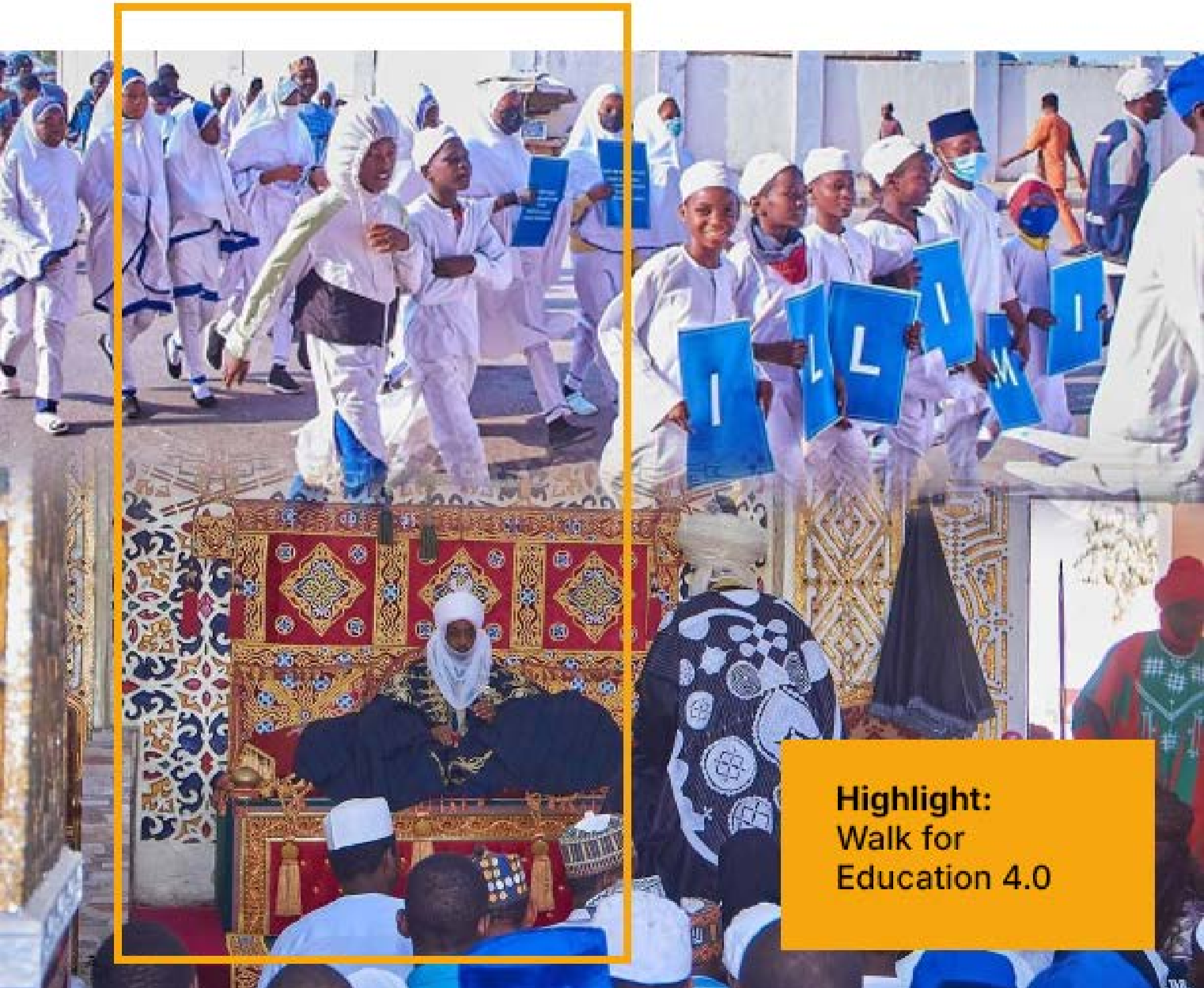


News Letter



FlexiSAF
FOUNDATION

October - December
2024



Highlight:
Walk for
Education 4.0

Walk for Education 4.0: A Global Call to Action for Inclusive Education

FlexiSAF Foundation successfully concluded its Walk for Education 4.0, the first global edition of the initiative, held from December 2–16, 2024. This year’s walk focused on advocating for every child’s right to education and raising awareness about Nigeria’s urgent education crisis, with nearly 20 million children out of school—the highest in the world.

Across Nigeria, participants walked in communities including Abuja, Kano, and Gombe. In Kano, the Kano Advocates Initiative led hundreds of participants and engaged HRH Sanusi Lamido Sanusi II, who commended their efforts. Gombe saw youth groups and organizations, such as the Speak to Success Initiative and Access Initiative, unite to push for inclusive and affordable education. The funds raised during the event will support sending out-of-school children back to school by providing resources and opportunities for a brighter future. FlexiSAF Foundation thanked all participants, donors, and partners for their support and will soon release an impact report to share how contributions are making a difference.



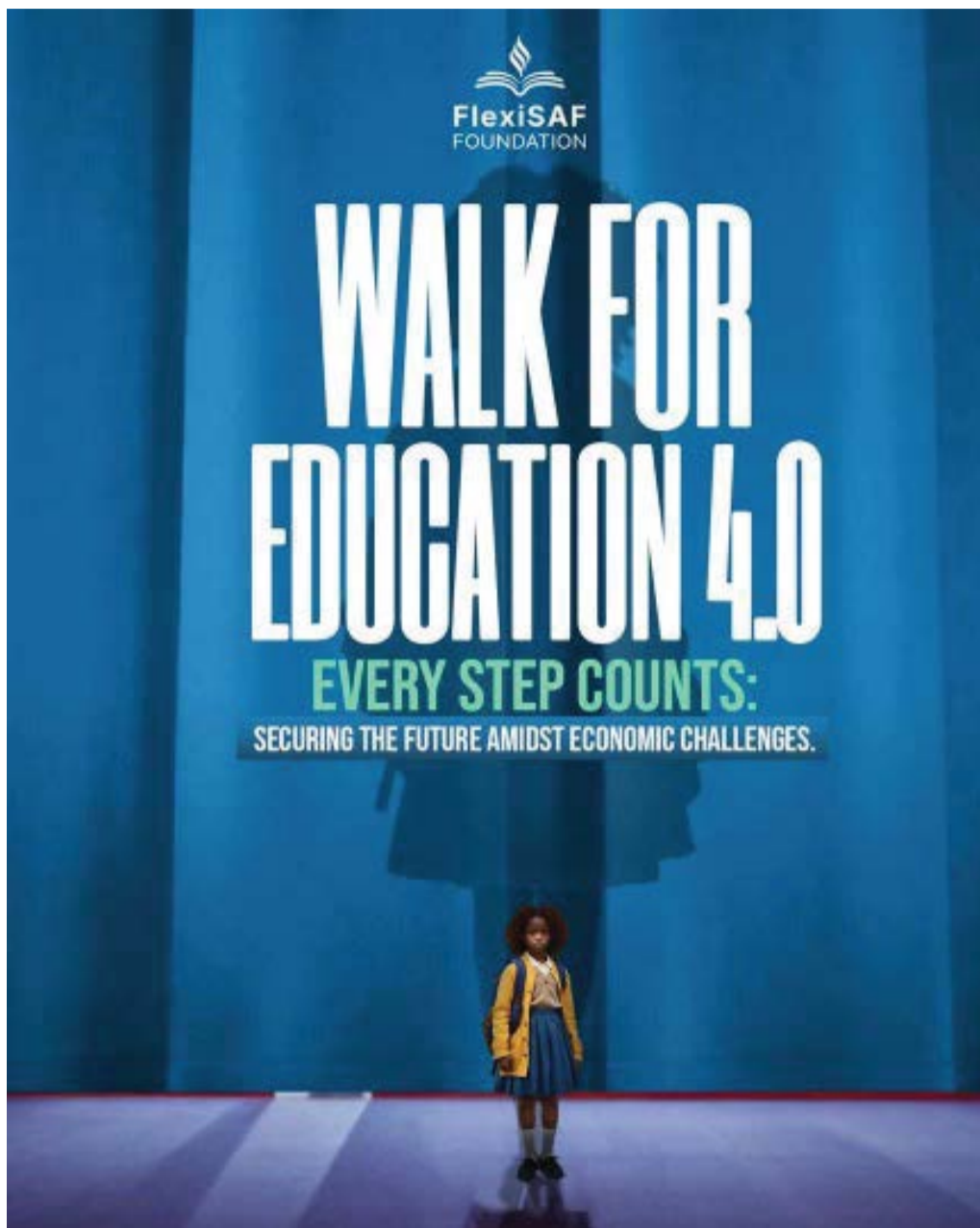
Monitoring and Evaluation Visit by the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF)

We had the pleasure of receiving the NYFF team in Kano State for a monitoring and evaluation visit to connect with the beneficiaries of our "Activism that Yields Results: Building the Future Now" project.

During the visit, five beneficiaries shared their experiences, providing invaluable insights into how the project has positively impacted their lives. We are delighted to report that the engagement was a success.

We remain committed to driving meaningful change and look forward to continued progress. A heartfelt thank you to the NYFF team and everyone involved for their unwavering support and dedication.





Join the Walk for Education 4.0: Every Step Counts!

We are excited to invite you to participate in Walk for Education 4.0, our annual initiative championing educational equity in Nigeria.

This year's theme, "Every Step Counts: Securing the Future Amidst Economic Challenges," highlights the urgent need to support children's education in these tough economic times, as millions remain out of school.

Event Details:

- Dates: December 2–16, 2024
- Format: A global virtual walk – participate from anywhere in the world by walking in your local area during the two-week period & sharing your pictures and videos on social media using the hashtags **#EveryStepCounts #FlexiSAFFoundationWalk #WalkforEducation**.

- **How to Join:** Register to participate using the following **link: <https://forms.gle/ozHkenyD87Pyq4mq6>** Share your walk experiences on social media to inspire others!

- **Participation:** Free. Donations to support our mission are gratefully welcomed.

