



Vote Ready

IMPACT REPORT

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About BBYDI

Founded in 2014, Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative (BBYDI), is a youth-led nonprofit organization whose aim centres on contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by encouraging inclusive policies involving women, youth, and disabled individuals, fostering representative democracy.

We are dedicated to empowering these groups to be actively involved in increasing voters participation in elections and making the voting process accessible to everyone through but not limited to the following means; voter registration and education, civic engagement with political leaders, encouragement of citizens to participate in LGA elections and bye-elections as well as the need to shun the spread of election related misinformation and violence.

Through our various community-driven initiatives, we strive to increase the level of awareness on the need to improve our electoral procedures particularly for marginalized groups, this will thereby strengthen our democracy significantly and promote transparency in our electoral processes.

We have a proven track record of impactful and innovative projects around civic engagement and participation particularly in rural areas. This was achieved through our strategic partnerships

with stakeholders in marginalized communities and government institutions. BBYDI therefore remains unwavering in its mission to engender positive change and provide opportunities for the advancement of youths in marginalized communities.

More importantly, over the past years, our initiatives have made a significant impact, reaching millions of individuals across various age groups and backgrounds in several communities spanning all 36 states in Nigeria. Our diverse projects have directly engaged individuals and communities, fostering a thriving civic engagement, political participation and stewardship as well as knowledge empowerment.

We have been fortunate to collaborate with esteemed partners and sponsors such as Box, Force of Nature, LEAP Africa, Nigeria Youth Futures Fund, Global Campaign for Education, International Fact-Checking Network, and US Global Engagement Centre and Becera, whose support have been instrumental in amplifying the impact of our endeavors. As we continue to evolve and expand our reach, BBYDI remains committed to empowering youth, driving sustainable development, and building a brighter future for all.



Contextual Background

Our initiatives, focusing on the Electoral Act of 2022 and SDGs related to democratic inclusion, aim to impact policy significantly. By training youth in advocacy for accountability and transparency, and developing vetted Charters of Demand, we set the stage for policies that reflect community needs. Emphasizing the Electoral Act aims to improve electoral procedures, transparency, and voter participation, particularly for marginalized groups.

Aligning with SDGs encourages inclusive policies involving women, youth, and disabled individuals, fostering representative democracy. Training youth in advocacy raises policymakers' awareness, potentially leading to more responsive policies. Community-driven Charters of Demand ensure policies are relevant and effective. These initiatives promote transparency and accountability in governance.

Involving grassroots leaders and CSOs ensures policies address local challenges and opportunities, promoting broader civic participation. Validated Charters of Demand provide policymakers with a clear understanding of community priorities, leading to finely-tuned policies.



Outline of Key Activities and

Initial Community Engagement

Engagement of community leaders and stakeholders in Northeastern Nigeria to secure support and ownership of the project through the use of letters clearly stating the objectives of the project and seeking support.

Adoption of an inclusive strategy to ensure that the project activities are both community led and community owned by engaging young change-makers in the Northeast region. This strategy includes training and co-creation sessions with these young change makers through a one-day workshop aimed at accelerating the skills and expertise of these young community champions in leading advocacy movements to increase the engagement of people in politics and governance.

Training and Recruitment

A record number of 735 applications was received after the one-day workshop from across the 6 states of the Northeast zone of Nigeria. Of the total applications received, 77.28% were submitted by persons of the male gender while 22.45% of the applications were made by females. 11.27% of the applications are people who identified themselves as living with disabilities (PWD). Afterwards, 37 young people were selected as the VoteReady Champions through a set criteria ranging from age,

experience and level of education. 6 champions were selected per state in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, and Yobe, while 7 champions were selected in Taraba to ensure the inclusion of PWD.

A one-day workshop for the “Vote Ready Champions” was organised to enhance their skills in community engagement and civic participation.

Town Hall Meeting

We held an inclusive town hall meeting to discuss women and youth political participation and security, involving policymakers, community leaders, and other stakeholders. The town hall provided a forum for high-level policymakers and citizens to discuss engagement in the political processes in the Northeast, with a focus on increasing voter participation in the 2023 general elections. The highlights of the meeting included; participants voicing ideas and concerns about encouraging women and young people to vote, policymakers noting feedback for developing policies to increase voter turnout, members of the PWD communities highlighting barriers to their participation, policymakers educating attendees on the importance of voting and its impact on communities as well as discussions on making polling stations more accessible for people with disabilities.



Outline of Key Activities and Outcomes

Research and Data Analysis

The BBYDI research team contributed to strengthening knowledge and policy-focused advocacy in targeted communities in the Northeast through research and data analysis on political participation. Key activities included:

Analyzing political participation and the effects of social factors on governance engagement.

Conducting a study, “**Factsheet on Youth and Women Candidacy in the Northeast,**” which recommended increased inclusion of women and youths in political parties and programs.

Researching “**Information Disorder: A Malady on Elections in Nigeria**” to evaluate the impact of social media and technology on the spread of fake news, especially during elections.

Emphasizing education as a key tool to mitigate the spread of fake news, enhancing citizens’ ability to identify and avoid sharing misinformation. These efforts aim to enhance the knowledge base and support fact-checkers and the media in addressing misinformation trends in Nigeria.

Community Outreach and Advocacy

The Vote Ready champions in the Northeast, in partnership with Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative, implemented community outreach activities across the six states leading up to the 2023 elections. Below are some of the highlights of the activities done in different states:

Borno State: Engaging community leaders in hard-to-reach areas, street evangelism for PVC collection and election participation, using social media and organizing a Twitter Space to reach women and youths, and conducting radio engagements in four major local languages.

Bauchi and Gombe States: Educating women and youths in market squares on the importance of voting, and interfacing with INEC and other government agencies to enhance election preparedness.

