



LYNX-NIGERIA

... Empowered youth, empowered nation.



ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

INTRODUCTION

Linking the Youth of Nigeria through Exchange (LYNX-NIGERIA) is a child and youth development organization committed to fostering empowerment and socially responsible citizenship among Nigerian children and youth through civic and human rights education, financial education and economic empowerment and community service learning. LYNXNIGERIA's programmes are built on the principles of constructive analysis, creative problem solving and collective action.

LYNX-NIGERIA aims to reverse the trend of increasing marginalization of children and youths and their disengagement from society by empowering them to become agents of change in their communities. Since its formation in 2004, our participants benefit from enriching learning experiences and develop a stronger sense of social responsibility and commitment to public service. With this opportunity to make a difference by using their creativity and talent, they are less likely to engage in risky and unhealthy behaviors.

VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

Vision

LYNX-NIGERIA envisions a free, just and truly democratic Nigerian society where children and youth are completely free from all forms of social, economic, cultural, psychological and political inhibitions that run contrary to their overall growth and a country in which children and youths are full participants in their own development and the development of their communities and the nation.

Mission

The mission of LYNX-NIGERIA is to foster empowerment and socially responsible citizenship among Nigerian children and youth.

Core Values and Guiding Principles

Participation and Inclusion – we believe that our work is enhanced by the participation of diverse children and youth and their inclusion at all levels of decision making

Team Work – we value working together as a team and believe that no individual can achieve more on their own than we can as a unit

Democratic Decision Making – democracy is not just a political system, it is a way of life. We value the process of coming about decisions through democratic discourse and dialogue.

Collaboration and Collective Action – we enjoy working with like minded organizations and individuals and taking collective action to achieve mutual goals

Learning and Growing – we value the process of learning and growing from our own mistakes and from the mistakes of others

Service and Dedication to Humanity – we believe in dedicating ourselves to serve others, this is not a single act but a lifelong habit which we hope to inculcate in all our staff, volunteers and participants

PROGRAMMES

Youth Empowerment through Community Action Program (YECAP) YECAP trains secondary school students to become socially responsible leaders in their communities by engaging them in critically analyzing social issues through dialogue and collective problem solving, and in creating social change through youth initiated community service projects. YECAP includes the Youth Empowerment and Leadership Training Camp and a ten month civic education and community service learning programme in secondary schools. YECAP has trained over 1000 students since its inception.

Youth for the Sustenance of Democracy Project (YSDP) trains students and youths to more effectively participate in democratic processes. Through the National Youth Democracy Network (NYDN) students and youths plan and participate in on-campus and community seminars, workshops, enlightenment campaigns, rallies and advocacy visits that enable them to better understand and participate in democratic processes. The programme currently works with over 400 student and youth organizations and has trained over 2000 students and youths.

Aflatoun Child Rights Cooperative (ACRC) trains and educates primary school children in rural areas on their fundamental rights as enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and enables them to use innovative methods of savings, prudence, accountability and financial management to break the cycle of poverty in their lives. ACRC includes the training of teachers, Aflatoun Clubs where children learn to save and the Aflatoun Day Camp for children and teachers. ACRC has trained over 300 teachers and over 15,000 primary school pupils.

Youth Community Cooperatives (YCC) develops the potentials of out-of-school youths by engaging training them in small scale farming and entrepreneurship. It aims to develop a critical, creative, committed and productive community of young people who work together to build stronger and more self-reliant communities with sustainable food systems. The programme builds the leadership and civic participation skills of young persons who are out of school and enables them to transition to a productive work life or further academic studies. YCC combines agrarianism with life skills to foster the overall growth and development of young people in urban centers in Nigeria.

Special Projects LYNX-NIGERIA works with partners with similar interests and goals on special projects from time to time. In 2010, LYNX-NIGERIA began a partnership with the Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN), a DfID funded project that develops the capacity of communities to support educational activities through School Based Management Committees (SBMCs).

THE UNIQUENESS OF LYNX

LYNX-NIGERIA's approach is unique in many ways. It was conceived by and continues to be informed and sustained by children and youths using a participatory, rights-based approach. It involves long term programming and focuses on the holistic development of children and youths from the primary to the tertiary level of education. The approach is different because it involves practical and 'hands on learning' and places children and youths at the forefront of planning and development of programs. LYNX-NIGERIA builds the capacity of children, youth, youth and student organizations and educational institutions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HALA DAGGASH Hala is a public health physician with over a decade's experience in public health and clinical medicine. She holds a MBBS from the University of Maiduguri, a Masters degree in Public Health from the University of Lagos, an MSc in Tropical Medicine and International Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, as well as a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the Royal College of Physicians, both in the United Kingdom. Her interests are in health systems strengthening, social medicine and occupational health.

CHIBUZO EKWEKWUO Chibuzo is the founder and coordinator of the Public and Private Development Centre and a development law Specialist and a commercial litigator. Chibuzo has been successful in influencing National and State level policy, he succeeded in increasing the transparency and accountability provisions in the Public Procurement Act 2007. He is a member of the Business Environment and Competitiveness team of Nigeria's vision 2020 group and serves on the Governing Board of Rhema University. He has an MBA Management from Abia State University Uturu, a Post Graduate Certificate in Corruption Studies in University of Hong-Kong and attending several short courses at the Institute for Public Private Partnership (IP3) Arlington VA USA.

KAI AHUOIZA ORGA Kai is the CEO of Rheo Consulting Ltd and Apple Core Associates Ltd both management and consulting firms with head offices in Abuja. Kai has worked for an International Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Reliance Bank Ltd, Continental Trust Bank and GTbank with a total of over 12 years experience she has significant experience in several sectors. Kai holds a M.Sc. in Management and Information Systems (2003) from the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) Manchester – UK and a B.Sc. degree in International Studies (1997) Ahmadu Bello University, ABU – Zaria. Her professional memberships include Institute of the Management of Information Systems, Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), Nigerian Institute of Management, African Society of International Studies.

OLUSEGUN MAYEGUN Olusegun is political consultant, researcher, author and activist. As a human rights and pro-democracy activist he was a pioneer member of many pro-democracy organizations including the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, the Campaign for Democracy, the Civil Liberties Organization and the United Action for Democracy and also served as President of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS). He is the author of numerous articles and speeches including two published books Green Leaves of Revolution and Early Sounds of the Red Drum, a collection of poetry. He studied Philosophy at the University of Lagos and obtained his Masters of Arts degree in Politics at the University of York, United Kingdom, where he is also a Doctoral Researcher.

RHODA NANRE NAFZIGER-MAYEGUN Nanre served as the pioneer Executive Director of LYNX-NIGERIA. She is an experienced social and health researcher with practical experience in civil society work. She has worked with different social sector and educational agencies including Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL Foundation)

(Dorchester, USA), Dorchester Multi-Service Center and Linking the Youth of Nigeria through Exchange (LYNX-NIGERIA) (Lagos, Nigeria). She has a BA in Sociology from Boston College and an MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Finance from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the London School of Economics. She is an Ashoka Fellow and an Associate of the Nigeria Leadership Initiative.

DOZIE OKPALABIERI Dozie is an attorney and presently the Coordinator, Extractive Industries Team at the African Center for Economic Transformation, in Accra, Ghana. Prior to ACET, Dozie was an Associate at Vedder Price, P.C., in Chicago, where he specialized in Mergers & Acquisitions, Finance and Corporate Governance. He has also worked with in the Financial Advisory Services practice of Ernst & Young's Boston office as a Senior Consultant and Abt Associates in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He sits on the Associate Board of the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms where he serves as the Secretary and in addition, he serves as a mentor to minority law students in the Chicago area. Dozie graduated Magna cum Laude (BSc.) in Economics from Northeastern University, Boston and completed a Masters degree in International Economics and Finance from Brandeis University, Massachusetts, in 1999. Dozie also received his Juris Doctor from Northwestern University School of Law where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of International Law and Business, and was a Baker and McKenzie Scholar. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association and is an Associate of the Nigerian Leadership Initiative.

NNEKA ONURA Nneka Onura is the Director of Programmes and Projects of LYNX-NIGERIA. Prior to joining LYNX-NIGERIA she worked as a Consultant to Booz Allen Hamilton providing input and support to the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Director of Innovation to the Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate in Plum Island, New York. She has also served as a legislative intern to Congressman Alcee Hastings in the United States House of Representatives and as a Research Intern in TransAfrica Forum, Washington D.C. She has a BA from Georgia State University in International Relations and a Masters of Public Policy from George Mason University, in International Governance. Nneka returned to Nigeria in 2009 to complete her National Youth Service Corps where she assisted in school development at Ladela Secondary School, Abuja. Nneka brings her international experience and analytics skills to LYNX-NIGERIA as the Director of Programmes and Projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

LYNX-NIGERIA operates from its National Secretariat based in Lagos and six zonal centers in Lagos (South West), Enugu (South East), Edo (South South), Plateau (North Central), Kaduna (North West), Bauchi (North East). LYNX-NIGERIA relies heavily on the work of young volunteers and the spirit of selfless service guides all of our work and programming.

LYNX NIGERIA has a unique, de-centralized management process which works with the six zones to coordinate and implement programmes at the grassroots level. LYNX's management team is made up of Six Zonal Coordinators and the FCT Coordinator, the Director of Programmes and Projects, the Student and Youth Coordinator/NYDN Coordinator and a Non-Executive Director of the Board. All of LYNX NIGERIA staff and volunteers are youths below the age of 35 years.

PARTNERS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Stitching Child Savings International
Aflatoun International Network
Ashoka Innovators for the Public
Nigeria Leadership Initiative (NLI)
National Youth Democracy Network (NYDN)
Coalition for Child Rights
Civil Society Action Coalition for Education for All (CSACEFA)
Education Sector Support Initiative for Nigeria (ESSPIN)
Enough is Enough Coalition (EiE)

CONTACT US

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