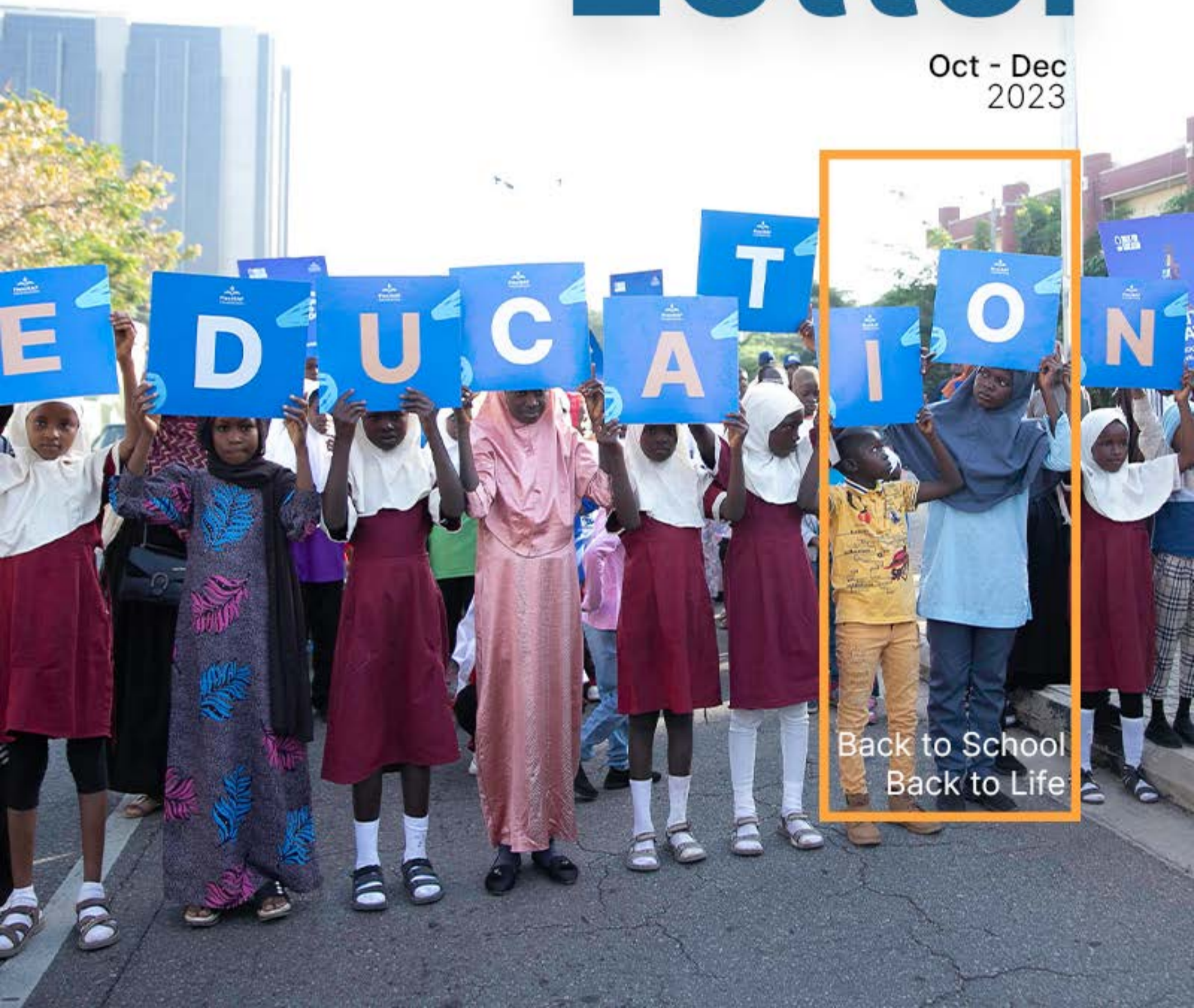




**FlexiSAF**  
FOUNDATION

# News Letter

Oct - Dec  
2023



Back to School  
Back to Life



# End of Year Strategy Session



We had an end-of-year strategy session led by Mr. Murtala Adogi Mohammed, founder of System Strategy and Policy Lab. As we collectively reflected on the milestones and challenges of the past year, Mr. Mohammed provided invaluable guidance, offering strategic insights that not only illuminated our accomplishments but also equipped us with a clear vision for navigating the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. This session has fortified our team, setting the stage for a promising and successful year to come.





# Walk for Education 3.0.



Experience the energy of the third Walk for Education by the FlexiSAF Foundation! On Human Rights Day, we brought together over 300 participants for a dynamic event at the International Conference Center, Abuja.

Themed "2030 on the Horizon: Naija's Journey to Achieving SDG 4," our walk was a spirited call to tackle Nigeria's education challenges. Dignitaries, influencers, and government officials added their voices to prioritize education, especially for marginalized children.

The event was more than just a walk – it was a celebration! With engaging addresses, press interviews, and the announcement of the 2023 Young Advocate of the Year, Yahaya Abubakar, we created a vibrant atmosphere. Media coverage from NTA, Vanguard, Legit Ng, and more added to the excitement.

Our achievements were impactful – sponsoring out-of-school children, raising awareness, and engaging participants in advocacy. Now, we're using funds raised to send more children back to school and continuing our mission to catalyze positive changes in education.

But the story doesn't end there. The FlexiSAF Foundation is actively following up with the government, engaging in constructive dialogue, and pushing for increased budget allocation to the education sector. Our dedication to positive change in Nigeria's education sector remains unwavering. Join us on this journey toward ongoing positive change!



# National Migration Dialogue (NMD)



We participated in the National Migration Dialogue (NMD) organized by the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI). This significant event commemorated International Migrants' Day, focusing on the theme "Leveraging Youth Migration (Japa movement) for National Development."

The Dialogue is a platform for facilitating National debate on crosscutting migration issues, bringing together stakeholders from government, civil society, the private sector and academia.

The 2023 NMD debated on the nexus between youth migration and National development. It analyzed and reviewed existing trends and identify practical solutions to the perceived negative impact of young skilled migrants leaving the country. We extend our gratitude to the NCFRMI for inviting us to participate in this insightful dialogue. Our involvement underscores our commitment to collaborating with diverse stakeholders to create positive change.





# NGO Accounting 2024: The Future of Humanitarian Aid, by Convexity Technologies.



We participated in a dynamic event themed NGO Accounting 2024: The Future of Humanitarian Aid, organized by Convexity Technologies. The event delved into the humanitarian ecosystem, revealing the impact of sound accounting for NGOs and the pivotal role of blockchain technology - including that blockchain reduces overhead costs. The event featured insights and dialogues from experts and professionals in the NGO, accounting, and blockchain fields, creating an intense environment for learning and networking.

Grateful for the opportunity to learn and network with experts in the NGO, accounting, and blockchain realms. FlexiSAF Foundation proudly represented!





# 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Event

We were invited to engage in a one-day program, marking the '16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence,' hosted by the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention. This impactful event, themed 'Invest to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls,' aimed at heightening awareness, nurturing dialogue, and advocating for the elimination of gender-based violence.

Together, let's reflect on the impact of this transformative event and amplify our commitment to fostering a world free from gender-based violence.



## #ProjectEducateAll - Partnership with NCFRMI



The FlexiSAF Foundation, in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), has launched a groundbreaking Bamboo Shelter and Classroom Project for the children at the IDP camp in Durumi, Abuja.

The launch was graced by the Hon. Federal Commissioner NCFRMI, Tijani Aliyu Ahmed, who applauded the project and called for collaborative efforts to protect Persons of Concern (PoCs) from the effects of climate change.

Our Executive Director, Mrs. Amina Abubakar, shared our vision of using the Bamboo building at Durumi IDP camp as a learning space for accelerated and climate education, empowering adolescent PoCs, including 1,200 children in Niger state and the FCT, with literacy, numeracy, and vital climate action knowledge. Providing these children with access to accelerated and informal education is a crucial step towards their social integration or reintegration into the formal education system.



We are truly excited about this partnership and look forward to improving the lives of PoCs. By bringing together the expertise and experience of NCFRMI and FlexiSAF Foundation, we are poised to address the unique needs and challenges faced by this vulnerable group.



# Face of Education Africa 2023



Exciting News! Our Executive Director, Mrs. Amina Abubakar, has been recognized among the top 25 Africans reshaping education in the Face of Education Africa 2023 #FoEAfrica2023 list by Vive Africa, a boutique marketing communications agency in Africa dedicated to education and enterprise. Her visionary leadership and unwavering dedication are truly reshaping the future of education. A well-deserved recognition!

