



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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# SEPTEMBER 2023







### INTRODUCTION

We are delighted to bring you the latest edition of our newsletter, packed with updates, stories, and opportunities that embody the spirit of our shared mission.

This newsletter serves as a window into the tireless efforts and remarkable achievements of our dedicated team, volunteers, and supporters, who are making a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

We encourage you to immerse yourselves in the stories we share, to reflect on the impact we have collectively made, and to find inspiration to keep driving positive change.

Together, we have the ability to shape a brighter tomorrow. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

Stay connected, stay engaged, and let us continue making impacts together.

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The Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF), in partnership with International Alert and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), proudly marked the occasion of International Youth Day 2023 through a series of impactful initiatives. As organizations dedicated to youth empowerment and development, our collective efforts have brought forth initiatives aimed at fostering positive change and inclusivity.

**Youth Day Campaign: Engaging the Voices of Tomorrow**

Leading up to the celebratory date of August 12th, we launched a compelling Youth Day Campaign. This campaign invited individuals aged 18-29 to submit 1-minute videos centered around the theme "Youth Inclusion, Empowerment, and Leadership for Sustainable National Development." From a remarkable pool of over 90 submissions nationwide, three exceptional winners emerged.

These top three contributors were awarded valuable prizes, including laptops and cash rewards amounting to 1 million naira. Additionally, the ten most promising candidates were chosen to participate in our forthcoming Youth Ambassador Initiative, a testament to their potential to drive meaningful change.

**Shaping the Dialogue: A Press Conference with Purpose**

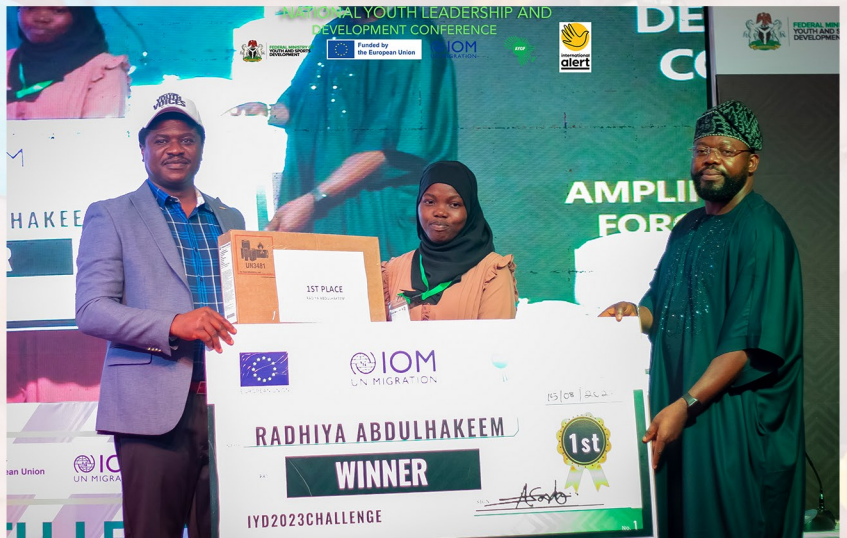
In honour of International Youth Day, AYGF, International Alert, and IOM joined forces to host an impactful press conference. This gathering aimed to emphasize the critical importance of youth leadership in the context of national development. We highlighted our significant contributions to this conversation and unveiled the array of initiatives rolled out for International Youth Day.

**Youth Innovation for a Sustainable Planet: Green Skills for Youth - The International Youth Day Roadshow**

A central aspect of our commemoration was the International Youth Day Roadshow under the theme "Green Skills for Youth." This dynamic event sought to equip young individuals with essential skills for a sustainable future while fostering environmental awareness and responsibility.



AYGF Staff at the International Youth Day Roadshow 2023. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Gift Madi



IYD 2023 NYLD Conference: Country Director of International Alert (Left), Dr. Paul Nyulaku; Winner of the IYD Youth Campaign, Radhiya Abdulhak eem (Middle); Executive Director of the Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF), Dr. Arome Salifu (Right). Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichu - kwu, AYGF Communications Officer

**Amplifying Youth Voices: The National Youth Leadership and Development Conference**

Under the resonating theme "Amplifying Youth Voices and Forging Opportunities for Collaborative Policy Making," the National Youth Leadership and Development Conference took center stage. This gathering tackled the pressing need for increased youth involvement in policy formulation, particularly in the review of the national youth policy.

Acknowledging the substantial potential of young people to instigate positive change, we recognized the unfortunate reality that their voices often remain unheard in matters directly affecting them. The conference aimed to bridge this gap by offering a dynamic platform that empowers and amplifies the diverse voices of young individuals.

The conference was marked by interactive discussions, engaging workshops, and productive networking sessions where young participants shared their perspectives, challenges, and innovative solutions pertaining to youth development. Through this





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AYGF COMMEMORATES INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2023 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL ALERT & IOM

collaborative approach, the summit aimed to facilitate fruitful dialogue between policymakers and the youth, generating actionable recommendations that genuinely reflect the aspirations of the next generation.

In conclusion, the Africa Youth Growth Foundation, in collaboration with International Alert and the International Organization for Migration, celebrated International Youth Day 2023 with an array of initiatives that collectively underscored the significance of youth inclusion, empowerment, and leadership for a sustainable future. Through these efforts, we continue to work towards a brighter tomorrow where the voices of the youth shape the destiny of our nations.



Executive Director of the Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF), Dr. Arome Salifu at the IYD NYLD Conference 2023. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

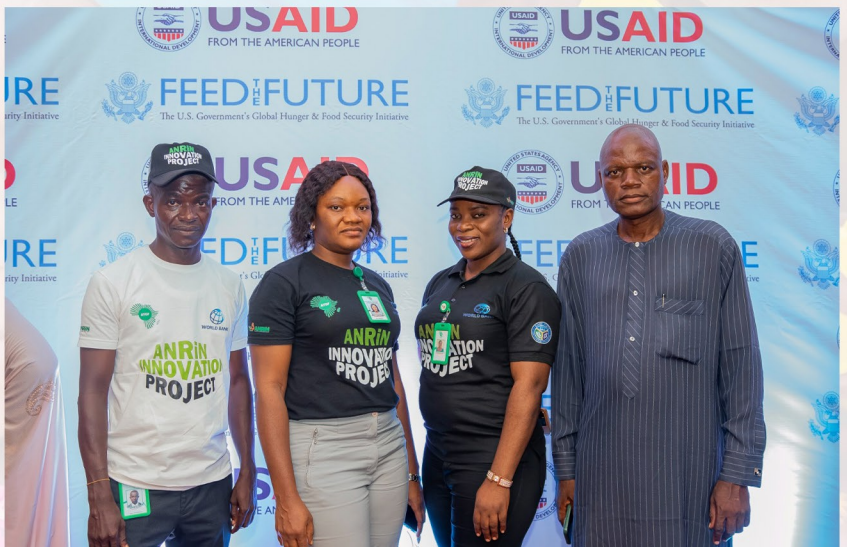
03

AYGF TAKES PART IN RUTF EXHIBITION, FOCUSING ON LIFE-SAVING NUTRITION

AYGF was proud to participate in the Exhibition/Trade Fair for Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and other Life-Saving Nutrition Commodities on August 16, 2023. This significant event, held in Abuja, was a collaborative effort between the United States government's Agency for International Development (USAID), the Federal Government of Nigeria, and various stakeholders. The primary goal was to combat malnutrition by improving access to RUTF.

The event, titled 'Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) and Other Life-Saving Nutrition Commodities Expo,' served as a crucial platform for multiple stakeholders. Government officials, donors, and RUTF manufacturers came together to address the challenges posed by severe acute malnutrition. Through discussions, experience sharing, and networking, the event aimed to foster innovation and collaboration in tackling this critical issue.

Local RUTF manufacturers, investors, and others involved in the life-saving nutrition commodities' value chains seized the opportunity to showcase their products and innovations. This spotlight on advancements in the field promised to contribute to broader and more effective RUTF programs.



AYGF Officers from Kogi & Abuja attending the RUTF Exhibition. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

AYGF played an essential role in the event, with representatives from the Kogi sector and the World Bank sponsored ANRiN program leading the charge. Their focus was on the Kogi Innovation Initiative, a program designed to educate pregnant and lactating mothers on preparing complementary food for children aged between 6 months and 5 years. The innovative aspect lies in the use of locally sourced commodities from within the community to create ready-to-use therapeutic food.

The RUTF and Life-Saving Nutrition Commodities Exhibition provided a dynamic platform for stakeholders to collaborate, discuss challenges, and share experiences. With AYGF's active involvement, the event was a resounding success in promoting innovative solutions to malnutrition and improving the well-being of communities.





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AYGF FORGES COLLABORATION FOR PEACE: MOU SIGNED WITH IPCR

We're thrilled to announce that on August 17, 2023, the African Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF) officially signed a momentous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR).

At AYGF, our core mission centers around enhancing the well-being of African youth, especially those in marginalized communities. In alignment with our vision, we've partnered with IPCR, a renowned research center operating under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. IPCR serves as both a think-tank and a crucial agency dedicated to fortifying Nigeria's capabilities in peace promotion, conflict prevention, management, and resolution.

Our collaboration with IPCR is a strategic move, as we share common goals in our thematic focus area: the Prevention of Violent Extremism. Together, we aspire to develop effective initiatives that provide sustainable solutions to these critical challenges. Our aim isn't limited to Nigeria; we're committed to extending our efforts across the entire African continent.

Stay tuned for updates on the exciting possibilities that lie ahead as we work hand in hand towards a brighter, more peaceful Africa. Together, we are poised to make a positive impact and usher in a new era of peace and prosperity for African youth, the underserved, and minorities.



L-R: Dr. Joseph Ochogwu, Director General, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution; Dr. Arome Salifu, Executive Director Africa Youth Growth Foundation. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer



Pictures taken with Staff of both organizations. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

04 AYGF SHINES AT NIGERIAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT'S INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2023 EVENT

The Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF) made a remarkable presence at the Nigerian Youth Parliament's International Youth Day 2023 event on August 26th. This event, centered around the theme "Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development: Unlocking Potentials, Driving Change," brought together young minds dedicated to shaping a brighter future.

The Nigerian Youth Parliament, established in 2008 during the Umaru Musa Yar'adua GCFR administration, is the driving force behind youth engagement in Nigeria. Their mission is to empower a new generation of active, responsible citizens who influence society positively. With a focus on youth empowerment, good governance, and community development, they are working towards meaningful change.



L-R: Rt. Hon. Azeizat Yishawu, Speaker, Nigerian Youth Parliament; Nelson Egbunu, Ag. Head Of Programs, Africa Youth Growth Foundation. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer





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## AYGF SHINES AT NIGERIAN YOUTH PARLIAMENT'S INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2023 EVENT

At the heart of the event were various highlights, including insightful panel sessions and workshops. Hon Olamijuwonlo Alao-Akala, Chairman of the House Committee on Youths in parliament, delivered a powerful keynote speech, reflecting on his own political journey. He urged young individuals to challenge stereotypes and actively engage in grassroots development.

Ms. Ure Utah, Founder of Bridge Synergy, shared progress on Nigeria's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a special emphasis on accelerating efforts to meet the 2030 agenda.



AYGF Head of Programs, Nelson Egbunu, representing at the National Youth Parliament IYD 2023 Event. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

An exciting moment arrived with the awarding of winners from the "The Nigeria I Want" video challenge. The event also witnessed the generous contribution of Seye Tinubu, the First Son of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who added substantial cash prizes to the winners.

The event also included enlightening panel sessions on "Green Skills For Youth: Skills For Now, Skills for the Future" and "Empowering Youth For Sustainable Leadership." Moreover, participants actively reviewed the National Youth Policy, offering recommendations to enhance its implementation and underline the importance of youth inclusion.

Mr. Afolabi Kamaldeen Kolawole, the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Grant Manager for the Nigerian Youth Futures Funds (NYFF), provided insights into the current grant opportunities under NYFF. He encouraged participants to leverage the grant for youth engagement and development.

Rt. Hon. Dr Azeezat Yishawu, Speaker of the Nigerian Youth Parliament, closed the event by expressing a commitment to transforming the recommendations into a powerful tool for engaging key stakeholders.

The International Youth Day 2023 event, made possible through the support of International Alert, the Nigerian Youth Futures Fund, and the Nigerian German Centre for Migration and Development, truly encapsulated the spirit of youth empowerment and change-making for a better Nigeria.

Stay tuned for updates on the exciting possibilities that lie ahead as we work hand in hand towards a brighter, more peaceful Africa.

05

## AYGF'S PRESENCE ON CHANNELS NEWS: DR. AROME SALIFU ADDRESSES UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES

We're excited to share that Dr. Arome Salifu, the Executive Director of the Africa Youth Growth Foundation, was invited as a prominent guest on Channels News on August 25th. The focal point of his discussion was the prevailing state of unemployment in Nigeria.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported a decline in Nigeria's unemployment rate from 5.30 percent in the fourth quarter of 2022 to 4.10 percent in the first quarter of 2023. This revelation triggered nationwide discussions, as young individuals expressed concerns over the apparent lack of viable job opportunities and tangible improvements in the status quo.

When queried about the new methodology and its real-time relevance in Nigeria, Dr. Arome Salifu shed light on the actual



Executive Director of AYGF, Dr. Arome Salifu (Left), with Chief Executive Officer of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Semiu Adeniran (Right) at Channels News Studio. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer





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AYGF'S PRESENCE ON CHANNELS NEWS: DR. AROME SALIFU ADDRESSES UNEMPLOYMENT ISSUES

challenges faced by the country's youth in terms of finding opportunities and securing jobs.

Dr. Salifu emphasized, "It's crucial for relevant government stakeholders to explore avenues that can effectively reduce unemployment rates in Nigeria."

The conversation concluded with an exploration of the way forward, with Dr. Salifu outlining potential strategies that could be implemented by the new government.

AYGF remains steadfast in its commitment to empower youth and contribute to alleviating the burdens of poverty, unemployment, and underrepresentation faced by the Nigerian youth today.

Stay connected to our updates for more insightful discussions and initiatives that foster positive change for the youth of Nigeria and beyond.

He emphasized the need for government stakeholders to seriously consider measures that could further mitigate the unemployment rate in Nigeria.



Executive Director of the Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF), Dr. Arome Salifu at the Channels News Studio. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

06

AYGF PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO SAVE THE CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

AYGF paid a courtesy visit to Save the Children International on 10th August, 2023.

Save the Children's global mission is dedicated to saving and enhancing the lives of children worldwide. Their comprehensive efforts encompass ensuring children have access to essential healthcare, nutrition, shelter, education, and child protection services during critical times. The organization is unwaveringly committed to enabling all children to reach their full potential by promoting their well-being, educational opportunities, and safety.

During our engaging discussions, we focused on solidifying the ties between our organizations. AYGF, with our dedicated mandate of impacting the lives of youth and minorities across Africa, found common ground with Save the Children International.

The dialogue revolved around enhancing our collaborative efforts to better serve our shared objectives. Together, we explored avenues of potential collaboration, aiming to amplify our colle-



Executive Director of the Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF), Dr. Arome Salifu with the Country Director of Save the Children Int'l, Famari Barro. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

-ctive reach and impact. The synergy between AYGF and Save the Children International holds the promise of driving transformative change and fostering a brighter future for the vulnerable and underserved.

Stay tuned for updates on the exciting possibilities that lie ahead as we work hand in hand to make a profound difference in the lives of children and youth.





We're excited to share a recap of the impactful event that took place on August 3rd, 2023, where the African Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF) reaffirmed its dedication to inclusive education. This one-day town hall meeting, centered on "Disability-Inclusive Budgeting for Children with Disabilities," perfectly aligned with AYGF's mission to ensure that every child, especially those with disabilities, has equal opportunities.

Organized by The IREDE Foundation (TIF), a passionate non-governmental organization, the event marked a significant step in empowering child amputees and their families for independent lives. TIF's programs, including the Limb Empowerment and Advocacy Programme and the Inclusive Education Programme, are making a real difference.

