

Sustaining the Legacy

Annual Report
2023-2024



The Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation was established by the friends, family and associates of Shehu Musa Yar'Adua to honour the legacy of one of Nigeria's foremost contemporary leaders and inspire future generations with his life of service.



Our Vision

A Nigeria united across ethnic and religious divides; committed to justice and democracy

Our Mission

To promote national unity, good governance and social justice by creating platforms to engage citizens, policy makers and stakeholders in national conversations that foster an inclusive and prosperous Nigeria.

Our Core Values

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Inclusiveness
- Partnership
- Accountability

Diversity Commitment

The Yar'Adua Foundation embraces Inclusiveness as a core value and is committed to providing a supportive and respectful work environment that recognizes and values the diversity of all its employees and partners.

The Foundation acknowledges that every employee, regardless of gender, cultural background, sexual orientation or religious belief can make a valuable contribution to achieving project outcomes.



Contents



2	Statement by the Director General
4	Board of Directors
8	Our Team
12	Public Policy Initiative
12	■ Environmental Sustainability and Resilience
21	■ Social Justice and Equity
31	■ Governance and Civic Engagement
41	State of Democracy in Africa
43	Launch of the West Africa Democracy Fund
50	The Unfinished Bridge Podcast
52	Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre
56	Shehu Musa Yar'Adua: Profile
58	Corporate Information
59	Financials

Statement by the Acting Director General



In a time of national and global uncertainty, the Foundation has made meaningful progress toward its vision of a just, inclusive, and democratic society.

Amara Nwankpa
Acting Director General

On behalf of the Foundation, I extend our deepest appreciation to our partners, stakeholders, and friends whose steadfast support continues to strengthen our mission.

In a time of national and global uncertainty, the Foundation has made meaningful progress toward its vision of a just, inclusive, and democratic society. We advanced work on national unity, social justice, and good governance by reinforcing safeguarding systems, amplifying gender justice advocacy, supporting inclusive climate and energy transitions, and expanding platforms that empower citizens to demand accountability.

A major milestone was our leadership in convening the Summit on the State of Democracy in Africa, in partnership with the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Ford Foundation, and Trust Africa. The summit brought together leaders from across the continent to confront emergent democratic tensions and reaffirm a shared commitment to people-centered, accountable governance.

Across our programme pillars – Environmental Sustainability and Resilience, Social Justice and Equity, and Governance and Civic Engagement – we sustained high-impact interventions:

- Supported community-led climate initiatives in the Niger Delta;
- Institutionalized safeguarding policies in higher education;
- Scaled Partners United, our virtual community of practice to mobilize anti-corruption activism nationwide.

Through roundtables, creative campaigns, and digital coalitions, we remained focused on elevating the voices of marginalized communities and enabling civic participation at all levels.

We are profoundly grateful to our funding partners, the Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Luminate Group, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Australian High Commission, Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives, and the French Mission in Nigeria, who continue to support our work with their commitment to equity and democratic governance.

Finally, the Foundation recently adopted a new strategic plan that reaffirms our founding ideals while introducing transformative goals. It prioritizes:

- Positioning the Yar'Adua Centre as a national hub for civic dialogue and democratic engagement;
- Advancing democratic institutions through research, civic education, and tech-driven advocacy;
- Strengthening our organizational sustainability through diversified funding, improved systems, and staff development.

As we move into a new chapter, we remain resolute in our commitment to confronting Nigeria's challenges and advancing a vision of a just, inclusive, and democratic society – guided always by the legacy and ideals of Shehu Musa Yar'Adua.



Board of Directors



H.E. Atiku Abubakar, GCON
Chairman

H.E. Atiku Abubakar (Waziri of Adamawa), GCON, was elected Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 1999 and re-elected in 2003.

Born in Jada, Adamawa State, on November 25, 1946, Atiku Abubakar attended Ahmadu Bello University, graduating in 1969 with a Diploma in Law. The former Vice President enlisted in the Nigerian Customs and Excise Service, retiring in 1989 at the rank of Deputy Director. Upon his retirement, he went into private business, serving as chairman and director of several companies.

Atiku Abubakar's political career began with Shehu Yar'Adua's determination to build a national grassroots political organization in Nigeria. In 2018 he was elected Presidential Candidate of the People's Democratic Party. He is the Founder of American University, Yola.



Mr. Akin Kekere-Ekun, OFR
Vice Chairman

Akin Kekere-Ekun is Vice Chairman of the Yar'Adua Foundation Board of Directors. He is a Post Management Development alumnus of Harvard Business School and a fellow of the Eisenhower Foundation.

Mr. Kekere-Ekun serves as Chairman of the board of USP Communications Limited and sits on the boards of Fenchurch Media & Broadcasting Network and Caverton Offshore Support Group.

He was awarded the national merit honor of Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) in 2001 and is married to Hon. Justice (Mrs.) Kudirat M.O. Kekere-Ekun, the Chief Justice of Nigeria.



Hajia Binta Yar'Adua
Director

Hajia Binta Yar'Adua is the widow of late Shehu Musa Yar'Adua. They married on December 27, 1965 after her graduation from Queen Elizabeth Secondary School, Ilorin, Kwara State.

In addition to Hajia Binta's active participation in guiding Yar'Adua Foundation programmes, she devotes herself to religious and charity work in Kaduna and Katsina.



Lt. Gen. Aliyu Mohammed Gusau, (Rtd.)
Director

Lt. General Aliyu Mohammed Gusau, Rtd. served as Nigeria's National Security Adviser and Minister of Defence during the Obasanjo, Yar'Adua and Jonathan Administrations.

General Aliyu was Commander of the 9th Infantry Brigade, Abeokuta April 1976–July 1978, Adjutant General of the 2nd Mechanized Division July 1978–September 1979 and Director of Personnel Services, Army Headquarters, October 1979–November 1979. From November 1979 to December 1983, he served as Director of Military Intelligence (DMI). General Aliyu trained at the Royal College of Defence Studies in the UK.



Mr. Yomi Edu, OFR
Director

Mr Yomi Edu is a qualified Insurance Broker and Attorney, receiving his LLB, Barrister at Law, from the University of Buckingham, England in 1989.

He has served on various boards including the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, African Alliance Insurance Company, Kewalrams Nigeria Limited and Afcot Nigeria Limited. He was appointed Federal Minister for Special Duties in the Obasanjo Administration from 1999 to 2003.

Mr. Edu currently runs an oil service company, Afrigate Energy Limited, and a real estate development company, Vickers Properties Limited



Mr. Abubakar Balarabe Mahmoud, OON, SAN
Director

Mr. Abubakar Balarabe Mahmoud became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2001. He was the former President of the Nigerian Bar Association and Pro-chancellor of Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil. He is the first Vice President of the Nigerian Stock Exchange and Founder of Dikko & Mahmoud law firm.

Mr. Mahmoud is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK. He serves as a Non-Executive Director on the Boards of MTN Nigeria Communications PLC and the Aliko Dangote Foundation. Mr. Mahmoud is a recipient of the National Honour of the Officer of the Order of the Niger, OON

Board of Directors



Mrs. Jacqueline Farris
Director

Mrs. Jacqueline Farris served as Director General of the Yar'Adua Foundation from its inception in 1998 to 2025. Born in Panama City, Florida, U.S.A., she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Urban Development from Michigan State University in 1977, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

Her career achievements include Legislative Staff, Office of Congressman Andrew Young, Washington, D.C. (1976-1977); Political Section - African Affairs, U.S. Mission to the United Nations, New York (1977-1979); Andrew Young Associates, Atlanta, Georgia (1981-84); Government Relations, Office of the Mayor, City of Atlanta (1985-88); Business Consultant, Pratt & Whitney, United Technologies,

Hartford, Connecticut (1990-98), providing advice on the political transitions in Nigeria and South Africa; and Media Consultant, Social Democratic Party, Lagos, Nigeria. She relocated to Nigeria in 1998 in order to establish the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation.

Mrs. Farris' professional skills include non-profit governance, organizational leadership, financial management, policy development and government advocacy.



Mallam Murtala Yar'Adua
Treasurer

Mallam Murtala Yar'Adua is the eldest son of Shehu Yar'Adua and served as Minister of State, Defence under the Goodluck Jonathan Administration. He holds a B.Sc. Degree in Business Management and an MBA in Financial Management. Mallam Murtala was turbaned Tafidan Katsina in 2002, a traditional title he inherited from his late father.

Tribute

Rt. Honourable Dubem Onyia



Rt. Honourable Dubem Onyia served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Yar'Adua Foundation from 2013 to 2025.

A dedicated public servant, Hon. Dubem was elected to the House of Representatives in 1999 before resigning to serve as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (1999–2003). During this period, he also chaired the International Technical Commission for the National Boundary Commission, the Nigeria Economic Joint Commission, and the São Tomé and Príncipe Joint Boundary Commission. Over the years, he held leadership roles on corporate boards and government committees, earning both national and international recognition for his service.

Beyond his distinguished career, Hon. Dubem was a statesman of integrity, a dear friend, and a trusted ally. His unwavering commitment to democracy, national unity, and social justice was evident in all he did. His invaluable contributions and steadfast dedication to the causes he championed will remain an enduring inspiration.

His presence will be deeply missed, but his legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched and the principles he upheld. The Yar'Adua Foundation will always honour his memory with the highest regard.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Our Team



Babatunde Ahmadu
Director, Finance



Vivian Emehelu
Director, Programme and Admin



Loveth Owunezi
Conference Coordinator



Morris Daniel
Maintenance Officer



Abraham Agharite
Librarian



Zainab Ilyasu
Digital Support Officer



Regina Alachi
Programme Officer



Kenneth Emeribe
Programme Officer



Rashidat Sanusi
Programme Officer



Lilian Mbaegbu
Programme Officer



Emmanuel Abaagu
Assistant Facility Manager



Abdulwaheed Abdulwalu
Programme Officer



Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation's
2024–2029 Strategic Plan

Advancing the mission...
Reinforcing the
Foundation's
commitment to fostering
a unified, prosperous,
and equitable Nigerian
society.

