2025
ANNUAL REPORT

BRIDGE CONNECT
Africa Initiative



Proof. Scale. Repeat.

Building Africa's Blueprint for Systemic Change



About BCAI

Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI) is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to co-creating innovative solutions with young people, women, and communities to achieve an equitable, just, and sustainable future. BCAI is committed to empowering and amplifying the rights of girls, women, and young people through equitable access to education, healthcare, economic empowerment, and environmental sustainability.

Founded in 2018, BCAI uses strategies for policy-level advocacy, community engagements, capacity building, digital campaigns, and research to address barriers that limit progress for these groups.

We work closely with communities to co-create innovative solutions and collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, to build a future where women and young people are empowered to live safe and dignified lives.

Over the past six years, BCAI has developed and implemented programs that enhance quality and equitable access to education, promote effective healthcare delivery and safety for women, girls, and young people, advocate for child protection, combat gender-based violence, and foster economic growth. These efforts have directly impacted and benefited ***over 200,000 individuals.***





From Our Executive Director

Across Africa, women and girls continue to face systemic barriers to education, economic opportunity, and civic participation, while youth engagement in governance remains limited. Public financing and policy frameworks too often fail to reflect the needs of marginalized populations. In 2025, Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI) asked a defining question: how can we influence the systems that determine opportunity at scale? The year demonstrated that strategically targeted, evidence-driven interventions can produce measurable, sustainable change, and that these solutions are scalable beyond any region or country.

Our work in Kano State, Nigeria, provides the clearest example of this approach in action. BCAI supported the state in embedding gender equity into public education financing through the Gender-Responsive Education Budgeting Framework, a critical tool for mainstreaming gender in education budgets. The framework was formally endorsed and adopted by the state government during the historic 2025 Kano Girls' Education Summit, the first education convening of its kind in Northern Nigeria, marking a major milestone in system-level reform.

Following this achievement, Kano State maintained the highest allocation of its budget to education (31%), recruited 2,600 teachers, invested ₦4.6 billion in school infrastructure, and dedicated nearly 3% of the education capital budget specifically to girls' education, far exceeding the norm for most other states. The Summit translated technical reforms into political commitment and citizen ownership, proving that system-level interventions can deliver both accountability and scale. Kano now serves as a replicable model for other states and contexts across Africa.

Building on this systemic momentum, BCAI strengthened youth leadership as a vehicle for sustainable change by building the skills of thirty-five fellows across seven Northwestern states and empowering them with platforms to influence youth-related policies.This ensures that young people are architects, not observers, of governance reform. Similarly, the Bridge Impact Internship Program further reinforced this pipeline, producing five highly capable professionals from the pioneer cohort who have transitioned into roles that not only align with their passions but also actively contribute to scalable, youth-led solutions, demonstrating the long-term value of investing in human capital.

Leveraging evidence-based approaches, BCAI is leading a gender norm-shifting initiative to promote digital access for girls in Kano State. The initiative has empowered over 300 girls to engage safely online, while equipping communities and institutions to support girls' digital inclusion, creating lasting shifts in attitudes and access.

Through our women's empowerment initiative, 100 women were equipped with climate-smart agriculture skills, financial literacy, and GBV prevention strategies, enabling them to boost productivity, achieve economic independence, and build resilience against gender-based risks.

To deepen impact, we expanded our work to North-Eastern Nigeria with a fully operational office in Bauchi State, where our sanitation and hygiene campaign has so far reached over 115,000 people directly and 121,000 digitally.

Institutional credibility and strategic partnerships underpin all of BCAI's achievements. In 2025, we diversified funding and collaborations with the French Embassy under the French Embassy Fund for CSOs, LEAP Africa under the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund,, WaterAid Nigeria, and BBC Media Action , while sustaining multi-year engagement with the Malala Fund. We also successfully closed out partnerships with USAID-PEPFAR and the Government of Canada under the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI).

Through USAID-PEPFAR, we employed an AI-powered platform to expand confidential HIV services across 16 states, reaching over 300,000 people. Under CFLI, we directly empowered 50 women in Kano who were either survivors/at risk of GBV, or engaged in small-scale agribusiness equipping them with skills to build sustainable incomes and strengthen resilience against gender-based violence.

Looking back on our transformative efforts, we acknowledge that these achievements would not have been possible without the support of our donors and partners. We extend our sincere gratitude to all collaborators whose investment and support have enabled BCAI to turn ambition into structural reform, opportunity into measurable impact, and vision into sustainable change. As we move into 2026 and beyond, BCAI is well-positioned to consolidate gains in gender-responsive budgeting, expand youth-led policy ecosystems, and scaling digital inclusion and climate-smart economic models, expand our impact to fragile contexts, continuing to deliver high-impact, scalable interventions for women, girls, and youth across the continent.

SANI MUHAMMAD

Founder/ Executive Director
Bridge Connect Africa Initiative

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100 Women
reached directly through the WAVES project

7 L.G.A's
in Kano engaged through advocacy on girls education

600 stakeholders convened
at the Inaugural Kano Girls Education Summit

Our 2025 In Numbers

PROJECT BAGE Bridging Access To Girls' Education

SUPPORTED BY MALALA FUND

BRIDGE CONNECT Africa Initiative

BRIDGING ACCESS TO GIRLS EDUCATION (BAGE) PROJECT

Supported by Malala Funds

The Bridging Access to Girls' Education (BAGE) Project, implemented by Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI) with support from the Malala Fund, is a policy and advocacy initiative aimed at transforming how education is financed for girls in Kano State. It addresses persistent gender disparities in access, retention, and transition, which are driven by poverty, early marriage, insecurity, weak school infrastructure, and limited accountability in public education spending. At the heart of the project is the Gender-Responsive Education Budgeting (GREB) Framework, a government-approved policy tool that ensures budgets are planned, allocated, and monitored to meet the distinct needs of girls, boys, and other vulnerable learners. GREB guides the shift from gender-blind budgeting to evidence-based, equitable, and results-driven investments that directly enhance girls' learning environments, safety, retention, and transition to secondary school.

BAGE operates in Kano State across 7 LGAs in multiple levels of the education ecosystem, engaging government institutions, legislators, civil society organizations, the media, community leaders, parents, and girls themselves as drivers of sustainable reform. The project's core objective is to increase both the allocation and effective utilization of resources for girls' education while strengthening transparency, accountability, and citizen participation in how public education funds are planned, monitored, and spent. Through this multi-layered approach, BAGE promotes systemic change that ensures education financing works for all learners, particularly girls.



Key Activities and Milestones:

BAGE implemented a comprehensive advocacy and accountability strategy linking policy reform, public engagement, and institutional practice.

#TheBAGEProject

1. *BAGE conducted targeted advocacy* throughout the education budgeting cycle, engaging key ministries, agencies, and legislators to ensure education plans and budgets reflected GREB principles. These efforts supported the transition from general allocations to gender-responsive budget lines prioritizing girls' education.





#TheBAGEProject

2. To strengthen coordination and institutional ownership of GREB, BAGE convened inter-agency learning sessions with key education MDAs across Kano State, civil society, and development partners. These sessions facilitated knowledge exchange, reviewed progress on GREB adoption, and fostered collaborative problem-solving to ensure effective implementation of gender-responsive education budgeting.





#TheBAGEProject

3. 7 LGAs in Kano were reached through community town hall meetings, bringing together local stakeholders, civil society, and community members to elevate citizen voices on girls' education financing. These forums provided a platform for communities to engage directly with policymakers, identify gaps in education services, and demand gender-responsive budgeting that prioritizes girls' education needs.

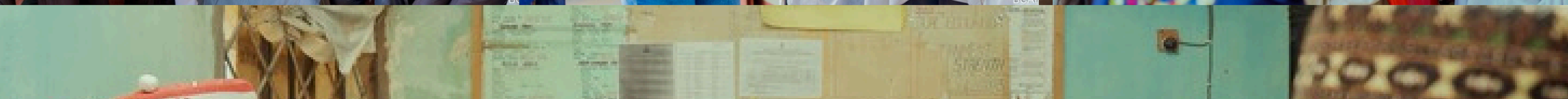












Key Activities and Milestones:

BAGE implemented a comprehensive advocacy and accountability strategy linking policy reform, public engagement, and institutional practice.

#TheBAGEProject

4. Through monthly radio programmes in Hausa and English, BAGE amplified community voices, raised public awareness, and strengthened citizen demand for gender-responsive budgeting, helping the public understand how education budgets directly affect girls' schooling, safety, and learning outcomes across the state





#TheBAGEProject

5. A key milestone was hosting the Kano Girls' Education Summit 2025, which brought together government leaders, civil society, development partners, traditional authorities, and youth. The Summit secured high-level commitments to GREB adoption and early-stage implementation, positioning gender-responsive education financing as a shared state priority.







#TheBAGEProject

6. Complementing advocacy with evidence and storytelling, BAGE produced and screened the documentary *"From Policy to Progress: Girls' Education after the State of Emergency in Education in Kano State,"* highlighting policy shifts, lived realities, and the need for sustained investment in girls' education.





#TheBAGEProject

7. BAGE also organized an annual legislative dialogue with the Kano State House of Assembly, engaging lawmakers on GREB-aligned allocations, timely budget releases, and robust oversight of education spending.



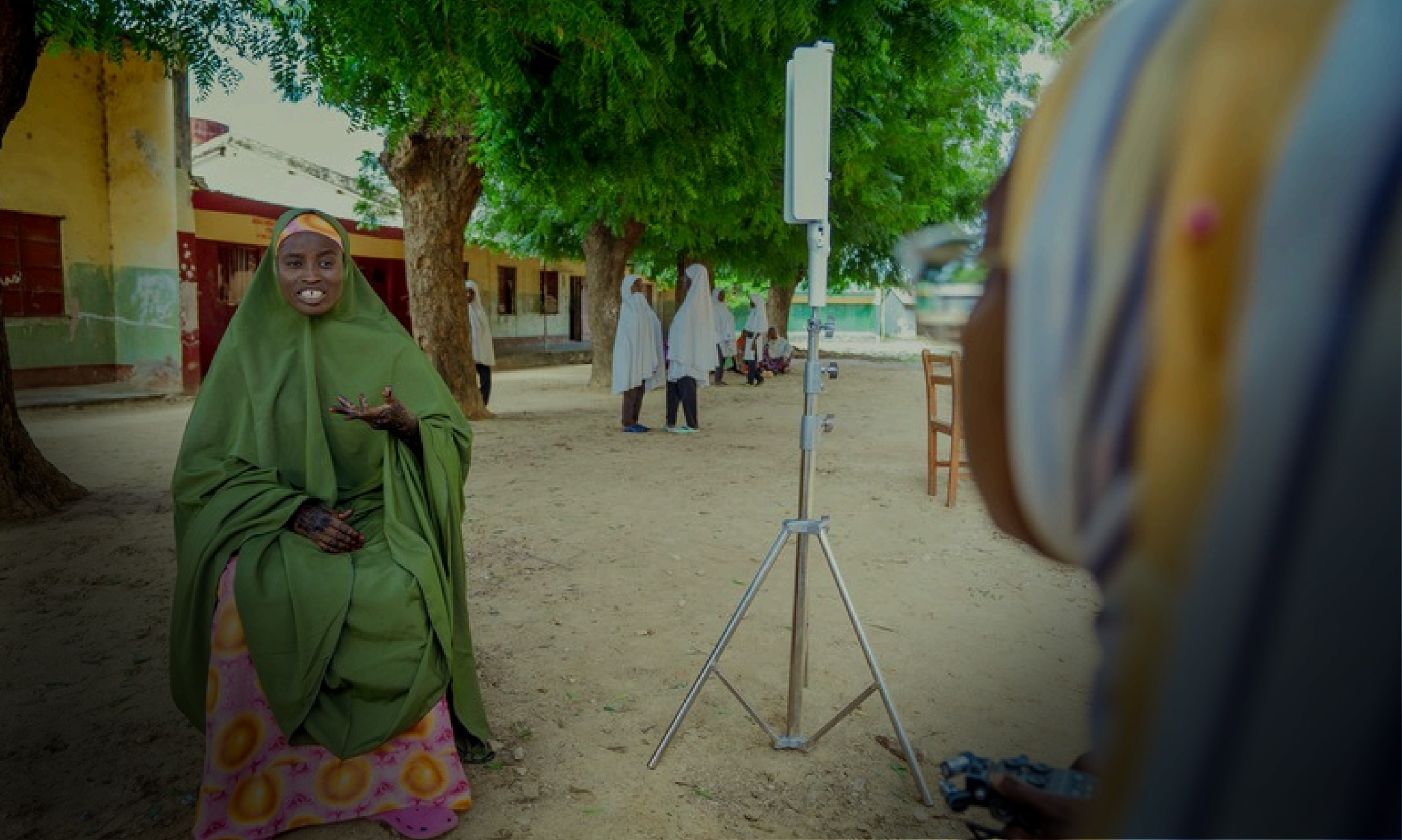


#TheBAGEProject

8. Finally, GREB Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials—digital and print, were developed and disseminated, strengthening public awareness, stakeholder engagement, and institutional understanding of GREB in practice.







