



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENT

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
2. INTRODUCTION
3. EDUCATION GOVERNANCE
 - 3a. The Universal Basic Education Funds Tracking Project 2023 Annual Report
 - 3b. Advocacy visits
 - 3c. UBE National Stakeholders Dialogue and Project Report Launch
4. HDI INTERVENTION FOR WOMEN
 - 4a. Health Intervention for Widows
 - 4b. International Widows Day Celebration
 - 4c. Food Palliative Distribution to Widows' Groups
5. HDI INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN
 - 5a. Education Support to Children in Ara, Osun State
 - 5b. A Day Out with Adolescent
 - 5c. Children's Day Celebration
 - 5d. Supporting Student's with disability
 - 5e. HDI Education Trust Fund (HDI-ETF) school kits distribution
 - 5f. Education Support to Children in Ada, Osun State
 - 5g. Pad Distribution Program to Girls with Disability
 - 5h. International Day of the Girl Child
 - 5i. Meeting with HDI TETF Students
6. CLIENT COUNSELLING
7. WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA
8. NEWSLETTER
9. AWARDS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Human Development Initiatives Foundation (HDI), a non-governmental organization committed to fostering societal empowerment and eliminating vulnerabilities proudly presents its Annual Report for the fiscal year 2023. With a vision of creating a society where individuals thrive without vulnerabilities, HDI remains steadfast in its mission to catalyze positive change through strategic interventions in education, healthcare, and community development. To better align with its mission and objectives, HDI underwent a name change and officially became known as **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FOUNDATION**. This change was duly registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 2023, and the new name became effective as of February 7th, 2023.

In 2023, HDI continued its commitment to improving access to quality and inclusive education. Through the implementation of various educational programs, including scholarships, vocational training, and school infrastructure development, the organization positively impacted the lives of thousands of individuals. Our initiatives are aimed at reducing educational disparities and fostering lifelong learning.

In the pursuit of a healthy society, HDI focused on healthcare interventions, addressing both preventive and curative aspects. Health awareness campaigns and support for widows in the community resulted in improved health outcomes. The organization's efforts also extended to mental health initiatives, recognizing the integral role it plays in overall well-being.

HDI remained a vocal advocate for policies that promote human development and reduce vulnerabilities. Engaging with policymakers, stakeholders, and the wider public, the organization worked towards shaping a conducive policy environment that aligns with its vision for an empowered and resilient society.

Despite the considerable achievements, HDI acknowledges the challenges that persist in the journey towards a vulnerability-free society. Economic disparities, environmental concerns, and emerging global issues pose ongoing challenges. However, HDI views these challenges as opportunities for innovation and collaboration, reinforcing its commitment to creating sustainable solutions.

HDI could not have made these big feat without the support of its committed donors and individuals, some of such partners include the Mac Arthur Foundation, Stanbic IBTC, Vita Foam PLC, Bella Naija, Sai Rosa and MTN Foundation, amongst others. We express our gratitude to the companies, organizations, and individuals who stood by us throughout the year. Through your collective support and contributions, we pave the path for a future where every individual, regardless of background, thrives in a society built on compassion, equality, and opportunity.

2. INTRODUCTION

Established in 1997, Human Development Initiatives (HDI) stands as a prominent non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to serving vulnerable groups. Our mission involves implementing social development programs that advance inclusive education and initiatives promoting equity, justice, opportunities, transparency, accountability, and civic participation in governance.

The 2023 annual report cuts across HDI's focus and thematic areas of operations, ranging from governance and accountability to legal and psychosocial counseling of women; widows, adolescents, and persons with disability.

The activities of the organization for the year 2023 transcend from education governance, health and sensitization programs, charity and empowerment programs, and training among others. Some of the activities are:

3. EDUCATION GOVERNANCE



3a. The Universal Basic Education Funds Tracking Project 2023 Annual Report

On the 31st March 2023, HDI Foundation officially closed out the Universal Basic Education Funds Tracking (UBEFT) Project supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The event which brought an end to the five-year-long project featured the official project close-out, the launch of the project report, and an award-giving ceremony had in attendance dignitaries such as the Hon. Commissioner for Education, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Education; the Executive Chairman of the State Universal Basic Education Board, Civil Society Organisations and community-based monitors, among others. The report which was launched at the event focused on tracking the implementation of Lagos SUBEB 2018, 2019 and 2020 action plans and is titled: "Tracking Basic Education Funds in Lagos State: Blessings and Lessons" and it.



3b. Advocacy visits

The program team of the Universal Basic Education Funds Tracking project in company of selected monitors on the project, paid an advocacy visit to the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB). The visit focused on presenting observations of Education projects from the field and the team received appropriate responses from the LASUBEB team.



3c. UBE National Stakeholders Dialogue and Project Report Launch

As part of HDI Foundation's commitment to ensuring the judicious Education of Basic Education Funds in Nigeria, HDI received support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to track basic education projects. Having monitored UBE projects in Lagos State, from 2015 to 2023, and having identified the major problems bedeviling the sub-sector, nationwide, HDI Foundation with the support of the MacArthur Foundation organised a day stakeholders' dialogue session on the 8th of August, 2023. The program focused on finding solutions to already-identified problems in the Basic Education sector.

The program hosted a total of one hundred stakeholders (100) from across Nigeria, who converged at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. Stakeholder groups represented at the dialogue include: representatives from the Federal Ministry of Education, Universal Basic Education Commission, State Ministry of Education, Chairmen of States' Universal Basic Education Boards, Education Secretaries, Civil Society Organisations, Parents, Teachers, and Media practitioners.

The report of tracking Lagos SUBEB 2018, 2019, and 2020 action plans was also launched at the event. This report was unveiled by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Mr. Andrew David Adejo, who was represented by Dr. Mrs. O.F. Olatunji-David, the Director of Basic Education.

4. HDI INTERVENTIONS FOR WOMEN



4a. Health Intervention for Widows

On April 20, 2023, the Human Development Initiatives Foundation orchestrated a special health intervention initiative (Impact 2023) for 500 widows in Lagos State. The participants, sourced from various widow groups across the state, were engaged in informative health sessions led by a Consultant Gynaecologist focusing on health and well-being. Additionally, attendees underwent complimentary screenings, including tests for HIV/AIDS, blood sugar levels, and urine analysis.

The event garnered the presence of representatives from the Lagos State Commissioner for Health and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. Beneficiaries were provided with free medical counseling by doctors, and pharmacists distributed complimentary over-the-counter drugs. Furthermore, participants received generous donations of food items, clothing, and shoes.



4b. International Widows Day Celebration

On June 23, 2023, the global observance of International Widows' Day took place. In honor of this significant occasion, HDI (Human Development Initiatives) Foundation assembled one hundred widows from seven distinct widows' groups across Lagos State to partake in the festivities. The program's objective had three primary goals: to instill a sense of love and celebration among widows; to empower widows with knowledge about investment for sustenance; and to raise awareness among widows about maintaining their health and avoiding depression. Each objective was addressed through separate sessions led by experts in finance, health, and well-being, who provided insights on the identified issues. The event concluded with the distribution of food materials (palliative) to the widows, who expressed their gratitude through songs and words of encouragement for the HDI Foundation.



4c. Food Palliative Distribution to Widows' Groups

In December 2023, the HDI Foundation embarked on a visit to seven widows' groups situated in Lagos state. The primary aim of this visit was to nurture a sense of community, offer valuable health advice, and distribute food palliatives to the widows in preparation for the Christmas season. Notably, the event welcomed esteemed guests, including Bella Naija, a prominent online platform dedicated to inspiring, informing, and entertaining not only Nigerians but also

Africans and the global community. Through collaborative efforts between HDI and Bella Naija, over 500 women received food palliatives during this impactful program.

5. HDI INTERVENTION FOR CHILDREN



5a. Education Support to Children in Ara, Osun State

On January 23, 2023, the HDI Foundation team delivered a donation of 100 education support items, comprising school bags, sandals, socks, mathematical sets, and notebooks, to the students of Baptist Junior and Senior Grammar School in Ara Kingdom, Osun State, Nigeria. This initiative was organized to mark the 3rd coronation anniversary of Oba (Dr.) Olubayo Adesola Windapo and aligns with HDI's overarching objective of empowering vulnerable humans in the society.



5b. A Day Out with Adolescent

A Day-out with Adolescents was a special program organised by HDI Foundation in commemoration of the 2023 Valentine's Day. The program which was held at Lagos City Model College, Sabo Yaba, Lagos focused on the theme: "Gen Z and the Smell of Roses." The program featured special talks on sex, love, and social vices that impacted a total of 144 students of the school.



5c. Children's Day Celebration

In honor of Children's Day, observed globally on May 27th, the Human Development Initiatives Foundation undertook visits to selected schools in Lagos State. These schools included Olimo Memorial Nursery and Primary School, Senator Oluremi Tinubu Nursery and Primary School, Onike Baptist Girls Primary School, and Fazil O'mar Nursery and Primary School. The HDI team engaged with the students, emphasizing the significance of ongoing quality education and encouraging them to embrace learning, leveraging the government's free basic education policy for Nigerian children. Additionally, the children received various gifts from HDI to celebrate Children's Day in the year 2023.



5d. Supporting Student's with disability

As part of HDI Foundation's charity activities and in keeping with her vision of seeing a society of empowered humans devoid of social and economic vulnerabilities, a student of Atunda-Olu School was presented a wheelchair to ease his movement. The presentation was made by the Executive Director, Mrs Olufunso Owasanoye.



5e. HDI Education Trust Fund (HDI-ETF) school kits distribution

In preparation for school resumption for the 2023/2024 academic session, HDI Foundation Education Trust Fund has commenced the distribution of educational support materials and back-to-school kits to her Education Trust Fund (ETF) beneficiaries. These kits include textbooks, pens, pencils, mathematical sets, school sandals, bags, notebooks, and cane guides. The recipients of this program primarily consist of orphans, children of widows/widowers, and children living with disabilities. The support provided extends across all educational levels,

from primary through to secondary institutions. HDI Foundation currently has 403 students under the ETF scheme in Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools.



5f. Education Support to Children in Ada, Osun State

In November 2023, the HDI team, Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye, Mrs. Olufunso Owasanoye, Ms. Bolanle Dare, and Sade Ayeni, visited Ada, in Osun State in commemoration of the annual award ceremony of Oba Adedokun Ojo. The purpose of the visit was to honour the Oba and also provide education support to children in Nursery, Primary, and Secondary schools by supplying educational materials. The ceremony which took place on the 25th of November, 2023, was attended by dignitaries from various sectors of Ada Community. During the event, a visit was made to the site of Ada Golf Club for the foundation laying ceremony, and educational materials were distributed to vulnerable children. The following schools benefited from this initiative; Local Authority Primary School, St. Andrew’s Anglican Primary School, Baptist Day School, Ajayi Memorial High School, and Ada Secondary Commercial Grammar School. Overall, 100 students received educational materials.



5g. Pad Distribution Program to Girls with Disability

In developing nations like Nigeria, girls face numerous challenges that pose risks to their well-being, particularly in the realm of menstrual health. Girls with disabilities, in particular, encounter even greater vulnerabilities due to their unique circumstances. To address the issue of menstrual hygiene among girls with disabilities, the HDI Foundation, with the support of Sai Rosa Foundation, Treasure Eyes and Stanbic IBTC Bank, initiated the Menstrual Hygiene for Girls with Disability Project, aimed at bolstering the menstrual health of these girls.

The project identified and visited girls with disabilities in selected public schools and communities for targeted intervention. During these sessions, the girls received comprehensive education on menstrual hygiene, including practical demonstrations on the proper use of menstrual pads. Additionally, participants were provided with free pads courtesy of HDI and its sponsors.

Several schools benefited from this initiative, including the National Orthopedic Special School in Igbobi, The Destitute Home in Oko Baba, Ebute-Metta, Wesley School for the Hearing Impaired in Surulere, Atunda-Olu School for the Physically and Mentally Challenged, girls from Ifelodun LCDA in Amukoko, Apapa, Lagos, Modupe Cole Memorial Child Care and Treatment Home/School, School for the Deaf at Kuje, Abuja, Kuje, Junior Secondary School Pasali, Kuje, Special Need Primary School, Kuje and other homes in Abuja, FCT. About 300 students received the benefits of this intervention for one year.



5h. International Day of the Girl Child

The International Day of the Girl Child, observed globally on October 11th, was commemorated by HDI Foundation on October 11th, 2023, with the students of Queen's College, Yaba, Lagos. During the event, the girls were educated about internet usage, its benefits, and drawbacks. They were urged to steer clear of negative aspects such as internet addiction, exposure to pornography, and involvement in drug abuse. Instead, they were motivated to embrace the positive aspects of internet usage.



5i. Meeting with HDI TETF Students

In 2023, the HDI Foundation convened numerous gatherings with its beneficiaries of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TEFT) Scholarship, conducting both in-person and virtual sessions. The objective of these meetings was to inspire the students in their academic pursuits and offer guidance on navigating the challenges they encountered as vulnerable individuals.

The students received encouragement to dedicate themselves to their studies, cultivate resilience, and strive for excellence in their academic endeavours. Furthermore, they were imparted with valuable advice to steer clear of negative influences such as unhealthy friendships, substance abuse, and other detrimental behaviours that could impede their educational progress. Of the 100 students in the TETF Scholarship scheme, 10 graduated in 2023.

6.0 VIRTUAL DIALOGUES

In 2023, in alignment with its mission to strengthen vulnerable HUMANS in society and build total human capacity through social DEVELOPMENT programmes HDI-Foundation organised a series of six (6) webinars addressing pressing societal issues. These webinars covered diverse topics such as Coping with the Fuel Subsidy Removal Regime, Addressing The Suicide Challenge Among Nigerians, The Process of Obtaining Letters of Administration in Lagos State, And The Importance of Writing a Will Alongside Coping Strategies for Widows During Challenging Times. The objective of these webinars was multifaceted: to raise awareness, facilitate constructive dialogue, and provide both education and actionable solutions for addressing these challenges. By convening experts, stakeholders, and the wider community, these webinars aimed to foster deeper understanding, inspire meaningful action, and contribute to positive societal change.



7.0 TRAINING

In 2023, HDI conducted training sessions on Trauma Healing for Wounds of the Heart and Mental Health Therapy tailored specifically for the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) Counsellors. The objective of this training was to equip NAPTIP counsellors with the necessary knowledge, skills, and techniques to effectively address the psychological and emotional trauma experienced by survivors of trafficking.

The training aimed to enhance the counsellors' ability to provide holistic and compassionate support to survivors, facilitating their healing and recovery process. Additionally, the training sought to raise awareness about mental health issues and ensure that NAPTIP counsellors are equipped to address the unique mental health needs of trafficking survivors in their care. The training took place in July and November respectively.

8.0 CLIENT COUNSELLING

In the year 2023, the HDI Foundation handled more than 200 counselling cases from clients. These cases encompassed a wide spectrum of issues, including but not limited to suicide, depression, marital discord, and domestic violence. Among the total cases, 150 were successfully resolved, indicating the effectiveness of the Foundation's counselling services in addressing clients' needs. Presently, 25 cases remain ongoing, receiving continued support and guidance from the Foundation's counsellors. Additionally, the Foundation facilitated 10 referrals to other relevant government agencies and bodies, ensuring that clients receive comprehensive assistance beyond counseling where necessary. However, 15 cases were discontinued, reflecting the challenges encountered in providing support to all clients. Despite these challenges, the HDI Foundation remains committed to offering compassionate and effective counseling services to those in need.

9.0 WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The website **www.hdinigeria.org** was updated in the 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 has a Mobile Application called “VoiceOut” where citizens can report UBE projects, Abuse Cases, Human/Child Trafficking, and other issues. This App was updated in 2023.

In 2023, HDI's presence and impact were felt on all its social media platforms. These handles are: www.twitter.com/hdi4nigeria, www.instagram.com/hdi4nigeria, www.linkedin.com/hdinigeria, www.facebook.com/hdinigeria.

10.0 NEWSLETTER

The regular in-house monthly E-newsletter was sent out through Mail Chimp to all 1245 contacts quarterly. The newsletter contains activities of the organization. It is enriched with articles on developmental issues.

10.0 AWARDS

In 2023, the HDI Foundation was honoured with awards by NAPTIP in acknowledgment of our efforts, assistance, and counselling provided to victims of trafficking.

The Bridge-D-Gap Initiative also recognized the HDI Foundation for its steadfast commitment and exceptional contributions to protecting and advancing the welfare of children and families throughout Nigeria.

Additionally, Harvey Road Hospital presented an award to the HDI Foundation for its longstanding support and generosity toward underprivileged patients at their facility.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS