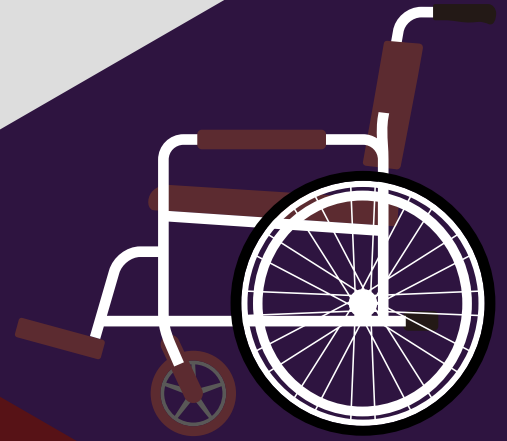




2025 ANNUAL REPORT



<https://tafafrica.co>



TAF Africa



TAF Africa

...Disability Inclusion Champion

2025 Annual Report

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From the Board Chairman's Desk

It is my honour to present the 2025 Annual Report of TAF Africa, reflecting another year of progress in advancing the rights, socio-economic empowerment, and political inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and other vulnerable groups across Nigeria. Our work throughout the year has continued to strengthen inclusive governance, expand access to essential services, and reinforce our institutional capacity to deliver lasting impact.

Our collaboration with the EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) Programme Phase II continued to promote the political inclusion of marginalized groups, particularly PWDs, in Nigeria's democratic processes. Through

advocacy, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement, we have worked to ensure that persons with disabilities are increasingly represented and able to participate meaningfully in political life.

We also continued implementing the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) Grant, which enhances the participation of persons with disabilities in governance in Cross River, Delta, and Sokoto States. This initiative has remained instrumental in amplifying the voices of PWDs in governance processes and strengthening advocacy for inclusive policies and practices. In 2025, TAF Africa also successfully launched the Disability Rights Advocacy Project for Inclusive Development (D-RAPID) in Delta State in partnership with the

European Union and Christian Blind Mission (CBM), further advancing disability rights and inclusive development at the state level.

Beyond governance, we expanded our work in inclusive service delivery. In line with our strategic plan, TAF partnered with Koyo HealthTech to promote inclusive healthcare by providing free telemedicine consultations to persons with disabilities, helping to bridge critical gaps in access to healthcare services.

We also continued to engage in global conversations on disability inclusion. Our participation in the 2025 Global Disability Summit provided an opportunity to contribute to international dialogue while learning from global best practices that can strengthen our work in Africa.

Internally, we took deliberate steps to strengthen our

organisational systems. TAF engaged an Organisational Development Consultant to review our policies and corporate structure, an important process that is enhancing our governance framework and improving programme and operational efficiency.

As we reflect on the year, we remain deeply grateful to our partners, stakeholders, and supporters whose collaboration continues to drive our progress. Together, we remain committed to advancing an inclusive society where persons with disabilities can fully participate and thrive.



Professor Vincent C. Anigbogu
Chairman, TAF Africa

From the CEO's Desk: From Advocacy to Institutional Reform!

As we close the chapter on 2025 and look toward the years ahead, I write with deep gratitude and optimism from the heart of TAF Africa. This year reaffirmed the power of commitment, innovation, and collaboration in advancing our mission to build an inclusive Nigeria and Africa—one where Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are not only participants but leaders and architects of their own destinies.

Through evidence-based advocacy, technology, and community empowerment, we have continued to translate fundamental rights into lived realities.

Strengthening Democratic Governance

Under the European Union-funded **Support to Democratic**

Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN II, Component 5b), our work amplified the political participation of PWDs and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Our groundbreaking Political Inclusion Index offered critical insights into our progress: while INEC attained a high inclusion score, we identified a need for greater momentum among political parties, media, and security agencies. **Inclusion is not charity; it is justice, efficiency, and democratic vitality.**

Our mapping of over **400 PWDs** in governance—213 in appointive roles but only four elected—serves as a stark reminder of the reality that fuels our call for deeper structural reforms.

Impact Through Action: 2025 Milestones

- **Legislative Leadership:** Our PWD Legislative Internship Programme deployed nine outstanding interns who advanced key policy ideas, including the Green Card Initiative and caregiver incentives, while promoting accessibility in the National Assembly.
- **Electoral Integrity:** During the Anambra State off-cycle election, we achieved an 87.8% polling unit accessibility rate and 92% voter satisfaction among PWDs through the deployment of 25 sign language interpreters.
- **Tech-Driven Accountability:** Our upgraded Disability Election Observer App empowered over 150 trained observers with real-time, geo-tagged reporting and a 98% submission rate.
- **National Awareness:** The Able2Vote campaign sensitized journalists

and security operatives, reaching over 50 million Nigerians via national radio.

Regional Impact and Global Voice

Beyond the capital, the Disability Rights Advocacy Project for Inclusive Development (D-RAPID) drove sectoral inclusion in Delta and Rivers States. In Rivers, we established 32 Disability and Gender Desk Officers across MDAs to strengthen inclusive budgeting and accessibility rights. In Delta, we facilitated multi-stakeholder coordination to ensure policy alignment with the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018 and the UNCRPD.

On the global stage, TAF Africa proudly led Nigeria's delegation to the 2025 Global Disability Summit in Germany, ensuring our nation's voice remains central to international discourse.

The Road to 2027

While we celebrate these milestones, we remain steadfast in the face of persistent challenges—most notably the fact that fewer than **0.1% of elected** officials nationwide are PWDs. This reality reinforces our resolve to pursue systemic transformation.

As we prepare for **2026 and the 2027 general elections**, we will scale our interventions through:

- Comprehensive accessibility audits and data-driven reforms.
- The pursuit of political quotas and expanded partnerships with **INEC, NCPWD**, and our international allies.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our staff, partners, and the PWD community for your resilience. **Together, we are building a Nigeria where inclusion is not just an aspiration, but a standard practice.**

Sincerely,



Amb. Jake Epelle

Founder/CEO, TAF Africa

Executive Summary

The 2025 Annual Report presents a comprehensive account of the TAF's sustained efforts to advance disability inclusion, democratic participation, and socio-economic empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria. Through strategic advocacy, multi-sectoral partnerships, and innovative programming, TAF Africa achieved measurable progress in strengthening inclusive governance systems and expanding opportunities for PWDs to participate meaningfully in political, social, and economic life.

A central pillar of these achievements was the implementation of the European Union-funded Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN II),

Component 5b. This initiative contributed to enhancing the political participation of PWDs and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by promoting engagement with key electoral stakeholders, promoting inclusive policy reforms, and building the leadership capacity of PWDs. Evidence from the Political Inclusion Index highlighted notable disparities in institutional inclusion, with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) demonstrating high levels of inclusion, while political parties, media, and security agencies showed moderate to limited progress. Complementary governance mapping revealed that although over 400 PWDs are engaged in governance nationwide, only four occupy elected positions, underscoring persistent structural barriers

to equitable political representation.

In response, TAF Africa implemented targeted interventions to bridge these gaps. Initiatives such as the PWD Legislative Internship Programme, the Able2Vote voter education campaign, and the deployment of sign language interpreters during elections substantially improved accessibility and participation. The Anambra State governorship election served as a critical demonstration of these efforts, with 87.8% of polling units assessed as accessible and 92% of PWD voters reporting satisfaction with their voting experience. The integration of technology, particularly through the upgraded Disability Election Observer App and the establishment of a PWD Election Hub, enabled real-time monitoring, enhanced data-driven advocacy, and strengthened electoral

accountability. Nationwide media campaigns further amplified impact, reaching over 50 million radio listeners and millions more through television and digital platforms, thereby advancing public awareness and civic engagement.

Beyond electoral inclusion, TAF Africa strengthened disability rights implementation through initiatives such as the Disability Rights Advocacy Project for Inclusive Development (D-RAPID) and targeted interventions in Rivers State. These efforts advanced policy dialogue, institutional coordination, and capacity building across government ministries, the judiciary, and civil society. Notable achievements include the establishment of disability desk officers across multiple ministries, increased advocacy for employment quotas, and enhanced capacity for disability-inclusive budgeting and access to justice. In Delta State, D-RAPID further

contributed to policy influence, stakeholder coordination, and community mobilisation, laying a strong foundation for economic empowerment and improved service delivery for PWDs.

TAF Africa also expanded its innovation and global engagement footprint in 2025. Participation in the Global Disability Summit elevated its influence in international policy discourse, while the launch of an AI-enabled healthcare platform marked a significant step toward inclusive, technology-driven service delivery. Additionally, initiatives such as the Able2Play Children's Day Football Tournament demonstrated the organisation's commitment to promoting inclusion through youth engagement and social development.

Overall, the 2025 outcomes reflect significant strides toward building a more

inclusive Nigerian society where persons with disabilities can exercise their rights, access opportunities, and participate fully in governance. While challenges such as limited political representation, infrastructural barriers, and persistent societal stigma remain, the report underscores the effectiveness of sustained advocacy, institutional collaboration, and evidence-based programming. Looking ahead, TAF Africa remains committed to scaling its interventions, strengthening partnerships, and transforming policy commitments into tangible, lived realities for millions of Nigerians with disabilities.

1

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

The EU –SDGN II Component 5b, funded by the European Union (EU), was designed to strengthen the political participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by facilitating direct engagement with election management bodies, political parties, and civil society organizations. The intervention aimed to promote an inclusive political environment, inspire institutional commitments, influence policy reforms, and expand both the pool and capacity of PWDs aspiring for and occupying elective positions.

Specifically tailored to advance the political inclusion of marginalized groups (PWDs

and IDPs) within Nigeria's democratic processes, the project pursued the following objectives toward achieving 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.

EU – SDGN II: Component 5b achievement in numbers at a glance in 2025

Key Inclusion Findings (Political Inclusion Index)

Institution	Scope	Inclusion Level
INEC	95	High Inclusion
Political Parties	64	Moderate Inclusion
Media	56	Limited Inclusion
Security Agencies	45	Limited Inclusion

Electoral management bodies show stronger inclusion than political parties, media, and security agencies.