Investment in Girls Education Secured

Kano State Government officially adopts the Gender Responsive Education Budgeting **(GREB)** Framework



kano GIRLS' Education Summit

INVESTING IN HER FUTURE

Advancing Girls' Education through Equitable Budgeting

GREB Framework adoption: Publicly adopted and formally integrated as a policy tool under the Ministry of Education, establishing a strong foundation for gender-responsive planning and budgeting in the education sector.

Influencing government action: Through strategic advocacy, public awareness programs, town halls, inter-agency sessions, and the Kano Girls' Education Summit 2025, BAGE influenced the Kano State Government to:

Increase education allocations to over

31%

of the state budget, surpassing international benchmarks and rojected to benefit

230,000+

Girls

Recruit

2,600+

Teachers to address teacher–pupil gaps, improving learning quality.

Invest

4.6 Billion

In 2025 for classroom construction and renovation (100+ classrooms), furniture, and ICT support, enhancing

1,200+ public schools across

44 LGAs

directly improving school safety, access, and learning conditions for girls.

The project's advocacy, radio programmes, IEC materials, and public engagement reached over

2 MILLION PEOPLE

people directly and indirectly, including girls, government officials, legislators, civil society, and media practitioners—building a strong constituency for gender-responsive education financing.

The Kano Girls' Education Summit 2025 brought together

600+

key stakeholders including high level decisionmakers, government officials, securing political and institutional commitments for early GREB implementation.

BAGE's research, advocacy, and media engagement demonstrated how GREB-aligned budgeting translates policy into measurable outcomes, fostering sustainable change in girls' education across the state.







TESTIMONIALS



“No barriers — whether poverty, distance, cultural limitations, or inadequate resources — will stand in the way of our daughters’ education and empowerment.”

Deputy Governor of Kano State, speaking on behalf of the Governor at the Kano Girls’ Education Summit 2025



At BCAI we believe that education is more than a policy priority — it is a shared promise of dignity, opportunity, and hope.”

Executive Director, Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI)



This is a vital step towards creating inclusive and resilient education systems that leave no girl behind.

CEO, Malala Fund (Nigeria)



The increased budget allocation and reforms are reshaping the education landscape with a focus on equity and inclusion.

Kano State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Ali Haruna-Makoda



We must go beyond rhetoric and commit to targeted, equitable, and sustained investment in girls’ education. When a girl is educated, she is more likely to contribute meaningfully to her community.

Minister of State for Education



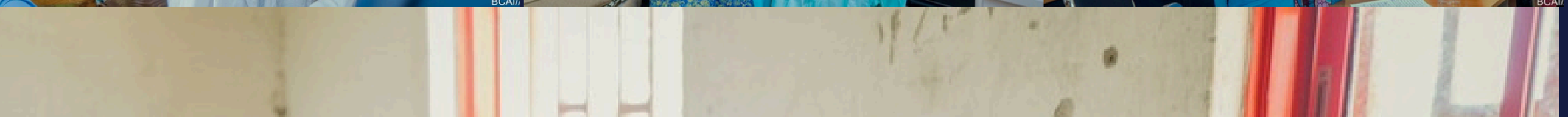












THE WAVES PROJECT PHASE II

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EMPOWERED THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY

Promoting Women's Economic Growth Against Violence through Sustainable Practices in Kano.



(WAVES) PROJECT PHASE II

About the Project.

The **Women Against Violence Empowered through Sustainability (WAVES) Project**, is a nine-month integrated incubation and acceleration program aimed at creating a thriving ecosystem of empowered women in Kano State through gender-based violence prevention, sustainable agriculture, and economic empowerment. This project is grounded in the reality that women and girls in Northern Nigeria continually face gender-based violence linked to economic dependency, which have been found to be driven by numerous barriers including limited access to productive resources, economic opportunities, and essential services, further exacerbated by environmental degradation and climate variability. The project is anchored on three strategic implementation pillars

(a) Capacity-building and skill development,
(b) advocacy and policy engagement, and
(c) institutional capacity strengthening.

With previous support from the Canadian Government through the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), and current support from the Government of France through the French Embassy Fund for Civil Society Organisations (FEF-OSC), the project integrates three core, interdependent themes: **Gender Equity, Climate Action, and Social Inclusion.** Accordingly, a hundred (100) women from 8 LGAs in Kano States have directly benefitted from the WAVES since 2024 through

(a) intensive training in GBV prevention and referral pathways to address protection needs;
(b) financial literacy and business development to enhance economic autonomy; and
(c) comprehensive Climate-Smart Agricultural (CSA) training to promote resilient, sustainable, and productive farming practices.

This integration ensures a gender-responsive framework with climate-smart solutions to address both immediate vulnerabilities and the root causes of poverty and inequality. The **WAVES** project demonstrates that economic empowerment is intrinsically linked to environmental stewardship and long-term resilience for women, communities, and the environment at large.

WAVES WOMEN



Activities Carried Out in 2025

Between June 2025 to December 2025, a total of 9 activities have been completed under the three strategic implementation areas of the WAVES project.

Capacity Building and Skill development

The Capacity building and skill development component of the waves project include three activities



GBV Support Workshop:

The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Support workshop marked the first implementation activity under the Women Against Violence Empowered by Sustainability (WAVES) Project Phase II. Held over the course of two days, July 23 - 24, 2025, the workshop delivered five sessions designed to enhance participants' understanding of GBV, empower them with legal and human rights awareness, strengthen their capacity to report incidents and access support services, build their communication and boundary-setting skills, and foster peer leadership and grassroots advocacy. The workshop created an opportunity for participants to share experiences, coping mechanisms, and liberation stories. The workshop set the tone for the creation of a mutual support network among the women.

Business and Financial Literacy Training:

The Business and Financial Literacy Training for WAVES women was conducted on September 29-30, 2025. It was designed to strengthen the entrepreneurial capacity of WAVES women by enhancing their understanding of fundamental business principles and financial management. Over the two days, the 50 women participated in a series of interactive sessions covering key areas such as business opportunity identification, financial literacy, record keeping, value addition and packaging, market access, cooperative formation, and business planning. The training sessions were facilitated by seasoned experts from academia and agribusiness sectors, including facilitators from AgrofixiNG, Bayero University, Kano, and other sector specialists.



Climate Smart Agriculture Training:

The WAVES II Climate Smart Agriculture Training held between August 19 - October 7, 2025, and was implemented in collaboration with WAVES technical implementation partners AgrofixiNG, an agribusiness consulting firm. The training saw the women undertake a profound journey from theory to practice through dynamic sessions led by a multidisciplinary team of experts. The women actively participated in the joint cultivation of cucumbers and okras on a demonstration farm, practices they replicated across 8 CSA communities clusters within the same time period. While the farm demonstration introduced them to CSA practices, their application as well as effectiveness and efficiency, the success of community cluster activities demonstrated to participants the ease with which CSA practices can be implemented by any willing individual.

Follow-up field visits revealed high practical knowledge retention and skill application among participants, and dissemination to women across CSA cluster communities. Participants also demonstrated the ability to integrate acquired knowledge and skills into traditional agricultural practices.







Activities Carried Out in 2025

Between June 2025 to December 2025, a total of 9 activities have been completed under the three strategic implementation areas of the WAVES project.

Advocacy and Policy Engagement

Two activities were carried out under the Advocacy and Policy Engagement pillar of the WAVES project



CSO Advocacy Workshop:

In view of harmonising efforts towards coordinated evidence-based advocacy for women and girl's safety and social inclusion through economic empowerment in Kano, the WAVES CSO Advocacy workshop, which was held on October 29-30, 2025, brought together senior management executives of 17 Kano-based civil society organisations. From foundational advocacy principles, to evidence-based advocacy, planning and strategy development, and strategic communications, a variety of tools and methods were deployed to strengthen the capacity of participating organisations. The key issues unearthed during the workshop included poor collaboration among CSOs, leading to duplicated efforts, and the widespread challenge of hesitance from survivors or their guardians to explore legal and medical services due to fear of stigmatisation.



Participants went further to identify common systemic barriers and recognized the powerful opportunity that lies in forming a unified coalition to address these challenges. With a focus on eliciting renewed commitment from the government for the approval and implementation of the Kano State version of the National Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Policy and Action Plan, an advocacy coalition was formed with clear objectives, and an action plan. The Workshop concluded with participants expressing strong consensus on the coalition's priority focus: advocating for the implementation of the Kano State WEE Policy as a key strategy for GBV prevention.

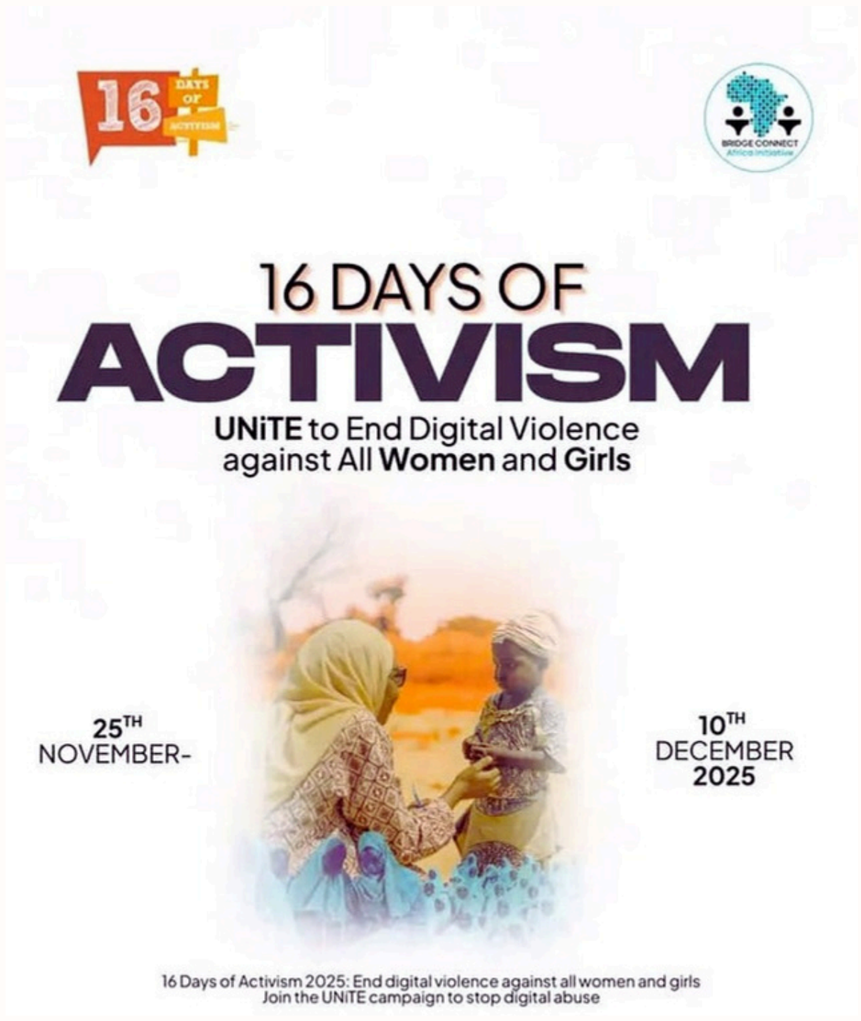
GBV Consortium Policy Dialogue

The GBV Consortium Policy Dialogue on women's safety and social inclusion in Kano State held on December 1-2, 2025. The objective was to foster a multi-sectoral commitment and drive collaborative action towards the creation of a safer, more equitable, and inclusive society for all women and girls in Kano State through strengthened policy and accountable implementation. Speaking at the event in an open forum, stakeholders drawn from across public and private sectors including CSOs, academia, health professionals, traditional leaders, faith leaders, law enforcement, and the media, critically assessed the state of women's safety and social inclusion in Kano state, highlighted efforts by government and other stakeholders, identified policy gaps to be filled, and emerging concerns in that regard.

Beyond discussions and policy recommendations, the dialogue led to the official inauguration of the Kano State Gender Equity and Women Economic Empowerment (GEWEE) Coordination Mechanism by the Commissioner, Ministry of Women Affairs, Children, and People with Special Needs. The state-level committee is chaired by the honourable commissioner, with members drawn from CSOs, private sector, faith-based women groups, and youth groups. The committee is expected to oversee the development of action plans for the implementation of the state Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) and Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) Policies set to be officially launched in the first quarter of 2026.

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16 Days of Activism

In the spirit of commemorating the annual 16 Days of Advocacy Against Gender-based Violence observed from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day), the WAVES project hosted six (6) public awareness radio sessions. With two sessions held each week on COOL FM (English) and Freedom Radio (Hausa) over the advocacy period, the public was educated on evolving GBV trends including digitally facilitated violence against women, a focus area for 2026. Reaching millions of people across Kano State and beyond, the campaign brought together experts from across academia, law enforcement, the development space, and the health sector to expound on various themes associated with GBV prevention, support, and survivor reintegration.







Institutional Capacity Strengthening





As part of institutional strengthening activities for the WAVES Project, only one (1) activity was conducted, Capacity Strengthening Workshop for Police GBV Desk Officers across selected Divisions in Kano state.

The two-day workshop, held on December 15th and 16th, 2025, at the Police Mess in Bompai, Kano, brought together frontline officers from urban and rural divisions to be equipped as ambassadors of a survivor-centered, trauma-informed policing model.

The training, themed “Strengthening Police Operational Readiness for Protecting GBV Survivors Across Kano State,” served as a direct and powerful implementation of the **WAVES Project’s** core philosophy: that women’s economic empowerment must be underpinned by robust, reliable, and empathetic institutions to truly break the cycle of violence. The workshop facilitated a profound journey from theory to practice through dynamic sessions led by a multidisciplinary team of experts.

A pivotal component of the workshop was the participant-led reflective exercise. Officers shared candid experiences from past investigations, discussing techniques, outcomes, and, with new insight, how they would act differently. They collectively identified and recommended solutions to persistent systemic bottlenecks including

(i) delayed reporting due to stigma and fear
(ii) poor cooperation from survivors and families influenced by community pressure
(iii) reluctance of medical examiners to testify in court, and
(iv) logistical and financial burdens on survivors for medical reports and court attendance.

Key Highlights from the WAVES Project

A key highlight from the training was an interactive session with Hajiya Talatu from Bunkure Local Government, a seedling vendor who began her journey as a trainee and has since grown to own a greenhouse and farmland worth millions of naira. She shared her inspiring story with the participants, motivating them to believe in their potential for growth and success.

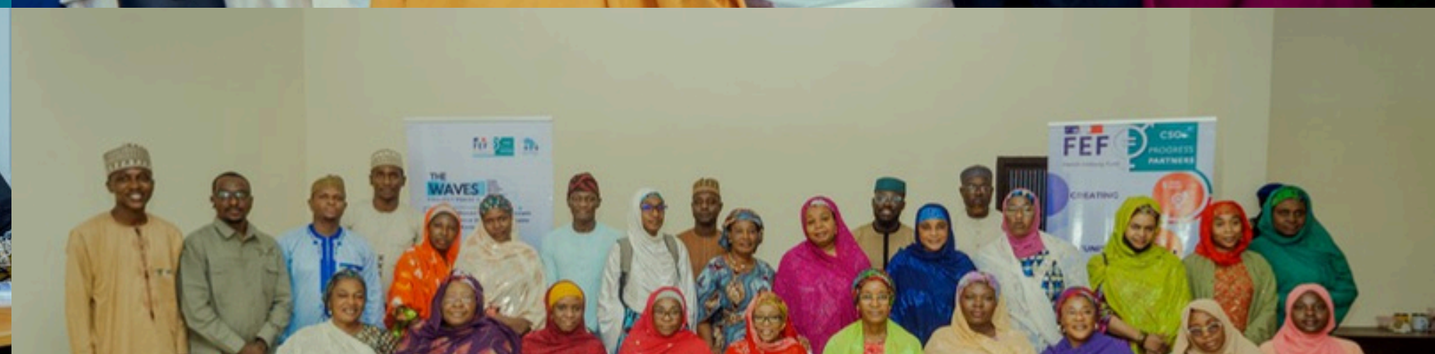

CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
DRIVING
LITY










FEF
CSOs
PROGRESS
PARTNERS

3. Measurable Impact on Systems & Policy:

1 State-Level Coordination Mechanism Inaugurated: Successfully launched the Kano State Gender Equity and Women Empowerment (GEWE) coordination Committee, a UN Women initiative, to unify cross-sectoral efforts.

● Critical Policy Advancement: Mobilized concrete commitments from state-level decision-makers to finalize the domestication and passage of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act in Kano State.

● Multi-Level Engagement Model Validated: Demonstrated effective impact through simultaneous interventions at beneficiary, community, institutional, and policy levels.

Beneficiary & Stakeholder Feedback:

● Hajiya Rashiyda Aminu, SGBV Unit Head, NAPTIP, Kano Zone: Emphasized the project's alignment with the need for "effective policy implementation, multi-sectoral coordination, and survivor-centered accountability."

● Beneficiary testimonial: "After my marriage ended, life became very hard for me. I was left alone to care for my two children, and I struggled every day to provide food for them.....After joining the WAVES project, everything truly began to change. The support, capacity building and training I received became the foundation I needed to rebuild my livelihood.....now, from the income I earn, I can properly care for my children and plan for our future."

1.Direct Empowerment of Women & Communities:

50 Women

trained in GBV foundations, boundary-setting, and legal referral pathways; climate-smart agriculture; and business & financial literacy within the span of ***3 months***

8 Demonstration Plots established as practical learning sites for climate-resilient farming.

50 beneficiaries Own and operate fully functional bank accounts (a crucial step towards financial inclusion)

17 Member

CSO Coalition formed, trained, and equipped with a unified advocacy strategy and workplan to drive WEE policy implementation in Kano State.



20 Police

Officers serving as GBV Desk Officers trained in trauma-informed, survivor-centered case management, legal frameworks, and professional documentation.

2. Strategic Partnerships & Advocacy Reach:

13 Traditional and religious leaders

engaged across to champion beneficiary participation and support the GBV Consortium and Policy Dialogue.

50 Stakeholders

Stakeholders convened across a 2-day high-level GBV Consortium and Policy Dialogue, representing government, security agencies, civil society, traditional/faith institutions, and the private sector..

4 Private Sector Actors

leveraged for technical support, media documentation, and logistics.

Six (6) radio

programmes conducted in a bid to spread awareness on digital GBV across Kano

YOUTH
LEADING
CHANGE
PROGRAM

Youth Leading Change Program (YLCP)

About the Project

The Youth Leading Change Program (YLCP) is a strategic initiative led by Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI) aimed at empowering young leaders in Nigeria's Northwest region. The program targets youth aged 18 to 35, focusing on building capacities in leadership, advocacy, civic engagement, and community organizing.

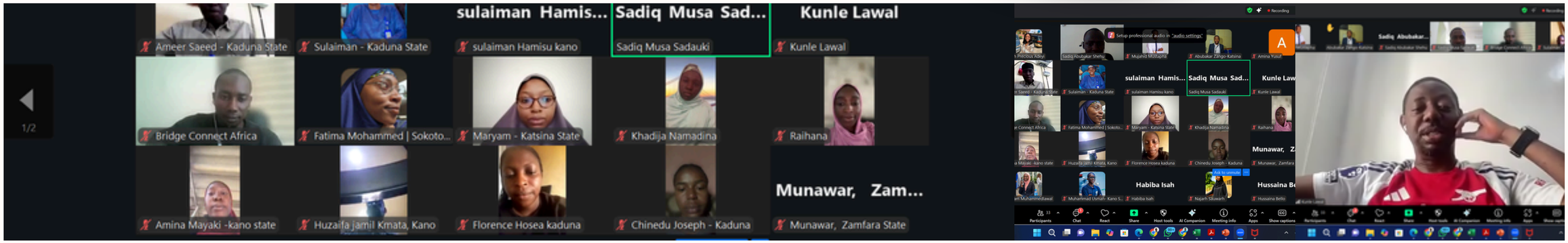
YLCP combines both online and in-person learning modalities, with a curriculum designed to equip 35 selected youth fellows across seven states: Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara, Kebbi, Jigawa, and Sokoto with practical skills to influence policy, engage in governance, and promote good leadership practices.

Alongside the fellows, a consortium of 20 youth-led organizations has been established to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and coordinated advocacy efforts for broader impact. The program also integrates dialogue sessions at the state level and plans for a Northwest Youth Summit in Kano, serving as platforms for youth, policymakers, and other stakeholders to assess youth policy gaps and co-create solutions.

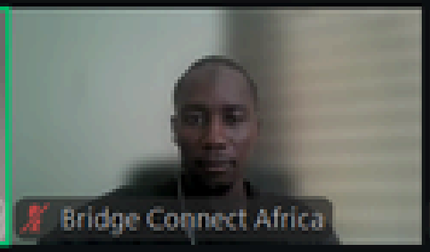


Activities Carried Out

The Youth Leading Change Program (YLCP) has implemented a series of strategic activities aimed at empowering youth leaders and strengthening youth-led organizations in Nigeria's Northwest region. These activities have been carefully phased and designed to foster skills development, organizational capacity, and collaborative advocacy:









Sadiq Musa Sad...

Sadiq Musa Sadauki

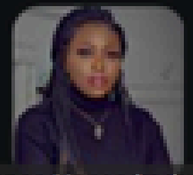


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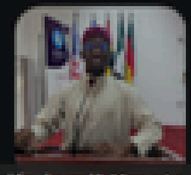
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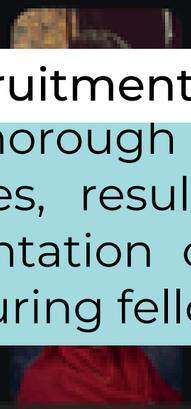
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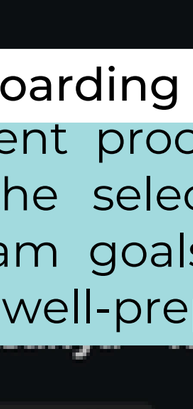
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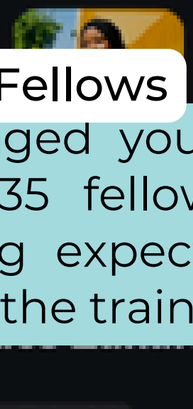
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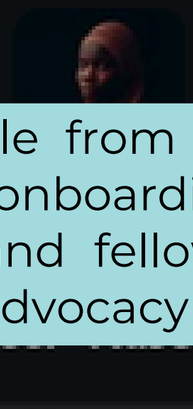
Recruitment and Onboarding of Youth Fellows

A thorough recruitment process engaged young people from the seven Northwest states, resulting in the selection of 35 fellows. The onboarding process included orientation on program goals, learning expectations, and fellowship responsibilities, ensuring fellows were well-prepared for the training and advocacy activities ahead.