Yobe State: Using radio shows to educate on voting rights and the importance of the election process, and conducting advocacy campaigns in

Outline of Key Activities and

five communities.

Taraba State: Engaging high-level stakeholders and policy influencers, and educating remote communities on the value of PVC and voting.

Adamawa State: Conducting street sensitization campaigns and using radio to reach remote areas.

The champions reached over 150 community leaders and critical stakeholders across 52 local governments, and their radio engagements reached approximately 300,000 people. Overall, thousands of people were reached directly and indirectly through these efforts.

Fact-Checking Initiative

Several factors contribute to electoral apathy and the diminishing value of Nigerian democracy, with fake news significantly impacting election outcomes. To address this, BBYDI launched the FactCheckElectionNg website and trained 40 youths in verifying potentially false information with the aim of reducing the spread of misinformation, prevent confusion among voters, and avoid violence stemming from false information. Some of the highlight of this initiative includes:

Training: Educating 40 youths of different genders and experiences on fact-checking using data and research.

Verification: FactCheckElectionNg verified about a thousand claims to help people make informed political decisions.

Debunking Fake News: More than 200 pieces of fake news related to elections were debunked before, during, and after the 2023 General Election.

Election Monitoring

Through the funding from NYFF, we set up a situation room for live streaming information broadcast on election day. Some of the highlights include:

Tracking instances of electoral violence and collaborating with law enforcement to address incidents through our Electoral Violence Tracker (Evit.ng).

Vote Ready Champions assisting YVoteNaija volunteers (a team of young Nigerians committed to increasing voters participation in elections and making the voting process accessible to everyone) in monitoring voter turnout and the arrival of INEC representatives and election materials, providing real-time updates and resolving logistical issues.

FactCheck team members mitigating the spread of false information by validating or invalidating claims using research and data-driven initiatives.

The release of real-time communiqués on field conditions and observer findings across the 36 states and the FCT.

Deployment of “Vote Ready Champions” as observers in different polling units during the general elections to evaluate the effectiveness of measures put in place by INEC.

Outline of Key Activities and Outcomes

Online Training Event

To ensure inclusivity across all ages in our project, we adopted various strategies focusing on Millennial and Generation Z on advocacy and transparency, equipping them with skills to create Charters of Demand (an advocacy tool and a formal document created by a group or community to outline specific requests or requirements from authorities or policymakers) and enhance governmental accountability. This was realised through the following means:

Social Media Engagement: Using creative and educational designs to reach millions of social media users. Initiating the #Voters' Squad Social Media campaign to create accountability squads ensuring participation in the election.

Online Training Event: Hosting a three-day immersive online training for 18 young leaders from the Northeast, focusing on advocacy, transparency, and civic participation. The training included: Modules on conducting baseline activities to understand community needs, Developing Charters of Demands aligned with local needs and

concerns, Equipping young leaders with strategic skills for promoting government transparency and accountability.

These efforts aimed to empower youth leaders as catalysts for positive change in their communities through advocacy and commitment to openness and accountability.

Citizen Accountability Toolkit

The Brain Builders Youth Development Research team and creative design department developed the Citizen Accountability Toolkit to empower citizens and advocates with knowledge on governance and accountability practices. The toolkit aims to engage citizens in shaping policies and allocating resources, emphasizing the importance of holding elected representatives accountable. It provides guidelines, case studies, templates, and tips for promoting transparency, integrity, and responsiveness in governance. The BBYDI translated the toolkit into Hausa to ensure wider accessibility and understanding in target communities, supporting their commitment to community engagement and project sustainability.

Outline of Key Activities and Outcomes

Post-Election Engagement

After the elections, we extended our community engagement by hosting town hall events across the six states of the Northeast region. These events aimed to engage various stakeholders in creating a citizen charter of demands for elected representatives. This charter will serve as an advocacy tool for promoting good governance and accountability. The town hall events were attended by stakeholders from government, media, religious groups, traditional rulers, women and youth groups, student representatives, PWD representatives, and other relevant stakeholders. Attendees used this platform to confront politicians with demands related to their social and economic needs.



Outline of Key Impacts

BBYDI has significantly impacted the Northeast region of Nigeria through its commitment to enhancing civic engagement, transparency, and accountability. By reaching marginalized communities, especially those in conflict-affected areas, BBYDI has ensured inclusivity and provided a platform for diverse voices. Their policy-making efforts have facilitated dialogues between citizens and policymakers, addressing voter apathy and encouraging pragmatic solutions.

Scale and Impact of Project

Key to their success is the training and capacity-building of young change-makers, creating a network of advocates promoting openness and accountability. The training of 37 youths on scaling advocacy projects and storytelling exemplifies their strategic investment in Nigeria's democratic future.

BBYDI's large-scale campaign in the Northeast has mobilized community leaders and stakeholders, reaching half a million individuals, including women, youth, and people with disabilities. Their efforts to counter fake news through training and fact-checking have fostered a more informed populace and upheld democratic integrity.

By engaging over 50,000 individuals across 56 local governments, BBYDI has influenced voter participation in the 2023 General Election. Their research on women and youth's candidacy and the

spread of fake news offers valuable insights for policy change, promoting inclusive political landscapes. The development of charters of demand and training on accountability further underscores BBYDI's dedication to fostering transparency and empowering communities. Below are some of the key impacts recorded:

- 1. Increased Civic Participation:** The initiative successfully inspired citizens across the Northeastern states to become active participants particularly among the youth, indicating the effectiveness of its strategies in engaging and mobilizing people to participate in the 2023 general elections-electoral process, contributing to a more engaged and informed electorate.
- 2. Enhanced Civic Awareness:** Through community engagements, advocacy campaigns, and social media outreach, the initiative helped to raise awareness about the importance of civic participation and informed decision-making among citizens. Additionally, the passion shown by Vote Ready Champions and the open discussions facilitated through town hall meetings have reinvigorated civic engagement, encouraging more active involvement in governance and political processes.

Outline of Key Impacts

- 3. Fostering Inclusivity and Dialogue:** The regional town hall meetings facilitated inclusivity and dialogue among diverse participants, including government officials, media representatives, religious groups, traditional rulers, women and youth groups, student representatives, and PWD representatives, promoting a more inclusive and participatory democracy.
- 4. Mitigation of Misinformation and Prevention of Violence:** Through FactCheckElectionNg, the project has contributed to mitigating the spread of fake news and ensuring the dissemination of factual information. This has elevated the level of informed decision-making among voters. This was done through the promotion of active engagement and providing accurate information, thereby contributing to a more credible electoral process in Nigeria and preventing confusion and potential violence that could stem from inaccurate information.
- 5. Collaboration and Unity:** The project's success has been fortified by collaboration with experts, stakeholders, and partner organizations, showcasing the strength of unity in driving positive change within the electoral landscape.
- 6. Contribution to Democracy:** Overall, the initiative has contributed to the growth of democracy in Nigeria by enhancing the credibility of the electoral process and boosting citizens' active participation in governance.
- 7. Upholding Democratic Integrity:** The initiative contributed to upholding the integrity of the democratic process by fostering a more informed electorate.

Outline of Key Impacts

Beneficiaries

S/N	Activity Performed	Beneficiary Reached (Quantity)	Beneficiary disaggregation (Age, sex, PWD, etc)	Online Reach (If Any)
1	One Day Workshop on Advocacy and Civic Engagement	37	Female (11) Male (26) PWD (2)	
2	Regional Town How on Women, PWD, Youth Political Participation and Security in the Northeast	187	Female (85) Male (102) PWD (17)	
3	Research and Publication of Evidence-Based Study	2500		
4	Situation Room for the 2023 General Election			500,000 impressions
5	Factcheck Election			2,000,000
6	PVC Drive Step-Down Activities	300,000 (150 communities across 52 local governments)		1,000,000 impressions
7	Election Observation	70,000 (an estimation of the voters registered with the polling units observed)		
8	Graphical Solutions	100,000 (an estimation of people who come across our placards and banners produced in English, Hausa and Fulfude)		2,000,000 impressions
9	Training of Vote Ready Champions on Accountability and Transparency	37	Female 19 Male 18 PWD 3	
10	Production and translation of BBYDI Accountability Toolkits	5,000		
11	Town Hall Meetings on Accountability and Transparency	271	Female 102 Male 169 PWD 41	

Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

One Day Workshop on Advocacy and Civic Engagement

Major Highlights from the activity

The event brings town and gown together to discuss how the inclusion of women, PWD, Youths and people living in the conflict affected areas can be enhanced during the 2023 General Election.

It was a diverse setting where people including policy makers discuss the importance of voting in the election and how the voting activities is tied to ensuring peaceful coexistence.

Key Outcomes

1. Educate youths, women and PWDs and people living in conflict zone on their rights to vote.
2. Led the conversation with INEC and Security Agencies on enhancing the aid to be provided to members of the vulnerable groups during the election period.
3. Secure the attendance of 2 First Class Royal Chiefs, 3 Commissioners of Gombe and Bauchi Government, Media Practitioners.

Unintended Outcomes

Specially educate members of IDP Camps on their rights to participate during the election.



Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative, BBYDI
@BrainBuilders01

In line with our continuous efforts, using every available sustainable solutions seeking #TheNigeriaWeWant, We are inviting you specially to a day workshop and town hall meeting on Women, Youth and Political Participation and the Security Situation in the #Northeast, Nigeria.

BRAIN BUILDERS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
WELCOMES YOU TO THE

ONE DAY WORKSHOP AND TOWN HALL MEETING ON WOMEN, YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND SECURITY SITUATION IN THE NORTH EAST

Thursday, 12th January, 2023 | 9 am | ARMAR Hall, Along Ashaka Road, Opposite Federal Teaching Hospital Gombe, Gombe State.

#TheNigeriaWeWant is Possible when we collaborate

SUPPORTED BY: USAID, FORD FOUNDATION, FUNDED BY: MacArthur Foundation

6:00 PM - Jan 11, 2023 - 1,092 Views

Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

One Day Workshop on Advocacy and Civic Engagement



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Regional Town How on Women, PWD, Youth Political Participation and Security in the Northeast

Major Highlights from the activity

The youth champions recruited from across the northeastern states were trained in a one-day workshop focused on enhancing the skill and expertise required to scale advocacy at the community level

Key Outcomes

Educate youths, women and PWDs and Experts and professionals working within the civic space during the workshop introduced the Vote Ready Champions to basic and core concepts of community engagement and civic participation of citizens, particularly in conflict zones like the Northeast zone of Nigeria.

Unintended Outcomes

Over the last 7 months, some of the trained champions have been able to implement the knowledge garnered from the training in their activities and it has helped them to scale their career.



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Regional Town How on Women, PWD, Youth Political Participation and Security in the Northeast



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Research and Publication of Evidence-Based Study

