

NIGERIA
YOUTH
FUTURES
FUND



2024 REACH REPORT

JANUARY 2025



Acronyms and Their Meanings

NYFF	Nigeria Youth Futures Fund
YLP	Youth Leadership Programme
IFWG	Imaginative Futures Working Group
YLDF	Youth Leadership Development Fund
YLDP	Youth Leadership Development Programme
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NYP	National Youth Policy
NWW	Nigeria We Want
ABU	Ahmadu Bello University
LAUTECH	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology
FTCs	Fiscal Transparency Champions
FUTA	Federal University of Technology Akure

CONTENT

REACH Summary 4

- 2022-2024 REACH
- 2024 REACH

About the Project, Mission, Vision and Pillars 9

Our work across different pillars 12

- National Visioning Process
- Youth Leadership Development: YLDFund and YLDP
- Online and Media Engagement

Major Event Highlights 16

Success Stories 23

Partnership and Collaboration 31


- Funder
- Grantees

REACH SUMMARY

2022-2024 REACH




Grant Awarded ↓




456

Total Number of Grants Awarded




110

Individual grants Awarded





196

Change Project Awarded




79

Development grants Awarded

25 Agile grant Awarded


40

Action grants Awarded



6 Catalyst grant Awarded

63% of all grantees have never accessed a grant before.




Policy Briefs/knowledge Products Developed

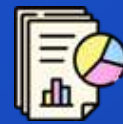
The Nigeria We Want Report



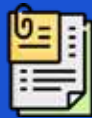
5 Policy briefs on Accountability and transparency



2 Policy briefs on Student Leadership Development



2 Policy briefs on Peace



3 Policy briefs on Education Reform



Inclusive Election Training Manual



Curriculum for Tech Sis for Governance Project



Factsheet on Youth and Women candidacy in the Northeast Nigeria



FCT Youth Policy Memo



Good Governance Club Manual



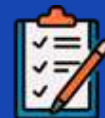
Voter Education and Sensitization (VES) Guide



Curriculum & Training Document for Leadership among Women



5 major aspirations of young people have been successfully mainstreamed into the Government Plans.





7690

Trained Emerging Activists



30

emerging
young political
leaders



650

Youths trained on advocacy



395

youths trained on
community
engagement



6035

youths trained
on project
implementation



580

youths trained on
accountability and
project tracking



8 Digital Innovation Development Supported by NYFF for Civic Engagement



Oyo Progress Watch

An accountability platform that tracks the project implementation status of government-funded projects in Oyo state.



Election Violence Monitoring Platform



Citizen Reporting Cross Platform



Osun OpenLG Project tracking Platform

Access360: A Disability Inclusion Matrix Platform



Youth Activities Dashboard



Multiplier effects: 10% of the grantee have leveraged the support from NYFF to access more support/funding from other organizations.



Government Performance Reporting System (GPRS)

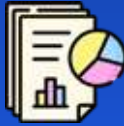


Grassroot Advocacy Project (GRAP) Platform

2024 REACH



12



Policy Briefs/
knowledge
Products
Developed

173

Grants
Awarded



3,966

Emerging
Activists
trained

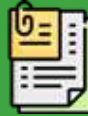


6



Digital Innovations
Supported by
NYFF for Civic
Engagement

2



major creative works
produced from the
Nigeria We Want
Report

Nigeria We Want
reported disseminated
to 45% of the MDAs
at National and State
levels

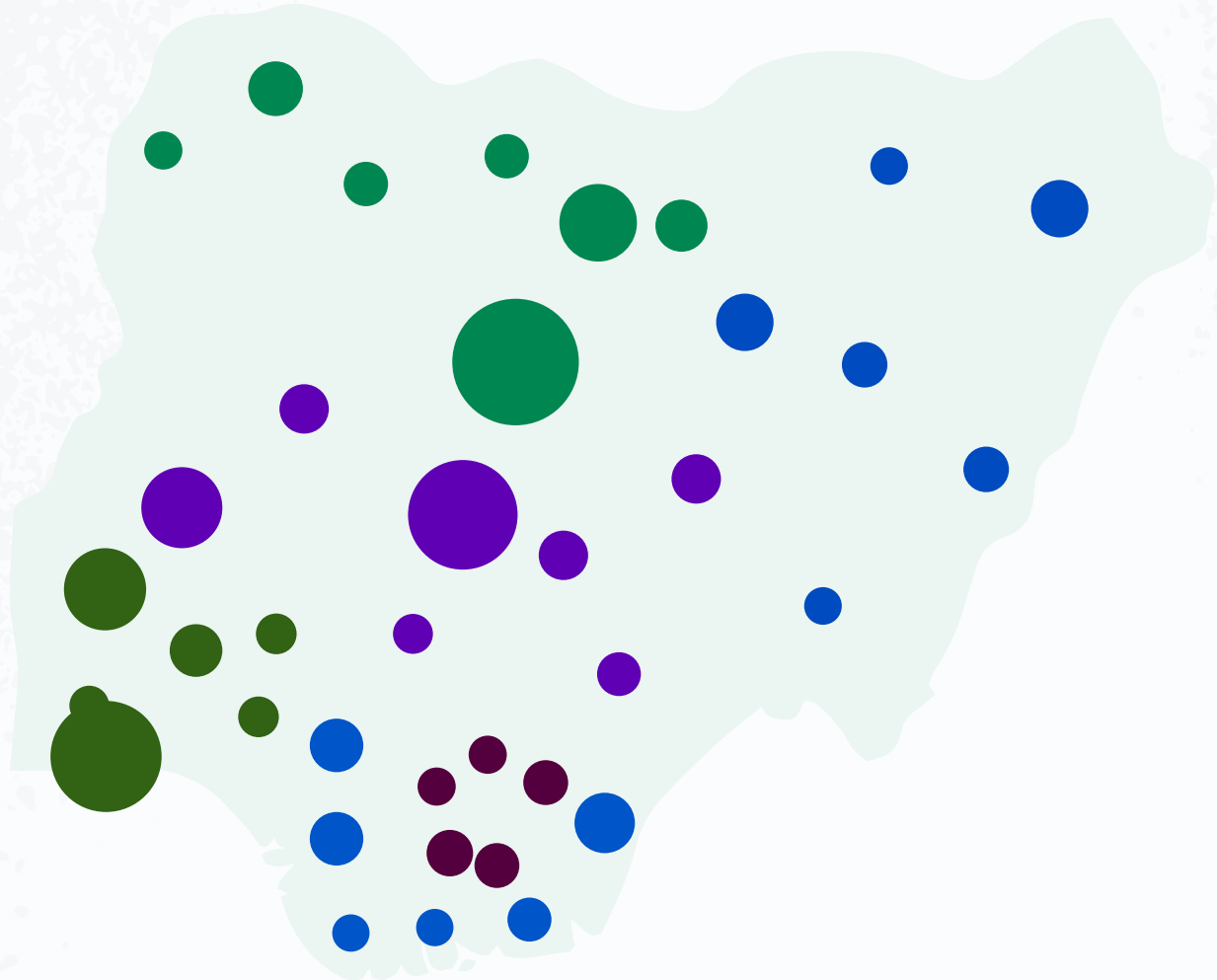
60%

of all grantees have never
accessed a grant before



Disaggregation of Grantees by State

Number of Grantees 1 • ● 14



Regions ● North West ● South West ● North Central ● North East ● South South ● South East

ABOUT THE NIGERIA YOUTH FUTURES FUND

The Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF) is a five-year collaborative project implemented by LEAP Africa and funded by Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation and Luminate Group that seeks to strengthen youth leadership in Nigeria through outcomes-driven policy engagements and inclusive resourcing that will help youth shape the medium-long term development plans of the country.

More than 70 percent of Nigeria's population is made up of young people, with estimations of continuous growth in the next few decades. The participation of Nigerian youth in leadership and politics has evolved over time. Coming from a legacy of active student unionism (1980s), where universities served as spaces for intellectual debates and youth expression, to a period of youth organizing aided by new media (2010-present), the Nigerian youth ecosystem has experienced a reawakening of some sort. The #NotTooYoungToRun campaign (2016- 2018) and the noticeable increase in youth agitation and awareness of socio-economic and political indices in Nigeria are symbolic representations of the increasing leadership capabilities of young Nigerians.

As witnessed in recent youth agitations and protests, it is evident that young Nigerians are already exploring alternative leadership and funding models aided by digital technology. However, some of these agitations have made evident some leadership, sustainability, and organizational gaps within the Nigerian youth ecosystem. LEAP Africa in partnership with Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation and Luminate Group sought to establish the Nigeria Youth Futures fund (NYFF) to provide targeted capacity building, youth ecosystem building and financial support to burgeoning youth-led movements in Nigeria, to sustain their work locally and facilitate opportunities for learning. Nigeria Youth Futures fund was inaugurated in August 2021, and the secretariat for the implementation of the major projects was constituted in March, 2022.

The NYFF is built on three pillars:



An Imaginative Futures Working Group of young people 35 years and below with the aim to develop a Nigeria Youth Agenda towards mainstreaming the policy position of young Nigerians with the country's short, medium, and long-term development goals.



Youth Leadership Development through targeted individual and organizational grants and capacity-building courses to strengthen Nigerian youth leaders and organizations



Online and Media Engagement through existing social media channels and a dedicated online platform for youth to collaboratively frame policy ideas, document histories of youth movements in Nigeria, curate outputs of national and state working groups engage in policy debates towards the realization of the #TheNigeriaWeWant.

Mission

We exist to strengthen, support and enable young people in Nigeria for youth leadership, activism, and social change through outcome-driven policy engagements and inclusive resourcing that will support youth in shaping and supporting a medium and long-term nation.

Our Objectives

1. Equip young people to re-imagine, co-create, frame and engage in national and regional policy development to drive evidence-based advocacy
2. Empower and support youth activists and innovators/organizations by building their capacity and providing small grants to enhance their development, effectiveness, and growth- leveraging ICT tools to contribute to social change.
3. Engage young people through online and media platforms to foster collaboration, learning and contribution to reimagining the Nigeria of the future

Methodology

The REACH report aggregates the data of the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF) project across different pillars and sub-implementation levels. The data was derived from the reports of the YLDF grantees and reports from focus group discussions held during regional physical monitoring exercises.

OUR WORK ACROSS DIFFERENT PILLARS

NATIONAL VISIONING PROCESS & COMMUNITY BUILDING

Brief Description:

National Visioning Exercise aimed at equipping young people to re-imagine, co-create, frame, and engage in national and regional policy development to drive evidence-based advocacy through the imaginative futures working group (IFWG). NYFF secretariate set-up the IFWG (young people) in Nigeria for outcome-driven policy engagements aimed at mainstreaming their voices into the development of Nigeria's short, medium, and long-term Agenda. The visioning process through the imaginative futures working group members produced the Nigeria We Want Document which contains the collective aspirations of the young people and serves as an advocacy and engagement tool for the young people for onward mainstreaming of the aspirations into the government plans.

The community building leverages the online and media platforms and engagements that empower the NYFF community members and other young Nigerians nationwide to collaborate and explore innovative solutions, and frame ideas for national progress, while also working to amplify youth voices by fostering inclusive conversations across media channels and creating opportunities for them to actively shape and articulate their visions for Nigeria's future.

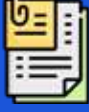


A session during the scenario convening

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE YEAR

- Joined the National Youth Policy (NYP) review committee, reviewed the National Youth Policy draft with delegates leveraging the Nigeria We Want Report, collated their responses, and shared them with the review committee and consultant.
- Continued dissemination of the report to various stakeholders at national and subnational levels.
- Participated in the Democracy Convening at Ford Foundation with the President of Ford Foundation, Minister of Youth Development, and other ecosystem players where our IFWG delegate, Fauzuddeen Mahmoud, did a presentation on the Nigeria We Want Report.
- Virtual Democracy Conversations with IFWG Members and youth ecosystem leveraging the Nigeria We Want Report.
- Month-long #TheNigeriaWeWant social media campaign. This was championed by influential voices from the media and creative sectors. The campaign engaged the public on key messaging and content aimed at national reorientation, policy and future of Nigeria.
- Organized a scenario convening with participants from creative sector, civil society and government institutions to leverage the creative industry and drive #TheNigeriaWeWant campaign.
- Gamification of the Nigeria We Want Report, which has been increasing the interest of young people and stakeholders in the report.
- Highlighted Grantees' success stories and project milestones across social media handles.
- Held virtual Xspace conversations with content creators and influencers on their role in nation building.
- Held town hall meetings with NYFF community members in some geopolitical regions.

REACH

2 

major creative works produced from the Nigeria We Want Report

50%

increase in our social media engagements through the creative promotion (gamification and scenario convening) of the Nigeria We want report




Nigeria We Want report distributed and brought to the attention of the 45% of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) at the National and State levels.

Social Media Reach

LinkedIn  **4899** followers, **97,507** Impressions, **3,035** reactions.

Facebook  **3,213** followers, **57,248** views, **78,538** accounts reached, **5,200** content interactions.

Instagram  **6,176** Followers, **52,240** accounts reached, **140,042** impressions.

X  **1,648** followers, **15,340** impressions, **4,485** reactions



47k+

reach on information sharing with community members reach

KEY LEARNINGS

- **NWW Report Revision:** The Nigeria We Want report was produced in the year 2023, many significant strategic transitional activities had happened at the national and subnational levels since the production of the document. Hence, the need to revise the document and produce a second volume which will closely resonate with the present realities.
- **Wider Reach of the IFWG:** There is a need to consider wider reach of the Imaginative Futures Working Group (IFWG), the present representation is 3 per state, having more people across the local environment will strengthen the local reach of the NYFF project and respond to the growing concerns in the local communities.
- **Creative Sector support in the promotion of NWW report:** The creative industry has proved to be greatly influencing the young people and there is a need to properly leverage the industry for wider reach. Their influence is evident from the little support garnered during the scenario convening and the gamification of the NWW report, which improved the reach of the NWW document and NYFF media outlet.
- **Capturing of Informal Sector Youth Voices:** There is a need for intentional efforts in capturing the voices and concerns of young people in the informal sector in the new edition of the Nigeria We Want report. Although most of the infrastructural and sustainable development concerns in the 1st edition of the NWW report are related to the informal sector youth, intentional efforts in getting their feedback will unravel other concerns.
- **Adopting storytelling approach to communicate the work of the Grantees:** There is a need to harness the power of storytelling to amplify the experiences, aspirations and innovations of young Nigerians, weaving their voices into a collective narrative of progress. This would help spotlight youth-driven solutions and foster nationwide dialogue, ensuring their stories of resilience, creativity, and vision shape the blueprint for Nigeria's future.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (YLP)

Brief Description:

The Youth Leadership Development programme seeks to empower and support young people initiatives through capacity building and provision of grants to drive their initiatives. The Objectives of the Youth Leadership Programme are to:

- Support individuals and youth-led organizations with grants to enhance the development, effectiveness, and growth of youth-led development activities,
- Invest in capacity-building programmes in a range of key skills relating to social organizing and movements,
- Enroll young people in leadership programmes and mentorship to plan and implement social change initiatives.

The YLP is divided into 2 sub-pillars:

1. **Youth Leadership Development Fund (YLDFund)**
2. **Youth Leadership Development Programme (YLDP)**

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Brief Description

The Youth Leadership Development Fund seeks to provide grants to individuals and organizations in line with thematic areas of interest to drive their initiatives within the communities. The grants have two different patterns: The structured and Agile grants. The structured grants are administered through an open call for applications which has 3 categories: Small, Development and Catalyst grant. The Agile/unstructured grant is a responsive grant that responds to the needs of the ecosystem players outside the usual call for application.

ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE YEAR

- Completed and unveiled the second cohort of the NYFF grantees
- Held 2 capacity building sessions for grantees on project management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Communication, Storytelling and Branding, Advocacy, and financial Management.
- Conducted initial engagement and mentorship sessions with the grantees to strengthen their proposed projects..
- Routinely disbursed funds to grantees based on the milestones covered.
- Participated in grantees programmes and activities, provided linkage and necessary technical support to their project.
- Conducted routine check-in meetings with the grantees and monitoring exercise.
- Reviewed the agile fund applications received and engaged with the selected grantees.
- Launched and closeout Call For Application (CFA) for the 2025 grant cycle, hold 3 information sessions with the youth ecosystem on the CFA.

YLDF REACH

12 Policy Briefs /knowledge Products Developed



5 Policy briefs on Accountability and transparency

3 Policy briefs on Education Reform including inmate education

2 Policy briefs on Peace & Tolerance

2 Policy briefs on Student Leadership Development

116 Grant Awarded



50 Number of Individual grants Awarded

55 Number of Development grants Awarded

11 Number of Agile Grants Awarded

3966 Emerging Activists trained



410 young people trained on advocacy

3040 young people trained on project Implementation

70 emerging young political leaders.

249 young people trained on peace and community Engagement

267 young people trained on Accountability and Project tracking

6 Digital Innovations Development Supported by NYFF for Civic Engagement



- Access360: A Disability Inclusion Matrix Platform
- Oyo Progress Watch: An accountability platform that tracks the implementation status of government-funded projects in Oyo state.
- Citizen Reporting Cross Platform
- Osun OpenLG Project tracking Platform
- Youth Activities Dashboard

KEY LEARNINGS

- **Institutional Capacity Strengthening:** There is a need to be intentional about the institutional strengthening activities at local level, as many of the institutions benefitting from NYFF support need their capacity to be strengthened to adequately for sustainable activities. This could be achieved through the proper structuring of the catalyst grants.
- **Government Relation Skills:** Some of the grantees are struggling with the right capacity to get their aspirations/recommendations into the government plans after a lot of technical work into consolidation and composition of the aspirations. Hence, the need for special efforts to focus on building of the capacity of young people in government relations skills.
- **Adopting storytelling approach to communicate the work of the Grantees:** There is a need to harness the power of storytelling to amplify the experiences, aspirations and innovations of young Nigerians, weaving their voices into a collective narrative of progress. This would help spotlight youth-driven solutions and foster nationwide dialogue, ensuring their stories of resilience, creativity, and vision shape the blueprint for Nigeria's future.



Unveiling of the 2024 Grantees with the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and the Minister of Youth Development.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME(YLDP)

Brief Description

The YLDP programme seeks to equip young people with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to become active citizens, leaders, and contributing members of society. Also, to foster peer learning among youths from different ethnic and religious groups through clubs, coaching/mentorship platforms, and a virtual community of practice. The programme is planned to be achieved through the following key programme components: Youth Leadership Programme (Sustainability Track) and the Youth Leadership Debate Competition (Advocacy Track)

ACTIVITIES ACHIEVED WITH THE YEAR

- Equipped undergraduate students with core skills in Advocacy, Transformative Leadership, Civic Education, Community Engagement, Diversity, Tolerance, & Inclusion, Ethics and values, Public Policy, Problem Solving, and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Conducted mentoring sessions for change project leads and Sub-granted to the Change project leads.
- The Change Projects addressed Education, Health, Waste Management, Climate Change, Entrepreneurship, and IT skills, while 56 entries were received from YLDP Advocacy participants across 23 States, while 24 teams participated in the Virtual Elimination rounds of the debate competition, amplifying youth voices on national issues.
- Held debate competitions following the stages below:
 - Virtual stage
 - Regional quarterfinals at ABU Zaria, and the University of Benin
 - Semi-finals at LAUTECH, Ogbomosho
- LEAP Africa recorded a landmark collaboration with the Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni Association of Nigeria and partnered to co-host a two-day Youth Leadership Conference on 20th-21st November 2024 at Respetech Centre, Abuja, and the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja. The Youth Leadership Debates grand Finale Competition was held at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja where an audience of 510 persons comprising civil society organizations, lawmakers, and students, were reached.

YLDP REACH



746

young undergraduates were equipped with core skills in Advocacy, Transformative Leadership, Civic Education, Community Engagement, Diversity, Tolerance, & Inclusion, Ethics and values, Public Policy, Problem Solving, and Sustainable Development Goals.



57

Sustainability Pathway teams implemented Change Projects in communities located across 23 Nigerian states (Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Nassarawa, Kano, Katsina, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Sokoto and Zamfara), reaching 17,134 beneficiaries directly and 125,250 beneficiaries via radio.



55%
Male



45%
Females



4%
Persons with
Disability

PROGRAMME REACH



57 Sustainability
Track teams



24 Advocacy track
teams (debates)



23 Nigerian states reaching **17,134** beneficiaries directly and **125,250** beneficiaries via radio.

Projects addressed Education, Health, Waste Management, Climate Change, Entrepreneurship, and IT skills.

KEY LEARNINGS

- The conference inspired young change-makers, promoted community development, and featured sessions on youth governance participation and networking. Awards were presented to top Change teams from Alex-Ekwueme Federal University, Ebonyi, and the University of Uyo, as well as debate prizes to the top three winners at the National Assembly, Abuja, by Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, Speaker of the House of Representatives, who was highly impressed by the debaters' performance and commended the initiative.
- 99.6% of participants conveyed positive feedback and a renewed mindset of personal responsibility to contribute towards nation-building highlighting the programme's profound impact.



SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

“ Localisation of the #TheNigeriaWeWant Report for grassroots advocacy through the #TheBenueWeWant policy brief” ~ **Lucky Owoicho (Individual grantee)** ”

“Beta Government Project achieved the official integration of the Fiscal Transparency Champions (FTCs) into the Ekiti State’s Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan for 2023 - 2025. The FTCs were trained and deployed to monitor government government-funded projects at the community level. Their reports on the status of various projects, including the discovery of completed, abandoned and implemented school projects, have provided valuable data for policymakers. This success led to the state’s decision to institutionalize their role in monitoring government projects as part of the OGP”. ~ **Inspiration Care and Development Centre (Development Grantee)** ”

“Got approval from the Oyo State Government for the adoption of Good Governance Club into the secondary schools system of the state” ~ **Seyi Adisa Development Initiative (Development Grantee)** ”

“Through the project, participants and leaders conducted six advocacy visits to various state actors and stakeholders in an effort to create opportunities for youth active participation in politics, which successfully secured us accreditation as election observers for the local government election on October 23, 2024.” ~ **Victory Ezeka (Individual Grantee)** ”

“My project titled: emPowered trained 100 young people on education and professional skills towards civic engagement. Some of the fellows were able to secure undergraduate scholarships to the tune of \$13,000 including prestigious academic awards such as Google generation Scholarship and Wells Mountain Initiative Scholarship.” ~ **Muhammad Adeyemi (An Individual Grantee)** ”

“

“In September 2024, following our continuous advocacy, the recommendations of our research policy memo funded by NYFF was adopted by YouthHub Africa and FCTA Youth Department for the completion of the FCT Youth Policy 2024-2028.
~ [PROMAD Infotech Foundation \(Development Grantee\)](#)

”

“

“Through our project, we advocated the Anambra State House of Assembly for the adoption of the "Protection of Persons Living with HIV and Affected by AIDS Bill, 2024" during its session on November 5, 2024. This Bill aims to protect persons living with HIV/AIDS from discrimination and ensures access to care and support services, marking a pivotal step towards safeguarding the rights of this vulnerable population.” ~ [Catch Them Young Community Initiative \(Development Grantee\)](#) Bill

”