PWD Legislative Internship Programme

9 PWD interns deployed to the **National Assembly**

Sign Language Interpreters Deployment

25 interpreters deployed during Anambra governorship election to improved communication at polling units

Disability Representation in Governance



400+ PWDs

documented nationwide (36 states + FCT)



213 PWDs

in appointive positions



4 Elected Officials

nationwide (**<0.1%**)



116 PWD

candidates contested elections



99% of PWDs

in governance are in appointive roles

Election Observation

Election Accessibility	
Inclusivity Item	Unit
Polling units accessibility	87.8%
Priority voting compliance	68.7%
Assistive devices availability	57%
PWD voters satisfied with voting experience	92%
Observer submission rate	98%
Downloads of TAF disability App during pilot phase in Anambra election	300 installs

Electoral management bodies show stronger inclusion than political parties, media, and security agencies.

Use of Technology for Inclusive Elections: PWD Election Observer App



Key Features:

- **Real-time election reporting**
- **Geo-tagged incident monitoring**
- **"Third Eye" citizen reporting tool**
- **Offline data submission**
 - ♦ **98% observer** reporting rate
 - ♦ **300+ app** downloads during pilot
- **150 trained observers**

Voter Education and Public Awareness

Able2Vote Campaign



380

PWD participants
reoriented
& trained to
participate in
Anambra State
Elections



60

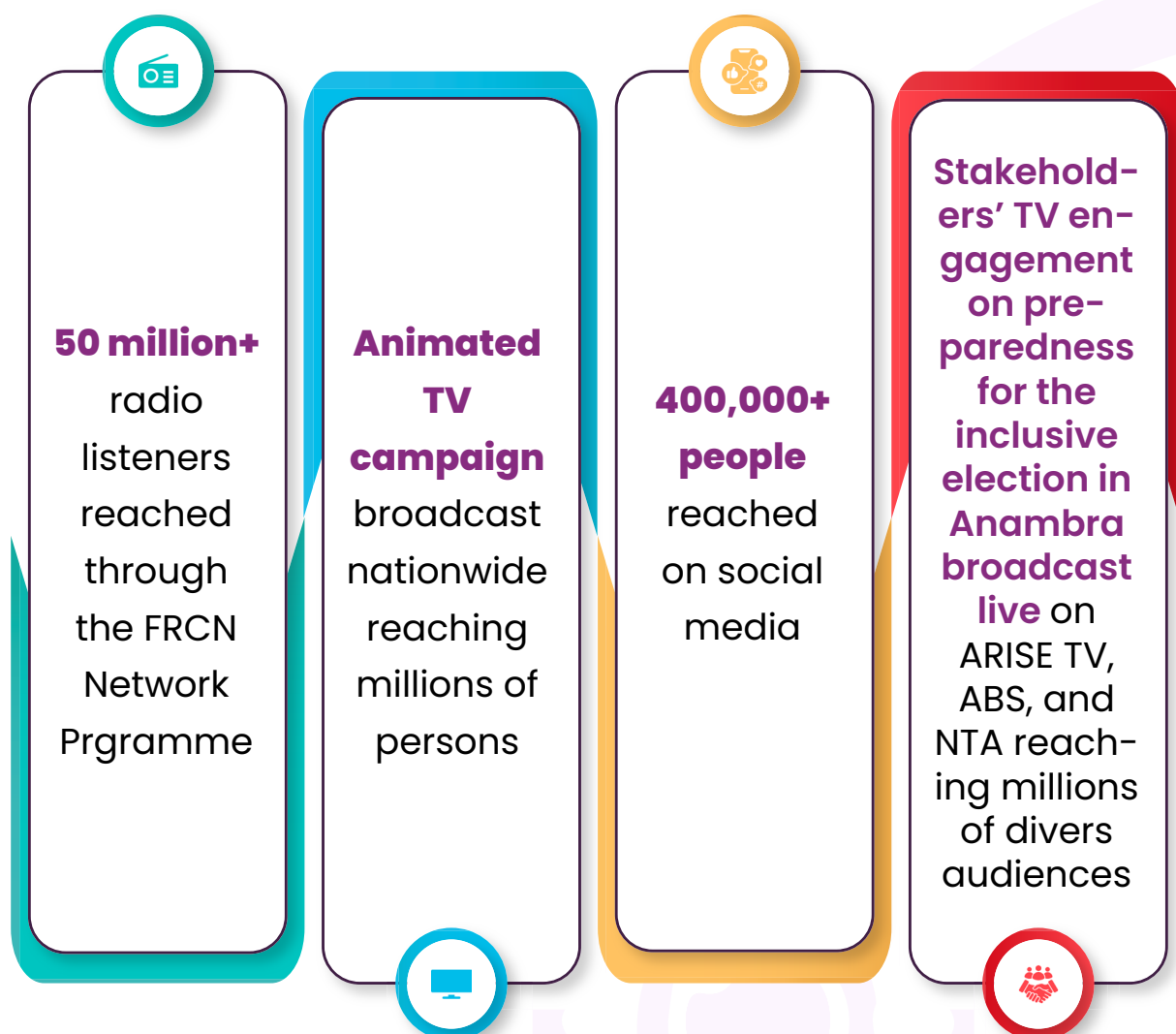
Journalists
Sensitised to an
inclusive election



45

Security
operatives
Sensitised to an
inclusive election

Media Outreach



Key activities implemented under the EU-SDGN II programme in 2025 are:

1.1 A reflection session on the PWD political inclusion index findings, focusing on the INEC and the Political parties to influence the implementation of the index recommendations.

