



ANNUAL REPORT



**From Local
Communities to
Global Stages:
Driving Change for
Girls and Women**

2025

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Dear Partners,

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with deep gratitude for the remarkable community of partners, stakeholders, and supporters who have made YNCSD's work possible. This year has been one of meaningful progress, bold advocacy, and strengthened collaboration across all the projects we have implemented.

None of this would have been achievable without the unwavering commitment of our funding partners, the dedication of our stakeholders, and the resilience of the communities we serve.

Together, we have advanced critical conversations, influenced policies, and expanded access to essential services that improve the lives of women, girls, and vulnerable populations. Your trust and partnership have been the driving force behind these achievements, and for that, we say thank you.

As we look ahead, YNCSD remains steadfast in its commitment to deepening impact and building on the momentum we have established. The challenges we address are complex and evolving, but so too is our resolve. We are determined to innovate, scale our interventions, and strengthen our advocacy to ensure sustainable and transformative change.

We also recognise that this progress depends on sustained investment. We call on our donors and partners not to relent in supporting impactful and worthy initiatives like those championed by YNCSD. Your continued support is not just a contribution; it is an investment in equity, justice, and a future where everyone can thrive.

In 2026, we pledge to go even further. We will expand our reach, amplify our voice, and deliver greater impact for the communities we serve.

Thank you for standing with us.

Kelechukwu Nwachukwu
Chairman, Board Committee, Strategy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, the Youth Network for Community and Sustainable Development (YNCSD) transformed evidence into action, empowered communities, and amplified voices from rural Kaduna to the global stage at COP30 in Brazil. Across research, advocacy, capacity building, and innovative communications, we reached nearly 1,500 direct participants and engaged millions more digitally, positioning YNCSD as a leading youth-led voice on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), child marriage, and gender-climate justice.

2025 at a Glance



Conducted surveys, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) on Child Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM) in Kaduna, and validated key SRHR policy report in Lagos State.



Trained 50+ women in vocational skills. Eighty per cent (80%) of Values Clarification for Action and Transformation (VCAT) participants reported reduced stigma and a change in perspectives.



Developed 2 state-specific advocacy strategies towards inclusive SRHR while engaging 20+ high-level partners across Nigeria.



Reached 198,000+ digitally. Confidence boost in Self-Managed Abortion (SMA) knowledge and advocacy among youths via art-vocacy.



Strengthened feminist alliances to advance SRHR policy advocacy and strategic litigation, resulting in clearer commitments and more coordinated action.



Pillars of Impact



Research



Empowerment



Influence



Innovation





Movement building



BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE

Research That Informs Action

In 2025, YNCSD deepened its commitment to evidence-driven advocacy by conducting rigorous research and validating findings with key stakeholders.

- 
CEFM-KAP Study (Kaduna State): We assessed Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) around Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) across two communities, Jaji (peri-urban/conservative) and Badarawa (urban/progressive).
- 
AC Pamoja Validation Workshop: We brought together government ministries, civil society, and community advocates to review and endorse our legal and policy analysis on SRHR in Nigeria

What We Found

89.7%

respondents recognized the health dangers of early marriage

62.1%

were unaware of the legal frameworks protecting girls.

The Protection Myth: Child marriage is often framed as "protection" from shame or premarital pregnancy, masking its harmful consequences.

76.7%

The Hope: 76.7% of parents prioritise their daughter's education over early marriage, a foundation for change.



OUTCOME

A validated SRHR policy analysis report, enriched with stakeholder feedback, now serves as an advocacy tool for partner organisations.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES & DEFENDERS

Building Skills, Safety, and Agency

Sustainable change requires empowered individuals, from rural women learning trades to advocates securing their digital safety.

A. Economic Empowerment & Community Ownership (GFF Project)

In Ungwan Dosa and Ungwan Rimi, Kaduna State, we witnessed the transformative power of combining vocational training with savings and loans education.

“
I have the responsibility to ensure that my girl child is equipped with the necessary skills to survive. That includes completing her education and acquiring a vocational skill before marriage. This is important for the financial stability of her future family and helps reduce domestic violence
 — Rabi Yusuf, Project Beneficiary
 ”

OUTCOME

- Women demonstrated pastry-making skills at the Ward Head's palace, showcasing tangible economic potential.
- Traditional leaders publicly reaffirmed their commitment to ending CEFM.
- Ward heads from non-program areas requested program expansion, a testament to community ownership.





B. Strengthening Defender Resilience (MAMA Holistic Security Training)

We invested in our team's safety and well-being through specialised training in Nairobi, Kenya, covering physical, psychosocial, and digital security.

OUTCOME

- Staff developed personalised and organisational security plans.
- Teams learned to manage stress, prevent burnout, and practice digital hygiene, essential skills for those handling sensitive SRHR hotlines.
- Participants internalised a powerful ethos: **"When you don't learn to manage your emotions properly, you cannot help anyone."**

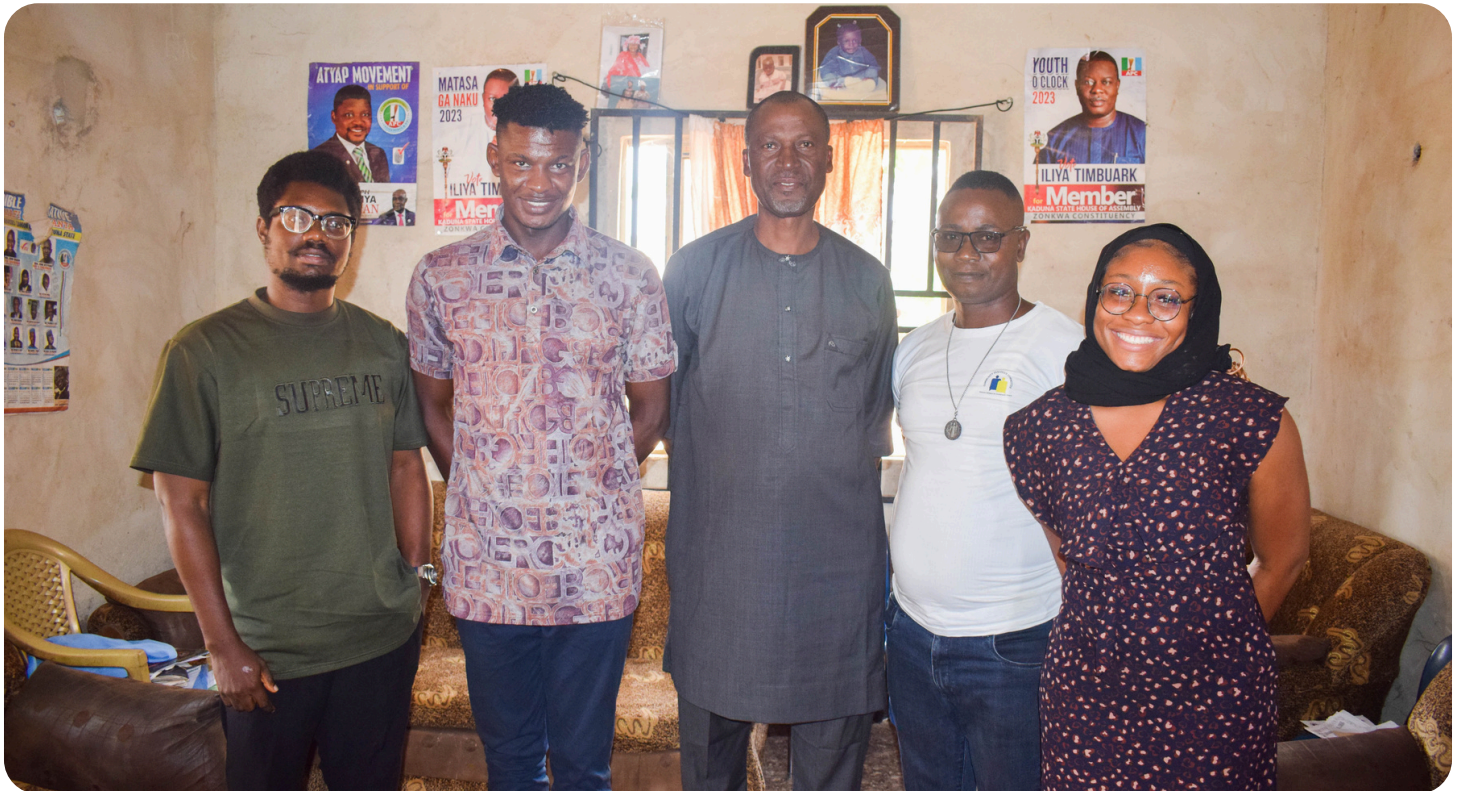
C. Cultivating Young Leaders (EmpowerHER Internship)

Our internship program provided practical exposure for two young queer women across Technical Delivery, Programs, and Communications departments.

OUTCOME

One intern, Danny, was recommended for hiring based on her initiative, creativity, and community mobilisation skills, demonstrating our commitment to nurturing diverse talent.





D. Community entry: Youth-led Conflict Mediation, Livelihood Support and Gender-Inclusive Peacebuilding in Kaduna

YNCSD began laying the groundwork for a significant expansion of our impact in late 2025, integrating peacebuilding with our existing gender and SRHR programming. With support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, we initiated community entry activities for our Youth-Led Conflict Mediation, Livelihood Support, and Gender-Inclusive Peacebuilding project in Kaduna State.

YNCSD engaged directly with traditional leaders and community gatekeepers. By securing the buy-in of these respected voices, we ensured that the project is owned by the community from the very start.



OUTCOME

Community leadership buy-in.
Community leaders carefully selected youths from their communities to become conflict mediators.





INFLUENCING POLICY & SHIFTING NORMS

From Local Palaces to Global Platforms

YNCSD's advocacy in 2025 operated at multiple levels, ensuring that voices from Nigerian communities reached decision-makers everywhere.

Move2Act National Dialogue (Owerri, Imo State)

We convened stakeholders from Imo and Lagos to develop state-specific SRHR advocacy strategies. The dialogue revealed a stark contrast:

- **Lagos State:** Advanced SRHR integration in school curricula and an active task force for abuse cases.
- **Imo State:** A rundown safe house (Deborah House) due to inadequate funding.



OUTCOME

YNCSD co-created advocacy roadmaps for both states, with clear commitments from Ministries of Health and Justice to collaborate with CSOs.



Oxfam "Next 90%" Dialogue (Abuja)

We joined youth leaders to demand equitable policy reforms, with takeaways on intentional messaging and choosing the right messengers for advocacy.

Malala Fund High-Level Dialogue (Abuja)

YNCSD contributed to national conversations on engaging men as allies in girls' education. We emphasised the need to transform the attitudes of influential men, not just train boys, to shift deeply rooted norms.



B. Regional & Global Advocacy

RHNK Conference (Mombasa, Kenya)

YNCSD presented its CEFM abstract, framing child early and forced marriage as violence, on a global stage, sharing Nigerian realities with regional actors including Africa CDC, IPPF, and the Global Fund for Children. Strategic questions and insights positioned us as a key youth-led voice in SRHR.



COP30 (Belém, Brazil)

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference, YNCSD:

- Participated in **Human Rights and Climate Change Working Group** meetings.
- Met with the **Women and Gender Constituency**, sharing YNCSD briefs.
- Presented at a side event under the **Climate Mobility Pavilion**, attracting interest from **Sterling Bank** and **Bakomondo** (an international nonprofit), both seeking collaboration.
- Held a bilateral conversation with the Minister of Women's Affairs, Brazil, advocating for women and girls' inclusion in the Mutirão document.



“
The bilateral engagement with the Minister of Women's Affairs, Brazil, and other feminist collectives resulted in alignment around advocating for the inclusion of women and girls in the Mutirão document.
 — YNCSD COP30 Activity Report”

OUTCOME

- YNCSD's gender-SRHR messaging was reflected in youth and feminist advocacy spaces globally.
- Concrete partnership opportunities emerged with financial and institutional actors.



INNOVATING FOR CHANGE

Art, Digital Tools, and Stigma-Busting Communications

We believe that changing hearts and minds requires creativity, courage, and meeting people where they are.

A. DIVA Hotline Campaign (Social Media)

We engaged popular influencer Elizabeth Adewale to normalise conversations around reproductive health and safe abortion, reaching 198,005+ users across TikTok, Instagram, and X (Twitter).

Metric	Value
Views/Impressions	198,005
Engagements	15,851
Shares/Saves	2,103

B. May 28th Artvocacy Campaign (International Day of Action for Women's Health)

Twenty young people gathered in Abuja to transform advocacy messages into art. Through painting, storytelling, and peer reflection, participants explored self-managed abortion (SMA) and bodily autonomy.

“

The storytelling circle created space for deep peer reflection, where participants explored how young women can safely access SRHR services through the right channels.

— YNCSD May28th Activity Report

”



OUTCOME

- Confidence in SMA advocacy increased significantly among participants.
- 100% of participants affirmed that visual art helped them better understand SMA.
- Participants created powerful placards reading "My Body, My Choice" and "Abortion is Healthcare."

C. Values Clarification & Attitude Transformation (VCAT) Workshops

Across three intensive workshops in Lagos, we equipped advocates with tools to examine personal biases and embrace rights-based approaches to SRHR.



OUTCOME

- 80% of attendees reported a better understanding of how stigma and personal biases affect reproductive health advocacy.
- Participants co-developed advocacy roadmaps for policy engagement, digital campaigns, and community mobilisation.
- Champions for SRHR were identified to drive sustained advocacy.



