

# Quarterly Report 2020





## **Quarterly Report**

# 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# Awakening Youth Potential: Agitations for Sustainable Development

**An “opportunity cost” crops up whenever youths do not seize an opportunity to make a positive impact in the world.**

Whenever we fail to invest our skills, resourcefulness, and talents in making the world a better place to live, the opportunity cost creeps higher. This is not only in terms of finances forgone, but also in regards to potentials that fizzle out, largely remaining unfulfilled.

On the other hand, when youths get to fulfil their potentials, utilizing their wealth of talents in addressing various social problems in the society, the ensuing collective rewards which are reaped alter the course of human existence for better.



All over the world, youths are increasingly rising up to their roles as global citizens. From the shores of Nigeria to all corners of the world, agitations for development are evident. Youths are championing various innovative initiatives geared towards making the world a better place, displaying acute growth mind-set, strong work ethic, gender consciousness, transparency, and accountability in the process. These values represent what Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative (BBYDI) is all about.

In the first quarter of 2020, as the subsequent pages will showcase, BBYDI worked tirelessly to practice these qualities. We reached millions of Nigeria in an effort to localize the SDGs. We held the government accountable to proper dispensation of related duties, etc. Essentially, we are leaving no man behind in our agitation for sustainable development. That is our mantra. That is who we are.

A small, rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature appears to be 'Abideen O. Olasupo'.

Abideen O. Olasupo  
BBYDI Executive Director

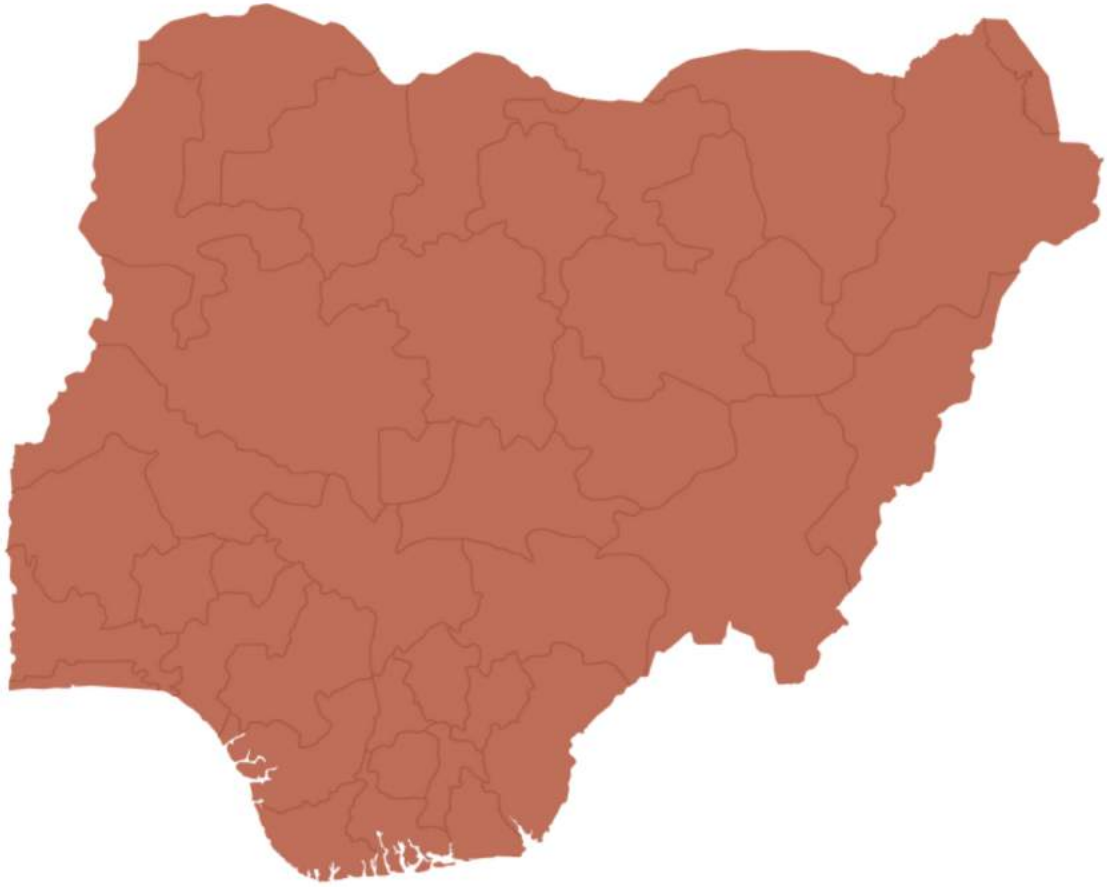
# CONTENTS

Message from the Executive Director	3
Introduction	5
<b>01</b>	
BBI'S Call for SDGs Ambassadors	6
<b>02</b>	
Participation in CSO Retreat	8
<b>03</b>	
Kwara State Budget Analysis	11
<b>04</b>	
Courtesy Visit to Council of Ulaa'mah	18
<b>05</b>	
Courtesy Visit to Joint Association of People with Disabilities	21
<b>06</b>	
BBI'S Advocacy on COVID-19	24
<b>07</b>	
BBI'S Report of Nigeria's Performance on SDGs	26
<b>08</b>	
BBI Wins Digify Award	29
<b>09</b>	
BBI Assesment Report on KSG's Performance	31
<b>10</b>	
BBI'S Executive Director Gets Ambassadorial Appointment	33
<b>11</b>	
BBI Celebrates IWD	35



# Introduction

In the first quarter of 2020, BBYDI (formerly called BBI) closed one chapter and is subsequently ready to open another. Working with a team of talented, passionate, and committed individuals, BBYDI has been able to uphold its reputation as a leader and innovator in development concerns. As the first quarter of 2020 comes to an end, BBYDI looked back on projects engaged in, and results attained. With this, BBYDI looks ahead to novel challenges in line with attaining the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.



# 01

---

## BBI'S Call for SDGs Ambassadors

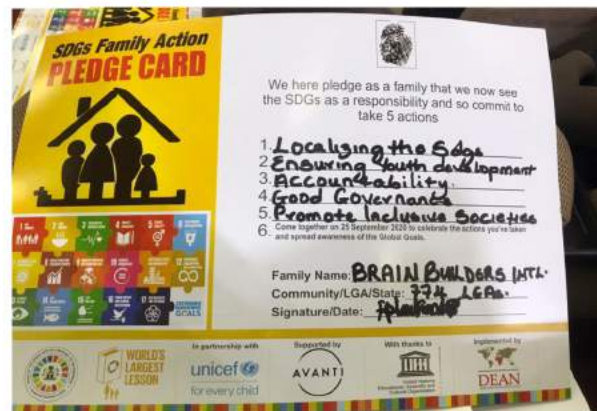
BBI calls for SDGs campus ambassadors across the 774 Local Government Areas in Nigeria, as part of an effort to localize the SDGs

## Localization of SDGs: BBI calls for active volunteers, Campus Ambassadors

Brain Builders International (BBI) called for active volunteers nationwide to create strong tentacles for its localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) projects.

According to the group, the project is aimed at taking SDGs knowledge to the grassroots and ensuring that every one is a part of the mission to the sustainability of people, planet and prosperity.

In addition to that, the BBI seeks to impress citizenship responsibility onto undergraduates of higher institutions by creating the 'SDGs Campus Ambassador' as part of their initiative.



**ABOVE:** A photograph of SDGs Family Action Pledge Card

BBI noted that specific roles will be to organize town hall meetings and events, to enlighten their counterparts on the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Benefits of joining the SDGs Volunteers and Campus Ambassador, ranges from connecting with like-minded fellows, career advancement, self-esteem improvement, etc.

The Executive Director of the group, Mr Abideen Olasupo enjoined youths to sign up for the programme, while noting that “2020 is a gear of decades of action and as such; youths must be in the forefront of championing the SDGs”.

In his remarks, the BBI's Head of SDGs Programme, Mr Sodiq Ajala, iterated that, “Brain Builders International (BBI), is a youth-based non-profit making and non-governmental organisation that promotes civic engagement and peaceful political participation, youth entrepreneurship and empowerment project, youth participation in community development, education development programme, human rights, and good governance.”

# 02

---

## Participation in CSO Retreat

BBI participated in Civil Society Organizations' 2-day Retreat organised by the Office of the Senior Special Adviser to the President on Sustainable Development Goals



## BBI participates in CSOs retreat, sues for collaboration on SDGs

The Brain Builders International (BBI) has successfully participated in a 2-Day Retreat for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Nigeria, organised by the Office of the Senior Special Adviser to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs).

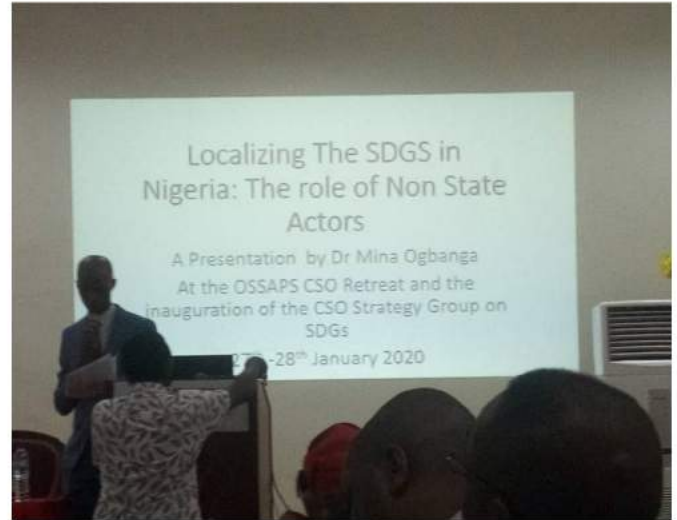
The retreat, which held between January 27th and 28th at Reiz Continental Hotel, Abuja, had over 100 civil society organisations in attendance.

It was aimed at “sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the implementation of the SDGs at all levels of the society, as well as facilitate a formal inauguration of the Civil Society Organisations Strategy Group on the SDGs (C-SOSG-SDGs) and emergence of leadership of the Group”, the office noted.

Speaking at the retreat, the Technical Adviser to the SSAP SDGs, Dr Bala Usman Yunusa noted that the government has developed strategic frameworks to ensure that the SDGs is implemented successfully in Nigeria.

He further stated that Nigeria requires \$85-billion annually to fund the SDGs implementation in the country, adding that it is therefore, important that all CSOs work together in partnership towards achieving the goals.

The Director of the Monitoring and Evaluation Department of the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Dr Zakari Lawal, mni, mentioned that the Federal Government has developed a strategic



**ABOVE:** A picture showcasing the 2-day CSO retreat.

monitoring and evaluation framework towards the implementation of SDGs, while noting that Civil Society Organisations are critical components of the framework.

He, however, lamented the limited engagement of CSOs with the government ministries.

In her keynote remarks, the SSAP SDGs also emphasised the need to have strong collaboration among CSOs and the government, as the success of the decade of action lies on the effort of the CSOs.

In a twist, the United Nations Country Representative, Mr Edwards Kallon noted the challenge before Nigeria as it ranks 159 out of 162 countries implementing the SDGs in 2019.

## 02 PARTICIPATION IN CSO RETREAT



**ABOVE:** A picture showcasing the 2-day CSO retreat.

Brain Builders International, represented by one of its executive board members, Mr Abdulha-keem Abdulkareem, advocated the need to create awareness and training for public service officials to support the work of CSOs in the implementation of SDGs.

The BBI noted that despite having a robust implementation framework, low attention to requests and poor administrative will from MDAs have affected the work of CSOs in monitoring and supporting advocacy for SDGs Project.

The organisation also participated in a keen group discussion on how civil society organisations will be engaged in the Voluntary National Review of the SDGs.

The group charted out recommendations that would assist Nigeria develop a VNR report that adequately curates the true level of the implementation of SDGs in Nigeria.

BBI hopes that the retreat would help CSOs create better modus operandi in implementing the SDGs and also create a unified front in advocating support for SDGs from the government at all levels in the country.

# 03

---

## Kwara State Budget Analysis

Brain Builders International engaged in an extensive analysis of Kwara State's budget for 2020, and subsequently provided potential recommendations in regards to courses of action for the government to take.

## Group Highlights Frivolous, Obscure Items In Kwara 2020 budget



**ABOVE:** A picture showcasing BBI’s infographic flyer on the budget analysis

Ahead of the 2020 fiscal year, a youth-focused non-profit and non-governmental organization, Brain Builders International (BBI), has charged Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq of Kwara State to prepare a budget that reflects the needs of the state and the people by ensuring that he carries key players across senatorial districts along in the process.

The group, in a statement issued on Monday by its Executive Director, Mr Abideen Opeyemi Olasupo, noted that if the consultation process is considered, through a deliberative Senatorial Town Hall meeting, the budget will adequately cater for the developmental needs of communities and foster rapid growth.

Olasupo disclosed that the BBI which is renowned for projects aimed at promoting civic engagement and peaceful political participation and good governance, took a critical look at the Kwara State second quarter and mid year budget implementation performance and made recommendations based on key developmental metrics as part of its annual thematic focus.

Its findings and recommendations are detailed below:

“The organization noted that while the state government achieved 95.6% (N29.12 billion) of the total estimated expected income of N30.5 billion for the second quarter, the government expended a total sum of N28.4 billion with N23.42 billion (82%) expended on recurrent expenditure (both non-debt & debt-service) and only a total sum of N5.08 billion (18%) was expended on capital projects.

**BELOW:** A picture showcasing BBI’s infographic flyer on the budget analysis



“Economic affairs sector gulped up the highest share of the capital expenditure with a sum of N2 billion, Education sector had the second most allocated fund N1.81 billion , while Recreation, Culture and Religion had the lowest share from the capital expenditure with N0.008 billion (1.58%) of total capital expenditure. Disappointingly, Social protection, which is very key to development, had no space on the budget.

“A general overview of the budget performance indicates that recurrent revenue and recurrent expenditure performed above 75% in implementation while capital receipt had a 68% implementation and capital expenditure had a 25.5% performance. Overhead and personnel cost accounted for a humongous N12.347 billion (52.7%) combined of total recurrent expenditure while other

personnel cost accounted for a humongous N12.347 billion (52.7%) combined of total recurrent expenditure while other items had to share the remaining N11.071 billion (47.3%).



**ABOVE:** A picture showcasing BBI's infographic flyer on the budget analysis

“Between April and June, the greatest contributor to the state’s revenue was statutory transfer from the federal government which amounted to N8.52 billion, followed closely by internally generated revenue. Interestingly, the state’s internally generated revenue recorded the highest absolute value contribution, showing a significant 114.7% performance.

“Hence, BBI applauds the effort of Kw-irs while also advising the government parastatal to review its strategies to be more business-friendly to drive investments, and also to put measures in place to block available loopholes for diverting revenue generated.

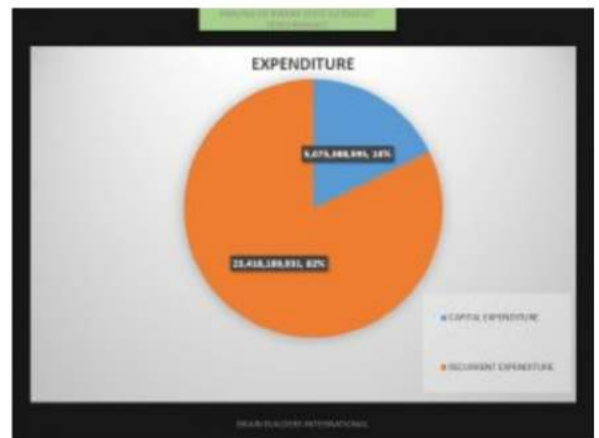
“The organization realized that several Ministries Departments and Agencies exceeded their budgetary allocation for personnel and overhead costs by more 25%. For instance, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development exceeded their allocation by a whopping 1696.8%; the State House of Assembly spent 131.6% over

budgeted estimate while the Office of the Governor spent 111.1% above budgetary provisions.

“Also, 29 MDAs exceeded their budgetary provision by over 25%. BBI decries this act of non-compliance to budgetary tenets and warns that it could be a means of siphoning public funds by corrupt public officeholders.

“The government should, therefore, ensure that every agency of the government works within the budgetary allocation. While lauding the effort of the State House of Assembly on the review of the supplementary budget, Brain Builders International charges the House to fast track the process.

“Finally, the pro-good governance organization commends the Kwara State government for her commitment to a transparent and accountable administration and advises government to upgrade the spate of infrastructure, facilities and basic amenities of life which can be catered for by increasing budgetary allocations for capital expenditures.”



**ABOVE:** A picture showcasing BBI's infographic flyer on the budget analysis

## Kwara 2020 budget: Is it really a budget of hope?

In its continued efforts to ensure public transparency and accountability in governance in Kwara State, a non governmental organization, Brain Builders International (BBI), monitored activities leading to the presentation, defence and eventual approval of the Kwara 2020 budget, christened 'Budget of Reconstruction and Reformation.'

This is part of the organization's overall objective of advocating for good governance and civic education in Nigeria, according to BBI Executive Director, Olasupo Abideen.

It will be recalled that on Thursday, 30th January, 2020, the Kwara State Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq signed the 2020 Appropriation Bill into law. The budget, according to the Governor, is designed to "rebuild the state in a manner that uplifts people from poverty and addresses infrastructural deficit."

On his part, the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Yakubu Danladi described it as "a budget of hope."

The BBI Executive Director commended the Assembly led by the young and vibrant Speaker for the scrutiny and prompt passage of budget, which he said, gives a ray of hope for ordinary Kwarans particularly young people of the State.

He, however, noted that there were some obscure line items in the approved budget, which he said, could be difficult for interested individuals or advocacy groups to track due to lack of details.

For instance, the itemline of N1.6bn under the House of Assembly was not explained and we raised objection to it during the budget defence but unfortunately, our concern wasn't addressed by the legislators before approving the budget.

Also, a whopping sum of N1.2billion was budgeted

for the purchase of vehicles for all political office holders. While we believe that officeholders are entitled to official cars, we however, hold that this amount is outrageous and uncalled for, considering the current financial status of the State.

A government complaining of paucity of funds should not be caught allocating such huge amount of funds to purchase of cars. We believe this fund could be channeled to more meaningful projects that will better the lives of the citizenry such as building healthcare centres in different parts of the State.



**ABOVE:** A picture showcasing BBI's infographic flyer on the budget analysis

We acknowledge the reduction of the budget for the Ministry of Energy from N401million to N300m by the Assembly, with a claim that the Ministry will be responsible for the electricity bills of other MDAs. But surprisingly, in the same budget, funds were also allocated for some MDAs to cater for their electricity bills. This definitely raises some concerns.

Meanwhile, we commend the House for reducing the allocation for fueling of Government House vehicles, plant and generator from proposed N220million to N190million. We, however, hold that this amount is still on the high. N190m for fuelling is rather too high.

Also, the budget of Harmony Holdings was increased from the proposed N100m to 200m by the House, without any concrete explanation for the 100 per cent raise of the Holdings budget. We also believe that budgetary allocation to Harmony Holdings should be treated as a loan facility as the organization is run as a private entity. And there is also no available record that the Holdings is remitting any money into the state coffers. We believe that these funds (N100m) could have been injected into sectors that will improve the state economy.

On page 35 of the approved budget, we observed that the sum of N250m was budgeted for 'Honorarium and Sitting Allowance' and domiciled under the Governor's Office budget. One is left to wonder who will be collecting money for honorarium and sitting allowance inside Government House. Do we now have another Assembly inside the Government House?

Similarly, on page 38 of the approved budget, we noted that a huge sum of N360m was budgeted for 'external auditor consulting'. This is way higher than allocation to some agencies like the Kwara Primary Healthcare Development Agency.



**ABOVE:** A picture showcasing BBI's infographic flyer on the budget analysis

It is also observed that the Appropriation Law is missing a key reference number as appropriate in

reference. The proper tagging is pertinent for easy reference of the law, non-duplicity of the law with different contents but the same citation, and for quality legislative process, among others.