The purpose of the townhall meeting was to advance disability-inclusive budgeting for children with disabilities as part of the Inclusive Education Project. This endeavor, launched in 2020 with support from the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), aimed to raise awareness, build consensus, and offer policy recommendations for effective implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy.

The event hosted enlightening sessions that shed light on the importance of inclusive education and the hurdles it faces. Mrs. Crystal Chigbu, Executive Director of TIF, welcomed attendees and emphasized the profound connection between inclusive education and TIF's core principles. She stressed the need for nationwide advocacy to ensure seamless integration of inclusive education practices.

Mrs. Angela Ajala, a seasoned educator and esteemed TIF Board Member, delivered a captivating keynote speech. Drawing from her two-decade experience in education, she highlighted the manifold benefits of inclusive education, such as enhanced accountability, targeted resource allocation, innovation stimulation, and fostering trust among stakeholders.

Mr. Donald Ikenna Ofuegbu expertly led a learning session on Disability-Inclusive Budgeting, offering insights into challenges and strategies for achieving inclusive education in Nigeria. This session aimed to increase awareness, explore different perspectives, and provide actionable recommendations for driving inclusive education efforts.



AYGF Programs Officer, Nelson Egbunu, at the One-Day Townhall Meeting by IREDE Foundation. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer



More Photos from the meeting. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

The panel discussion featured experts from organizations like the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, Shehu Musa Yaradua Foundation, CBM, and The Albino Foundation. This thought-provoking conversation delved into challenges arising from limited data availability for policy implementation in inclusive education.

A collaborative group work and dialogue session facilitated by Mr. Ofuegbu generated key recommendations: Drafting a communique as an advocacy tool for engaging stakeholders, AYGF's active role in advocating for a disability-inclusive budget line, reviewing the Inclusive Education Policy, and strategic implementation, Consideration of producing a concise document outlining AYGF's vision, mission, and strengths, similar to TIF's approach, Emphasis on reviewing all relevant education policies, including the Inclusive Education Policy and the Nigerian Mental Health Bill, to ensure holistic support for children with disabilities.

The townhall meeting stood as a beacon of hope, uniting AYGF and The IREDE Foundation in the shared mission of promoting inclusive education and championing children's rights. Together, we work towards a society where every child's potential is nurtured, leaving no child behind.

Stay tuned for more updates and inspiring stories as we continue our journey towards a more inclusive Africa.





# EXCELLENT STAFF

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST



**Solomon Idowu**  
M & E Officer,  
(NIGER OFFICE)



**Caroline Godwin**  
Programs Officer,  
(ABUJA OFFICE)



**Victor Wogu**  
M & E Manage  
(KOGI OFFICE)



**Timothy Igbudu**  
Project Director  
(KATSINA OFFICE)

THANKS TO THE ABOVE EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AS THE BEST STAFF IN EACH LOCATION AS VOTED BY OTHER COLLEAGUES

*Congratulations!*

Following a nomination and evaluation process for the Outstanding Staff in August 2023, the winners were:

1. Solomon Idowu - M & E Officer (NIGER OFFICE)
2. Caroline Godwin Programs Officer (ABUJA OFFICE)
3. Victor Wogu - M & E Manager (KOGI OFFICE)
4. Timothy Igbudu - Project Director (KATSINA OFFICE)

Hearty congratulations to the winners for their outstanding performance as the best staff in the above-mentioned locations.

The management of AYGF appreciates your commitment to the vision and mission at the Organisation. Let's keep the flag flying!



AYGF is a regional non-governmental Organisation established in April, 2003 and registered in July, 2006 with the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja, Nigeria, with over 17 years of developmental projects implemented with the European Union (EU), International Organisation Migration (IOM), Johnson & Johnson, Dimagi, ECOWAS through the, Spanish Government, German Government, World Bank, Vitamin Angels, amongst

AGYF has operational base in British Columbia Canada, and Nigeria (Kogi, Niger, Abeokuta, Katsina, and FCT).

The organisation's purpose is to strive for positive change in the economic and social status of Africans, the poor, the vulnerable and minorities, by implementing effective programs that deliver sustainable outcomes.

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Follow us @AYGF on Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn & Instagram

Website: [www.aygf.ng](http://www.aygf.ng)

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