Proudly supported by  WARWICK  University of Dundee

## National Children Leadership Conference



To mark Universal Children's Day 2023, themed 'For every child, every right,' the FlexiSAF Foundation partnered with the Children of Africa Leadership and Values Development Initiative (CALDEV) in the implementation of its biennial National Children Leadership Conference. We are honored to have been part of this significant event, serving as a catalyst for safeguarding children's rights and nurturing future leaders, contributing to a brighter, inclusive world.



# 2-Day Training on Legislative Advocacy for Safe Schools Declaration by WARDC

We were invited to participate in a 2-Day Training of Trainers on Legislative Advocacy for Safe Schools Declaration for Community Leaders, CSOs, and School Administrators organised by the Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC) and funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund. The training brought together diverse stakeholders in education, including the government, INGOs, local NGOs, coalitions, and media houses, among others.

The workshop succeeded in creating a vibrant space for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and skill-building among stakeholders; serving as a testament to the collective commitment to promoting and implementing the Safe Schools Declaration in the region.

We are thrilled to share that our Foundation is now officially part of the Abuja ToT Working Group for Safe Schools Declaration. This training enhanced our team's understanding of Safe School Declaration and policies in Nigeria, equipping us with valuable skills for impactful advocacy at local, regional, and national levels. Excited about the meaningful work ahead!



## AccLearn Yola!



We visited the AccLearn space in Yola, a project in partnership with Madina Institute in Adamawa state and were delighted by the remarkable progress made so far. We are highly confident that these children from a nomadic community, who have never experienced formal schooling, will soon integrate seamlessly into mainstream education. We take pride in the significant impact this program is achieving, and we eagerly anticipate witnessing the continued growth and success of these young learners.

Learn more about the program on our website at: <https://flexisaf.org/accelerated-learning/>



## Courtesy Visit from Borno Plastic Industries Ltd.



We had the pleasure of hosting Engr. Abatcha Jarawa MNSE, General Manager of Borno Plastic Industries Ltd. and Adviser to the MD of Green Tokole Ltd. For a courtesy visit. Our discussions were highly productive, setting the stage for possible future endeavors!

## Sponsors' Week



An incredible week where our generous sponsors got a chance to connect with their beneficiaries. Sponsors connected virtually and in person, getting first hand updates on their beneficiaries' progress, sharing advice, and motivating them in their educational journey. A genuine exchange of support and progress. The experience left sponsors fulfilled and reinvigorated in their commitment to providing more children with access to quality education.





# Beneficiary Feature: Ummu-Salma's Journey of Hope Through Education with FlexiSAF Foundation

My name is Ummu-Salma. I am ten years old. I have lived with my grandmother for sometime now. As far as I can remember, my mother has been ill. She looks so frail and way older than her age. My sister, Asma'u, and I are being raised by my grandmother. Last year, I was taken out of school and made to hawk because my father had run away and no one knew his whereabouts, my destitute grandmother on the other hand only sells masa to make ends meet. We barely had three meals a day.

The other evening my head mistress called my grandmother asking her to come with me to my former school. My heart skipped a bit, "do we still owe them fees despite my withdrawal?" I thought in dismay. The concern on my grandmother's face did not make me feel any better. The next morning we went to the school. "Stop sulking now you two" the headmistress said to my grandmother reassuringly "I've got some good news". For the first time in days, my grandmother's face lit up. "There's an NGO called FlexiSAF Foundation that supports out of school children to go back to school" she said gayly "Ummu-Salma has got a slot with them."

"Allahu Akbar" my grandmother exclaimed. And so my journey back to school started. I felt so privileged to have such an opportunity and everyday I was thankful for it. I would notice my friends' envious looks as I strode to school in my new school uniform. Yesterday I and the other beneficiaries of FlexiSAF Foundation were summoned. "Your sponsors are coming to pay a visit tomorrow" said the headteacher. "Therefore you should come to school on time and bring all your books" she looked at me "Also, make sure you look neat and tidy" she added.

I could not contain my excitement. The next morning we were called to the board room to meet our sponsors. They were three, two gentlemen and a lady. I felt so shy and tensed I almost shook, the lady hugged me warmly, seemingly noticing my dilemma. "Feel free Ummu-Salma" she said. I relaxed a bit. Our sponsors were very nice people, they encouraged us to keep doing well and reassured us of their support. And so it went, until I was done with primary school. I was the best graduating student that year.





A few weeks ago, my grandmother told me that the headteacher had called, asking after me. Since the pandemic and school closures, I hadn't gone back to school. I would get up early and go to the motor park to sell food with my sister. We were summoned to my former school with my grandmother, I went there looking all haggard. The headteacher was not looking friendly this time. "Why is Ummu-Salma hawking and not in school?" she said to my grandmother. "Well she didn't get any admission into secondary school" my grandmother responded. "How do you know?" Said the headteacher tenaciously, "Did you go there to find out?" Grandma shook her head, red with embarrassment. Your sponsors are coming to visit on Thursday, meet me at the secondary school. True enough, the lady from the sponsors' team came to visit on Thursday. She was as warm as ever.

"You're very brilliant Ummu-Salma, please don't destroy your future by choosing to hawk over going to school." She quipped. "If you get a good education, you'd get a good job or business, and then you'd be able to afford anything. It's just a matter of a few years". She continued "Don't you want to look after your grandmother?" I nodded, sobbing.

Since that day I had a new found motivation to study even harder, each tired look on my grandmother's face made me even more determined. Now, I look forward to my future, I am excited about all the opportunities out there for me once I complete my studies. I cannot express my gratitude to FlexiSAF Foundation enough. They've literally changed my life" – Ummu-Salma.

There are several reasons why we do the kind of work we do. When you work in the development space, you'd realise that many people just need a slight push to achieve great things. They often just need someone to believe in them. Above is the story of Ummu-Salma when we first found her.

Fast forward to the present – Ummu-Salma, once a ten-year-old with dreams deferred, now stands tall having completed junior secondary school. With unwavering determination, she strides into SS1, choosing the science class as a gateway to her aspiration of studying medicine. The echoes of her success resonate, a testament to the transformative power of education.

In the wake of societal challenges, Ummu-Salma's story stands as a beacon of inspiration. As she embarks on the next chapter of her educational journey, we celebrate not only her accomplishments but the profound impact that FlexiSAF Foundation continues to have on young lives. Ummu-Salma's trajectory from hawking to aspiring doctor mirrors the foundation's commitment to providing opportunities and kindling the flame of knowledge.

In conclusion, Ummu-Salma's narrative is not just a story; it's a testament to the enduring impact of educational interventions. FlexiSAF Foundation's commitment to empowering individuals like Ummu-Salma reverberates, illustrating that with support and belief, dreams can indeed become realities. Thank you for being part of this transformative journey. Stay tuned for more success stories as FlexiSAF Foundation continues to pave the way for a brighter future through education.



# Leadership Training on Teamwork and Effective Communication



We were honored to have Hajjiya Nafisa Muhammed Buba, an experienced expert and a certified coach, to give our team an enlightening leadership training. We delved into the vital role of effective communication in enhancing teamwork and achieving our shared organizational goals. This newfound wisdom has ignited our passion for growth and collaboration, and we're committed to applying these skills to elevate our team and organization to new heights!





# Social Innovation Programme and Awards 2023



The FlexiSAF Foundation was represented by our Executive Director, Mrs. Amina Abubakar, and Programs Associate, Maryam Lawal, at the Social Innovators Programme and Awards (SIPA) 2023, a two-day event organized by LEAP Africa.

This annual event celebrates young innovators across Africa, with 276 innovators from 14 countries being represented over the past decade. In that time, 83 industry experts have served as mentors.

The SIP program was established to collaborate with social innovators across Africa, providing them with the tools, resources, and knowledge necessary to build sustainable enterprises. These fellows have subsequently driven change, raised more funds, expanded their businesses, and supported more people.

The event provided valuable insights, and we are thrilled to have been a part of it.

## Courtesy Visit from Soccer for Peace Foundation



We had the honor of welcoming the founder of Soccer for Peace Foundation (SPF), Amb. Ozuem O. Esiri, and Mr. John Moses for a courtesy visit. Their visit provided a valuable opportunity to explore possible areas of collaboration, discuss shared goals, and identify ways we can work together to promote education and peace, bridging the worlds of education and sports. We look forward to a potential for partnership in advancing our mission.



# Celebrating International Girl Child's Day!



A day filled with empowerment, education, and smiles at LEA KaronMajiji in commemoration of the International Girl Child's Day!

We had an incredible time spreading awareness about the importance of hygiene and empowering girls. From inspiring presentations to engaging conversations, we came together to uplift and support our future leaders.

Together, we are breaking barriers, fostering confidence, and creating a world where every girl can thrive. Join us in this empowering journey, encouraging their passion to continue to reach for greatness, one girl at a time.

## European Union's Global Gateway Initiative Launch

We had the privilege of attending the launch of the European Union's Global Gateway initiative in Nigeria, along with the Education and Youth Empowerment program in the North-West Region.

The European Union's Global Gateway is a comprehensive initiative crafted to enhance connectivity, promote sustainable development, and strengthen economic ties between the European Union (EU) and its partner countries, including Nigeria. The initiative reflects the EU's enduring commitment to strengthening connection: with partner countries and contributing to global development and sustainability goals.

Among the programs set to be implemented through the Global Gateway is the vital support for youth and education development in the North West region. This launch marks a significant step toward policy improvement of the teaching profession and the capacity building of teachers.

We are truly excited to be part of this initiative and look forward to the positive impact it will have on education and youth empowerment in the region.





# Meeting with Hon. Martins Esin, Chairman of the House Committee on Youth Development

Our YEA delegation, led by our Executive Director, Mrs. Amina Abubakar, had the honor of meeting with Hon. Martins Esin from Akwa Ibom, who serves as the chairman of the House Committee on Youth Development. This meeting marks the beginning of an ongoing dialogue and collaboration with Hon. Esin.

Our discussion was aimed at exploring potential areas of collaboration and support, given his keen interest in youth development. This aligns perfectly with YEA's mission to empower young change-makers for sustainable development. We are excited about how our engagement will unfold and eagerly anticipate the transformative impact it will bring about.





# The FlexiSAF Foundation and the U.S. Department of State Empower 50 Youth Activists for Sustainable Change

We're excited to share our latest accomplishment! From October 4th to October 6th, 2023, the FlexiSAF Foundation empowered 50 passionate young activists during the 'Activism that Yields Results: Building the Future Now' workshop generously funded by the U.S. Department of State through the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria.

Dedicated to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, we strategically held this event to mark the 2023 United Nations Day. The workshop delved into the frontlines of activism, addressing crucial issues such as climate change, governance, education policy, and effective advocacy strategies.

Participants left with renewed energy and determination to make a difference in the world. Our commitment to nurturing empowered youth activists promises a brighter, more sustainable future.

We extend our special appreciation to the U.S. Department of State for their immense support and to our remarkable facilitators, panelists, and distinguished guests for their invaluable contributions in ensuring the success of the workshop.





# Beneficiary Feature: An Inspiring Story of Hardwork and Dedication

Asma'u Isa's journey from the brink of dropping out of school to securing admission into JSS1 is a testament to the life-changing impact of the FlexiSAF Foundation. In 2020, Asma'u faced the daunting prospect of abandoning her education due to financial constraints. Living in the Dougirei community, her aspirations seemed thwarted until the Foundation stepped in to offer a life-line.

Recognizing Asma'u's potential and the hurdles she faced, the FlexiSAF Foundation embraced her as a beneficiary, providing the necessary support to prevent her educational dreams from faltering. With the Foundation's backing, Asma'u received the vital assistance she required to continue her schooling journey.

Initially grappling with challenges in subjects like mathematics and basic science, Asma'u encountered a turning point in her academic life when the Foundation, through the generosity of her sponsor, orchestrated extra classes tailored to her needs. These supplementary sessions were pivotal, serving as a catalyst for her academic growth. As a result, Asma'u's performance began to witness a remarkable transformation.

Through her determination and the unwavering support of the Foundation, Asma'u not only improved her grades but also gained the confidence to face her academic weaknesses head-on. Her hard work and commitment culminated in her successful completion of the common entrance exams, marking a significant milestone in her educational journey.

The pinnacle of Asma'u's success story arrived when she received the news of her admission to JSS1. This achievement not only validates her dedication and resilience but also stands as a testament to the profound impact that a support system like the FlexiSAF Foundation can have on an individual's life.

Asma'u's story is an embodiment of triumph over adversity, showcasing the transformative power of educational assistance and support systems. Her journey from the brink of educational abandonment to the threshold of a new academic phase serves as an inspiration, highlighting the importance of fostering opportunities for aspiring individuals, especially those facing financial challenges, to realize their full potential.

The FlexiSAF Foundation's intervention not only rescued Asma'u's education but also sowed the seeds for a brighter future, instilling hope, confidence, and the belief that with support, dedication, and hard work, one can overcome any obstacle in the pursuit of knowledge and success.







Sponsor a child to school today with just

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