In the preceding year of the project implementation, TAF Africa conducted a comprehensive assessment of the overall level of inclusive and representative governance that respects, protects, and promotes the rights of PWDs through the activities and practices of INEC, security agencies, political parties, and the media. The study adopted TAF Africa's Political Inclusion Index tool, employing both qualitative and quantitative methods to benchmark institutions against predefined levels of political inclusion.

Leveraging the findings of this political inclusion index, the stakeholder reflection meeting was convened by TAF Africa in 2025 to provide a critical platform to assess

progress, identify gaps, and drive actionable strategies for inclusive political participation by PWDs. The meeting brought together representatives from political parties, the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), implementing partners of EU-SDGN II, media, and PWD advocates. Discussions highlighted persistent barriers faced by PWDs in electoral engagement, despite progressive legal frameworks such as the Disability Act (2018) and Nigeria's ratification of the CRPD, emphasising the need for systemic reforms within political institutions.

Presentations from the meeting also revealed notable disparities in inclusion. INEC achieved a high level of inclusion (Level 4),

reflecting strong policies, stakeholder engagement, and accessibility initiatives, though gaps remain in recruitment benchmarks, data disaggregation, and electoral accessibility. Political parties scored moderately (Level 3), with some accessible processes and representation of PWDs in leadership, but faced challenges such as limited engagement with disability organisations, inaccessible offices, and the absence of leadership quotas. 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 inclusivity. See the table below for details:

Table 1.1: 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

These findings underscore the importance of targeted interventions to enhance structural and procedural inclusivity.

Follow-up discussions generated practical recommendations with significant implications for advancing political inclusion. Stakeholders proposed appointing a dedicated Disability Commissioner at INEC, legally reinforcing disability-inclusive guidelines, expanding the Political Inclusion Index to sub-national levels, and empowering NCPWD for enforcement actions. Political parties were encouraged to implement leadership quotas, improve accessibility, and

strengthen collaboration with PWD organisations, while PWDs were urged to actively engage in party structures and advocacy. The meeting also emphasised the role of media and public sensitisation in shifting societal perceptions and promoting psychological empowerment of PWDs.

Overall, the meeting demonstrated the tangible impact of data-driven advocacy in shaping inclusive electoral systems. Stakeholders collectively recognised progress, acknowledged persistent barriers, and committed to collaborative actions informed by the Index findings. It is envisaged that by adopting the recommendations, institutions can ensure more equitable political participation, amplifying the voices of PWDs in governance, and strengthening Nigeria's democratic processes, marking a pivotal step toward a truly inclusive political

landscape.

1.2 Disability Inclusion in Governance Surveys (Appointive/Elected PWDs at national, State, and LGA level, PWDs who are in the leadership of Political Parties)

In an effort to determine the actual level of disability inclusion in governance, covering appointive and elected PWDs at the national, state, and local government levels, as well as PWDs in political party leadership and those who contested various elective and leadership positions, TAF Africa commissioned an independent consultant who conducted a comprehensive mapping of PWD political participation across Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory. The assessment successfully

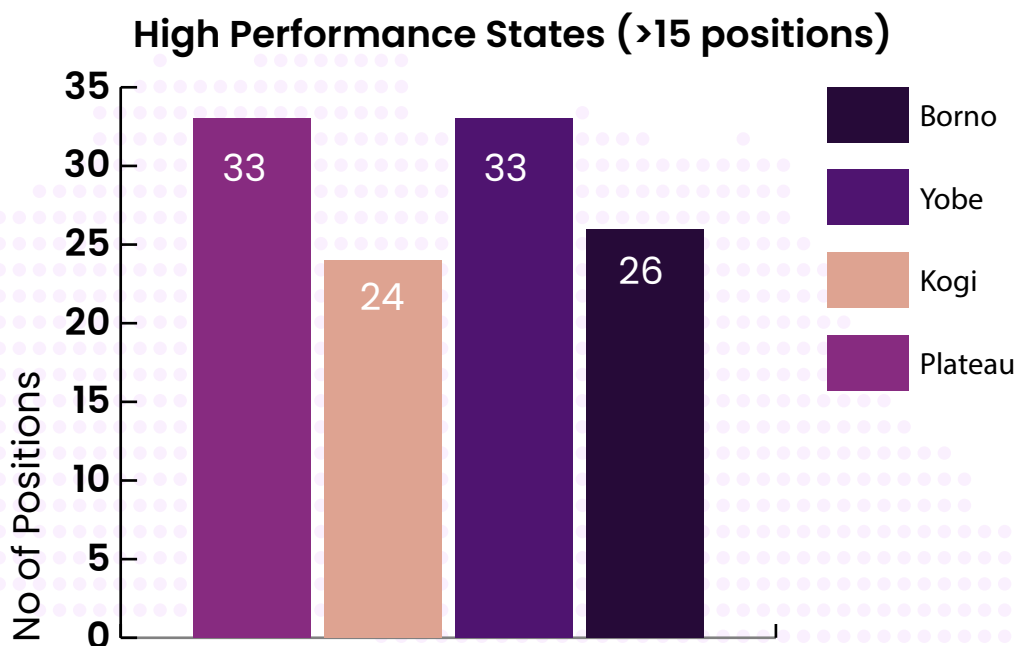
documented over 400 individuals serving in elected positions, appointive roles, party leadership, and electoral candidacies. The study generated comprehensive insights into the political representation of PWDs in Nigeria, establishing evidence-based data to inform advocacy and policy formulation ahead of the 2027 general elections. The study achieved 100% national coverage across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, with detailed data disaggregated by gender, age, disability type, and political position.

The study revealed that although 213 PWDs held appointive positions, only four were elected to public office, representing less than 0.1% of all elected officials nationwide. This overwhelming dominance of appointive roles (99%) highlights a largely tokenistic approach, with more than half of the appointees serving

primarily as Special Advisers or Assistants on Disability Matters rather than in broader governance roles. Similarly, PWD representation within political party leadership remained limited. Of the 98 documented PWD leaders, most occupied roles as “Disability Desk Officers,” with very few integrated into mainstream strategic leadership positions within party structures.

Also, out of 116 PWDs who contested elections during the study period, only a few achieved successes, primarily at the ward and local government levels. The 2023 presidential and governorship elections showed almost complete exclusion, with zero PWD presidential candidates and only one governorship candidate nationwide. Major barriers identified include financial constraints, inaccessible political processes, discriminatory attitudes, and a lack of institutional support.

Candidates with physical disabilities, higher education, party backing, and prior advocacy experience demonstrated relatively better outcomes.



The study also revealed significant geographic disparities in PWD political representation, with Plateau, Kogi, Yobe, and Borno States recording the highest levels of inclusion, while Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Cross River, and Bayelsa showed minimal participation. The North-Central region emerged as the overall leader in PWD inclusion. Men with disabilities overwhelmingly dominated the political space, reflecting longstanding gender disparities, as women with disabilities remained severely underrepresented and largely confined to supportive or advisory roles. Participants with physical disabilities constituted the majority, followed by those with visual and hearing impairments.

In all, the research highlighted both challenges and emerging opportunities for PWD inclusion in Nigeria's political landscape. While systemic barriers persist, growing awareness, new disability

legislation, and increasing youth engagement signal positive change. To strengthen representation ahead of the 2027 elections, the study recommended targeted leadership training, improved accessibility standards, campaign financing support, and stronger engagement with political parties. It concludes that sustained advocacy and strategic partnerships are essential to achieving genuine disability-inclusive governance in Nigeria.

1.3 Deployment of PWD Legislative Interns to the National Assembly

In the second year of project implementation, TAF Africa secured approval for the recruitment and deployment of interns to the NASS under its flagship intervention,

PWD Legislative Internship Programme. The selection process was merit-based and ensured equitable geographical representation across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. The internship opportunity was publicly advertised on public job sites and widely circulated through WhatsApp platforms of OPDs and PWD networks. Consideration was also given to accessibility within the NASS; therefore, candidates with severe mobility, visual, or hearing impairments that could hinder their participation in this phase were not prioritised. The selected interns were given a comprehensive orientation before deployment.

In 2025, a total of nine (9) interns were successfully deployed across nine House of Representatives committees (Healthcare Services, Works, Disability, Land Transport, Basic Education and Services, Women Affairs, Poverty Alleviation, Water Resources, and Communication

and Technology) for three months. Each intern was required to provide monthly progress reports detailing their activities and contributions. Upon completion, TAF Africa

parliamentary processes. Key contributions included proposing innovative policy ideas such as the Green Card Initiative for PWDs and a Caregiver Incentive Structure,



Interns in a group photograph with some guests

convened a reflection and feedback harvesting session to evaluate experiences and programme outcomes.

During the reflection meeting, interns reported gaining practical legislative experience, contributing to committee activities, and advancing disability inclusion within

active participation in public hearings and oversight functions on disability compliance, and promotion of positive attitudinal changes among the NASS community toward inclusion. The interns also reported enhanced confidence, leadership capacity, and political aspirations.

While challenges such as accessibility barriers, limited recognition of PWD inputs, and high mobility costs were noted, the internship programme catalysed infrastructure redesign for accessibility, institutionalising inclusive legislative practices, and sustaining alumni engagement for continued advocacy. Overall, the reflection reaffirmed the transformative impact of the internship programme in empowering PWDs as an active contribution to Nigeria's legislative processes, underscoring the need to scale and institutionalise the initiative for broader national impact.

