se" which means when hunger is out of it, worries and work are half solved. This quote by his grandmother inspired him to become a farmer. To save the unborn from hunger, Afeez dedicated his time and efforts to educate parents and young people on farm production processes and healthy organic farm produce.
The Youth SDGs Spotlight stands as a testament to the incredible potential of young Nigerians to catalyze change, shape narratives, and drive progress on the path to achieving the SDGs. Through the lens of their creativity, passion, and unwavering commitment, the stories and initiatives showcased within this compendium illuminate a brighter future - one where the meaningful engagement of Nigerian youth are at the forefront of sustainable development.

From advocating for climate action to championing gender equality, from innovating for economic growth to fostering inclusive communities, young people have taken centre stage in addressing some of the most pressing challenges of our time. Each story serves as an inspiration, demonstrating that age is not a barrier to making a profound impact.

As we close the pages of this compendium, we are reminded that youth engagement in the SDGs is not a fleeting trend, but a transformative movement that transcends boundaries and unites actions. The initiatives, projects, and experiences shared here affirm that when young people are empowered with the right resources, opportunities, and platforms, they become agents of change, contributing to a more equitable, sustainable, and just Nigeria.

However, our journey is far from over. Challenges persist, and there is still work to be done. The stories shared here are young people who have gone against the odds and they are faced with obstacles like limited access to resources, policy barriers, and societal norms that stifle their potential. It is important that government, private sector and international development partners address these challenges, support the agency of youth and to create environments where their contributions are recognized and valued.

In the spirit of the SDGs, the Youth SDGs Spotlight calls us to action. It encourages youth stakeholders to invest in the capabilities of youth, provide platforms for their ideas to flourish, and actively involve them in decision-making processes that shape our collective future.

As we look ahead, let us remember that the youth are not just leaders of tomorrow; they are leaders of today. They are carving out a path towards a Nigeria where sustainability, equity, and prosperity intertwine. The stories within this compendium serve as a reminder that their aspirations, determinations, and ingenuity are a beacon of hope that guides us towards a more sustainable and inclusive tomorrow.

Let us embrace the power of youth driven change, for it is through their dedication that we can transform the SDGs from aspirations to reality. Let us continue to support, celebrate, and amplify the agency of youth as they lead us towards a brighter, more sustainable future.