The Foundation's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan



The Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation Strategic Plan 2024–2029 reflects a thoughtful and adaptive approach to advancing its mission in an evolving context. By building upon past achievements, preparing for leadership transition, and focusing on strategic objectives that leverage the Foundation's strengths, this plan sets a course for impactful and sustainable growth, reinforcing the Foundation's commitment to fostering a unified, prosperous, and equitable Nigerian society.



Guiding Values

The Yar'Adua Foundation's core values are essential guiding principles that shape its culture and operations:

1. **Accountability** – Emphasizes personal responsibility and reliability, with a commitment to correcting mistakes swiftly.
2. **Excellence** – Focuses on high standards, continuous improvement, and surpassing expectations in every task to drive success.
3. **Integrity** – Prioritizes honesty, ethical behavior, and the responsible management of resources.
4. **Mutual Respect** – Encourages understanding and valuing diverse perspectives, treating everyone with dignity and respect.
5. **Partnership** – Fosters collaboration, consensus-building, and long-term, meaningful partnerships for impactful results.
6. **Transparency** – Commits to openness in sharing information within the organization and with external stakeholders.
7. **Teamwork** – Values unity and collaboration, ensuring all members feel valued and contributing to collective success.

These principles guide the organization in maintaining ethical, respectful, and effective practices.



Programme Pillars

Environmental Sustainability and Resilience

Goal

To shape climate change policy and action in Nigeria, ensuring community needs and perspectives are at the forefront of national and international debates and initiatives.

Influence Climate Policy Debates: Actively shape both national and international climate change policy discussions, ensuring they are centered around and responsive to the specific needs of communities.

Promote Community-Inclusive Energy Transition: Advocate for and support the integration of community perspectives and needs in Nigeria's transition to sustainable energy, ensuring that these transitions are equitable and inclusive.

Support Community-Led Climate Actions: Encourage and back community led initiatives and strategies that address climate change, empowering local communities to take a proactive role to combat environmental challenges.

Social Justice and Equity

Goal

To foster a just and equitable society for all Nigeria citizens by actively promoting gender equity and supporting the participation of women in public leadership, particularly in the areas of peace building and violence prevention.

Foster a Cultural Shift towards Gender Equity: Actively work towards shaping a society that not only values gender equity but also proactively positions women as key leaders in public spheres.

Enhance Institutional Capacity for Women's Rights: Strengthen the capability of educational, governmental, and cultural institutions in Nigeria to effectively protect, uphold, and promote women's rights and their significant contributions to society. Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation 9 10 Strategic Review & Plan 2024-2029

Build Resilient Communities Against Gender-Based Violence: Develop and support community-based initiatives and policies that are dedicated to actively opposing and preventing gender-based violence, creating safer environments for all.

Governance and Civic Engagement

Goal

To shift societal norms towards transparency and accountability by adopting a community-driven approach to combat corruption.

Objectives

Increase Collective Demand for Accountability: Provide Nigerian citizens with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively engage with government bodies, demanding greater transparency and accountability in governance.

Empower Pro-Accountability Advocates: Enhance the effectiveness of stakeholders committed to accountability, equipping them with the necessary tools, skills, and platforms to strengthen their advocacy and demand for transparent and accountable governance.

Establish a Sustainable Accountability Culture: Cultivate and expand a robust community of practice dedicated to accountability in Nigeria, laying the foundation for a long-term, ingrained culture of transparency and responsible governance within the society.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

The Yar'Adua Foundation is addressing these dual challenges by promoting inclusive policy approaches that engage vulnerable groups, including smallholders, extractive communities, and women.

In 2023–2024, the Foundation positioned extractive communities at the heart of energy conversations, amplified youth voices internationally, and catalyzed local sustainability initiatives to promote a just energy transition in Nigeria.

Nigeria faces a severe climate crisis and is ranked as one of the countries with the most critical energy access deficits, according to the World Bank's Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report. Recurrent extreme weather events such as coastal erosion, floods, and persistent droughts threaten communities across the country. For instance, flooding in 2023 affected 33 of the country's 36 states. It displaced over 1.4 million people, killed over 603 people, and injured more than 2,400 people. About 82,035 houses had been damaged, and 332,327 hectares of land had also been affected.

Exacerbating these environmental challenges is Nigeria's acute energy crisis. With approximately 45% of its population, or around 90 million people, lacking connection to the national grid, and over 85% without access to clean cooking technologies, households and businesses are forced to rely on expensive and polluting energy sources. This energy shortfall contributes to annual economic losses estimated at around USD 25 billion, stifling economic growth and deepening poverty.

Poor governance and minimal stakeholder engagement further hinder Nigeria's climate readiness. Many key stakeholders lack a clear understanding of the impacts of climate change on food security and the need for resilience. At the same time, the government struggles to rally public and private sectors around a cohesive framework for climate-resilient agriculture.

The Yar'Adua Foundation is addressing these dual challenges by promoting inclusive policy approaches that engage vulnerable groups, including smallholders, extractive communities, and women.

In partnership with Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Africa Policy Research Institute, and Nextier Advisory, the Foundation builds capacity for climate and environmental justice in Niger Delta communities. It implements evidence-driven, inclusive interventions to accelerate Nigeria's sustainable energy transition.



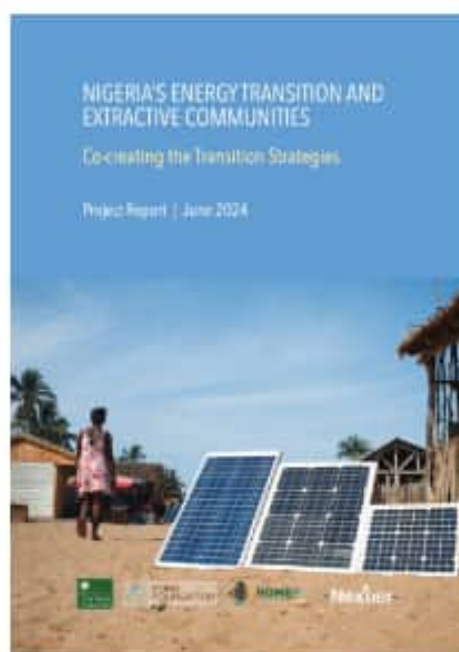


A. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Stakeholder Mapping: Co-Creating Nigeria's Energy Transition Strategies Report

In June, 2024, the Foundation conducted a comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise to identify and categorize key actors

critical to Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan (ETP). This initiative focused on aligning the ETP's objectives with national and community priorities. A detailed desk review of policy documents grouped stakeholders into categories such as government, private sector, civil society, academia, and community leaders, using an interest-influence matrix to assess their roles and potential impact.



The mapping revealed significant insights, including the need for capacity building among advocacy groups to enhance their participation in decision-making processes. It also highlighted that while government actors hold substantial leverage, they require targeted incentives to prioritize renewable energy initiatives. Network mapping further identified gaps and opportunities for collaboration, emphasizing the necessity of policy shifts to advance the ETP.

To address these challenges, the Foundation proposed engagement strategies centered on building trust through inclusive communication, leveraging influential actors by emphasizing the economic benefits of renewable energy, and fostering cross-sector partnerships. These approaches seek to bridge gaps, strengthen stakeholder collaboration, and ensure the successful implementation of the ETP within Nigeria's socio-economic framework.

Maximizing Just Energy Transition Opportunities Through an Inclusive Country Platform



On October 15, 2024, the Yar'Adua Foundation, in collaboration with the Health of Mother Earth Foundation, Nextier, and with support from the Ford Foundation, hosted a roundtable, "Maximizing Just Energy Transition Opportunities Through an Inclusive Platform". The event convened stakeholders from sectors including energy, climate, agriculture, and civil society to explore Nigeria's energy transition landscape and design a collaborative framework to achieve a fair and inclusive transition.

Discussions emphasized the need for an inclusive national platform that integrates the voices of marginalized and extractive communities,



A. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS *continued*

recognizing that continued investments in fossil fuels risk locking Nigeria into dependence on non-renewable energy. Participants highlighted the importance of ensuring that Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) not only supports economic growth but also addresses environmental justice and minimizes harm to impacted communities.

Key recommendations included establishing a phased approach to transition investments, prioritize renewable energy accessibility, and implement robust policies to reduce environmental damage from fossil fuels.



Centering Impacted Communities in the Energy Transition Convening

In collaboration with the Health of Mother Earth Foundation, the Foundation hosted a high-profile Roundtable on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, theme Centering Impacted Communities in the Energy Transition Convening at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre.

Supported by the Ford Foundation, the roundtable brought together key stakeholders,

both national and international, to address the pressing challenges faced by extractive communities and the unique transition risks faced by impacted communities in the Niger Delta. The event aimed to pave way for a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable energy transition whilst reshaping the narrative on energy transition in Nigeria



Water And Climate Summit and Exhibition



There will be no water by 2040 if we keep doing what we're doing today. This urgent statement by Professor Benjamin, Energy Security and policy Expert, underscored the dire state of our climate and environment if swift, effective action is not taken.

In partnership with the Embassy of Switzerland to Nigeria, the Yar'Adua Foundation hosted the Water and Climate Summit and Exhibition on May 16, 2024, with support from the Ford Foundation.

The summit featured insightful discussions on the impact of climate change on water resources, emphasizing the urgent need for sustainable solutions to environmental challenges. Key stakeholders convened to explore sustainable solutions to environmental challenges. The event also included an exhibition showcasing cutting-edge electric vehicles by the electric Vehicle Motor Company and blue tech solutions to address water and environmental issues in Nigeria.

Distinguished speakers included H.E. Mr. Nicolas Lang, Ambassador of Switzerland to Nigeria; H.E. Professor Joseph Utsev, Honourable Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation; Barr. Ifeanyi Ossai, Deputy Governor of Enugu State; Abubakar Balarabe Mahmoud, Board Member of the Yar'Adua Foundation; Prince Mustapha Audu, CEO of the Electric Vehicle Motor Company; Ambassador Nkoyo Toyo, Founder of GADA; Mr. Nimmo Bassey, Executive Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation; and Ms. Victoria Uwadaka, Head of Sustainability at Nestlé Nigeria Plc. Their collective expertise and commitment to addressing climate change underscored the summit's success in advancing sustainable water management strategies.

Support was provided by the Ford Foundation and the Embassy of Switzerland to Nigeria



**From Corruption to Sustainability:
Energizing Nigeria's Future**



The Yar'Adua Foundation, in partnership with the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and the School of African Studies Anti-Corruption Evidence Consortium (SOAS-ACE), hosted a roundtable meeting with support from the Ford Foundation. The roundtable explored the intersectionality between renewable energy, accountability, and sustainability. The event brought together the diplomatic community, energy experts, researchers, the media, and civil society organizations.

The roundtable was attended by over 50 participants including Eyo O. Ekpo, CEO, Excredite Consulting Limited, Dr. Obiagell Katryn Ezekwesili, Co-Founder, The School of Politics, Policy and Governance, Dr. Pallavi Roy, Reader (Associate Professor) at Political Economy Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy SOAS, University of London, Tijah Bolton-Akpan, Head of Programmes, Policy Alert, Alexander Sewell, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Stakeholder Democracy Network, Nnimmo Bassey, Director, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, and Emmanuel Kuyole, Programmes Officer, Ford Foundation.

The Yar'Adua Foundation, in partnership with the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and the School of African Studies Anti-Corruption Evidence Consortium (SOAS-ACE), hosted a roundtable meeting with support from the Ford Foundation. The roundtable explored the intersectionality between renewable energy, accountability, and sustainability. The event brought together the diplomatic community, energy experts, researchers, the media, and civil society organizations.



B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Shaping an Inclusive Energy Transition in the Niger Delta



In June, 2024, the Foundation conducted a comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise to identify and categorize key actors critical to Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan (ETP). This initiative focused on aligning the ETP's objectives with national and community priorities. A detailed desk review of policy documents grouped stakeholders into categories such as government, private sector, civil society, academia, and community leaders, using an interest-influence matrix to assess their roles and potential impact.

The mapping revealed significant insights, including the need for capacity building among advocacy groups to enhance their participation in decision-making processes. It also highlighted

that while government actors hold substantial leverage, they require targeted incentives to prioritize renewable energy initiatives. Network mapping further identified gaps and opportunities for collaboration, emphasizing the necessity of policy shifts to advance the ETP.

To address these challenges, the Foundation proposed engagement strategies centered on building trust through inclusive communication, leveraging influential actors by emphasizing the economic benefits of renewable energy, and fostering cross-sector partnerships. These approaches seek to bridge gaps, strengthen stakeholder collaboration, and ensure the successful implementation of the ETP within Nigeria's socio-economic framework.

Support was provided by the Health of Mother Earth Foundation



C. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND GLOBAL CLIMATE ADVOCACY

Pre-Cop 29 Workshop for Nigerian Youth Delegates



In collaboration with Green Energy Mission Africa, the Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI), and HOMEf with Ford Foundation support, the Foundation hosted a Pre-COP 29 workshop on October 28, 2024, to prepare over 50 Nigerian youth delegates for COP.

The event equipped participants with critical skills for engaging in global climate policy discussions. Key areas of focus included negotiation dynamics, youth-led advocacy, and strategies for engaging stakeholders in advancing a just energy transition. Sessions were facilitated by notable experts, including Dr. Peter Tarfa of the

African Group of Negotiators, Professor Magnus Onuoha of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Association Alliance (REEEAA), and Olumide Onitekun of APRI.

Participants engaged in interactive discussions on effective communication, youth-driven energy transition advocacy, and scalable local climate solutions, such as renewable energy adoption and sustainable agricultural practices. These sessions also addressed regional challenges, allowing delegates to brainstorm solutions, share perspectives, and connect with climate experts, NGO leaders, and peers. Through these activities, the workshop fostered collaborations aimed at amplifying youth voices in climate action and promoting innovative approaches to addressing climate challenges.

The workshop reinforced the importance of youth advocacy in the global energy transition, leaving participants with actionable tools to navigate COP 29 negotiations effectively. It emphasized Nigeria's role in shaping climate discourse while equipping the youth with the knowledge and resources to advocate for a just and sustainable energy future.





C. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND GLOBAL CLIMATE ADVOCACY

Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation at COP 28 in Dubai



With support from the Ford Foundation and in collaboration with the Health of Mother Earth Foundation (HOMEF) and the National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), the Foundation championed the cause of impacted

communities in Nigeria's energy transition. Aligned with the thematic agenda of Energy and Industry, Just Transition, and Indigenous Peoples, the December 5, 2023 event at the Nigeria Pavilion advocated for community engagement in shaping energy policies, sharing insights from Nigeria's sustainable energy journey, and emphasizing Africa's voice in climate negotiations.

The thought-provoking short film, 'After Oil, We Flourish,' set the tone for the plenary session. The discourse featured perspectives from notable figures including Nnimmo Bassey and Chief Mrs. Ebiyemi Omatseye, the Olujimi of Warri. Participating remotely, His Majesty Ogiame Atuwatse III, the Olu of Warri highlighted the environmental damage resulting from oil activities in the region and emphasized the significance of adopting an inclusive approach that extends beyond cleaner energy adoption to encompass environmental restoration and community development.



D. CAMPAIGNS AND DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

Bottles for Books – Zero Waste at the Yar'Adua Centre



As part of our commitment to advancing sustainable waste management and fostering a circular economy, the Foundation is excited to partner with Chanja Datti to implement a waste recycling management system at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre.

We recognize the importance of promoting recycling practices and fostering good health within our communities. The Foundation will therefore be working with Chanja Datti to recycle waste and use proceeds to fund education for out-of-school children through Chanja Datti's Bottle for Books Initiative.

VIDEO VIGNETTES

Boma's Transition to Clean Energy

Mama Boma's shift away from firewood to clean energy is a powerful reminder that energy transition begins at home. Her solar kiln allows her to breathe easier and earn better, while protecting the environment. Too many continue to rely on traditional methods that harm both their health and the planet. It's time for a just energy transition. Let us support clean cooking solutions and advocate for policies that prioritize clean energy.



Water, E No Get Enemy

The Foundation produced Water, E No Get Enemy to explore how frequent floods and droughts are displacing people, causing hunger, and threatening security, making it seem like climate change is turning water into an enemy.



From Suffering to Sustainability

The Foundation produced From Suffering to Sustainability to advocates redirecting savings from petrol subsidy removal to enhance access to renewable energies.



SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

The Yar'Adua Foundation engaged a wide audience through social media and promotion of video vignettes to create awareness of issues of environmental sustainability and resilience in Nigeria. The video vignettes reached over 3.6 million users on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.



SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

The Yar'Adua Foundation's Social Justice and Equity Programme is committed to dismantling these barriers by strengthening institutional frameworks, amplifying the voices of women in politics and leadership, and promoting a culture of accountability in addressing GBV.

In 2023–2024, the Foundation strengthened safeguarding practices against gender-based violence, amplified women's participation in governance, and empowered youth through creative advocacy.

Nigeria continues to grapple with systemic inequalities that undermine democratic governance, social justice, and gender equity. Structural barriers and deeply ingrained socio-cultural norms limit the political participation and leadership opportunities available to women, while gender-based violence (GBV) remains pervasive, particularly within institutions of learning and public life. The absence of comprehensive safeguarding policies and limited institutional capacity further exacerbate the vulnerability of marginalized groups, impeding progress toward an inclusive and just society.

The Yar'Adua Foundation's Social Justice and Equity Programme is committed to dismantling these barriers by strengthening institutional frameworks, amplifying the voices of women in politics and leadership, and promoting a culture of accountability in addressing GBV. The programme leverages strategic partnerships, evidence-based advocacy, and capacity-building initiatives to create safer environments, empower women leaders, and drive systemic change in Nigeria's governance and educational spaces.

Through multi-stakeholder engagement, policy dialogues, and grassroots mobilization, the Foundation works to:

- Enhance institutional capacity for safeguarding policies that protect vulnerable populations in educational and professional spaces.
- Promote the active participation of women in governance and leadership, ensuring their voices shape policies and decision-making processes.
- Address gender-based violence through survivor-centered interventions, awareness campaigns, creative, and policy advocacy.

These initiatives are strengthened by strategic collaborations with international partners like the Australian High Commission, Ford Foundation, French Mission in Nigeria, and Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

By championing these efforts, the Social Justice and Equity Programme seeks to advance social justice, promote gender justice, and create an enabling environment for inclusive leadership and transformative change in Nigeria.



A. INSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDING AND SAFE SPACES

Scaling Impact: Institutionalizing Safeguarding Practices in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions



Support was provided by the Ford Foundation

On September 12, 2024, the Foundation hosted a roundtable on Scaling Impact: Institutionalizing Safeguarding Practices in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions.

The roundtable convened students, key stakeholders from universities, polytechnics, technical institution, advocacy groups, and government agencies to discuss the successes, challenges, and next steps in addressing sexual harassment and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Nigeria

tertiary institutions. We evaluated the successes and challenges of the Gender Justice Project, discussed the extension of safeguarding policies beyond pilot universities, and examined how institutions can build long-term safeguarding mechanisms for students and vulnerable adults. The roundtable was a critical step towards ensuring that safeguarding policies are institutionalized across Nigeria's tertiary institutions.

Driving Ownership of Anti-SGBV Safeguarding Practices Across Nigerian Tertiary Institutions



Support was provided by the Ford Foundation

Over the past three years, the Foundation has addressed gaps in sexual harassment policies, resulting in the co-creation and adoption of safeguarding policies on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) by three universities: the American University of Nigeria (AUN), the University of Nigeria (UNN), and Bayero University (BUK). The implementation and evaluation of these policies have yielded positive outcomes, providing evidence that safeguarding policies and practices effectively deter sexual harassment and abuse in tertiary institutions.

Building on these findings and feedback from a stakeholder roundtable, the Yar'Adua Foundation—supported by the Ford Foundation and in partnership with Education as a Vaccine (EVA), Gender Mobile, and TechHer—hosted a Public Policy Forum on Driving Ownership of Anti-SGBV Safeguarding Practices Across Nigerian Tertiary Institutions. The forum assessed the successful implementation of safeguarding policies in the pilot universities and discussed the expansion of these best practices to other universities and technical tertiary institutions. A study of the AUN project was featured, accompanied by a panel discussion and interactive sessions on the efficacy of institutionalizing these practices nationwide.

Making Education Spaces Safer: Promoting Survivor-Centered Response



creative professionals, sexual assault referral centers, the Nigerian Judicial System, international NGOs, the diplomatic community, and survivor support organizations.

The Forum facilitated a meaningful discussion and the exchange of insights and perspectives towards establishing a survivor-centered response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in educational spaces.

In partnership with Eden Venture Group and WRTHY, the Foundation's Gender Justice and Governance & Accountability programmes hosted a Policy Forum on July 13, 2023. Supported by the Ford and MacArthur Foundations, the event brought together a diverse range of stakeholders, including university students, young female activists,

Inspiring Inclusion by Making Education and Social Spaces Safer for Women and Girls



In commemoration of the International Women's Day (IWD) 2024, the Foundation with support from the Australian Embassy, hosted a roundtable on March 7, 2024, themed Inspiring Inclusion by Making Education and Social Spaces Safer for Women and Girls.

The event successfully convened influential stakeholders from national and subnational levels, including government agencies, universities, civil society organizations, and advocates, to engage in constructive dialogue and develop actionable strategies to foster inclusion and combat gender-based violence (GBV).



Support was provided by the Australian Embassy



B. WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Contextual Strategies for Women's Leadership in Peacebuilding and Governance



The Foundation and Partners West Africa (PWAN), with support from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs under the Promoting Effective Participation of Women in Governance & Combating Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria project, has successfully engaged key stakeholders in the fight against gender-based violence, peacebuilding, and women's inclusion. In Kano State, twenty grassroots organizations and six community mediators have been trained, equipping them to lead in awareness-building, mediation, and community impact.

Over the past three years, the team has launched targeted media campaigns to raise awareness and foster local ownership, reaching an estimated six million people across the state. Given these significant outcomes, it is essential to use the project's success in Kano as a springboard for exploring context-specific strategies to advance women's participation in governance and peacebuilding nationwide. Replicating this model in other states could drive sustainable, inclusive change across Nigeria.

To advance these efforts, the Yar'Adua Foundation—supported by the Swiss Embassy and in partnership with PWAN—hosted a public policy forum titled Contextual Strategies for Women's Leadership in Peacebuilding and Governance on December 4, 2024. The forum brought together a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, including representatives from the diplomatic corps, civil society, women in politics and leadership, university students, governance experts, academics, and gender justice advocates.

Participants convened to examine the challenges and opportunities surrounding women's participation in governance and politics. The forum also served as a platform to promote context-driven strategies for addressing gender-based violence and enhancing women's leadership in Nigeria.

Support was provided by the Embassy of Switzerland to Nigeria

Promoting The Effective Participation of Women in Governance



On December 11, 2023, the Yar'Adua Foundation, in collaboration with Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), hosted a forum to promote the effective participation of women in governance. The urgency of the event was underscored by the stark reality of women's underrepresentation in Nigeria's 10th National Assembly, where they occupy only 3.62% of seats. This troubling statistic

highlighted the critical need for inclusive political reforms and strategies to support women's leadership at all levels of government.

Supported by the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs, the event helped raise awareness of women's participation in governance among key stakeholders across national, subnational, traditional, student, and religious institutions. These diverse participants engaged in constructive dialogue and contributed to the development of concrete policy recommendations aimed at increasing women's inclusion and empowerment in Nigerian politics.

The forum produced a set of actionable strategies to enhance women's participation in governance, with specific attention to the inclusion of women with disabilities. These outcomes aligned with the broader goals of the National Gender Policy and UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Collectively, the recommendations now serve as a foundation for ongoing policy advocacy and implementation efforts to address gender disparities in Nigeria's political landscape.



Public Policy Initiative *continued*

Advocacy Visit to the Emir of Kano, His Highness Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, and His Excellency Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf

The Yar'Adua Foundation led a high-level delegation—featuring the Deputy Swiss Ambassador and representatives from Partners West Africa—on an advocacy visit to the Emir of Kano, His Highness Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, and His Excellency Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf. The mission aimed to secure their support in advancing women's participation in leadership and addressing gender-based violence across Kano State.



Spearheaded by board member Mr. A.B. Mahmoud, SAN, the visit underscored the importance of leveraging existing traditional and political structures to align with community needs and foster local ownership. This strategy is vital to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Promoting Effective Participation of Women in Governance and Combating Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria project.



Promoting Effective Participation of Women in Governance and Combating Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria

With generous support from the Swiss Embassy and in partnership with Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), the Yar'Adua Foundation convened a roundtable discussion on Promoting Effective Participation of Women in Governance and Combating Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

The event brought together over 50 participants, including representatives from the Swiss Embassy and diplomatic missions, civil society

organizations with expertise in gender issues, legal practitioners such as the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), and student bodies like the National Female Students Association of Nigeria (NFSAN).

The roundtable provided a collaborative platform for dialogue, the exchange of best practices, and the development of actionable strategies to advance gender equality, increase women's participation in governance, and combat gender-based violence across Nigeria.





C. CREATIVE AND YOUTH-LED ADVOCACY

Workshop for Female Creatives



On August 4 and 5, 2023, the Foundation engaged Naila Media to facilitate a two-day creative workshop at the Yar'Adua Centre. The event harnessed the artistic talents of young women as powerful tools for social justice advocacy, providing them with platforms to craft compelling narratives that raise awareness and drive transformative change.

This gathering reflected the Foundation's commitment to nurturing and amplifying the creative voices of young women dedicated to building a better Nigeria. Female thought leaders from diverse backgrounds came together, each bringing unique perspectives and talents, to explore how their creativity could be used as a catalyst for meaningful advocacy.



ExpressHer: Activism for Change

The Foundation, in partnership with Anti-Sexual Violence Lead Support Initiative (ASVIOL) Nigeria and with support from the French Mission in Nigeria, commemorated the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through the ExpressHER campaign.

Designed as a creative advocacy platform, the campaign empowered female students and survivors to share their stories and raise awareness through artistic expression—including drawings, paintings, poetry, spoken word, and drama. A nationwide call for applications invited participants to submit their work, resulting in 80 creative entries. Three outstanding finalists were selected and featured in a public showcase held

at the Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja, on December 6, 2023. Cash prizes were awarded to recognize and support their advocacy.



The campaign significantly advanced awareness of GBV among students, educators, and stakeholders. It encouraged participants to become champions of gender justice, promoted the breaking of silence around GBV, and fostered a cultural shift toward safer, more inclusive university communities.

The Narratives of Change: Creative Advocacy Workshop



With support from the Australian High Commission and in collaboration with Naila Media, the Foundation implemented the Narratives of Change: Creative Advocacy Workshops project—an initiative focused on promoting gender equality through creative storytelling.

The project began with a public call for applications, which received over 150 responses. From these, 70 participants were selected to take part in workshops delivered in hybrid, virtual, and onsite formats. Sessions were held throughout 2023 and 2024, including on July 19, November 20, November 22, and December 18, 2024. Workshop content covered key areas such as gender advocacy, storytelling techniques, and intellectual property rights.

Participants reported increased knowledge, with evaluations showing a 10% improvement in understanding of advocacy and related skills. Based on participant feedback, adjustments were made to improve virtual engagement and overall learning outcomes.

Looking ahead, the Foundation plans to deepen community involvement, pursue additional funding opportunities, and refine its approach to further enhance the impact of the project.





D. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Gender and Inclusion Summit 2023



In collaboration with the Policy Innovation Centre, the Yar'Adua Foundation hosted the Gender and Inclusion Summit on November 28 -29, 2023, convening stakeholders from the public, private, and development sectors to explore innovative strategies for advancing gender equality and accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A featured panel discussion, Amplifying Student Agency for Safer and More Inclusive Campuses, highlighted the critical role of

students in reshaping narratives and challenging institutional norms to foster meaningful change within higher education environments.

The session explored key aspects of student-led advocacy, including engagement with faculty and administration, addressing intersectionality, implementing inclusive campus policies, and mobilizing broader campus communities. These discussions contributed valuable insights toward the broader goal of creating safer, more equitable, and inclusive academic spaces.



E. PODCASTS AND DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

VIDEO VIGNETTES

No Words

No Words portrays the aftermath of abuse while powerfully highlighting the added intersection of disability. This insightful video vignette serves as a poignant reminder that every voice matters—regardless of how it is expressed.



https://youtu.be/htNqVgU4wTI?si=_bnBFQPaclT36pPt

Let Her Speak

Let Her Speak underscores the critical role of institutional support in advancing women's participation in leadership. It advocates for a future where women's voices are not only heard but actively represented in public sector decision-making.



<https://youtu.be/Ofi7nd96wQs?si=Fmcel2PyqtRdoLi2>

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Social media campaigns were launched across Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, reaching over 1.4 million users collectively.



GOVERNANCE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Foundation's Governance and Civic Engagement Programme has implemented strategic interventions designed to promote democracy, strengthen institutional accountability, and combat corruption. Over the past two years, these efforts have yielded measurable impact.

Between 2023 and 2024, the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation harnessed technology and civic action to strengthen governance accountability, celebrate champions of integrity, and amplify the voices of marginalized groups.

Across Africa, democracy and corruption remain deeply intertwined challenges—and Nigeria stands as a striking case. With only 21% of Nigerians expressing satisfaction with democracy (Afrobarometer, 2024), and the country ranking 140th out of 180 on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, public disillusionment with governance is widespread. Corruption continues to erode institutions, distort democratic processes, and deepen economic inequality. Nigeria is estimated to lose \$15–18 billion annually through illicit financial flows (NEITI, 2019).

Against this backdrop, the Foundation's Governance and Civic Engagement Programme has implemented strategic interventions designed to promote democracy, strengthen institutional accountability, and combat corruption. Over the past two years, these efforts have yielded measurable impact.

Our integrated approach combines policy forums and roundtables with innovative technology, targeted advocacy messaging, and grassroots community engagement. This holistic strategy has created critical spaces for national and continental dialogues on democracy and accountability, convening diverse stakeholders from government, civil society, and the private sector to drive collective action.

Through strategic partnerships with organizations such as Trust Africa, Accountability Lab, and the African Centre for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL), the Foundation has helped build platforms that connect democratic leaders, pro-accountability advocates, academics, public officials, and citizens. These collaborations have been instrumental in fostering a sustained demand for good governance and institutional reform—not only in Nigeria, but also in Zambia, Senegal, Zimbabwe, and Ghana.



A. TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Launch of Upgraded Partners United Portal



On September 24, 2024, the Foundation hosted a roundtable to unveil the enhanced Partners United Portal—a key digital platform supporting accountability actors across Nigeria. The event convened stakeholders from civil society, government institutions, and the private sector for a live demonstration of the portal's new features, designed to promote transparency, collaboration, and good governance.

Key highlights of the event included presentations on the portal's enhanced functionalities, such as improved document management,

streamlined access to user-friendly resources, and a newly developed toolkit to support Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and whistleblowing reports. The upgraded platform also introduced tools to support election monitoring and foster cross-sector collaboration.

Participants engaged in interactive sessions, offering valuable feedback aimed at refining the portal's features and ensuring its continued relevance and effectiveness for accountability actors nationwide.

Partners United Portal



The Partners United portal is a dedicated online community of practice for pro-accountability actors in Nigeria. Developed by the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation in partnership with Reboot and Griot Studios, and with support from the MacArthur Foundation, the platform fosters a dynamic and inclusive ecosystem of individuals and organizations committed to advancing public accountability.

The portal aims to strengthen collaboration and facilitate knowledge exchange and policy learning among members of Nigeria's accountability advocacy coalition. With a streamlined, user-friendly interface, it is

designed to serve civil society organizations, academics, development practitioners, and engaged citizens.

Offering a suite of high-quality resources, advocacy tools, and an interactive forum for dialogue and peer exchange, the platform supports sustained engagement and collective action. By enabling meaningful connection and collaboration, the Partners United portal helps cultivate a robust, diverse, and enduring movement for accountability,

transparency, and good governance in Nigeria.

Partners United has undergone several key upgrades aimed at improving inclusion, fostering continuous knowledge exchange, and enhancing the overall user experience.

The platform's second and third versions (2.0 and 3.0) introduced a range of new features, including an improved user interface, a podcast section, email alert capabilities, a request page, a comprehensive document library, and accountability tools such as a Freedom of Information (FOI) request form and a whistleblowing form.

In collaboration with Griot Studios and Behavioural Insights, the Foundation conducted an in-depth review of the platform's user

interface and user experience. This review assessed accessibility, design, and functionality, while also identifying opportunities to increase the platform's value to accountability actors and other users.

Following these insights, the platform was upgraded to version 4.0, incorporating a series of refined and redesigned features. These include an enhanced user interface, expanded knowledge-sharing tools—such as a blog, user badges, and verified account capabilities—and new accountability resources, including an Election Whistleblowing Form, a Petition Form, and a dedicated Develop Niger Delta resource page. The request page and document library were also updated to improve usability and access to critical information.

Partners United Community of Practice – Advocates (PUCA)

Building on the enhancement of the Partners United platform, the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation launched the Partners United Community of Practice – Advocates (PUCA): a transformative four-month online initiative designed to empower young advocates (ages 18 to 35) to combat corruption, promote transparency, and monitor publicly funded projects in Lagos, Abuja, and Anambra States.

Participants were equipped with essential knowledge and practical tools—most notably, a Freedom of Information (FOI) form integrated directly into the Partners United portal—enabling them to challenge corruption and demand accountability within their communities. The initiative fostered a vibrant network of emerging accountability champions dedicated to increasing public awareness and civic engagement around governance issues.

As part of the program, advocates conducted investigations into high-profile infrastructure projects:

- In Abuja, they scrutinized the *Millennium Tower and Cultural Centre* project, uncovering significant delays and discrepancies linked

to administrative changes. They submitted FOI requests to the Federal Capital Development Agency (FCDA) to raise these concerns.

- In Anambra, efforts focused on tracking water-related initiatives, including the development and commissioning of a water project in Awka-North and South by Senator Victor Umeh.
- In Lagos, advocates monitored the rehabilitation of *Fred William Street* in Ifako-Ijaiye LGA, ensuring transparency and adherence to project timelines.

Throughout the initiative, advocates collaborated via the Partners United platform—sharing insights, reporting progress, and exchanging strategies. This continuous engagement strengthened their efforts and kept the broader community informed about transparency challenges across the three pilot states.

The PUCA initiative made significant strides in cultivating a grassroots community of practice. This growing network of civic-minded individuals is now better positioned to drive transparency, promote accountability, and foster a culture of public oversight across Nigeria.

Innovating for Accountability: Enhancing Democracy Through Technology and Civic Action



On November 22, 2024, the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation convened a Public Policy Forum titled *Innovating for Accountability: Enhancing Democracy Through Technology and Civic Action*. The event brought together key stakeholders from civil society, the tech sector, and policy circles to explore the intersection of innovation and democratic governance.

The forum spotlighted three transformative digital platforms developed to promote transparency and accountability in governance:

- **Naija Elections** – an AI-powered election knowledge management system;
- **Anfani** – a platform for beneficial ownership transparency;
- **Partners United** – an online community of practice for accountability actors.

These tools are strategically designed to amplify citizen voices, detect governance irregularities, and enhance democratic responsiveness through technology.

A panel session titled *Civic Tech at the Service of Democracy, Good Governance, and Accountability* emphasized the urgent need for innovative digital solutions to reinforce Nigeria's democratic infrastructure. Interactive discussions explored how civic tech can empower marginalized populations, strengthen institutional transparency, and foster collaboration between technologists, civil society, and public institutions.

The forum marked a significant step forward in leveraging technology to create a more accountable, inclusive, and participatory democratic landscape in Nigeria.



B. KNOWLEDGE-SHARING AND MOVEMENT BUILDING

Curating Pro-Accountability Experiences and Best Practices



As part of efforts to document the legacy of the MacArthur Foundation's eight-year On Nigeria project, the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation hosted a roundtable on June 14, 2024. The event aimed to curate powerful, real-life impact stories from various initiatives and to celebrate the successes of projects promoting transparency and accountability across the country.

The roundtable brought together representatives from four key cohorts of the On Nigeria initiative—Joinbodi, Media and Journalism, Criminal Justice, and Behavioral Change. Participants engaged in discussions around the development of a mini docu-series that will feature the experiences, challenges, and achievements

of On Nigeria grantees. This series will serve as a vital knowledge repository, capturing best practices and lessons learned in accountability advocacy across Nigeria.

Notable remarks were delivered by Dr. Amina Salihu, Deputy Director of the MacArthur Foundation, and Dr. Ejira Joyce Otiye-Igbuzor, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. Both emphasized that the collaborative documentary project will offer a compelling, evidence-based narrative—showcasing how grantees have challenged norms of corruption in Nigeria while integrating Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) into their accountability efforts.



Reforming Governance to Enhance Social Accountability - Cultivating Peoples' Power

On January 30, 2024, the Joinbodi Cohort—a coalition of 21 civil society organizations working on community engagement under the MacArthur Foundation's On Nigeria programme—hosted a public policy forum focused on preserving civil society gains and identifying new pathways to strengthen accountable governance in Nigeria. A key highlight of the event was the unveiling of the report, *Civil Society Efforts in Transparency, Accountability, and Good Governance*. The publication serves as a strategic reference for the new Nigerian government, outlining civil society's

contributions to promoting transparency while offering forward-looking recommendations for reform.

Two panel discussions explored the report's key findings, celebrated progress made by civil society actors, and examined strategies for sustaining impact. Discussions also focused

on expanding civic space and deepening institutional accountability.

The Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation, a proud member of the Joinbodi Cohort, participated in the event's exhibition fair—showcasing notable achievements from its Governance and Accountability Programme.

Institutionalizing Whistleblowing as an Anti-Corruption Response



On November 7, 2023, in collaboration with the African Centre for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL), the Foundation advanced its commitment to promoting whistleblowing as a critical strategy in Nigeria's fight against corruption.

Recognizing the essential role whistleblowers play in exposing corrupt practices, the Foundation convened a series of strategic roundtables aimed at institutionalizing whistleblowing within the country's anti-corruption framework.

As a follow-up to the launch of the Corruption Anonymous (CORA) platform, the Foundation and AFRICMIL hosted a policy roundtable that brought together key stakeholders—including strategic partners, non-state actors, and citizens. The discussion focused on empowering these groups to take proactive roles in preventing, reporting, and addressing corruption by advocating for stronger policies, legislation, and adjudication mechanisms.

The roundtable also fostered collaboration among civil society organizations and investigative journalists, amplifying the reach and impact of whistleblowing initiatives nationwide.



B. KNOWLEDGE-SHARING AND MOVEMENT BUILDING *continued*

Roundtable with Dr. Jonathan F. Fanton



On November 20, 2023, the Yar'Adua Foundation had the honor of hosting Dr. Jonathan Fanton, former President of the MacArthur Foundation, at a roundtable event focused on civic advocacy and accountability in Nigeria.

The event convened civil society partners from the Foundation's network, who shared valuable insights into their ongoing initiatives promoting transparency and good governance across the country.

Dr. Fanton expressed his admiration for the progress made in advancing civic engagement and accountability in Nigeria. He commended the dedication of local actors and encouraged continued collaboration to sustain a vibrant accountability ecosystem—one that empowers citizens to take collective action against corruption and strengthen democratic governance.



C. CATALYZING STORYTELLING AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

Integrity Icon Awards



In partnership with Accountability Lab Nigeria, the Yar'Adua Foundation hosted the 2024 Integrity Icon Awards to honor five outstanding public servants who exemplify integrity in their professional roles.

Held on December 5, 2024, at the Yar'Adua Centre, the event received over 2,549 nominations from across Nigeria's 36 states, with the education sector leading in nominations. This year's honorees included:

- Mrs. Kamoshi Tadah, police officer
- Mr. Olugbenga Kuye, Lagos State Accident and Emergency Centre

Public Policy Initiative *continued*

- Mr. Idowu Quadri, Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area
- Mr. Ezekiel Osemuahu, Edo State Public Procurement Agency
- Mrs. Temitope Ojage, Fiwasaye Girls Grammar School

The ceremony underscored the vital role of integrity, transparency, and accountability in public service. In his keynote address, Dr. Otive

Igbuzor emphasized the urgent need to rebuild public trust through ethical governance and inclusive decision-making processes.

The event drew participation from government agencies, international partners, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and members of the public—reinforcing a collective commitment to recognizing and celebrating ethical leadership across Nigeria's public sector.

Promoting Accountability through Creative Storytelling



Creative individuals play a pivotal role in shaping public narratives around accountability in Nigeria. Recognizing their influence, the Foundation, in partnership with Griot Studios, hosted a forum on October 3, 2023, to explore the power of creative storytelling, particularly through film, as a tool for addressing corruption and driving social change.

The event positioned creatives as key stakeholders in the accountability movement, highlighting their unique capacity to influence societal norms and shift public attitudes toward corruption. A featured screening of *4th Republic*, a film that critically examines political corruption in Nigeria's electoral system over the past two decades, set the tone for an engaging and reflective conversation. The screening was

followed by a plenary session, an interactive Q&A, and a moving poetic performance titled *Corruption*.

The forum brought together a diverse audience, including creatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), professionals, academics, students, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members, and engaged citizens—all united by a shared interest in using storytelling as a catalyst for social impact.

A dynamic panel discussion served as a key highlight, offering a platform for exchanging ideas, sharing experiences, and inspiring new approaches to using creative media to promote transparency and accountability in Nigeria.



D. SOCIAL INCLUSION AND REPRESENTATION

Disability Inclusion and Launch of the Disability Impact Fund



In commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation joined its inclusion partner, Cedar Seed Foundation, for a dialogue event on December 4, 2023, focused on disability inclusion and the official launch of the Disability Impact Fund (2024–2028).

The event spotlighted the ongoing societal exclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly in the areas of employment and political participation. The launch of the Cedar Seed Disability

Impact Fund was widely recognized as a strategic and timely intervention—essential for advancing full inclusion across all sectors of society. Its introduction aligns with the conclusion of Nigeria's disability inclusion moratorium in 2023 and the anticipated enforcement of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act (2018) in 2024.

The Foundation was represented by Kenneth Emeribe and Lilian Mbaegbu. Delivering a goodwill message on behalf of the Foundation, Mr. Emeribe reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to promoting the inclusion and active participation of persons with disabilities. He commended Cedar Seed Foundation's tireless advocacy and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration to ensure a more inclusive and equitable Nigeria.

The Forgotten Citizens: A Decade of Inclusion

In partnership with the Inclusive Friends Association (IFA), the Yar'Adua Foundation hosted a Public Policy Forum on October 30, 2023, aimed at raising awareness and mobilizing support for the social inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria. A central feature of the forum was the screening of *The Forgotten Citizens: Karonmajiji—The Disabled Colony*, a documentary by filmmaker Amy Limor that



powerfully depicts the long-standing neglect and inhumane living conditions endured by PWDs in a government-sanctioned settlement. The event featured high-profile speakers, including John Palfrey, President of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and Senator Ireti Kingibe, representing the Federal Capital Territory, who both underscored the urgent need for systemic action to improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

As a direct outcome of the forum, the Swiss Embassy in Nigeria committed support for a water project in the Karonmajiji community—ensuring access to clean and safe water for residents. The project was successfully implemented by the South Saharan Social Development Organization (SSDO), marking a critical step forward in addressing the basic needs of this marginalized population.



Pictured (Standing L–R): Amara Nwankpa, Acting Director General, Yar'Adua Foundation; Alihaji Suleiman Muhammad Katsina, Chief of the Karonmajiji Disabled Community; Lukas Schiferle, Deputy Head of Mission, Swiss Embassy; and Abdumalik Alihaji Musa, Yar'Adua Foundation.

Social Inclusion: Nigerian Accountability Conversations

On March 28, 2023, the Yar'Adua Foundation, in partnership with the Cedar Seed Foundation, hosted a public policy forum to address the pervasive discrimination faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria.

The forum explored the deep-rooted cultural norms, negative mindsets, and social attitudes that contribute to systemic exclusion, as well as the role of corruption in limiting access to opportunities, healthcare, and essential services for PWDs.

A panel discussion—moderated by Edwin Iguodala of the Irede Foundation—featured insights from experts who highlighted the ongoing challenges faced by PWDs, including



the lack of accurate data, limited employment opportunities, and significant economic barriers that hinder full participation in society.



E. CONTINENTAL LEADERSHIP AND REGIONAL ADVOCACY

Summit on the State of Democracy in Africa



In collaboration with the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, and with support from the Ford Foundation and Trust Africa, the Yar'Adua Foundation hosted the Summit on the State of Democracy in Africa—a landmark gathering focused on celebrating democratic progress while confronting the troubling resurgence of military coups across the continent.

The summit provided a platform to reflect on strides made toward democratic governance and to examine the growing threats posed by unconstitutional military interventions. It emphasized the urgent need for African-led, continental solutions in the face of mounting external pressures, and sought to reinvigorate the shared aspirations of the African people for unity, freedom, and self-determination.

Participants assessed the consequences of recent military takeovers and explored democratic models grounded in Africa's historical and cultural realities. Discussions highlighted the importance of cross-continental cooperation to build and sustain citizen-centered governance frameworks that are inclusive, resilient, and responsive to local contexts.

Distinguished Speakers Included:

- H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (represented by H.E. Kashim Shettima, GCON, Vice President)
- H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, Former President of the Republic of Nigeria
- Ms. Amina Mohammed, GCON, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations
- Mr. Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation
- Dr. Chichi Anlagolu-Okoye, Regional Director, Ford Foundation West Africa
- Mr. Abubakar Mahmoud, SAN, Board Member, Yar'Adua Foundation
- Dr. Ebrima Sall, Executive Director, Trust Africa
- Professor Gyimah-Boadi, Co-Founder, Afrobarometer
- Dr. Leena Hoffmann-Atar, Africa Programme, Chatham House

The summit convened key African leaders, policy thinkers, civil society actors, and international development partners, united by a shared commitment to advancing democratic renewal and governance transformation across the continent.



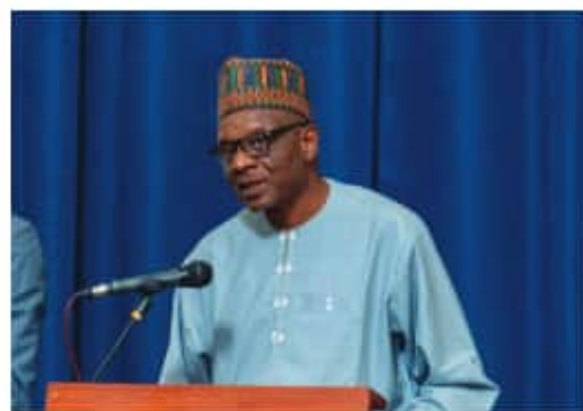
H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR
Former President, Federal Republic of Nigeria



H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria



Mr. Darren Walker
President, Ford Foundation



Dr. Ebrima Sall
Executive Director, Trust Africa



A.B. Mahmoud, OON, SAN
*Member, Board of Directors
Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation*



Dr. ChiChi Aniagolu-Okoye
*Regional Director
Ford Foundation West Africa*



E. CONTINENTAL LEADERSHIP AND REGIONAL ADVOCACY *continued*



Panelists (L-R)

Dr. Leena Hoffmann-Atar
Prof. Pape Chérif BASSÈNE
Professor E. Gyimah Boadi
Dr. Yousra Hamdaoui
Prof. Peter Okebukola



Panelists (L-R)

Mr. Emmanuel Zulu
Ms. Nalenhle Moyo
Mr. Aliou Sane
Ms. Solape Sonuga
Mr. Briggs Bomba

Launch of the West Africa Democracy Fund

The West Africa Democracy Fund was officially launched on October 7, 2024, at the Yar'Adua Centre in Abuja. The initiative seeks to address critical challenges facing democracy in West Africa, including rising authoritarianism, economic struggles, and declining public trust in democratic institutions. With a funding commitment of \$25 million from the Ford Foundation, Luminate Group, Open Society Foundations, and the MacArthur Foundation, the fund will operate over a three-year period. Its primary objectives include strengthening the role of civil society in governance, supporting inclusive policy reforms, and enhancing the participation of marginalized groups, particularly young people and women. The fund aims to

empower West African citizens and promote sustainable democratic reforms in a region facing significant challenges.

The event featured a plenary session with representatives from West African countries and funding partners, along with key stakeholders from ECOWAS, academia, media, and civil society. Speakers emphasized the importance of rebuilding trust in democracy by focusing on citizen engagement, transparency, and accountability. Discussions highlighted the critical role of local and regional partnerships to counter democratic backsliding, particularly through initiatives that amplify grassroots voices and address public concerns.

Public Policy Initiative *continued*



Mr. Stephen King
CEO, Luminate Group



Mr. Brian Kagoro
Managing Director, Programmes
Open Society Foundations



Dr. ChiChi Aniagolu-Okoye
Regional Director
Ford Foundation



Ms. Stephanie Platz
Managing Director, Programs
MacArthur Foundation



Mr. Akin Kekere-Ekun, *off*
Vice Chairman, Board of Directors
Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Foundation



Ambassador Safiyu Olukayode Olaniyan
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria



Dr. Aliyu Modibbo
Office of the Vice President



Mr. Ebenezer Asiedu
Economic Community of West African States



Prof. Jibrin Ibrahim
*Senior Fellow
Centre for Democracy and Development*



Ms. Pelemo Nyajo
UNICEF Young Influencer



Panelists (L-R)
Dr. Ebrima Sall
Ms. Nabilah Usman
Dr. Lassane Oudregou
Ms. Nana Afadziru
Mr. Idrissa Djibrilla
Ms. Saadiatu Aliyu Hamu



F. CIVIL SOCIETY AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Preservation Of Democracy: Joinbodi Side Event at 2023 Open Government Partnership Global Summit



At the OGP Global Summit held in Tallinn, Estonia in September 2023, the Yar'Adua Foundation, in partnership with Connected Development (CODE), co-facilitated a Joinbodi side event that successfully showcased the achievements of Joinbodi cohort members under the MacArthur Foundation's On Nigeria programme.

The event brought together leaders from prominent civil society organizations,

government representatives, and members of the global Open Government Partnership (OGP) community. It highlighted the cohort's collective efforts to strengthen Nigeria's accountability ecosystem, promote social inclusion, and combat corruption.

Key outcomes presented included:

- Increased public demand for accountability
- Improved civic knowledge and awareness
- Empowerment of marginalized communities
- Development of advocacy tools and resources
- Establishment of Community Transparency and Accountability Groups

The event also emphasized the cohort's legacy in advancing inclusive governance and citizen participation. In closing, members reaffirmed their commitment to forming a Nigerian Network of OGP and deepening collaboration between government and civil society to foster more transparent, responsive, and accountable governance.





VIDEO VIGNETTES

Lost in Translation

Lost in Translation explores how corruption is enabled by societal apathy and silence. The film calls for collective action to break the cycle of exploitation and urges audiences to confront corruption rather than ignore it.



https://youtu.be/KGv6TggbUCE?si=NN93pZHk0hvX_yES

Uniting Voices for Inclusive Futures

Uniting Voices for Inclusive Futures underscored that the five-year grace period for compliance with the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 has officially elapsed. The piece called on citizens, institutions, and policymakers to prioritize accessibility and uphold the rights of persons with disabilities.



https://youtu.be/xJua6iVaxM?si=4qWtYsxA_JedUFnJl

Children Have No Filter

Children Have No Filter reveals how everyday exposure to corruption can shape the perceptions, dreams, and values of young minds. The piece underscores the urgent need to model integrity, reminding us that children are watching—and that their future is shaped by the examples we set today.



<https://youtu.be/ajCRGGU454?si=N4M-iS57GRyKBYbl>

On Nigeria Docu-Series

The *On Nigeria Docu-Series* captures the transformative journey of the On Nigeria program, highlighting bold, citizen-led initiatives to combat corruption, promote accountability, and inspire lasting change.

Supported by the MacArthur Foundation, the series showcases the collaborative efforts of civil society organizations, media professionals, faith-based groups, and criminal justice advocates—who have worked together to

create a ripple effect of reform and civic engagement across the country over the past 8 years.



<https://youtu.be/SwMacwVxsZi?si=s5j4U5Lf7ODcH-3N>

Joinbodi Cohort

This episode highlights how the Joinbodi Cohort, part of the MacArthur Foundation's On Nigeria program, brings together civil society organizations across the country to promote government accountability, transparency, and integrity.

Through strategic partnerships and active citizen engagement, the cohort empowers communities to hold leaders accountable and demand greater transparency in

governance. The Joinbodi initiative has made a significant impact—driving positive change and strengthening Nigeria's accountability ecosystem nationwide.



https://youtu.be/4OXIdYd3mEg?si=1atjzusikC_mt7yz

Behavioural Change Cohort

This episode explores how the Behavioural Change Cohort is reshaping Nigeria's social norms through innovative anti-corruption initiatives. From storytelling and edutainment to faith-based advocacy and immersive virtual reality experiences, the cohort demonstrates that change is possible when purpose meets action.

The episode features powerful examples of how schools, communities, and leaders are

embracing new approaches to promote integrity and challenge corruption—proving that shifting mindsets is key to building a more accountable society.



<https://youtu.be/ojCRGGIU4S4?si=N4M-iS57GRyKBvL>



G. PODCASTS AND DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT *continued*

VIDEO VIGNETTES *continued*

Criminal Justice Cohort

This episode uncovers the impact of the Criminal Justice Cohort, showcasing collaborative efforts to strengthen Nigeria's justice system as a vital instrument in the fight against corruption.

Through partnerships among law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, and the judiciary, the cohort works to promote transparency, accountability, and meaningful systemic reform. The episode also highlights how

citizens can play an active role in upholding justice and contributing to the vision of a corruption-free Nigeria.



https://youtu.be/KGv6TggbUCE?si=NN93aZHk0hyX_yES

Media and Journalism Cohort

This episode explores the transformative power of investigative journalism through the work of the Media and Journalism Cohort. It highlights how journalists, advocacy groups, and media institutions collaborate to expose corruption, amplify accountability, and inspire meaningful change across Nigeria.

Through compelling stories and courageous reporting, the episode

underscores the vital role of a free and vibrant press in strengthening democratic governance.



<https://youtu.be/xJuaioVaxM?si=LqWTrsxAJedUFnJl>

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

A targeted social media campaign was deployed to reach a broad audience, with video vignettes garnering over 15 million views across Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



THE UNFINISHED BRIDGE Podcast

The Unfinished Bridge podcast is a compelling platform that explores governance, policy, and societal issues through a unique blend of relaxed conversation and critical analysis. Supported by the Ford Foundation, the podcast offers a fresh, youth-centered approach to unpacking the complexities of nation-building, development, and unity in Nigeria.

Each episode addresses timely topics such as democracy, human rights, climate change, and socio-economic development—shining a spotlight on issues affecting young people and broader society. More than just discussion, the podcast serves as a space for advocacy, empowerment, and active youth engagement, fostering dialogue around the structural, systemic, and cultural challenges shaping Nigeria and the African continent.

SOME OF THE PODCAST EPISODES

Conversation with the Olu of Warri, His Majesty Ogiame Atuwatse III

In this episode, His Majesty Ogiame Atuwatse III, the Olu of Warri, shares his forward-looking vision for a post-oil future in Iwereland. He emphasizes the critical role that extractive communities can play in driving Nigeria's energy transition, and discusses how inclusive, locally grounded strategies are essential for a sustainable future.



https://youtu.be/RmNCFbpTZ7a?si=t1sLym0tDfRwzH_P

Conversation with Mr. John Palfrey

In this episode, Mr. John Palfrey, President of the MacArthur Foundation, reflects on the Foundation's longstanding commitment to Nigeria and its impactful legacy across governance, accountability, and social justice. He also highlights the efforts of the Nigeria-based team, particularly their growing focus on disability inclusion as a core element of the Foundation's programming and partnerships.



<https://youtu.be/ykB3OhWHxY?si=TPsj9O2cw96kj-PT>

Conversation with Honorable Ibrahim Mohammed

In this episode, Honorable Ibrahim Mohammed, the youngest member of Nigeria's 10th House of Assembly, shares his journey into politics and offers thoughtful insights on addressing the challenges facing young people, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and women. He also discusses policy priorities around healthcare and education, and the importance of inclusive governance in shaping Nigeria's future.



<https://youtu.be/GUXuuDbOD7k?si=-7OPVmfMgcqlqBw->

Conversation with Dr. ChiChi Aniagolu-Okoye

In this episode, Dr. ChiChi Aniagolu-Okoye, Regional Director of the Ford Foundation, West Africa, offers a compelling look into the Foundation's work and its focus on social justice. She discusses the growing gap between the rich and poor, its implications for democracy, and the urgency of addressing inequality. Dr. Aniagolu-Okoye also shares practical advice for aspiring development professionals seeking to make meaningful impact in their careers.



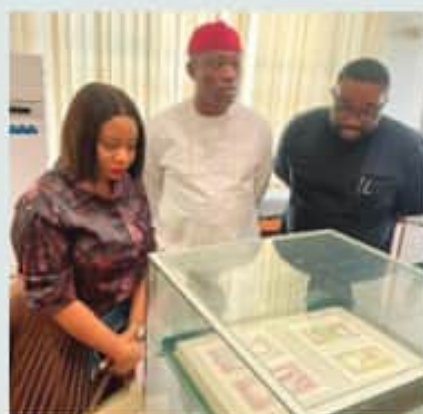
<https://youtu.be/4KzuZ56t7zM?si=AhmQ5gVi67QdoVpv>



Conference facilities include an Auditorium, Central Atrium, Meeting Rooms, Podcast Studio and Professional Services to ensure the success of every occasion.









Loveth Owunze
Conference Coordinator



Shehu Musa Yar'Adua : Profile



Born in Katsina on March 5, 1943 to the late Mutawallin Katsina, Mallam Musa Yar'Adua, young Shehu was greatly influenced by his father's strength of character and capacity for leadership. A member of the Katsina Emirate Council, Mallam Musa Yar'Adua was one of the leading lights of Nigerian political development and a pillar of political wisdom. During the First Republic, Mutawalli served as a member of the House of Representatives, Federal Minister for Establishment, Nigerianisation and Training and later as Minister for Lagos Affairs.

Shehu Yar'Adua was educated at Katsina Provincial Secondary School and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, U.K. He returned from Sandhurst in 1964 as a young second lieutenant not long before the Nigerian Civil War broke out. Major Yar'Adua's capture of Onitsha in 1967 is regarded as the decisive battle that led to the end of the bloody conflict that consumed millions of lives.

The Civil War had a tremendous impact on Lt. Col. Shehu Yar'Adua. Disheartened by the devastation he witnessed, he recognised the futility of disunity based on ethnicity, region and religion. He understood that a united Nigeria was perquisite for the nation's growth and development.

Colonel Shehu Yar'Adua served as Federal Commissioner of Transport in 1976. He was credited with establishing a blueprint for the development of Nigeria's transport sector as well as the reorganisation and decongestion of the nation's ports. Upon the assassination of Head of State Murtala Mohammed in 1977, Yar'Adua was named Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters and promoted to Major-General in the Obasanjo Administration. At just 36 years of age, he was the youngest officer to hold the rank on the African Continent.

Among many accomplishments, perhaps most significant was the Administration's successful conduct of elections and historic hand over to democratic rule in 1979. As the first military government to voluntarily hand over power in Africa, General Obasanjo and General Yar'Adua recognized that enthronement of democracy was the only way to ensure stability and social harmony in the country.

Upon retirement, Yar'Adua joined the business world with a view to providing important private sector services with partners and investors. He established a publishing company, cultivated agricultural holdings, developed manufacturing oil service and shipping facilities and incorporated Habib Nigeria Bank. He established the Islam in Africa Organisation and served as Chairman of the National Mosque Committee where he oversaw the funding and construction of the National Mosque, Abuja.

In April 1978 he was turbaned Tafidan Katsina, a traditional title he inherited from his father.

But the return of a military regime without commitment to handing over to a democratically elected government led Shehu Yar'Adua to join politics. He was prepared to lead the political class through the familiar antics and obstacles set by his former colleagues in uniform.

Shehu Yar'Adua was a gifted politician. His grassroots politics were void of ethnic bias and religious or regional sentiment. His organisation, whether PF or SDP or PDM, dominated the political landscape of the country, breaking what he dubbed the "siege mentality" which had dogged politics since 1914.

His aspirations for the SDP Presidential ticket was inspired by a desire to give the nation the committed and responsible leadership it so desperately desired and deserved. He advocated a new National Purpose designed to enrich lives, inspire patriotic pride and serve the common good.

As a presidential candidate, Yar'Adua continued to break barriers, beating formidable homebased opponents and winning primary elections across the nation. Just when he was poised to win his party's presidential nomination, his election was annulled and he was banned from further participation.

Without bitterness or rancour, Shehu Yar'Adua devoted himself to playing the role of advisor, mentor and counsellor through new rounds of elections. He continued to steer the country toward democracy as the single most influential politician in the country.

The democracy we now enjoy is testimony to Shehu Yar'Adua's courage and leadership. It is his courage and leadership that we continue to celebrate today.

Always a courageous leader, Yar'Adua stood in the forefront to demand a timely hand over to democratically elected government. But those who sought to perpetuate themselves in power plotted to arrest and jail he and others in order to remove any obstacles that stood in their path. Even when his death sentence was passed, Shehu Yar'Adua's spirit and determination were not broken. From KiriKiri Prison in 1995, he wrote, "Please don't worry too much about me. It is the sacrifice some of us must make for our country to be free." Shehu Yar'Adua died two and a half years later in Abakaliki Prison. The country lost a gentleman and a hero, but the structures he built could not be destroyed. The democracy we now enjoy is testimony to Shehu Yar'Adua's courage and leadership. It is his courage and leadership that we continue to celebrate today.

To access additional information on Shehu Yar'Adua including speeches, photographs and videos log on to: www.yaraduafoundation.org

Corporate Information



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

H.E. Atiku Abubakar, GCN

Mr. Akin Kekere-Ekun, OFR

Hajia Bintu Yar'Adua

Lt. Gen. Aliyu Mohammed Gusau (Rtd.)

Mr. Yomi Edu, OFR

Mr. Abubakar Balarabe Mahmoud, CON, SAN

Rt. Hon. Dubem Onyia

Mrs. Jacqueline Farris

Mallam Murtala Yar'Adua

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Director

Director

Director

Director

Director*

Director

Treasurer

REGISTERED OFFICE

One Memorial Drive

Central Business District

Abuja, FCT 900211

BANKER

Access Bank Plc

AUDITORS

Sada, Idris & Co.

(Chartered Accountants)

FMBN Building, 2nd Floor B Wing

Central Business District, Abuja

Tel: 0803.788.2878

SOLICITORS

Dikko & Mahmoud

Solicitors & Advocates

1 Lugard Avenue

Kano

*Deceased

Statement of Financial Position



	2023 N	2024 N
ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment	3,030,394,106	3,064,668,505
Investment	27,594,331	2,177,365
	3,057,988,437	3,066,845,869
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	300,131,519	302,156,636
Total Asset	300,131,519	302,156,636
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Capital Fund	1,030,469,586	1,030,469,586
Revaluation Reserve	2,524,618,427	2,609,762,258
Income and Expenditure	548,466,179	221,004,306
	4,103,554,179	3,861,236,306
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Account Payables and Accruals	34,569,160	24,522,155
Net Current Assets	4,138,123,353	3,885,758,305

The financial statements and notes were approved by the Board of Trustees on February 25, 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mallam Murtala Yar'Adua

Director

FRC/2023/PRO/DIR/003/984145

Mrs. Jacqueline Farris

Director General

FRC/2015/CIRLM/00000012795

Statement of Income and Expenditure



	2024 N		2023 N	
	Centre	Foundation	Centre	Foundation
Income	362,844,269	-	22,644,865	-
Donations and Project Support	-	1,700,344,411	-	918,109,163
Operating Expenses				
Administrative Expenses	(76,409,812)	-	(68,563,745)	-
Maintenance and Utilities	(250,286,529)	-	(143,239,475)	-
Public Policy Initiative Expenses	-	(1,475,616,177)	-	(754,081,670)
Surplus before Depreciation	36,147,928	224,728,234	8,841,645	164,027,493
Depreciation (note 1)	(29,063,603)	-	(10,876,148)	-
Surplus on Ordinary Activities				
Provision for Income Tax	(8,791,869)	-	(1,875,501)	-
Surplus on Ordinary Activities				
Other Comprehensive Income				
Appreciation in Share Values (note 2)	-	25,498,726	-	1,079,659
Gain-Foreign Currency Translations	-	78,942,457	-	336,900,066
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	104,441,183	-	337,979,725
Adjustment for Previous Years				
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year	(1,707,544)	329,169,417	(3,901,013)	502,007,218

Statement of Cashflows



	2023 N	2024 N
Cashflow from Operating Activities		
Receipt from Activities	362,844,269	220,644,865
Receipt from Donations and Project Support	1,700,344,411	918,109,163
Foreign Currency Translation	78,942,457	336,900,066
Payment to Employees/Consultants	(326,426,898)	(204,419,880)
Payment for Project Support (Grants)	(1,475,616,177)	(755,742,470)
Company Income Tax	(8,791,869)	(1,875,510)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	331,296,193	513,616,234
Cashflow from Investing Activities		
Net Appreciation/Diminution in Investments	(79,933,035)	(125,000)
Investment Income (note 7c)	9,859,322	5,289,684
Net Cashflow from Investing Activities	(70,073,713)	5,164,684
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalent	261,222,480	518,780,918
Cash and Cash Equivalent at the beginning of the Year	818,912,436	300,131,519
Cash and Cash Equivalent at the End of the Year	1,080,134,916	818,912,436
Represented by:		
Cash and Cash Equivalent [Bank and Cash Balances]	1,080,134,916	818,912,436

Notes





One Memorial Drive
Central Business District
Federal Capital Territory (F.C.T.) Abuja, Nigeria

www.yaraduafoundation.org

SMYFoundation    