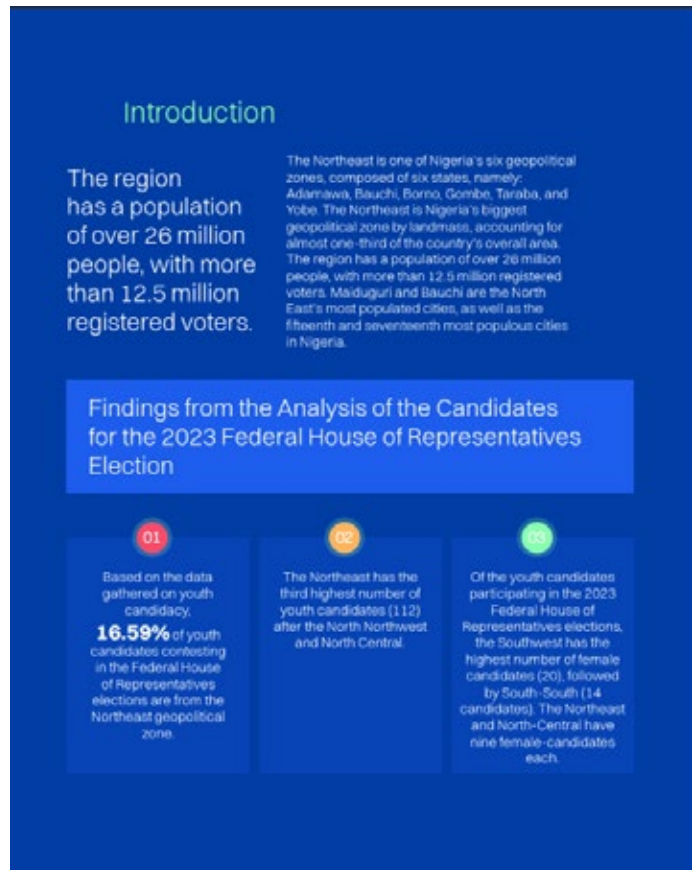
Major Highlights from the activity

The BBYDI research team utilized the instruments of research and statistics in analyzing the situation of political engagement in the Northeast in order to contribute to the resources available to increase knowledge and policy-focused lobbying in our targeted communities. Studies also looked at how other social factors affected how involved citizens were in governance before, during, and after elections.

The study “Information Disorder: a Malady on Elections in Nigeria” was undertaken by BBYDI as part of our campaign against false information and fake news. The study assessed how fake news is disseminated in Nigeria, particularly during election season, using social media and other technology means. The study also examined how fake news affected people’s ability to vote wisely in the run-up to the election. The study placed a strong emphasis on the necessity of accelerating education among individuals in order to reduce the spread of fake news in Nigeria.

Key Outcomes

The factsheet analysed the rate of the candidature of youths and women in the 2023 election. It educated.



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Situation Room for the 2023 General Election

Major Highlights from the activity

In order to guarantee a free, fair, and peaceful election, the Vote Ready Project involved professionals from several professions in a situation room. The team behind Electoral Violence Tracker (Evi.ng), which tracks election-related violence, worked with law enforcement agencies to handle occurrences and guarantee a peaceful outcome. Vote Ready Champions kept an eye on voting procedures and turnout, and FactCheck team members stopped the spread of untrue information. To support claims and spread accurate information, they deployed research and data-driven campaigns. A real-time communiqué on field circumstances and the conclusions of observers from 36 states of the Federation and the FCT was released by the situation room, which was successful.

Key Outcomes

The personnel in the situation room were able to track happenings during the election and BBYDI was able to hint to stakeholders about the situation of the election exercise and areas of needed improvement.

Unintended Outcomes

By averting fake news about violence and election cancellation in some areas, we were able to prompt citizens to participate in the election where they would have been scared away or confused by misinformation.

The screenshot shows a news article on the HP website. The article title is "2023 elections recording low vote buying, others- BBYDI" by highprofile, dated February 26, 2023. Below the title is a photograph of a press conference. Five individuals are seated at a table with microphones. Behind them is a banner for "Election Violence Incidence Tracker" and "BRAIN BUILDERS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE".

Below the first image is a second photograph showing a different angle of the same press conference, with a camera operator visible in the foreground.

At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a news snippet titled "BBYDI: Electorates Vote Without PVC in Kwara, Lagos" dated February 27, 2023. The text below the snippet reads: "The Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative (BBYDI) has observed that some electorates cast their votes without Permanent Voter's Card. The Global Executive Director of BBYDI, Olasupo Abiodun disclosed this while briefing newsmen at the Situation Room in Ife, Kwara State capital."

Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Factcheck Election

Major Highlights from the activity

It is impossible to overstate the impact of false news on the results of our elections, despite the fact that a number of other variables also play a role in electoral indifference and the declining value of Nigerian democracy. Social media activists and influencers in Nigeria rely heavily on these platforms to communicate with their following and disseminate information. In consequence, social media have developed into channels for the dissemination of false information.

As Nigerians get closer to the general election in 2023, BBYDI launched FactCheckElectionNg's website and taught 40 youths of various genders and experiences how to verify information that is probably false. Using data and research, FactCheck ElectionNg has verified roughly a thousand claims.

Key Outcomes

We fact-checked more than 200 claims relating to election and governance.

We prompt the deletion of tweets made by political activists trying to misinform people about the election or any of its component. We have alleviated the spread of misinformation and fake news.

Unintended Outcomes

Averted the occasion of violence that could have been caused by the spread of fake news.

[Links to Compedium](#)



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

PVC Drive Step-Down Activities

Major Highlights from the activity

Step-down initiatives were carried out in communities throughout the six states of the zone by the six teams of Northeast Vote Ready champions in collaboration with the Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative. Champions from all around the zone developed various approaches to address the electorate in the days preceding the elections in 2023.

- The Vote Ready Champions of Adamawa State organized a Voters drive in Viniklan Market and Girei Fish Market.
- In Bauchi State, Vote-ready champions paid critical attention to fighting voters' apathy among the people of young age. This is because the youths form the highest population of the country and their number is essential to the attainment of an all-inclusive election.
- The vote-ready champions in Borno State engaged stakeholders in Mairi and London Ciki Communities of Jere Local Government Area. The engagements were aimed towards enhancing the readiness of the communities to vote in the 2023 general election. The dialogue with the community leaders also centred on ensuring peaceful coexistence before, during and after the general election.
- The members of the Taraba State Vote-ready team engaged people of the Mayo Lope Community in a sensitization program educating locals about their right to vote and the need to abstain from vote-buying.
- Market drive and distribution of Stickers at Ngelzarma, Fune Local Government of Yobe State was implemented by members of the VoteReady Champions.

Key Outcomes

- Champions engaged 150 communities across the 52 local government areas of the Northeast Region of Nigeria.
- The step-down initiative reached about 300,000 persons with civic education in preparation for the 2023 General Election.
- Recorded increase in the rate of voters' participation in the communities engaged.



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

PVC Drive Step-Down Activities



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

PVC Drive Step-Down Activities



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Election Observation

Major Highlights from the activity

To effectively monitor the comprehensive impact of this project, the dedicated members constituting the VoteReady team spanning the Northeast region of the country undertook the role of observers. Their primary task involved keenly documenting the unfolding situation in the field as Nigerian citizens exercised their voting rights on the 25th of February, 2023.

These meticulously recorded reports have proven instrumental in facilitating robust communication between the BBYDI Headquarters, INEC, and various other stakeholders. The focal point of this collaborative effort was to closely track and oversee critical aspects of the election process, with a special emphasis on intricate matters such as logistical operations, the seamless movement of vital voting materials, the adequate presence of INEC ad-hoc personnel, and the holistic measurement of voter turnout.

Key Outcomes

- The reports generated by the observers served as real-time sources of information about the situation on the ground during the election.
- The activity helped to ensure transparency, accountability, and credibility in the electoral proceedings.
- The detailed reporting on the overall turnout of voters provided insights into citizen engagement and participation in the democratic process.



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Graphical Solutions

Major Highlights from the activity

Over the course of the period of preparing ahead of the 2023 election, we developed graphic solutions that are unique to the peculiarities of our targeted audience educating them on their right to participate in the election and the importance of the engagement in civic activities. In an endeavour to motivate Nigerians, particularly those residing in the Northeast political region, to engage in politics and collaborate closely with elected representatives for the sake of accountability and openness, I've crafted imaginative daily visuals and content. These articles are designed to underscore the crucial nature of involving women, young individuals, and people with disabilities in the sphere of governance.

The overarching goal of these visuals and content is to simplify intricate political ideas, rendering them easily comprehensible for all citizens. By placing a spotlight on the importance of a diverse array of voices in governance, our intention is to cultivate a sentiment of empowerment and stimulate enthusiastic involvement from every stratum of society. Collectively, our efforts are directed toward nurturing a more comprehensive and forward-looking political landscape within the Northeast region of Nigeria.

Key Outcomes

- The creation of tailored graphics and content effectively educated the target audience about their rights to participate in the election and the significance of engaging in civic activities
- By presenting information in accessible formats, more individuals were informed and motivated to take part in the democratic process.
- Encouraged a sense of empowerment among citizens.
- Simplified complex political concepts through visuals and content making the information more accessible to a wider audience.

By underscoring the importance of including women, young people, and individuals with disabilities in governance, the initiative promoted the idea of diverse representation. The activity helped to ensure transparency, accountability, and credibility in the electoral proceedings.



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Training of Vote Ready Champions on Accountability and Transparency

Major Highlights from the activity

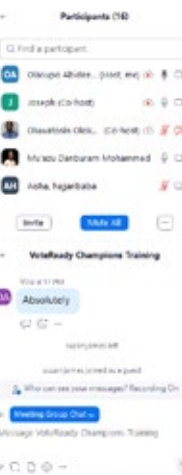
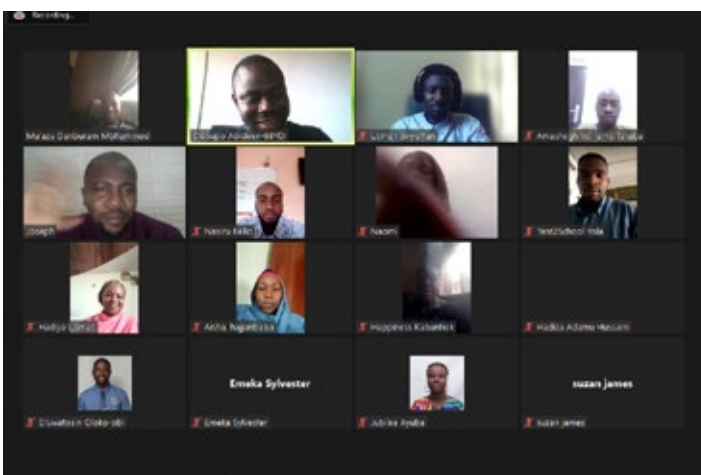
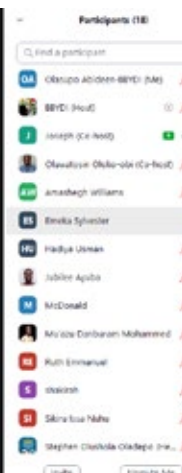
To significantly enhance the skill set of emerging young leaders and their active involvement as integral members within their respective CSO groups, BBYDI orchestrated a comprehensive online training event spanning three days. This immersive session zeroed in on the essential aspects of advocacy and transparency. Over the course of these three days, a cohort of 18 dynamic young individuals hailing from diverse corners of the Northeast region were adeptly guided through an array of modules. These modules were thoughtfully curated to instil proficiency in conducting baseline activities that lay the foundation for a profound grasp of community needs—a prerequisite for steering the charge towards heightened governmental transparency and accountability.

A significant facet of the training encompassed equipping these teams with the acumen to artfully craft a Charter of Demands that intricately aligns with the unique requisites of their respective communities. Through this initiative, BBYDI endeavoured to fuel a wave of empowered youth leaders who are primed to catalyze positive change within

their communities by championing openness and accountability.

