



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 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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AFRICA YOUTH GROWTH FOUNDATION PRESENTS
SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH WEBINAR

WWW.AYGF.NG

IMAGA OJI
HOST

OZIOMA OSEMEKE
PSYCHO-SPIRITUAL THERAPIST
ARAL FAMILY

ANGELA OCHU-BAIYE
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ANTI-SUICIDE & DEPRESSION SQUAD

LINK: [HTTPS://SHORTURL.AT/FG056](https://shorturl.at/FG056)

SCAN ME:

THEME:
CREATING HOPE THROUGH ACTION

DATE & TIME:
7TH SEPTEMBER 2023 | 3PM PROMPT

FOLLOW US @AYGF ON

AYGF Programs Officer, Mrs. Imaga Oji, and Panellists. Graphics: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

In light of the alarming global ranking of suicide as the 13th leading cause of death, the Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF) commemorated Suicide Prevention Month with a special webinar under the theme 'Creating Hope through Action' on September 7th, 2023.

The dynamic and impactful webinar was aimed to create awareness through mass media on suicide prevention within one month; reduce stigma around mental health conditions, encouraging open conversations about health and making it easier for individuals to seek help without fear of judgment within one month of the campaign; also, to educate the public, by providing information about the warning signs of suicide and the risk factors associated with it. Promote resilience and coping skills, stress management techniques, and resilience-building activities; to increase the approach and mindset of pregnant and lactating mothers on the essentials of mental health and the adverse effects of post-natal depression.

The webinar featured three esteemed panelists:

Miss Faith Osemeke: A therapist specializing in marriage, couples, and relationships, as well as a Psycho-Spiritual therapist. She is also the founder of ARAL.

Mrs. Angela Omeiza Ochu-Baiye: The Founder and CEO of Jela's Development Initiatives (JDI).

Mr. Dennis Agbeti: A mental health counselor, behavioral change therapist, certified peak performance coach, performance management consultant, and corporate trainer.

This insightful event was conducted via the Zoom platform, and lasted for two hours. With over 40 participants in attendance, each panelist delivered impactful sessions, shedding light on critical aspects of mental health, the importance of empathy, and the significance of Postpartum Health for both women and men.

AYGF remains unwavering in its commitment to creating an inclusive and mentally sustainable space for youths and minorities across Africa and beyond. We do so through various initiatives and enlightening workshops that aim to inform individuals and provide resources to support their mental well-being.

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

Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF) proudly joined the meaningful discussions centered around the green economy and green skills, as orchestrated by the United Nations Interagency Group on youth, on the 8th of September, 2023.

The Green Skills Fair was an engaging event organized by the United Nations Interagency Group with a theme focused on "Green Skills for Youth."

This fair aimed to introduce attendees to the concept of green skills and the transition towards a more environmentally sustainable society. The event illuminated this concept through dynamic videographic representations, allowing the voices of young people to resonate.

Highlights of the event included a report on the U-Report's findings regarding green skills and climate change.

Additionally, a Green Skills Roundtable discussion took place, delving into what green skills are and why they hold significant importance. Various stakeholders provided in-depth insights into the development of the green job market, its requirements, and the prospects for career transition.

Participating individuals had the opportunity to explore the Green Skills Booths and engage in speed networking sessions, all with the aim of fostering connections between young people and organizations committed to sustainable practices.

Key recommendations emerged from this gathering, emphasizing the importance of attitudinal change. This shift includes curbing the indiscriminate disposal of refuse, promoting afforestation, integrating green skills into education, encouraging a just transition, and reviving technical schools to impart these essential skills within our academic institutions.

Furthermore, the event underscored the vital role of NGOs and stakeholders in advocating for climate change awareness and the adoption of green skills. Initiatives to instill climate education from a young age in schools and government-led campaigns and education were also recognized as essential steps toward driving positive change in our communities.

AYGF is dedicated to actively contributing to these recommendations and continues to champion the cause of environmental sustainability and green skills development.



AYGF Programs Officer, Mr. Ernest Iyagi, at the UN Green Skills Fair. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer



AYGF Programs Officer, Mr. Ernest Iyagi, at the UN Green Skills Fair. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer



AYGF Programs Officer, Mr. Ernest Iyagi, at the UN Green Skills Fair. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

In collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Conflict, we came together to mark the International Peace Day on the 21st of September 2023.

The International Day of Peace, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981, has evolved over two decades into a symbol of non-violence and cease-fire. This year, the theme "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals" emphasizes our collective responsibility to foster peace, which in turn contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Achieving the SDGs will create a culture of peace for all (UN, 2023).

Peace conferences play a vital role in providing structured and diplomatic platforms for conflicting parties to negotiate peaceful solutions to their differences. These conferences aim to prevent the escalation of violence, minimize the suffering of affected populations, address human rights abuses, and reinforce the value of diplomacy over armed conflict.

The 2023 International Peace Day lecture, themed "Renewed Hope Agenda: Strategies for Enhancing Peace in Present-day Nigeria," was brilliantly delivered by Dr. Matthew Ogwuche from the National Open University of Nigeria. We were honored to have 240 participants join us for this significant event.

The recommendations from this conference, which included diplomacy, conflict resolution, governance reforms, economic development, and efforts to address social and cultural divisions, will be shared with relevant stakeholders and legislative committees responsible for reviewing the National Peace Policy. These recommendations will shape policies that prevent spill-over effects of conflicts, aid post-conflict reconstruction, safeguard global security, and contribute to sustainable development.

We were privileged to receive goodwill messages from esteemed diplomats and organizations, including the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, HE Cui Jian Chun; the French Ambassador to Nigeria, HE Mrs. Emmanuelle Blatmann; the Bangladeshi High Commissioner to Nigeria, HE Masudur Rahman; Mr. Ebeten William Ivara, DG of the National Gallery of Art; and representatives from Soccer for Peace Foundation, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, and Brand Life Vision Foundation.



L-R: Dr. Arome Salifu, Executive Director Africa Youth Growth Foundation; The Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, HE Cui Jian Chun. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer



L-R: AYGF Communications Assistant, Gift Madi; AYGF M & E Officer, Ms. Glory Sebastian; AYGF Programs Officers: Mr. Nelson Egbunu, Mrs. Imaga Oji, Ms. Ifeoluwa Prince. Photos: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Prof. Sunday A. Ochoche, Chairman of the Peace Day Lecture, for granting us the opportunity to partner with IPCR during his tenure as the foremost Director General of the organization. We also express our gratitude to IPCR for providing the enabling platform for the International Peace Day Lecture.

At AYGF, we understand the profound importance of peace across various thematic areas, including Public Health, Livelihood, Migration, Education, Democratic Governance, Climate Change, and Environment. As we implement the World Bank project, Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRiN) in 39 Local Government Areas of Northern States, some of which are challenging due to violence, we emphasize the crucial role of peace in our work.

In conclusion, we firmly believe that lasting peace is attainable through youth inclusion, increased youth employment, and improved national justice. By prioritizing these areas, we can pave the way for enduring peace in our society.

In collaboration with YASIF Nigeria, Ecocycle Limited, Trashmonger, Ecobarter, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Lift Humanity Foundation (LHF), Klienfield LP, and other esteemed Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), AYGF embarked on an impactful community clean-up and sensitization initiative in Galadimawa village to commemorate World Clean-Up Day and Zero Waste Week 2023 on September 16th.

Zero Waste Week, founded by Rachelle Strauss in 2008, has evolved into a popular movement inspiring individuals to reduce waste generation. #ZeroWasteWeek, an acclaimed grassroots annual environmental awareness campaign, unfolds both online and on the ground. This initiative empowers households, businesses, organizations, schools, universities, and community groups to minimize landfill waste, allowing you to save money, conserve resources, and safeguard the environment.

This campaign encouraged people to minimize single-use plastics, compost food waste, and promote item repair and repurposing, thereby advocating for more sustainable choices.

The objective of this commemoration was to heighten awareness about the various forms of municipal solid waste and their implications on both humans and the environment. We aimed to address environmental and health risks stemming from improper waste disposal, promote recycling and upcycling, and ensure the provision of sustainable waste management services. The day commenced at 8 o'clock with the active participation of community members, primarily comprising young people and various partner organizations.

Our efforts encompassed community clean-up activities and engaging community members in discussions about climate change and the importance of fostering an eco-friendly environment through innovative initiatives. We were warmly received by the Hakimi of the community, their esteemed leader, who provided us with a platform to sensitize community members about the significance and urgency of implementing climate change initiatives.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our partners and collaborators who made this event a tremendous success, demonstrating our collective commitment to a cleaner, greener, and healthier future.



AYGF Staff holding Environmental-friendly placards. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer.



AYGF Staff with Partner Organizations holding placards. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer.



Scenes from the Zero Waste Week commemoration. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer.

AYGF was represented at the NHRC 2-Day Workshop on Human Rights-Based Approaches to Migration, which was held between September 25th and 26th, 2023. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, conducted the two-day workshop aimed at providing valuable training to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the subject of Human Rights-Based Approaches to Migration.

The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) is a conceptual framework rooted in the promotion and protection of human rights, guided by international human rights standards. Within this framework, the treatment of migrants as human beings is elevated to the forefront of all discussions and programming related to migration. This approach is underscored by fundamental principles such as non-discrimination, empowerment, participation and inclusion, and accountability.

The workshop's objectives were twofold. First, it sought to equip CSOs with the tools and knowledge necessary to identify and address discriminatory practices and the unequal distribution of power that underlie human trafficking and migrant smuggling. These practices often result in impunity for perpetrators and deny justice to victims. Second, the workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of NGOs engaged in human rights promotion and protection, with a specific focus on migration, by integrating HRBA into their work. Participants explored how human rights violations manifest throughout the trafficking cycle and how States' obligations under international human rights law are implicated.

In acknowledgment of the commendable work carried out by the Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF) in the field of human rights and migration, the National Human Rights Commission extended a special invitation to our organization to participate in this enlightening training program.

The training not only provided a platform for AYGF to contribute to the strengthening of education and training initiatives concerning the rights of migrant workers and their families but also aligned with the 2023 CMW Concluding Observations.

We remain committed to advancing human rights and championing the cause of migrants and their families, and we look forward to implementing the knowledge and insights gained from this workshop in our upcoming initiatives and programs.



Pictures from the workshop. Photos: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer



AYGF Programs Officer: Caroline Godwin with key participants. Photos: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer



Pictures from the workshop. Photos: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer

AYGF Pays Courtesy Visit to Nutrition International

In a bid to strengthen efforts towards improving nutrition outcomes in Nigeria, the Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF) embarked on a courtesy visit to Dr. Osita Okonkwo, the Country Director of Nutrition International, on September 12, 2023.

Nutrition International (NI) is a renowned non-profit organization recognized for its leadership in the global fight against malnutrition. They firmly believe that providing the right nutrition at the right time empowers individuals to dream, achieve, and contributes to building a better world. Their efforts have earned them the title of 'nutrition champions' on a global scale.

Since 2007, Nutrition International (NI) has been working collaboratively with government agencies, partners, and stakeholders in Nigeria to implement vital nutrition interventions that save lives and enhance the quality of life.

During our visit, we explored potential collaborations that could significantly enhance nutrition provision in Nigeria, aligning closely with both organizations' shared goals and objectives. AYGF's impactful projects in Migration, generously funded by the European Union and the Spanish Fund, were brought to



L-R: AYGF Resource Mobilization Officer, Ms. Sakeenah Ahmadu; AYGF Programs Officer, Mr. Nelson Egbunu; Executive Director of Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF), Dr. Arome Salifu; The Country Director of Nutrition International, Dr. Osita Okonkwo; AYGF Programs Officer, Imaga Oji. Photos: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyi-chukwu, AYGF Communications Officer.

the forefront. Of particular note was the ANRiN project, sponsored by the World Bank, currently being executed in Katsina, Kogi, and Niger states. We are delighted to report that in Kogi and Niger states, AYGF is recognized as the best-implementing partner for this initiative.

We look forward to the exciting prospects that may arise from this collaboration, as together, we strive to make a positive impact on the nutritional well-being of our communities in Africa and beyond.

AYGF Pays Courtesy Visit to Action Aid

We are delighted to share exciting news from our recent visit to Action Aid on September 14th, 2023, as part of our ongoing efforts to foster collaboration and partnerships with like-minded organizations. AYGF has been actively working towards positive change, and this visit marked another significant step in that direction.

Action Aid Nigeria, established in 2000 as a local chapter of the global ActionAid federation, is committed to promoting human rights and eradicating poverty. Their mission aligns seamlessly with AYGF's goals and objectives, making this partnership exploration a truly meaningful endeavor.

During our visit, we had the honor of meeting Mr. Andrew Mamedu, the Country Director of ActionAid. Mr. Mamedu warmly hosted our AYGF team during the courtesy call. He commended our team's capabilities and the



L-R: The Country Director of ActionAid, Mr. Andrew Mamedu; Executive Director of Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF), Dr. Arome Salifu. Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyi-chukwu, AYGF Communications Officer.

The focal point of our discussion revolved around the exciting prospects of collaboration and partnership between our two organizations. As AYGF, we are enthusiastic about the potential synergy that could arise from joining forces with Action Aid to further our shared mission of creating a more just and poverty-free society.

We will continue to keep you updated on any developments arising from this promising encounter.



AYGF PAYS COURTESY VISITS FOR POSSIBLE COLLABORATIONS (CONT'D)

AYGF received the Country Director of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Nigeria

In a warm and welcoming gesture, the Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF) received Mr. Paul Byars, the Country Director of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Nigeria, on September 6, 2023, at our headquarters.

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a private Danish humanitarian nonprofit organization that has maintained an active presence in Nigeria, particularly in various Local Government Areas (LGAs) within the BAY states. Their commitment extends to providing vital assistance and protection to vulnerable populations affected by conflict, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host communities. Which encompasses critical areas such as armed violence reduction, livelihoods, nutrition, food security, protection, shelter, Non-Food Items (NFI), and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).