Finally, the governor said he has saved the sum of N7bn which was included in the budget proposal. However, during the KwaraTracka program, the Governor said the figure was N8bn. This change was not effected or included in the approved budget

We also observed that a projected sum of N5bn from the Federal Government under the Ecological and Stabilisation Fund was included in the capital receipt; a fund which is not feasible. If this fund does not come, how will the government source for alternative?

We, therefore, recommend the following:

1. The principles of budgeting should be applied by giving adequate appropriation to top government priorities.
2. Proper market surveys are critical to keeping tabs on economic indicators and should be fully utilized during budget preparation.
3. Revenue projections should be feasible and based on reasonable performance level.
4. MDAs should be monitored to ensure coordination and cooperation in projecting expenditures.
5. The government should ensure that all relevant data are available for the preparation of the budget.
6. Every ministry must submit their audited report as and when due.

## **Kwara 2020 budget: More bogus claims emerge as BBI responds to state govt's rejoinder**

The Brain Builders International (BBI), a non-governmental organization charged with the mandate of ensuring public transparency and accountability in governance in Kwara State, has responded to a rejoinder issued by the state government, through the Office of the Press Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning, over some "grey areas" highlighted by the NGO with regard to the state's 2020 budget.

A statement issued on Friday by the BBI, which was signed by its Executive Director, Mr Olasupo Abideen read:

"We received a rejoinder to our report on the 2020 Kwara State budget through the Office of the Press Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Kwara State. We appreciate the government for their response to our report and wish to respond to some of the claims and rebuttals made in the rejoinder.

"Foremost, we would like to correct the wrong notion that our effort at analyzing the budget estimates was an attempt to castigate or scandalize the State Government for whatever reason. Again, we reiterate that our report was aimed at deepening democracy and demanding transparency and accountability from the government, as this is part of the objectives of our organization.

"Having made this pertinent clarification, we proceed to react to each of the claims made by the State government in its rejoinder.

"In the rejoinder, the State government claimed that the amount budgeted for purchase of vehicles for office holders is N655m as against the N1.2b mentioned in our report. This is false and we believe the government was only being economical with the truth.

"A cursory check will reveal that allocation for the purchase of motor vehicles and buses for the State Assembly was pegged at N522m and N204m respectively. While under the budget for Governor's Office, N150m was budgeted for the purchase of motor vehicles, N555m for vans, and another N50m for buses. When this is summed up, you have: N1.481bn, which is even above N1.2b.

"The State government also claimed that the N1.6b allocated for the State Assembly is to cater for expenses on House committee assignments, oversight functions and payment of salaries and allowances of members and staff of the Assembly, some of whom are civil servants who are under the payroll of the State government.

"And surprisingly, under the same House of Assembly budget, there is another allocation of N95.6m tagged as Personnel Cost for staff of the Assembly. Can the State government and the Assembly explain to us the difference between the personnel cost and payment of salaries of staff of the Assembly?

"It is worthy to note that the State government recently approved N2.1b for the renovation of 31 schools across the State. How wonderful would it have been if a part of the huge budgetary allocation to the Assembly could be channeled towards the renovation of additional schools in the State.

"On our concern about the huge funds allocated to fuelling of Government House vehicles and generators, below is the exact response of the government: "While the administration understands the need to be modest, it is convinced that budgeting for 620,689 litres of petrol and 45,454 litres of diesel (both adding up to N190m) to power government vehicles, plants and generators for a whole year is within the bound of decency anywhere in this country."



“How did the State government arrive at this calculation and conclusion? The government official(s) who did the calculation has/have only exposed their poor knowledge of Mathematics or could it be an attempt by the government to cover up its flaw. As at today, a litre of petrol is sold for N145 while a litre of diesel goes for N240.

“Therefore 640,689 litres of petrol at the rate of N145 is N89, 999, 905. 45, 454 litres of diesel at the rate of N240 is N10, 908, 960. If you add N89,999,905 and N10,908,960, we have N100,908,865. Where did the government put the other 90Million? It should also be noted that another N60m was budgeted for maintenance of plants and generator.

“In line 0140001 of the budget, the sum of N22.5m and another N168m, totaling N190.5m was budgeted for the State Audit Department. Considering the huge amount already budgeted for the State Audit Department, one is left to wonder the need for allocation of another N360m for external auditing. That means by the end of the year, Kwara would have expended over half a billion naira on auditing.

“We strongly believe that the rejoinder raises more questions than providing answers to the inconsistencies raised in our report. For instance, the explanation of the government on the N200m budgetary provision for Harmony Holdings isn't convincing enough. Why should the government recapitalize the Holdings that is being run as a private business entity and where the government is just a shareholder?

“Also, the N4.5bn allocated to KWIRS for financial consulting appears obscure. It is imperative that the government state what it means by financial consulting. Is it to hire consultants or prepare annual financial statement of account? We hope that the government sheds more light on this with a robust and fact based response on the questions asked.

“Our Opinion on the Ecological and Stabilisation fund was based on perceived government's over ambitiousness in Capital receipt. Taking into consideration the request of other states and trends of benefits from the account by Kwara State in recent times, it is unlikely we get the fund this time. Recall that Kwara got in 2016, 2017 and 2018 while many states are still struggling to access it.

“Alternatively, we could have encouraged our National Assembly members to lobby those ecological financed intending projects into the FG capital projects for clear feasibility. Note that stabilization and ecological fund formed part of the capital receipt and most time, it constitutes the greater risk for the less performance of the budget.

“In our report, we also raised concern about the N250m allocation for 'honorarium and sitting allowance' in the budget. We demanded to know what the allocation is meant for and who the beneficiaries are. We are glad that the government has clarified that the fund is to pay severance package of past government officials as provided for by the law. But why lumping the allocation for the severance package under honorarium and sitting allowance when you could have tagged it what it is 'Severance Package' for ex-government officials.

“We also observed that the government failed to react to our observation on the discrepancy on the amount that has been saved by the present administration as disclosed by Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq. The governor initially said his government had saved the sum of N7bn which was included in the budget proposal.