Key Outcomes

- The training equipped young leaders with enhanced skills in advocacy and transparency, enabling them to effectively drive positive change within their communities.
- By providing knowledge and tools to young individuals, the training empowered them to take an active role in addressing community needs and advocating for transparency and accountability in government.
- The baseline activities taught during the training allowed participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of their community’s unique needs.
- With the newfound insights, participants learned how to prioritize community needs, ensuring that their efforts are directed toward addressing the most pressing issues.



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Production and translation of BBYDI Accountability Toolkits

Major Highlights from the activity

The Brain Builders Youth Development Research team and the creative design department are currently immersed in a vital initiative, undertaking the creation of the esteemed BBYDI Toolkit on Citizen Accountability. Through this pivotal toolkit, our objective is to empower citizens and advocates with a wealth of knowledge encompassing the finest governance and accountability practices. By proactively immersing themselves in the intricate tapestry of the political process, citizens undoubtedly assume a pivotal role in shaping governmental policies and steering the judicious utilization of state resources. At the core of a functional democracy lies the tenet of holding elected representatives accountable—an aspect this toolkit vigorously supports, propelling transparency, integrity, and responsiveness within the realm of governance.

The overarching ambition of the BBYDI Toolkit on Citizen Accountability is to arm individuals and organizations with the requisite insights and tools, thereby equipping them to adeptly champion accountability within their respective communities. This repository could comprise an array of invaluable resources—ranging from meticulous guidelines and illustrative case studies to meticulously crafted templates and pragmatic tips. This collective reservoir offers a panoramic view of the very essence of citizen accountability, its intrinsic significance, and the profound ripples it generates across the spectrum of governance. Further, it extends invaluable

counsel on the art of effective advocacy, encompassing the art of conducting research, shaping compelling messaging, orchestrating impactful campaigns, and the art of forming cohesive coalitions.

A prominent facet of this comprehensive initiative is its strategic guidance on the diligent monitoring of governmental activities, the intricate tracking of policy execution, and the astute evaluation of elected representatives' performance. This holistic toolkit further illuminates the nuanced techniques of fruitful communication with elected officials, active participation in public consultations, and the art of exerting influence on consequential policy determinations.

In a demonstration of our unwavering commitment to the northeast region, we have painstakingly translated the entirety of the BBYDI Toolkit on Citizen Accountability into Hausa—a vernacular that resonates deeply within the community. This meticulously curated translation ensures that the treasure trove of knowledge encapsulated in the toolkit is seamlessly accessible to individuals and organizations operating within the northeast region. By providing this toolkit in Hausa, we are devotedly dismantling any language-based barriers that might hinder the uninhibited engagement of citizens in the political discourse. This translated compendium is not merely a gesture but a concerted effort to bridge communication divides and actively fortify citizen involvement in sculpting governmental policies while upholding the principles of accountability.

Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Production and translation of BBYDI Accountability Toolkits

Undoubtedly, the translated version of the BBYDI Toolkit on Citizen Accountability underscores our unwavering faith in the foundational significance of citizen accountability, a pillar that forms the bedrock of a robust democracy. This localized resource is meticulously curated to furnish citizens and advocates with the essential wisdom and pragmatic tools, fostering a tangible environment of accountability within their respective communities. This translated version reverberates with guidelines, resonant case studies, adaptable templates, and pragmatic insights—resources that collectively fuel citizens' endeavours to hold elected officials accountable, creating a tapestry of responsible governance.

Key Outcomes

- The translation into Hausa demonstrates a cultural sensitivity that resonates with the local population, making the toolkit's content more relatable and impactful.
- As citizens engage with the toolkit's insights, it encourages elected representatives to be more responsive to community needs and demands.

By offering practical resources and insights, the toolkit empowers communities to lead change from within, building a stronger foundation for responsible governance.

Hanyoyin Yadda Ake Amfani Da Dokar 'Yancin Bayani (FOI)

Aiwatar da bincike

Da farko, bukatun Dokar 'Yancin Bayanin da suka fi nasara sun fi mayar da hankali ne akan bincike nagartacce kuma na haƙiƙa. Anfi son ayi amfani da shine kawai don neman bayanan da basu samsuwa a fili, Kafin a rubuta wasikar FOIA, ya kamata a yi bincike don sanin irin bayanan da ake nema, wadanne hukumomi ne ke da hurumin bayar da bayanan, kuma wadanne bayanan gwamnati za ta dauka kan bayanan da ake sha'awar samu wadanda dama akwai su a wurin jama'a. Da zarar an gano bayanin da ake neman ba ya samuwa a bairan jama'a, ya kamata a bincika takamaiman bayanan da ake bukatan, nau'ukan bayanan, ko wasu batutuwan da kuke son nema. Duk sassan reshen zartarwa da hukumomi suna karkashin Dokar FOIA. Sai dai Dokar ta FOI ba aiki a kan Majalisar Dokoki ta Kasa da kotuna, ma'ana ba za'a iya aika wasikar FOI zuwa kotu ko Majalisar Dokoki ta Kasa ba. A aika rubutacciyar wasikarku zuwa ga shugaban hukumar sashen da lamarin ya shafa.

Rubuta Wasikar neman FOI

Bukatar Dokar FOI tana daukar sigar kyakkyawan tsari a wannan matakin. Bayan gudanar da bincike kan irin bayanin da za ku nema daga hukumomi, to daga nan an shiyya don rubuta wasikar buƙatar Dokar FOI. Ku aika wasikar ku, a tabbatar an zabi haƙikanin hukumar ta hanyar gano wadanne hukumomin gwamnati ne ke karkashin FOIA, sannan sai a tsara haƙikanin bayanan da ake buƙata. Dukkan hukumomi suna karɓar wasikun ta saƙon gidan waya. Hukumomi da yawa kuma suna karɓar buƙatun da aka aika ta hanyar aika saƙon Fax ko imel. Wasu hukumomi suna da fom din shigar da buƙatar tayanar gizo.

