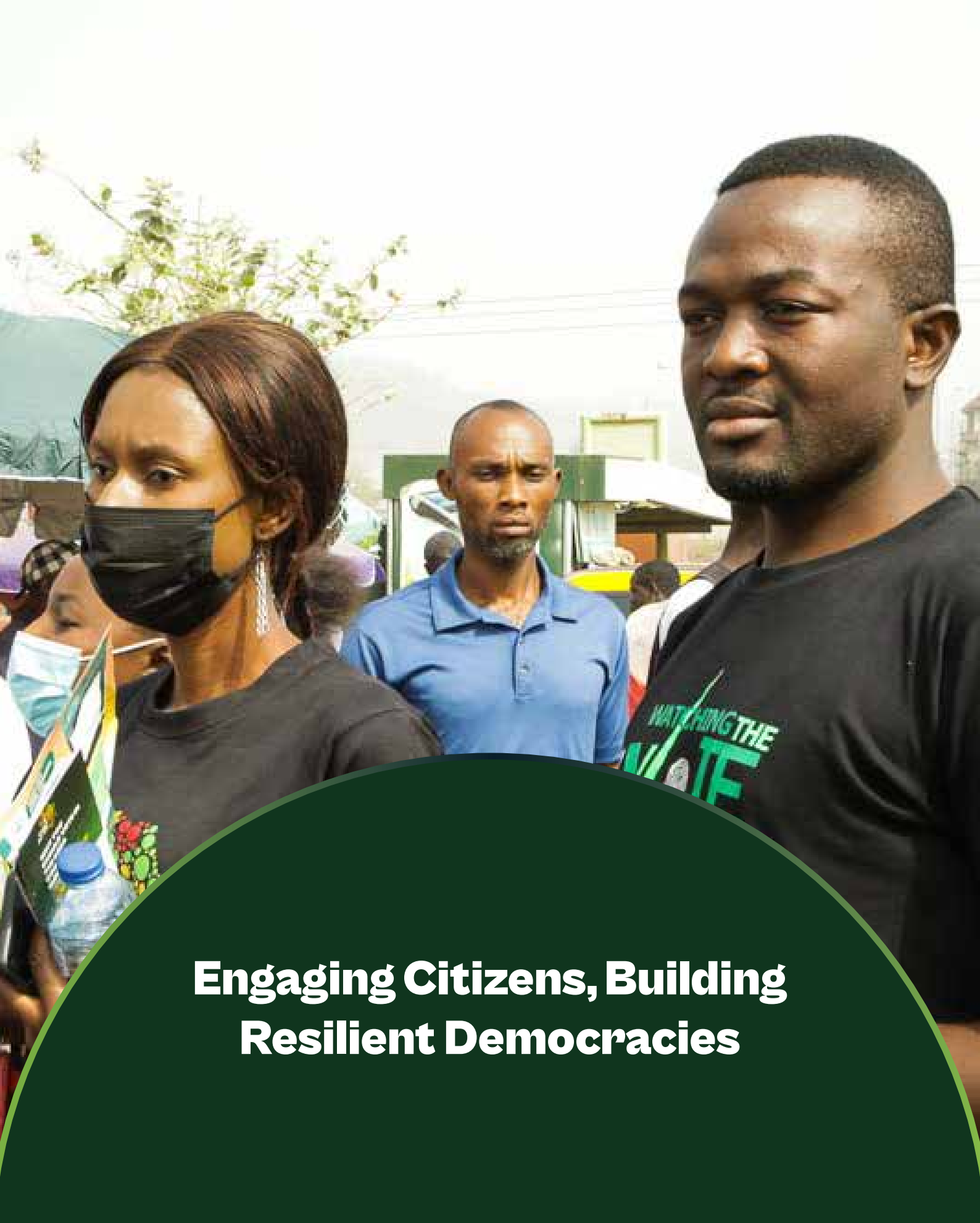


2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**Engaging Citizens,
Building Resilient
Democracies**



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Resilient Democracies**



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Message from the Board Chairman and Executive Director

Dear Partners, Stakeholders, and Friends of Yiaga Africa,



As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride and gratitude that we present the Yiaga Africa Annual Report for 2022. This report highlights our collective efforts, achievements, and unwavering commitment to advancing democracy and good governance in Nigeria and Africa.

2022 was a year of significant milestones for Yiaga Africa. It marked 15 years of dedicated service to the cause of people-driven democracy, a journey that has seen us grow from a grassroots organization to a leading voice in promoting democratic governance, citizen participation, and electoral integrity in Africa. The theme for 2022—building on our legacy while embracing innovation—was evident in every initiative we undertook.

This year's activities were underscored by our focus on Nigeria's upcoming 2023 General Elections. Recognizing the critical importance of these elections, we intensified our efforts in voter education, electoral reforms, and citizen engagement.

Our work, supported by strategic partnerships with international and local organizations, was pivotal in shaping the democratic discourse in Nigeria.

As we navigated the challenges of a complex political environment, we remained steadfast in our mission to empower young people, advocate for inclusive governance, and strengthen democratic institutions. The achievements documented in this report are a testament to the dedication of our team, the trust of our partners, and the resilience of the communities we serve.

In 2022, we also made significant strides in knowledge management, capacity building, and fostering collaborative relationships with stakeholders across

various sectors. The impact of our work has been amplified by the strategic use of media and communications, which has helped to elevate Yiaga Africa's role as a credible source of information and a leader in the democratic space.

As we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the coming year, we remain committed to our core values of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity. We are confident that, with the continued support of our partners and stakeholders, we will make even greater strides in our quest to promote democracy, good governance, and human rights in Africa.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire Yiaga Africa team, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have walked this journey with us. Your support and collaboration have been instrumental to our success, and we look forward to continuing this important work together.