Take Action:

- Spread the word by encouraging your friends, family, and networks to join.

Let's come together to take meaningful steps toward making quality education accessible for all children.

National Children Leadership Conference 2024 Highlights



FlexiSAF Foundation participated in the National Children Leadership Conference 2024, organized by the Children of Africa Leadership and Values Development Initiative (CALDEV) in honor of World Children's Day. The 5-day event, held from November 17–21, 2024, empowered young participants with skills in leadership, financial literacy, and life skills.

Key sessions included self-awareness and leadership development; financial literacy for children; skill acquisition and parliamentary excursion to the National Assembly Library; and mock parliamentary session and a keynote by Plan International Nigeria's Country Director, Mr. Charles Usie.

The conference inspired participants to embrace leadership and sustainable development while celebrating their achievements with awards and certificates.

Transforming lives: A visit to the Disabled Colony

As part of our commitment to transforming lives through education, we recently visited the Disabled Colony, a community where our Accelerated Learning Program is currently making a difference.

During this visit, we had the privilege of meeting some of our beneficiaries and connecting with their families. These heartfelt interactions gave us the opportunity to witness firsthand the program's positive impact. Families shared inspiring stories of how access to education is empowering their children and creating pathways to new opportunities.

This visit reaffirmed our mission to ensure no child is left behind, no matter their circumstances. With your unwavering support, we are inspired to continue driving this change and transforming more lives.



FlexiSAF Foundation Participates in CSACEFA Annual General Forum 2024



FlexiSAF Foundation proudly participated in the 2024 Annual General Forum and Meeting (AGF/M) of the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA), held on November 28, 2024, in Abuja.

The event featured the inauguration of newly elected state coordinators and executives, marking a significant milestone in the coalition's efforts to strengthen grassroots leadership.

Discussions focused on advancing inclusive education and aligning member organizations' efforts toward impactful outcomes.

We remain committed to collaborating with CSACEFA and other members to ensure quality education for all children across Nigeria.

Instagram Live: FAQs About Walk for Education 4.0



Our Ag. Executive Director, Mrs. Zainab Salihijo recently got featured on an Instagram Live session hosted by Mr. Odinaka Agbo, our Graphics Designer, to discuss the history, successes, and impact of the Walk for Education campaign, as well as the details of this year's global edition. Missed it? Watch the recording on our Instagram page!

https://instagram.com/p/DC_gmfhl4E8/

Beneficiary Spotlight: The Story of Amina Auwal - A Dream in the Making



Amina's story is one of determination, perseverance, and a thirst for knowledge. At 17, she dreams of becoming a lawyer to stand up for those who are oppressed, and despite facing numerous challenges, she is steadily moving towards that goal.

Her journey began in Birnin Kebbi, where she was born. Her grandmother, Fatima, who has been blind since she was three, moved to Karmajiji, Abuja, seeking better opportunities. After Amina's father passed away, her grandmother took her in and raised her. Despite the many hardships, including her blindness, Amina's grandmother has always worked hard to cater for the family. She relied on her small business—buying and reselling foodstuffs in tiny portions such as sachets of sugar and cups of rice. She also participates in a traditional savings group known as “Adashe.”

In Karmajiji, Amina's family lives in a make-shift house made of zinc and wood. Though life is not easy, Amina's grandmother is fiercely protective and refuses offers for Amina to work as a live-in maid, worried about potential mistreatment. Instead, Amina earns some money by running small businesses of her own, including henna design, makeup, and crocheting.

Amina's passion for education is undeniable, but financial constraints kept her out of school until 2022, when the Flex-iSAF Foundation identified her potential. Amina got enrolled in the Accelerated Learning Program (AccLearn), giving her the chance to learn and grow.



Amina has faced challenges in her studies, particularly with subjects like Mathematics and English, but her eagerness to learn and her consistent attendance have made a huge impact. Her hard work recently paid off when she passed the common entrance exam after completing Level 2 of the program. Amina is now in Level 3, the final stage, which will prepare her to sit for the Basic Education Certificate Exams (BECE) and transition to senior secondary school.

Amina's academic journey has been transformative, and Amina has not only improved her reading and writing skills but also gained confidence in herself. Her grandmother is incredibly proud of her progress.

"Alhamdulillah, Amina can now read. She helps me operate my phone and can even write and read messages. She couldn't have learned this if she wasn't in school," says her grandmother.

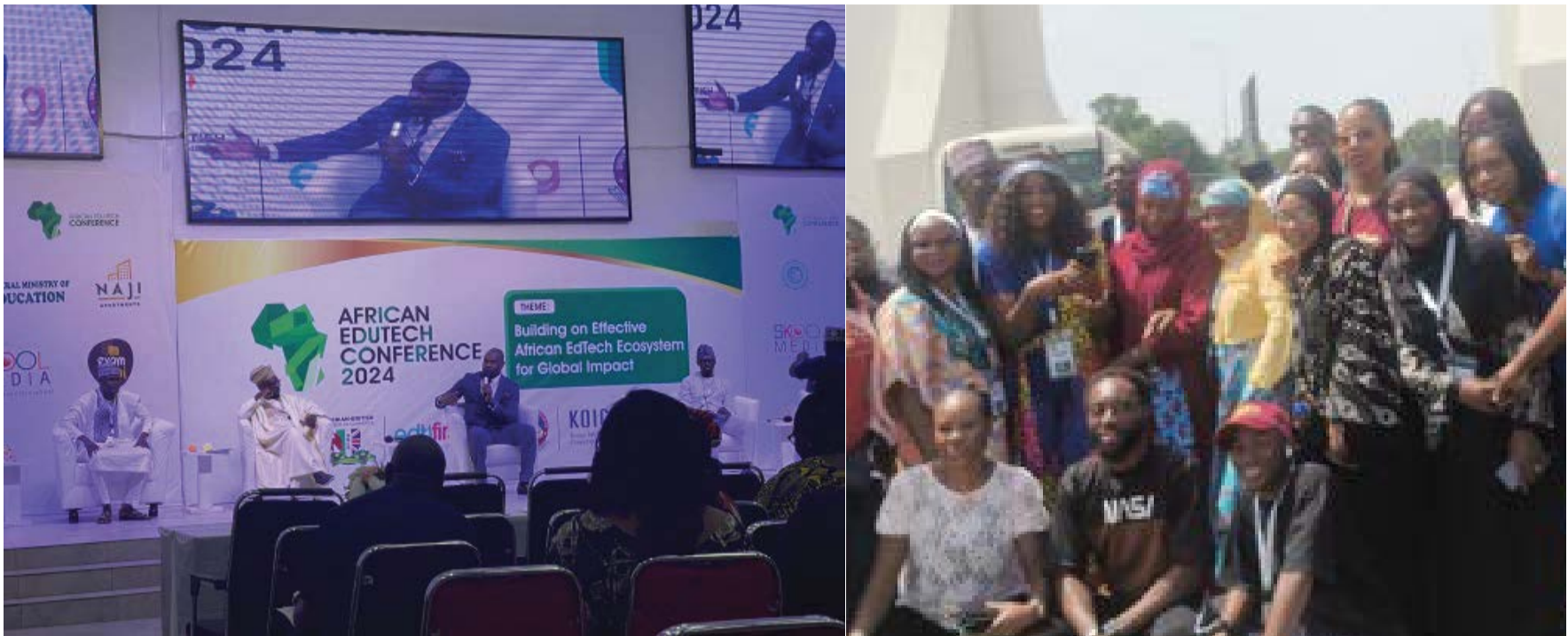
Amina is also grateful for the opportunity she has received.

"I pray that for those whose parents can't afford school, that God provides for them. And for those who have the chance to go to school, I encourage you to focus and truly understand what you're being taught."

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, Amina's life has been positively impacted, and she is now one step closer to achieving her dreams. We are deeply grateful to those who make this possible, and we invite more people to donate and help change the lives of children like Amina.

Join us in empowering the next generation to overcome challenges and achieve their dreams. Kindly reach out to us now info@flexisaf.org to find out more.

African EduTech Conference 2024



We are thrilled to have attended the 3-day African Edutech Conference 2024, where dignitaries from across Africa gathered to explore the transformative power of technology in education.

A key highlight was hearing from Dr. Hamid Bobboyi, Executive Secretary of UBEC, who shared the commission's vision to partner with Edutech companies to accelerate educational progress.

From seminars and masterclasses to a dynamic pitch competition and student technology showcase, every session inspired us with new insights and ideas.

We wrapped up with a memorable tour of Abuja, bringing back a wealth of knowledge and inspiration to FlexiSAF Foundation. Many thanks to NBCC, EDUFIRST, and UBEC for this impactful event.

National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

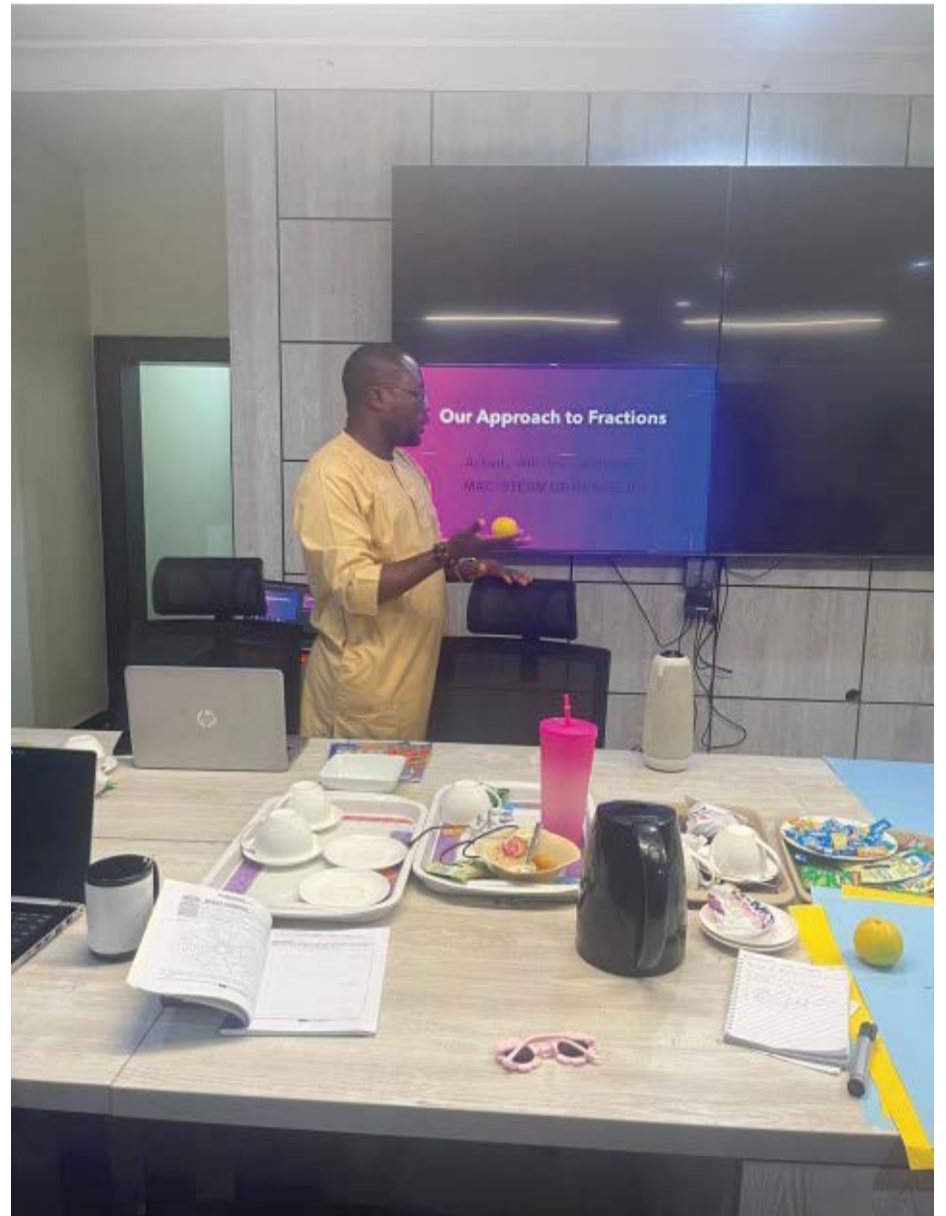


We were honored to attend the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) Stakeholder Engagement Meeting, co-hosted by Lagos Business School (LBS).

This important gathering aimed to enhance collaboration between private and public sector stakeholders and foster discussions around Nigeria's digital economy.

As we work towards an inclusive and accessible education system, we look forward to how digital innovation will enhance learning opportunities and create a brighter future for all.

MACI STEM Handbook Training



Thrilled to kick off our first session with Mr. Abel, the Acting CEO of Mentor an African Child Initiative (MACI), who introduced us to the MACI STEM Handbook—a fantastic guide to fun learning activities!

He shared the secret sauce for making education unforgettable and engaging for kids. Who says learning can't be a blast? Even as adults, we enjoyed it too!

We're excited for the second session and can't wait to integrate this into our programs, equipping our beneficiaries with valuable STEM skills and driving lasting impact.

Incubator Program Projects Implementation:

The Five winners of the FlexiSAF Foundation's Incubator Program who received a micro-grant from FlexiSAF Foundation with the support of Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF) were able to successfully implement their projects.

1.SafeNet Ambassadors by Gambo Maina Bawa



We are absolutely blown away by the successful project implementation by Gambo Maina Bawa, one of the five winners of the Incubator Program who received a micro-grant from FlexiSAF Foundation with the support of Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF).

Gambo has truly outdone himself with his extraordinary project, "SafeNet Ambassadors", demonstrating vision and dedication as he makes a meaningful difference in the fight against cyberbullying and empowers school children to navigate the digital world responsibly.

This transformative initiative played a crucial role in tackling the pressing issues of cyberbullying and irresponsible internet use by equipping an incredible 532 students across nine schools with essential digital safety skills through innovative peer-to-peer training.

It's amazing to know that a parent shared with Gambo how the program has profoundly transformed her son's perspective, emphasizing the crucial need for parental involvement in future cohorts to truly understand their children's dreams and aspirations.

This is more than just a program; it's a movement that is reshaping our community! A massive round of applause for the visionary behind this initiative for spearheading such a monumental change!

In a world that has gone digital, Gambo's project perfectly embodies our commitment to SDG 4 - quality education. Together, we're not just advocating; we're actively shaping a safer and more informed digital future for all!

We couldn't be more proud!

2. Voice for Health by Hanifa Zakari



We are incredibly proud to showcase Hanifa Zakari Shuaibu's transformative "Voice for Health" project, aimed at addressing the high prevalence of sickle cell disease in Tiga, Bebeji Local Government, Kano State. As one of our outstanding Incubator Program winners, Hanifa received a micro-grant from FlexiSAF Foundation with the support of the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF).

