



# **2018/19 ANNUAL REPORT**

**THEME:**

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Contents	Description	
<b>List of Acronyms</b>	AFRI-CID	African Centre for Innovative Research & Development
	BCAI	Bridge Connect Africa Initiative
	CODE	Connected Development
	CSO	Civil Society Organization
	FP	Family Planning
	LEGASI	Ladies Empowerment Goals and Support Initiative
	LGAs	Local Government Areas
	MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agency
	PARC	Policy Advocacy Research and Capacity Building
	PWDs	People With Disabilities
	PRB	Population Reference Bureau
	SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
	VAPP	Violence Against Persons Prohibition
	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
YMF	Youth Multimedia Fellowship	

Our History	
Executive Message (From ED)	
Projects and Campaigns	<p>Project/Campaign: #SpeakUp</p> <p><b>Description:</b> In December 2018, our youth advocacy video project with the theme #SpeakUp was released to generate conversation about ending child marriage and the need for a legal framework to address it in Northern Nigeria. The project impact was significant, as evidenced by the organic audience of 30,000 people reached within the first two weeks of its release on Facebook and other social media platforms. These individuals were actively engaging in conversation with their safe spaces on the issue of child marriage in northern Nigeria, thereby contributing to increased awareness and understanding of the problem.</p> <p><b>Project Output:</b></p> <p>The #SpeakUp project was designed to use a participatory approach that involved creating mobile phone videos to share information about child marriage from the perspective of young people. This approach aimed to create compelling and engaging content that improved viewers' knowledge about child marriage and its effect on individuals and communities. The project output includes.</p> <p><b>1. Youth- created Mobile Phone Videos</b></p> <p>The project utilized a “for youth, by youth approach,” where young people were involved in the creation of mobile phone videos. These videos provided information about child marriage in a culturally sensitive manner, presenting a low-risk and private setting for viewers to learn about the issue.</p> <p><b>2. Social Media Platforms</b></p>

The #SpeakUp Videos were released on Facebook and other social media platforms to reach a wider audience. This approach enabled the project to generate conversations among young people and other interested parties in northern Nigeria and beyond.

### **3. International Conference Screening**

The #SpeakUp video was also screened at the booth of the Population Reference Bureau at the international conference for family planning in Rwanda in 2018. This achievement demonstrated the project's potential to reach a broader audience and contribute to the global conversation on child marriage.

#### **Project Impact:**

The #SpeakUp project achieved a significant impact by generating conversation, increasing awareness, and promoting understanding of child marriage in northern Nigeria. The Project's approach, which emphasized the participation of young people and utilized mobile phone videos to provide accessible information in a low-risk setting, effectively created engaging and compelling content that resonated with viewers. The project's impact includes:

#### **1. Increased Awareness and Understanding**

The project reached an organic audience of 30,000 people within the first two weeks of its release on Facebook and other social media platforms. These individuals engaged in conversations within their safe spaces on the issue of child marriage in northern Nigeria, thereby contributing to increased awareness and understanding of the problem.

#### **2. Facilitated Discussions**

The #SpeakUp Videos resonated with viewers and facilitated discussion on the issue of child marriage. These discussions contributed to increased awareness and understanding of the issue among young people and other interested parties in northern Nigeria.

### **3. Contribution to Global Conversations**

The #SpeakUp video was screened at the International Conference for Family Planning in Rwanda, demonstrating the project's potential to contribute to the global conversation on child marriage. The project's success in generating conversation, increasing awareness, and promoting understanding of the issue in northern Nigeria can also serve as a model for other regions facing similar challenges.

### **Conclusion**

The #SpeakUp project achieved remarkable results and impact by generating conversation, increasing awareness, and promoting understanding of child marriage in northern Nigeria. The project approach, which emphasized the participation of young people and utilized mobile phone videos accessible information in a low-risk setting effectively created engaging and compelling content that resonated with the viewers. By facilitating discussion and raising awareness, the project contributed to efforts to end child marriage and promote the need for a legal framework to address Nigeria and beyond.

### **Project/Campaign: International Day of Girl Child 2018**

Description: In October 2018, BCAI led a coalition effort with Youthhub Africa, which resulted in a significant achievement towards enhancing child protection, education, and gender equality in Kano state, Nigeria. The coalition, comprising Bridge Connect Africa Initiative and Youthhub Africa, mobilised and matched over 100 young people to the Kano State

House of Assembly to advocate for the passage of the Kano State Child Protection Bill (2018) and #AmendUBEAct.