Mika Wasikar Bukatar ku ta FOI

A mika buƙatar ga hukumomin gwamnati wadanda ke karkashin Dokar FOI (FOI ta shafi duka cibiyoyin jihohi da na tarayya), da kuma tsara takamaiman buƙatun da aka yi niyya. Duk hukumomi suna karɓar buƙatun ta saƙon gidan waya. Hukumomi da yawa kuma suna karɓar buƙatun da aka aika ta fax ko imel. Wasu hukumomi suna da fom din mika buƙatar ta yanar gizo.

Bibiyar Wasikar Bukatar ku ta FOI

Da zarar kun cika rubuta wasikar buƙatun ku, yana da muhimman ariƙe bayanan da suka dace kamar kwanan watan da aka aika, hukuma da aka aikawa ko wasu ababe, batun (batutuwa), lambobin bin diddigin hukumar, kwanan wata da yanayin kowane wakilin hukumar, gami da lambar waya da adreshin imel. Wannan bayanin yana da muhimman wajen bin diddigin tambayoyin, karin bayani, da kararraki da neman taimako don guje wa maimaici wajen aika buƙatun.

Bayan kun mika buƙatar ku ta FOI, daga nan za a soma zaman jira. A bisa tanadin doka, hukumomi za su fitar da kudiri na karshe a cikin kwanaki bakwai (7) na ranakun aiki, amma yawancin bangarorin FOI na hukumomi suna da tarin kwantan buƙatu a wurinsu.

Amsar Wasikar Bukatar ku ta FOI

Za ku sami amsa - wasikar amincewa ko kawo bayanan buƙatun abin da zai iya jinkirta aiwatar da buƙatunku, ko kuma za a iya aiwatar da buƙatun gaiba d'aya ko a kashi-kashi (an gyara). Haka kuma, za su iya kin tabbatarwa ko karyata cewa suna da bayanan, ko kin yarda da buƙatun saboda wasu dalilai da ke karkashin tsare-tsarensu - idan sunyi fatali da buƙatarku, za ku iya yanke shawarar roko ta hanyar rubuta wata wasikar shigar da buƙatar sannan a aika wa hukumar. Idan ba ku gamsu da hukuncin da kuka dauka ba, kuma da damar shigar da kara a wata kotun tarayya domin a saki kunshin bayanan.

Amfani da Dokar FOI yadda ya kamata

Domin amfani da wannan bayanin da aka aika muku, da fatan za a yi abin da ya kamata. A neini izini idan za ku sake wallafa wasu kunshin bayanan da aka aika muku (ko akalla a yarda da saƙalarsa). Duk da cewa an aika muku da bayanin, hakkin mallaka na yau da kullun zai kasance na hukumar da abin ya shafa ko kuma wanda ya ba su.

Takardar Jagora ga 'yan Kasa domin Bibiyar Hakkokin

Ruwa Da Tsakin 'Yan Kasa Da Yi Wa Gwamnati Matsin Lamba Kan Sauke Nauyinta ta Hanyar Dokar 'Yancin Bayani (FOI)



Outline of Key Impacts

Accomplishment at a Glance

Town Hall Meetings on Accountability and Transparency

Major Highlights from the activity

The initiative led by BBYDI has taken a remarkable stride in promoting accountability and transparency through a dynamic series of Town Hall Meetings. As a testament to the empowerment instilled in the Vote Ready Champions by BBYDI, these champions have seized the mantle to organize impactful Town Hall Meetings that serve as crucibles of knowledge dissemination and validation of community-driven demands. At the heart of these Town Hall Meetings lies a fervent commitment to education and enlightenment. Armed with insights and training provided by BBYDI, the Vote Ready Champions have become torchbearers of accountability and transparency within their communities. Through these meetings, they meticulously unravel the intricate fabric of these pivotal concepts, shedding light on their importance in upholding good governance and fostering citizen engagement.

These Town Hall Meetings bear an additional layer of significance as they serve as a platform to validate the Charter of Demand that has been meticulously developed by local CSOs within these communities. This validation process, steered by the Vote Ready Champions, ensures that the demands put forth by these organizations align seamlessly with the aspirations and needs of the local populace. This synergy between community-driven demands and informed advocacy is poised to create a resonant impact, further reinforcing the fabric of transparency and accountability in governance.

With each Town Hall Meeting, a ripple of transformation unfurls, touching lives, igniting aspirations, and ensuring that the clarion call for accountability and transparency resonates throughout these communities. The commitment, dedication, and passion exhibited by the Vote Ready Champions exemplify the essence of citizen-led progress, laying a robust foundation for a more just, open, and responsive governance system.

Key Outcomes

- The training equipped young leaders with enhanced skills in advocacy and transparency, enabling them to effectively drive positive change within their communities.
- By providing knowledge and tools to young individuals, the training empowered them to take an active role in addressing community needs and advocating for transparency and accountability in government.
- The baseline activities taught during the training allowed participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of their community's unique needs.
- With the newfound insights, participants learned how to prioritize community needs, ensuring that their efforts are directed toward addressing the most pressing issues.

Outline of Key Impacts

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Participant Feedbacks and Impact Stories

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Pastor Daniel,
Damare IDP Camp,
Adamawa State.

Thanks to the organizers of this event for the chance to speak to our elected officials, to make them understand the challenges we face, especially when it comes to providing accessible education and clean water in our community. This town hall has opened a door for our voices to be heard, and we are here to demand the fruits of responsible governance.

“

Mohamed Aminat,
Magumeri Community,
Borno State.

This is the first time we are given the opportunity to present our needs to the politicians directly in a manner that gives room for worthiness of our opinions. What this town hall has done is to bring us face to face with politicians who needs to hear what we need as communities voting during the elections in expectation of the fruits of good governance

“

Linus Thumba,
Bauchi State

“Our voices have been waiting to be heard for far too long, especially as we grapple with the challenges of living in the remote region. This town hall is our chance to make our needs known and to hold our politicians accountable for delivering the dividend of democracy to us as a people.”