Hanifa's initiative is nothing short of remarkable! Through her commitment to community welfare, she has not only raised awareness about sickle cell disease but has also provided free genotype testing and screening for the youth. Her thoughtful decision to offer educational materials in Hausa demonstrates her profound understanding of the community's needs, ensuring that vital information is accessible to everyone. During her awareness session, 63 participants gathered to hear about the importance of genotype testing.

Hanifa's ability to connect with the audience was inspiring, and 37 youths benefited from free testing—a testament to her passion and effectiveness. The session was further enriched by a heartfelt story from a mother of two children living with sickle cell disease, which moved participants and emphasized the importance of awareness.

Hanifa's impact extends far beyond health education.

Her work highlights the broader issue of how chronic illnesses like sickle cell disease can disrupt children's education. Many children with this condition face frequent absences from school, and some are at risk of dropping out entirely due to their health challenges.

Thanks to Hanifa's dedication, participants now have the tools to make informed decisions that will protect their children's futures and promote healthier families.

3. #EmpowerKwaru Girls by Sadiq Sani Suleiman



We're excited to spotlight Sadiq Sani Suleiman and his inspiring "EmpowerKwaruGirls" project, made possible through a micro-grant from the FlexiSAF Foundation with the support of the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF).

Sadiq, a dedicated young change-maker, has taken significant steps in addressing the educational barriers faced by disadvantaged girls, engaging over 50 community members in the Kwaru community, Kano State.

His efforts include digital literacy training and sensitization campaigns. Through these initiatives, he has empowered 20 girls with essential skills for their future. Notably, 10 of these girls are now part of a scholarship program at the Ajiyan Hausa ICT Enterprise, which offers them ongoing educational opportunities.

However, the journey has not been without challenges. A key finding was the lack of confidence among community members in navigating the internet—an alarming reality in 2024?!

In a world advancing in AI, it is important that every Nigerian can harness the power of technology. One of the program's success stories was that of Fatima, a young girl who initially struggled with using technology but now has a different story to tell. Through the program, she not only learned to use the internet but also gained the confidence to support her family with her newfound skills. Isn't that inspiring?

We are proud and in awe of leaders like Sadiq, who are championing the FlexiSAF Foundation's vision that "no child should be denied the opportunity to learn and reach their full potential through quality education." His work truly speaks volumes, ensuring that no child is left behind!

4. Reusable Pads for Sustainable Menstrual Hygiene by Khairat Suleiman



Exciting news from Kano Municipal!

We are truly impressed by Khairat Suleiman, a passionate advocate for women's health and one of the winners of our Incubator Program. As the visionary behind the "Reusable Pads for Sustainable Menstrual Hygiene" project, she is making a remarkable impact in her community by addressing period poverty.

With a micro-grant from the FlexiSAF Foundation, supported by the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund, Khairat trained 50 young girls to create durable, comfortable reusable sanitary pads, empowering them to overcome period poverty—a significant barrier to education for many girls. By equipping them with skills to make reusable menstrual pads, she ensures these girls have access to sustainable menstrual hygiene practices, enabling them to attend school consistently without interruption. This initiative also carries the hope that this knowledge will spread throughout their communities, paving the way for a future where every girl can thrive free from menstrual hygiene challenges.

One inspiring story from Khairat's project is that of Aisha, a participant who previously struggled with affordability, often relying on newspapers and old clothes. After attending Khairat's workshop, Aisha now feels empowered to make her own reusable pads, giving her greater confidence and comfort during her monthly cycle.

This project goes beyond providing pads; it's about dignity, empowerment, and connection. It reflects the FlexiSAF Foundation's mission of 'Education for All' by addressing issues that contribute to student dropout and absenteeism, helping to ensure consistent school attendance.

By promoting sustainable menstrual hygiene practices and offering a cost-effective solution for menstrual health, Khairat instills a sense of responsibility toward both personal well-being and the environment.

Let's celebrate Khairat and the incredible change she's bringing to her community!

5. Reducing Juvenile Drug Abuse at Gwale Senior Secondary School by Abbas Alhassan Yusif



We are pleased to highlight the impactful initiative, “Reducing Juvenile Drug Abuse at Gwale Senior Secondary School,” led by Abbas Alhassan Yusif.

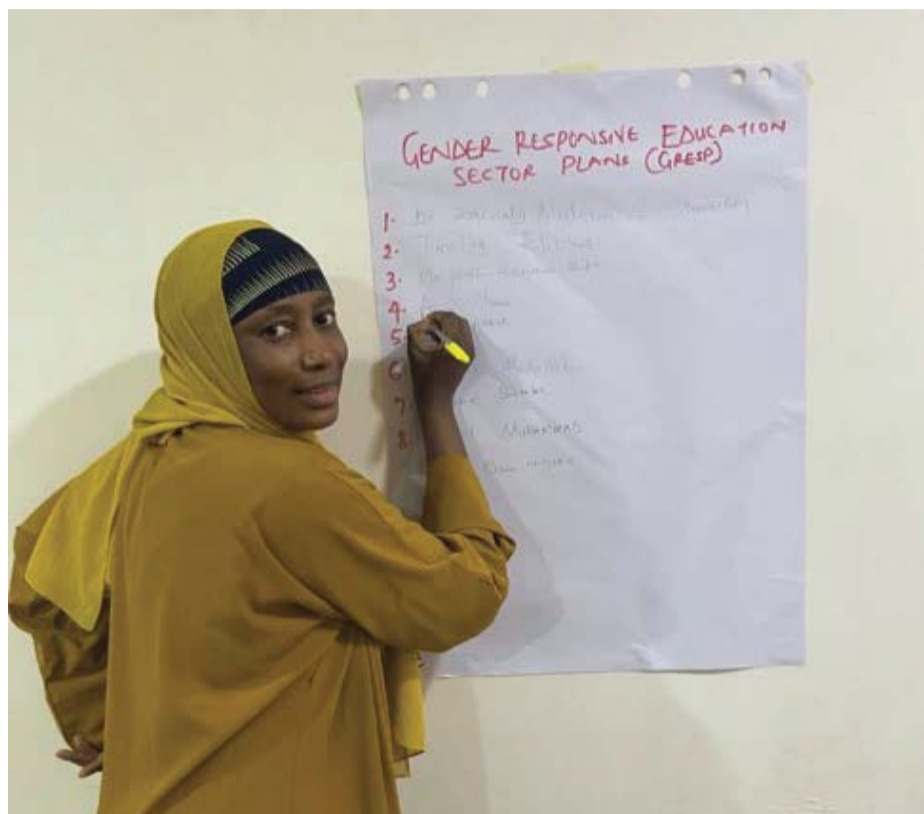
Recognising the urgent need for action, Abbas embarked on a mission to engage and educate students and school staff at Gwale Secondary School, Kano, about the dangers of drug abuse.

To achieve this, Abbas organized a one-day sensitization session for students and staff. This session equipped students with crucial information about the root causes and dangers of substance abuse, which can lead to long-term challenges such as cognitive impairments and social isolation. Meanwhile, teachers received training from experts on how to recognize early signs of abuse. To further ensure the entire school community had access to vital resources, informative pamphlets were distributed.

The FlexiSAF Foundation wholeheartedly endorses this initiative, as it aligns with our mission to support student well-being and help children stay in school, ensuring they have access to quality education and a better future. By prioritizing students’ personal development and safety, we aim to create an inclusive environment where every child can thrive academically and socially.

We applaud Abbas’s dedication and strategic planning in laying the groundwork for long-term impact. His commitment to open discussions on this urgent issue and provision of essential support are vital to safeguarding young people and empowering them to achieve their full potential.

Education System Strengthening Meeting organised by the Centre for Girls Education (CGE)



We participated in the Education System Strengthening Meeting alongside other CSOs, organised by the Centre for Girls' Education (CGE).

The main focus of the discussions was strengthening systems to ensure 12 years of free, safe, and quality education for every girl in Kaduna State with the key highlights being: Engaging with government leaders and community influencers to push forward the Gender-Responsive Education Sector Plans (GRESB) initiative. Powerful discussions on removing barriers to girls' education, including early marriage and hidden school fees. Inspiring success stories of girls whose lives have been changed by education!

Together, we plan to advance gender-equal education by strengthening partnerships, integrating life skills education, advocating for Gender-Responsive Education Sector Plans, and enhancing community engagement. We are optimistic about the potential to create a brighter future for girls!

Redefining Marriage as a Financial Solution: A Safe Space Session with Our AccLearn Girls



To commemorate the 2024 International Day of the Girl Child, we held a session with the girls at one of our AccLearn learning centers, a space dedicated to nurturing their dreams and potential. The focus of our gathering was simple yet profound: to encourage each girl to share her career aspirations and visualize a future where her goals could become a reality. It was a powerful moment, as one by one, they expressed their hopes—some wanted to become doctors, others teachers, engineers, lawyers, and even soldiers or community leaders. A common theme emerged: they all wanted to help uplift their community.

But as they shared, I posed a question: “What do you think could hold you back from achieving these dreams?” For a moment, the room fell silent. Then, one girl’s voice broke through, expressing what many were feeling but hesitant to say. “Ana aurar damu saboda a cewarsu, idan mukayi aure zamu rufama iyayenmu asiri, mu taimakawa kannen mu,” she said, explaining that they are often married off because their families believe it will bring prosperity and support to their parents and siblings. The room grew still as the girls nodded in agreement, acknowledging that marriage loomed as an expectation long before they could complete their education or build a career.

The conversation shifted from dreams to the societal pressures they face, where marriage is seen as a form of “jari,” or investment, a way for their families to secure financial support. Many of these young girls shared that their parents view marriage as a means to relieve financial burdens. Yet, the girls bravely pointed out a truth rarely spoken: the men they are often married off to lack the resources to support their own households, let alone bring the prosperity hoped for by the girls’ families. They understood that marriage as a solution is often a misconception, a cycle that prevents families from realizing the true potential of their daughters.

Listening to them, I shared a simple but powerful phrase, “Aure ba jari bane ba,” meaning, “marriage is not a business transaction.” The words resonated deeply, and with conviction, they repeated after me, “Aure ba jari bane ba.” In that moment, the phrase became a small but powerful mantra, an expression of their worth and a reminder that their dreams and potential could not be reduced to a transaction. They promised to take this message home, to speak with their families about their own aspirations, and to help their parents see that supporting their education and ambitions would bring far greater benefits in the long term.

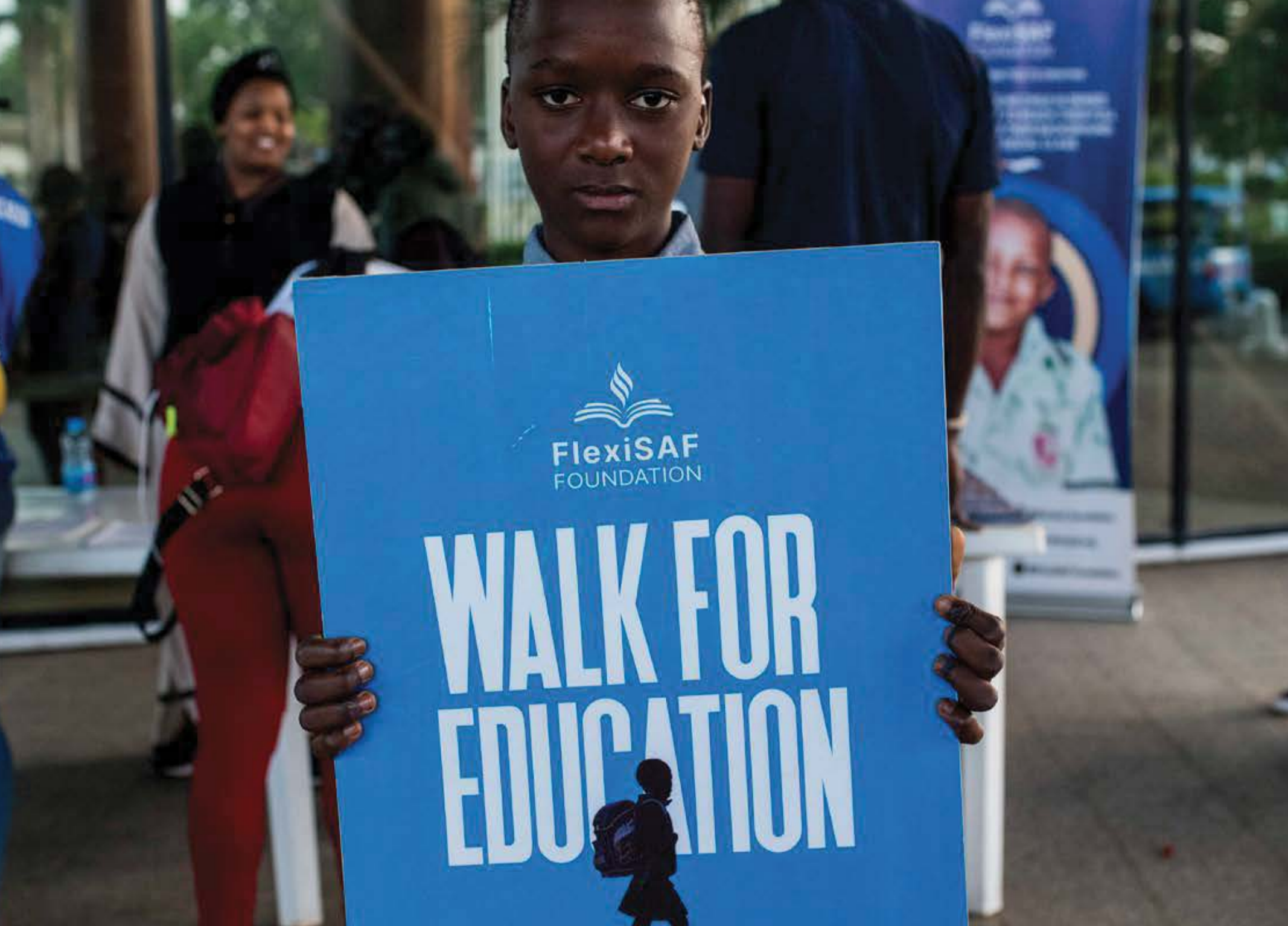
The girls left the session not only with a clearer vision for their futures, but also with a commitment to redefine the narrative surrounding marriage within their communities. Their voices and resolve were a testament to the strength and resilience they carry. As they stand on the path to transforming both their own lives and the lives of those around them, they embody the hope that one day, a girl’s worth will not be tied to marriage but to the endless possibilities she has to shape her destiny.

Join Us in Breaking the Cycle

Support more girls like these in achieving their dreams by donating to our educational programs. Together, we can break the cycle of early marriage and build a brighter future for our girls and communities.

Want to be part of this movement? Get involved by volunteering or reaching out to us via email at info@flexisaf.org to learn more about how you can help make a difference. Help us share these powerful messages with others. Follow us on social media and share our stories to bring awareness to the challenges and dreams of girls in our communities.

Written by Amina Usman, Coordinator, FlexiSAF Foundation



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