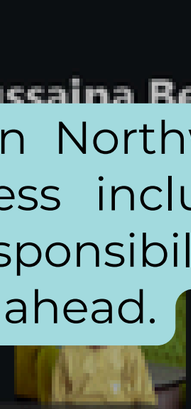






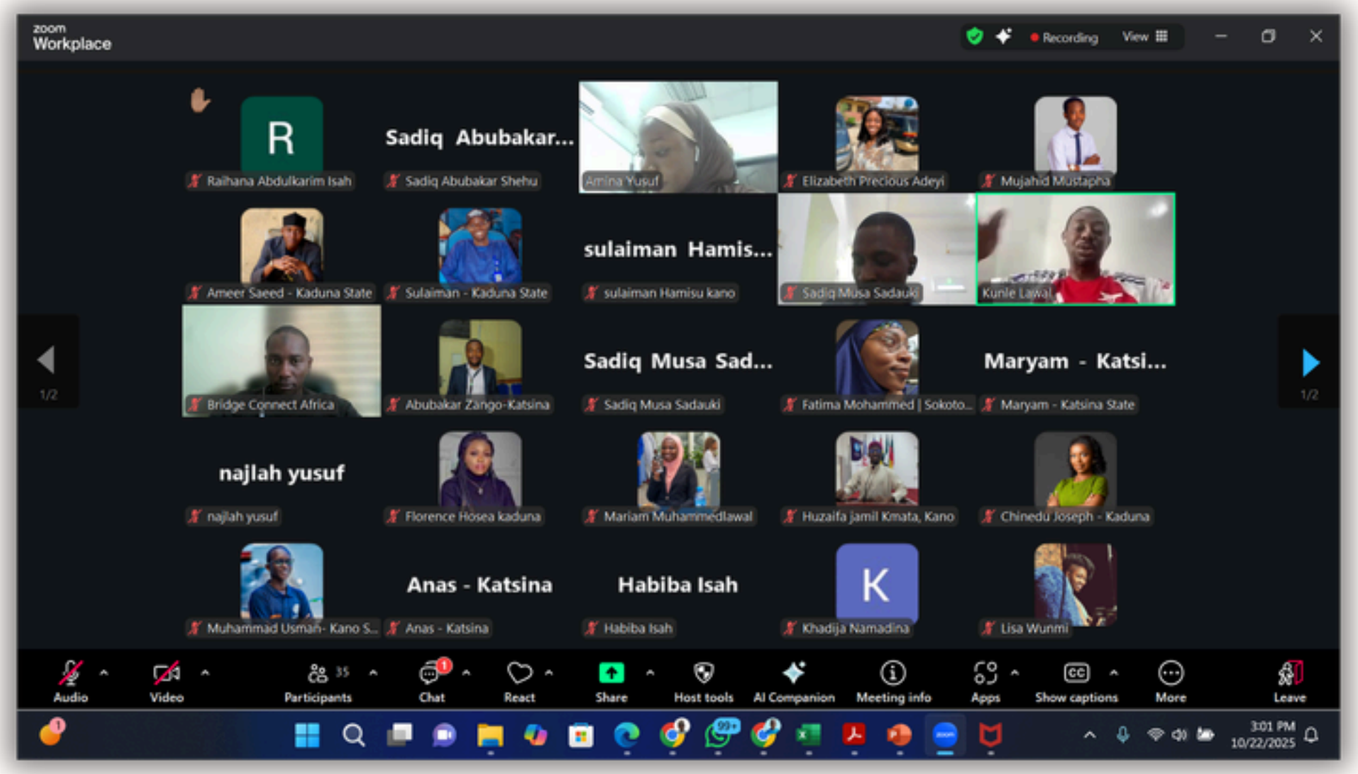


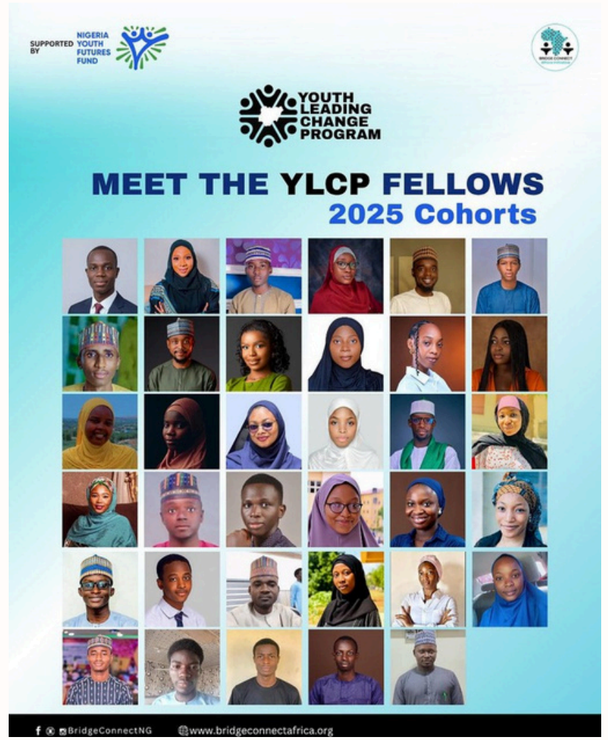
Hussaina Bello



Social Media Campaign and Public Engagement

To raise awareness and attract applicants, the program launched a comprehensive digital campaign across Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (X), and LinkedIn. This campaign significantly increased visibility, resulting in over 750 applications from youth across the region, reflecting widespread interest in the program.





Bi-weekly Live Learning Sessions

B
The program delivered regular virtual classes focused on leadership, advocacy, inclusive and nonviolent leadership, data-driven advocacy, project design, and stakeholder engagement. These interactive Zoom sessions fostered peer learning, skill enhancement, and provided a space for fellows to reflect and apply new knowledge in their community projects.

Formation and Engagement of Youth Consortium

Twenty youth-led organizations were identified and onboarded to form the YLCP Youth Consortium. Consortium members underwent orientation on consortium structure, roles, and engagement protocols. This collective provides a platform for networking, collaboration, and coordinated advocacy across the Northwest region.

Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) of Consortium Members

The program conducted a comprehensive digital assessment covering seven critical organizational domains: governance, financial management, program quality, monitoring and evaluation, human resources, partnerships, and resource mobilization. The results informed a Regional Capacity Strengthening Plan tailored to address consortium members' institutional gaps and needs.

Development and Enhancement of the YLCP Learning Management System (LMS)

In partnership with eBrand Promotion and Outsidelab, the LMS was upgraded through content transformation and integration phases. Training modules were converted into interactive, multimedia-rich digital formats to enhance accessibility and engagement. By December, the LMS upgrade reached approximately 80% completion, establishing a robust platform for ongoing civic leadership education.



Foundation Session for a Strong Northwest Youth Ecosystem

A key milestone was the convening of an interactive consortium session involving youth leaders from all seven Northwest states. The session aimed to build a shared understanding of the regional youth governance landscape, identify state-specific policy priorities, and foster consensus on a collective youth agenda. This foundational dialogue surfaced 13 state-level policy insights and clarified collaboration structures, setting the stage for upcoming state dialogues and the Northwest Youth Summit.

YLCP Fellowship Reflection Session

The program facilitated a dedicated reflection session where fellows shared their personal learning journeys. This session provided a structured space for participants to discuss key mindset shifts, including moving from charity-based approaches to sustainable development models. Fellows reflected on lessons learned, unlearning previous assumptions, and practical application of knowledge in their community engagements. The session also prepared them for upcoming activities such as mentorship, policy surveys, and state dialogues, reinforcing their leadership growth and readiness.





A total of 9 live virtual training sessions were conducted with an average attendance rate of

89.04%,

women and persons with disabilities made up approximately

53.4%

Post-session evaluations showed an impressive average learning score of 9/10, demonstrating significant knowledge uptake and skill acquisition in areas such as data-driven advocacy, inclusive leadership, nonviolent change, and project design.

2. **Institutional Strengthening of Youth-led Organisations**

The program mapped and formally onboarded 20 youth-led organizations into the YLCP Consortium, achieving 80% onboarding during the reporting period.

An Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) was conducted with 17 consortium members, assessing governance, financial management, program quality, M&E, HR, partnerships, and resource mobilisation.

The OCA findings informed the creation of a Regional Capacity Strengthening Plan (RCSP), a targeted institutional development roadmap to bolster organizational resilience and advocacy effectiveness.

3. **Digital Learning Management System (LMS) Development and Usage**

The YLCP LMS development progressed through content revamp and digital transformation phases, reaching approximately 80% completion by December.

Content modules were redesigned into interactive formats featuring videos, quizzes, audio, and graphics, ensuring an engaging, accessible, and self-paced learning platform for youth leaders.

The LMS upgrade enhances the program's scalability, enabling ongoing civic leadership training for young leaders beyond live sessions and across geographic boundaries.

4. **Youth Policy Engagement and Ecosystem Building**

A foundational consortium session convened youth leaders from all seven states, generating **13 state-specific** youth policy insights, with Kaduna

Kaduna (4 insights, 30.8%),

Katsina (3 insights, 23.1%)

Sokoto (2 insights, 15.4%)

Kebbi, Zamfara, Jigawa, and Kano (1 insight each, 7.7% each)

These insights contribute to a developing Northwest Youth Agenda and align with upcoming Youth Policy Surveys, state dialogues, and national policy frameworks.

Impacts

The Youth Leading Change Program (YLCP) has made substantial progress in building youth leadership, strengthening youth-led organizations, enhancing digital learning infrastructure, and fostering policy engagement across the Northwest region of Nigeria.

5. **Inclusion and Representation**

These insights contribute to a developing Northwest Youth Agenda and align with upcoming Youth Policy Surveys, state dialogues, and national policy frameworks.

Testimonials

Khalil Haladu (Jigawa State)
"From the Data-Driven Advocacy and Power Mapping session, I learned how data can be used to identify key issues, influence decision-making, and measure the impact of advocacy efforts. I also understood how power mapping helps to recognise stakeholders, allies, and decision-makers who can drive change within a community or system. I will use this learning by applying data collection and analysis in my future advocacy projects, especially when addressing youth and community challenges."

Maryam Munir Galma (Kaduna State)
"This training has been a truly eye-opening and empowering experience for me. It helped me understand myself better, strengthened my confidence, and opened my mind to new ways of thinking about leadership, community work, and problem-solving. I didn't just learn concepts, I learned practical skills that I can apply immediately in my community."

Amina Yusuf (Kano State)
"The fellowship helped me see the difference between charity and sustainable development. I realized my teaching program with children needed to keep going even if I wasn't there, that changed how I plan my community work."

Elizabeth Precious Adeyi (Kebbi State)
"I used to think advocacy was about confronting the government directly. YLCP showed me that collaborating with decision-makers and being patient can lead to real, lasting change. Listening to the community is key."

Nura Nishir - Justice Cafe, Kaduna
"We are excited to join the YLCP Youth Consortium and look forward to collaborating with other youth-led organizations to advance governance and youth inclusion in Northwest Nigeria. We believe this platform will significantly amplify our impact through shared learning and joint advocacy initiatives."

Mubarak Ahmad Taura - TurnUp Jigawa
"We had a wonderful YLCP onboarding session, which was interactive, educative, and impactful. We were empowered with many valuable takeaways to apply within our organization."

BBC MEDIA ACTION





About the Project

The AGYW Digital Inclusion & Gender Norms Project is a community-based intervention implemented by Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI) in partnership with BBC Media Action, aimed at strengthening meaningful and safe digital inclusion, expanding opportunities and strengthening AGYW influence while getting increased support from their reference groups.