“

Nyagumi Jota,
Director of Social, Gombe State
Ministry of Women Affairs and Social

Working with the youth leaders that organized this project is an eye opener for us as workers of government. Reading through the charter of demands developed gives us a better understanding of the communities engaged. The demands have been pushed upward to our bosses and I am positive about policies and projects that will be designed from the demands because that will be a true reflection of the needs of the people living in the communities.

Challenges

Throughout the course of our project, we have encountered several significant challenges and risks that have tested our resilience and adaptability. These challenges have underscored the complexity of the environments we work in and the importance of dynamic strategies to address them. While we have made strides in addressing some of these challenges, others continue to pose ongoing obstacles. Here, we outline the most notable challenges and risks:

1. **Conflict-Affected Areas and Security Concerns:** The Northeast region of Nigeria, where our project operates, has experienced conflicts and security challenges that impact the accessibility of certain areas. This has at times hindered our efforts to reach communities and individuals in need of our initiatives. To mitigate this, we have collaborated closely with local authorities, security agencies, and community leaders to navigate these challenges and ensure the safety of participants and staff.
2. **Cultural Sensitivity and Language Barriers:** The diversity of cultures and languages in the region necessitates a culturally sensitive approach. Language barriers and cultural nuances can affect effective communication and engagement. To address this, we have invested in translation services, developed resources in local languages, and worked with community leaders to ensure that our messages resonate authentically.
3. **Skepticism and Apathy:** Skepticism towards governance and a sense of political apathy among some individuals pose challenges to our efforts to engage citizens. Overcoming these attitudes requires building trust through transparent communication, showcasing tangible outcomes of our initiatives, and consistently demonstrating our commitment to positive change.
4. **Infrastructure and Connectivity:** In remote and conflict-affected areas, limited infrastructure and internet connectivity can impede our online initiatives and knowledge dissemination efforts. To tackle this challenge, we have employed a hybrid approach, combining online and offline methods to ensure that our resources and messages reach as many people as possible.
5. **Political and Institutional Resistance:** Promoting transparency and accountability can sometimes face resistance from political and institutional quarters that may be resistant to change. To address this, we have engaged in advocacy efforts, built alliances with like-minded organizations, and leveraged evidence-based data to demonstrate the benefits of transparent governance.
6. **Sustainability and Long-Term Impact:** Ensuring the sustainability of our initiatives beyond the project's duration is an ongoing concern. We are working to embed the principles of accountability and transparency within communities, create local champions, and foster a culture of engagement that can continue to drive positive change.

While we have made significant progress in addressing some of these challenges, it's important to acknowledge that certain risks are ongoing and may require continuous adaptation. Our responses have often involved a combination of strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, partnerships, and innovative approaches to overcome obstacles. These challenges have also reinforced the importance of staying attuned to the dynamic nature of the environment and continually refining our strategies to best serve the communities we work with.

Recommendations

The Brain Builders Youth Development Initiative (BBYDI) has made significant strides in promoting civic engagement, transparency, and accountability in Nigeria's Northeast region. The partnership with the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF) has been crucial in advancing these efforts. To further enhance the impact of BBYDI's work and contribute to sustainable democratic ideals, community empowerment, and inclusive governance, several recommendations have been proposed.

Firstly, sustained funding is essential for BBYDI's continuity and expansion. NYFF's continued financial support can help BBYDI consolidate its success and explore new opportunities for engagement. The town hall meetings organized by BBYDI have become crucial for communities to liaise directly with elected officials, moving beyond campaign promises to address actual concerns.

Moreover, BBYDI's charters of demand, developed with community leaders, require support to influence policy and program development. NYFF's assistance is crucial in instigating policymakers and administrators to incorporate these demands into future projects and policies. Allocating resources for capacity-building, training, and infrastructure development will also bolster BBYDI's ability to scale its programs and reach more communities, amplifying its impact.

Furthermore, NYFF can play a pivotal role in facilitating connections between BBYDI and other organizations, institutions, and experts in governance, democracy, and youth engagement. Collaborative partnerships can lead to the exchange of best practices and resources, maximizing collective impact. NYFF can also use its influence to advocate for policies that align with BBYDI's goals, engaging with policymakers and international organizations to champion transparency, accountability, and youth participation in governance.

Additionally, supporting BBYDI in conducting research on youth engagement, democratic participation, and governance will strengthen its advocacy efforts and inform evidence-based interventions. NYFF's communication channels can be utilized to amplify BBYDI's impact stories, raising awareness about civic engagement and accountability. Facilitating mentorship programs for BBYDI's young leaders can also contribute to their personal and professional growth.

Overall, by recognizing BBYDI's achievements and promoting its model for impactful youth-led initiatives, NYFF can inspire support for similar endeavors, contributing to the broader advancement of democratic values and youth participation in Nigeria.

Appendix

1. [Yobe Civic Drive](#)
2. [Taraba Civic Drive](#)
3. [Borno Civic Drive](#)
4. [Gombe Civic Drive](#)
5. [Bauchi Civic Drive](#)
6. [Adamawa Civic Drive](#)
7. [Storytelling and graphics](#)
8. [VoteReadyChampions Meeting](#)
9. [Video Recap of Zonal engagement](#)
10. [TownHall Panel Session 1](#)
11. [TownHall panel Session 2](#)
12. [Borno TownHall](#)
13. [Bauchi Town Hall](#)
14. [Gombe Town Hall](#)
15. [Adamawa Town Hall](#)
16. [Yobe Town Hall](#)

Contact Us

(+234) 706 877 5529

brainbuilderedu@gmail.com

www.thebrainbuilders.org

12 City of Refuge, GRA, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria