



NIGERIA  
YOUTH  
FUTURES  
FUND



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20  
22

## NYFF END OF YEAR REPORT, 2022

NIGERIA  
YOUTH  
FUTURES  
FUND



NYFF EOY R E P O R T, 2022

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# Acronym

**NYFF** – Nigeria Youth Futures Fund

**YLD**– Youth Leadership Development

**YLP** – Youth Leadership Program

**IMFWG**–Imaginative Futures Working Group

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## Executive Summary

Through the imaginative futures working group, the national visioning process which serves as the first pillar of the project held 6 regional and 1 national visioning exercise. The regional visioning exercise covered the six geo-political zones of Nigeria. The visioning exercise was able to gather youth across those regions, enabled cohesion among the youths, gathered their vision about Nigeria, and consolidate the vision to produce #theNigeriaWeWant document, which is currently undergoing review and validation processes.

The Youth Leadership development pillar of the project, which serves as the second pillar of the project, has three divisions underneath: the Youth Leadership Fund, the Youth Leadership Program, and the Youth Leadership Debate. The Youth leadership fund seeks to subgrant individuals and organizations to carry out community projects. The system for administering the grant was developed, then a call for sub-granting applications was released, the applicants were screened, and the successful ones were selected. The 2022/2023 implementation cycle of the sub-grating started in November 2022 and continued till November 2023. The selected projects covered all the project thematic areas and spread across the country. The Youth leadership program seeks to empower and equip undergraduate students. The selected young graduates participated in the capacity-building courses and a few of them were selected to implement community projects tagged change projects. The Youth leadership debate seeks to support and build the capacity of young people. Selected students across all the regions of Nigeria participated in the debate. The debate gained a lot of traction, enabled young people to speak on #thenigeriawewant, and drive conversations among the Youth.

For the community building online and media pillar, the implementation started with a consultation and validation exercise. Organizations in the ecosystem, Youth political actors, not-too-young-to-rule actors, and a host of other relevant stakeholders were engaged. Several engagements on our social media platforms were done to showcase the project activities, more traction was derived from the engagements and facilitated relevant conversations among the Youth. A series of webinars on other project pillars were held. The community around the NYFF project, such as the imaginative futures working group, grantees, and other partners were properly structured for continued support.

# 2022 Reach Summary



**141**

Imaginative futures  
working group  
Members selected.



Held **6** regional and **1**  
National visioning retreats.



**36**

States of the Countries  
reached through sub  
granting and imaginative  
futures working group

## Participants reached



**>500**

persons through **4**  
physical programs  
conducted.



**>1 million**

persons reached  
through the online  
program.



**6800**

indirect debates  
beneficiaries



**27,163** Indirect  
YLP Beneficiaries



**130**

Subgrantees  
Selected across Nigeria



Inaugurated **>300** NYFF community  
members

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# 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 the MacArthur Foundation and Ford Foundation 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.

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 clarified some leadership, sustainability, and organizational gaps within the Nigerian youth ecosystem. Noticeable among them are weak negotiation and consensus-building methods, unclear exit strategy, inability to identify intergenerational allies, and a limited capacity to facilitate long-term engagement with existing governance or political structures. In addition, efforts by stakeholders in the Nigerian youth ecosystem are still compromised by a preference to work in silos, leading to a duplication of efforts and unsustainable results.

More than 70 percent of Nigeria's population comprises young people, with estimations of continuous growth in the next few decades. It is evident that the future development of Nigeria is linked to having an educated, skilled, healthy, and politically active youthful population involved in developing long-term policy strategies. The participation of Nigerian youth in leadership and politics has evolved. From a legacy of active student unionism (the 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.

Given a myriad of social challenges and policy failures that young Nigerians contend with, they have become increasingly poised to lead influential organizations, institutions, and groups, having built capacity from a leading change at a social level.

The African Leadership Institute report, "An Abundance of Young African Leaders but No Seat at the Table," points out that Africa does not suffer a lack of young leaders. However, many young Africans lack representation in the corridors of power. According to the report, about 700,000 young Africans have already been exposed to a level of selective leadership initiative, implying that the challenge is in harnessing these young leaders' innovation, creativity and potential.

Consequently, LEAP Africa, in partnership with MacArthur Foundation and Ford Foundation, 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 learning opportunities. The 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:

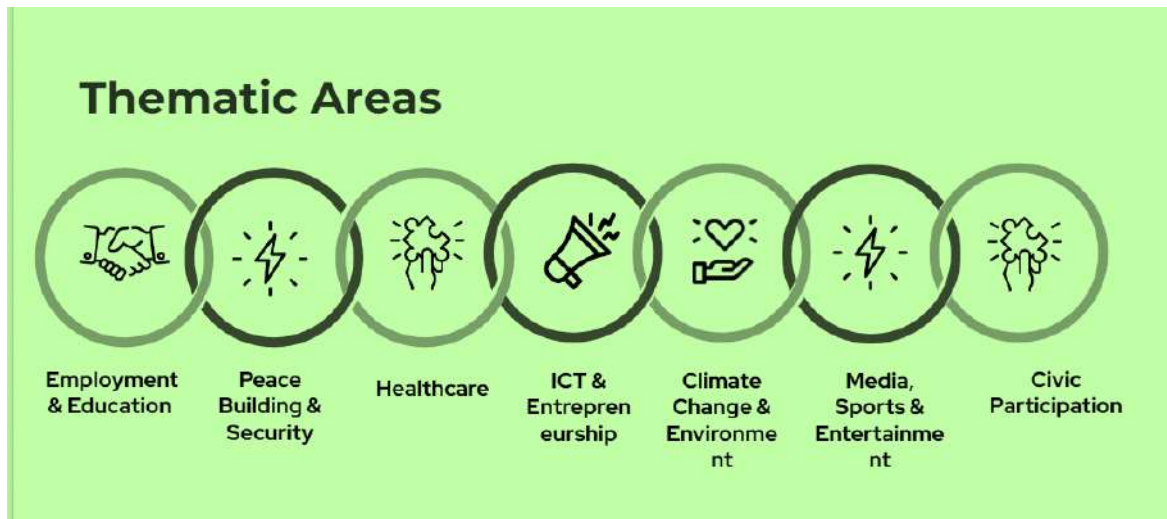
**National Visioning process** through an Imaginative Futures Working Group of young people 35 years and below to develop a Nigeria Youth Agenda towards mainstreaming the policy position of young Nigerians with the country's short, medium, and long-term development goals.

- **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 debate 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 sustaining a medium and long-term nation.

## Project Thematic Areas







# National Visioning Process

## Background

The national visioning process aims to equip 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 encountered the Imaginative futures working group (young people) in Nigeria for outcome-driven policy engagements aimed at mainstreaming their voices into developing Nigeria’s short, medium, and long-term Agenda. The visioning process through the imaginative futures working group members selected operating group members to create a document that will represent the collective aspirations of young people in Nigeria (**Nigeria Youth Agenda/Manifesto**) and for onward mainstreaming into Nigeria Agenda 2050 and other national development plans. As a short-term goal, the document is also to serve as an advocacy document for the 2023 elections leveraging Nigeria’s youth bulge.

## Activity Description

The National Visioning exercise was in 2 categories: Regional and National. The working groups consisted of 6 sub-regional groups (per geo-political zone) and a national Group whose members emerged from the sub-regional groups as representatives and Executive nomination of exceptional young people who are excelling within their profession and have a track record of contributing to Nation building within their sphere of influence. Together, the regional and the national working groups sought to deliver on the Nigeria Youth Agenda Document.

The regional imaginative futures working group consisted of inclusively selected young leaders representing each state in their geo-political region and who cut across different sectors (Public, private, and the social sector) but have in common a track record of excellence, civic participation, and identify with the youth constituency in their region. Other selection criteria include seeking young people between the age of 18-35 years with a broad understanding of the challenges faced by young Nigerians with peculiarities of their sub-regions, a nuanced understanding of the socio-political dynamics and complexities of the country, track record of activism, high-level political participation, exercise considerable influence within Nigeria youth Ecosystem, and familiarity with Nigeria’s policy space. Ultimately, as individuals and collectively, the working group members possess a palpable passion for seeing things through at community, state, and national levels through outcome-driven policy development and advocacy for the realization of #TheNigeriaWeWant, where young people are empowered and their interests mainstreamed.

## Project Reach

**123**

Regional working group members selected

**30**

National Working group members selected

**67%**

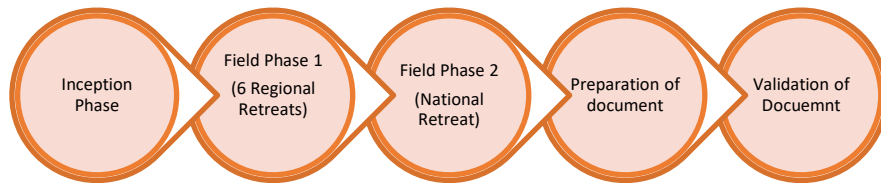
of the imaginative futures working group are male and females constitute **33%** of the representatives.

People with disability constitute **10%** of the imaginative futures working group.

Held **6** Regional and **1** National Retreats



## Processes Involved/Activity flow.



## Retreat Layout and Location

Region	States	Location of retreat	Delegates Composition	Date
<b>Northwest</b>	Jigawa Kaduna Kano Katsina Kebbi Sokoto Zamfara	Tahir Palace Hotel, Kano	21 delegates Male: 14 Female:7  PWD: 2	Oct 3rd - -6th October, 2022
<b>North-East</b>	Adamawa Bauchi Borno Gombe Taraba Yobe	Flourish Hotel, Gombe State	18 Delegates Male:13 Female: 5  PWD: 2	Oct, 9th - 12th, 2022
<b>South-West</b>	Ondo Ekiti Osun Oyo Ogun Lagos	Bon Hotel, Ibadan, Oyo State	18 delegates Male:11 Female:7 PWD: 2	16th -19th October, 2022
<b>North Central</b>	Benue Kogi Kwara Nasarawa Niger Plateau FCT	Rock view Hotel, Abuja	21 Delegates Male: 15 Female: 6  PWD: 2	23rd- 26th, October, 2022
<b>South- South</b>	Rivers Edo Delta Cross-River Bayelsa Akwa-Ibom	Ibom Icon, Hotel and Resort, Akwa-Ibom	18 Delegates Male: 14 Female: 4  PWD: 2	30th October - 2nd, November, 2022
<b>South-East</b>	Abia Anambra Ebonyi Enugu Imo	Sunshine Hotel, Enugu	15 Delegates Male:8 Female:7  PWD: 2	6th -9th November 2022
<b>National Retreat</b>	2 elected representatives from each of the 6 geopolitical zones	Bolton White Hotel, Abuja	28 delegates 12 from regions 16 from Nominations Male: 19 Female: 9  PWD: 2	20th-23rd November 2022

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## KEY LEARNINGS

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Ø **Regionalization of the visioning exercises:** The regional visioning exercise enables the NYFF project to capture regional voices to ensure inclusiveness and understanding of regional differences if there were. Likewise, the national exercise provides a national outlook on the aspirations of the Nigerian Youth constituency.

Ø **The intentionality of the Visioning Exercise:** The visioning exercise enabled a dialogue that allowed Youths to deep dive into their concerns and freely present them without hindrance.

Ø **Strengthened the NYFF Community Building:** The visioning exercise provided an enabling environment for the working group members of the Nigeria Youth Futures fund to bond and form a community around the project as well as catalyze program collaborations amongst working group members.

Ø **Enabled Youth Leadership Development:** The visioning exercise provided an opportunity to breed a new set of Youth with proper orientation on how #TheNigeriaWewant should be.

Ø **Inclusivity (6% PWDS and 33% Female):** The visioning exercise enabled people with disability to voice out their visions on #theNigeriaWewant and female. It brought to the fore the need for a more intentional approach in the gender composition of the Imaginative Futures Working group in subsequent selection to address challenges such as a lower no of young female applicants across all regions particularly in the Northern state of Nigeria

Ø **Diverse Working Group Members:** Due to the high diversity of the working group members across ethnic groups, professions, faith, social status etc, the visioning exercise was able to capture a wide range of ideas and aspirations to enrich the Nigeria We Want document



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SUBGRANT



## DESCRIPTION OF THE SUB-GRANTING ACTIVITY

Youth leadership development is one of the three pillars of the Nigeria Youth futures fund. The youth leadership development fund seeks to empower youth-led and Youth-focused organizations and individuals through subgrants for them to carry out community-based projects of different kinds. The YLDFund is structured across seven thematic areas of the project with civic participation as the major priority.

## Subgrant Project Reach

**130**

Subgrantees were selected across the 7 thematic areas.

**45%** female and **55%** male among the individual grantees

The grant structure cut across all **36** states of the country.

**6%** of the entire grants are for People with disabilities and special interest groups.

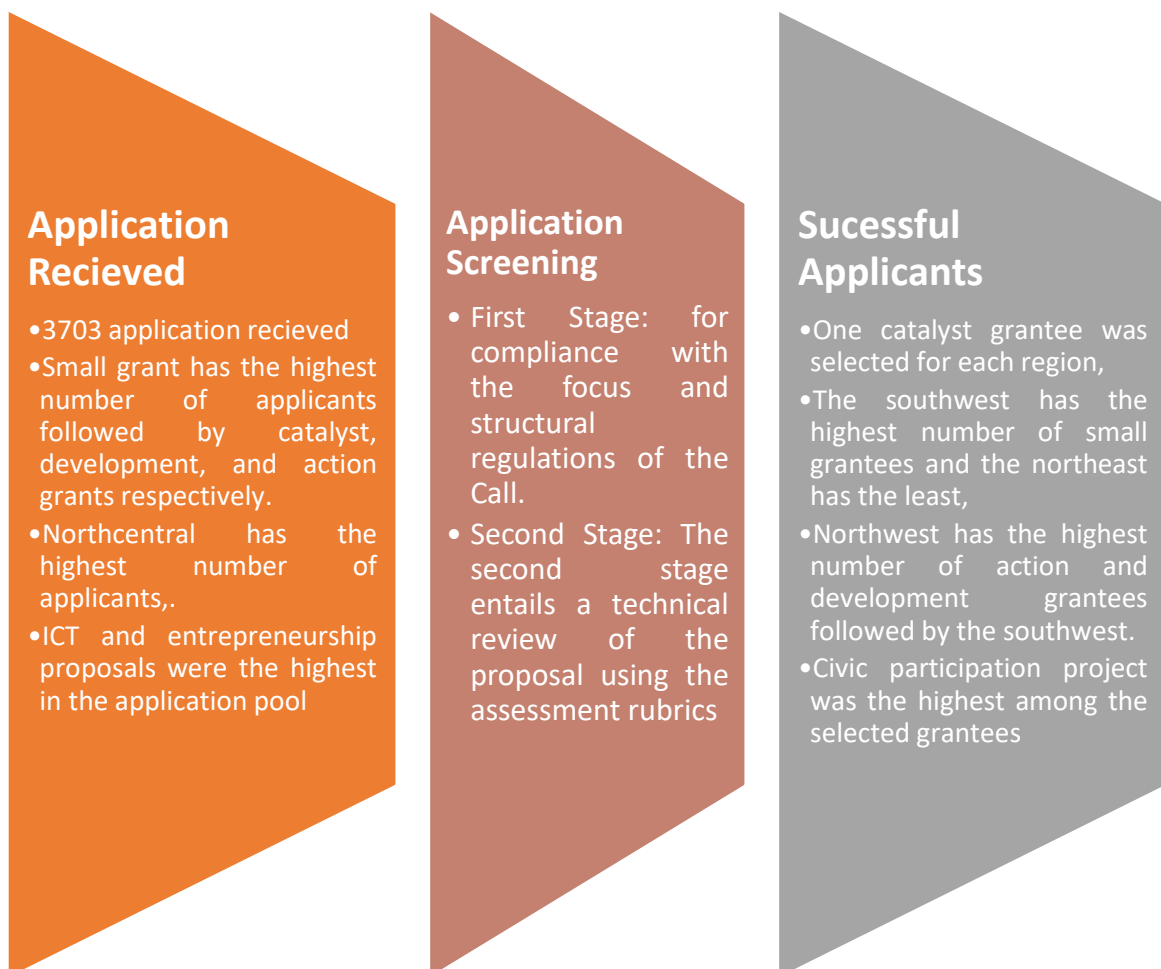
## Subgrant Target

The target of the 2022/2023 cycle of the fund is to subgrant to 130 grantees as described below:

- 60 individuals for small grants
- 40 Organizations for action grants
- 24 Organizations for development grants
- 6 Youth-hubs for catalyst grants

## Application

The general application for the 2022/2023 NYFF subgrant was released in May 2022, and the application window was open for up to two months. 3703 applications were received across different thematic areas and regions of the country. The subgrantee selection process passed through three stages: Call for application, Screening of application, and Selection of successful applicants.



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## *KEY LEARNINGS*

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### **Ø Wide range of Youth challenges in the country**

The disaggregation of the applications received across the thematic areas shows more applications from education and employment (29%) and health (12%), which reflects that Youths in Nigeria have a wide range of social issues to be addressed.

### **Ø Improved individual consciousness**

More applications were received from individual applicants (64%) compared to applications from organizations which may imply an increase in young Nigerians' consciousness of the country's development challenges and the willingness to contribute their quota through community projects.

### **Ø Low level of Youth Understanding of Community Project**

75% of the applicants were screened out at the first stage of the application, considering the application's structural compliance. This implies that many applicants failed to distinguish between a grant for a community project and a personal grant.

### **Ø Variation in Youth consciousness across the regions**

More applications were received from the North Central (22%), southwest (21%), South-south and Northeast (16%), Northwest (15%), and Southeast (10%), which may imply that the project awareness and youth consciousness are higher in regions such as North Central and southwest compared to others.

### **Ø Interwovenness of the Youth Challenges**

It is obvious that there is a wide range of challenges being faced by the Youth; the mainstreaming of civic participation across all the projects is a way of aligning to the basics of the NYFF project and allowing other social interventions to contribute to the civic space which is ultimately the bedrock of the government actions.

### **Ø Strengthened the NYFF community building**

A community is formed around the grantees, which is expected to serve as a platform for our grantees to bond, collaborate and partner with each other towards modelling the #TheNigeriaWeWant.

# YLP- Youth Leadership Program



## Brief Description

The Youth Leadership Programme (YLP) set out to empower, equip and support 3000 undergraduates with the skills, knowledge and thriving ecosystem required to become self-leaders. The goal of this programme was to provide and empowers those required to become transformative leaders and active citizens who will drive sustainable development in their communities.

### Project Reach

**504**

completed the LMS course

**1300**

active on the VCOP

**61.7%**

male participants

**38.3%**

female participants

**66%**

of the participants were between the ages of 18-2

**34%**

were between the ages of 26 - 35 years

Indirect beneficiaries

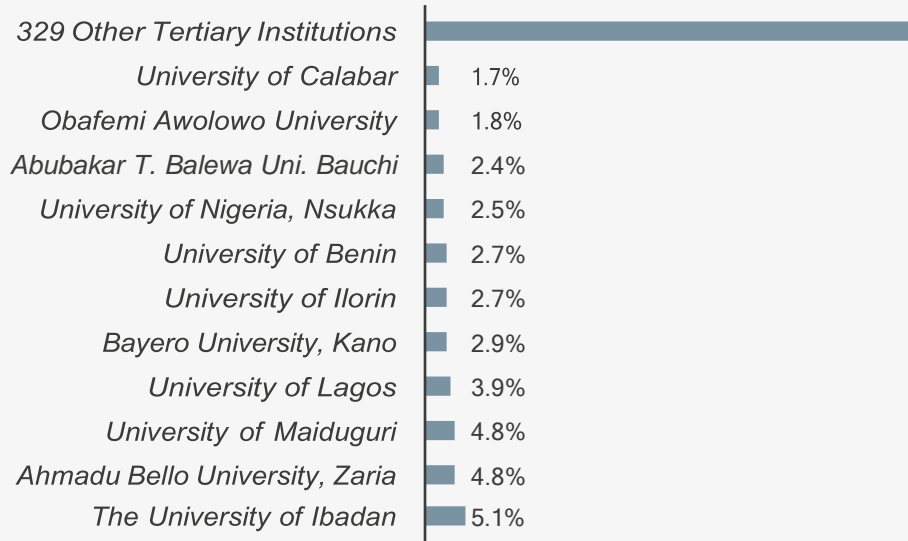
**27,163**



## Location

About 341 tertiary institutions (Universities, Polytechnics, Vocational Colleges) were represented in the youth leadership programme. Private universities had few numbers of participants in comparison with other tertiary institutions. The 3000 Participants comprises students from:

### Tertiary institutions ( Universities, Polytechnics, Vocational colleges)





# Key Learnings

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## Learning Management System

91%

percent of the respondents stated that they found the LMS easy to navigate

80% +

rated the course delivery high on a five (5) pointer rubric

This indicates that the LMS platform was helpful in delivering the curriculum. However, 24% stated that

they experience technical difficulties, network issues and data subscription. It might be useful in the long run to incorporate an LMS system that operates offline to mitigate the challenges faced by the participants.

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## Youth agency can be harnessed for community development

The change project which is a key component to the project provided a platform for young people to activate and utilize their agency. It is interesting to note that participants demonstrated a high level of motivation for community service before funding support was provided. This is an indicator that young people are interested in actively participating in community development if they are supported, equipped, and given a platform.

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## Incentives may be required to close the gender gap in leading community initiatives

The disparity between the male and female participants was significant as 61% of the participants identified as male while 39%, female. This also reflected in the leadership position for the change projects as majority (30 out of 46) of the team leads were male while the rest were female.

**However, this was compensated for as up to 70% of the deputy team leads were women.** This may be an indicator that females are not motivated to lead community development but are willing participate as members. Deliberate

and intentional efforts should be made to motivate and inspire to lead change in their communities. Evidence reveals that over 96% of the respondents indicated that social media could cause real change over time while 87% believed it can be used as an effective advocacy tool.



## Brief Description

The project was carried out in Nigeria, with the goal to support and build the capacity of young Nigerian students with necessary skills to advocate and shape their vision for the country while helping them become active citizens in their own right.

### Project Reach

**104**

students registered for the debates

At the start of the programme, 25 tertiary institutions were recorded from the responses at baseline, with more participants shown to be from Nnamdi Azikiwe University. This was closely followed by Ahmadu Bello University, Modibbo Adama University, University of Maiduguri and Babcock University in second, third, fourth and fifth position respectively.

The tertiary institutions were further categorized into federal universities (16), state universities (6), private universities (2) and training institutes (1).

Indirect beneficiaries

**6,800**



MacArthur Foundation

## Location

The programme was well represented across the six (6) geopolitical zones in Nigeria. However, the South-West region (32%) was shown to have more tertiary institutions participate on the programme. This was followed by the South-South region (16%), North central (16%), Southeast (12%), North West (12%) and North East region (12%).



# Key Learnings

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## 01

The participants shared how the project provided a platform for young people to speak on critical issues centred on challenges young people face in the economy. This was evident from the observation of the passion by which they lent their voices to speak on fundamental national issues in the country.

## 02

It was also revealed and agrees with the narrative that young people are indeed solution providers. They offer a unique perspective to certain matters thus the current advocacy for the inclusion of young people in demystifying and designing plans to improve the state of the country.

## 03

The need for adopting this participatory approach and including young people in utilizing their agency through their voices has never been more imminent in these times. This was evident as the debaters vibrantly proffered inimitable and strategic plans to solve a myriad of existing issues plaguing the country.

## 04

It was discovered that the capacity building component also played a huge role in reigniting and strengthening the skills and intellectual capacity of the participants relevant to governance.

## 05

A significant number of the debaters also agreed that the debate not only required them to speak, but also forced them to hone different skills they learnt on the programme such as the ability to research deeply to amass critical information to speak from a depth of knowledge.

## 06

The debaters demonstrated enthusiasm regarding utilizing the leadership knowledge and skills they had gotten from the programme to mobilize others to action as their next steps after the programme.

# Community building, Online, and Media Engagement



## Brief Description

- **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 realisation of the #TheNigeriaWeWant. The NYFF community is built around the NYFF (the grantees, working group members, and other partners), which provides leverage for engaging various Youths.

### Project Reach

**4**

Programs  
Organized

**>1 million**

persons reached via virtual  
and online engagement

**>500**

Persons reached directly and indirectly via physical  
programs.

NYFF  
Community  
Members

**>300**

NIGERIA  
YOUTH  
FUTURES  
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## Location

Most of the programs were administered virtually, and only the validation workshop was done physically in Abuja.

## Program Descriptions and Participant

S/N	Program	Description of Participants	Numbers of Participants
1	1st Consultative Forum	Members of civil society	50 participants
2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Consultative Forum	Young Leaders (Activist and media Personalities)	35 participants
3	Democracy Day: Conversation with the legacies of the Not-Too-Young-To-Run	Not -too-Young to Run actors	40 participants
4	Democracy Day: Advancing Youth agendas within socio-political structures	Youths in Political Space	50 participants
5	Validation Workshop	Ecosystem Partners	35 participants

# Key Learnings

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## Validation Exercise

The validation exercise prior to the visioning and launching of the call for application for grantees enabled us to gather inputs from other ecosystem partners which shaped our programs better. It also served as a medium to bring together the ecosystem partners.

## Webinars and Onboarding programs

The webinars allowed us to properly educate the grant applicants on the focus of the grants and our expectations. Likewise the onboarding of the grantees and working group members availed us the opportunity to properly educate the selected people on the mode of operation, project culture and rationale behind the community building.

## Community building

The community built around the NYFF, which include grantees, working group and other partners, has availed us the opportunity to create synergy among the NYFF actors to drive inclusive engagement at different levels, catalyzing various activities towards #TheNigeriaWeWant and ecosystem building.

## **NYFF Media Link and Publications**

**National Visioning Exercise – [Media Link](#), [Documentary](#)**

**Grants Unveiling Event - [Media Link Pictures](#)**

**National Visioning Validation Workshop – [Media Link](#)**

**Regional Retreats – [North Central](#), [North West](#), [North West](#), [South South](#), [South East](#), [South West](#)  
Newspaper -[Links](#)**

**Independence Day – [Media Link](#)**







## NYFF EOY Report, 2022

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**Compiled by:** Kamaldeen Afolabi, Opeyemi Oriniowo & Maimuna Sani