



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. Education Governance
 - 3.1 UBE Funds Tracking Project in Lagos supported by MacArthur Foundation
 - 3.2 Breaking Barriers: Tax Justice and Gender Responsive Public Service Project
4. HDI & Beneficiaries
5. Women
6. Children
7. Men
8. Staff
9. Client Counselling
10. Media Report
11. Summary/Conclusion

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2021 was a remarkable one for the Organization because all our efforts to see women and children vulnerabilities transform into strength; ensured that the targeted vulnerable children accessed quality education because their poor parent were supported and empowered achieved desired results in line with the vision of HDI and these strides are comforting and encouraging. Consequently, we are motivated every year to do better than the past year, and to touch as many lives as we can through our activities.

In 2021, the organization, through its Education Trust Fund (ETF) and Tertiary Education fund gave scholarships to children of widows/widowers and persons with disability. In addition, educational materials were provided for 500 children, wheel chairs, cane guides and hearing aids to 13 children living with disability. Also, 10 students were added to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Scholarship list.

As regards women, the Human Development Initiatives empowered about 23 women (widows) with life skills, such as making of confectionaries, art and crafts and production of healthy drinks. The women were also enlightened on several health issues and how to prevent or manage such issues.

In the area of Education, the Organization has been able to sustain the monitoring of UBE funds while still engaging the government on accountability and governance.

The Human Development could not have made these big feat without the support of its committed donors, some of such partners includes the Mac Arthur Foundation, ActionAid, Stanbic IBTC, MTN Foundation, Vita Foam PLC, Provide A Mealng amongst others. We therefore appreciate companies, organizations and persons who have supported us during the year, you have indeed proven to us that it takes a village to nurture a child and in our work, you are building a generation of great and prosperous society devoid of social and economic vulnerability.

2. INTRODUCTION

Human Development Initiatives (HDI), established in 1997, is a leading not-for-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to serving vulnerable groups through social development programmes that advance education for all and initiatives that promote equity, justice, opportunities, transparency, accountability and civic participation in governance.

The 2021 annual report cuts across HDI's focus and thematic areas of operations, ranging from governance and accountability, legal and psychosocial counseling of women; widows, adolescent and persons with disability.

The activities of the organization for the year 2021 transcends from education governance and sensitization programs, charity and empowerment programs, trainings among others. Some of the activities are:

3. EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

3a. The Universal Basic Education Funds Tracking Project 2021 Annual Report

➤ Monitors meeting

Four meetings were held between February and May, 2021 with all community-based education monitors. The aim of the meetings with HDI education monitors was to gather field reports from the monitors and provide feedbacks to them on issues as they arise. The program which was held on a quarterly basis took place 4 times within the reporting period. Through the meeting, the following were achieved: Effective projects monitoring strategies was developed; Effective reporting techniques; Monitoring strategy evaluation; Evaluation of monitors collaborative strategies with government actors; UBE projects tracking challenges, solutions & best practices.

➤ Training for School Based Management Committee and Parent Forum

Trainings were carried out for members of the School-Based Management Committee (SBMC) and Parents' Forum (PF). The training, which was a two-set training carried out in January and June, aimed at capacity development of the SBMC and PF's on identifying critical issues regarding community awareness and participation in school governance; the roles and responsibilities of SBMCs; and conducting Monitoring & Evaluation of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) projects in schools by the SBMCs. Participants at the training were exposed to the topics while they had the opportunity to ask questions from the resource persons. The training produced a communique, which was shared with government-side actors. From the communique, it was recommended that there is a need to support schools in the implementation of the Federal Ministry of Education (FME) Guidelines on Reopening of schools especially through the provision of hand washing materials, face masks and sanitizers and apply sanctions when breached; school clinics should be prioritized; a partnership with telecommunications/internet service providers to support ICT infrastructure in schools should be established among others.

➤ National Education Summit

HDI Nigeria with the Support of MacArthur Foundation organized a 2-day National Education Summit. The objectives of the summit which are to improve the quality of education through improved environment and provision of instructional materials for learners and teachers alike;

and to chart a way forward towards ensuring that learning continues even during the pandemic. The Summit which was organised as a hybrid Program had in attendance the SUBEB Executive Chairmen of Lagos, Kano, Kaduna and Enugu and other SUBEB staff from Lagos State, the Permanent Secretary Lagos State Ministry of Education, Education Secretaries, CSOs, SBMCs, academics, representatives of the disability community, and the media. A total of 92 persons (39 Female and 53 Male) physically participated while many others joined virtually.

➤ **A Day-Out with Lagos SUBEB:**

HDI Nigeria with the support of MacArthur Foundation and ActionAid Nigeria organized an advocacy meeting with the LSUBEB Chairman. The aim of the meeting was to provide a platform for direct engagement of members of the public with Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB) and to extract response from LASUBEB on issues affecting the delivery of quality Basic Education. The event had in attendance the LSUBEB Chairman, Permanent Board Members and the Board Secretary, traditional rulers, School Based Management Committees, Civil Society Organisations, Parents' Forum, Community Development Committees, Religious Leaders and the Media. After commencing with preset questions, stakeholders at the program had the opportunity to ask their questions from the SUBEB Board. The program which was aired live on the State-owned Lagos State Television (LTV-8) provided answers to wide ranging questions which were well responded to by the Board.

➤ **Advocacy visits**

The Program Team comprising the Executive Director, Program Officer and Assistant Program Officer paid several advocacy visits to the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), FCT Abuja and the Federal Ministry of Education; Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), the Lagos State Ministry of Education as well as The National Association of Education Secretaries of Nigeria, Lagos State Chapter. The objective of the visits was to discuss issues discovered during HDI's monitoring activities on the field in Lagos State. Critical questions were asked and answers provided from discoveries made during field visits as contained in the project reports, communiques and policy briefs produced from HDI's public engagements were presented for the attention and action of the Executive Secretary of UBEC as well as other relevant government agencies at the State level.

➤ **UBEC's Experience-Sharing Workshop**

This program was organised by the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC). The program brought together Civil Society Organisations working in the Basic Education Space under the MacArthur Foundation On-Nigeria project, to share field experiences and make recommendations to the Commission towards improving Basic Education.

➤ **Retreat for Supply-Side Actors**

The two-day retreat was held on the 13th and 14th of April 2021, brought together forty-three participants (18 female and 25 male) made up of Supply-side basic education stakeholders in Lagos State, which includes the SUBEB Chairman, all other Permanent Board Members, the Board Secretary, as well as Heads of departments in LASUBEB. Also in attendance were representative of the Commissioner for Education and Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Education, academics, SBMC/PF, HDI project monitors, CSOs and the Media. The objective of the retreat was to enable government actors of basic education take a cursory look at their efforts over the past one year, reminisce and strategize together with key demand-side actors for improvement in basic education delivery in Lagos State. The retreat activities also provided an opportunity for HDI to share reports of findings from the field. The Lead Monitor of HDI from each of the 11 Local Governments of focus gave their feedback from findings on the field. The Retreat also produced a strategy document jointly designed with SUBEB and other CSOs present for the improvement of Basic Education in Lagos State.

➤ **Media and CSO roundtable dialogue**

The media and CS roundtable dialogue held at the Human Development Initiatives training hall on April 30, 2021 and 6th October, 2021. The goal was to develop strategies to confront identified challenges in the basic education sector in Lagos State and in the nation at large. Participants at the program were majorly representatives of Civil Society Organisations in Lagos State who work in the area of education, as well as the media. Participants identified problems bedeviling the Basic Education sector and proffered solutions to them. Some of the problems identified include inadequate teachers, budget, overreliance on private schools, poor infrastructure, among others. All problems identified can be grouped into four (4) major categories which were: finance, policy issues, corruption and inadequate sensitization. Recommendations were made for each problem category and a working document was produced to support the governance of basic education in Lagos and Nigeria.

➤ **Community Sensitization Meetings**

The round of sensitization meetings held for each of the focal Local Government Education Authorities which include Agege, Apapa, Ajeromi-Ifelodun, Amuwo-Odofin, Eti-Osa, Ibeju-Lekki, Mushin, Kosofe, Ojo, Somolu and Surulere. The programs held from 1st through 23rd November, 2021. Participants at the sensitization meetings were made up of stakeholder such as: Monitors, Media, State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Local Government Education Authorities (LGEAs), School Based Management Committees (SBMCs), Parent For a (PF), Community Leaders (Baale), Youths, Community Development Associations (CDA)/Community Development Committees (CDC), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) & Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The main objectives of the program were to:

- a. Create awareness on the UBE Act 2004 and the roles of stakeholders.
- b. Provide participants with knowledge on SUBEB 2019 and 2020 action plans and projects.
- c. Provide participants with an opportunity to interact with supply side actors.

Participants were provided with copies of the 2019 and 2020 Lagos SUBEB action plans and armed with knowledge of the Universal Basic Education Act, 2004 and their roles as stakeholders. This was done to empower them to effectively participate in the tracking of the utilization of UBE funds within their localities.

➤ **Capacity Building/ Training for Monitors:**

A 2-day capacity building program was organized for all HDI community volunteer monitors. The objective of the program was to build the capacity of monitors in monitoring UBE projects. The monitors comprised of both old and new monitors who were trained on their roles as community-based monitors, community entry, the action plan and the ethics of monitoring.

4b. BREAKING BARRIERS: TAX JUSTICE AND GENDER RESPONSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT

In 2021, Human Development Initiatives in partnership with ActionAid Nigeria with the support of Norad through the Breaking Barrier project supported education stakeholders in Lagos State to demand inclusive education and increased funding for the education sector. The project aims to support targeted efforts at increasing the SIZE of both national and states' budgets through fair tax; the SHARE of funds allocated to and spent on free, quality and inclusive education; opening up education budget, policies and system for public SCRUTINY; and ensuring that the budget, systems and policies are SENSITIVE to the rights and needs of girls and marginalized children. The project has so far built the capacity of 75 girls on gender, rights and advocacy, who have in turn engaged over 13,000 other pupils/students in their various schools, leveraging on notable international events such as International Day of the Girl Child, Global Action Week for Education among others.

In collaboration with disability community, the project promoted inclusive education for all through advocacy engagement, workshops, sensitization and rallies to relevant government agencies such as the Ministry of Education, State Universal Basic Education Board and the Lagos State House of Assembly on the need to increase allocation to education to meet the basic and infrastructural needs of all children especially girls, marginalized and children with disabilities.

The following activities were conducted within this reporting period:

➤ **Engagement with policy makers on impact of privatization of education on girls and the marginalised (A Day out with the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board)**

HDI with the support of Action Aid Nigeria carried out an advocacy visit to the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LSUBEB) office in March 2021. The objectives of the engagement visit are to create an open platform for direct citizens' engagement with the executives of the Lagos SUBEB; present issues affecting the right of children to quality and inclusive education in the State; document updates on the utilization of UBE funds and how it has contributed to promoting the right of all children to education in Lagos State; and secure

commitments from the LSUBEB to address issues affecting the right of all children to quality and inclusive basic education.

Stakeholders who participated in this engagement include traditional/community leaders, members of Parents Forum, School Management Committee members, trained monitors, National Union of Teachers (NUT) executives, media, and CSOs. Participants engaged the executives of LSUBEB and obtained commitment to address issues covering safety and hygiene, infrastructure in public schools, accessibility of schools to children with disabilities, adequacy of teachers and teaching materials in public schools, quality of the education projects in public schools in the state and transparency and accountability in the utilisation of funds allocated to them.

Aside the presence of the representative of the Tutor General/Permanent Secretaries of the Education District 5, 1, 4 and 6 present, event also witnessed the presence of the representatives of the Commissioner for Education and the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Education.

A Day out with Girls

A day out with girls was a special annual event organized by the Human Development Initiatives to inspire girls. This year episode was marked in collaboration with ActionAid Nigeria with support from Norad, in commemoration of the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) usually celebrated annually on 11th of October. The objective of the event was to amplify girls' voices to challenge all barriers to fulfilling their potentials and to promote girls' rights. The event had in attendance a total of 200 persons - 144 girls, 47 teachers and 9 Safe Space for Girls facilitators from the 6 Education Districts in Lagos.

The theme for the 2021 IDGC was **Digital Generation: Our Generation**. The day-out with girls' event touched on gender inequality as one of the challenges negatively impacting on girls in the tech space. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) reports that more than 50% of the world's women are offline. In countries with data, girls aged 15 –19 years were less likely than boys to have used the internet in the past 12 months, and they also had lower mobile phone ownership. The implication of this is that girls will have fewer employment opportunities and will face additional barriers to workforce participation.

The presentation by the Executive Director reassured the girls that they could become whatever they aspire to be. In fulfilling the dream of becoming what they want to be, they must acquire knowledge on the use of technology. It was emphasised that the solution to the gender bias on the use of technology is to increase digital adoption and use from the basic education level up to the tertiary level. Introduction of digital literacy for children at early stage, which includes “both the skills to functionally be able to use the Internet and digital technology, as well as the knowledge of how to do so safely, securely, with trusted information and protected data. Also, the social norms standing as barriers that disable women and girls from becoming active users of technology must be removed.

An Advocacy Moment: Girls have a say was the climax and key highpoint of the event. It was a special moment the Safe Space Club girls with their counterparts from other schools had

a face-to-face interaction with the representative of the Tutor General/Permanent Secretaries of their respective Education Districts where they presented the issues affecting the rights of girls to education in their various schools. During this moment, the girls raised concerns over bullying by senior colleagues, sexual harassment, over-crowded classrooms, inadequate books and ICT infrastructure in the school library and other educational materials and facilities including schools' laboratories; they observed that some of their colleagues do not eat to school. One other concern raised was about identifying and choosing the right career path. The representatives of the TGPS from the respective Education Districts responded individually to the issues raised by the girls and promised to look into them in consultation with other responsible policy making body.

➤ **Reflection and Action Meeting with Education Stakeholders**

This meeting was a 2-day workshop activity to engage the Project stakeholders on plans for the year while reflecting on the progress made and lessons learnt from the previous year. Held in April 2021, the objectives were to sensitize and engage newly identified stakeholders to support the Breaking Barrier Project especially in the Project schools; strengthen collaboration among all stakeholders; identify challenges and articulate strategies for improved result going forward.

The workshop was done in collaboration with Festus Fajemilo Foundation with the support from ActionAid Nigeria and Disability Right Fund. The stakeholders were drawn from the State Universal Basic Education Board, Ministry of Education, Project School Principals/Head Teachers, Education Districts, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Nigeria Union of Teachers, Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA), Joint National Association of Persons With Disability (JONAPWD), School Based Management Committee (SBMC), Community member and the media. HDI shared with them the project status in Lagos State, re-sensitised them on the project expected outcomes and needs, solicited support for the active running of Girls Safe Space in the Project Schools and built collaboration among all stakeholders.

The key beneficiaries are the project schools because most of the issues discussed as well as plans agreed centred on improving funding and quality of education service delivery, influencing policy that will make schools more accessible for children with disabilities and improve school enrolment.

The meeting identified the need to develop and sustain online platform for community of Practice on Inclusive Education and develop action plan to drive it. The community of practice is to support the teaching workforce through capacity building on disability inclusive skills needed to expand and support the existing inclusive schools in Lagos State. In addition to this, part of the focus was also to stimulate the call for the review of the existing inclusive education policy and endorsement by the Lagos State Government.

➤ **HDI Issued a Press Release in Commemoration of the 2021 Global Action Week For Education**

Annually, education stakeholders around the world join the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) to mark the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE). The aim is to amplify voices to address the issues affecting the rights of all children to quality, equitable, free, and inclusive education. HDI issued a press release targeting the Lagos State Government to mark this day.

Realizing the shortfall in education financing and the consequent continuous fall in the standard of public education in Nigeria, the theme for the 2021 GAWE, improved **education financing**, was apt and a call to action for Nigeria.

Human Development Initiatives believes that the increase in the allocation to education by the Lagos State Government from N103,695,742,421 (as revised) in 2020 to N146,935,754,802 representing 13% of the overall 2021 budget of N1,163,522,460,717 would do more towards improving the delivery of quality and inclusive education for thousands of children in the State for whom opportunities are extremely limited or downright non-existent, if appropriately deployed and judiciously utilized.

HDI called on the State Government to do more to fix the pressing issues in the education sector some of which are out-of school children, needs of children living with disability, inadequate public schools and infrastructure especially in hard-to-reach and emerging communities; over-populated classrooms with poor teacher/student ratio, insufficient professional teachers cum low education support staff capacity, and inadequate funding for inclusive education. HDI further urged the State government to be decisive in reversing the privatization of education trend in the state, noting that fixing this would certainly require more than 15% of the State Budget.

HDI therefore recommended that the Lagos State Government must:

- Increase allocation to between 15% and 20% of the state budget to support the critical area of needs including teachers' recruitment and capacity building.
- Provide special resource centres and platforms for teachers' continuous capacity development - setting up of a community of practice to drive and support the existing efforts towards full inclusive education practice will go a long way in bridging capacity gaps and driving full inclusive education system in Lagos State. Hence, increased public-private partnerships will be a viable option in this regard.
- Importantly, take decisive actions to block all loopholes in revenue generation and administration of funds; review its policy on granting tax holidays/incentives, and broaden its tax base to increase resources while upholding tax justice. Tax holidays should not be for individuals, groups, or organizations that should ordinarily pay more taxes.

5. HDI INTERVENTIONS FOR WOMEN

5.1 A DAY OUT WITH WIVES

A Day-Out with Wives held on 8th of March 2021 to mark the International Women’s Day Celebration. The aim of the program was to build the capacity of married women to better handle psychological and socio-economic challenges especially in the context of a worldwide pandemic. The Executive Director of HDI, Mrs. Olufunso Owasanoye noted that, not all the women have the absorptive capacity to deliver or cope due to many psychological factors. Her knowledge spans from her experience over the years, while working with women in HDI. She has witnessed cases of domestic violence, depression, financial incapability and suicide among women.

Women were encouraged to stand tall against discrimination, exploitation, violence and intimidation and take a personal decision to invest in themselves. Self-development is the way forward. Women are mothers, housekeepers, companions and maintainers of homes. On an average day, a woman can play 30 to 50 different roles per day such as cooking, writing, replying mails, carrying out repairs, cleaning, feeding the children, nursing, teaching, opening of doors for visitors etc. Women are daughters, sisters, wives, mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers.

As per coping as women in our homes during the pandemic, the participants were encouraged to take care of themselves, maintain a healthy lifestyle, budget appropriately and carry out regular medical check-ups.

5.2 WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION

International Widows Day is an international annual event celebrated world-wide. It is a day dedicated by United Nations to give special recognition to widows of all ages across regions and cultures. HDI commemorated this day on the 23rd of June, 2021, with the theme “**Invisible widows’ Invisible problems**”. They are not invisible to HDI, they are important and relevant.

HDI numerous programs and intervention for widows indicated that majority experience unenviable situations of loneliness, frustration, depression, disappointment, neglect, sadness, anxiety, confusion, hopelessness, widowhood torture, suicide attempts (and in some cases suicide, fear, psycho-social and economic deprivations.

The Widows’ Day was used as an advocacy platform to draw attention to the plight of widows; and put an end to injustice; galvanize support and mobilize action to address their deplorable conditions and basic needs.

All stakeholders at the event were encouraged to join hands in promoting the socio-economic empowerment of women, stand against maltreatment of widows and implement laws that

protect widows, in order to give them better hope for the future. The widows present were over 300.

5.3 HDI IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PROVIDE A MEAL NIGERIA PROVIDED FOR WIDOWS

Human Development Initiatives in partnership with Provide a Meal Foundation provided cooked food for Folasade Widow's and Shomolu widows. Provide a meal Foundation is a UK based non-governmental organization, whose objective is to advance the social integration of the less privileged and to eliminate their fear of limited food resources. The program which was a pilot project for Provide a Meal Foundation took place on the 19th of April, 2021.

The Executive Director of HDI encouraged the widows to be steadfast in prayers and never lose hope. She urged them to study Isaiah 41:10 and hold unto God's word in that verse. Thereafter, the Executive Director informed the women that the program is holding in collaboration with Provide A Meal Nigeria, The Provide a Meal representative, Mr. Yemi informed the women that the project is a pilot project and they will be feeding 100 women to start off the project.

The Executive Director of HDI gave out other items (clothes, salts, noodles and drinks) to the women. The food by Provide a Meal Foundation was distributed to the women, 208 women were fed.

5.4 BREAKFAST SESSION WITH PARENT

HDI organized a breakfast session with parents on the 7th of December, 2022. As part of her vision to see a society devoid of vulnerabilities, HDI organized a breakfast session for parents on the mental capacity of their children. The objective of the program was to help parents to cope with the mental capacity of their wards. This program was borne due to the high rate of suicide and depression among teenagers and youths in the society.

The participants were encouraged to relate better with their wards. They were also sensitized on how to identify depression, the causes and solutions. Parenting in the 21st century is different from what it used to be. They were taught how to identify the strengths and weaknesses of their children, promote the strengths and find ways to assist in their weaknesses. Finally, they were encouraged to communicate with their children, build a good relationship with them, so that they could more open to their parents; and to pray for them. If a parent notices a strange behaviour in their children, they should make it a habit to check in with a psychologist.

6.0 HDI INTERVENTION FOR MEN

6.1 A DAY-OUT WITH HUSBANDS

A Day-Out with Husbands was held on the 6th of May, 2021. The program was conceived as a result of noticeable gaps in couples' relationships especially in the roles of husbands in parenting, as well as in their relationship with their spouses. This special program for married men (husbands) was aimed at helping them cope with the pressures of life and improve their

relationships in their respective homes. The hybrid program which took place online and on-site held online via Zoom and on-site, at the Human Development Initiatives Office, had in attendance about 12 on-site participants with many others online. The first session which was titled "My strength and my home" was handled by Mr Taiwo Adeniyi, the Managing Director of Vitafoam Nigeria Plc, he encouraged men to positively utilize their energy, not to subdue their spouses and children but rather to the advantage of their family and dependents.

The second session was handled by Bishop Sam Chidoka. During the session which focused "Emotional Sensitivity, a tool of the 21st century husband" men were taught on how to take care of their emotional wellbeing and deploy emotional intelligence to manage their everyday lives and homes. The program ended with a Share and Care session where participants were able to share their opinions on different life issues, drawn from the experiences of HDI Counsellors and family therapists. Participants while appraising the program greatly commended the initiative and appreciated HDI (the organiser), for how they have been impacted.

6. HDI INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN

6.1 CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

In celebration of Children's Day, which is marked internationally on 27th of May, Human Development Initiatives visited Onike Girls' Junior Secondary School and Onike Primary School, Iwaya, on the 28th of May, 2021.

The students were spoken to on Child Abuse. The types of violence were identified as Verbal, Emotional, Sexual and Physical abuse.

The students were encouraged to report any form of abuse they are facing, or if they know someone else going through such and is unable to report, they should help the person report it.

They can report to their school counselors, teachers or even our organization. The reporting platforms of the organization were presented to the students (the child helplines, email and a physical visit to the organization).

A total number of 432 students were present during the talk.

6.2 A DAY OUT WITH IWAYA CHILDREN

The program was held on the 5th of August, 2021. The objective of the program was to sensitize the children on the dangers of drug abuse and sexual abuse. The children were encouraged to speak out when someone is sexually harassing or abusing them, they should not stay quiet. The children were advised to report cases of sexual violence or any violence at all to HDI Office or the office of the Public Defender.

The children were also spoken to on drug use and abuse. Drugs in the context of abuse are psychoactive substances that alter mood, cognition (thoughts) and behaviour. The types of drugs were identified as Stimulants (Caffeine, Amphetamine, Cocaine), Hallucinogens

(Marijuana, LSD, Ketamine), Narcotics, Sedatives, inhalants and Nicotine. The different local names of marijuana were by the participants as: igbo, dope, sensi, kuma, morocco, eja, kpoli, weed, trees, paraga, Arizona, skunk, Mary Jane, ganga, crack and so on.

Drug abuse in youths is often influenced by experimental curiosity, peer group, lack of parental supervision, availability of the drugs, undue publicity, poverty and medicating mental illness. Drug abuse has its effect on different aspect of our lives; it impacts on health, economy, socio-economy and education. The ways to beat drug abuse was identified as: avoid drug abuse; seek help if you are into it and to run away from peer pressure.

At the end of the program, the children learnt the dangers of drug abuse; the reporting platforms for abuse generally; they were also encouraged to speak out when faced with sexual abuse or any type of abuse.

A total number of 139 children were in attendance.

6.3 A DAY OUT WITH HDI EDUCATION TRUST FUND (ETF) CHILDREN

The meeting with HDI ETF children took place on the 2nd of September, 2021. The aim of the program is to empower 1000 target beneficiaries (children of widows/widows and children with special needs) with educational support materials such as school uniforms, school bags, school sandals, textbooks, stationeries, socks, cap, beret, tie, registration fees for JSS/SSS and NECO fees for SS3 students annually.

The meeting emphasised the importance of education as an inalienable right of all children and highlighted the struggles of an average Nigerian child to enjoy this right, especially children with disabilities, girls and other marginalised children. While acknowledging that the Nigerian Government alone cannot meet the educational needs of all citizens, the HDI ETF initiative is to support the government's efforts to fulfil this rights from the nursery all through to tertiary education level. Notebooks, textbooks, uniforms, sandals, basic compulsory government fees as well as NECO and JAMB registration fees are provided for the beneficiaries of the HDI Education Support Scheme. Children of widows/widowers, orphans and children with special needs, should not have to beg to access basic education just like their peers. HDI's passion is to ensure that the goals of all Nigerian Children become a reality.

HDI provided learning needs to 13 beneficiaries (girls) with special needs and back-to-school items to 203 children. The items presented include laptops, braille machines, hearing aids, recorders, cane guides, wheelchairs, bags, sandals, notebooks, textbooks, math-set, biros, socks and uniforms.

The event had in attendance, 123 parents, 18 invited guests, 2 media representative and 203 beneficiaries.

7.1 STAFF RETREAT

HDI had 2 staff retreats within the reporting period (mid-year and end of the year). The objectives of the retreat are to engender team building; reflect and evaluate the organizations completed activities; encourage creativity and drive; and to plan future programs and activities. At the retreat, an evaluation of the various activities, and review the vision and mission of the organization. All staff and the Management took time to review the Organization's organogram, projects, strategic plan, and policies. Important suggestions were documented on how to move HDI forward.

8.0 MEDIA REPORT

8.1 Collaboration with Media

Partnership with Electronic and Print Media continued during the year under review to further strengthen the relationships with the media organizations. Partners and professionals were given the opportunity to feature as guest speakers to discuss developmental issues at the media stations. Some programmes were presented live, giving opportunities for callers to ask questions on issues of governance.

In year 2021, HDI recorded 64 media mentions from the Print, Electronic and Online Media. HDI had the opportunity to assess the success of the collaboration from the positive feedback received from listeners and the increased number of people who visited the website after listening to the programmes. HDI partnered with the following media organizations: The Guardian Newspaper, The Punch Newspaper, Silverbird TV, Galaxy Television, Lagos Television, Nigeria Television Authority, Channels Television, Television Commercial (TVC), The Nation Newspaper, Muri International TV (MITV), Radio One FM, Radio Lagos, Eko FM, Nigeria Info (Radio), Bond FM, Unilag TV/FM, News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

8.2 WEBSITE

The website www.hdinigeria.org was updated this year with new activities and projects, also hdietf.org was maintained. Optimization of the site was done every month. The webpage incorporates information on the activities of the organization. HDI also have a Mobile Application called "VoiceOut" where citizens can report UBE projects, Abuse Cases, Human/Child Trafficking and other issues.

8.3 PUBLICATION

a. NEWSLETTER

The regular in-house monthly E-newsletter was sent out through Mail chimp to all 2451 contacts monthly. The newsletter contains activities of the organization. It is enriched with articles on developmental issues.