

INSIDE THIS EDITION

CBM Partners With TAF Africa and Nigerian Women Trust Fund to Host an Inception Meeting for The Disability Rights Advocacy Project for Inclusive Development (D-RAPID)

Cover Page

TAF Africa At the Global Disability Summit 2025: Advancing Inclusive Employment and Education

TAF Africa is set to make a significant impact at the Global Disability Summit (GDS) 2025, scheduled for April 2nd ...

Page 4

TAF Africa Stakeholders' Advocacy Visit in River State

TAF Africa's mission to promote disability inclusion led the organization to Rivers State, where the focus is on ensuring that persons with disabilities (PWDs) are fully integrated into government programs ...

Page 8

INSIDE
TAF Africa
... Disability Inclusion Champion

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CBM PARTNERS WITH TAF AFRICA AND NIGERIAN WOMEN TRUST FUND TO HOST AN INCEPTION MEETING FOR THE DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROJECT FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT (D-RAPID)

In a strategic move to advance disability rights and inclusive development in Nigeria, TAF Africa, in collaboration with the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) and Christian Blind Mission (CBM), successfully hosted a three-day inception meeting for the Disability Rights Advocacy Project for

Inclusive Development (D-RAPID). Co-funded by the European Union (EU) and CBM, this project aims to promote disability rights advocacy while strengthening inclusion mechanisms in governance and development processes in Benue and Delta States.

The inception meeting served as a crucial platform for aligning project partners and key stakeholders with the goals, implementation strategies, and monitoring frameworks of D-RAPID. It was designed to establish a shared understanding of the

project, ensure compliance with EU and CBM guidelines, and promote synergy among implementing partners for optimal impact.

Under the D-RAPID initiative, TAF Africa has been designated to lead implementation efforts in Delta State, while the Nigerian Women Trust Fund will spearhead activities in Benue State. This dual approach ensures that the project reaches diverse communities, driving meaningful change in disability advocacy and inclusion.

The meeting featured high-level participation, including a welcome address by Ruben Alba Aguilera, Head of the Governance, Security, and Migration Section at the EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS. Aguilera emphasized the EU's commitment to supporting initiatives that uphold the rights of persons with disabilities and encouraged implementing partners to put forth their best efforts in ensuring the project's success.

Amb. Jake Epelle, CEO/ Founder of TAF Africa, and





Brenda Anugwom, CEO of the Nigerian Women Trust Fund, expressed their enthusiasm for the partnership, reaffirming their commitment to promoting an inclusive society. They emphasized the need for strong collaboration and knowledge-sharing to maximize the project's impact in both states.

Delivering an opening

remark, Mr. Samuel Omoi, Country Director of CBM, commended all partners for their resilience and dedication throughout the application and selection process. He stressed the importance of teamwork and cooperation in achieving the project's objectives, urging all stakeholders to remain committed to the vision of D-RAPID.

The inception meeting laid the foundation for key deliverables, including:

The official kick-off of the D-RAPID action.

- Enhanced understanding of the project's goals and requirements among all stakeholders.
- The development of a comprehensive implementation plan to guide project execution in Benue and Delta



States.

By the conclusion of the meeting, stakeholders had successfully mapped out a structured roadmap, ensuring a seamless and impactful rollout of project activities. The success of this initiative will rely on the collective commitment of partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries to advocate for inclusive policies and sustainable development.

With this strong foundation in place, TAF Africa, alongside its partners, is poised to drive transformative change, ensuring that disability rights are mainstreamed into governance and development agendas in Nigeria.

TAF AFRICA AT THE GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT 2025: ADVANCING INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

TAF Africa is set to make a significant impact at the Global Disability Summit (GDS) 2025, scheduled for April 2nd and 3rd in Berlin, Germany. The summit, a premier international platform for advancing disability rights and inclusion, will convene key stakeholders, including governments, Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), private sector leaders, and civil society actors. It aims to drive concrete commitments

toward the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) across multiple sectors.

TAF Africa's CEO and Founder, Amb. Jake Epelle will lead the Nigerian delegation at this prestigious summit. As a global advocate for disability inclusion, Amb. Epelle will serve as a distinguished speaker during a high-level panel discussion on "Companies as Allies for OPDs and Governments

to Foster Inclusive Employment." This panel will feature speakers from various countries and will go through the transformative role that disability-confident companies play in driving inclusive employment practices in both domestic and global contexts.

The discussion will spotlight innovative corporate strategies for workforce inclusion, accessibility, and inclusive procurement along global supply chains.

Key takeaways from the panel will equip governments, OPDs, and other stakeholders with actionable insights on how the private sector can foster inclusivity. The session will also identify opportunities for collaboration and explore how these approaches can strengthen inclusive labor markets and economies worldwide.

In addition to its participation in the panel discussion, TAF Africa has been granted a unique opportunity to organize a fireside chat, “TAF Africa Disability Inclusion Forum.” This exclusive session will focus on two critical themes:

- **JAMB Equal Opportunity Group (JEOG) as a Global Best Practice in Inclusive Education:** The forum will highlight the successes of JEOG in ensuring equitable access to higher education for PWDs in Nigeria. The session aims to inspire similar initiatives worldwide and promote systemic reforms that enhance inclusive education by showcasing JEOG’s strategies and impact.
- **Advancing the Political Participation of PWDs:** The fireside chat will explore strategies to enhance the engagement of PWDs in governance in recognition

of the importance of their political participation. The session will discuss policy innovations, legal frameworks, and advocacy efforts that facilitate political participation, ensuring that the voices of PWDs are adequately represented in decision-making processes.


The fireside chat will feature a panel of speakers, including Amb. Jake Epelle – CEO/ Founder, TAF Africa, Hon. Dr. Yusuf T. Sununu, Minister of State, Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction and Prof. Ishaq Oloyede, Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB).

This session will serve as a vital platform for sharing best practices, promoting cross-sector collaboration, and strengthening advocacy efforts for disability inclusion.

TAF Africa’s participation in the Global Disability Summit emphasizes its dedication to disability rights, economic empowerment, and inclusive governance. Through active engagement in high-level discussions, the organization continues to shape global conversations on disability inclusion, offering expertise and innovative approaches that drive meaningful change.



Amb. Jake Epelle *Fnpr*
Speaker, GDS 2025
Leader, Nigerian Delegation

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The summit presents a remarkable opportunity to build strategic partnerships, influence policy discourse, and amplify the voices of PWDs on a global stage. TAF Africa is reinforcing its role as a leading force in the disability rights movement by advocating for inclusive employment, education, and governance.

As the world gathers in Berlin to advance disability inclusion, TAF Africa remains dedicated to championing policies and programs that ensure equal opportunities for all. Stay tuned for updates via our social media platforms on our impactful participation at the Global Disability Summit 2025!

TAF AFRICA DISABILITY INCLUSION FORUM AT THE GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT 2025

A Fireside Chat on Advancing Disability Inclusion and
Equal Opportunities in Education and Governance.

Speakers



Amb. Jake Epelle
CEO/Founder, TAF Africa



Hon. Dr. Yusuf T. Sununu
Minister of State, Humanitarian
Affairs & Poverty Reduction



Prof. Ishaq Oloyede
Registrar, Joint Admissions &
Matriculation Board (JAMB)

GLOBAL
DISABILITY
SUMMIT 2025



Date:
April 2nd, 2025



Time
4:15pm



Location
Berlin, Germany



IT'S TIME TO **ACT!**

**SUBMIT
YOUR GDS
COMMITMENTS**

TAF AFRICA STAKEHOLDERS' ADVOCACY VISIT IN RIVER STATE

TAF Africa's mission to promote disability inclusion led the organization to Rivers State, where the focus is on ensuring that persons with disabilities (PWDs) are fully integrated into government programs and policies. The two-year (2025–2026) Disability Inclusion Project, funded by the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), is more than just an initiative; it is a movement toward justice, equality, and opportunity.

Determined to spark change, the TAF Africa team embarked on a series of advocacy visits, engaging with key ministries to create awareness, secure commitments, and break down barriers. Each visit carried the hope of progress and the weight of responsibility to ensure that PWDs have access to justice, healthcare, education, and employment.

In the Ministry of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation, the team was received by the Honourable Commissioner, Ilamusikami Arugu. The commissioner and his team were eager to drive change and assured the TAF team that the ministry was ready to collaborate. A ministry representative present at the advocacy visit appealed to TAF Africa to remain unified and not fall into factionalism, a challenge that had affected other PWD groups.





At the Ministry of Youth, the atmosphere was equally encouraging. The commissioner, Dr. Chisom Kenneth Gbali, recognizing the potential of the project, pledged future collaboration, setting the stage for active participation in upcoming initiatives.

TAF Africa's message found a receptive audience at the Ministry of Women Affairs. While recognizing the Ministry of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation as the lead agency for disability matters, the Honourable Commissioner, Roseline Uranta, affirmed, "We will support this cause in any way we can."

At the Ministry of Education, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Mrs. Azibaolanari Uzoma-Nwogu, welcomed the team. With conviction, she emphasized, "Political will is key." She said that no matter how many advocacy visits or awareness campaigns TAF conducts, without political commitment, the project may not succeed.

The visit to the Ministry of Health was met with an honest acknowledgment of the gaps in disability inclusion. "We have work to do," admitted Commissioner Dr. Adaeze Chidinma Oreh, but there was hope.

The advocacy visits painted a picture of both



progress and challenges. Though the ministries fell short in terms of integrating persons with disabilities in their system, there was a shared willingness to support disability inclusion.



TAF AFRICA AND NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION FORGE PARTNERSHIP FOR PWDS' ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Leadership of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), led by its President, Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, paid an advocacy visit to the CEO/Founder of TAF Africa, Jake Epelle, to explore collaborative efforts aimed at dismantling legal, procedural, and administrative barriers hindering persons with disabilities (PWDs) from accessing justice.

During the visit, Mr. Osigwe emphasized the critical role of partnerships in amplifying efforts to create an inclusive legal system. He reaffirmed the NBA's commitment to working with organizations such as TAF Africa to provide much-needed legal assistance to marginalized groups. On behalf of the NBA, he pledged to strengthen partnerships with groups focused on supporting PWDs,

ensuring that justice is not only available but also accessible to the most vulnerable members of society.

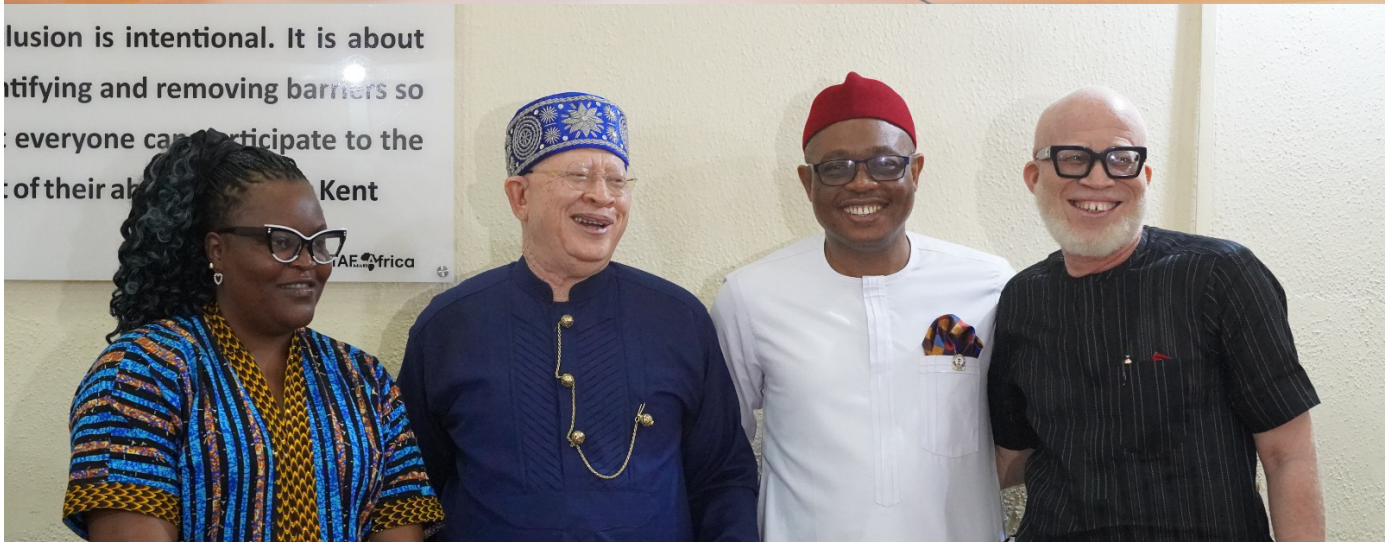
Speaking at the meeting, Jake Epelle welcomed the NBA's commitment and called for the development of structured, inclusive programs that address diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). He emphasized the need for intensified efforts in providing legal aid for those often unheard in society, particularly women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Recognizing the urgency of the matter, both organizations agreed to explore deeper collaborations, with discussions culminating in plans to sign a Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU). This MoU will formalize a strategic partnership between TAF Africa and the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) to enhance access to justice for PWDs. The collaboration aims to ensure that persons with disabilities receive legal representation, protection, and advocacy tailored to their unique challenges.

This partnership is a huge step towards bridging the justice gap for PWDs in Nigeria. It accentuates the collective responsibility of legal institutions and advocacy groups to champion the rights of marginalized communities, reinforcing the principle that justice must be accessible to all, regardless of physical ability or social status.





clusion is intentional. It is about
ntifying and removing barriers so
everyone can participate to the
of their ab Kent

TAF Africa

... Disability Inclusion Champion

EPISODE 2 of **TAF Africa MICDISABILITY** **PODCAST**



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