With gratitude and best regards,

Dr. Hussaini Abdu

Board Chairman,
Yiaga Africa

Samson Itodo

Executive Director,
Yiaga Africa



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

APC	-	All Progressives Congress
BTO	-	Beating The Odds
BVAS	-	Bimodal Voter Accreditation System
CLE	-	Centre for Legislative Engagement
COI	-	Community Organising Institute
COIP	-	Constituency Office Internship Program
CSO	-	Civil Society Organisation
CVR	-	Continuous Voter Registration
DCO	-	Display, Claims and Objections
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African States
EMB	-	Election Management Body
EMRI	-	Election Manipulation Risk index
ERAD	-	Election Results Analysis Dashboard
EU	-	European Union
EUSDGN	-	European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria
FCDO	-	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FCT	-	Federal Capital Territory
G & D	-	Governance and Development
GE	-	General Election
GOTV	-	Get Out The Vote
HR	-	Human Resources
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technology
IPAC	-	Inter Party Advisory Council
IRI	-	International Republican Institute
INEC	-	Independent National Electoral Commission
KML	-	Knowledge, Management and Learning

LGA	-	Local Government Area
LTO	-	Long Term Observer
NASS	-	National Assembly
NDI	-	National Democratic Institute
NED	-	National Endowment for Democracy
NOA	-	National Orientation Agency
NTYTR	-	Not Too Young To Run
NUJ	-	National Union of Journalists
NYSC	-	National Youth Service Corps
PDP	-	People's Democratic Party
PREO	-	Pre-Election Observation
PU	-	Polling Unit
PVC	-	Permanent Voters' Card
PWD	-	Persons with Disability
SFP	-	State Focal Person
SMS	-	Short Messaging Service
SOP	-	Standard Operation Procedures
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
VR	-	Voter Registry
WTV	-	Watching The Vote
YPF	-	Young Parliamentarians Forum
YVC	-	Youths Vote Count Campaign

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.



Yiaga Africa team on a community outreach for the FCT local council elections



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 Reach at a Glance



39 Trainings
Organised/
Conducted



2,295 Election
Observers
Deployed



5 Elections
Observed



5 Technical Assistance
to Election Observation
Groups in Africa



2 Conferences



12
Roundtables
Hosted



22
Publications



3 Researches
Conducted



49 Subgrants
issued to youth
organisations & civil
society organisations



660,930
People
Reached via
Social Media



3 International
events hosted and/or
participated in



5 Community
Outreaches

Executive Summary

As we reflect on the past year, this annual report delves into Yiaga Africa's program interventions throughout 2022. It was a crucial period, aptly labeled the "election year," given its significance leading up to Nigeria's General Elections in 2023. Our focus during this time was centered around the off-cycle elections in Ekiti and Osun States, as well as laying the groundwork for the 2023 general election.

In 2022, Yiaga Africa aimed to reinvent itself while celebrating 15 years of promoting people-driven democracy and development in Africa. Amid a global decline in democracy, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where authoritarianism was on the rise, it became necessary to sustain efforts contributing to the region's development. The West African sub-region faced numerous challenges, including coups, political crises, insecurity, economic difficulties, and social inequality, making it vulnerable to undemocratic takeovers. Furthermore, struggles with poverty and dissatisfaction, exacerbated by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, contributed to a growing disconnect between citizens and governance. Developing democracies are constantly challenged to expand freedom, equality, and participation amidst instability.

In response, young people increasingly expressed their dissatisfaction through protests and social media. While these actions reflect a belief in democracy, there is a risk that a critical mass may support undemocratic takeovers, as witnessed in Burkina Faso. Building trust in democracy involves ensuring credible elections, investing in a resilient legislature, and promoting justice and social equality.

For Nigeria, 2022 was crucial as the year preceding the 2023 general elections. Consequently, Yiaga Africa focused on reviewing the legal framework, supporting essential amendments to the law, engaging citizens—especially the youth—and collaborating with key institutions to enhance democratic practices. The organization's programs aimed to reinvent strategies to advance democratic practices and empower citizens to reclaim the state.

Throughout the reporting year, we executed major initiatives funded by grants from the European Union's Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria program (EU-SDGN II) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Luminate and Voice/

Oxfam also played pivotal roles by providing grants for implementing key activities in 2022.

In the unfolding narrative of 2022, the Centre for Legislative Engagement (CLE) took center stage, implementing two major grants: the Spotlight Initiative Project and the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria Project. These initiatives aimed to strengthen laws and policies safeguarding women and girls and to enhance the legislative fabric from the national to local government levels.

The CLE partnered with the EU Delegation and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on voter mobilization and education campaigns, through mega concerts like the Youth Vote Count Campaign echoing across Lagos and Abuja, harmonizing with pop culture influencers to disseminate vital voter education messages. The narrative extended to community outreach, volunteer recruitment, and the Voting Squad Program, intertwining innovation and inclusivity to shape the future of political participation.

These efforts resulted in 46,524 Nigerians registering to vote, armed with newfound awareness. Additionally, the “60% of Us” Project tapped into the power of music and comedy, with Chuks D General captivating over 6,000 NYSC Corps members through ‘The NYSC Experience’ show. The “Christmas in The City,” event hosted in partnership with Chuks D General emphasized the importance of participating in the PVC collection exercise and voting on

election day.

The CLE’s masterstroke in 2022 was the passage of the Electoral Act 2022 after persistent advocacy with other civil society groups. As this chapter closes, the next awaits in 2023, focusing on documenting the implementation and challenges for possible amendments in the 10th Assembly. The Constituency Office Internship Program (COIP) brought forth significant achievements, including increased visits in Kaduna North Federal Constituency and enhanced organizational structures in Aniocha/Oshimili Constituency, Delta State. The program also pioneered software solutions for data storage, showcasing the power of innovation in bridging gaps.

Yiaga Africa, through the Governance and Democracy program, undertook various activities to enhance youth participation in politics and democracy. Key initiatives included technical meetings with youth leaders of political parties in Sokoto and Lagos states, focusing on challenges faced by young leaders and developing a youth leadership development plan. Not Too Young To Run Town Hall Meetings were organized in Lagos and Sokoto states, encouraging youth engagement and sign-ups for Not Too Young To Run hubs. Voter registration and mobilization drives, including the #SixtyPercentofUs Project, aimed to increase youth participation and PVC collection. The Convergence 4.0 event brought together over 100 youth candidates from Northern Nigeria, providing capacity-building sessions for effective leadership.

In 2022, Yiaga Africa aimed to reinvent itself while celebrating 15 years of promoting people-driven democracy and development in Africa.

Furthermore, media roundtables in Sokoto and Lagos states aimed to improve the quality of media reporting on youth political participation. Run To Win Town Halls in Enugu and Lagos focused on supporting youth candidates, and the Election Law Clinic provided pro bono legal services to young candidates. Political Organizing Labs empowered women and young people contesting in the 2023 elections. Community Organizing Trainings in Sokoto and Lagos strengthened the capacity of civic actors and activists, emphasizing leadership, advocacy, and engagement skills.

Innovative initiatives included the Civic Innovative Challenge, where seed grants

were awarded to winners implementing projects across Edo, Kwara, Taraba, Bayelsa, Bauchi, and Kaduna states. These projects ranged from civic education and mobilization to voter sensitization rallies, radio programs, and youth leadership conferences.

As we reflect on the year 2022, the successful observation of the FCT Area Council Election in February marked the beginning of a series of impactful programs by the elections team. Observing the FCT area council elections involved advocacy visits to election stakeholders, leading to the forging of new alliances and enhancing the overall election process. Our team extended



citizen mobilization efforts through public voter education outreaches in the FCT, Ekiti, and Osun States. Inspired by the power of information, we engaged residents, emphasizing the importance of collecting their PVCs and participating in the upcoming elections. Cross-border collaborations were integral to our strategy. We actively participated in conferences, providing technical support to institutions and organizations. A noteworthy partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) resulted in the organization of a Global Parallel Voting Tabulation (PVT) Academy in Abuja, bringing together representatives from 15 countries across the globe.

Outreach and visibility actions were not left behind as Yiaga Africa focused on enhancing evidence-based impact in democratic practices. Aligning with its vision to “reflect, document, and celebrate,” the Media and Communications department formulated a strategy that encompassed support for programs, community engagement, evidence-based storytelling, and brand strengthening.

In 2022, Yiaga Africa’s Knowledge Management and Learning (KML) department focused on generating and documenting knowledge resources in thematic areas while also expanding its scope. Knowledge products included an election index, academic journals, toolkits, and studies in various African regions. The department actively engaged in data mining, specifically Nigeria’s election data, and capacity building of citizen observers.

To build organizational effectiveness, the Human Resources and Administration department aligned its operational initiatives with Yiaga Africa’s Strategic Plan, identifying ways to leverage technology for cost reduction and improved internal efficiencies. The department also implemented processes to improve recruitment, retention, and enrichment of staff experiences, hiring a total of 22 new staff in different roles.

Noteworthy among our achievements are the impactful partnerships forged with both national and international organizations spanning civil society, media, and universities. We strategically collaborated with grassroots organizations across Nigeria and reached out to new demographics, such as market women, who became conduits for decentralizing voter and civic education.

While the groundwork for certain activities, especially those related to the upcoming General Elections, was laid in 2022, the tangible outcomes and impacts materialized in the subsequent year, 2023. This report meticulously documents these developments, providing a comprehensive account of our journey and contributions to the democratic landscape.

Key learnings across various programs implemented by Yiaga Africa in 2022 include:

- **Innovative program design:** There was a need to sustain the crafting of programs that directly respond to contextual needs and realities, including emphasizing inclusivity. An innovative approach to program design dissects the diverse experiences of the target audience while employing strategies to address the interests of marginalized groups, incorporating learning and reflection for evidence-based impact.
- **Sustainability framework for program design and implementation:** Given the challenges of a shrinking funding space, scalability and adaptability become pivotal considerations in program design. The conception of project ideas should prioritize maximizing both human and financial resources, ensuring scalability within the designated region or sphere of influence.
- **Building a “people-centered” brand:** Recognizing Yiaga Africa as a service provider underscores the importance of investing in community engagement, feedback mechanisms, and service optimization. It is essential to design programs that align with the needs of audiences and major stakeholders. Furthermore, fostering platforms for community agency, solidarity, and informed action is critical.
- **Civic-Tech in Today’s World:** Acknowledging the current landscape, Civic-Tech emerges as a fundamental aspect of contemporary society and a significant driver for future citizen engagement in democracy.

We invite you to journey through the narrative of the results achieved in 2022, captured across five chapters, each dedicated to chronicling the activities and outcomes of Yiaga Africa’s diverse departments. These departments include The Centre for Legislative Engagement, Governance and Development Program, Elections Program, Media and Communications, Knowledge Management and Learning, and Human Resources and Administration.

Chapter 1: Centre for Legislative Engagement (CLE)

In Nigeria's vibrant democracy, the National Assembly, a key democratic institution, stands as an anchor whose efficacy relies on factors such as political acumen, human capacity development, institutional communication, and infrastructure. When these elements are lacking, legislative governance suffers. Recognizing the pivotal role of a well-equipped legislature, Yiaga Africa established the Centre for Legislative Engagement (CLE). Positioned as a beacon for legislative support, CLE is dedicated to fostering a citizen-driven legislature, equipping it with the expertise required to fulfill its mandate in lawmaking, representation, and oversight.

Functioning as a cerebral think-tank, Yiaga CLE delivers high-quality research and

capacity-building initiatives, encompassing legislative drafting, bill analysis, parliamentary committee support, and other interventions. In its pursuit of bridging the gap between citizens and elected representatives, CLE serves as a conduit for meaningful engagement.

In 2022, the Centre implemented two major grants: The Spotlight Initiative Project funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria Project (EU-SDGN). These projects aimed to strengthen laws and policies protecting women and girls and enhance the legislature's capacity for good governance and sustainable development.



Among the notable achievements of Yiaga Africa's CLE in 2022 were:

- 01 Enhanced Citizens' Knowledge of the Electoral Process through Advocacy Campaigns:** CLE played a significant role in legislative advocacy and technical support for the passage of the Electoral Act, 2022. It provided increased institutional support to the Senate Committee on INEC, assisting in drafting reports and mobilizing citizens for public hearings on the electoral bill. Additionally, the Centre developed knowledge materials within the #FixElectionsNG campaign, improving citizens' understanding of the new Electoral Act.

- 02 Improved Citizens' Participation in the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) Process:** The Youth Votes Count Campaigns facilitated the registration of 28,762 eligible citizens as new voters.

- 03 Increased Citizen Action through the Youth Votes Count Voting Squad:** During the INEC Display Claims & Objections exercise in November 2022, 500 citizens across Abia, Ebonyi, and Benue States were directly supported in accessing and disseminating information on reviewing voter information and submitting claims.

- 04 Enhanced Electoral Participation through Technology:** CLE developed a tech solution called the PVC Locator, which provided citizens with information on electoral activities. This service recorded 700 users during the Display Claims and Objections (DCO) exercise.

05 Human Capacity Development through the Constituency Office Internship Program (COIP): CLE facilitated the deployment and engagement of 33 young people in Constituency Offices to enhance representation quality at the grassroots and promote youth participation in the legislative process. The internship program improved interpersonal relationships between staff at constituency offices and the youth, resulting in a 67% increase in constituent visits in Kaduna North Federal Constituency, Kaduna State. The adoption of visitor forms for documenting citizens' information and requests in Isu/Njaba/Nwangele/Nkwerre, Imo State, AMAC/Bwari FCT, and Okitipupa, Ondo State, was another outcome.

06 Enhanced INEC's Administrative Process for PVC Collection: Following successful mobilization efforts for the CVR at the Youth Votes Count Mega Concerts, CLE collaborated with INEC's ICT and VR departments to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for PVC Collection.

07 Reduction in Sexual Violence through Legislative Advocacy: CLE's efforts contributed to the passage and assent of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) in Adamawa State. The law provides for the prohibition and protection of women and girls from violence.

08 Strengthened Existing Laws on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV): CLE led the establishment of a working group that undertook a clause-by-clause review of the VAPP Act for amendment. The group comprised prosecutors, the Nigerian Police Force, Civil Society Organizations, first responders, the Nigerian Bar Association, and representatives of the parliament.

Key interventions by Yiaga Africa CLE in 2022 included:

- 01 Establishment of the Constituency Office Internship Program (COIP):** This program aimed to bridge the gap between legislators and constituents. In 2022, 31 interns were trained and deployed to 31 constituency offices, reporting various positive outcomes, including improved relationships, increased visits, and enhanced understanding of the legislative process.
- 02 Youth Vote Count 2.0:** Launched in 2018 by the EU, Youth Vote Count 2.0 organized Mega Music Concerts in Lagos and Abuja, mobilizing 28,762 new registrants and engaging 228 volunteers. The events included community outreaches, volunteer recruitment, and the Voting Squad program, all aimed at increasing youth voter turnout. The concerts also served as platforms to disseminate voter education content and popularize innovations and reforms introduced by INEC to enhance the integrity of the 2023 General Elections.
- 03 Get-Out-The-Vote Campaign:** Yiaga Africa CLE recruited and trained 216 volunteers from 26 states across Africa to host Get-Out-The-Vote campaigns in local communities and support other voter education activities undertaken by the National Orientation Agency (NOA), CSOs, and religious organizations. The volunteers sensitized over 4,000 people across 26 states.
- 04 Ward Locator SMS Service:** This service enabled ease of locating Polling Units and validating information in INEC's published preliminary voters register from 2011-2022. The Ward Locator SMS Service was the first of its kind, allowing users to text the name of their ward and LGA to specific numbers. The service recorded 202 SMS requests during the INEC Display Claims and Objections.
- 05 Mainstreaming Gender in the Electoral Process:** Yiaga Africa documented the stories of young women who overcame obstacles and emerged as candidates in the 2019 elections. The book "Beating The Odds 3" was launched to provide perspectives on the challenges, lessons, and gains of women's political participation.

- 06 Youth Candidacy Report:** This report analyzed the emergence of young people as candidates for the 2023 elections, providing recommendations for supporting youth political participation, including financial support, targeted campaigns, and collaboration among CSOs.
- 07 Election Manipulation Risk Index (EMRI):** CLE designed this data-driven tool to monitor strategies and tools used by election stakeholders to curb election manipulation. The tool classified states based on identified risks and indicators, such as INEC capture, manipulation of the voters register, and voter suppression. Findings from the EMRI were publicly published within the reporting period.
- 08 Enhanced Electoral Integrity through PVT:** CLE recruited and deployed 900 polling unit observers and trained State Focal Persons and LGA supervisors to undertake the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) in three governorship elections. CLE also provided technical support to INEC in developing guidelines for the collection of Permanent Voters' Cards.
- 09 Support to Senate Committee on INEC:** Yiaga Africa's technical support to the Senate Committee on INEC focused on the Electoral Offences Commission Bill and the Electoral Act 2022. This support included bill analysis, public hearings, the development of a factsheet on the bill, and committee meetings.
- 10 Collaboration with the Governance and Development (G & D) Program:** This collaboration focused on implementing the #SixtyPercenterofUS project through its Election10in5 Television Program, a daily voter education show that simplified provisions of the Electoral Act 2022 to improve citizens' knowledge of the legal framework for elections.





Challenges encountered during program implementation:

While significant achievements were recorded, several challenges were faced during the implementation of various actions in 2022. They include:

- **Bureaucracy in Civil Service:** The bureaucracy in the civil service hindered effective engagement with relevant ministries, departments, and agencies. This was evident in the absence of the Ministry of Women Affairs at the Working Group meeting.
- **Lack of Cohesion Among Enforcement Agencies:** The lack of cohesion and collaboration among enforcement agencies in response to SGBV made it difficult for CSOs to engage in the process and limited access to quality services by victims. Yiaga Africa's convergence serves as a platform to promote collaboration with key institutions.
- **Low Publicity for SMS Solutions:** The SMS Solutions service received low publicity due to unaired TV and radio jingles.
- **Security Concerns in Lagos:** The tense political climate led to security concerns in Lagos State before the Youth Vote Count Concert.
- **Language Barriers:** Language barriers in some states, where local dialects dominated, required facilitators who spoke the local language for training.

Key learnings:

- **Building Unconventional Partnerships:** Unconventional partnerships enhance results, as seen in the mobilization strategy for the Youth Vote Count Concerts.
- **Adopting Disability-Sensitive Program Design:** Ensuring inclusivity in addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) requires a disability-sensitive program design.
- **Citizen Engagement in Legislative Processes:** Citizen engagement improves the quality of legislation and legislative action.
- **Implementation of the VAPP Act in Adamawa State:** Following the passage of the VAPP Act, it is essential to develop an implementation or action plan, providing a roadmap for all stakeholders to ensure the successful enactment of the law.
- **Stronger Collaborative Effort on SGBV Response:** There is a need for a stronger collaborative effort and coordination among MDAs, especially the police force, NAPTIP, and first responders, to ensure the protection of victims and access to justice.

As we turn the page to the next chapter, Yiaga Africa-CLE continues its commitment to fostering an informed, engaged, and participatory citizenry in Nigeria's democratic processes. The challenges and lessons learned serve as building blocks for the future endeavors of the Centre, shaping the narrative of a robust and citizen-centric legislative landscape in the country.



Chapter 2: Governance and Development Program

In the dynamic landscape of Nigerian politics, ensuring free, fair, and credible elections is a cornerstone for sustaining democracy. To further this objective, the Governance and Development unit implemented several initiatives in 2022, primarily targeting the reinforcement of democratic tenets, especially at the grassroots level.

Yiaga Africa, through the Governance and Democracy Unit, undertook various activities to enhance youth participation in politics and democracy.



Key initiatives included:

- 01 Technical Meetings with Youth Leaders:** These meetings were held with youth leaders of political parties in Sokoto and Lagos states, focusing on the challenges faced by young leaders and the development of a youth leadership plan. These sessions aimed to empower youth leaders with the necessary skills and knowledge to actively participate in political processes.

- 02 Not Too Young To Run Town Hall Meetings:** Organized in Lagos and Sokoto states, these meetings encouraged youth engagement and the signing up for Not Too Young To Run hubs, fostering a culture of political participation among young people.

- 03 Voter Registration and Mobilization Drives:** Initiatives like the #SixtyPercentofUs Project aimed to increase youth participation and PVC collection. The project focused on mobilizing young voters in areas with low registration and participation rates.

- 04 The Convergence 4.0:** This event brought together over 100 youth candidates from Northern Nigeria, providing them with capacity-building sessions for effective leadership and political engagement.

- 05 Media Roundtables:** Held in Sokoto and Lagos states, these roundtables aimed to improve the quality of media reporting on youth political participation, enhancing the visibility and impact of young candidates.

06 Run To Win Town Halls: These events in Enugu and Lagos focused on supporting youth candidates, providing them with resources and strategies to navigate the electoral process successfully.

07 Election Law Clinic: This initiative provided pro bono legal services to young candidates, helping them understand and navigate the legal framework of elections.

08 Political Organizing Labs: These labs empowered women and young people contesting in the 2023 elections, equipping them with the skills needed for effective political campaigning and leadership.

09 Community Organizing Trainings: Conducted in Sokoto and Lagos, these trainings strengthened the capacity of civic actors and activists, emphasizing leadership, advocacy, and engagement skills.

10 Civic Innovative Challenge: This initiative awarded seed grants to winners implementing projects across Edo, Kwara, Taraba, Bayelsa, Bauchi, and Kaduna states. The projects ranged from civic education and mobilization to voter sensitization rallies, radio programs, and youth leadership conferences.

Events Photo Splash









As a result of these initiatives, the following significant outcomes were recorded:

- **Empowered Youth Leaders in Political Parties:** The program enhanced the capabilities of 58 local government area (LGA) youth leaders from both the APC and PDP. These leaders actively engaged in technical meetings aimed at increasing youth participation in political decision-making. The collaborative efforts resulted in a Youth Compact, enabling leaders to effectively interact with their party management.
- **Promotion of Deliberative Democracy:** The establishment of People's Assemblies in Lagos and Sokoto states fostered public deliberation among citizens. Six LGAs (three from each state) actively participated in this initiative, culminating in consensus on key policy demands with leadership teams formed for sustained and coordinated engagement with their respective Local Governments.
- **Capacity Building for Community Influencers:** The Governance and Development Program provided practical knowledge and skills to 200 community influencers, particularly in Lagos and Sokoto states, through Community Organizing Trainings and the Community Organizing Institute. These influencers gained expertise in policy advocacy, campaign organization, and movement building.
- **Expansion of Not Too Young To Run Hubs:** The program facilitated the establishment of 10 Not Too Young To Run Hubs in tertiary institutions and communities in Lagos and Sokoto states, bringing together 197 students and youths.
- **Reinforced Support to INEC:** Community organizers supported INEC in the voter registration exercise, contributing to an increased number of registered voters. Additionally, collaborative efforts with Yiaga Africa improved INEC's effectiveness in PVC collection in the FCT by addressing challenges such as the lengthy process and lack of communication.
- **Enhanced Electoral Knowledge:** Public sensitization campaigns by Yiaga Africa and its partners improved public understanding of the electoral process, especially among young people, leading to increased participation.

- **Legal Support for Aspirants:** The Election Law Clinic engaged young lawyers in Sokoto and Lagos states, providing training on the new electoral legal framework. The initiative aimed to equip lawyers to offer pro bono legal services to young aspirants and candidates.
- **Factsheets on Youth and Women Candidacy:** The program developed informative factsheets on Youth and Women Candidacy in Enugu and Lagos states, deepening understanding and awareness of the roles of youth and women in the electoral process.



On a regional and international level, Yiaga Africa collaborated with ECOWAS to host a two-day Regional Dialogue on Democratic Accountability, addressing issues like shrinking civic space and good governance. The Nigeria 2023 Conference, hosted by Yiaga Africa, NED, IFES and USIP in Washington DC facilitated discussions with the Chair of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and civil society representatives on preparations for the upcoming elections. It raised the international profile of elections and mobilized support of US top policy makers for credible elections in Nigeria.

These initiatives reflect Yiaga Africa's concerted effort to empower and involve youth in political processes, promote deliberative democracy, and enhance overall electoral knowledge and participation. The focus on empowering youth leaders, promoting inclusivity, and enhancing democratic values remains unwavering. The diverse range of activities, from technical meetings to innovative seed grants, showcases a comprehensive approach to fostering positive change. The commitment to supporting young leaders and providing valuable resources such as legal services and capacity-building programs underscores a dedication to creating a more vibrant and inclusive political landscape.

However, the implementation faced challenges, including:

- **Language Barriers:** Language barriers in Sokoto state affected the engagement of participants, especially in areas where local dialects dominated.
- **Religious and Cultural Sensitivities:** These sensitivities inhibited women's participation in some areas, requiring careful consideration and adaptation of strategies.
- **Security Surveillance:** Increased security concerns in some regions posed challenges to the safe and effective execution of programs.
- **Impact of the ASUU Strike:** The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike disrupted student mobilization for the Not Too Young To Run hubs, affecting the program's reach and impact.

Lessons Learned by the G & D Program:

- 01 Flexible Communication Strategy:** The importance of adapting communication strategies to local contexts, considering factors like language barriers, and identifying effective channels such as radio and television.
- 02 Capacity Development for Leadership Recruitment:** Recognizing the need to incorporate capacity development and coaching in leadership recruitment for young political aspirants to enhance their chances of success during elections.
- 03 Deepening Disability Inclusion:** Consciously integrating plans to address disability needs in activity implementation, including provisions in the budget for aids like sign language interpretation or caregiver support.
- 04 Integrating Political Education:** Acknowledging the knowledge gap among young people regarding political awareness and the necessity of integrating political education into capacity development activities.
- 05 Diversifying Engagement Strategies:** Recognizing the need to deploy different strategies for engaging women and youth in different states based on contextual analysis results.

Despite challenges, these lessons demonstrate a commitment to adapting strategies, promoting inclusivity, and continually improving the implementation of democratic initiatives.





Chapter 3: Elections Program

As we reflect on the year 2022, it becomes clear that it was a pivotal year for elections—a crucial period preceding the much-anticipated 2023 General Elections. This chapter highlights the successes, significant milestones, and challenges that shaped the election landscape in Nigeria.

Expectedly, the political arena was marked by intense disagreements, public engagement, and the urgent need for a refined electoral framework. Yiaga Africa took the lead in addressing these challenges through various initiatives aimed at instilling confidence in citizens and fortifying Nigeria’s democratic foundation.

The Elections Program in 2022 successfully achieved the following:

- **Observation of the FCT Area Council Election:** The successful observation of the FCT Area Council Election in February 2022 marked the beginning of a series of impactful endeavors. This initiative involved advocacy visits to election stakeholders, leading to the forging of new alliances and enhancing the overall election process.

Significant milestones achieved through the implementation of key actions in 2022 include:





03

Continuous Voter Registration (CVR)

Exercise: The continuous voter registration exercise, community outreach programs, and roundtable discussions with media representatives were additional avenues through which we sought to make a meaningful impact on the electoral process.

04

Off-Cycle Governorship Elections in Ekiti and Osun States:

The culmination of our efforts materialized in the off-cycle governorship elections in Ekiti and Osun States. By deploying carefully trained observers and utilizing the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) methodology, we ensured transparency and integrity in the electoral process. The subsequent launch of our observation reports in a public event facilitated discussions on key findings, lessons learned, and recommendations.

05

Post-Election Engagements:

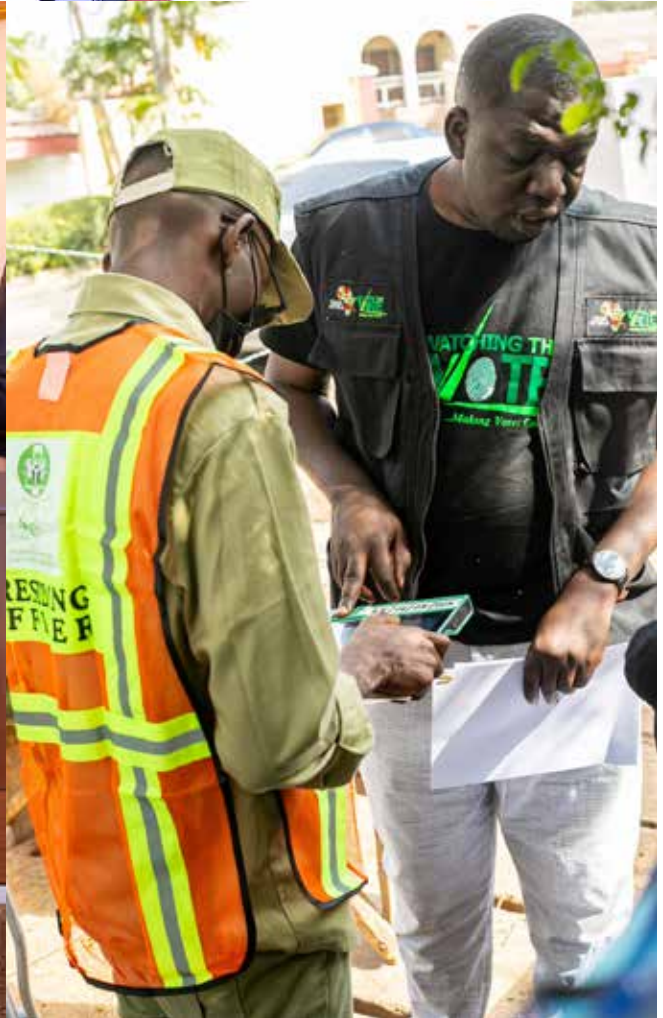
Post-election engagements provided valuable insights and feedback from civil society organizations and the media in Ekiti and Osun States. These reflections fueled discussions on citizen perceptions, challenges faced, and recommendations for future electoral reforms.

- **Citizen Mobilization Efforts:** Our team extended citizen mobilization efforts through public voter education outreaches in the FCT, Ekiti, and Osun States. Emphasizing the importance of collecting PVCs and participating in the upcoming elections, we engaged residents to foster greater involvement in the democratic process.
- **Cross-Border Collaborations:** Cross-border collaborations were integral to our strategy. We actively participated in conferences, providing technical support to institutions and organizations. A noteworthy partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) resulted in the organization of a Global Parallel Voting Tabulation (PVT) Academy in Abuja, bringing together representatives from 15 countries.
- **Capacity-Building Initiatives:** Capacity-building took center stage in 2022, with 2,295 citizens trained across various aspects of the electoral process. From citizen observers to media representatives and CSO leaders, our goal was to empower individuals to actively contribute to the democratic process.
- **Knowledge Production:** The year 2022 was a whirlwind of knowledge production, resulting in the creation and dissemination of 18 materials. Feasibility studies, reports on election observation, and assessments of voter registration exercises became valuable resources contributing to informed decision-making.

As we reminisce on this transformative journey with the Elections Program in 2022, we are reminded of the collective efforts that yielded positive results, overcame challenges, and demonstrated resilience in the pursuit of a stronger and more inclusive democratic process for Nigeria.







Chapter 4: Knowledge Management and Learning (KML)

At Yiaga Africa, knowledge production and dissemination are central to our engagements and programs. In 2022, the Knowledge Management and Learning (KML) department focused on generating and documenting knowledge resources in various thematic areas while expanding its scope. The department produced knowledge products, including an election index, academic journals, toolkits, and studies covering different regions in Africa. It also actively engaged in data mining, particularly Nigeria's election data, and provided capacity-building support for citizen observers.

Key knowledge products developed within the reporting year included:

- 01 Election Index:** The KML department developed an election index to provide a comprehensive assessment of electoral processes and outcomes in Nigeria. This tool served as a valuable resource for stakeholders in evaluating the effectiveness of elections.
- 02 Academic Journals:** The department contributed to academic discourse by publishing journals that explored various aspects of democracy, governance, and electoral processes in Africa.
- 03 Toolkits and Studies:** Yiaga Africa produced toolkits and conducted studies across different African regions, providing practical resources for stakeholders engaged in democratic governance.

Key Projects Implemented by the Department:



#SixtyPercentOfUs Campaign: This campaign aimed to increase voter turnout by focusing on states with low registration and PVC collection rates. The project mobilized young voters through various engagement tools, with objectives that included supporting young people in low-CVR states, providing accurate information, and complementing INEC's mobilization efforts.



Election Result Analysis Dashboard (ERAD): Deployed during the 2022 off-cycle gubernatorial elections in Ekiti and Osun States, ERAD utilized real-time data from INEC's Result Viewing Portal to ensure transparency. The dashboard analyzed, visualized, and shared election results with the public, contributing to a more informed electorate.

Result Monitoring and Evaluation:

The KML department played a crucial role in monitoring projects by introducing measures such as monthly work plans, project risk registers, and monthly indicator-based reporting. These efforts led to significant outcomes, including:

- **Implementation of 10 Election Recommendations:** The department tracked the implementation of election recommendations, ensuring that improvements were made to electoral processes.
- **Mobilization of New Voter Registrants:** Yiaga Africa's initiatives contributed to the registration of new voters, particularly in areas with historically low participation rates.
- **Facilitation of PVC Collection:** The department supported efforts to facilitate the collection of PVCs, addressing challenges faced by voters in accessing their cards.
- **Support for Candidates:** KML provided resources and support for candidates, particularly young and female aspirants, to navigate the electoral process effectively.
- **Active Engagement of Volunteers:** The department engaged volunteers in various capacities, contributing to the success of Yiaga Africa's electoral initiatives.

In summary, the Knowledge Management and Learning department made significant strides in 2022 by expanding knowledge resources, implementing impactful projects, and actively monitoring and evaluating outcomes. These efforts have positioned Yiaga Africa as a leader in democratic governance and electoral transparency. The organization is poised for further growth and increased community engagement in 2023.



Chapter 5: Media Communications and Visibility Actions

In 2022, Yiaga Africa focused on enhancing evidence-based impact in democratic practices. To align with its vision to “reflect, document, and celebrate,” the Media and Communications department formulated a comprehensive strategy that supported programs, engaged communities, promoted evidence-based storytelling, and strengthened the organization’s brand. Leveraging both traditional and digital media, the department aimed to communicate effectively with diverse audiences, build partnerships with local media, and employ various tools for efficient dissemination.

The following objectives were achieved during the reporting year:

01 Media Support for Program Implementation: The department provided crucial media support for the implementation of Yiaga Africa’s programs and projects, ensuring that the organization’s initiatives reached a broad audience and were effectively communicated.

02 Building and Sustaining Community Engagement: Accurate dissemination of information was key to building and sustaining engagements with communities. The department celebrated results through storytelling and media outreach, highlighting the impact of Yiaga Africa’s work.

03 Promotion of Evidence-Based Impact Storytelling: Through various media channels, Yiaga Africa promoted storytelling that emphasized evidence-based impact, showcasing the tangible outcomes of the organization’s efforts.

04 Strengthening the Organization’s Brand: Efforts to strengthen Yiaga Africa’s brand were successful, positioning the organization as a credible source of information and a leader in the democratic space in Nigeria.

Within the reporting year, the following achievements were recorded:

- 01 Expanded Media Reach:** Yiaga Africa's media reach expanded significantly, with an increase in audience engagement and content usage. The organization earned substantial news coverage on its projects and impact-based storytelling, further solidifying its presence in the public discourse.

- 02 Elevated Role in Election-Related Information:** Yiaga Africa established itself as a reference point for election-related information and democracy documentation in Nigeria. The organization played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion across various media channels.

- 03 Enhanced Community Engagements:** Both online and offline community engagements saw substantial growth, including increased participation in virtual events, live streaming, and social media interactions.

- 04 Empowered Citizens for Democratic Engagement:** Yiaga Africa used multimedia platforms to mobilize citizens around electoral reforms, continuous voter registration, and capacity-building initiatives. These efforts were instrumental in encouraging active participation in the democratic process.

- 05 Knowledge Dissemination:** The department facilitated informed conversations and awareness through the production and dissemination of short videos, radio shows, and short documentaries. These media products contributed to greater public understanding of electoral and democratic issues.

- 06 Expanded Media Network:** Yiaga Africa broadened its network of media partners, collaborating with various outlets to amplify its message and ensure widespread coverage of its initiatives.

2022 in Numbers:

Media Mentions:

Yiaga Africa recorded an average of 105 print and online mentions monthly, reflecting a 75% increase from 2021.

TV and Radio Appearances:

The organization made over 130 appearances on television and radio, further increasing its visibility and influence.

Press Statements:

Yiaga Africa released 40 press statements in 2022, a 60% increase compared to the previous year.

Opinion Articles:

Ten opinion articles were published, marking a 43% increase from 2021.

Social Media Performance:



53,029

Followers

*(up from 50,962 in
December 2021)*



71,200

Followers

*(up from 59,418 in
December 2021)*



12,431

Followers

*(up from 8,302 in
December 2021)*



1,262

Followers

*(up from 360 in
December 2021)*



606

Followers

*(up from 369 in
December 2021)*



72

Followers

*(starting from 0 in
December 2021)*



Media Sentiment Analysis:

Yiaga Africa consistently received positive and fair reviews from the media. There were no instances where media coverage framed Yiaga Africa negatively. Positive reviews and feedback from online audiences increased the organization's visibility and citizens' trust, particularly around voter registration and election information dissemination. Some criticism was received for perceived inaction on voter suppression issues, highlighting areas for future focus.



Chapter 6: Human Resources and Administration

As we reflect on the role our Human Resources and Administration department plays at Yiaga Africa, we are proud of a team that actively contributes to our organization's success. The mission of this department is to support and uphold Yiaga Africa's goals by fostering a positive and engaging work environment while addressing the diverse needs of our community.

In the past year, the HR and Admin department strived for excellence and leadership in various aspects:

01 Building Organizational Effectiveness: The department aligned its operational initiatives with Yiaga Africa's Strategic Plan, identifying ways to leverage technology for cost reduction and improved internal efficiencies. These efforts included streamlining processes, optimizing resource use, and enhancing overall organizational effectiveness.

02 Innovative HR Solutions: The Human Resources team focused on process and time restructuring for recruitment and reporting, introducing valuable templates and frameworks for internship engagement and Training Needs Assessment (TNA). These innovations aimed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HR processes.

03 Recruitment, Retention, and Enrichment: Recruitment efforts resulted in the hiring of 22 staff members in various roles, with a focus on inclusiveness and diversity. The department also conducted workshops on Career Path Development, Performance Appraisal, and Safeguarding and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) policy, contributing to staff development and engagement.

04 Exceptional Quality of Services: The HR and Admin department achieved success in areas such as payroll process restructuring, effective performance appraisal management, onboarding process improvement, and policy development and review. These improvements were supported by the engagement of an independent consultant to ensure best practices were followed.

05 Building Collaborative Partnerships: The collaboration between the HR and Finance teams improved internal customer service, particularly in aligning human resources and payroll functions. This partnership enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of both departments.



Key Achievements in 2022:

- 01 Improved Recruitment Procedures:** The department processed 7,500 employee applications, introducing Google Forms for shortlisting to reduce delays in manual shortlisting. A total of 22 staff members were successfully hired, contributing to the growth and development of the organization.

- 02 Sustained Learning Sessions:** Yiaga Africa hosted in-house learning sessions covering topics such as Safeguarding & SEAH Policy, Performance Appraisal Management, and Career Path & Professional Growth. These sessions benefited 26 participants, enhancing their knowledge and skills.

- 03 Performance Management:** The performance management system, facilitated by the HR and Admin department, included an appraisal enlightenment session, an analysis report, and employee feedback letters distributed to staff. These efforts ensured that performance appraisals were conducted fairly and transparently.

- 04 Deployment of Surveys to Enhance Operations:** The department conducted feedback surveys to assess employee satisfaction, management perception, and job satisfaction. The findings from these surveys led to recommendations for improving communication, motivation strategies, and grievance procedures.

- 05 Asset Management:** All organizational assets were registered, tagged, and updated. The HR and Admin department also facilitated the transfer of an old car to a staff member, demonstrating its commitment to efficient resource management.

06 Policy Development and Review: Independent consultants were engaged to develop new policies and review existing ones, covering areas such as Business Continuity, Risk Register, Whistleblowing, and Code of Conduct. These policies are essential for maintaining high standards of governance and ethical conduct within the organization.

07 Staff Recognition: During the staff retreat, awards were presented to recognize outstanding achievements, including Best Team Lead, Most Improved Staff, Best Dressed Female, Best Dressed Male, and Best Department. These awards served to motivate and acknowledge the contributions of staff members.

In conclusion, the Human Resources and Administration department made significant strides in 2022, contributing to the overall success of Yiaga Africa. The department's focus on innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement has positioned the organization for sustained growth and impact in the years to come.



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
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Bella Anne Ndubuisi
Member



Samson Itodo
Executive Director



Cynthia Mbamalu
Director of Programmes



Olusegun Ogundare
Head of Operations & Research, Africa Division



Bichi Safiya
Head, Knowledge Management & Learning



Sule Aminu
Internal Audit & Compliance Manager



Ann Bassey
Head, Administration & Human Resources



Daniel Mkpume
Head of Finance



Paul James
Program Manager (Election)



Dr. Sam Ogwuche
Coordinator, CLE



Yetunde Bakare
Program Manager, CLE



Ibrahim Faruk
Program Manager, CE



Dauda Farouk
Finance Manager



Michael Agada

Senior Research Officer, KML



Anthonia Onda

Senior Program Officer Elections



Moshood Isah

Senior Media & Communication Officer



Mark Amaza

Senior Media & Communication Officer



Samuel Folorunsho

Senior IT Officer



Ndukwe Onugu

Senior IT Officer



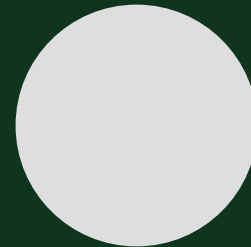
Ogbonna Ugorji

HR & Admin. Officer



Ahmed Ibrahim

Finance Officer



Patience Okon

Finance Officer



Rotnen Lepak

Monitoring & Evaluation Officer KML



Tumininu Ndukwe-Daniel

Research Officer KML



Opeyemi Haruna

Program Officer, Elections



Gabriel Prince

*Program Officer,
Elections*



Tolulope Famoroti

Program Officer, CLE



Olaniyan Sanusi

Program Officer, CE



Aanuoluwapo Kukoyi

Program Officer, CE



Stephen Momoh

Digital Design Officer



Onuorah Chinemerem

*Media &
Communication Officer*



Josephine Gowal

Front Desk Officer



Tanko Zainab

*Zonal Program
Officer, Elections*



Amonyeh Isaiah

*Zonal Program Officer,
Elections*



Shama Balami

*Zonal Program Officer,
Elections*



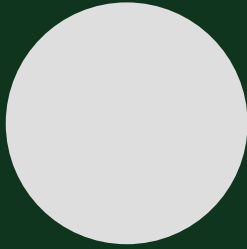
Akinola Dabiri

*Zonal Program
Officer, CLE*



Frances Ogbu

*Zonal Program Officer,
CLE*

**Seyi Omimakinde**

*Zonal Program
Officer, CLE*

**Esther Ochiekwu**

Administrative Assistant

**Debbie Popoola**

Finance Assistant

**Ifeanyi Mkpume**

*Media & Communication
Assistant*

**Paul Madaki**

*Media & Communication
Assistant*

**Musa Muhammed**

Office Assistant

**Adamu Isah**

Office Assistant

**Ganiyu Kareem**

Office Assistant

**Helen Genesis**

Office Support Staff

**Blessing Bulus**

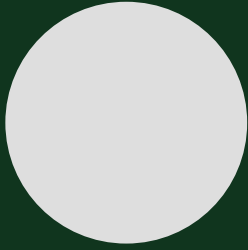
Office Support Staff

**Pila Emmanuel**

Office Support Staff

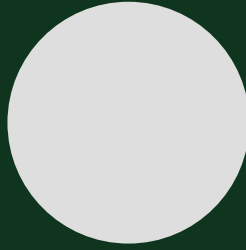
**Comfort Adetoye**

Intern



Lamideen Fatima

Intern



Nwafor Nnamdi

Intern



Ajayeoba Ayomide

Intern

Our Financials

Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Statement of Income and Expenditure & Other Comprehensive Income

	31 December 2022 N'	31 December 2021 N'
Income	2,825,362,850	725,167,443
Project Implementation Costs	(1,911,369,747)	(601,987,513)
Gross Income before operating costs	913,993,103	123,179,930
General and administrative expenses	(254,083,871)	(135,750,182)
Other gains/(losses) - net	-	-
Operating income	659,909,232	(12,570,252)
Finance income	-	-
Finance costs	-	-
Profit before income tax	659,909,232	(12,570,252)
Income tax expense	-	-
Profit for the year	659,909,232	(12,570,252)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	659,909,232	(12,570,252)

Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Statement of Financial Position

	31 December 2022	31 December 2021
	N'	N'
ASSETS (Total assets)		261,559,969
LIABILITIES		-
Programme/Projects Implementation Costs	1,911,369,747	601,987,513
Employee cost	237,042,315	107,148,274
Wages and salaries		
Other staff costs		
General and administrative expenses	254,083,871	135,750,182

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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Luminate



Get in touch!

Yiaga Africa

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