A documentary video was also produced to capture the interns' experiences throughout the programme. Watch at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHteZEpnIoU&t=260s>

1.4 Engagement with the leadership of the National Assembly to gain a better appreciation of the Sign Language Interpreters (SLIs) services at the NASS

In the second year of implementation, TAF Africa (working with NCPWD, ASLIN, and NILDS) trained and deployed nine Sign Language Interpreters (SLIs) to the National Assembly to improve communication access for the deaf community. Although the SLIs were later integrated into the federal civil service, their limited visibility on NASS TV hindered their impact, prompting a reflection meeting on May 29, 2025, which identified key barriers such as the lack of dedicated cameras, restricted access to Senate chambers, and occasional discriminatory attitudes. Despite progress, including improved

cooperation from committee clerks, issuance of ID cards, and leadership commitments to accessibility, major gaps remained, particularly the absence of a Senate disability desk.

legislative processes. The visit consolidated earlier gains from the SLI deployment programme and produced tangible outcomes, including greater recognition of SLIs, issuance of ID cards, their integration into



A cross-section of participants during the advocacy visits to the NASS

To consolidate on the above, TAF Africa conducted an advocacy visit to the National Assembly on July 24, 2025, in partnership with NCPWD, ASLIN, the deaf community, and OPDs to advance disability mainstreaming and reinforce inclusion within Nigeria's

public hearings, and formal absorption into the civil service. During the engagement, TAF Africa and partners presented several key requests, including the procurement of dedicated cameras for SLIs, assignment of NASS TV staff to screen SLIs during broadcasts, integration

of SLIs into the Assembly's media team, implementation of the CARE Nigeria Accessibility Audit Report, establishment of a Senate Disability Desk, mandatory disability confidence training for legislators and staff, and recognition of sign language as an official national language.

1.5 INEC partners with ASLIN to engage the latter's members as ad hoc staff for general and off-cycle elections and provide sign language services as an adaptive means of communication

TAF Africa, in collaboration with ASLIN and INEC, deployed 25 trained SLIs to polling units with a high number of deaf

voters during the November 2025 governorship election in Anambra State. This initiative was the first of its kind for Nigeria's democratic practice.

Before the deployment, the interpreters were provided with an intensive two-day training covering electoral procedures, polling-unit operations, electoral ethics, and communication protocols, ensuring they were prepared not just linguistically, but with full awareness of neutrality and voter rights.

On election day, these SLIs were stationed in high-density deaf-voter polling units. Their presence improved communication between deaf voters and election officials, enabling many deaf voters to cast their votes independently and with dignity, many describing the experience as their first.

While gaps remain, such as a limited number of SLIs, this pilot suggests that disability-



Members of the SLIs on the election duty

inclusive elections can be achieved through institutional collaborations.

This intervention equally supports transforming legal provisions into real access, restoring dignity for deaf voters, and establishing a template for inclusive electoral practices across Nigeria. As a model for future elections, it demonstrates that inclusivity, with commitment, training, coordination, and institutional collaboration, is not just possible but essential for inclusive elections.

1.6 Awareness Campaign: Voter education

a. Awareness Campaign – Able2Vote, Voter Education

The Able2Vote voter education campaign is a flagship intervention initiated by TAF Africa to strengthen the participation of PWDs in Nigeria's electoral process, extending its reach from the 2023 general elections to off-cycle elections in Kogi, Imo, Bayelsa, Edo, Ondo, and Anambra States. During the November 2025 Anambra Governorship Election, the



Participants in a group photograph

campaign engaged more than 380 participants across Awka,

Nnewi, and Onitsha, including PWDs, INEC, CSOs, security

agencies, and traditional and religious leaders, enhancing voter awareness and institutional collaboration for inclusive elections. The initiative secured commitments from INEC to employ willing PWDs as ad-hoc staff, prioritise PWDs

reporting. Collectively, the campaign empowered PWDs to demand priority voting and the use of assistive devices, resulting in increased awareness, enthusiasm, and meaningful political participation during off-cycle elections.



Cross-section of participants during the Able2Vote campaign for PWDs and Engagement with Security Agencies

during registration and voting, and expand assistive tools, while the police pledged to ensure accessible and secure polling environments and CSOs produced simplified electoral materials. Strategic advocacy visits to INEC and media outlets, alongside sensitisation sessions for 60 journalists and 45 security operatives, further promoted ethical, inclusive, and rights-based electoral

b. IEC Materials Production

To support voter sensitisation and election observation during the Ondo and Anambra off-cycle elections, TAF Africa produced and distributed 3,056 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, including 710 face caps, 687 T-shirts, 25 media jackets, 750 notepads, 750 pens, and 130 tote bags. These

materials helped enhance visibility and reinforce key voter education messages among targeted beneficiaries. Comprehensive reports from both elections, generated using evidence collected during these sensitisation activities, were shared with INEC and other stakeholders, providing actionable recommendations to inform future policy reforms and strengthen disability-inclusive electoral processes.



Picture of the collection of IEC Materials duty

c. Disability Inclusion Radio Programme

The Disability Inclusion Radio Programme, produced by TAF

Africa in partnership with the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), continued to expand nationwide public awareness on disability rights and inclusive governance. In 2025, the programme had reached more than 50 million listeners across Nigeria, enhancing public understanding of the civil rights of PWDs and promoting their inclusion in political and electoral processes. By consistently delivering rights-based messaging through FRCN's national network, the programme contributed to playing a pivotal role in shaping public opinion, reducing stigma, and advancing national discourse on disability-inclusive democracy.





Pictures of Guests in the studio during the radio programme

d. Able2Vote Animated TV Series

The Able-to-Vote animated campaign and the accompanying Third Eye campaign were broadcast across major national and state television stations from October 26 to November 7, 2025. Designed to enhance electoral awareness among PWDs and the general public ahead of the Anambra Governorship Election, the campaigns offered accessible, step-by-step guidance on voting procedures, the use of assistive devices, and priority voting provisions. It also showcased the Third Eye feature of the TAF Disability Election Observation App, enabling real-time, citizen-led reporting.

This initiative empowered PWDs to participate independently and safely during the Anambra state off-cycle elections. Its extensive multi-platform distribution (NTA Awka, ABS,

Arise TV, News Central, social media channels, and the TAF website) ensured broad reach across both grassroots and urban audiences. Beyond voter education, the campaign strengthened stakeholder engagement through collaborations with JONAPWD and media trainings that promoted rights-based reporting and reduced stigmatising language.

The integration of captions, sign language interpretation, high-contrast visuals, and clear voice-overs ensured full accessibility for diverse disability groups. As a result, the campaign recorded high audience engagement, increased visibility for TAF Africa's programmes, and contributed to measurable progress in disability-inclusive electoral participation.

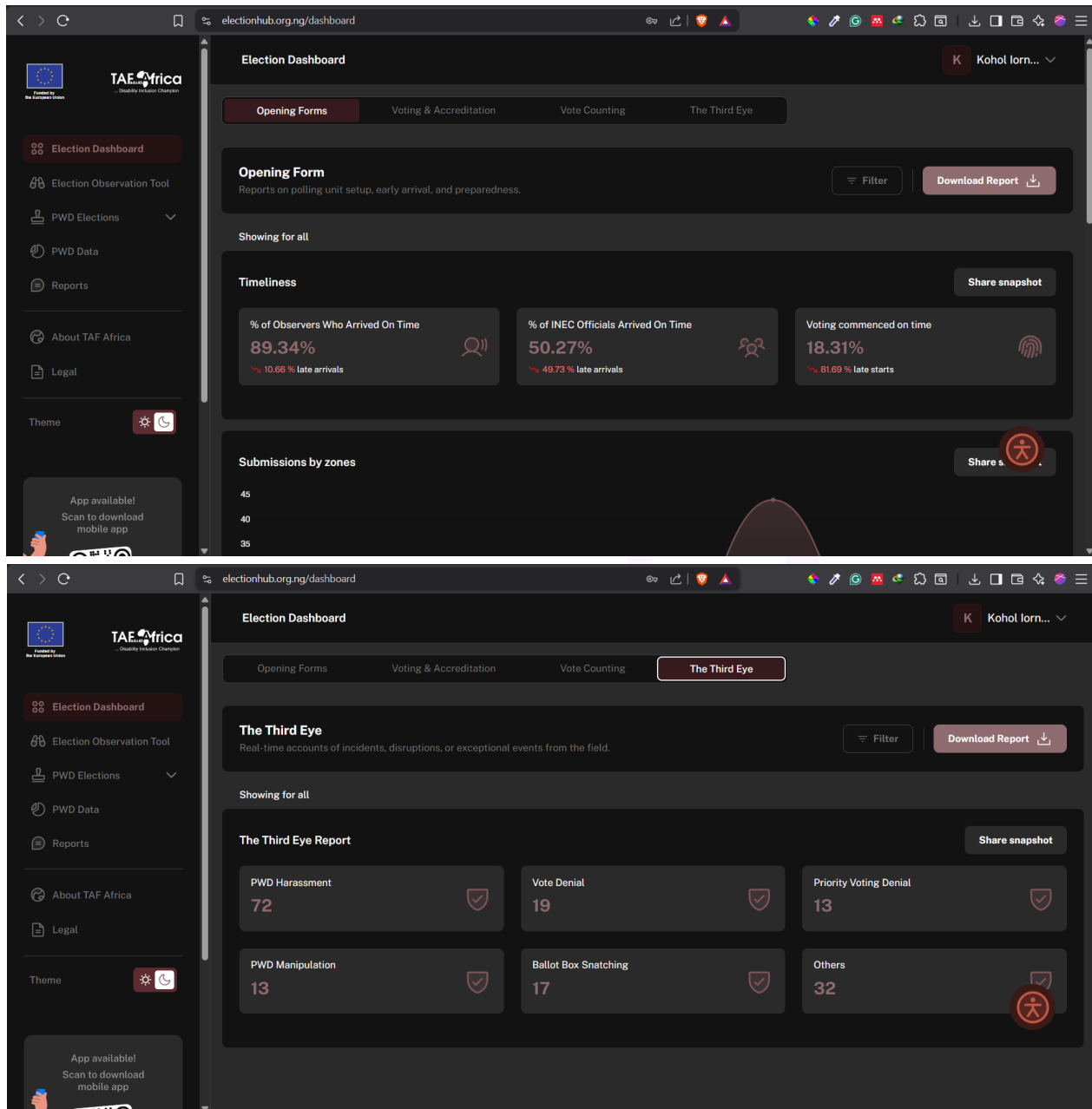


Screen – Shots of the Animated Able2Vote TV series

1.7 Upgrade of the PWD Election Observer App

The TAF Disability Hub (<https://electionhub.org.ng>) v1.1 upgrade, deployed during the 2025 Anambra Governorship Election, marked a significant technological and operational milestone. The rebuild addressed underlying technical debt from version