“

“We undertook pioneering study to assess the impact of leadership and capacity-building training on secondary student leaders across the three senatorial districts of Cross River State. From our findings, we developed a 'Mandatory Prefects Leadership Training Policy' for all school prefects in the state. The impact of the Prefects Leadership Training Model resonated beyond expectations. After reviewing the model, the Chairman of the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS) called for its implementation in 26 additional schools under their jurisdiction. This partnership led to a dramatic expansion, with the organization training student leaders in 30 schools instead of the originally planned six.” ~ [Paragons Leadership Initiative \(Development Grantee\)](#). Media Link

”

“

“Our assessment of state primary healthcare and advocacy efforts to relevant stakeholders, played a pivotal role in Abia State government's renovation of 200 primary healthcare centers across the 17 LGAs in Abia State in December 2024.”~ [Progressive Abia Youth Association \(Development Grantee\)](#)

”

“

“For the first time in the history of Yobe State, a civil society organization trained Local Government Councillors on legislative functions, roles and responsibilities and public financial management. This training prepared the newly elected councillors for legislation and public financial management and oversight for project implementation.” ~ [Spotlight for Transparency and Accountability \(Development Grantee\)](#)

”

“

“YLDP motivated me to do things I could not do before. As an Introvert, I have never led a team before. However, through the YLDP sustainability track, I developed leadership skills, led my team to create a change project proposal, and secured a partnership with PUP Industries, enhancing the project's sustainability.” - **Precious Ofre (Team Lead, Team WastetoWealth, ABU Zaria)**

”

“

“Before now, I often avoided leadership responsibilities. Through the YLDP Change project, I improved my leadership and teamwork skills. I was also given a topic to lead, and I trained young teenagers at an orphanage in Benin.” - **Peculiar Igaodeyala - Team Member, TeensEvolve, University of Benin, Edo State**

”

“

“The 2024 YLDP has fueled my passion for public speaking and youth advocacy, equipping me with the resources and organisational support to confidently champion youth leadership development. My confidence level has improved, and I believe the programme has given me what I need to push for bigger stages, greater opportunities and contribute meaningfully to larger discussions that will have a higher impact on the nation as a whole.” - **Abdulqadir Ajeniya (Law Student, LASU) Finalist and Winner, Youth Leadership Debate 2024**

”

“

“Teamwork made the dream work. So for me, working with my team, I have learned how to work with people, listen and embrace other people's ideas, and communicate effectively. These are key skills required for a successful project implementation.” - **Victoria Onaji - Team Lead, Team Cleanwave, ABU Zaria**

”

“

“Before now, as a medical student, after graduation my goal was solely to treat patients. Participating in the YLDP Advocacy track ignited my passion for policymaking and nation-building. Now, I plan to combine medical practice with developing health policies to impact a broader audience.” - **Daniel Akinyiwole - 2nd Place Winner, 2024 Youth Leadership Debate (Team FUTA)**

”

“

“The YLDP has contributed to my personal growth. I learned to prioritise tasks effectively. I have also acquired leadership skills and gained confidence in leading and coordinating a team. YLDP has helped improve my ability to convey ideas and manage team dynamics.” - **Muslihat Bello - Team Lead, FiveStar Visionaries, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria**

”



Cross section of participants during the Scenario Convening



A session during the scenario convening



Award presentation to the YLDP winner by the NASS Speaker, Dr. Tajudeen Abbas



The NASS Leadership with the LEAP Africa Team at the Grand Finale of the YLDP Programme



Unveiling of the 2024 Grantees with the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and the Minister of Youth Development.



Cross-section of NYFF Staff on Monitoring Visit





Cross-section of NYFF Staff on Monitoring Visit





Town Hall Meeting with NYFF Community Members



Town Hall Meeting with NYFF community Members



The Hon. Minister of Youth with the NYFF Director at the launch of the Youth Activity Dashboard

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Project Implemented by:



Project Funded by:

MacArthur
Foundation

**Ford
Foundation**

Luminate

GRANTEES (LOGO)



NYFF REACH REPORT

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