D. TIERS Conference Outreach (Abuja)

YNCSO hosted a table at the "Our African Family, Culture & Values Conference," distributing SRHR fact sheets, condoms, and promoting our flagship telehealth service, the DIVA Hotline - a youth-friendly and non-judgmental counsellor, providing accurate SRHR information for young people. We connected with Education as a Vaccine, HIERS, and AQYI for potential collaboration.





STRENGTHENING MOVEMENTS: FEMINIST COLLABORATION

WARDC Co-Creation and Ideation Workshop (Lagos)

YNCSD joined women-led organisations to validate the Beijing+30 SRHR Progress Report and develop strategies to end unsafe abortion in Nigeria.

Highlights

- Screening of *Tobasewo*, a short film illustrating the impact of restrictive abortion laws
- Validation of critical data on unsafe abortion in Lagos.
- Skills building in strategic litigation, digital advocacy, and policy engagement.

OUTCOME

A collaborative action plan and strengthened feminist alliances to push for policy reforms.



Movement-building Convening (Lagos)

YNCSD convened members of the PINK Movement to assess its advocacy strategy, strengthen coordination, and reposition the movement for greater impact within the SRHR space in Lagos. Through a participatory review and SWOT analysis, we identified key strengths such as strong grassroots leadership and credibility, while addressing challenges including limited funding, coordination gaps, and shrinking civic space.

OUTCOME

The development of a refined, results-driven advocacy strategy with clear policy priorities, improved governance structures, strengthened member capacity,



Collaboration is the backbone of any movement.

— YNCSD Movement Building Activity Report



PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORK GROWTH

In 2025, YNCSD expanded its network of partners and collaborators, positioning itself for greater impact in 2026. From government agencies and peer CSOs to International NGOs, YNCSD prioritised strategic collaborations, and together, we are building a future where every girl's potential is protected, every woman's choice is respected, and every community thrives.

International Youth Day 2025

For International Youth Day (August 12, 2025), YNCSD launched the IYD Challenge, inviting young people to showcase how they were actively contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The campaign received over 15 inspiring submissions, highlighting youth innovation, leadership, and solutions-driven action. Through this initiative, YNCSD demonstrated that young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow; they are agents of transformative change.

The winner, Praise Ayooladapo, received a cash prize of N150,000.



"Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond"

WIN ₦150K

- Post a video telling us your contribution to the SDGs.
- Tag us on IG so we can see it.
- Get the most likes.

Deadline : 19 Aug. 2025
The winner will be announced on 20 Aug. 2025



#InternationalYouthDay @yncsd www.yncsd.org

DIVA HOTLINE



YNCSD continued to run its flagship youth-friendly and non-judgmental counselling hotline, providing SRHR support to young people in Nigeria and across the globe.

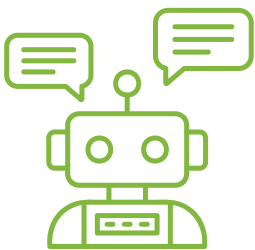
At least 3,000+ people received support from the DIVA Hotline counsellor in 2025

SAFE BANK



YNCSD developed Safe Bank, its flagship SRHR knowledge repository, a centralised hub for SRHR resources, including SMA guide, Safe Abortion Advocacy Guidelines, Data Banks, and Educational videos. SafeBank aims to accelerate access to information to improve safe abortion advocacy in Nigeria.

SAFE BANK AI Chatbot



YNCSD designed and embedded an AI-powered chatbot into Safe Bank, that provides accurate, youth-friendly, real-time responses to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) inquiries, including safe abortion. The chatbot provides accurate, non-judgmental information on SRHR and safe abortion, supports youth empowerment by responding to questions in a conversational, culturally sensitive tone and ensures confidentiality and data privacy at all times.

OUR PARTNERS

At YNCSD, we know that impact is not built alone. The stories, data, and transformations captured in this report were made possible by a community of partners who share our belief in the power of youth-led action to create lasting change.

To our funding partners, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your trust in our vision and your commitment to our mission have been the foundation upon which we have built a year of unprecedented growth and impact.

Together, we proved that when communities lead and partners believe, change is not just possible, it is inevitable.



Girls First Fund



Implemented by

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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



THANK YOU

APPENDIX

Acronyms

CEFM : Child Early and Forced Marriage

KAP : Knowledge Attitudes and Practices

SRHR : Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

KII : Key Informant Interview

FGD : Focus Group Discussion

SMA : Self-Managed Abortion

VCAT : Values Clarification for Action and Transformation

COP : Conference of Parties

MDAs : Ministries, Departments and Agencies

CSOs : Civil Society Organisations



YOUTH NETWORK FOR COMMUNITY
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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