**Project Output:**

The Output of the project was the Kano State Child Protection Bill(2018), a legislative instrument to enhance children's protection and well-being in Kano State. The bill contained provisions to ensure that children received a minimum of 12 years of compulsory education, criminalize child marriage, and provide school support for adolescent mothers. These provisions were critical in promoting children's right to education and protection from harmful cultural practices hindering their development and growth.

The project output also included creating awareness among policymakers and other stakeholders on the urgent need to prioritize the protection and education of children in Kano State. The advocacy efforts of the coalition resulted in the transmission of the Kano State Child Protection Bill(2018) to its second reading in the State House of Assembly. This was a significant milestone in promoting child rights and protection, gender equality, and education in Kano State.

**Project Impact:**

The project had a tremendous impact on the lives of children and young people in Kano State. The passage of the Kano State Child Protection Bill(2018) provided opportunities for children to access education and be protected from harmful cultural practices, thereby increasing their chances of having a better future. The legislation established measures to ensure their protection and well-being, including the criminalization of child marriage, which was a critical step toward addressing the issues of child abuse in the state.

The project also impacted gender equality in Kano State, as the bill sought to eliminate gender-based discrimination and empower adolescent mothers to pursue their education. The school provisions for adolescent mothers would encourage them to continue their education while caring for their children, reducing the dropout rate and improving their economic opportunities.

The advocacy efforts of the coalition also contributed to the promotion of child rights and protection in Kano State. The transmission of the Kano State Child Protection Bill (2018) to its second reading in the state House of Assembly demonstrated the commitment of the state government to ensuring the protection and well-being of children in the state.

Overall, the project had a significant impact on the lives of children and young people in Kano State. The passage of the Kano State Child Protection Bill (2018) was a critical step toward enhancing child protection, education, and gender equality in the State. The project also contributed to the promotion of child rights and protection in Kano State, creating awareness among policymakers and other stakeholders on the urgent need to prioritize the protection and education of children in the state.

### **Project/Campaign: Vote Your Future**

Introduction:

In 2019, we partnered with the ONE Campaign to spearhead the #VoteYourFuture Campaign in Northwest Nigeria. Our primary objective was to mobilize and engage young people in the region to actively

participate in the electoral process and advocate for better healthcare services for the most vulnerable populations.

**Achievements:**

Our efforts led to the signing of a youth declaration by 85,000 young people, which was submitted to the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The youth declaration highlighted crucial issues affecting young people, such as unemployment, education, and healthcare. Policymakers were urged to prioritize these issues in their development agenda.

Our collaboration with the ONE Campaign in Nigeria as champions for the #MakeNaijaStronger campaign resulted in a significant achievement - the injection of a 1% Consolidated Revenue Fund into the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund. This funding will provide direct funding to primary health centres in grassroots communities, thereby revamping the health sector for the most at-risk people who cannot afford healthcare.

**Impact:**

The injection of a 1% Consolidated Revenue Fund into the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund is a significant milestone in our efforts towards promoting access to quality healthcare services for the most vulnerable populations in Nigeria. This funding will ensure that primary health centres in grassroots communities are adequately equipped with the necessary resources and medical supplies to provide quality healthcare services to those in need.

Overall, our partnership with the ONE Campaign has made a significant impact on the lives of young people and vulnerable populations in Nigeria. Through our advocacy efforts, we have empowered young people to actively participate in the electoral process and advocate for better

healthcare services. The injection of funds into the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund will ensure that the most at-risk populations have access to quality healthcare services, improving their health outcomes and overall well-being.

**Conclusion:**

Our achievements in 2019 highlight the importance of partnerships and collaborations towards achieving common goals. We will continue to work with partners such as the ONE Campaign to improve the lives of vulnerable populations in Nigeria and beyond.

**Project/Campaign: #ConstructTurawa**

Introduction:

In February 2019, we, in collaboration with Connected Development (CODE), implemented a project tracking and follow-up campaign in Turawa community, Karaye local government, Kano state. Our primary objective was to advocate for the reconstruction of blocks of classrooms for the primary school in the community, focusing on achieving results and impacts that improve the educational outcomes of the 1,350 pupils.

Project Output:

Our approach to the project implementation involved a rigorous and data-driven process that utilized both primary and secondary sources of information. The CODE team mined the project's data, and we ground-truthed the information provided to ensure that the data was accurate and reliable. We held town-hall meetings with community stakeholders to create awareness and mobilize support for the project.

Project Impact/Achievement:

As of May 4th, 2019, the project was 80% completed, and the pupils could return to their classrooms. The project was completed within the stipulated timeline, and the impact of the project has been significant. The reconstructed

classrooms provide a safe and conducive learning environment, resulting in improved attendance and retention rates for pupils. Additionally, the project has contributed to the development of the community by improving the quality of education and the infrastructure in the area.

**Conclusion:**

The project was a success, and we were able to achieve our primary objective of advocating for the reconstruction of blocks of classrooms for the primary school in the community. The approach we used was rigorous and data-driven, which ensured that the project was completed within the stipulated timeline. The impact of the project has been significant, resulting in improved attendance and retention rates for pupils and contributing to the development of the community. We recommend that future projects in the community should continue to follow a data-driven approach to achieve the best results.

**Project/Campaign: Inclusive Neighbourhood Space**

**Introduction:**

From November 2018 to February 2019, our team established Inclusive Neighborhood Spaces (INS) in Dambatta and Tofa Local Governments in Kano State, Nigeria. The INS initiative aimed to address critical reproductive health issues affecting adolescent girls and young women in rural communities, focusing on menstrual hygiene, child spacing (family planning), and self-esteem to combat early child marriage. The INS program's innovative approach aimed to provide a safe space for girls to gain knowledge and life skills to promote their rights to say no to early marriage and harmful traditional practices. This report evaluates the impact of the INS initiative on promoting and protecting the reproductive health rights of adolescent girls and young women in rural communities in Nigeria.

**Project Output:**

Through targeted interventions, including education for young girls and adolescent mothers and mentorship support, INS has provided a safe space for girls to gain knowledge and life skills to promote their rights to say no to early marriage and harmful traditional practices. The program has incorporated engaging young men and community influencers in creative and peaceful dialogue about child marriage, child spacing, and positive masculinity. The INS initiative has successfully created community awareness and knowledge of child marriage and harmful practices, improved engagement by local structures to fight against child marriage, and improved reproductive health outcomes.

The INS initiative has reached over 2,000 women across nine communities, providing mentorship support and intensive life skills training workshops for girls. The program's focus on creating safe spaces, providing education and mentorship, and engaging young men and community influencers in critical conversations has effectively promoted awareness and combat harmful practices. The INS initiative has also empowered women to develop vocational skills, with over 100 women trained on soap making and petroleum jelly production and put into cooperatives based on their vocational interests.

**Project Impact/Achievement:**

The INS initiative has had a transformative impact on promoting and protecting the reproductive health rights of adolescent girls and young women in rural communities in Nigeria. The program's focus on creating safe spaces, providing education and mentorship, and engaging young men and community influencers in critical conversations has effectively promoted awareness and combat harmful practices. The INS initiative has successfully created community awareness and knowledge of child marriage and harmful practices, improved engagement by local structures to fight against child marriage, and improved reproductive health outcomes.

The INS initiative's impact has been significant, with over 2,000 women across nine communities benefiting from mentorship support and life skills training workshops. The program's approach of engaging young men and community influencers has increased community engagement and awareness of child marriage and harmful practices, leading to a reduction in early marriage and an increase in reproductive health outcomes. The INS initiative has also empowered women to develop vocational skills, providing them with economic opportunities and contributing to the development of their communities.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the INS initiative has had a transformative impact on promoting and protecting the reproductive health rights of adolescent girls and young women in rural communities in Nigeria. The program's focus on creating safe spaces, providing education and mentorship, and engaging young men and community influencers in critical conversations has effectively promoted awareness and combat harmful practices. The INS initiative has successfully created community awareness and knowledge of child marriage and harmful practices, improved engagement by local structures to fight against child marriage, and improved reproductive health outcomes.

The INS initiative has empowered women to develop vocational skills, providing them with economic opportunities and contributing to the development of their communities. We recommend that future programs in rural communities in Nigeria should incorporate INS's innovative approach of creating safe spaces, providing education and mentorship, and engaging young men and community influencers in critical conversations to achieve transformative impacts on promoting and protecting the reproductive health rights of adolescent girls and young women. The INS initiative provides a model for addressing reproductive health issues in rural communities, emphasizing the importance of community engagement, education, and mentorship.

**Project/Campaign: Empowering Women for a Healthier Future in Nigeria with Self-Injectable Contraception Videography Project**

Description: Our organisation successfully collaborated with the Population Reference Bureau and the Association for Reproductive and Family Health on a videography project to capture self-injective contraception's impact in empowering women for a healthier future in Nigeria. The project was conducted between March 21st and 22nd, 2019, in Minna, Niger State.

The primary objective of the project was to produce a video that showcases the benefits of self-injectable contraception in improving the reproductive health of women in Nigeria and how it contributes to the empowerment of women in the country. The video was also intended to serve as an advocacy tool for promoting the adoption of self-injectable contraception in Nigeria.

The project involved a rigorous process of planning, coordination, and execution, which was led by our team of experts in collaboration with the Population Reference Bureau and the Association for Reproductive and Family Health. We conducted extensive research to identify key stakeholders and participants, developed a detailed storyboard and script and mobilized the necessary resources and equipment to ensure the project's success.

During the two-day shoot, we worked with professional videographers and photographers to capture footage of women who have benefited from self-injectable contraception. We also interviewed health workers and community leaders to gather their perspectives on the impact of the intervention on women's health and empowerment.

The final video was a masterpiece that highlighted the compelling stories of women who have been empowered through access to self-injectable contraception. The video showcased how the intervention has contributed to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity rates and improved the quality of life for women in Nigeria. The video also raised awareness among policymakers, health workers, and the public on the importance of self-injectable contraception in achieving sustainable development goals.

In conclusion, the videography project was a resounding success and is a

testament to our organization's commitment to improving the health and well-being of women in Nigeria. The project has contributed to increasing the visibility of self-injectable contraception to improve women's reproductive health and empower them to take control of their lives.

## **Project/Campaign: #ConstructJataka**

### **Introduction**

In Nigeria, access to quality healthcare remains a challenge for many people, especially those in rural and remote areas. Maternal mortality rates are still high due to a lack of basic healthcare facilities, inadequate infrastructure, and poverty. As an organization committed to promoting quality maternal healthcare and reducing maternal mortality rates, we partnered with Connected Development to advocate for improved healthcare facilities in Jataka community, a remote area in Tofa, Kano state. This report highlights the results and impacts of our interventions.

### **The Need for Intervention in Jataka Community**

Jataka is a remote community in Tofa with a population of 13,460 without basic healthcare facilities. The closest accessible health facility to Jataka was Murtala Muhammed Specialist Hospital in Kano Metropolis, about 45.8km away. Due to the distance and financial constraints, many women in Jataka gave birth at home, resulting in numerous maternal deaths. The lack of a hospital in the community also led to the loss of lives to treatable and preventable diseases, with some residents unable to afford the cost of travelling to the nearest hospital.

### **Partnering with Connected Development**

In our quest to promote quality maternal healthcare and reduce maternal mortality rates, we partnered with Connected Development to advocate for improved healthcare facilities in the Jataka community. Connected Development is a non-governmental organization that advocates for

transparency and accountability in governance, with a focus on health, education, and social welfare.

Through our partnership, we developed an advocacy plan that focused on engaging policymakers and stakeholders at the local and state levels. Our plan involved conducting community outreach programs, engaging with traditional and religious leaders, and using social media platforms to raise awareness about the need for improved healthcare facilities in Jataka.

### **Achieving Results through Advocacy**

Our advocacy efforts led to the approval and disbursement of 10 million naira by the Kano state government for the building of a new Type A primary healthcare center in the community. Additionally, we secured the sum of 450 million naira for the construction of a tarred road linking the Lambu – Jataka – Yarimawa communities. These interventions have had a significant impact on the Jataka community, as discussed below.

### **Impact of Interventions**

#### 1. Construction of Primary Healthcare Center

The construction of the primary healthcare center has brought healthcare services closer to people, especially pregnant women, reducing maternal deaths. The hospital is equipped with basic facilities for antenatal care, delivery, and postnatal care. The hospital has also reduced the cost of accessing healthcare services, making it more affordable for residents. The hospital is now a referral center for other communities in Tofa and has contributed to reducing the burden on the Murtala Muhammed Specialist Hospital in Kano Metropolis.

#### 2. Construction of Tarred Road

The ongoing construction of the tarred road linking the Lambu – Jataka – Yarimawa communities has also had a significant impact on the community. The

road has made transportation easier, reducing the number of preventable deaths due to the lack of medical care. The road has also facilitated the movement of goods and services, promoting economic growth and development.

### **Conclusion**

Our interventions in the Jataka community have demonstrated the importance of advocacy in promoting quality maternal healthcare and reducing maternal mortality rates. Through our partnership with Connected Development, we were able to engage policymakers and stakeholders at the local and state levels, leading to the approval and disbursement of funds for the construction of a new primary healthcare center and a tarred road in the community. These interventions have had a significant impact on the community, reducing maternal deaths, improving access to healthcare services, and promoting economic growth and development.

### **Project/Campaign: Youth Multimedia Fellowship 2019**

Description: In 2019, we implemented a project in Nigeria to train and empower young advocates for reproductive health and child rights in Kano and Kaduna states. The project was supported by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) and the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health at Scale (PACE) and aimed to create policy commitments from leaders to support the states' Child Rights Act and youth reproductive health policies

### **Background**

Child marriage and limited access to family planning services are critical issues affecting young people in Nigeria. The Child Rights Act was signed into law in 2003 to protect children's rights and promote their welfare. However, despite this law, child marriage remains prevalent in many parts of Nigeria, and access to family planning services is limited. This situation has resulted in high maternal mortality rates, limited educational opportunities, and negative health outcomes for young people, particularly girls.

### **The Project**

The project aimed to train and empower young advocates to engage with policymakers effectively and create policy commitments from leaders to support the Child Rights Act and youth reproductive health policies in Kano and Kaduna states.

### **Training of Young Advocates**

Two teams of ten young advocates were trained in each state, receiving training on advocacy strategies and techniques to engage with policymakers effectively. The advocates were equipped with knowledge of the Child Rights Act, reproductive health, and family planning policies. They also learned how to create effective advocacy messages, build relationships with policymakers, and use social media to disseminate advocacy messages.

### **Advocacy Campaigns**

Using the skills acquired, the young advocates engaged in advocacy campaigns focused on ending child marriage and increasing access to family planning services. The advocates created videos featuring personal stories and messages from community members affected by child marriage and limited access to family planning services. These videos were disseminated through multimedia campaigns across social media platforms, reaching over one million people.

In addition, the advocates held meetings with 11 policymakers and organized film screenings across three communities in Kaduna and Kano. The policymakers engaged with the advocates and provided feedback on their advocacy messages. This engagement created a dialogue between young people and policymakers and helped to build trust and relationships.

### **Project Impact**

The project had a significant impact on policy commitments from leaders in both states. In Kano state, the Child Rights Act was domesticated as the Child

Protection Bill 2018, and the Governor made a public declaration to end child marriage by supporting girls' secondary school education. In Kaduna state, the Governor's Chief of Staff committed to sharing a video message to call on the state government to promote the availability and access to family planning services for women and young people.

The project demonstrated the potential of young advocates to drive change and create policy commitments from leaders on critical issues affecting young people in Nigeria. The project also showed the effectiveness of using multimedia campaigns and social media platforms to disseminate advocacy messages and engage policymakers.

### **Conclusion**

The project was implemented over a period of six months, from April to September 2019, and the support from PRB was critical in ensuring the successful implementation of the project. The project was a success and demonstrated the potential of young advocates to drive change and create policy commitments from leaders on critical issues affecting young people in Nigeria. The project's impact on child marriage and access to family planning services is significant and provides a platform for further advocacy efforts in Nigeria.

### **Project/Campaign: Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)**

Description: The importance of reproductive health cannot be overemphasized, particularly among adolescents and young people, who often face unique challenges in accessing reproductive health services. In Kano State, Nigeria, several organizations are working to empower young people to become advocates for reproductive health and hold policy makers accountable for delivering on their commitments.

In 2019, with the support of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) and Education as a Vaccine, a training program was implemented aimed at building the capacity of over 60 young people to advocate

for reproductive health and hold policy makers accountable at the state level. This article will discuss the outcomes and impacts of the training program and how it contributed to developing a new generation of advocates for reproductive health among young people in Kano State.

**Training Program Overview:**

The training program was focused on the PMNCH toolkit titled “Advocating for Change for Adolescents”, which aimed to empower young people to become advocates for reproductive health and hold policymakers accountable at the state level. The program was structured to ensure that young people were at the center of programming and advocacy for reproductive health.

The training program took place between 29th September and 6th October 2019 and was implemented by Education as a Vaccine in partnership with PMNCH. The program was attended by over 60 young people who were selected from different parts of Kano State. The training program provided participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to advocate for reproductive health and hold policymakers accountable at the state level.

**Outcome:**

The training program successfully achieved its objectives, with over 60 young people trained on the PMNCH toolkit. The training program was structured to ensure that young people were at the center of programming and advocacy for reproductive health. As a result of the training program, participants were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to advocate for reproductive health and hold policymakers accountable at the state level.

**Impact:**

The training program's impact was significant, as it contributed to developing a new generation of advocates for reproductive health among young people in Kano State. With the support of Education as a Vaccine and PMNCH, the

training program aimed to increase the capacity of adolescents and young people to hold policymakers accountable at the state level by getting the Kano State government to sign the Child Rights Act (Child Protection Bill 2018) and support other national policies like the National Adolescent Health Policy.

The training program successfully increased participants' capacity to advocate for reproductive health, as evidenced by issuing a Certificate of Participation to 40 adolescents and young persons who completed the training. These individuals are now equipped to actively advocate for reproductive health and hold policy makers accountable at the state level.

**Conclusion:**

The training program implemented in Kano State in 2019 by Education as a Vaccine in partnership with PMNCH aimed to build the capacity of over 60 young people to advocate for reproductive health and hold policymakers accountable at the state level. The program achieved its objectives, with over 60 young people trained on the PMNCH toolkit. The training program contributed to developing a new generation of advocates for reproductive health among young people in Kano State.

With the support of Education as a Vaccine and PMNCH, the training program aimed to increase the capacity of adolescents and young people to hold policymakers accountable at the state level by getting the Kano State government to sign the Child Rights Act (Child Protection Bill 2018) and support other national policies like the National Adolescent Health Policy. The training program successfully increased participants' capacity to advocate for reproductive health, and the issuing of Certificates of Participation to 40 adolescents and young persons who completed the training is a testament to this fact.

The training program's impact on developing a new generation of advocates for reproductive health among young people in Kano State cannot be overemphasized.

**Online Engagements**

**Project/Campaign: Active Citizen Y4FP**

**Introduction:**

The Active Citizens Youth For Family Planning program, organized by BCAI, is an innovative initiative aimed at promoting reproductive health outcomes among young people and professionals in the communities they serve. The program is grounded in the principles of cross-cultural dialogue and the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular emphasis on family planning, child rights, and maternal health. BCAI understands that reproductive health issues are sensitive topics that require a safe and non-judgmental environment for individuals to engage in open and honest dialogue. Therefore, the program was designed to create a safe space for participants to engage in critical conversations about reproductive health issues.

**Project Output:**

The program's output has been impressive, with BCAI successfully creating a safe space for participants to engage in open and honest dialogue about reproductive health issues. Through community-based and online engagement strategies, BCAI has reached over 500 young adults in five separate sessions between February 2019 and March 2019. The program has empowered participants to speak up about reproductive health issues in their communities and to promote discussions on how to address them. The program has identified areas of success and improvement, allowing for continuous programmatic improvement.

BCAI's Active Citizens Youth For Family Planning program has also fostered critical conversations around Sustainable Development Goals. Participants have engaged in discussions about family planning, child rights, and maternal health, which has led to increased awareness and understanding of these critical issues. Through these conversations, participants have developed a deeper understanding of the importance of cross-cultural dialogue and its role in promoting reproductive health rights.

**Project Impact:**

The impact of BCAI's Active Citizens Youth For Family Planning program on the reproductive health outcomes of the communities it serves has been transformative. The program has provided a safe space for young people and professionals to engage in conversations that were previously considered taboo, ultimately contributing to increased awareness and understanding of reproductive health issues. The program has empowered participants to speak up about reproductive health issues in their communities and to promote discussions on how to address them. This has led to the identification of areas of success and improvement, allowing for continuous programmatic improvement.

BCAI's program has also fostered cross-cultural dialogue, leading to greater understanding and tolerance between communities. The program has promoted critical conversations around Sustainable Development Goals, which has led to a new generation of advocates committed to advancing reproductive health rights. Through this program, BCAI has contributed to increased awareness, understanding, and advocacy around reproductive health outcomes.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, BCAI's Active Citizens Youth For Family Planning program has effectively promoted reproductive health rights and fostered cross-cultural dialogue. By creating a safe and non-judgmental space for participants to engage in open and honest dialogue about reproductive health issues, BCAI has contributed to increased awareness, understanding, and advocacy around reproductive health outcomes. The program has empowered a new generation of advocates committed to advancing reproductive health rights, which will ultimately lead to improved reproductive health outcomes for communities in the long run.

**Project/Campaign: Youth Social Media Advocates****Introduction:**

Child rights violations, such as child marriage, limited access to education for girls, and lack of support for adolescent mothers, continue to plague many parts

of Nigeria, including Kano state. In an effort to address these issues, a program was implemented to increase awareness and advocacy for the Child Rights Act (2003) [Child Protection Bill 2018] in Kano state, using social media advocacy to educate policy stakeholders on the benefits of signing and domesticating the Act. The program trained and engaged 25 young people working with eight local organizations in Kano state, Nigeria, in a Twitter storm, aimed at educating online communities of policy stakeholders in Kano state on the benefits of signing and domesticating the Child Rights Act (2003) [Child Protection Bill 2018] in the state.

**Project Activities:**

The program engaged 25 young people working with eight local organizations in Kano state. The participants were trained in social media advocacy, specifically using Twitter. The training involved the use of hashtags, Twitter handles, and how to reach a wider audience. After the training, the participants were engaged in a Twitter storm, which involved a coordinated effort to tweet about the benefits of signing and domesticating the Child Rights Act (2003) [Child Protection Bill 2018] in Kano state. The participants engaged in online communities of policy stakeholders in Kano state, educating them on the benefits of signing and domesticating the Act.

**Project Output:**

The program had significant output in terms of social media engagement, media coverage, and advocacy. The Twitter storm reached over 6,652,078 million persons on Twitter in one day. The participants engaged over 10,000 Twitter users in Kano state, who retweeted and liked their tweets. The Twitter storm generated over 30,000 tweets, with the hashtag #SignTheChildProtectionBill trending in Kano state for 24 hours. The program also generated media coverage, with several media outlets reporting on the Twitter storm and the need to sign and domesticate the Child Rights Act (2003) [Child Protection Bill 2018] in Kano state.

**Project Impact:**

The program had a significant impact on policy stakeholders in Kano state. The Twitter storm generated widespread awareness and advocacy for the Child Rights Act (2003) [Child Protection Bill 2018]. The program increased advocacy and pressure on the state government to sign and domesticate the Act. The program also increased awareness and advocacy for the rights of girls and adolescent mothers in Kano state. The program contributed to the ongoing campaign to criminalize child marriage, promote education for girls, and provide a robust support system for adolescent mothers who are already pregnant or have at least one child.

The program's impact was felt beyond Kano state, as other states in Nigeria were inspired to replicate the program's approach to social media advocacy. The success of the program demonstrates the potential for young people to effect change through social media advocacy, even in challenging environments like Kano state. The program's impact reinforces the need for continued efforts to promote and protect child rights in Nigeria.

**Conclusion:**

The program's approach to social media advocacy, specifically using Twitter, proved to be an effective strategy in promoting awareness and advocacy for child rights in Kano state. The program's impact was significant in terms of social media engagement, media coverage, and advocacy. The program not only contributed to increased advocacy for the Child Rights Act (2003) [Child Protection Bill 2018] but also increased awareness and advocacy for the rights of girls and adolescent mothers in Kano state. The success of the program reinforces the importance of young people's involvement in promoting and protecting child rights in Nigeria and beyond.

**Project/Campaign: #16DaysOfActivism****Introduction:**

On November 25th, 2019, during the #16DaysOfActivism, our organization partnered with Mayafi, the #NorthNormal rally organizers, to lead over 150 young people to the Kano State House of Assembly. The primary objective of the rally was to advocate for the domestication of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (2015) in Kano State to criminalize violence against women and girls, including child marriage. This report aims to document the project activities, project output, and project impact of our advocacy efforts.

### **Project Activities:**

Our organization led over 150 young people to the Kano State House of Assembly to advocate for the domestication of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (2015). During the rally, we engaged in peaceful protests and advocacy efforts to draw attention to the urgent need to protect the rights of women and girls. We also engaged with the House Speaker through the Clerk and submitted a copy of the Act, creating an opportunity for the state lawmakers to understand the importance and urgency of the situation.

### **Project Output:**

Our advocacy efforts had several positive results and significant impacts. Firstly, the rally helped break the culture of silence on sexual and gender-based violence in Kano State, creating a safe platform for young people to speak out against these atrocities. The event created a sense of urgency and awareness of the need to protect the rights of women and girls and the urgent need for Kano State to criminalize all forms of violence against them.

In sequence, the rally ensured state legislative engagement on the VAPP Act. Through our advocacy efforts, we engaged with the House Speaker through the Clerk and submitted a copy of the Act, creating an opportunity for the state lawmakers to understand the importance and urgency of the situation. This engagement will ultimately lead to the development and implementation of appropriate policies and strategies to protect the rights of women and girls.

Furthermore, our advocacy efforts garnered much support from young people, the police and other security agents, and the media. We generated over 7 million reach on Twitter across Nigeria, further raising awareness of the urgent need to criminalize violence against women and girls in Kano State and beyond. The involvement of the police and other security agents demonstrated a strong sense of commitment to protecting the rights of women and girls and bringing perpetrators of gender-based violence to justice.

Lastly, the rally was conducted in five other northern states, namely Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, and Sokoto, significantly amplifying the reach and impact of our campaign across Northern Nigeria.

**Project Impact:**

Our advocacy efforts have contributed to developing and implementing relevant policies and strategies to protect the rights of women and girls, ultimately promoting gender equality and social inclusion in Nigeria. Our efforts have also ensured state legislative engagement on the VAPP Act, creating opportunities for the development and implementation of appropriate policies and strategies to protect the rights of women and girls. The rally helped break the culture of silence on sexual and gender-based violence in Kano State, creating a safe platform for young people to speak out against these atrocities. Additionally, our advocacy efforts generated much support from young people, the police and other security agents, and the media, further raising awareness of the urgent need to criminalize violence against women and girls in Kano State and beyond.

**Conclusion:**

Our advocacy efforts during the #16DaysOfActivism rally have contributed significantly to promoting gender equality and social inclusion in Nigeria. We believe that our efforts will ultimately lead to the development and implementation of appropriate policies and strategies to protect the rights of women and girls, and the criminalization of violence against them in Kano State

	<p>and beyond. We remain committed to continuing our advocacy efforts to promote gender equality and social inclusion in Nigeria.</p>
<p><b>Achievements and Impacts</b></p>	<p>Our organization's programs have significantly contributed to improving the lives of thousands of individuals in Northern Nigeria. Through our initiatives, we have effectively reached and positively impacted 38,583 individuals in 21 communities located in the Kaduna and Kano states.</p> <p>We also leveraged the power of digital campaigns to reach a wider audience, achieving an impressive reach of 15,023,483 individuals across Nigeria. Our digital campaigns have been a critical tool in raising awareness on critical issues, promoting social change, and engaging more people in our efforts to make a positive difference.</p> <p>As we move forward, our organization remains committed to working with local communities, organizations, and government agencies to implement sustainable programs that bring about lasting change in Northern Nigeria. Our goal is to create a world where everyone has equal opportunities and access to basic necessities, regardless of their gender, socioeconomic status, or geographical location.</p> <p>Through our collaboration with local communities, we have developed and implemented programs that address critical issues such as gender-based violence, child marriage, education, and healthcare. Our programs have helped to empower women and girls, promote gender equality, and foster social inclusion.</p> <p>In addition, we have established partnerships with organizations and government agencies to drive the implementation of policies and strategies that support our mission. We believe that by working together, we can achieve greater impact and create lasting change that benefits everyone.</p>

	<p>We recognize the importance of sustainability in achieving our goals. Therefore, we ensure that all our programs are designed to be sustainable and scalable, ensuring that they continue to benefit the communities we serve even after our direct involvement has ended.</p> <p>In conclusion, our organization's impact on Northern Nigeria has been significant, with thousands of individuals positively impacted through our programs and digital campaigns. We remain committed to our mission of creating positive change and working with local communities, organizations, and government agencies to achieve our goals. By continuing to collaborate and work towards a common goal, we can create a better future for everyone in Northern Nigeria.</p>
<b>Testimonials</b>	
<b>Social Media Report</b>	<b><u>N/A</u></b>
<b>Donors and Partners</b>	<p><b>Donors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Population Reference Bureau (PRB)</li> </ul> <p><b>Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● African Centre for Innovative Research and Development (AFRI-CIRD)</li> <li>● Connected Development (CODE)</li> <li>● YouthHubAfrica</li> </ul>
<b>Challenges and Lessons Learnt</b>	<p><b>Challenges</b></p> <p><b>Lessons Learnt</b></p>
<b>Vision 2020</b>	
<b>Appreciation Remark</b>	