



Building Bridges, Transforming Governance

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Building Bridges, Transforming Governance





Cynthia Mbamalu, Director of Programs with H.E Joyce Banda, Former President of Malawi and election study mission from Liberia at the Yiaga Africa Election Data Center during the 2023 Presidential elections

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Message from the Board Chairman and Executive Director

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of Yiaga Africa in 2023, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the collective efforts of our team, partners, and supporters in advancing our mission of promoting sustainable democracy and development across Africa.

In 2023, we witnessed significant milestones and achievements, each showcasing our dedication to driving positive change in the lives of Nigerians and Africa at large. From expanding our engagements to all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory in Nigeria to strengthening cross-border collaborations with organizations across the continent our reach and impact continues to grow.

We were at the fore of mobilizing active engagement with the 2023 General elections in Nigeria, successfully deploying technological tools to complement INEC's voter education initiative by creating awareness, providing information and increasing citizens' participation in the electoral process. Yiaga Africa developed a WhatsApp chatbot to inform citizens about locating their PVCs and polling units. The solution reached over 53 million Nigerians and 100,000 users. An easily understandable Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material, My Election Buddy, was developed and disseminated by members of the Voting Squad, whose mobilization

Dr. Hussaini Abdu



efforts reached over 30,000 citizens across 28 states.

We established a National Data Center in Abuja, trained over 6500 citizens in the electoral process, deployed 258 observers to monitor the nationwide CVR process and 822 personnel to observe the display claims and objections. To ensure that no one is left behind, we provided training to over 50 deaf women on the election process. Furthermore, 35% of Yiaga Africa observers involved in the election were women, reaffirming our commitment to gender diversity, equity and inclusiveness.

Our Watching The Vote (WTV) initiative was significant in inspiring citizen confidence and supporting Nigeria's electoral democracy. Through rigorous observation, capacity-building efforts, and strategic advocacy, we empowered thousands of citizens to actively participate in the electoral process and uphold electoral integrity. This included the deployment of 3,836 personnel to observe the 2023 presidential election held on February 25, 2023. The 3,836 observers consist of 3014 polling unit stationary observers and 822 roving observers.

As part of our efforts to ensure a credible electoral system and empower young Nigerians in political engagement, we successfully supported 150 young politicians during the 2023 general elections. Through our Ready to Run Conference, we equipped them with essential knowledge, skills, networks and strategies to conduct impactful political campaigns and secure electoral victories.

Remarkably, out of the 150 candidates who were beneficiaries of the Ready to Run Conference, 22 candidates won their elections; 18 State House of Assembly, and 4 House of Representatives. Ahead of the 2023 General Election, our team provided technical support to the 573 young aspirants and candidates. As a result, 40 candidates who benefitted from the technical support provided by Yiaga Africa secured party nominations.

We are actively pursuing the consolidation of democracy across the continent, putting our experience, knowledge, connectedness and convening power to drive electoral and democratic reforms in Nigeria and across Africa. We launched a Transforming Electoral Governance in Africa (TEGA) to advance electoral reforms through peer learning, research and advocacy. We deployed Election Study and Observation Missions to the 2023 national elections in Sierra Leone and Liberia. We also launched the Youth Representation in Africa Dashboard (YRAD) to Assemble, analyze and disseminate credible and up-to-date data on youth representation in Africa to facilitate evidence-based advocacy, programming and stakeholder engagement. Through our Africa division, we want to change the democratic narrative in Africa, and we are on the path to achieving that.

Our pursuit of knowledge and innovation remains the cornerstone of our dynamism. As we progress, inspired by the achievement and insights gained in 2023, we remain resolute in maintaining

“Our pursuit of knowledge and innovation remains a strong cornerstone of our dynamism.”

Yiaga Africa’s position as the foremost Civil Society Organization recognized for impact delivery, driving initiatives within innovations, building and supporting sustainable democracy and achieving results through collaborative partnerships across government, regional & multilateral institutions, international development partners, civil society and the peoples of Africa.

Dr. Hussaini Abdu
Board Chairman
Yiaga Africa

Samson Itodo
Executive Director
Yiaga Africa





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Acronyms

AAR	After-Action Review
APC	All-Progressive Congress
BVAS	Bimodal Voter Accreditation System
CGG	Campaign for Good Governance
CDD	Center for Democracy and Development
CLE	Centre for Legislative Engagement
CSO	Chief Security Officer
CVR	Continuous Voter Registration
EMRI	Election Manipulation Risk Index
ERAD	Election Results Analysis Dashboard
ESOM	Election Study and Observation Mission
IEC	Information, Education, and Communication
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
IPC	International Press Centre
IReV	INEC Result Viewing Portal
LCDA	Local Council Development Area
LGA	Local Government Area
LGAs	Local Government Areas
MDDT	Movement for Democracy, Development and Transparency
NASS	National Assembly
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NILDS	National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies
NIMC	National Identity Management Commission
NIS	National Immigration Service
NOA	National Orientation Agency
NPC	National Population Commission
PEPT	Presidential Election Petition Tribunal
PREO	Final Pre-Election Environment
PRVT	Process and Results Verification for Transparency
PVC	Permanent Voters Card
PVT	Parallel Vote Tabulation
TEGA	Transforming Electoral Governance in Africa initiative
VE	Voter Education
WTV	Watching The Vote
YPF	Young Parliamentarians Forum
YRAD	Youth Representation in Africa Dashboard



The Yiaga Africa Election Observation team at a polling station in Monrovia, Liberia



CLE team members at The Convergence 5.0 in Abuja

Who We Are

Yiaga Africa is a non-profit civic hub of changemakers that was launched as a student organization in 2007 at the University of Jos, Nigeria. Yiaga Africa envisions a people-driven democratic and developed Africa. This vision is actualized through programming in four core program areas namely, Elections, Legislative engagement, Citizens Engagement and Digital Democracy. Since its inception as a civic society organization, Yiaga has carved a niche as one of Africa's leading non-profit organizations committed to the implementation of several innovative programs aimed at promoting active citizenship, protecting human rights, and deepening democratic governance. Yiaga Africa believes accountable leadership, responsive governance, and vibrant citizenry are required for democratic consolidation. We invest in building networks and social movements to drive social change and transformation. Our leadership structure spans across Nigeria, with our members across all 36 states and the 774 local government areas. Yiaga Africa program footprints extend to Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Liberia, Kenya and Tanzania.



Mission:

A people-driven democratic and developed Africa.



Vision:

To build and support sustainable democracy and development anchored on the principles of inclusion, accountability, and justice through research, advocacy, and capacity development.



Core Values:

- **Inclusion:** We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, and we strive to ensure the meaningful participation and representation of all segments of society in decision-making processes and governance structures.
- **Accountability:** We hold ourselves and others answerable for our commitments, actions, and use of resources, fostering trust and credibility in our work.
- **Justice:** We are committed to promoting fairness, equality, and the protection of human rights for all.
- **Research Excellence:** We prioritize rigorous, evidence-based research to inform our advocacy efforts and drive positive change.
- **Advocacy:** We amplify the voices of marginalized communities, champion policy reforms, and engage with stakeholders to advance our shared vision of a more just and inclusive society.
- **Capacity Development:** We believe in empowering individuals and organizations through training, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and resources they need to contribute meaningfully to democratic processes and sustainable development.

Our Impact at a Glance



53 million
citizens reached



215,000
users with
SMS services



108, 925 users with
voter education
via WhatsApp
Chatbot



30,493 citizens
reached with
voter education
through voting
squad volunteers



7,019 Election
Observers
deployed



Over **4,000**
participants
trained on
electoral processes



5 Conferences



10
Roundtables
organised



32 Trainings
Organised/
Conducted



5 Countries
with Program
Expansion



16
Knowledge
Products



15
Publications



150 candidates
reached through
the Ready to
Run Conference



22 candidates
won their
elections



4 campaigns



16
Subgrants



22.5 Million
Online
Impressions

Big Strides – Building Democratic Resilience in Africa

“The journey towards building democratic resilience in Africa is both a collective endeavor and a moral imperative which Yiaga Africa exemplifies by championing active citizenship, protecting human rights, and deepening democratic governance as a transformative potential of civil society in shaping Africa’s democratic future.”



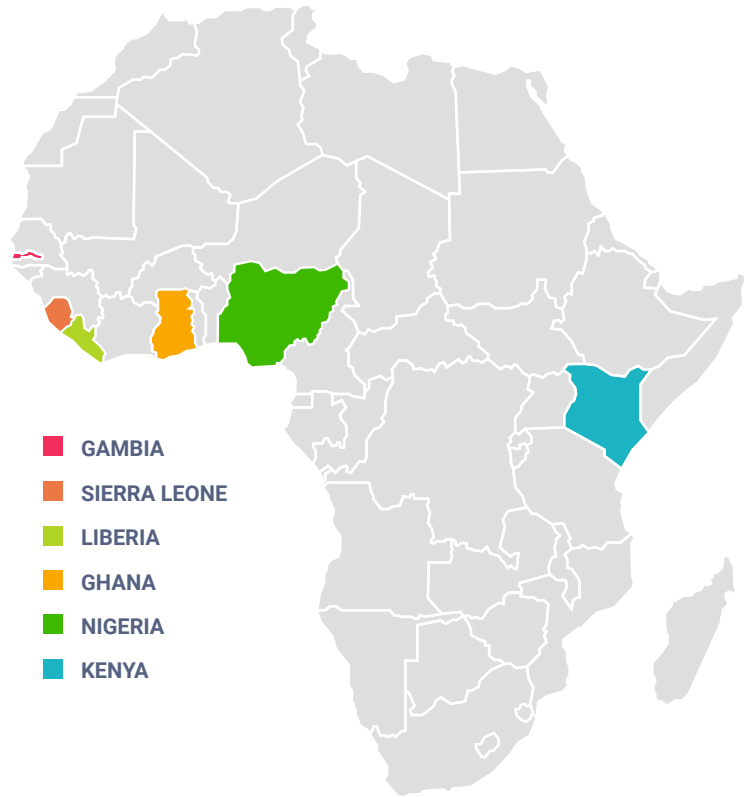
Voter casting his ballot during 2023 presidential election in Abuja

Promoting democratic resilience remains a crucial undertaking for sustainable development and social progress. Yiaga Africa, at the forefront of this endeavor, epitomizes the commitment to cultivating active participation, safeguarding human rights, and advancing democratic governance across Africa.

Democracy in Africa faces significant challenges, including political instability, institutional weaknesses, and socio-economic disparities. Yet, amidst these obstacles, there is a deep resilience rooted in the collective aspirations of African citizens for inclusive and accountable governance. Building democratic resilience requires proactive engagement at various levels.

At Yiaga Africa, our efforts to connect democratic spaces and experiences across the continent are bearing fruit. By providing technical support and deploying study missions to elections—from the West Coast of Africa in Gambia, through the Horn of Africa in Ethiopia, to the southernmost tip of the continent in South Africa—we are actively contributing to reinforcing democratic principles. Our work facilitates conversations on best practices, enhancing governance and strengthening democratic institutions and processes across the continent.

We are putting resources and tools such as the Youth Representation in Africa Dashboard (YRAD) to promote linkages, build solidarity for shared learning and action across the continent. We recognise the innate resilience of the people of Africa and we have put our innovative approaches to use in mobilizing this resource to actively engage the democratic process towards accountable and people driven democratic processes. Our work in Sierra Leone creatively mobilizing over 75,000 young people to actively participate in its 2023 general election is a sign post of our commitment to a resilient democratic culture in Africa founded on people's power.



Press briefing by the Yiaga Africa Election study mission to the 2023 Liberia national elections



Presentation of the Yiaga Africa final report on the 2023 general election



Watching The Vote data center for the 2023 governorship elections in Imo, Kogi and Bayelsa



Yiaga Africa team at a democracy townhall in Abuja



Watching The Vote Working Group with the Amb. Mary beth Leonard, US Ambassador to Nigeria and Catriona Liang, UK High Commissioner to Nigeria during the 2023 general election



Fireside chat with Stacey Abrams in Abuja



Dr. Kole Shettima, Country Director, MacArthur Foundation and Olufunke Baruwa, visit the WTV data center



Ibrahim Faruk presenting findings on youth candidates in the 2023 general election



2023 election analysis seminar for staff of the Embassy of Norway



Group photo of the Democracy Talk Series

Advocacy in Action (Changing the Governance Landscape)

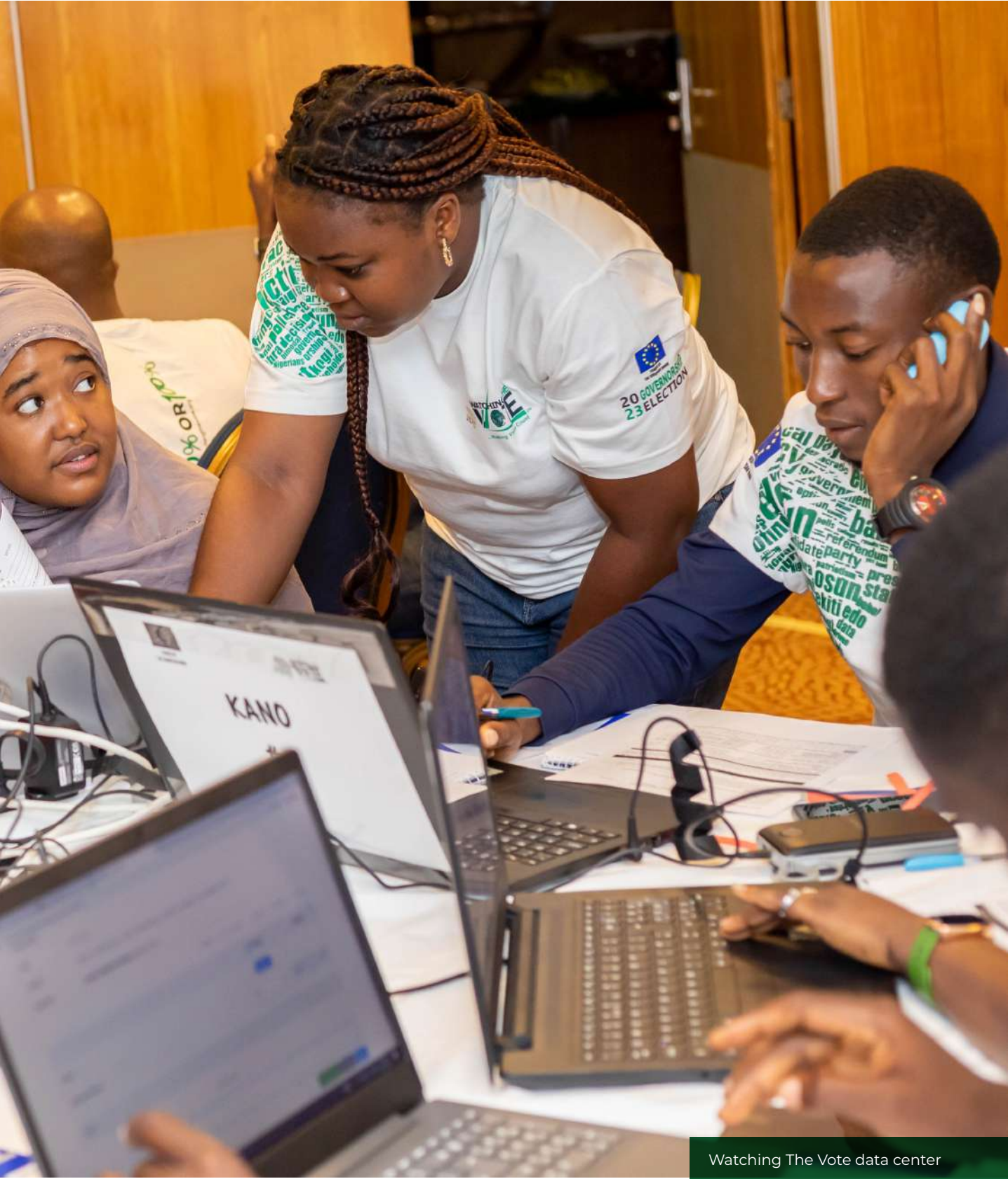
Pioneering innovative civic actions rooted in people's power that challenge established power structures and dynamics, we are transforming communities' futures at Yiaga Africa. Our approach to change centres on building evidence-based alternatives, strategic partnerships & alliances, mobilizing citizens' action that results in notable improvements and significant advancement in democratic governance.

Our approach finds expression in our election interventions that inform advocacy efforts for electoral reforms. This is strengthening electoral processes and improving electoral integrity across the continent. Yiaga Africa initiatives have led to increased civic engagement, with citizens becoming more informed, empowered, and actively involved in the democratic process through our context-driven, innovative, adaptable civic engagement programming.

By engaging with lawmakers and advocating for legislative reforms, Yiaga Africa plays a crucial role in advancing legislative agendas and passage of laws that promote transparency, accountability, and responsive governance. Yiaga Africa's strategic partnerships with government agencies, civil society organizations, idea hubs, and international partners, is a pool of technical assistance, and capacity-building support that is contributing significantly to strengthening the institutions of democracy towards delivering an equal and open society for the people

The innovative use of digital technologies has seen us expand the civic space, and promote transparency through digital platforms and tools that enable citizens to access information, engage with policymakers, and monitor governance processes.

Yiaga Africa's advocacy for good governance has resulted in tangible gains, all of which contribute to advancing democratic governance and fostering a culture of transparency, accountability, and citizen participation not just in Nigeria, but across Africa.



Watching The Vote data center



WTV Working Group member, Dr. Chris Kwaja on visiting a polling unit during the general election



WTV Working group member, Prof Nnamdi Abuja at a polling unit during the 2023 presidential election



Working session with INEC heads of voter education in the 36 states of the federation

Our Programmes, Interventions, and Impact in 2023

Yiaga Africa's program encompasses four crucial focus areas: elections, legislative engagement, citizen's engagement, and digital democracy, all geared towards promoting democratic governance, enhancing civic participation, and fostering transparency and accountability in Africa's political processes.

Elections

Goal: To enhance the election ecosystem by inspiring citizen confidence, increasing citizens' involvement, and improving the quality of elections in Nigeria and West Africa.

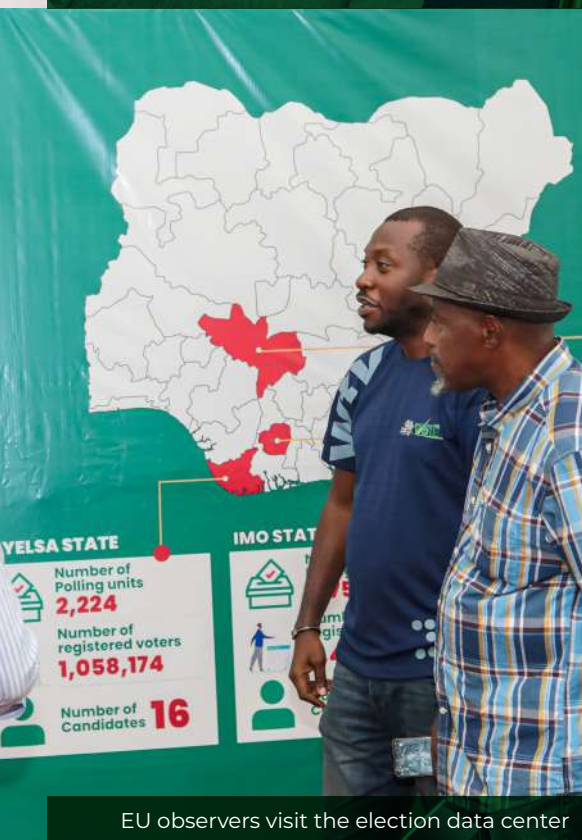
Yiaga Africa's flagship election intervention, Watching the Vote (WTV) has become the platform for mobilizing active citizen's engagement in the electoral process, providing the resources and actionable insights to shaping conversation for electoral reforms across Africa and beyond. Yiaga Africa has become a leading voice, a rallying point and a technical partner in strengthening electoral institutions and electoral processes in Africa.

In 2023, Yiaga Africa's Watching The Vote (WTV) implemented various initiatives to enhance the election ecosystem in Nigeria. Under the WTV, Yiaga Africa deployed a total of 3,836 observers to observe the 2023 presidential election. The group consists of 3,014 stationary observers stationed at polling units and 822 roving observers providing data and information to inform real-time analysis by experts. These provided the resource for real-time Informative materials developed, including pre-election observation reports and reports on the observation of general and off-cycle elections (Delta, Oyo and Benue) for active real-time citizen engagement in the elections.





Data clerk verifying report from field observers



EU observers visit the election data center

We implemented a holistic approach to mobilizing citizen engagement with the electoral process as part of our robust election strategy. Our public voter education activities successfully activated citizen participation through innovative web-based platforms and other methods designed to engage people in their everyday environments.

We are also enhancing capacity across various groups for effective electoral engagement within the broader civic space. This includes citizen observers, professional groups, members of the Nigerian Bar Association, the disability community, observers from the John Cardinal Onaiyekan Foundation, and media representatives.

Watching The Vote (WTV) has served as a crucial platform for aggregating recommendations for electoral reforms, enabling critical stakeholders to review feedback from international and domestic observation missions during Nigeria's 2023 elections. These efforts, aimed at improving the effectiveness and inclusivity of election observation and monitoring processes, have significantly strengthened our observation capacity, with a particular focus on long-term preparation and readiness for off-cycle elections.

As a leading voice for strengthening electoral democracy on the continent, our collaboration with the Center for Democracy and Development (CDD-Ghana) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) led to the hosting of the Future of Election Observation Conference in Ghana to discuss election observation adaptations. With the Kofi Annan Foundation, we provided technical support to the Gambia Mayoral Election and provided insights into emerging trends in elections in Africa among others.

Yiaga Africa's National Data Centre (NDC) and the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PRVT) mechanism are cornerstone elements in the organization's commitment to promoting transparency and accountability in electoral processes. The NDC serves as a central hub for data collection, management, and real-time media dissemination during elections. Equipped with the necessary resources, the facility accommodated 82 data entry clerks alongside the WTV team. It functioned as a nerve center where data from various sources—including Yiaga Africa's election observation missions, citizen reports, and official electoral authorities—were aggregated, verified, and analyzed.

Through the NDC, Yiaga Africa provided timely updates, analysis, and reports on key electoral indicators, thereby enhancing transparency, informing stakeholders, and detecting irregularities in the electoral process.

The PRVT, a sophisticated election observation methodology, further supports this by independently verifying the accuracy and integrity of election results. Using a network of trained observers strategically

deployed across polling stations, the PRVT independently collects and tabulates vote counts, separate from official electoral authorities. This method not only identifies potential irregularities but also provides evidence-based assessments of the credibility and fairness of election outcomes.

Together, the National Data Centre and the PRVT represent vital components of Yiaga Africa's comprehensive approach to election observation and monitoring. By enabling



Raji Fashola, Head of Election monitoring, APC presidential campaign visited the data center



Participants at a roundtable on electoral reforms

real-time data analysis and independent verification of election results, these tools significantly contribute to fostering transparency, enhancing electoral integrity, and safeguarding the democratic process.

In coordination with other EUSDGN-supported election cluster members, Yiaga Africa designed and deployed the Election Manipulation Risk Index (EMRI) as a tool to facilitate strategic election planning and deployment by relevant stakeholders to curb election manipulation and provide citizens with a clear understanding of what constitutes election manipulation and their role in risk mitigation. Three iteration reports of the index were developed and disseminated.

Overall, WTV's initiatives in 2023 showcased Yiaga Africa's commitment to building a movement that engages the electoral process from an informed, conscious standpoint that serves to improve the democratic process in Nigeria and across the continent through citizen engagement, training, advocacy, and collaboration.



Data clerks analysing field reports in the WTV data center



Safiya Bichi, Head, Knowledge Management and Learning briefing the press on the Election Results Analysis Dashboard



Anthonia Adi, Senior Program Officer with H.E Joyce Banda and Stacey Abrams at the WTV data center



Roundtable session on voter register



EU delegation at the WTV press center



L-R: Cynthia Mbamalu, Dr. Matthew Ayibakuro, FCDO and Francis Madugu, NDI at a session on voter register audits



Yiaga Africa hosting the NDI/IRI International Observation mission at the WTV data center



Paul James, Election Program Manager with visitors at the WTV data center



WTV press briefing



Cross section of panelists at The Convergence 5.0 in Abuja

Legislative Engagement

Goal: Strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of lawmakers and legislative institutions in promoting transparency, accountability, and responsive governance.

Our Legislative Engagement has become a critical component of strengthening the institutions for democratic governance, a bridge between citizens and their elected representatives; actively facilitating dialogue, collaboration, and accountability between lawmakers and the communities they serve. Yiaga Africa is providing a platform for legislative capacity to deliver responsive governance.

At the heart of representative democracy is providing the right framework for citizens' responsive legislative actions. Our support in developing legislative agenda for the National and selected State Houses of Assembly in 2023 is contributing to a legislature that is more effective in the discharge of its legislative, oversight, and representative functions. The legislative agenda with accompanying monitoring and evaluation frameworks mean that we are actively contributing to one of the most important yearnings of citizens to see transparency and accountability at the heart of the operations of democratic institutions

Yiaga Africa, through its Center for Legislative Engagement, is leveraging the power of the legislature to strengthen democracy. By fostering national discussions on essential reforms with the legislature, Yiaga Africa has successfully prioritized the electoral reform agenda for the 10th National Assembly. This effort exemplifies our capacity to amplify citizens' voices, mobilize partnerships, and create vital connections between democratic processes and governance instruments to consolidate democracy in Nigeria.

Our capacity-building initiatives and support to the leadership and various legislative committees at both national and state levels address the short-term limits and capacity deficits within the legislature, especially with new members. We provided training for the Chairmen, Deputy Chairmen, and 168 members of the 10th House of Representatives, equipping them to fulfill their legislative functions more effectively.

Our work with committees such as the Women Affairs and Social Development Committee, the Students Loans Committee, and the Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF) is instrumental in integrating broader national issues into legislative agendas, contributing to a responsive legislature. This commitment is demonstrated by our prompt response to pressing national issues, which has led to the drafting of 12 pieces of legislation.





Yetunde Bakare, Programme Manager with Speaker, House of Representatives, Rt. Hon Tajudeen Abass



CLE Visit to the House of Representatives Spokesman, Hon Akin Rotimi



Inaugural Retreat for members of the Young Parliamentarians Forum in Uyo



Center of Legislative Engagement visit to the Rt. Hon Tajudeen Abass, Speaker, House of Representatives



Group photo session at The Convergence 5.0



Cynthia Mbamalu, Director of Programs leading a session at the Ready To Run conference



Prof Attahiru Jega at Citizens Townhall on electoral reforms



CLE team with Speaker, House of Representatives



Tolulope Toromade, CLE program officer at a strategic planning meeting



Damon Wilson, NED President Visit to the Senate Committee Chair on INEC, Senator Kabir Gaya

Citizen's Engagement

Goal: To strengthen democratic governance, promote social inclusion, and empower citizens to play an active role in shaping their communities and influencing policy outcomes.

At Yiaga Africa, sustaining citizens' engagement during and beyond electoral cycles and maintaining public interest and involvement in democratic processes is an integral part of our commitment to fostering democratic ideals of participation, inclusion, and voice. We are providing the tools and spaces for eternal vigilance for citizens as a path to guaranteeing their rights, freedom, and social transformation in society.

Yiaga Africa's approach to citizen engagement is rooted in inclusivity, ensuring that marginalized groups—including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and ethnic minorities—are not only included but also empowered to advocate for their rights and interests.

A key element of active citizenship is knowledge. At Yiaga Africa, we believe that "Knowledge is Power," and curating knowledge in an empowering manner is central to our work. The opportunities provided by the 2023 elections, along with our initiatives, reflected our core belief in the power of the people. Through the Watching The Vote (WTV) initiative, we created unique experiences and pathways to empower citizens, harnessing their power in service of democracy.



A Votin Squad volunteer supporting INEC in sorting PVCs

Our WhatsApp chatbot provided 53 million Nigerians with information on how to locate their PVCs and polling units. **“My Election Buddy”** reached 30,493 citizens across 28 states, delivering crucial information in their everyday spaces. **The Yiaga Africa Youth Vote Count 2.0 Free Mega Concerts** in Lagos and Abuja leveraged youth pop culture, technology, and media to promote participation. These events resulted in the registration of **28,762 citizens** during the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) and facilitated the collection of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) for 108,126 registered voters.


WhatsApp Chatbot


A simple chatbot based on the My Election Buddy Promoted using advertising campaigns on Facebook and Instagram courtesy of Meta Ad credits.

Also promoted via Yiaga Africa social media channels

CAMPAIGN REACH	NO. OF CONVERSIONS
53 Million	58,000
	<i>~ 0.12% (linked to the ads)</i>

NUMBER OF USERS	NO. OF CONVERSATIONS
108,925	109,650

 **AVG. CONVERSATION**
9 Mins



In our efforts to boost citizen participation in the 2023 general elections, we also hosted a **civic tech startup competition**, awarding 1 million naira in grants to five innovative tech solutions aimed at enhancing citizen participation.

Yiaga Africa initiated the **“Turn-Up Democracy Challenge 1.0,”** received 245 applications, shortlisted 17, and awarded 10 winners with training and grants of one million naira each.

Yiaga Africa further expanded its scope by introducing initiatives such as PVC drives, voter enlightenment campaigns, and the establishment of **“Not Too Young To Run”** hubs to enhance civic engagement. The organization also offered training programs and hosted events like the “Community Organizing Institute” to empower individuals, communities, and civil society organizations to take the lead in democracy and electoral processes.

“Democracy 101 in 5,” our prime-time segments on Channels TV and radio, was a public

awareness initiative designed to promote democratic values and increase voter participation. This initiative emphasized the importance of sustained citizen action beyond elections to consolidate democratic gains in inclusion and participation.



Our commitment to innovating and facilitating citizen-centered approaches to mobilizing active participation in electoral and democratic processes is unwavering. At Yiaga Africa, we take pride in creatively mobilizing resources to support the political aspirations of women, young people, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.

We have built capacity of 484 poll agents from 25 youth and women candidates across seven political parties, particularly those contesting for the State House of Assembly in Kano, Lagos, and Sokoto states, to protect their mandates.

Through voter education campaigns, citizen observer training, advocacy for electoral reforms, town hall meetings, community forums, and grassroots efforts, we have equipped individuals with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to monitor elections, safeguard their votes, and hold election officials accountable. These efforts have created spaces for citizens to express their concerns, voice their aspirations, and influence policy decisions.

Yiaga Africa's citizen engagement initiatives are catalysts for democratic participation, empowerment, and social change, embodying the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability in governance. For Yiaga Africa, 2023 was a year where citizens' power reached its peak.



Voter education strategic planning retreat



Meeting with party youth leaders in Sokoto

Technology and Digital Innovation at the Service of Democracy

Goal: To utilize digital technologies to enhance democratic governance, promote civic engagement, and empower citizens to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

Yiaga Africa leverages digital technologies such as mobile applications, online platforms, and social media to facilitate civic engagement and participation. These innovative tools have enabled citizens to access information, engage with policymakers, and take part in decision-making processes. Our initiatives also promote digital literacy and inclusion by providing training, resources, and support, ensuring that citizens—especially those from marginalized groups and communities—have the skills and access needed to engage in democratic processes through technological means, thereby promoting digital rights and freedoms.

The use of these digital technologies by Yiaga Africa enhances transparency in decision-making and creates digital mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on public affairs. Through these efforts, democratic governance is strengthened, and citizens are empowered to hold their leaders accountable.

Yiaga Africa collaborates with a broad range of stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and international partners, to advance digital democracy initiatives. These collaborations have amplified Yiaga Africa's impact, expanded its reach, and fostered collective action toward achieving the shared goals of democratic governance and civic engagement.



A participant pitching an idea at the civic-tech event in Lagos



Data clerks at the ERAD data center in Abuja





Election Results Analysis Dashboard (ERAD) data center for 2023 presidential election

Innovations

During the reporting year, Yiaga Africa remained on the cutting edge of innovation in advancing democracy and citizen engagement across Africa, particularly in Nigeria. As part of its efforts to increase citizens' participation in the 2023 general elections, Yiaga Africa partnered with civic tech startups, civic hubs, incubators, and organizations that use technology to influence citizens' participation preparatory to general elections. Several key innovations accentuated Yiaga Africa's efforts to leverage technology, partnerships, and strategic approaches to address emerging challenges and drive positive change.

MEET THE WINNERS OF OUR CIVIC TECH CONTEST



Vote023
Emergent Labs
<https://vote023.org>



Wi-App
Brace-Up The Young
<https://wi-app.org>



I GO VOTE
I Go Vote
<https://igovote.org/>



The JJC App
The Ovholen Company
<https://thejjcapp.com/>



Safe Vote App
Roundstone Consulting Ltd.
https://twitter.com/safe_vote



Wi-App: Increased inclusion in Nigeria's electoral process by helping locate accessible Polling Units.



Vote023: Engaged citizens in 5 major languages via calls to promote voter participation.



JJC App & Safe Vote App: Provided real-time assistance for locating polling places and focused on electoral safety for women & girls.



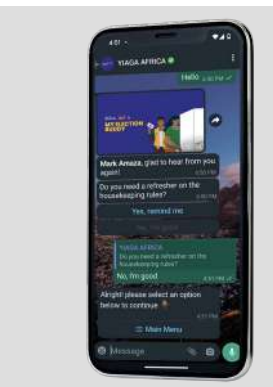
I Go Vote: Provided comprehensive candidate lists for informed decisions and real-time voting information.



Election Result Analysis Dashboard (ERAD): Enhanced result transparency and combat electoral fraud. The ERAD efficiently tracked and analysed data from the IReV platform in real-time, fetching results from INEC's portal on election day. The analyzed data was then shared with the public through the media, providing election data directly from polling units.



My Election Buddy: An easily comprehensible Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material, was developed and disseminated by members of the Voting Squad, with its mobilisation efforts reaching 30,493 citizens across 28 states.



WhatsApp Chatbot: Provided citizens with information on how to locate their PVCs and polling units. The solution reached 53 million Nigerians and 108,925 users.

Making Strides in Africa/ Emerging Impact in Africa

Yiaga Africa launched Africa's first database for young people in elective and appointive leadership positions—the Youth Representation in Africa Dashboard (YRAD). This resource tool is designed for researchers, youth organizations, development partners, and political parties, profiling and celebrating young African leaders for their contributions to improving legislative governance across the continent.

For the 2023 general elections in Sierra Leone and Liberia, Yiaga Africa deployed both long-term and short-term observers. In Liberia, the mission focused on studying the electoral governance architecture, particularly the election results management system, the role of electoral technology, and trends in citizen participation. This work builds on Yiaga Africa's expertise as one of the leading organizations on election matters in Africa, with previous missions to countries including The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Ethiopia, Zambia, South Africa, and the United States.

In partnership with the Campaign for Good Governance (CGG) in Sierra Leone and with the support of The Luminate Group, Yiaga Africa launched the #ThePowerOf18 Challenge. This initiative mobilized and supported civic projects from young Sierra Leoneans, successfully engaging over 75,000 youths in the electoral process.

As Yiaga Africa continues to advance democratic practices and empower citizens to reclaim the state, the organization remains committed to supporting young civic actors across the continent, providing technical assistance to election management bodies, promoting electoral integrity, and enhancing citizen participation in the electoral process. We strive to build a democratic and people-driven Africa.





Yiaga Africa observation mission with the Chairperson of the Liberia Electoral Commission in Monrovia



Prof Christopher Stone at the Abuja Symposium on Strength and Solidarity



Expert Working Group meeting on YRAD in Nairobi



@Yiaga Africa



Rizzan Nassuna, GIZ and Gram Matenga, IDEA at the expert meeting



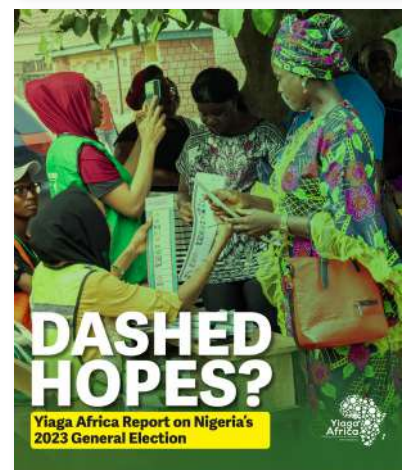
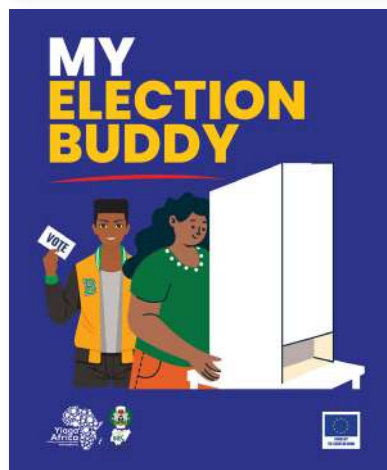
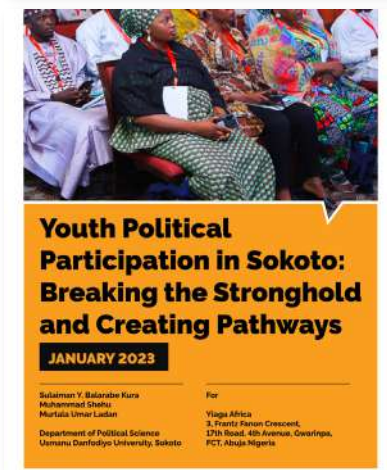
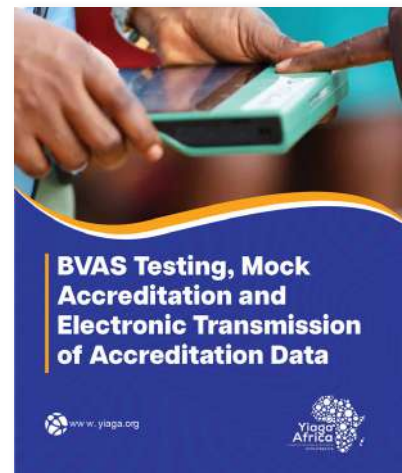
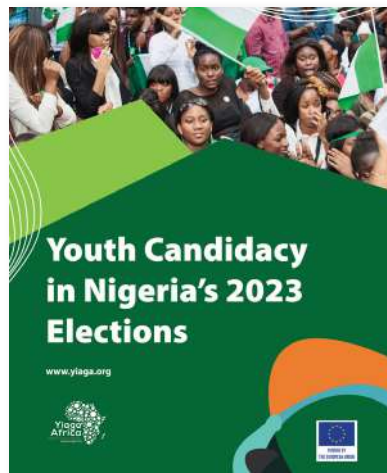
Ibraheem Sanusi, GIZ Ethiopia at the expert meeting

Nerima Wako, Siasa Place, Kenya and Robert Gerenge, UNDP at the expert meeting



Participants at the Abuja Symposium on Strength and Solidarity for Human Rights

Our Publications



Publications can be downloaded from www.yiaga.org

Re-imagining the Future

As we continue our journey toward advancing democracy, promoting good governance, and enabling citizen engagement across Africa, we are committed to reimagining a bright future for Nigeria and the continent as a whole. Building on our past achievements and core values of innovation, inclusivity, and excellence, we have embraced a forward-thinking approach to our vision and strategies. Through strategic reflection and collective dialogue, we have identified key areas for growth, innovation, and impact, shaping a bold vision for the future of Yiaga Africa. Our focus will be on institutional strengthening, citizen-centric programming, digital innovation, and grassroots mobilization.

We recognize the evolving democratic landscape in Africa and global geopolitical shifts. To respond effectively, we are expanding and retooling our analytical capabilities and resources, both internally and externally. Yiaga Africa will play a crucial role in reimagining and shaping the future of governance and democracy on the continent.

Our commitment to innovation drives us to explore new



A first time voter undergoing registration by an INEC official at the Youth Vote Count concert venue



Participants of the Community Organising School



approaches and technologies in our advocacy efforts. By leveraging digital platforms, data analytics, and tech-enabled solutions, we are expanding our reach, enhancing our impact, and amplifying citizen voices like never before. From virtual engagement platforms to youth-led initiatives such as **“Youth Vote Count,”** **“Youth Leadership Forums,”** and **“Digital Storytelling Campaigns,”** we are pioneering new ways to connect with communities, empower individuals, and drive positive change in the digital age.

We view democracy and governance holistically, recognizing the need for an integrated, socio-ecological model in our programming. This approach will ensure the sustainability of our efforts.

As we work toward change, we will continue to collaborate with local and international institutions, technology companies, and other key actors. Recognizing the power of collective action and shared expertise, we will sustain existing relationships and actively seek new strategic alliances to advance our organizational objectives.



Humans at Yiaga Africa

Our team comprises a diverse group of committed individuals united by a shared passion for promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance across Africa. From seasoned experts in democracy and governance to grassroots activists and young leaders, the team embodies a commitment to excellence, integrity, and social impact. Led by the Executive Director, Samson Itodo, each member brings unique perspectives, skills, and experiences, enriching the organization's work and amplifying its impact.

THE BOARD



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Board Chairman



Dr. Aisha Abdullahi
Member



Ezenwa Nwagwu
Member



Prof. Nnamdi Aduba
Member



Dr. Chris Kwaja
Member



Samson Itodo
Executive Director



Cynthia Mbamalu
Director of Programmes



Olusegun Ogundare
*Head of Operations
& Research, Africa
Division*



Bichi Safiya
*Head, Knowledge
Management &
Learning*



Ibrahim Faruk
*Africa Program
Coordinator*



Joshua Ayotunde
*Manager, Audit &
Compliance*



Ogbonna Ugorji
*Ag. Head, Administration
& Human Resources*



Paul James
*Program Manager
(Election)*



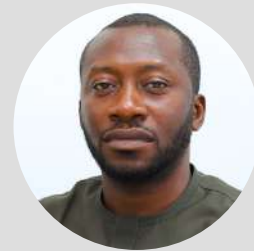
Dr. Sam Ogwuche
Coordinator, CLE



Yetunde Bakare
*Senior Programme
Officer, CLE*



Onda Anthonia
*Senior Programme
Officer, CE*



Mark Amaza
*Senior Media & Comms
Officer*



Folorunsho Samuel
Senior IT Officer



Sanusi Olaniyan
*Programme Officer,
CE*



Tumininu Daniel
Research Officer



Opeyemi Haruna
*Programme Officer,
Elections*



Tolulope Famoroti
*Programme Officer,
CLE*



Aanuoluwapo Kukoyi
Programme Officer, CE



Rotnen Lepagek
*Programme Officer,
KML*



Prince Gabriel
*Programme Officer,
Elections*



Onugu Ndukwe
*Technology &
Innovation Advisor*



Ahmed Ibrahim
Finance Officer



Stephen Momoh
*Digital Design
Officer*



Debbie Popoola
Finance Assistant



Josephine Gowal
*Front Desk /
Administrative Assistant*



Ocheikwu Esther
*Administrative
Assistant*



Paul Madaki
*Media &
Communications
Assistant*



Ifeanyi Mkpume
*Media &
Communications
Assistant*



Blessing Bulus
Office Support Staff



Helen Genesis
Office Support Staff



Musa Mohammed
Office Assistant



Ganiyu Kareem
Office Assistant



Isah Adamu
Office Assistant

Our Financials

Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Income and Expenditure

	31 December 2023 N'	31 December 2022 N'
Income	1,425,383,505	2,825,362,850
Project Implementation Costs	(1,207,534,671)	(1,911,369,747)
Gross Income before operating costs	217,848,834	913,993,103
General and administrative expenses	(199,186,241)	(252,559,368)
Other gains/(losses) - net	-	-
Operating income	18,662,593	661,433,735
Finance income	-	-
Finance costs	(3,077,939)	(1,524,503)
Profit before income tax	15,584,654	659,909,232
Income tax expense	-	-
Profit for the year	15,584,654	659,909,232
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	15,584,654	659,909,232

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	N'	N'
ASSETS (Total assets)	448,550,644	978,991,454
LIABILITIES	584,333,500	
Programme/Projects Implementation Costs	1,207,534,671	1,911,369,747
Employee cost		
Wages and salaries	-	-
Other staff costs	161,493,724	235,517,812
General and administrative expenses	199,186,241	252,559,368

Our 2024 Strategy

Our work in 2024 will be guided by the Provocations, Amplification, Collaboration and Solidarity (PACS), a conceptual framework designed to foster coherence, innovation and effectiveness

- **Provocations:** Prioritize the production of cutting-edge knowledge and lead policy debates and activities that challenge the conventional wisdom or introduce new ideas.
- **Amplification:** Spotlight and magnify the work of members of our growing community.
- **Collaboration:** Build and maintain partnerships with old and new allies. Make Yiaga Africa a partner of choice for organizations and individuals aligned with Yiaga Africa values.
- **Solidarity:** Build and practice rigorous solidarity through collective action, and movement building.



Our Partners

One of our greatest strengths is in the partnerships that we build and nurture. Serving to accentuate our strengths and providing us the reach that our efforts alone can never achieve. Our partnership is diverse and rooted in the values that we share and our aspirations to achieve a democratic and free society.



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DEMOCRACY



NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTE



**OPEN SOCIETY
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Canada



include.innovate.influence.

Get in touch!

Yiaga Africa

Plot 54 Casdastral Zone, Idu, Karmo, Abuja 900108, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

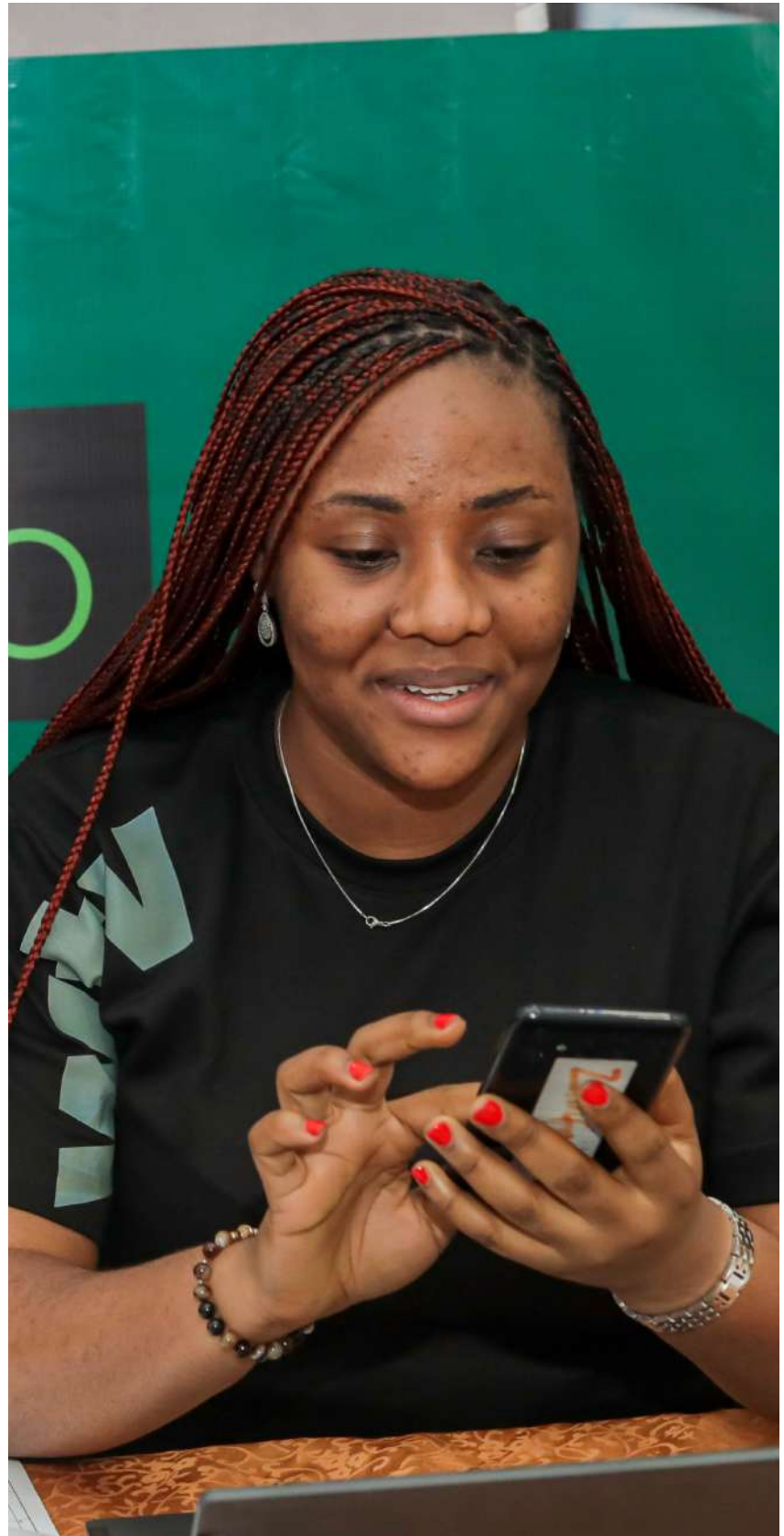
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www.yiaga.org



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For more information about our work:

www.yiaga.org



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OUR WEBSITE

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900108, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

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