The primary purpose of this courtesy visit was to engage in fruitful discussions on how to forge a strong and enduring partnership between AYGF and DRC. Both organizations share common goals and objectives, making this collaboration a remarkable opportunity to address pressing issues such as Conflict and Migration, particularly in the North-East region, where AYGF has established presence in Borno State.



L-R: Mr. Paul Byars, the Country Director of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Nigeria; Dr. Arome Salifu, Executive Director of Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF). Photo: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer.



AYGF Staff with Mr. Paul Byars, the Country Director of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Nigeria; Dr. Arome Salifu, Executive Director of Africa Youth Growth Foundation (AYGF). Photo: @AYGF 2023/ Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGF Communications Officer.

We are thrilled about the exciting possibilities that lie ahead as we join forces to create a lasting impact in the lives of displaced individuals and work towards a sustainable future for all. Stay tuned for updates on our collaborative efforts.

NG CARES: AYGF REPRESENTED IN OSUN, EKITI AND ONDO STATES ON 3RD PARTY MONITORING OF THE NG-CARES PROGRAM.

AYGF was duly represented by our Monitoring and Evaluation team in Osun, Ekiti, and Ondo States, as we fulfilled our role as third-party monitors for the NG-CARES Program from September 14th to September 27th 2023.

The NG-CARES Programme is an emergency operation designed to support budgeted Programme of expenditures and interventions at the State level – targeting existing and newly emerging vulnerable and poor households, agricultural value chains, and Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) affected by the economic crisis.

The Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES) Programme is an intervention that is built on the platforms of existing projects of the Federal Government of Nigeria. These include National Cash Transfer Programme (NCTP), Youth Employment and Social Support Operations (YESSO), Community and Social Development Project (CSDP), FADAMA, Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme, (GEEP). These projects are operational at the Federal and State level.

NG-CARES Programme is designed to restore the livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable, maintaining food security, and facilitating recovery of MSEs are some of the key objectives set out in the Government's Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) to respond to the current economic crisis in Nigeria.

During our recent visit to Osun State for the NG-CARES project, we were privileged to meet with key officials who hold crucial roles in the state's economic development.

Our team convened for a brief yet impactful meeting that laid the foundation for the assessment of state implementers' knowledge regarding the NG-CARES Project and the meticulous review of essential documents.

Among the distinguished attendees were the State Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, the Permanent Secretary, and all heads of delivery platforms. In addition, the State Consultant and enumerators were in attendance, all ready to embark on this significant endeavor.

In each state, we delved into knowledge assessment and desk review sessions, with a particular focus on Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLI), categorizing the project's key elements. The experienced team guided us through an array of documents, offering valuable insights into the implementation process. These documents included descriptions, strategies, and outcomes of the project, supported by relevant documents, pictures, and success stories.

Our journey continued in Ekiti State, where we had the privilege of meeting the newly appointed Permanent Secretary. This meeting served as a pivotal step in assessing the knowledge of state implementers regarding the NG-CARES Project and conducting an extensive review of crucial documents. The gathering included state implementers, consultants, and enumerators, all eager to embark on this vital mission.

Another significant engagement transpired in Ondo State, where we engaged with the Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning. During this meeting, we introduced our team and outlined the objectives of our visit. The Commissioner provided a comprehensive overview of the entire project, after which we delved into a fruitful question-and-answer session.

In each state, field data collection was carried out, drawing from a 25% beneficiary sample from all beneficiaries reached by the delivery platforms. This was done using research questions, focus group discussions (FGD), and key informant interviews (KII).

These interactions with key stakeholders in Osun, Ekiti, and Ondo States have proven instrumental in advancing the goals of the NG-CARES project. We eagerly anticipate continuing our collaborative efforts in pursuit of economic growth and development in these states.



Discussions with the AYGF M & E Team, One of the DLI heads and the TPM team.



Group Photo of the AYGF M & E Team with the Osun State PIU Team, TPM team, consultants, and enumerators



Discussion between AYGF M & E Team and the National and the DLI 2 Unit Head, Ekiti State



STAFF OF THE MONTH SEPTEMBER



GRACE DOGARA
OFFICE ASSISTANT
ABUJA



FELICIA LANKO
MONITORING, EVALUATION
AND LEARNING OFFICER
NIGER STATE



GLORY USMAN
OPERATIONS OFFICER
KATSINA OFFICE



RAPHAEL MONDAY
NUTRITION OFFICER
KOGI STATE

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 September 2023, the winners were:

1. Grace Dogara - Office Assistant (ABUJA OFFICE)
2. Felicia Lanko - M & E Officer (NIGER OFFICE)
3. Glory Usman - Operations Officer (KASTINA OFFICE)
4. Raphael Monday - Nutrition Officer (KOGI 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 others.

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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