# 04

---

## Courtesy Visit to Council of Ulaa'mah

Brain Builders International paid a courtesy visit to the council of Ulaa'mah (Islamic Scholars) in Ilorin, Kwara State, as part of a desire to localize SDGs in the State

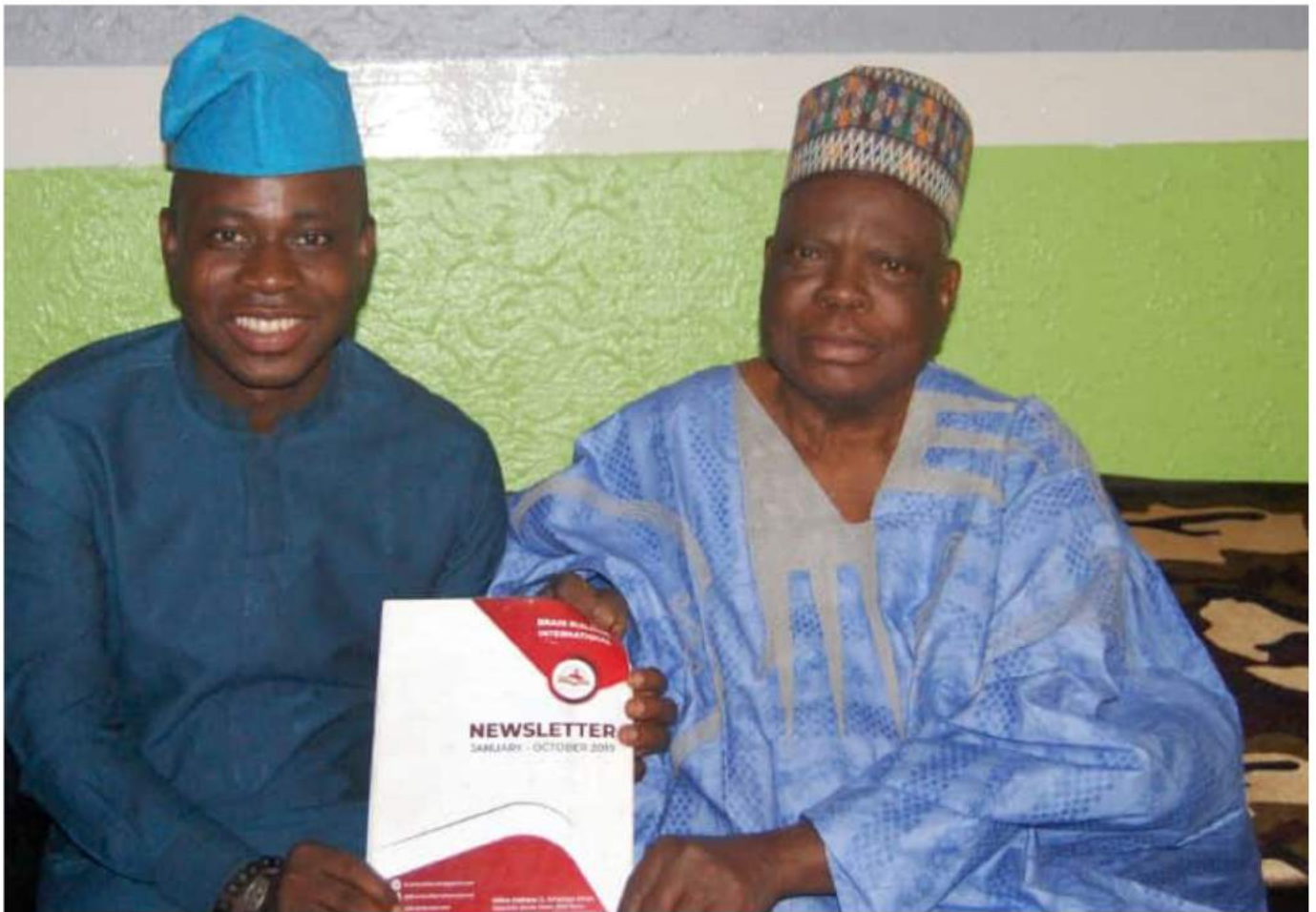
## Localization of SDGs: BBI takes advocacy to Islamic clerics in Ilorin

A delegation of the Brain Builders International (BBI), a civil society organization on Thursday, February 13, paid a courtesy visit to the Council of Ulama'ah in Ilorin, the Kwara State capital, to advance efforts in its goal of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The BBI, led by its Executive Director, Mr Abideen Olasupo, noted that the visit was aimed at educating the Islamic clerics on the importance of the SDGs as well as seek their support in localizing the goals.

Olasupo explained that, "Localizing the SDGs is an initiative targeted at sensitizing people at the grassroots on SDGs and how they can be part of the development goals."

He added, "This is necessary to ensure that no one is left behind in the global campaign for sustainable development. The programme is also aimed at fastracking the implementation of the SDGs in communities across the state." In his remarks, the Chief Imam of Ilorin, Sheikh Muhammed Bashir Solih (OON), commended the BBI for advocating the implementation of the SDGs in Kwara.



**ABOVE:** A picture of BBI's Executive Director (L) with one of the Ulaa'mahs (R)

#### 04 COURTESY VISIT TO COUNCIL OF ULAA'MAH

Sheikh Solih also acknowledged the efforts of the organization in demanding transparency, accountability and good governance in the state.

On his part, the Chief Imam of Gambari, Sheikh Sulaiman AbdulAzeez praised the group's activities, while pointing out that the recent analysis of the 2020 Kwara State budget by BBI was impressive and showed that the youths were actively involved in ensuring Kwarans enjoy good governance.

Also speaking, a former Nigerian Ambassador to China, Mr AbdulAzeez advised the group to seek collaboration with the Federal and State Governments, including other relevant stakeholders in order to facilitate the smooth running of the organization's objective.

Alhaji Abdulhameed Adi, the former National President of Ilorin Emirates Descendants Progressive Union (IEDPU), encouraged the BBI to work with indigenous groups like the IEDPU in order to extend the reach of the SDGs campaign.

Other members of the Ulama'ah Council present were the Ag. Secretary, Hon. Justice (Dr) S.O Muhammed; Royal Chairman, Sheikh Yusuf Olopoewa; and the P.R.O, Alhaji Hamzat Babatunde Yusuf.



**ABOVE:** A picture showcasing the Council of Ulaa'mah posing with BBI flyers on localizing SDGs

# 05

---

## Courtesy Visit to Joint Association of People with Disabilities

Brain Builders International paid a courtesy visit to the Joint Association of People with Disabilities, as part of a desire to localize SDGs

## Localization of SDGs: BBI Engages Joint Association of People with Disabilities

We have pledged to leave no one behind in our quest to achieve the SDGs. Our “Localizing the SDGs” programme is, therefore, driven by inclusivity.

On the 29th of February 2020, members of the Brain Builders International (BBI) paid a visit to the Joint Association of People with Disabilities.

There is no doubt that many stakeholders championing the Sustainable Development Goals have focused mainly on those that are considered ‘physically fit’ while ignoring these important members of the society.

We identified this gap and vowed to bridge it by bringing members of this community on board by

Tengaging them and ensuring that their voice is not only heard but they are actively involved in the advocacy.

The BBI Community Engagement Officer, Mr Habeeb Dayo and Mr Lawal, Kwara State SDGs Coordinator, reiterated this when they spoke to members of the group.

Dayo identified some of the Goals they can actively engage in, which include: Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 11,16 and 17. He added that lack of inclusiveness and low level of awareness were major limitations to the actualization of the SDGs in Nigeria.

In response to a question by members of the group concerning the scope of BBI’s advocacy, the delegates informed them that the advocacy covers all 774 Local Government Areas in Nigeria, cutting across different demographics.

**BELOW:** Members of the Joint Association of People with Disabilities are pictured holding informatory flyers about the SDGs



## 05 COURTESY VISIT TO JOINT ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

In the words of the Publicity Secretary and Chairman Physical Disability, he commended the efforts of BBI and lamented the lack of inclusiveness which has hindered members of the association from joining their voices in the fight for justice and selfless service.

The group recommended that they have delegates among the BBI team who can represent their interest and also ensure they are not left behind in the scheme of things.

This recommendation was warmly welcomed and the Association nominated 2 delegates to represent them. They were Mr Bash, the Chairman of the Joint Association of People with Disabilities and Mr Araoye, the Publicity Secretary and Chairman, Physical Disability.

As the SDG 17 states, collaboration is crucial to the actualization of the SDGs. The BBI team assured members of the Joint Association of People with Disabilities of the organization's commitment to embracing people with disabilities and maintaining inclusiveness.

The team also thanked members of the Association for hosting them and promised to reach out again in their quest to leave no one behind.

This comes in the wake of a recent visit to the Council of Ulama'ah (Head of Religious Institution) last month, where the BBI team also got the support and approval of the council in its advocacy for the SDGs and other activities.

**BELOW:** A representative of BBI poses for a photograph with members of the Joint Association of People with disabilities. They can be seen holding flyers celebrating the localization of SDGs in Kwara State.



# 06

---

## BBI'S Advocacy on COVID-19

Brain Builders International urged Kwara State Government and other stakeholders to play their roles in addressing COVID-19



## BBI urges state govts, stakeholders to tackle coronavirus collectively

Following the confirmation of 5 new coronavirus cases in Nigeria, the Brain Builders Initiative has called on state governments and stakeholders to make sure all hands are on deck in tackling the virus which the World Health Organization-WHO now declared a “pandemic”.

In a statement signed by its media aide, Sanni Alau-sa-Issa and sent to THE INFORMANT247, the group said the recent ban on 13 high risk countries by the federal government should have come earlier to prevent new cases.

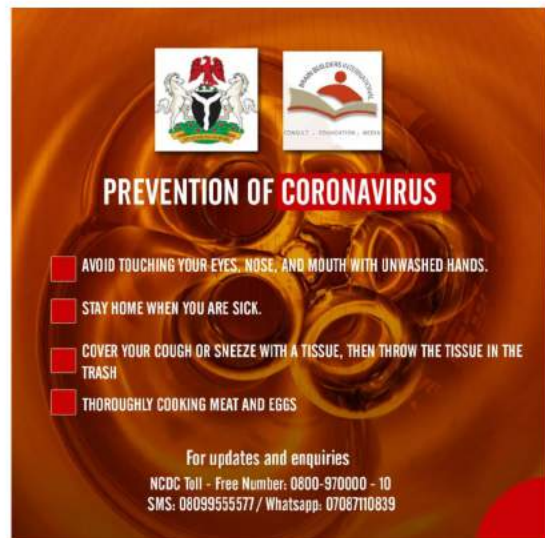
The statement reads in part, “As the situation becomes more complex, we are urging everyone to take strict preventive measures as published by various media outlets and healthcare professionals. We commend the Kwara State government for its proactive measures to contain the virus by establishing the Infection Prevention Control centre with the primary objective of containing the situation, prevent an outbreak and provide affordable treatment for possible victims.

“We recommend that the government initiate a technical committee comprising of traditional rulers, market men and women, religious leaders, government agencies, youth leaders and CSOs to monitor the activities of the centre and ensure that it does not renege from its primary objective. This committee will also assist the government in sensitizing citizens by carrying out awareness in markets and LGAs. The ministry of education should increase awareness in schools and state owned tertiary institutions. The state border communities like Baruten should be under surveillance. Everyone coming into the state from other places should undergo a mandatory check.

“We are in a very difficult situation and all hands must be on deck. We appreciate the efforts of the

healthcare workers working 24/7 to contain the situation. Everyone should be informed about the dangers of the Coronavirus and ensure that all measures are taken to protect themselves.”

The group further urged individuals who experience any symptoms of the virus to isolate and reach out to medical professionals.



**ABOVE:** BBI flyers detailing measures to be taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19

# 07

---

## BBI'S Report of Nigeria's Performance on SDGs

Brain Builders International carried out a research geared towards uncovering Nigeria's performance in the attainment of the SDGs

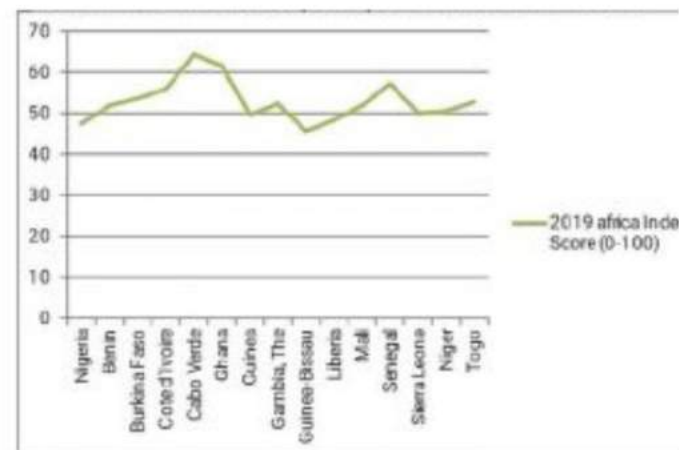
## REPORT: Nigeria ranks 43 of 54 countries in 2019 Africa SDGs index

Nigeria has been ranked 43rd out of 54 African countries in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), according to Africa SDG Index.

Accumulating a total of 47.1 in performance, Nigeria ranks low behind Sudan (47.4), Comoros (47.6) and Liberia (48.0) as well as some other countries currently recovering from crisis.

healthcare workers working 24/7 to contain the situation. Everyone should be informed about the dangers of the Coronavirus and ensure that all measures are taken to protect themselves.”

The group further urged individuals who experience any symptoms of the virus to isolate and reach out to medical professionals. According to the report, the ranking provides an assessment—not just of where African countries stand with respect to the SDGs and their progress towards the goals, but also how African governments are implementing strategies for achieving them.



**ABOVE:** A chart of Africa Index score for West African countries

Source: Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report (2019)

The organization reiterated that to make the survey more comprehensive, additional questions were added, organized around the following 6 areas:

1. National strategies and baseline assessments in the executive
2. Budgeting practices and procedures in the executive
3. Stakeholder engagement
4. Coordinating units in the executive
5. Legislative actions
6. Main challenges for implementation.

Mauritius, Cape Verde and Sao Tome & Principe ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Despite her economic strength, Nigeria ranked behind her neighbour Ghana (5th) and her economic rival, South Africa (6th).

It is important to note that, despite the establishment of the Office of the Senior Special Adviser to the President on SDGs, nothing seems to be changing as attainment of the SDGs has recorded no improvement.

Furthermore, Nigeria ranked below 45% in Quality Education (SDG 4) and 30.3% in Zero Poverty and Well being & Good Health (SDGs 1 & 3) respectively. The data also showed that over 86 million Nigerians live in absolute poverty.

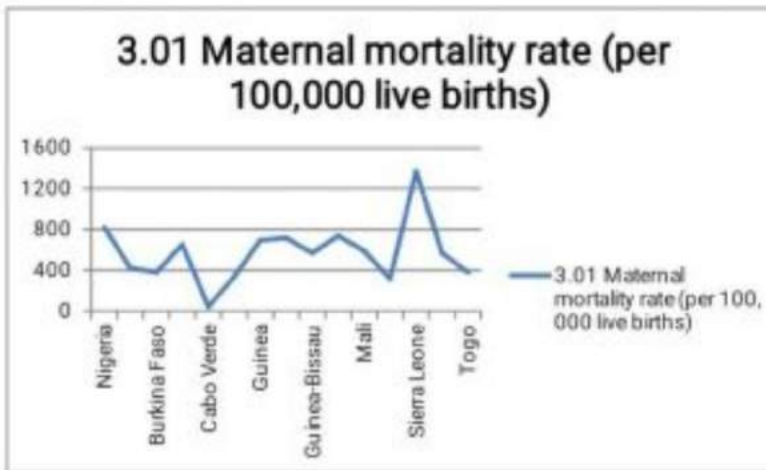
These statistics are evidences of the deteriorating state of infrastructure, economy, low standard of living and insecurity of food, lives and property in the country.

The Brain Builders International (BBI), therefore

calls on both the Federal and State Government to address the crisis bedeviling critical sectors in the country such as health, education, security and human development.

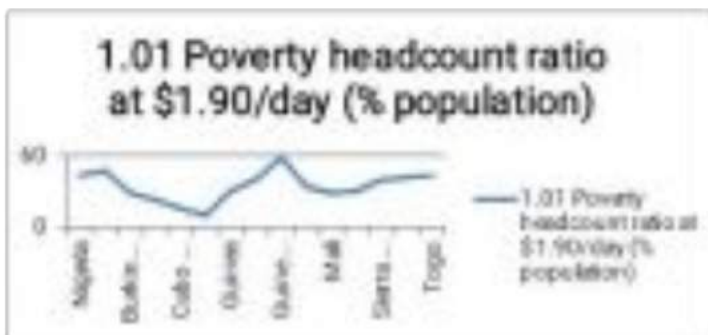
The BBI also reiterates its commitment towards the achievement of the SDGs through its activities, the translation of the SDGs into local languages and the localization of the Goals with campaigners across the 774 Local Government Areas in Nigeria.

The Executive Director of the organization, Mr Abideen Olasupo, calls on all stakeholders to drive the promotion of the SDGs as we approach the decade of crucial action towards the attainment of the Goals, while clamouring for adequate monitoring, evaluation and advocacy for the SDGs.



**LEFT:** A chart of Africa Index score for West African countries depicting the maternal mortality rate.

Source: Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report (2019)



**LEFT:** A chart of Africa Index score for West African countries depicting the poverty headcount ratio

Source: Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report (2019)

# 08

---

## BBI Wins Digify Award

Brain Builders International wins Digify Award for the  
“Not-For-Profit Organization of the Year”

## Brain Builders International Beats Elumelu Foundation To Win Digify's Award

Brain Builders International (BBI) clinches Digify's "Not-For-Profit Organization of the Year" Award. The award created to identify and celebrate not-for-profit organizations applying leading digital perspectives and solutions for solving business, economic and social challenges, celebrates BBI, the youth-based non-governmental organization in the Not-For-Profit category of the Digital Leaders Award 2019. The award category received entries from several notable organizations driving positive social and economic impacts through their advocacy, some of which are; The Tony Elumelu Foundation and Action Aid International.

As announced on Monday, 16th of December, 2019 on DigifyNG official twitter page, Brain Builders International topped the Tony Elumelu Foundation (2nd Place) and Action Aid International (3rd Place) to earn the first spot. Stating that the award is an indication that the actions of organizations are been watched, followed and will be duly rewarded in the society, the Executive Director, BBI, Mr Abideen Olasupo was congratulated on this feat after their "Twitter Shake" tweet chats about localising the SDGs in Nigeria.

In the need to enlighten every household in Nigeria's nook and cranny, Brain Builders International jumped over the limits of the language barrier to translate the SDGs into the Nigerian local dialects for easy immersion of the locals. This initiative was launched on Twitter to alert stakeholders and welcome their contributions as they're set to achieve this SDGs localisation in a disruptive measure that will see the SDGs becoming a household anthem by the end of 2020.

According to the Head of SDGs program at BBI, Mr Sodiq Ajala, this idea and of course, launching with a tweet chat is to reveal that in achieving the SDGs, everyone, everywhere must be carried along. It is

not a one-man fight, it is a fight for all. He also added that this is the only way to get people to work towards the success of the goals. "The organisation's commitment to the SDGs is self-evident and in a bid to ensure the actualization of the goals, it has come up with an initiative like "Localising the SDGs". The hashtag to the tweet trend is #BBISDGs.

"We are actively seeking volunteers to promote the program in their respective communicates. At the moment, we're in talks with active volunteers in Jigawa, Nasarawa and Lagos, and creating strategic frameworks to begin in January 2020."

"This project is huge and there's a need to partner with like-minded and passionate people to pull this trigger with us. Localising the SDGs is BBI's effort to make SDGs a household anthem across the 774 local governments areas in Nigeria so that in the nook and cranny, every human can identify, understand and promote the cause by seeing themselves as an integral part of the world and the need for them to become a global citizen", he concluded.



**ABOVE:** An image depicting BBI winning first position in the Digify awards

Source: Digify's Instagram page (2019)

# 09

---

## BBI Assessment Report on KSG'S Performance

Brain Builders International carried out an empirical policy and governance assessment of Kwara State Government's performance

## One Year After Data Mining, BBI Releases Governance Assessment Report

The Brain Builders International (BBI) has implored Kwara State Government to train citizens on civic engagement, advocacy and improve the quality of education.

One of the dividends of democracy is that citizens can have a voice in governance. In December 2018, as part of our consistent advocacy for the SDGs, Brain Builders International used data and technology to advance civic engagement by reaching out to citizens of Kwara state to hear their hopes and aspirations for the new government.

This was done to have an insight into the areas of priority for the new government.

Together with our data enumerators, we administered questioners and reached about 2000 respondents across the state with the majority of respondents coming from Kaiama, Ilorin East, Ilorin West, Ilorin South, Ifelodun and Ekiti local government.

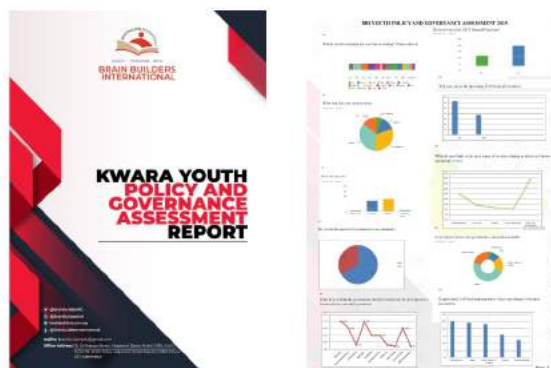
From our findings, four areas of priority were identified: Education, Agriculture, Youth empowerment and Climate change. Most of our respondents who were between the ages of 16 and 40, cutting across students, civil servants, artisans, self-employed and unemployed individuals among others, believe that these areas are of utmost importance for the new government.

On the low, only 10% of our respondents considered technology and entrepreneurship as areas of priority. In the 21st century, we cannot overstate the role of technology and entrepreneurship as drivers of economic growth. We believe that the government must embark on rigorous orientation on the importance of tech and entrepreneurship.

We also asked respondents about their expectations on the government's accountability. While many of them are willing to hold their elected representatives accountable if they are empowered, a good number were indifferent about it.

We, therefore, recommend that the state government trains citizens on civic engagement, advocacy, improve the quality of education across the state by focusing on learning outcomes and not just the infrastructural provisions, promote agriculture and enlighten citizens on the effects of climate change. We believe that if the government prioritizes these areas, Kwara's youthful population will benefit greatly from it and set the tone for the state's growth and development.

This project was self-funded and we seize this opportunity to appreciate our data enumerators and volunteers who, through their commitment, ensured that this project was achieved.



**ABOVE:** Images showcasing pages of the Policy and Governance Assessment Report



# 10

---

## BBI'S Executive Director Gets Ambassadorial Appointment

Brain Builders International's Executive Director gets appointed as a global ambassador for the Youth Power Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) campaign initiative

## Abideen Olasupo: UK-based group appoints Nigerian activist global ambassador for SDGs campaign

BBI's Executive Director, Abideen Olasupo, has made the nation proud as he was selected as the only person from the country among the 12 global ambassadors for Youth Power Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) campaign initiative. The initiative was organised by Restless Development, UK in partnership with Project Everyone and Action for Sustainable Development. The focus of the scheme is to bring youth activists together so that they can galvanise support for the achievement of the SDGs.

Other people selected as ambassadors are from France, Kenya, Lebanon, UK, Ghana, among other nations. Olasupo is an entrepreneur that has over 8 years of experience fighting for social change and has in his own way influenced some government policies.

The Nigerian entrepreneur is very much passionate about social change. Source: Facebook He is also on the committee working with CIVICUS and Bill Melinda Gate Foundation to award \$870,000 (N314,505,000) grant to startup chasing the SDG's target. A multiple award winner, among which is the 2017 and 2018 8th Most Influential Young Nigerian, he has been advocating for localizing SDGs across the African continent, especially in Nigeria.



**ABOVE:** An image celebrating Abideen's appointment to the Youth Power SDG campaign initiative

# 11

---

## BBI Celebrates IWD

Brain Builders International celebrated iconic women who have contributed to the development of their villages, communities, countries and the world at large

## Women are transforming the world and they must get all the support they need.

The Maasai people of Kenya believed that boys should be trained to be warriors and girls, to be mothers. This age-long belief is at the core of their culture. There is a rite of passage where young girls undergo Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) at the age of 12 as a sign of readiness for motherhood.

Kakenya Ntaiya, a young girl from Maasai, was engaged by the age of 5. From then on, she was prepared to become a perfect woman by age 12. At this age, she would go through the traditional rite of passage into womanhood. Meanwhile, Kakenya had a different plan – a plan that can only work with the agreement of her father. She wanted to become a teacher which means she had to keep going to school: it was common practice for girls to stop schooling after the rite of passage. Instead, they are married off to older men.

To avoid this, Kakenya negotiated with her father to go on with the rite only when he agrees to allow her to go back to school afterwards. He agreed. She went back to high school after the ceremony with a renewed vigour and determination to become a teacher so she can make a difference. She eventually got a scholarship to study in America. That was the turning point.

Kakenya was determined to change the fate of girls in her village. She returned after graduate school to found a school for girls – through the support of women and men in her village. She traded part of her body for education in order to protect other girls. Today, that sacrifice has yielded positive results. Nearly 580 girls have been educated under her care and they no longer have to be mutilated or forced into early marriage.

One special thing about Kakenya's story is how she liberated girls and forged a community of inclusivity by making men are allies. In her words, "we can't

achieve equality without the support of men". Her story is one of hope and possibilities. She has shown that with courage and believe in one's dream, you can transform the world. As we celebrate the International Women's Day, we must remind ourselves of the struggles to attain gender equality. Women are still being underpaid (globally, they continue to earn 16 to 22 per cent less than men), they are victims of physical and sexual abuse (17.8 per cent of women around the world have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner in the last 12 months), there is a gender imbalanced leadership with men still controlling more than three-quarters of seats in single or lower house of parliament around the world.

This year's theme of the International Women's Day is about collective individualism - #Each-forEqual. We are all parts of a whole and individual actions have an impact on our larger society. As we have seen Kakenya's story, we must all – boys and girls, women and men – play active roles in ensuring gender equality. Brain Builders International recognize the continuous need for more progressive mindset and inclusive behaviours. We believe that everyone everywhere can strive for women's equality and continue to make positive gains.

Over the years, we have empowered our female team members and given them the platform to lead advocacies, initiate community development projects and represent us at different national and international events. We are super proud of their achievements. On this day, we celebrate them and other women who have contributed to the development of their villages, communities, countries and the world at large.

We salute their courage, resilience, commitment and desire for improving the situation of the world. We commend the efforts of the Governor of Kwara State, Abdulrazaq Abdulrahman who has set the pace for other governors in Nigeria

by appointing a 52% women cabinet. It is time for Nigeria to quit talking and start taking actions. We are doing ourselves a great disservice if we fail to empower women, break the systemic barriers that hinder their progress, challenge stereotypes, broaden perceptions and celebrate their achievements.

**BELOW:** A BBI flyer showcasing some of the celebrated personalities of IWD






## Connect with us

BBYDI  
[www.thebrainbuilders.org](http://www.thebrainbuilders.org)

 @BrainBuildersIntl

 @BrainBuildersInternational

 @BrainBuilders01