

Annual REPORT 2024

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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2. MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

2.1 Board Chairman

It is with great pride and responsibility that I present the 2024 Annual Report for TAF Africa. This year, we have made significant strides in advocating for the rights, socio-economic, and political inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and other vulnerable groups in Nigeria and beyond.

Our collaboration with the **EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Phase II** has promoted the political inclusion of marginalized groups, particularly PWDs, in Nigeria's political processes.

One of our notable achievements was the **Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) – Kaduna Projects**, focusing on strengthening governance and the rule of law for disability inclusion at the grassroots level in Kaduna State.

We also progressed with the **Disability Rights Fund (DRF) Grant**, enhancing PWD participation in governance in Cross River, Delta, and Sokoto States. This project has been instrumental in ensuring PWDs have a voice in governance processes.

In partnership with **Sightsavers International**, we reviewed the National Policy on Inclusive Education 2016 and increased labour force participation of PWDs through the **Sightsavers Economic Empowerment Project**.

The **FCDO/Situation Room Bayelsa Project** raised awareness among PWDs about their rights to participate in governance. The **PLAC-MacArthur** program amplified the need for effective inclusion of PWDs through podcasts and audio-visual materials.

Lastly, the **NDI Nigeria – Accelerate Disability Inclusion in Emergencies**

Forum identified PWD priorities and engaged with stakeholders to reduce poverty and promote social cohesion.

We remain committed to our mission and are grateful for the support of our partners, stakeholders, and the community. We look forward to continuing our work towards a more inclusive society.



Prof. Vincent Anigbogu

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

2.2 CEO: Overview of The Year's Accomplishments And Challenges

It is with immense gratitude that I reflect on the past year and share with you the stride TAF Africa has made in advancing disability inclusion across Nigeria and beyond. Our mission remains clear: to work with state and non-state actors in Africa to advocate for rights and dignity of persons with disabilities by fostering inclusivity and empowerment through policy and legislative interventions and education. We seek an inclusive society where persons with disabilities (PWDs) have equal access to opportunities, political participation, and socio-economic empowerment. This journey has been filled with tremendous successes, challenges, breakthroughs and most importantly, impactful collaborations that continue to drive our mission forward.

At TAF, we believe that an inclusive society is not just an ideal but a necessity. Every year, we strive to break down barriers, amplify the voices of persons with disabilities (PWDs), and advocate for policies that guarantee equal opportunities for all. This past year was no exception, and I am proud of the remarkable progress we have achieved together.

One of our significant milestones was our active support for the Delta State Independent Electoral Commission in conducting inclusive local government elections. With funding from the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), we implemented the Able to Vote campaign, a bold initiative that mobilized PWDs to participate in the electoral process. Through capacity building workshops, training of election observers, and strategic engagement with policymakers, we reinforced the critical need for inclusive elections. Building on this momentum, TAF Africa hosted a landmark Round Table Discussion on Disability Inclusive Local Government Elections, convening key stakeholders from political parties, civil society organizations, the media, and the disability community. The discussions reinforced a shared commitment to dismantling the structural barriers that hinder PWDs from active political participation. We emphasized that inclusion is not just about representation it is a fundamental right and a vital component of democracy at all levels.

Beyond elections, we trained and deployed Sign Languages Interpreters to the National Assembly with funding from EU under the EU-SDGN projects, with Sightsavers funded Economic Empowerment Project, we supported the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities to develop and Launch the framework for the National Access to Work Scheme. Our advocacy and engagements extended to international and national platforms, emphasizing the importance of disability inclusion in governance, the workplace, and development programs. From participating in high level discussions such as the ActionAid Panel on Electoral Reforms and the INEC Consultative Meeting with Civil Society Organizations to strengthening international partnerships at the Europe Day 2024 Reception, TAF Africa continues to be at the forefront of shaping policies and conversations that drive meaningful change.

As we look to the future, our key priorities include strengthening legal and policy frameworks to protect the rights of PWDs, ensuring accessibility for PWDs and increasing public awareness to combat stigma, fostering economic empowerment through inclusive education, vocational training, and employment opportunities. Furthermore, we are laying the groundwork to extend our reach beyond Nigeria into Africa and the globe, thereby asserting our commitment to creating an inclusive world. None of this would be possible without the dedication and support of our partners, donors, the resilient community of persons with disabilities who inspire us daily and most importantly, my formidable team of skilled and passionate staff, your unwavering support fuels our passion and commitment to building a world where disability is never a barrier to opportunity.



Amb. Jake Epelle

CEO/FOUNDER TAF Africa

3. MISSION STATEMENT AND VISION

3. 1 Mission Statement

Our mission is to work with state and non-state actors in Africa to advocate for rights and dignity of persons with disabilities by fostering inclusivity and empowerment through policy and legislative interventions and education.

3. 2 Vision

We envision an inclusive society that embraces and empowers persons with disabilities, ensuring their participation in socio-political and economic activities in Africa.

4. OVERVIEW: A REFLECTION ON OUR 2024 ACTIVITIES

As we reflect on the past year, we take pride in presenting the key programmes and initiatives that have propelled our mission forward. These efforts addressed critical challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PWDs), empowering them and fostering sustainable, inclusive change in our society. Through collaboration, innovation, and unwavering dedication, our initiatives have created a significant impact, transforming many lives across Nigeria.

This report highlights some of our most impactful projects and activities, showcasing our resilient efforts to break down barriers to PWD inclusion across political, economic, and social spheres. Notable initiatives implemented by TAF Africa in 2024 include:

- **Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) – Kaduna Projects:** Advancing the participation of PWDs in grassroots politics.
- **Disability Rights Fund (DRF) Grant:** Enhancing PWD participation in governance and decision-making at the grassroots level in Cross River, Delta and Sokoto States.
- **EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Phase II:** Component 5b – Enhanced Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the Political Process
- **Sightsavers International – National Policy on Inclusive Education Project:** Promoting a more inclusive education system for PWDs.
- **Sightsavers Economic Empowerment Project:** Increasing labour force participation of women and men with disabilities in Nigeria.
- **FCDO/Situation Room Bayelsa Project:** Raising awareness among PWDs and the public about their rights to participate in governance processes.
- **PLAC-MacArthur – Able to Serve Media Campaign:** Promoting disability inclusion through targeted media advocacy.

- **NDI Nigeria – Accelerate Disability Inclusion in Emergencies Forum:** Driving discussions on PWD inclusion in emergency preparedness and response.

This section, therefore, highlights the most notable initiatives of our work, the tangible outcomes achieved, and the commitment of our partners to fostering inclusive development for persons with disabilities and how we are collectively driving sustainable change and creating opportunities for a more equitable future.

4.1 Canadian Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI) – Kaduna: Strengthening Institutions on Governance and Rule of Law for Disability Inclusion at the Grassroots in Kaduna State, Nigeria through Advocacy, Public Awareness and Capacity Building

The goal of the project was to strengthen institutions on disability inclusion in the electoral process at the grassroots in Kaduna State, Nigeria. The long-term expected results include:

- i. Increased accessibility and participation of PWDs in the electoral process at the grassroots.
- ii. Enhanced legal framework and enforcement to promote the participation of PWD in the electoral process at the grassroots.
- iii. Enhanced institutional capacity and collaboration amongst actors on disability inclusion at the grassroots.

Key Activities implemented under this project include:

4.1.1. Advocacy visits to critical stakeholders

TAF Africa, in collaboration with the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), embarked on a series of pivotal advocacy visits to stakeholders in Kaduna State, towards enhancing the participation of persons with disabilities in Local government elections in Kaduna State. This collaborative endeavour underscores the commitment of the TAF Africa and JONAPWD to championing social equity, dismantling barriers, and cultivating

a more inclusive ecosystem for persons with disabilities in Kaduna State. Advocacy visits were paid to the Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KAD-SIECOM) the Ministry of Human Services and Social Affairs, The State House of Assembly, Political parties, Media Organizations, and Law enforcement agencies (LEAs), and other civil society organisations operating in the state.

The project team presented



CFLI Advocacy visit to Nigeria Police Kaduna 19th January 2024.

strategies for capacity building and advocacy, and discussed target initiatives to enhance stakeholder understanding and engagement.

Specific attention was given to the role of governance institutions in promoting disability rights. Key commitments were sought from the

stakeholders, with the team actively seeking assurances of support and collaboration. The key sessions were characterised by open dialogue, collaborative spirit, and a shared commitment to advancing disability

inclusion. The discussions set the stage for strategic partnerships and focused initiatives that aim to creating a more inclusive and accessible environment at the grassroots level in Kaduna State.

4.1.2. Sensitization of PWDs on the Legal Provisions and Rights to Participate in the Electoral Process



Prof. Joseph Gambo (KADSIECOM) Electoral Commissioner facilitating the session

To foster the political participation of PWDs in the electoral processes in Kaduna State and by extension at the national level, TAF Africa, under the CFLI project organized a one-day meeting to sensitize PWDs in Kaduna State on the legal provisions and rights to participate in electoral processes. The meeting was a one-day interactive session with the TAF Africa team, JONAPWDs, OPDs, the media, and government stakeholders.

4.1.3. Round Table Discussion with Stakeholders on Disability Inclusion in the Electoral Process at the Grassroots in Kaduna State



Barr. Mrs Sarah Alalade facilitated a session on the overview of the Existing Legal Framework integration of PWDs into electoral processes

A one-day roundtable discussion was organized by TAF Africa to provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss the challenges and opportunities surrounding disability inclusion in the electoral process. Issues around reasonable accommodation to enable PWDs participation to vote and contest in elections were highlighted as critical in addressing barriers to access in electoral frameworks.

While existing electoral policies recognize the need for assistive devices and reasonable accommodation for PWDs, the full implementation of these provisions remains a challenge. There were calls to strengthen institutions and uphold the rule of law for disability inclusion at the grassroots level ahead of the Kaduna State Local Government Elections. The discussion was an interactive session with the TAF Africa Team, JONAPWDs, OPDs, the media

and government stakeholders.

4.1.4. Capacity-Building Training for Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission (KAD-SIECOM) on Disability Inclusion in the Electoral Process at the Grassroot Level



Prof Gambo Akpoko presented a session on the role of Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) in ensuring disability inclusion in the electoral processes in Kaduna State

To strengthen accessible electoral processes and be inclusive at the grassroots level, TAF Africa through the CFLI project organised a two-day capacity building for KAD-SIECOM on Disability Inclusion in the Electoral Process at the Grassroots level. The outcome of the training

was anticipated to generate tangible improvements in accessibility and participation for PWDs in Kaduna State and beyond.

The training provided KAD-SIECOM officials with the basic knowledge and skills necessary to

create an electoral environment that is inclusive and accessible to all citizens, regardless of their abilities. By doing so, it contributed to the promotion of democracy and human rights in Kaduna State. The training drew participants from KAD-SIECOM and JONAPWDs. The training presented a comprehensive approach to knowledge transfer and skill development.

4.1.5. Coordination Meeting for 25 Stakeholders on Disability Inclusion in the Electoral Processes at the Grassroots

TAF Africa organised a one-day coordination meeting bringing together various stakeholders including OPDs, JONAPWD, KAD-SIECOM and law enforcement agencies to help align their efforts towards inclusive grassroots elections in Kaduna state. The meeting provided a platform for stakeholders to discuss challenges, and share best practices, and strategies on how to enhance the participation of PWDs in the planned

local government elections in Kaduna State. The meeting also provided an avenue for collaborative efforts to ensure that the voices of all citizens, including those with disabilities, are heard and represented in the democratic process. The meeting equally empowered participants with practical knowledge and tools for advocating the increased participation of persons with disabilities in electoral processes especially at the grassroots level.

The meeting showcased a comprehensive approach to knowledge transfer and skill development through technical paper presentations, interactive sessions, breakout sessions, and group discussions. The outcome of the meeting will continue to serve as a platform for deepening collaboration, fostering experiential learning, facilitating information sharing, and initiating decisive actions to address challenges faced by PWDs during elections. Informative sessions included stakeholders' role clarification on disability inclusion in electoral processes, and identifying potential gaps or overlaps in responsibilities.

4.1.6. Capacity Building for Law Enforcement Agencies, OPDs, Political Parties, and the Media

A one-day capacity-building training on disability inclusion in electoral processes was organized, by TAF Africa bringing together various stakeholders including OPDs, JONAPWD, political parties, the media, and law enforcement agencies. The training served as a platform for stakeholders to address challenges, exchange best practices, and develop strategies to enhance the participation of PWDs in the upcoming local government elections in Kaduna State. Through collaborative efforts and dialogue, the training fostered greater opportunities for an inclusive and accessible electoral process that will recognise the voices and needs of PWDs in decision-making. Key issues discussed included power dynamics and political participation, the formation of disability leagues, behavioural change in politics for people with disabilities, and the legal basis for the political rights of

persons with disabilities.

4.1.7. Key Achievements Recorded Under the CFLI Project

The CFLI project achieved several milestones towards promoting inclusive governance and enhancing the political participation of PWDs in the electoral process especially at the grassroots. These include:

- i. The programme enhanced awareness about the rights and needs of PWDs in the electoral process among stakeholders, including government officials, security agencies, the media civil society organizations, and the public. Through its strategic advocacies, the project promoted the inclusion of disability rights in policy discussions and decision-making processes.
- ii. The project's advocacy efforts have equally contributed to policy changes and reforms aimed at enhancing the accessibility and inclusivity of electoral processes for PWDs, especially in the areas of voter education, registration and accessibility of pooling units

coordinated by KAD-SIECOM. This was further evident in improved voter registration of PWDs, the removal of physical barriers at polling stations, and the allocation of resources for voter education targeted at PWDs.

iii. The project's capacity-building initiatives for PWDs empowered them with the requisite knowledge, skills, and confidence to participate effectively in the electoral process and even demand their rights. Training sessions on voter sensitization, the legal rights of PWDs, and rights awareness have equipped PWDs with the necessary tools they need to engage meaningfully in democratic processes.

iv. The roundtable discussions and the coordination meeting helped facilitate the establishment of networks and partnerships among PWDs, disability rights organizations, electoral authorities, and other stakeholders. These networks will continue to serve as platforms for collaboration, information sharing, and collective advocacies, amplifying the voices and concerns of PWDs in the political space.

v. The project generally has played a key role in promoting inclusive electoral practices, such as the provision of assistive tools, sign language interpretation, and accessible voting materials.



Cross section of Officers of NSCDC and TAF Africa/CFLI Project Team during Advocacy visit to the State Headquarters of Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, Kaduna State on January 18, 2024

4.2 The Disability Rights Fund (DRF)

TAF Africa secured this grant in July 2022, with implementation spanning until April 2024. The strategic goal of the intervention was to enhance the participation of persons with disabilities in grassroots governance and decision-making in Cross River, Delta State and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). While the project focused on the above locations, its impact extended across Nigeria.

The DRF project was implemented with the following key outcome objectives:

- i. Enhancing political participation by promoting the involvement of persons with disabilities in political life and grassroots decision-making in Cross River State.
- ii. Advocating for inclusive data collection by pushing for the adoption of the Washington Group Questions (WGQ) in the forthcoming national census to improve disability data accuracy.
- iii. Strengthening disability organizations by supporting Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) through capacity-building initiatives.

Some of the key activities implemented under this initiative in 2024 are highlighted below:

4.2.1. Advocacy Visit to Stakeholders in Cross River State

The advocacy visit was undertaken to advance disability inclusion initiatives in Cross River State by engaging key stakeholders to advocate for policy approvals and implementation. During the advocacy visits, TAF Africa team engaged with Rt. Hon. Elvert Anyambem, Speaker, Cross

River State House of Assembly, Prof. Anthony Owan Enoh, Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare and Community Development. The purpose of the advocacy visit was:

i. Establishment of the State Disability Affairs Board: A memorandum had previously been submitted to the Governor through the Secretary to the State Government (SSG). The visit was aimed to reinforce the need for follow-up actions by both the Governor and the SSG to ensure the adoption of the recommendations outlined in the memorandum.

ii. Approval of the Framework for Disability-Inclusive Governance: This framework was developed during a technical session involving relevant stakeholders in Cross River State. The final draft was submitted to the Governor and the SSG for approval and adoption by the State Government.

iii. Approval of the Revised CROSIEC Guidelines: The revised guidelines, developed in collaboration with the Cross River State Independent Electoral Commission (CROSIEC), were subjected to a stakeholder review and validation process. While CROSIEC was working towards securing the Governor's "no-objection," TAF Africa undertook follow-up engagements to

ensure the approval process was expedited.

iv. Presentation of the Accessibility Assessment Report: The accessibility assessment was conducted in December 2023. The report was presented to key stakeholders to highlight critical gaps and recommendations for enhancing accessibility in public infrastructure and services.

v. Securing a Date for the Presentation and Validation of the Framework for Inclusive Public Sector Governance and the Accessibility Assessment Report: These final project activities aim to facilitate the broad dissemination of the framework and recommendations from the accessibility assessment.

Key Outcomes Achieved during the Advocacy Visit

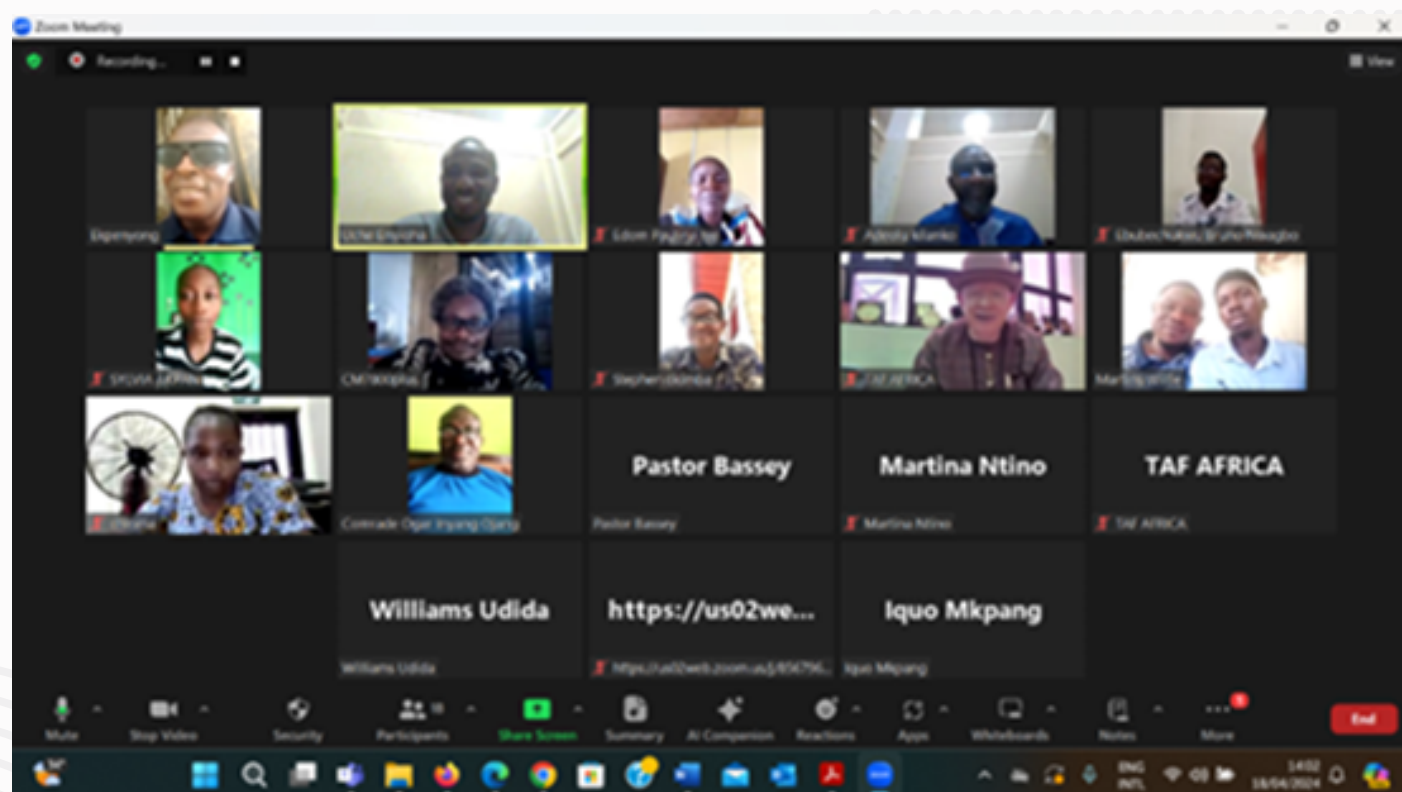
- i. The engagement resulted in an increased understanding among state officials regarding the importance of disability inclusion. There was a stronger commitment to addressing the issues raised by TAF Africa.
- ii. The meeting with the Speaker of

the Cross River State House of Assembly provided a significant advantage to the advocacy efforts. Legislative backing was expected

to facilitate smoother passage and adoption of the proposed policies and frameworks.

4.2.2. Virtual Presentation and Validation of the Framework for Disability Inclusive Public Sector Governance in Cross River State, and presentation of the Accessibility Assessment Report of selected Public Buildings in Cross River State, held on the 18th of April 2024.

Public Sector Governance document which articulates the whole-of-government approach to disability mainstreaming within the public sector was virtually presented for validation. The purpose of the activity was to share with stakeholders the final draft of the Framework, validate the same, and push for full operationalisation by the State Government. This was to enable state ownership of the document and ensure stakeholders' buy-in.



The virtual meeting also provided a platform for sharing insights from the report of the Accessibility Assessment conducted on selected public buildings in Cross River State. The report will continue to guide the State Government in making improvements to public infrastructure towards improving accessibility. It will also guide OPDs and PWD clusters in their advocacy and engagement with public sector stakeholders for the delivery of accessible public infrastructure.

4.2.3. Support for Inclusive Local Government Election in Delta State

In the wake-up call by the Supreme Court judgment affirming local government autonomy in Nigeria and mandating all local government authorities in Nigeria to conduct elections TAF Africa under the DRF funding supported the Delta – SIEC for the conduct of inclusive elections for PWDs. In the process, TAF Africa implemented the following initiatives to promote inclusive elections during the Delta State local government elections:

i. Able to Vote Campaign mobilization of PWDs to Vote:

This activity aimed to mobilise PWDs to actively come out and vote by building their confidence in the electoral process and the capacity of the election management body to ensure their participation. The event, which was held on the 26th of June 2024, in Asaba also provided persons with disabilities the platform to share their perspectives on inclusive elections.

ii. Capacity building on Disability Inclusion for relevant stakeholders:

The aim of the workshop which was held on 27th June 2024 was to improve the responsiveness of stakeholders to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the local government elections. The event also provided a platform for direct interactions between the community of persons with disabilities in Delta State and other stakeholders to foster a shared understanding of disability inclusion in elections and politics and to articulate the way forward.

iii. Training of Election Observers in Delta State:

TAF Africa

working with the state chapter of JONAPWD mobilized and trained 75 observers to observe the Local Government Election in Delta State. These observers were recruited from each of the 25 LGAs (3 from each) and were accredited by the Delta State Electoral Commission.

iv. Monitoring of Local Government

Election in Delta State: The 75 observers trained in partnership with the Delta State Electoral Commission were deployed to observe the LGA election in Delta State. The 3 observers mobilized were deployed to 75 polling units in Delta state leveraging the TAF Africa Election Observer App. The observers used the TAF Africa election observer application to report their findings and eyewitness occurrence during the local government election. The report of the election observation was compiled with actionable recommendations and shared with the Delta State Electoral Commission to inform reforms for future elections in the state.

Local Government Elections:

- i. There was an improved appreciation for the need for the State Government to take more seriously the matter of inclusion in the State, especially when considering the advocacy for inclusive elections.
- ii. The meeting with the Speaker of the House of Assembly brought an added advantage to the trajectory of the project. With legislative support it is anticipated that the advocacy asks will pass through more seamlessly.
- iii. Successfully implementing the AbletoVote campaign to mobilise persons with disabilities towards the elections led to an increased participation of PWDs in the electoral process.
- iv. Successful capacity building for some stakeholders in the electoral process, particularly the D-SIEC will continue to play an impactful role in future elections in the state.

Key outcome of TAF Engagement in the Delta State

4.2.4. Round Table Discussion on Disability-Inclusive Local Government Elections

Following the Supreme Court judgment affirming local government autonomy in Nigeria, TAF Africa organised a ***Round Table Discussion on Disability-Inclusive Local Government Elections*** convened on September 5, 2024, at Denis Hotel, Abuja. The august event drew participation from key stakeholders including the political parties, the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), civil society organisations (CSOs), the media, interest groups and leaders from the disability community. The event sought to ***foster meaningful dialogue to ensure the upcoming local government elections across Nigeria were inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.***

The event was funded by the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), which featured a keynote presentation by Dr Otiye Igbuzor, highlighting the vital role of political participation by persons with disabilities in strengthening

democracy at the local government level. A plenary discussion was facilitated by Dr Adebukola Adebayo which focused on how best state and non-state actors can enhance electoral engagement for persons with disabilities at the local government level.

The general conclusion during the round table discussion centred around the need for the inclusion of PWDs in the electoral process and this should not be seen as only a matter of equity but also a fundamental right and step toward strengthening democracy at the grassroots. It was equally resolved that political power is not given but fought for, hence PWDs should stand up and actively participate in the electoral process. PWDs were encouraged to collaboratively develop strategies for holistic stakeholder engagement that will ensure improved representation and inclusivity at the local government levels. The insights gained from the discussion is believed will inform actionable strategies, ensuring that the upcoming local government elections align with the broader goals of inclusion, equity, and

advancement of democracy in Nigeria.



Select participants in a group

4.3. EU - Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Phase II: Component 5b – Enhanced Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the Political Process

This initiative, with funding support from the European Union (EU), aimed to enhance the political participation of PWDs by fostering direct engagement between election management bodies, political parties, and civil society organizations. The intervention sought to create an inclusive political discourse, foster commitments, and influence policymaking while

expanding the pool and capacity of PWDs as aspirants and elected officials.

Specifically designed to promote the political inclusion of marginalized groups—particularly PWDs—in Nigeria's political processes, the project pursued the following specific objectives to achieve its overall goal:

1. Strengthen legal reforms and other initiatives to promote the inclusion of PWDs, including minorities, in politics, political parties, and in political leadership and decision-making positions.
2. Increase the number of PWD aspirants for elective offices.
3. Enhance the capacity of PWDs aspiring for and holding elected offices.
4. Enhance the legal framework for increased participation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the electoral process.

Key Highlights:



Strengthening the Legal & Policy Framework for PWD Inclusion in Politics

3 Disability-inclusive laws reviewed/audited	10 PWD legislative interns awaiting deployment to National Assembly
9 Sign language interpreters trained & deployed in NASS	7 PWD Election Hubs established



Capacity Building & Advocacy

25 advocacy engagements on PWD mainstreaming	25 public sensitization programs on PWD political participation implemented
6 stakeholder training sessions on IDP electoral participation	1,173 IEC materials produced & disseminated
50M+ reached via disability inclusion radio programs on FRCN • 1,191 IDPs sensitized for the first time to vote	



Off-Cycle Elections (Kogi, Imo, Bayelsa)

68% - 83% of polling units provided priority voting for PWDs
78% - 90% of polling units were accessible



Political Participation & Representation

1,380

election observers trained on PWD inclusion leveraging **TAF Africa Election Observer App** (<https://election-hub.org.ng/pwd/>)

116

PWD political aspirants trained

72

elected/ap-pointed PWDs trained in leadership

26

appointed PWDs in government

8

PWDs in political party leadership

- INEC prioritised PWDs in the 2023 General Elections operations
- 21,165 magnifying glasses provided for persons with visual impairments
- 14% of polling units engaged PWDs as INEC Adhoc Staff
- 37 PWDs contested elections; **1 elected as Speaker, Adamawa State House of Assembly**



Edo and Ondo Governorship Election 2024

88%

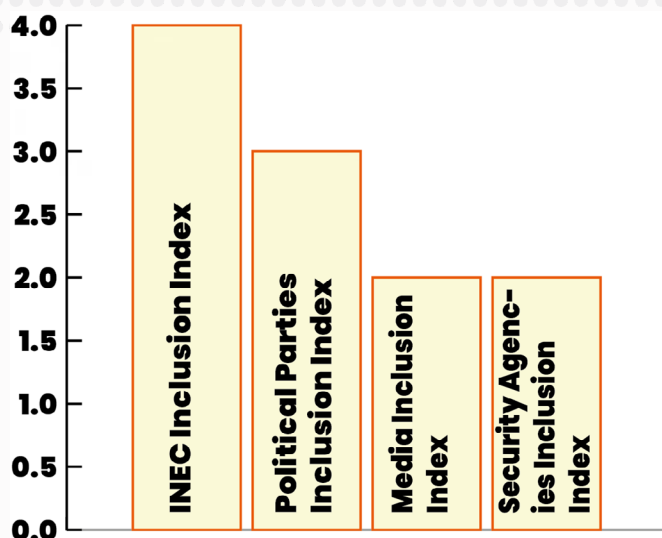
polling unit accessibility

96%

of PWD voters received priority voting



PWDs Political Inclusion Ratings (Scale of 1-5) of key Institutions



Impact: PWDs & IDPs have greater awareness and increased participation in governance and elections as a result of TAF Africa intervention through the EU-SDGN 2.



Challenges & Next Steps

40%

of polling units lacked assistive tools

50%

of polling units lacked Form EC 40H for PWD voter data

Political parties, media, and security agencies scored moderate to low on disability inclusion

Key activities implemented under the EU-SDGN II programme in 2024 are:

4.3.1. Disability Inclusion Radio Programme

The Disability Inclusion Radio Programme, launched in 2022, continued to raise public awareness through its insightful content addressing key issues of disability inclusion in 2024. This flagship initiative by TAF Africa was produced and broadcast on the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN),

leveraging its extensive nationwide coverage.

In 2024, the disability inclusion radio programme provided in-depth insights into the inclusion of PWDs in politics and governance. In the last two years, the Disability Inclusion Radio Programme aired approximately 98 episodes, reaching an estimated audience of over 50 million listeners across Nigeria, as evidenced by FRCN's records.

Importantly, the programme significantly increased public awareness and understanding of the civic rights of PWDs and fostered greater appreciation for their inclusion in political processes across the country.

4.3.2. Training and deployment of Sign Language Interpreters to the National Assembly

TAF Africa, in collaboration with the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), the Association of Sign Language Interpreters of Nigeria (ASLIN), and the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS), successfully trained nine (9) Sign Language Interpreters (SLIs), who have since been deployed to the National Assembly (NASS).

The goal of this initiative was to break language barriers and promote the active participation of the deaf community in political processes. The two-day training equipped the SLIs with the necessary skills to navigate legislative duties effectively, ensuring they are well-prepared to support PWDs, particularly the deaf community, in engaging with the governance system.

Key Objectives of the Training

- i. To address the communication challenges faced by members of the disability cluster, especially the deaf community.
- ii. To Provide SLIs with a comprehensive understanding of

legislative duties and processes to enable them to support PWDs effectively.

Impact and Sustainability

This initiative underscores the importance of creating an inclusive political environment. By enabling the deaf community to access legislative information with ease, even from the comfort of their homes. The deployment of SLIs marks a significant step toward reducing communication barriers between the NASS and the deaf community.

Furthermore, this activity aligns with the broader goal of the EU-SDGN 2 to enhance PWDs' involvement in political leadership and decision-making. Through strategic collaboration with stakeholders such as NCPWD, the SLIs were integrated into the Nigerian Civil Service which has ensured the sustainability of its outcomes, extending its impact well beyond the duration of the intervention.



Pictures of a cross-section of participants during the SLI training

4.3.4. Legislative Intern Training

The Legislative Internship Training Event was organized by TAF Africa with support from EU-SDGN II to enhance disability inclusion in Nigeria's legislative process. The training aimed to equip interns with knowledge of legislative procedures and policy development to promote disability-inclusive laws and representation. Nine selected interns from different geopolitical zones participated in the event, held at Reiz Continental Hotel, Abuja, from October 31 to November 1, 2024.

The training sessions included presentations on legislative processes, budget formulation, advocacy strategies, and mainstreaming disability inclusion into governance. The methodology was interactive, employing slide presentations, role-playing, and shared experiences to deepen understanding. Interns gained insights into the functions of the National Assembly, bill passage processes, and legislative advocacy, emphasising strategic stakeholder engagement. Interns also gained practical strategies for effective participation in legislative processes, including research skills, stakeholder mapping, and coalition

building. Their understanding of legislative oversight, budgeting, and policy formulation was significantly entrenched.

Recommendations from the training emphasised continuous capacity building, stronger stakeholder engagement, and active participation of persons with disabilities in legislative affairs. Further suggestions included mentorship programs, internship extensions, and sustained collaboration between TAF Africa, policymakers, and development partners to institutionalise disability-

inclusive legislative practices.

The event concluded with encouragement for interns to maximise their placements in the House of Representatives to promote disability rights. Mr. Adeolu Kilanko the Programme Manager of TAF Africa commended their commitment and expressed optimism that their contributions would bridge representation gaps and foster inclusivity in governance.



A cross-section of participants during the training



Participants at the internship training in a group photograph

4.3.5. Administration of Political Inclusion Index Tool

The administration of the Political Inclusion Index Tool was aimed to assess the level of disability inclusivity in Nigeria's electoral process by evaluating key institutions—INEC, political parties, security agencies, and the media—on their adherence to inclusive policies. The study, conducted using TAF Africa's Political Inclusion Index tool, employed both qualitative and quantitative methods to benchmark institutions against predefined levels of political inclusion. Findings revealed a wide disparity in inclusion levels, with INEC scoring the highest (4/5), political parties demonstrating moderate inclusivity (3/5), security agencies (2/5) and media institutions (2/5) respectively which exhibited limited inclusion.

Level of inclusion by Sector

Sector	Score	Level of Inclusion
Media	56	Level 2 - Limited level of Inclusion
Security	45	Level 2 - Limited level of Inclusion
Political parties	64	Level 3 - Moderate level of Inclusion
INEC	95	Level 4 - High level of Inclusion

The assessment provided sector-specific recommendations to enhance political inclusion. The assessment outcome recommended that INEC should review and update its 2018 Framework on Access and Participation, conduct pre-election accessibility audits, and strengthen media collaborations for targeted voter education. Political parties should implement leadership quotas for persons with disabilities, enhance party office accessibility, and improve collaboration with OPDs. Media houses should prioritize accessible election content, improve physical infrastructure, and integrate disability-inclusive programming into their corporate social responsibility. Security institutions need regular training on disability inclusion, create accessible security

communication channels, and establish effective reporting mechanisms for electoral grievances. By implementing these recommendations, Nigeria can ensure a more inclusive electoral process for all citizens, particularly persons with disabilities.

4.3.6. Recruitment, training and deployment of election observers for Off-cycle Elections in Edo and Ondo

To successfully monitor the level of INEC's compliance with the legal/policy framework towards promoting the inclusion of PWDs in the electoral process during the off-cycle elections in Edo and Ondo states, TAF Africa rigorously recruited and provided comprehensive training for 40 observers (20 in each



A cross-section of election observers during the training in Akure, Ondo.

state) with a nuanced understanding of electoral processes, inclusivity challenges, and the specific needs of PWDs. Simulation exercises and real-world scenarios in training modules to enhance observers' ability to identify and report on accessibility issues were integrated. Observers were trained on the use of the TAF Election Observer app to report on election day to collate real-time election day-related data using the developed digital election observation platform.

The deployment of disability election observers played a crucial role in reinforcing adherence to legal and policy frameworks for the political inclusion of PWDs. By monitoring and documenting PWD participation and accessibility to voting points, TAF Africa provided evidence-based and data-driven reports to relevant authorities, including INEC, to support inclusive electoral practices. The data collected will continue to serve for evidence-based decision-making to enhance the participation of PWDs in the political process in Nigeria.

4.3.7. Able-to-Vote Campaigns: Enhancing Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the Edo and Ondo Governorship Elections

Persons with disabilities often faced systemic neglect, public discrimination, and a lack of confidence in asserting their electoral rights, leading to widespread disenfranchisement. To address these challenges, TAF Africa, through the EU-SDGN Component 5b, launched the "Able-to-Vote" awareness campaign to promote the civic rights and political inclusion of PWDs in Edo and Ondo states.

The Voter Education Sensitisation Campaign, conducted through town halls, radio, and television engagements, played a crucial role in increasing public awareness of PWDs' electoral rights and fostering greater societal appreciation of their inclusion in political processes. The campaigns equally empowered PWDs to demand the enforcement of priority voting, access to assistive

devices, and INEC's adherence to inclusive electoral guidelines.

This initiative led to a significant rise in awareness and enthusiasm among PWDs, strengthening their engagement in the electoral process and contributing to greater electoral participation as evidenced in the Edo and Ondo off-cycle elections.



Priority voting for a person with physical disability during the Edo Governorship Election



Participants during the able-to-vote campaign in Edo State

devices, and INEC's adherence to inclusive electoral guidelines.

This initiative led to a significant rise in awareness and enthusiasm among PWDs, strengthening their engagement in the electoral process and contributing to greater electoral participation as evidenced in the Edo and Ondo off-cycle elections.

4.3.8. Advocacy Engagements for PWDs' Political Participation

In its 2024 activities, TAF Africa implemented advocacy initiatives targeted at the INEC, relevant institutions and individuals to enhance the inclusion of PWDs in off-cycle elections in Edo and Ondo States. These engagements emphasised the need for INEC to prioritise PWDs during the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) process. The advocacies also facilitated INEC follow-up engagements with OPDs and civil society organisations to address data gaps and explore collaboration for more inclusive elections. Key advocacy points included ensuring the effective deployment and use of assistive devices for PWDs, mobilisation strategies, and training of INEC's ad hoc staff to cater to PWD needs.



TAF Africa equally engaged with Speed FM and Vibes FM to raise awareness about PWD voting rights, securing strategic media partnerships. Speed FM provided free airtime for disability inclusion discussions, while Vibes FM dedicated 13 episodes to disability rights and political participation during the Edo state governorship election. Similarly, TAF Africa conducted media advocacy in Ondo State, visiting NTA and FRCN Akure to promote disability-



inclusive reporting. Media stakeholders pledged ongoing support, while the Programme Manager of TAF Africa, Adeolu Kilanko appeared on O S R C

Television and Orange FM to educate the public on disability rights, election laws, and inclusive governance.

4.3.9. Election Observation Mission in Edo and Ondo States

In driving an inclusive electoral environment, TAF Africa embarked on an election observation mission during the 2024 Edo and Ondo State Governorship elections to evaluate INEC's commitment to Section 54 of the Electoral Act 2022. The mission focused on assessing the provision of assistive tools and the enforcement of priority voting rights for PWDs. To achieve this, TAF Africa deployed 40 stationary citizen observers and 10 roving media observers to polling units with registered PWD voters in the two states. Also, pre-election initiatives such as the "Able to Vote" campaign and strategic media partnerships were implemented to enhance voter awareness and participation, ensuring that PWDs were informed and empowered to exercise their voting rights.

Findings from the observation revealed notable progress in disability inclusion, with 88% of polling units accessible and 96% of PWD voters receiving priority

voting. However, significant challenges persisted, including the inconsistent availability of assistive tools such as braille ballot guides and magnifying glasses, which were provided in only 60% of required locations. Furthermore, 50% of polling units lacked Form EC 40H, crucial for documenting PWD voter data, while INEC's ad-hoc staff demonstrated limited knowledge of disability-inclusive measures. These gaps underscore the need for systemic improvements, including enhanced advocacy, better training for electoral officials, and stronger enforcement of inclusive policies. TAF Africa remains committed to collaborating with INEC, OPDs, and civil society groups to ensure a more inclusive electoral process that guarantees the full participation of PWDs in Nigeria's democracy.



Picture During the 2024 Edo Gubernatorial Elections Press Briefing at the TAF Africa PWDs Election Hub in Edo State



The TAF Africa team at the post-election briefing of #OndoDecides2024

4.4. Sightsavers Inclusive Education Policy Review Project

Sightsavers supported TAF Africa to drive the review process of the National Policy on Inclusive Education 2016, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education (FME). The purpose of this exercise was to bridge the existing gaps identified in the maiden policy while accommodating new and emerging issues, and global best practices in the education space. Key activities

executed within the period are as follows:

- i. **Joint Consultative Committee on Education (JCCE) Reference Committee meeting:** TAF Africa, with support from Sightsavers International, submitted two Memorandums through the Special Education Unit of the Department of Senior Secondary

Education, Federal Ministry of Education.

ii. Memorandum on the need for a whole-of-sector action on sensitization and awareness creation towards the implementation of the Revised National Policy in Inclusive Education (NPIE) in Nigeria 2023:

Following the approval of the revised NPIE, the memo sought to pray the National Council on Education to urge the Federal Ministry of Education, State Ministries of Education, UBEC and SUBEBs, to:

- Commence implementation of awareness and sensitization campaigns on the aims and objectives as well as the framework of the revised policy; and
- Make adequate budgetary provisions to ensure sustainability and sector-wide impact.

iii. Memorandum on the need for the adoption of Universal Design Learning Principles in teaching training and Curriculum Development: The

memorandum highlighted the current gap in teaching delivery and curriculum administration, excluding diverse learning needs, leading to exclusion, academic under-performance, and limited opportunities for many students. Both memos were presented to the JCCE Reference Committee on Special Education.

4.5. Sightsavers Economic Empowerment project

With funding support from the Sightsavers, TAF Africa worked with stakeholders, the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), Inclusive Friends Association (IFA), JONAPWD, NAB, NNAD, AAN, SCIAN, NAPWPD to increase the labour force participation of women and men with disabilities in Nigeria. The general objectives of the project are:

- To create an accessible and conducive work environment for persons with disabilities in the selected private organizations.
- Facilitate the provision of incentives to the private sector for

the employment of persons with disabilities.

The key activity that was carried out under this project in 2024 include:

4.5.1. A 2-Day Validation Workshop for the Access to Work Scheme Framework with Private Sector Employers and OPDs

The Access to Work Scheme was established to support private-sector employers take care of the extra cost of employing persons with disabilities. TAF Africa facilitated the successful development of the scheme framework. The validation of the scheme framework drew participants from OPDs, JONAPWD, and NCPWDs private sector among others. The objectives of the validation workshop were to (a) present the Access to Work Scheme Framework to private sector employers and OPDs for their review and feedback. (b) Gather inputs, suggestions, and recommendations from stakeholders on the framework's content, implementation strategies,

and potential challenges. (c) Validate the framework's relevance, effectiveness, and feasibility in facilitating the employment of persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

The Access to Work Framework was successfully validated and a clean document was produced, when launched is expected to enhance the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector.



Cross-section of Participants During the Validation of the Access to Work Scheme

4.5.2. A 2-Day Disability Confidence (Accessibility Audit) training for selected private sector employers

In driving the attainment of the project objectives, TAF Africa conducted Accessibility Audits on 10 private companies in Abuja, Kano and Lagos states. For sustainability and to get the buy-in of the companies, Employers' Disability Confidence (Accessibility Audit) training was organised to build the capacity of the companies for self-assessment with technical support from Sightseers and TAF Africa. The 2-Day Disability Confidence (Accessibility Audit) Training Workshop was organized for selected private sector employers targeting human resource teams and facility management teams of the organisations. The workshop equips participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to conduct disability accessibility audits within their organisations. The event had in attendance representatives from prominent companies, including Ave Maria University, Studio 24, Association of Certified Chartered

Accountants (ACCA), Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Petrus Hotel, and NACCIMA.

The objectives of the training were to:

- i. Introduce the private companies to Sightsavers Disability Confidence toolkit
- ii. Build the capacity of private sector employers to be able to use the toolkit in making their companies accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities
- iii. Introduce employers to the ILO self-assessment toolkit for benchmarking private companies' disability inclusion performance
- iv. Agree on accessibility audit date for each participating company

The capacity of 15 persons (6 females and 9 males) representing NACCIMA, Ave Maria University, MAN, Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, FINDEF, Petrus Hotel Royale and Studio 24 were built to conduct accessibility audit and were empowered with the accessibility audit toolkits to do so. The commitments of the participants to conduct accessibility audit on their

organizations were secured, which will be supported by TAF Africa and Sightsavers.

The capacity building training

significantly enhanced the capacity of the selected private sector employers and was built to conduct accessibility audits on their various organizations.



Participants in a group photograph during the Disability Confidence Training

4.6. FCDO/Situation Room Bayelsa

FCDO through the situation room supported TAF Africa to implement the Enhancing Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Participation in the governance processes in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The project aimed at:

- increasing awareness of PWDs and the public on the rights of PWDs to participate in governance processes.
- Promoting the participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in governance development and

planning exercises in Bayelsa State.

- Enhance the legal systems for disability rights advocacy in Bayelsa state.

Key activities on the project include:

1. Town hall meeting on mainstreaming disability inclusion in government processes
2. Advocacy visit to key state-level stakeholders including the Office of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Ministries of Justice, Women Affairs, Budget and Planning, Education, and Health, and Media organizations.
3. Awareness and media campaign on Radio and TVs
4. Development of a policy brief on inclusive governance in Bayelsa State, and
5. Accessibility Audit of 6 key public facilities in Bayelsa State.

Through these activities, TAF Africa was able to achieve the following outcomes:

- Increased awareness among PWDs on their rights to participate

in the governance process.

- Improved knowledge of key government agencies on how to mainstream PWDs into decision-making and governance processes.
- Increased adoption and implementation of policies and guidelines for disability inclusion in the governance processes.
- Enhanced collaborations and partnerships between relevant MDAs and other stakeholders towards disability inclusion efforts,
- Increased confidence among PWDs to engage the government of Bayelsa state on inclusive governance.

The project successfully achieved its objectives by enhancing awareness of the rights of PWDs to effectively participate in governance in Bayelsa state. The town hall meeting and media engagements fostered stronger relationships between PWD leaders and key stakeholders, improving collaboration. Also, the legal framework analysis provided valuable insights into existing protections and gaps, equipping stakeholders with the knowledge

to advocate for necessary reforms. These efforts have collectively strengthened the inclusion of PWDs in governance and development processes in Bayelsa State.

4.7. PLAC-MacArthur – Able to Serve Media Campaign

The Able to Serve Mainstream and Social Media Campaign was funded by the MacArthur Foundation through

campaigns. The programme targeted the production of a 10-episode podcast series and 66 seconds of audio-visual material to help amplify the need for PWDs to be effectively included in the governance process.

Key activities undertaken in 2024 under this intervention include:

- i. Development and dissemination of the number of PWDs in government appointive positions



Pictures during the Live Town Hall Meeting at Arise Television

the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre to strengthen social inclusion and improve the accountability of government institutions in Nigeria via mainstream and social media

- at the inception and end of the project
- ii. Development and dissemination of 10 disability inclusion audio podcasts



Pictures during the Live Town Hall Meeting at Arise Television

- iii. Production of TV Commercials for the Able to Serve Campaign
- iv. Dissemination of the campaign commercials on television channels including Arise, Channels and TVC.
- v. Production and dissemination of the campaigns' call to action on all social media platforms.
- vi. TAF hosted a live town hall meeting on mainstreaming disability inclusion in governance on Arise Television, bringing together key stakeholders in the disability sphere, CSOs, and policymakers.

Key Outcomes Achieved under this Project are:

- The project significantly raised public awareness about the qualifications and aspirations of PWDs for government positions. The widespread reach of the Channels and Arise Television and engaging social media promotion ensured effective message dissemination.
- Television appearances sparked crucial conversations about disability inclusion in governance, garnering media attention and

engaging the public on this critical issue.

- The podcast series garnered widespread engagement, reaching a diverse audience, and fostering a sense of community and understanding around disability issues.
- Significant increase in appointing persons with disabilities within the political space.
- As part of their commitment contribution to what the Macarthur Foundation is doing around disability inclusion, Channels Television gave four television appearances to leaders within the development sector and disability space to raise awareness, create

public discourse, and urge the government to appoint qualified persons with disabilities to leadership roles in government agencies.

The Able to Serve Mainstream and Social Media Campaign successfully achieved its objectives, raising awareness, influencing public opinion, and advocating for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in government roles. We believe that continued efforts and strategic partnerships are essential to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities in shaping Nigeria's future.

4.8. NDI Nigeria – Accelerate Disability Inclusion in Emergencies Forum

The Accelerate Disability Inclusion in Emergencies (ADIE) Forum was a consortium of leading organisations of persons with disabilities set up to identify the priorities of PWDs and serve as the entity for engaging the government and other stakeholders. TAF Africa served as the secretariat for this forum with the advocacy drive to 'reduce poverty among the

people vulnerable to being poor, empower the poor and people vulnerable to economic shocks, promote social cohesion, equity, and growth inclusiveness; ensure citizens have access to basic social services and infrastructure; and provide social welfare and improve food security and nutrition among others in line with the National Social

Key activities executed under this project include:

a. Crippling effects of the Economy on the



Mr Donald Unanka on Kakaaki on 12th April 2024

- i. A survey on the impact of fuel subsidy removal on persons with disabilities in the Abuja metropolis.
- ii. Development and dissemination of 10 advocacy vox-pop videos on social media
- iii. Advocacy visits to key MDAs and the National Assembly.
- iv. Media engagements on African Independent Television (AIT), and the signature Network programme of Radio Nigeria – Radio Link. The media engagement includes 13

community of PWDs: Way Forward – presented by Mr George Anwayi, Assistant Programme Manager, TAF Africa on Saturday, April 6, 2024.

b. Healthcare concerns: Addressing Medical Costs After Fuel Subsidy Adjustments for PWDs – presented by Dr. Olaleke Oke, National Publicity Secretary, National Association of

Government General Medical and Dental Practitioners on April 13;

- c. Exploring long-term policy options and infrastructure investment to provide accessible and affordable transportation for PWDs – presented by Mr. Kolawole Jayeoba, Programme Manager, Advocacy for Women with Disability Initiative (AWWDI) on April 20, 2024.

d. Government Initiatives:

Evaluating Assistance Programs for PWDs amidst current economic realities – presented by Honourable Abba Isa, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Special Needs and Equal Opportunities on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

Key Outcome through this Initiative

Through these activities, TAF Africa has been able to:

- i. Raised awareness of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities amid fuel subsidy

removal.

- ii. Advocated for the inclusion of civil society and the disability community as members of a joint negotiating committee on fuel subsidy removal interventions.
- iii. Advocated for the introduction of



Members of the Forum on Radio on May 25th 2024

affordable and accessible public transportation and stand-alone social protection interventions for persons with disabilities to cushion the impact of fuel subsidy removal.

- iv. Advocated for the implementation of the National Disability Act 2018 after the expiration of its 5-year moratorium. As a result of this strategic engagement of the forum with the House of Representatives Committee on Disabilities, the chair of the committee and his members moved a total of 6 motions of the House Committee of Representative Committee to

ensure effective implementation of the Disability Act.

v. Owing to the advocacy visits to the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, the forum secured the commitment of the deputy speaker to lead a review of the National Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act especially around:

- a. The implementation of the 5% quota for PWDs.
- b. 10% Social Intervention Funds and programmes from both public and private sectors to be reserved for persons with disabilities, and
- c. That PWDs shall be represented in any committee being set up by the government to make policy decisions.

The forum's advocacy visits to the Ministry of Education secured the commitment of the ministry to commence implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy. Also, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education committed to:

- a. Requesting the NCPWD to deploy

or second some sign language interpreters to the Ministry of Education and that all public events of the ministry must provide for sign language interpreters.

- b. Develop a database of PWDs within the Education sector and strengthen the integration of the PWDs into the scholarship processes. (As of the time of writing this report, both commitments have been initiated.

The activities implemented under this project significantly increased public awareness and understanding of issues affecting persons with disabilities. Particularly, the advocacy efforts have strengthened the call for the inclusion of civil society and the disability community in key government committees, fostering a more inclusive and participatory governance framework.



The last episodes of the Radio Link programme on June 1 where gaps in the existing legislation (Disability Act) were discussed.

4.9. National Democratic Institute (NDI) Washington: Inclusive Grassroot Political Participation for Persons with Disabilities in Sokoto

The intervention This project was funded by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to implement activities that support disability mainstreaming in grassroots politics in Sokoto State, Nigeria. The cardinal goal of the project was to promote inclusive grassroots political participation for persons with disabilities in Sokoto state, Nigeria.

In 2024, the following key activities were implemented under this project:

4.9.1. Capacity Building of the TAF Management Team

Through the support of NDI, TAF Africa conducted a Leadership capacity-building workshop for its management team at the beginning of 2024. This was implemented through a 2-day strategic leadership workshop aimed at building the capacity of TAF Africa's management team in leadership, program

management, and resource mobilization. The objective of this Workshop was to build the capacity of TAF Africa's management team on Strategic Leadership, Programme Management, and Resource Mobilisation.

The workshop was facilitated by FTI Consulting, who was engaged to develop the content and agenda for the workshop. The Consultants were resource persons who had extensive experience in the respective sessions which they delivered. The purpose of this approach of using external resource persons was adopted to avail TAF Africa an independent assessment of its current practices and procedures and make appropriate recommendations for improvements and standardization.



TAF management team during the leadership training session

4.9.2. Advocacy Visit to the Deputy Governor of Sokoto State

A TAF Africa delegation led by Mr. Jake Epelle paid an advocacy visit to the Deputy Governor of Sokoto State, His Excellency Engr. Idris Muhammad Gobir. Also present at the meeting were: the Special Adviser to the Governor on NGOs and Development Partners, Abdulrahman Hassan and the Special Adviser to the Governor on Disability Matters, Aliyu Umaru Ubandoman Rabah (represented).

During the visit, Mr. Jake Epelle provided a brief update on the project, emphasising the need for the prompt approval of the revised guidelines to facilitate their printing and subsequent implementation. In response, the Deputy Governor expressed appreciation for any impactful intervention, regardless of scale, and assured the delegation of the government's full cooperation. He reiterated the administration's commitment to supporting the implementation of the revised guidelines, particularly in light of the Governor's pledge to conduct Local Government elections.

As part of the engagement, the delegation formally presented the draft documents to the Deputy Governor, who pledged commitment to escalating the matter to the Governor for necessary action.

Key Outcome

As a result of the visit, the delegation was invited to attend the official launch of the distribution of palliatives to Persons with Disabilities and other vulnerable groups by the Sokoto State Government, scheduled for later in the day.

4.9.3. Engagement with the Sultan of Sokoto

In a separate engagement, Mr. Jake Epelle had a side meeting with His Eminence, Sultan Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III. During the discussion, Mr Epelle provided an overview of the NDI project, and the progress made in reviewing the Guidelines for the conduct of local government elections, with a specific focus on mainstreaming the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Mr. Epelle highlighted the necessity

of obtaining the State Government's approval for the revised guidelines and sought the Sultan's support in facilitating this process. Acknowledging the importance of the initiative, the Sultan engaged with the Chief of Staff to the Governor and requested that a meeting be scheduled between Mr Epelle and the Governor to further discuss the matter.



Group Photo at SIEC: TAF Africa Team, representatives of the disability community, and representatives of SIEC during the coordination visit



Mr. Jake Epelle presenting the draft revised guidelines to the Deputy Governor

4.10. Interventions by Members of TAF Africa's Board of Trustee

4.10.1. Supporting Inclusive Education: Laptop Donation to Visually Impaired Students

In a remarkable demonstration of commitment to inclusive education, one of TAF Africa's Trustees, Professor Douglas Anele, in collaboration with the Community Education Center, donated specially adapted laptop computers to three visually impaired students at the University of Lagos.

This initiative, personally spearheaded by Professor Anele, aimed to bridge the digital accessibility gap for students with visual impairments. The customized laptops are equipped with screen-reading software and other assistive technologies, enabling the recipients to more effectively engage with their coursework, access online learning resources, and participate in academic activities alongside their peers.

Since the donation, the students have

reported significant improvements in their academic performance and overall learning experience. This effort reflects our organization's broader commitment to educational equity and the empowerment of marginalized groups through targeted, sustainable interventions.



4.10.2. PWD Participation in ZnT Agrihub Virtual Agribusiness Training

ZnT Agrihub—a leading player in Africa's digital agriculture ecosystem—hosted a virtual Paid Agribusiness Training designed to equip emerging entrepreneurs with skills to thrive in modern agribusiness. As part of its commitment to inclusivity, ZnT Agrihub, through the intervention of Hajia Zainab Suleiman, a member of the TAF Africa Board of Trustees, offered three fully sponsored seats to TAF Africa specifically for People with Disabilities (PWDs).

The training covered Agribusiness value chain development, business model design, access to markets and finance, climate-smart agriculture, agritech and innovation.

All three participants successfully completed the training. They gained practical skills in launching and managing agribusiness ventures and joined a pan-African network of agripreneurs and mentors.



ZnT AgriHub

5-Day Intensive Agribusiness Virtual Training!

Empowering Nigerian Farmers to Address the Food Crisis

ZnT Agrihub Ltd. is proud to present an intensive 5-day virtual training program designed to equip Nigerian farmers, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively manage and develop agribusiness enterprises. This training is a crucial step in addressing the current food crisis in Nigeria.

- ✓ Smallholder farmers
- ✓ Agribusiness entrepreneurs
- ✓ Extension officers
- ✓ Agricultural cooperatives
- ✓ Policymakers and government officials
- ✓ Professionals working with communities in funding agencies and research organizations

Key Highlights

- Comprehensive training in smart rural and agribusiness management strategies
- Focus on sustainable practices and innovative technologies discussions, and case studies
- Delivered by skilled trainers with vast experience in the Nigerian agribusiness sector
- Provision of course manuals & additional training materials

This program aims to provide participants with the necessary financial support to implement the knowledge and skills gained during the training and grow their agribusiness enterprises.

5.0. TAF AFRICA 20 YEARS IMPACT ASSESSMENT

TAF Africa engaged the services of PwC in October 2024 to conduct an independent impact assessment of its interventions. The evaluation aimed to advance disability inclusion and empower persons with disabilities (PwDs) across Nigeria. The evaluation, conducted over four phases, offers a review of TAF Africa's programmatic achievements, strategic approaches, operational challenges, and emerging opportunities.

To ensure a structured review, the assessment team developed a tailored project selection framework

grounded in the OECD-DAC principles. The 15 selected projects were further analysed through the lens of a customised Impact Radar, developed using the UNEP-FI framework and adapted to TAF Africa's thematic areas. This helped define three overarching Impact Pillars – Human Rights, Justice, and E m p o w e r m e n t ; Inclusive Governance and Participation; and Social Protection and Inclusive Education, which served as the basis for tracing impact pathways and evaluating long-term contributions.

The data collection phase combined secondary data

(including project reports and M&E documents) with primary interviews with internal stakeholders and beneficiaries. Despite limitations in beneficiary access, due to logistical constraints and unavailability of some respondents, the triangulation of data sources and cross-validation with organisational leads provided a reasonably accurate portrayal of the interventions' outcomes. Ethical safeguards, including informed consent protocols and data anonymisation, were applied throughout the data collection process.

The findings of the assessment

underscore significant progress, especially in areas of policy advocacy, enhancing political participation of PwDs, public sensitisation to eliminate stigmatisation against PwDs, and economic empowerment of PwDs. Interventions such as the National Disability Inclusion Care Project, Sightsavers Economic Empowerment Project, and the EU-Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EUSDGN) phases 1 and 2 stood out for their far-reaching impact. The assessment also shows that TAF Africa's interventions are aligned with global and national frameworks and policies such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (notably SDGs 1, 4, 8, 10, and 16), the African Union Agenda 2063 (particularly goals 1, 11 and 12), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) (especially articles 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 21, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, and 31) as well as the Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 (particularly sections 1, 2, 3, 17, 21, 28, and 30).

Going forward, it is essential to strengthen stakeholder engagement, particularly with the

media, government officials, security agencies, and political parties. Prioritising longer project timelines and streamlining bureaucratic processes for securing state-level commitments will significantly enhance TAF Africa's impact in fostering a safe, inclusive social, economic, and political environment for PwDs in Nigeria. Furthermore, future initiatives should place greater emphasis on developing localised content and culturally sensitive messaging, as the absence of these elements has limited the reach and effectiveness of some interventions.

This impact assessment exercise when completed will serve as an unbiased reference document for both internal and external stakeholders on the success, challenges and lessons learnt by TAF Africa in the last 20 years.

TAF Africa Performance Highlight:

28

Accessibility audits completed

50M+

Listeners reached through the
Disability Inclusion Radio
Programme

1,191

IDPs sensitised on legal
provisions for their
participation in the electoral
process

6

Disability desks established TAF
Africa Impact Assessment –
Impact Pathway

55

Advocacy engagements with
key institutions on PwDs
mainstreaming

9

PwDs legislative interns
deployed by TAF Africa

72

Elected/appointed PwDs
trained/coached

100,000+

PwDs beneficiaries reached

1,380

Election observers recruited,
trained, and deployed

12

Policies/laws
reviewed/audited for disability
inclusion

7

Functional PwDs Election Hubs
established

6.0. Partnerships and Public Engagements

In 2024, TAF Africa strengthened its stakeholder engagement efforts by signing key Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and actively participating in advocacy and policy discussions. These initiatives aimed at mainstreaming disability inclusion across multiple sectors, including architecture, healthcare, education, and governance. Some of these engagements and achievements are highlighted below:

6.1. Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA)

This partnership focuses on advocating for the effective implementation of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018, particularly regarding accessibility in the public environment. Key areas of collaboration include:

i. Conduct awareness campaigns

- on inclusive architectural design.
- ii. Organise workshops and training programs for architects on disability-inclusive principles.
- iii. Develop and disseminate accessibility guidelines for architects.
- iv. Engage in policy advocacy to enhance disability inclusion.
- v. Promote sustainable design initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

6.2. National Association of Government General Medical and Dental Practitioners

This MoU aims to enhance disability inclusion within Nigeria's healthcare system by:

i. Advocating for inclusive health

- planning and policy development.
- ii. Promoting accessible healthcare facilities and services.
- iii. Building capacity on disability-inclusive healthcare delivery.
- iv. Facilitating data collection, knowledge sharing, and joint implementation of the Disability Act.

6.3. Formation of Consortium with CBM and NWTF

TAF Africa in partnership with CBM and NWTF collaboratively developed a proposal which won funding from the European Union Under the European Commission Human Rights and Support to Civil Society in Nigeria. The project which was nicknamed Disability Rights Advocacy Project for Inclusive Development (D-RAPID) aimed to improve the rights of persons with disabilities through the implementation of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018 in Nigeria. The full implementation of this project is expected to commence in March 2025.

6.4. Key Stakeholder Engagements by the CEO in 2024

- i. The CEO participated in multiple high-level stakeholder engagements, including speaking appearances and media discussions with organizations such as NILDS, PLAC, the National Assembly, CIPM, NIA, IDEA International, WRAPA, TVC, AIT, Channels Television etc.
- ii. The CEO and TAF Africa team visited the Karomajiji community of persons with disabilities in the FCT, providing financial support and committing to assist in addressing out-of-school children's challenges.
- iii. The CEO was appointed as a member of the JAMB Equal Opportunity Group (JEOG) to facilitate inclusive examinations for students with disabilities, leading to several preparatory meetings.
- iv. A courtesy visit was paid to the Ministry of Education to advocate for inclusive education policies,

including the incorporation of Sign Language Interpreters (SLIs) in all official meetings.

- v. TAF Africa and the NIA engaged with the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly to advocate for accessible structures in both government and private buildings.

6.5. Advocacy and Recognition

- The Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) honoured the CEO with an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his contributions to disability advocacy.
- TAF Africa earned special recognition from the Committee on Disability Matters of the National Assembly for its unwavering commitment to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.
- A visit to the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) was undertaken to advocate for improved accessibility in housing projects across Nigeria.
- As a member of JEOG, the CEO participated in JAMB invigilation to ensure accessibility for students with disabilities.

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Award plaque to TAF Africa by the Committee on Disability of the National Assembly

6.6. Panel Discussions and Policy Engagements

- i. **ActionAid Panel Discussion:** The CEO participated in discussions on emerging innovative solutions to ensure free and fair elections, particularly for Persons with Disabilities.
- ii. **Europe Day 2024 Reception:** TAF Africa was represented at this event to strengthen international partnerships on disability

inclusion.

iii. INEC Consultative Meeting with CSOs: Insights gained from this meeting helped TAF Africa navigate through the Edo and Ondo State elections to promote inclusivity.

iv. GIZ Panel Discussion: The CEO contributed to discussions on fostering inclusive work environments in culturally diverse organizations, emphasizing practical approaches to overcoming discrimination against PWDs.

v. Initiative for Citizen Engagement Meeting: TAF Africa engaged with the Augustine Centre for Advocacy, Justice, and Peace (ACAJP) to promote the twin-track approach of the UN, ensuring disability inclusion in development projects. Both organizations agreed to sign an MoU to collaborate on inclusive community initiatives.

7.0. Future Plans

In mirroring its future, TAF Africa has carefully designed its five years strategic plan aimed at providing direction of purpose for the organisation. The summary of these future aspirations is presented below:

7.1. TAF Strategic Direction

TAF Africa's plans focus on expanding its impact and ensuring disability inclusion across Africa. First, the organization aims to strengthen legal and policy frameworks that protect the rights of PWDs. This will be achieved through advocacy, legislative engagement, and strategic partnerships with governments, civil society organizations, and international donors. By working with policymakers, TAF Africa will push for the ratification and implementation of disability-inclusive laws while promoting PWD participation in governance and

leadership positions.

TAF Africa also plans to enhance public awareness and attitudinal change towards disability inclusion. Through targeted campaigns in communities, media, and political spaces, the organization seeks to eliminate the stigma and misconceptions surrounding PWDs. This will involve engaging traditional and religious leaders, social influencers, and key stakeholders in promoting accessibility and diversity in workplaces, schools, and public institutions. The goal is to foster a society that fully integrates PWDs in all aspects of life.

Equally, TAF Africa is committed to improving the socio-economic well-being of PWDs by facilitating access to education, employment, healthcare, and financial support. This includes advocating for inclusive education policies, vocational training programs, and economic empowerment initiatives. TAF will work with CBM, NWTF and

other organisations to provide skills training, business support, and assistive technologies that enhance PWD participation in economic activities.

Ambitiously, TAF Africa plans to expand its reach beyond Nigeria into East and West Africa. We will mobilise additional resources towards expansion actualising our mission and vision. TAF Africa believes that the greatest resource we need in actualising our vision is our human resources hence we will continue to invest in internal capacity building to become leaders in our sphere.

Through these strategic initiatives, we envision an inclusive society that embraces and empowers persons with disabilities, ensuring their participation in socio-political and economic activities in Africa. TAF Africa remains committed to advancing disability inclusion through strategic partnerships, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement. The organisation's leadership will continue to play a pivotal role in shaping policies, influencing reforms, and ensuring that PWDs have equal opportunities

across all sectors.

7.2. Goal 2025

For nearly two decades, TAF has been a driving force in the inclusion space, advocating for the rights and visibility of persons with disabilities (PWDs). In the coming year, we aim to enhance our visibility and showcase the impactful projects we have pioneered. A key initiative in this direction is the MicAbility Podcast, hosted by TAF Africa, which delves into the successes and challenges faced by persons with disabilities, providing a platform for their stories and experiences.

In addition to increasing our reach, we are actively exploring expansion opportunities across select African countries. By replicating the successful impact we've made in Nigeria, we aim to extend our efforts to other nations, creating lasting change. This expansion will involve establishing formal structures and pursuing strategic partnerships to ensure sustainability and maximize our impact.

TAF remains committed to supporting underserved groups through a range of outreach programs. This year, we will expand our focus on critical areas such as education, healthcare, and immigration, ensuring that these vital services are accessible to all, particularly persons with disabilities. Continuing the impressive work we do, we will spearhead projects that address the unique barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing education, healthcare, and immigration services. As part of our ongoing efforts, we are proud to be a member of the Ministerial National Working Committee on Inclusive Education and we have also formed a strategic partnership with the International Organization for Migration to further enhance our initiatives.

7.3. Strategic priorities

i. Community Empowerment and Inclusion: We are committed to prioritizing initiatives that empower marginalized communities. Our focus will be on implementing tangible projects that directly impact beneficiaries. Key projects

currently in our pipeline include:

- Empowering persons with disabilities by providing entrepreneurial skills, enabling them to become producers and employers in the long term.
- Enhancing inclusion by facilitating easier access to assistive technology.

ii. Collaboration and Partnerships:

Strengthening our collaborations with international donors, local NGOs, and governmental organizations is central to expanding the reach and impact of our programs. Additionally, we will partner with businesses to create sustainable, socially responsible projects that contribute to community development.

iii. Advocacy for Policy Change:

We will intensify our advocacy efforts at local and national levels to address systemic issues, including access to quality healthcare and education. We will also focus on highlighting challenges faced by immigrants with disabilities. Through campaigns and events, we aim to mobilize public support, raise awareness, and encourage

policy reform.

iv. Financial Sustainability and Resource Mobilization: To secure long-term financial sustainability, we will diversify our fundraising strategies by exploring multiple sources of income, including grants, partnerships, and community donations. We will also strengthen relationships with donors and supporters to ensure transparency and effective communication of our impact. Additionally, we will explore opportunities to develop relationships with the private sector, particularly in the context of corporate social responsibility (CSR) projects.



8.0. Governance and Management

8.1. Board of Trustees

Overview of the Board of Trustee and key staff:

S/NO	Name	Designation
1	Prof. Vincent Anigbogu	Chairman of the Board of Trustees
2	Prof. Douglas Anele	Trustee
3	Tony Epelle	Trustee
4	Amina Zakari	Trustee
5	Barr. Gabriel Airewele	Trustee
6	Amb. Uche Ajulu-Okeke	Trustee
7	Zainab Suleiman	Trustee
8	Dr. Toyin Aderemi	Trustee
9	Jake Epelle	Chief Executive Officer

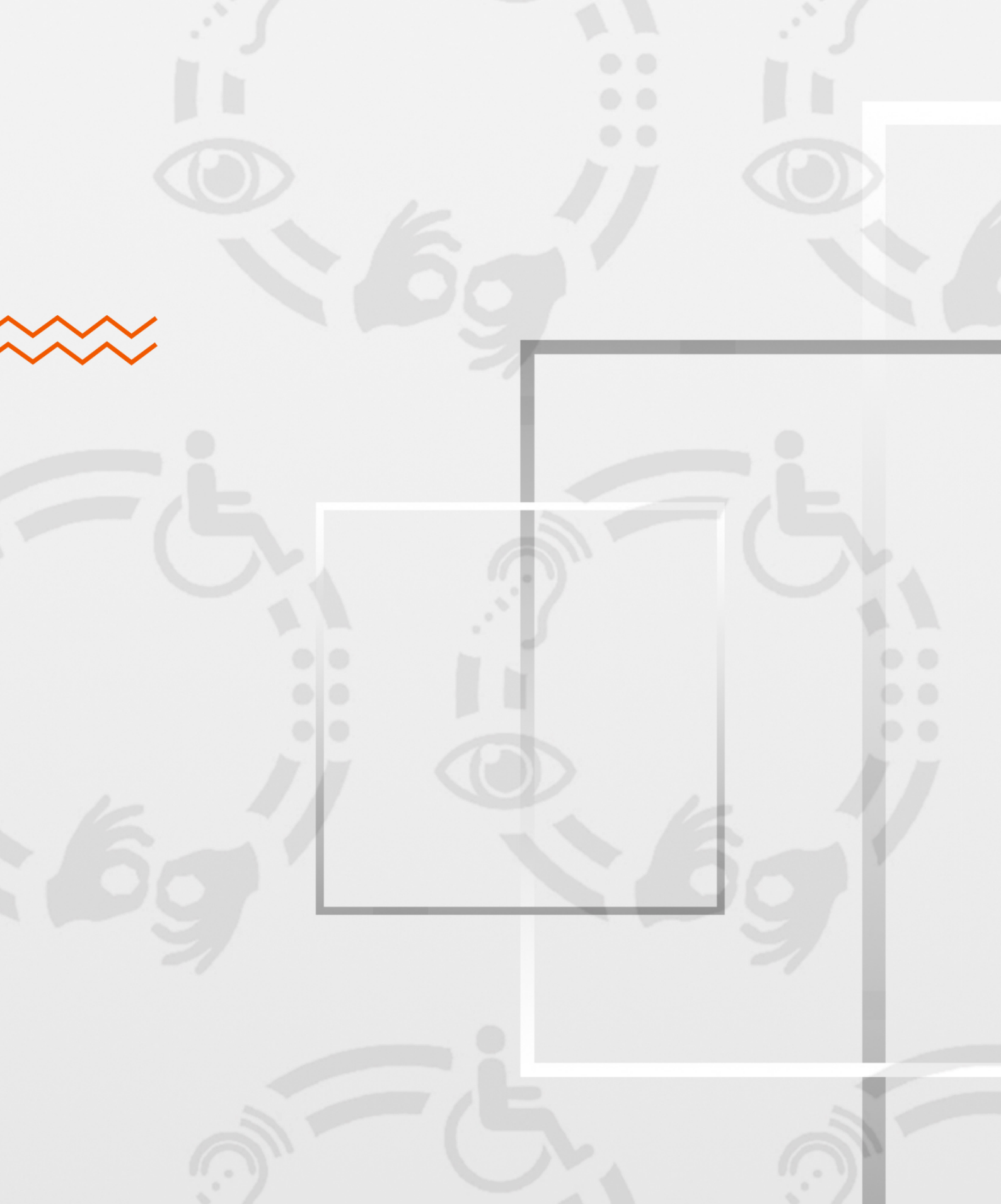
8.2. Staff Members

S/NO	Name	Designation
1	Jake Epelle	CEO/Founder
2	Ademuyiwa Aderibigbe	Finance Lead
3	Adeolu Kilanko	Programme Manager
4	George Oche	Internal Audit Manager
5	Mark Okhakumhe	Senior Corporate Services and Compliance Officer
6	George Anwayi	Senior Programme Officer

7	Terfa Tyokase	Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
8	Joel Irhezaen	Senior Finance Officer
9	Lynn Agwuncha	Senior Communication Officer
10	Paula Oko	Human Resource Officer
11	Kohol Iornav	IT Officer
12	Jachimike Odibo	IT Consultant
13	Afam Kasim	Logistics & Facility Officer
14	Chigozie Rotimi	Admin Officer
15	Veracious Epelle	Personal Assistant to the CEO
16	Mary Lawrence	Front Desk
17	Donald Tampi	Admin Assistant
18	Steve Eden	Logistics Assistant
19	Adebenson Olowokande	Logistics Assistant
20	Amarachi Eze	Finance Assistant
21	Mary Abua	Office Assistant
22	Nafiu Lukman	Finance Officer

9.0. Conclusion

The 2024 initiatives outlined in this report exemplify our ongoing commitment to making a difference especially as it affects persons with disabilities. We believe that our collective efforts have laid the groundwork for lasting change, and we remain dedicated to adapting and evolving our strategies to meet the needs of the community of persons with disabilities. As we move forward, we are inspired by the progress we have made and the potential that lies ahead, and we are grateful for the support of our community and partners in our mission to create a better future for all.



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     TAF Africa

 www.tafafrica.co