

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 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

Transparency and Accountability – we believe that transparency and accountability not only in our finances but in every aspect of our work

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

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 Social and Financial Education educates primary school children from low income backgrounds 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. The programme includes the development and contextualization of social and financial literacy materials, training of teachers, Aflatoun Savings Clubs where children learn to save and the Aflatoun Day Camp for children and teachers. ACRC has trained over 300 teachers and over 20,000 primary school pupils.

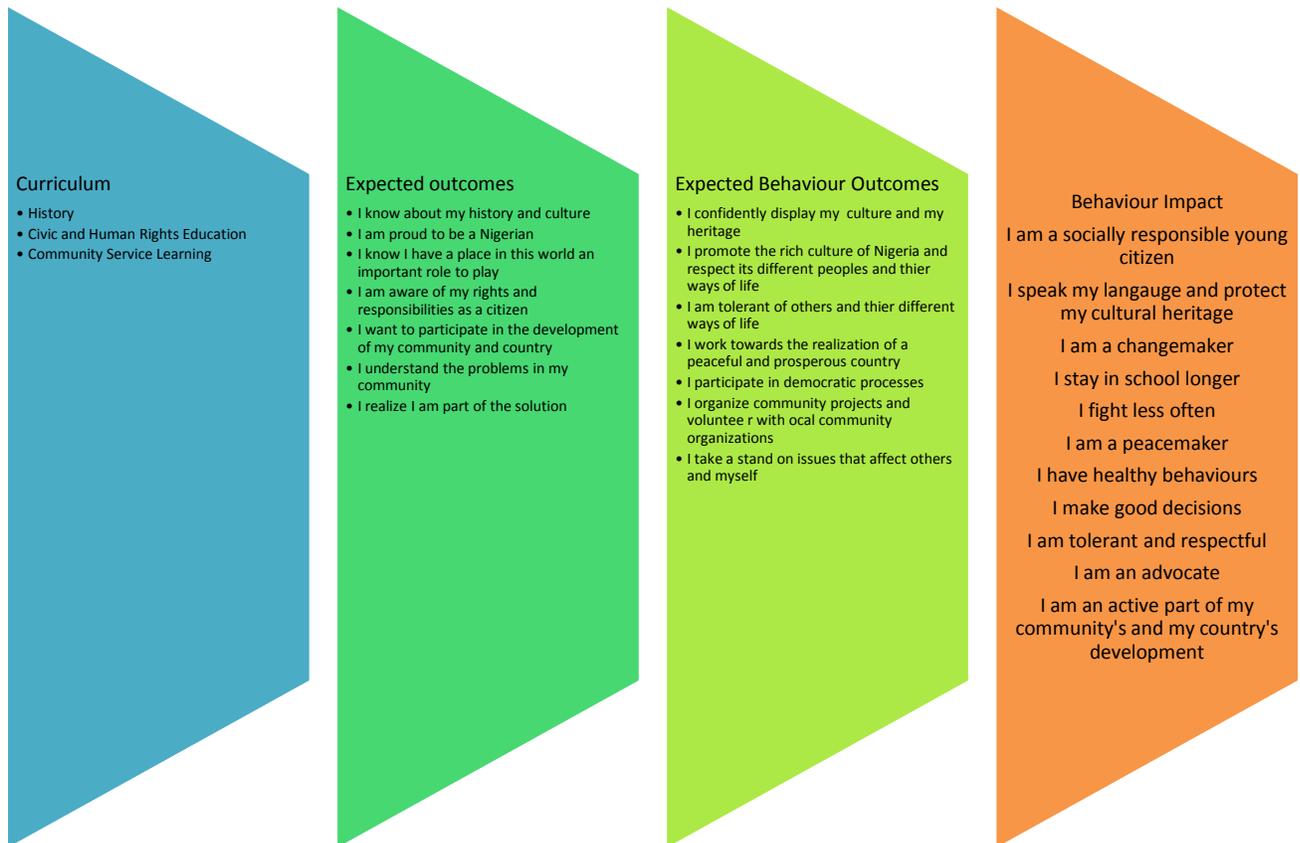
Youth Community Cooperatives (YCC) develops the potentials of out-of-school youths by engaging training them in small scale farming and entrepreneurship. It aims to develop a critical, creative, committed and productive community of young people who work together to build stronger and more self-reliant 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.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



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 has worked in the banking sector for over 15 years, with the last 9 in an International Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, and has significant experience in several sectors including the public, manufacturing, commercial, IT, Oil and Gas and service sectors of the economy. She 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 (NIM), African Society of International Studies. Kai has worked and volunteered for various charities in the UK (Contact the Charity –Manchester UK) and in Nigeria (GOALS programme – teaching life skills to young girls through football) and has been a volunteer for LYNX Nigeria since 2002.

SERAH ZAINAB MAKKA Serah Zainab Makka is currently the Policy Manager for Tony Elumelu Foundation where she leads the foundation's policy and advocacy engagement strategy and implementation. She has experience as Foundation Manager of a corporate philanthropy, Grand Circle Foundation. Ms. Makka was also a strategy and evaluation consultant with Boston-based FSG Social Impact Consultants, which provides advice to foundations, nonprofits, and governments. She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics & International Relations (cum laude) from the University of North Florida.

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 prodemocracy 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 currently based in Abuja where he is a consultant. Recently, he was the Legal and Policy Advisor for the Extractive Resources Services of the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) based in Accra, Ghana. Prior to that, he was an Attorney at the law firm of Vedder Price in Chicago, where he specialized in Mergers & Acquisitions, Finance and Corporate Governance. He has also worked with the Financial Advisory Services practice of Ernest &Young's Boston office as a Senior Consultant. 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 Nigeria Leadership Initiative.

PARTNERS AND MEMBERSHIPS

World Bank Civil Society Fund
European Union Delegation to Nigeria
JP Morgan Foundation
ECOMM Foundation
Empower Foundation
Global Fund for Children
Stitching Child Savings International
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)
Child and Youth Finance International
SOS Children's Villages
Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development
Kaduna State Ministry of Education
State Universal Basic Education Board, Kaduna
State Universal Basic Education Board, Lagos
Bayelsa State Government Child Development Account Stars Programme

CONTACT US

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