The project is designed to create safe, structured spaces where AGYW can engage in peer learning, build confidence, strengthen digital and social awareness, and participate in community-level dialogue alongside key influencers and stakeholders. Through a combination of peer sessions, stakeholder engagements and community dialogues, the project seeks to foster supportive environments that enable girls and young women to access digital tools safely and meaningfully and shifting restrictive norms within their communities through dialogues with stakeholders.

The project is to be implemented across 12 communities in three Local Government Areas (LGAs) — Tarauni, Kumbutso, and Ungogo using a culturally responsive and community-led approach.

Activities Carried Out in 2025



1. Facilitators & Field Officers Capacity Building: In 2025, BCAI, in partnership with BBC Media Action, conducted an initial capacity-building training for facilitators and field officers recruited to support the project implementation. The training focused on:



- Project overview and objectives.
- Understanding digital inclusion within gender and cultural contexts.
- Gender sensitivity, safeguarding principles, and ethical engagement with AGYW.
- Community engagement approaches and facilitation techniques.
- Identifying potential risks, assumptions, and sensitivities within community contexts.

Participants engaged in group discussions and reflective exercises, including exploring what digital inclusion means to them personally, what enables inclusion, and what barriers exist for girls and young women. Role-plays and mock facilitation sessions were used to strengthen facilitators' confidence and preparedness for community-based work.
This training laid the foundation for effective, ethical, and culturally sensitive engagement at the community level.



BBC MEDIA ACTION

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT AND NORMS BETWEEN ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN (AGYW) AND THEIR INFLUENCERS IN NIGERIA PROJECT



- Build confidence in digital use by sharing opportunities available to AGYW

Community Entry & Engagement (2025)

A major focus of 2025 activities was community entry and stakeholder engagement, which served as the groundwork for all subsequent peer learning and dialogue activities.

BCAI project staff, facilitators, and field officers conducted introductory visits across all 12 project communities within the three LGAs: Tarauni LGA, Kumbutso LGA and Ungogo LGA
Community entry meetings were held with traditional leaders, religious leaders, women leaders, youth representatives, and other influential stakeholders in the selected communities—Hausawa–Fulani, Hotoro Danmarke, Unguwar Uku–Cikin Gari, and Tarauni (Tarauni LGA); Panshekara, Chiranchi, Guringawa, and Dan Maliki (Kumbotso LGA); and Zango–Dakata, Rijiyar Zaki, Tudun Fulani, and Bachirawa (Ungogo LGA). During these engagements, the project objectives, scope, and implementation approach were clearly communicated, with emphasis placed on safeguarding, cultural sensitivity, and the importance of creating safe spaces for girls and young women.

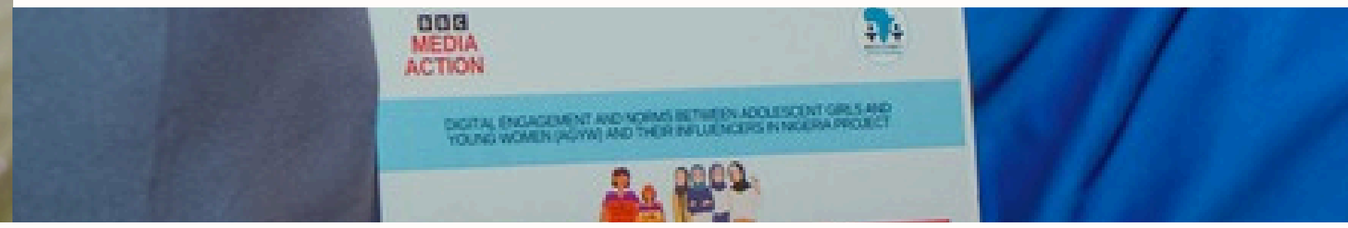
These engagements enabled the project team to gain deeper contextual understanding of each community, identify potential sensitivities, and align implementation plans with local norms and expectations. Community leaders expressed support for the initiative and played a key role in facilitating introductions to facilitators, peer participants, and relevant stakeholders. The successful completion of this phase laid a strong foundation for the rollout of peer sessions, stakeholder dialogues, and ongoing community-level collaboration throughout the project lifecycle.

These engagements were highly consultative, allowing community leaders and members to ask questions, raise concerns, and provide contextual insights. Across the majority of communities, leaders expressed strong receptiveness and support, acknowledging the relevance of digital inclusion discussions for girls and young women.
















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LET'S BUILD A CLEANER, HEALTHIER, AND WEALTHIER BAUCHI TOGETHER!

SHF Project In Bauchi In Partnership with WaterAid

About the Project

Sanitation and hygiene access remain critically low in many secondary towns and cholera-prone hotspots in Nigeria, with systemic challenges in behavior change, infrastructure access, and sustainable financing. This project responds to these challenges by implementing a robust, community-driven sanitation and hygiene intervention in Bauchi State, targeting over 900,000 people directly and indirectly, with a strong focus on behavioral transformation, innovation, inclusion, and sustainability.

Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI), in partnership with WaterAid Nigeria, will serve as a core implementing partner, leveraging its grassroots experience, policy engagement expertise, and gender-inclusive lens to advance sanitation access, improve hygiene practices, and foster green, market-based WASH entrepreneurship.

The project is focused on hygiene behavior change (HBC), waste-to-wealth initiatives, and green business development. The goal is to foster inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive WASH solutions that benefit the most vulnerable populations. Through the use of social media platforms in Jama'are, Misau, and Tafawa Balewa LGAs. The activity focused majorly on developing and disseminating culturally resonant Hygiene and sanitation communication messages, quizzes and the engagement of community influencers to promote the messages across various platforms, monitoring engagements and identifying outcomes through comments and feedback and developing culturally resonant communication materials, building a cadre of 105 trained youth volunteers, and establishing a framework for sustained community-level engagement through door-to-door campaigns and digital outreach.

Project strategic objectives:

Strategic Objective 1: Scale-Up Sanitation and Hygiene Access
Extend WASH services to vulnerable populations.
Support the implementation of national and state sanitation strategies.

Strategic Objective 2: Foster Innovation and Market-Based Solutions
Promote scalable, cost-effective, climate-resilient technologies.
Build WASH-focused green business models (e.g., briquette production).
Drive data-driven, inclusive service delivery models.
Key Intervention Areas and Activities









Overview of Activities for the SHF Project (May–December 2025)

Bridge Connect Africa Initiative (BCAI), under the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund (SHF) Project, implemented series of integrated and community-driven activities focused on improving sanitation, promoting hygiene behaviour change, and supporting green entrepreneurship in Jama'are, Misau, and Tafawa Balewa LGAs of Bauchi State. These activities align with BCAI's mission to foster inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive WASH solutions.





Hygiene Behaviour Change (HBC) and Waste-to-Wealth Campaigns

BCAI designed, produced, and disseminated targeted Hygiene Behavior Change (HBC) content and waste-to-wealth messages using innovative and culturally relevant approaches. These campaigns were
deployed across social media platforms, local radio stations, and messaging apps (e.g., WhatsApp).
Promoting consistent handwashing, safe toilet use, environmental cleanliness, and waste recycling.
Highlighting opportunities for turning waste into income-generating resources (e.g., briquettes, compost).
Using local languages and community influencers to ensure broader reach and relevance.

2. Collaboration with YOUTHS for Community Engagement

To support increased toilet uptake and household-level sanitation adoption, BCAI collaborated with Youths Service Corps (NYSC) in:

- Training Corps Members as WASH Champions on HBC principles and community engagement strategies.
- Deployed trained Corps Members to conduct door-to-door hygiene education, follow-ups, and behavior change support in target LGAs.

3. Green Business Development and Briquette Making

In partnership with sanitation and hygiene entrepreneurs, BCAI
Facilitated joint training for NYSC Corps Members and youth groups on briquette production and other eco-friendly business models.
Promoted the use of biodegradable waste for energy production and sustainable livelihoods.
Established linkages between trained youth and local markets for green products and services.



Activities Carried, Its Impact and Result

Stakeholder engagement: BCAI engaged with various community leaders, LGA representative, LGA WASH representative, BASEPA, RUWASSA



Selection of state facilitators: 6 state facilitators were engaged to train youths in the various LGAs. After a successful planning meeting with the facilitators at the State level.

Selection and training of LGA youth facilitators: 105 youths were selected and trained for 2 days by the State facilitators to conduct 5 days HBC door to door campaign

HBC door to door campaign: First Phase of HBC door to door for 5 days was conducted with a total reach of

115,680 PEOPLE

HBC social media campaign: First Phase of HBC social media campaign was conducted with a total reach of

88,775 PEOPLE.

Selection and briefing of social media influencers: 30 influential people with good media outreach were selected and briefed on HBC to disseminate HBC messages on various social media platforms.

HBC social media campaign: Second Phase of HBC social media campaign was conducted with a total reach of 32,404 people. Status, still Ongoing

BRIDGE IMPACT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

About the Program

The Bridge Impact Internship Program (BIIP) is a flagship leadership and talent development initiative designed as a launchpad for young leaders committed to driving transformative change across Africa. The program represents a strategic investment in nurturing the next generation of development practitioners by bridging the gap between academic knowledge and practical application in the development sector. Over an intensive three-month period, selected interns gain hands-on experience across the full spectrum of non-profit operations including program design and implementation, communications strategy, financial management, and stakeholder engagement. Grounded in the philosophy that effective development practitioners are forged through experiential learning, BIIP immerses participants in real projects with real communities, challenging them to apply their knowledge, develop practical skills, and navigate the complexities of social impact work. The program focuses on critical development areas including gender equity and women's empowerment, education access and quality, climate action and sustainable agriculture, social inclusion and child protection, and advocacy and policy engagement. Targeting passionate individuals committed to social impact, the inaugural BIIP cohort ran from June 16 to September 16, 2025, delivering a comprehensive 13-week experience combining departmental placement, structured training, mentorship, leadership development, and a capstone project. This report documents the journey, outcomes, and learning from the inaugural cohort.



Program Objectives

The Bridge Impact Internship Program was designed with three core objectives that guided all aspects of program design, implementation, communications, and financing:

Talent Identification and Development

To discover, cultivate, and empower emerging leaders who demonstrate authentic passion for social impact and community transformation, while intentionally connecting them with seasoned practitioners for sustained guidance, meaningful knowledge transfer, and strategic professional network expansion.





Practical Skill Building and Organizational Contribution

To equip interns with rigorous, hands-on experience across the full spectrum of non-profit operations—including program design and management, strategic communications, and financial administration—while simultaneously infusing Bridge Connect Africa Initiative with fresh perspectives, innovative approaches, and energetic talent that tangibly advances project implementation and organizational goals.





Career Pathway and Leadership Pipeline Creation

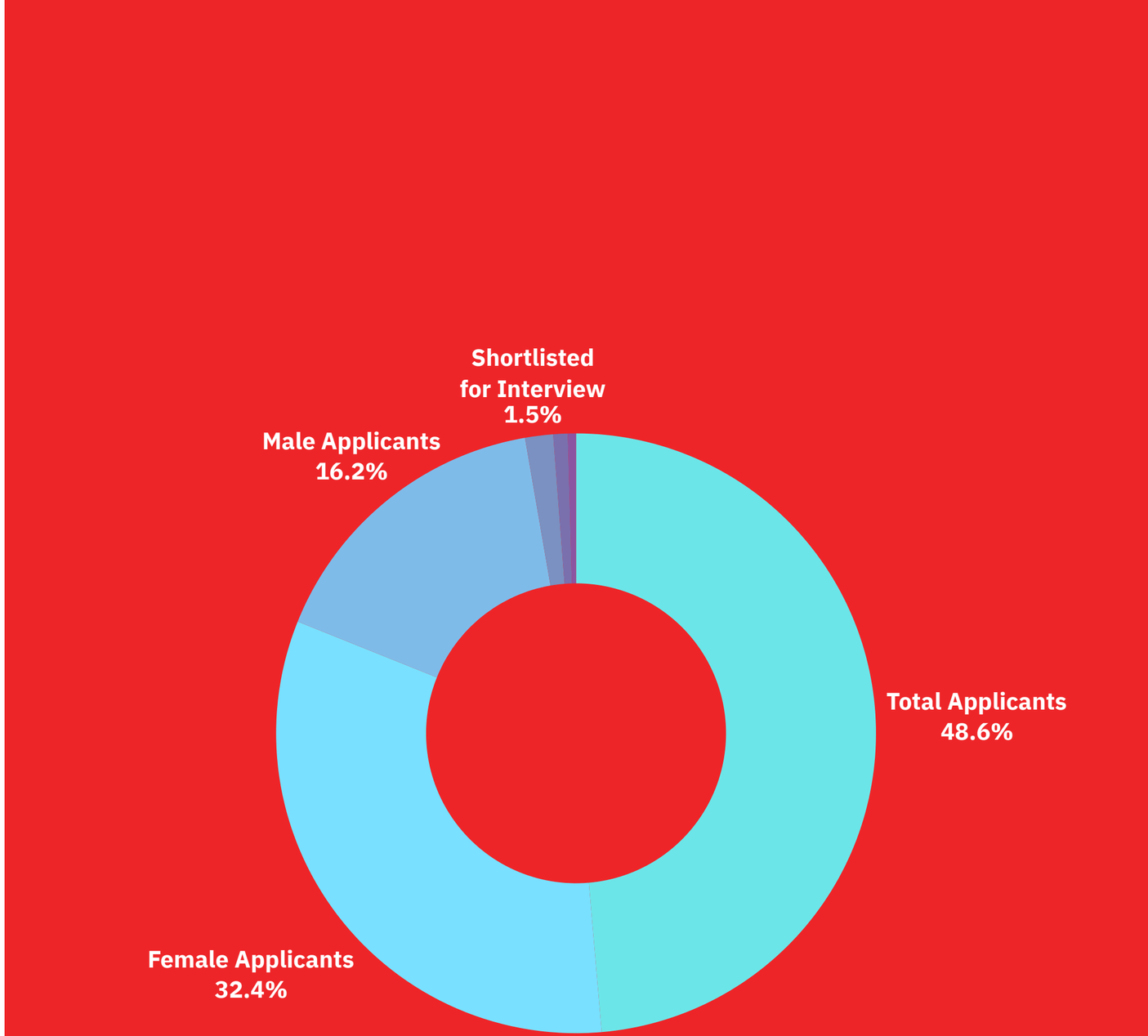
To establish a sustainable and intentional pipeline of future leaders capable of driving both BCAI's mission and the broader development agenda across Northern Nigeria and beyond, by creating a clear, merit-based trajectory from internship to full-time employment for high-performing individuals committed to long-term impact.





Application Overview and Demographic Landscape

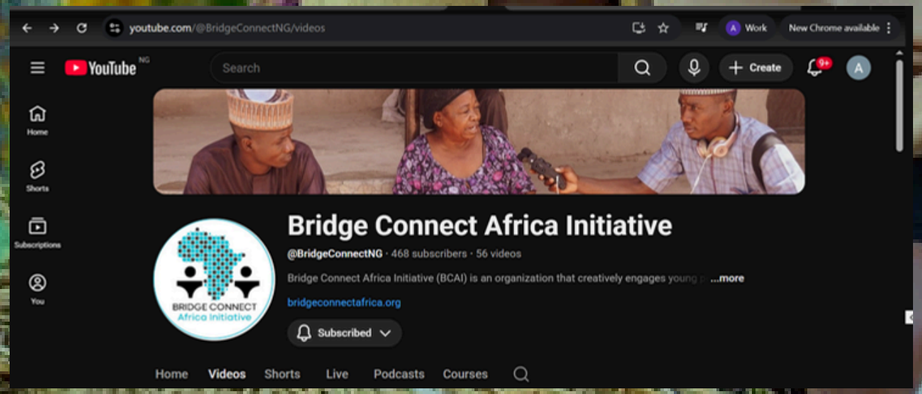
The response to the inaugural BIIP call exceeded all expectations, with 642 applications received within the submission window. The table below illustrates the complete journey from initial application through post-program retention, revealing the exceptional rigor of the selection process and the enduring commitment of those selected.



A DOCUMENTARY BY BRIDGE CONNECT AFRICA INITIATIVE

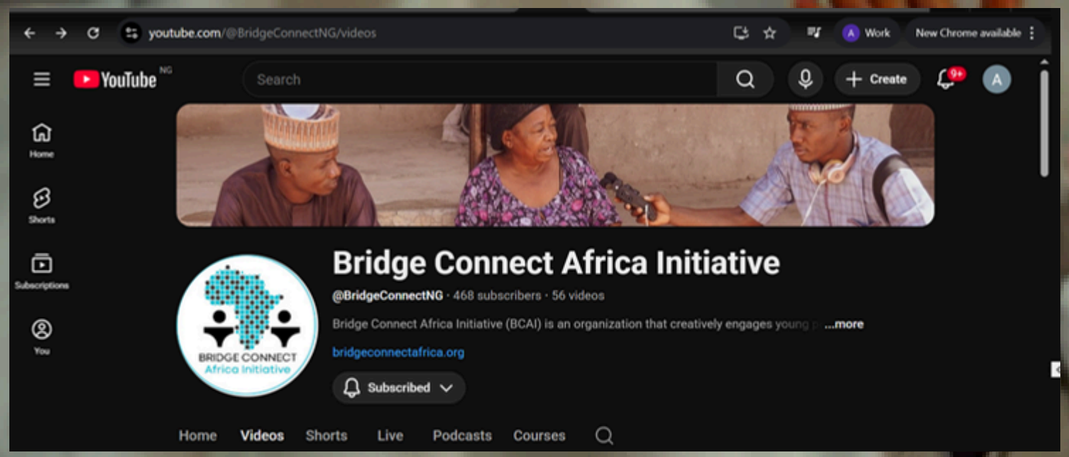
From Policy to Progress

DIGITAL ADVOCACY



Women Against Violence Empowered through Sustainability #endgbv #documentary #climatechange

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every girl deserves a seat in the classroom

FROM POLICY TO PROGRESS: Documentary on Girls' Education

Investment in Girls Education Secured

Kano State Government officially adopts the Gender Responsive Education Budgeting **(GREB)** Framework



kano GIRLS' Education Summit

INVESTING IN HER FUTURE

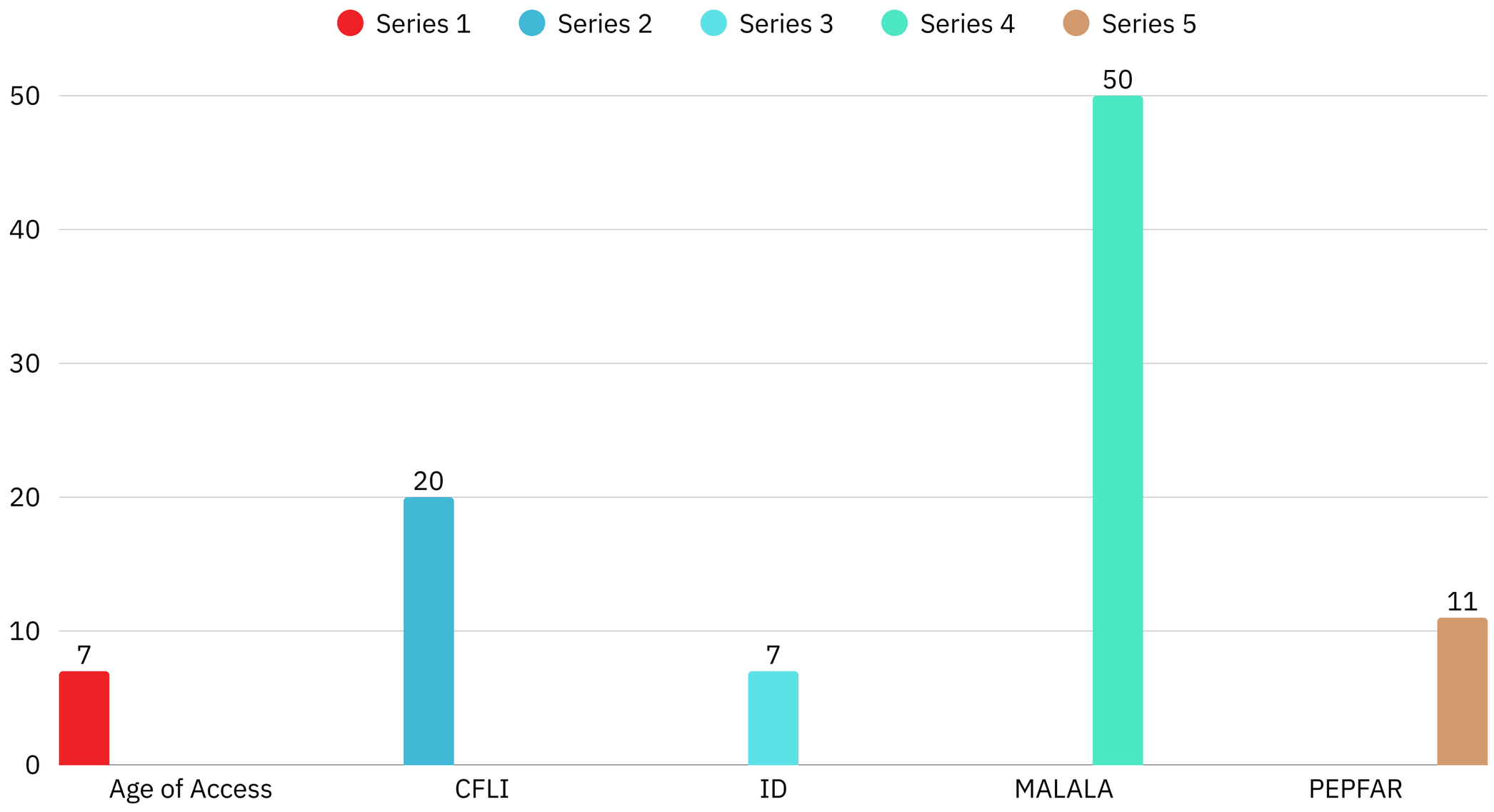
Advancing Girls' Education through Equitable Budgeting

DOWNLOAD HERE

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XOBBcqSRPymY-53l6mtR6RtOo2x7kbtH/view

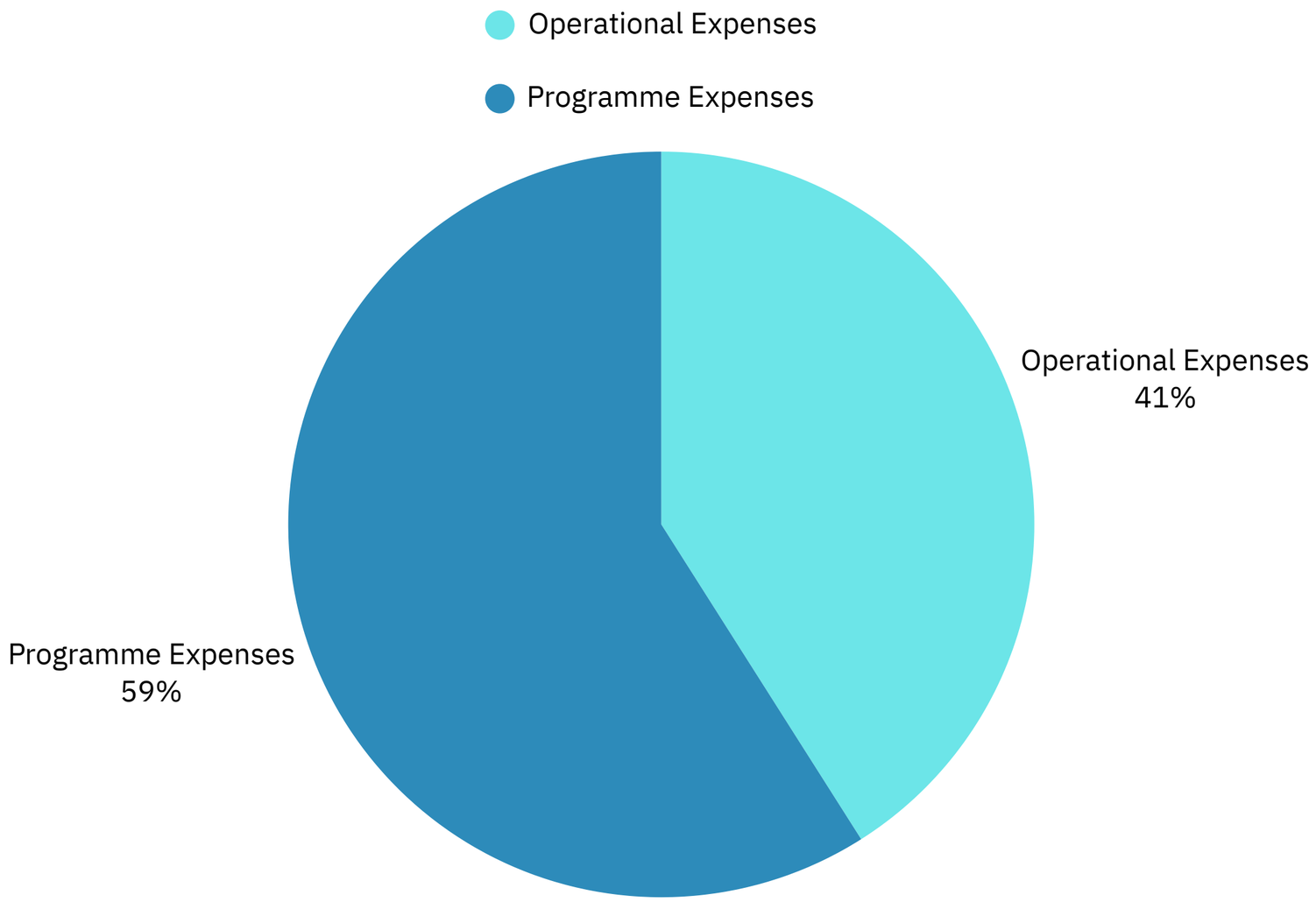
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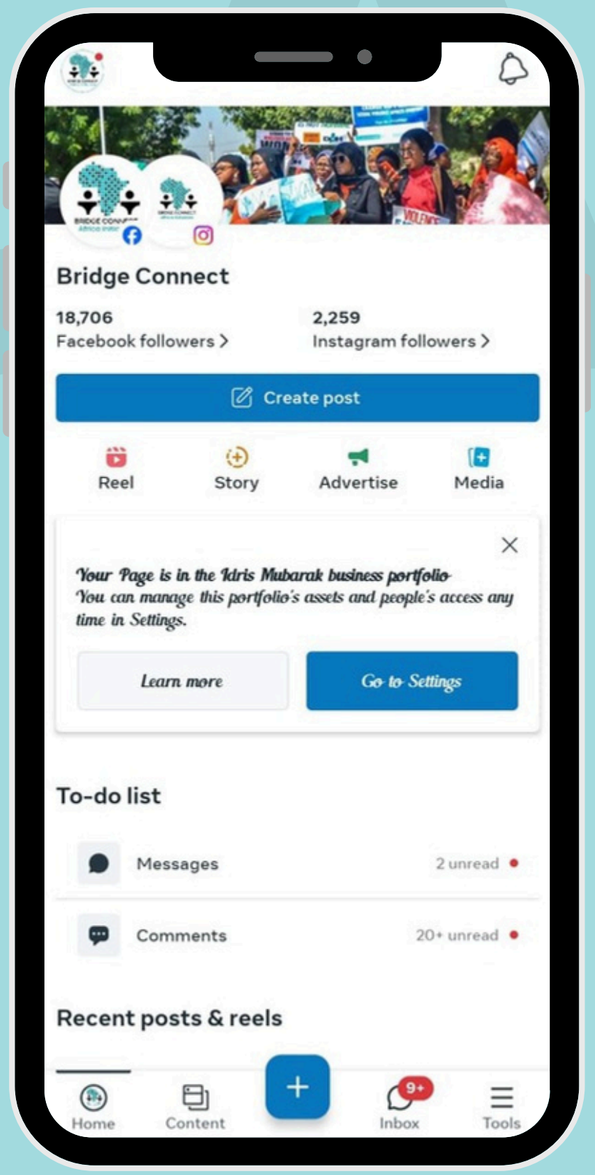
INCOME



FINANICIAL SUMMARY

Expenses





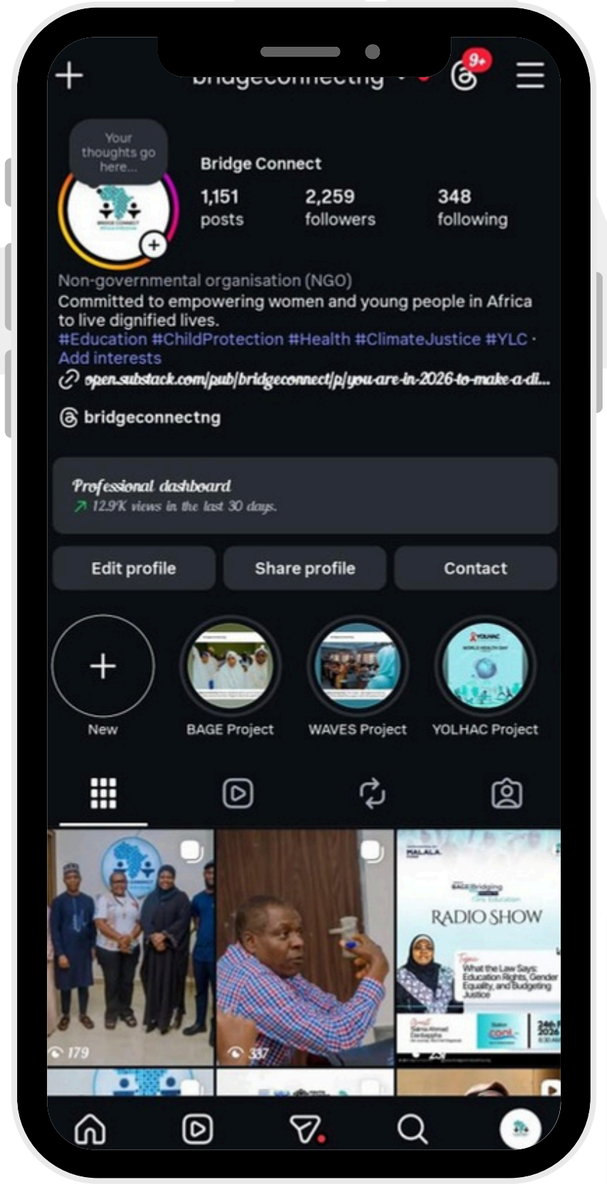
FACEBOOK

Followers:

18k+

1.5MILLION

Reached 549 Contents



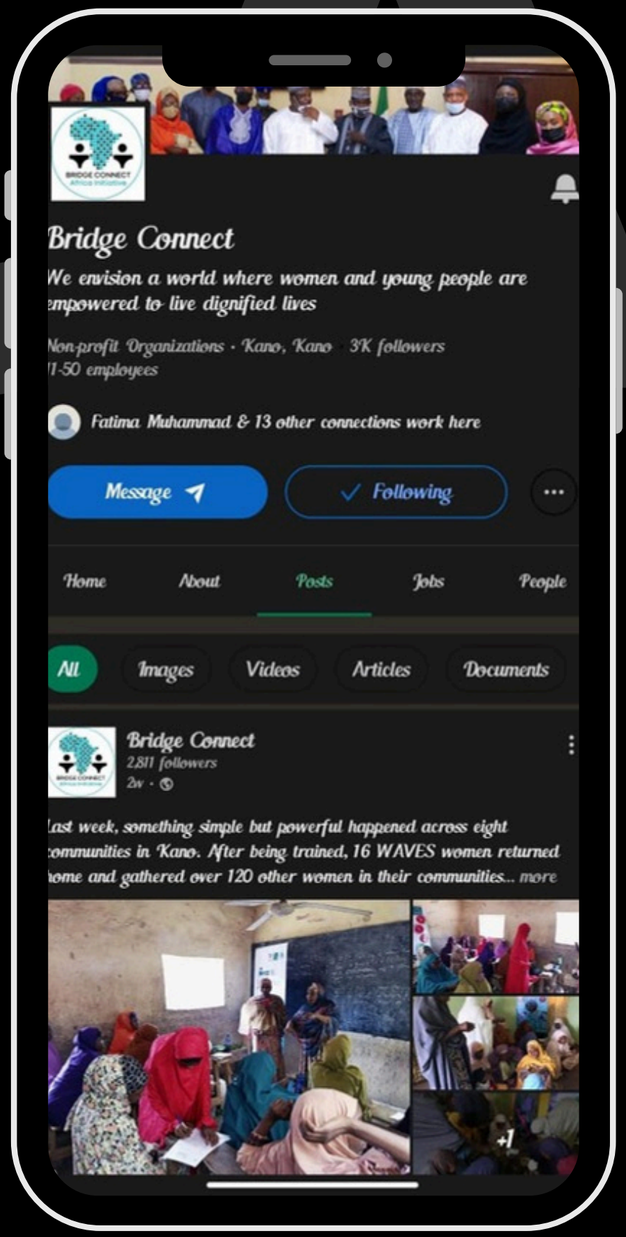
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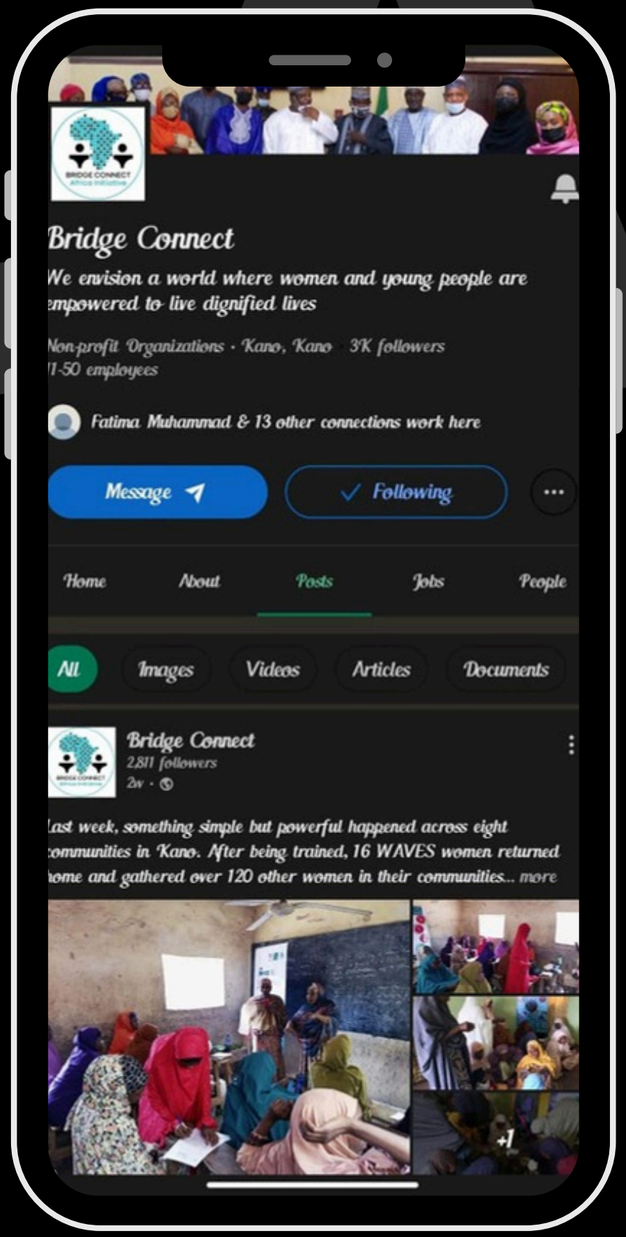


LinkedIn

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70K
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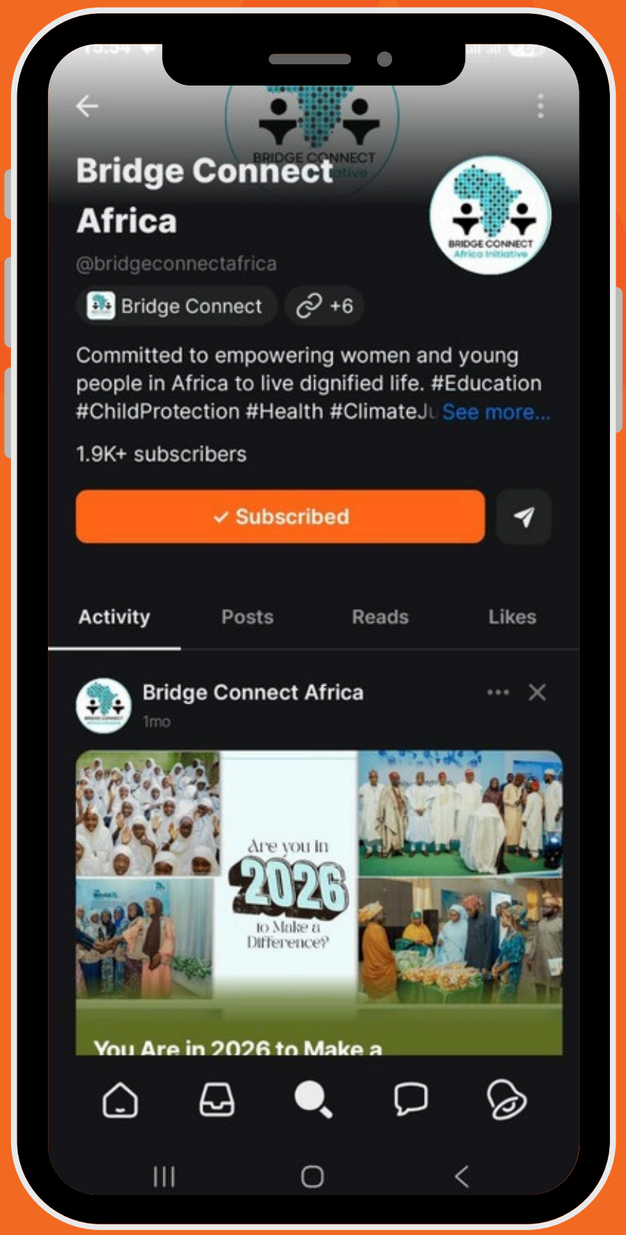
X ACCOUNT

Followers: 3000+

70K+ Reached

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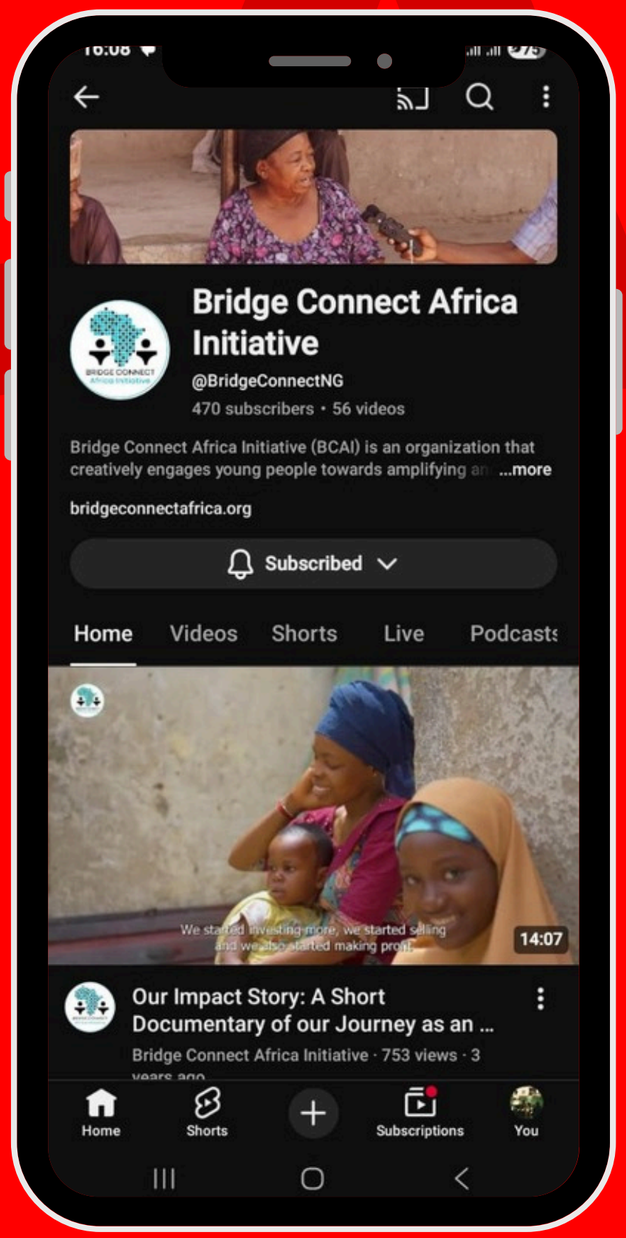
512 Contents



NEWSLETTER

Content published: 7+

Subscribers: 1,862K



Youtube

Views: 3,242K

Subscribers: 467

Contents: 11 Published

OUR PARTNERS

We owe our impacts to the support and commitment of our funding partners. Their invaluable contributions have been the driving force behind our milestones, transforming lives and empowering communities. We are grateful for their partnership as we continue striving for greater achievements.

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

UNiTE to End Digital Violence against All **Women** and **Girls**

25TH NOVEMBER-



10TH DECEMBER 2025

16 Days of Activism 2025: End digital violence against all women and girls
Join the UNiTE campaign to stop digital abuse

THE WAVES PROJECT PHASE II

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EMPOWERED THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY

Promoting Women's Economic Growth Against Violence through Sustainable Practices in Kano.



#DOCUMENTARY

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From Policy to Progress



Girls' Education after the Declaration of State of Emergency in Education in Kano State

PREMIERE: FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2025|| 7PM

@BRIDGECONNECTNG YouTube

SUPPORTED BY MALALA FUND



This landmark initiative champions **equity, inclusion, and accountability** in how education is funded and delivered

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kano GIRLS' Education Summit

INVESTING IN HER FUTURE

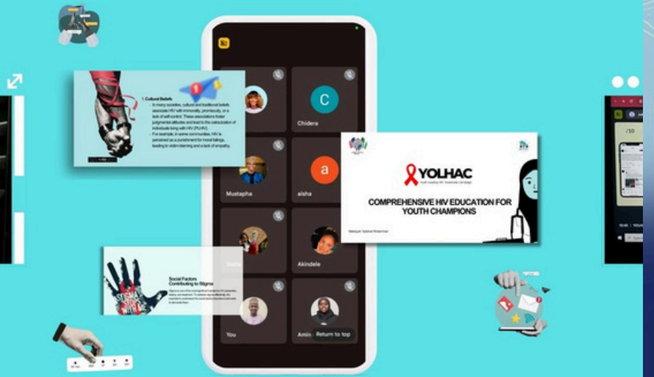
Advancing Girls' Education through Equitable Budgeting

YOLHAC

Youth Leading HIV Awareness Campaign

YOLHAC CHAMPIONS

VIRTUAL ONBOARDING TRAINIG



BridgeConnectNG www.bridgeconnectafrica.org

SUPPORTED BY NIGERIA YOUTH FUTURES FUND



BUT ARE YOUNG PEOPLE EQUIPPED TO LEAD?

For young people to transform ideas into impactful solutions, we must ensure:

- ✓ Inclusive policy environments
- ✓ Adequate resource allocation
- ✓ Mechanisms for youth leadership (not just participation)
- ✓ Spaces for innovation, mentorship, and civic engagement

BBC MEDIA ACTION

Adolescent Girls and Young Women Digital Inclusion and Gender Norms Project

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THE WAVES PROJECT PHASE II

WOMEN AGAINST VIOLENCE EMPOWERED THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY

Promoting Women's Economic Growth Against Violence through Sustainable Practices in Kano.

CSOs Advocacy Workshop

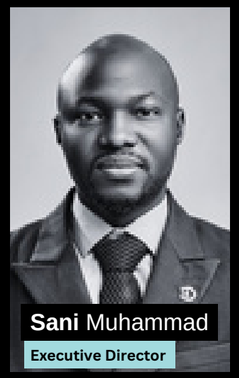
GBV Prevention and Women's Economic Inclusion & Empowerment

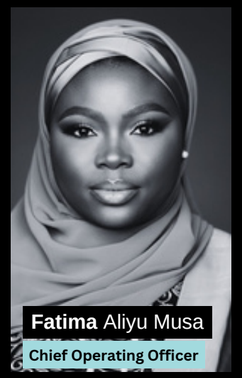


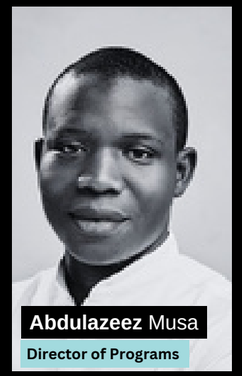
Date: 29th -30th October 2025

Strictly by invitation

The Bridgers


Sani Muhammad
Executive Director


Fatima Aliyu Musa
Chief Operating Officer


Abdulazeez Musa
Director of Programs


Halirat Onuh Hussein
FinanceManager


Faith Titus Kattan
Human Resources Officer


Fatima Mufatu
Monitoring & evaluation Officer


Abbas Adamu
Programs Manager


Sadiq Abubakar Shehu
Programs Manager


Makkiyyah Sulaiman Muhammad
Programs Manager


Adebiyi Sarah Comfort
Finance Officer

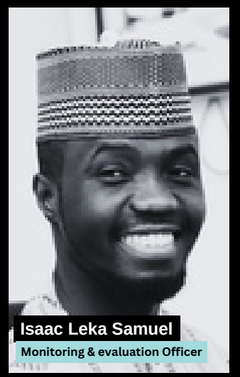

Rukayya Abdulhadi
Programs Officer


Amina Ibrahim Manzo
Programs Officer


Abba Sani Ali
Programs Manager


Bilikisu Abdulgafar
Programs Officer

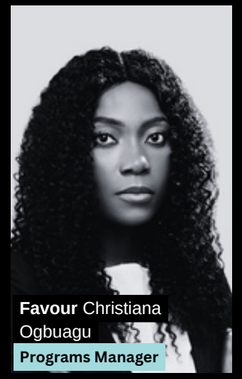

Sadiq Musa Sadauki
Programs Officer


Isaac Leka Samuel
Monitoring & evaluation Officer


Maryam Muhammad Dalhatu
Programs Intern


Juliet Chidera Nwobodo
Communications Lead

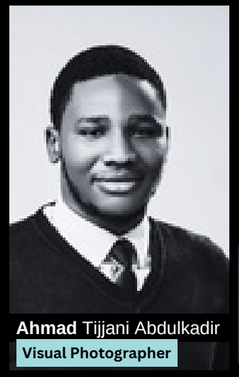

Nathan Bako
Programs Officer


Favour Christiana Ogbuagu
Programs Manager


Fatima Muhammad Bello
Monitoring & evaluation Officer


Hauwa Ibrahim
Communications Officer


Abraham Ocholi
Creative Designer


Ahmad Tijjani Abdulkadir
Visual Photographer


Fatima Giwa
Hub manager


Panawa Calvin Ulea
Office Assistant


Blessing Benjamin
Office Assistant

BridgeConnectNG