1.0, improving system stability, and enhancing the user experience, enabling over 98% observer submission rates and high satisfaction levels. The upgrade ensured seamless data aggregation in real time, creating a centralized, reliable repository for PWD-related data across elections, voters, and candidate information. Observers reported improved accessibility, including offline form submissions, which mitigated network challenges and allowed for efficient



Screenshot of the App's Dashboard and the Third Eye Feature

reporting on election processes and PWD rights infractions which were lacking in the earlier version.

The upgrades expanded the platform's functionality. Key additions included interactive

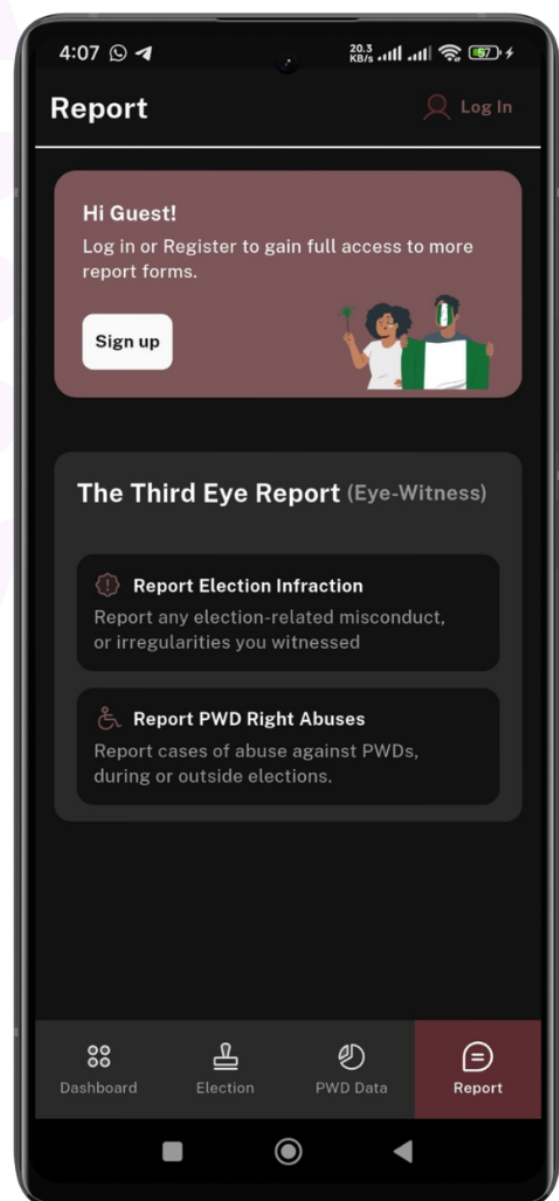
dashboards on PWD data, enhanced reporting tools for election monitoring, and integration of live video and eyewitness reporting. These improvements increased data visibility and accessibility, strengthened the observer

reporting experience, and broadened the App's user base to include accredited observers, citizen monitors, and state/non-state actors. Over 300 downloads during the pilot phase and successfully deployed the Third Eye Tool validating the application as a robust platform for collecting, managing, and using disability-focused data, establishing a foundation for scaling and future service delivery features.

By integrating PWD election observer groups like JONAPWD, TAF Africa expanded observation coverage, supported structured data collection, and generated evidence-based reports on PWD electoral access and barriers. The App's real-time synchronization and dashboards facilitated rapid aggregation, visualization, and analysis of disaggregated data, strengthening collaboration with state and non-state actors and enabling informed advocacy for inclusive electoral

processes.

Targeting the country's digitally active youth population, TAF Africa initiated rigorous campaigns focusing on mobilising PWD voters, encouraging App downloads and usage through community collaborations, and advocating



for accessible polling locations, using key messages on PWDs' election-day, the citizen-led "Third Eye" reporting feature, and real-life PWD voting experiences. Delivered across Meta, X, and LinkedIn, the campaign reached over 400,000 users and generated substantial engagement, with Meta providing the widest reach.

The deployment provided important lessons for future upgrades, particularly for version 2.0, which aims to link PWDs to education, employment, health, and pro-bono legal services. The pilot phase confirmed the platform's scalability and strategic potential as a national disability data infrastructure, positioning TAF Africa to leverage technology for meaningful disability inclusion and democratic participation in the lead-up to the 2026 off-cycle elections and the 2027 general elections.

1.8

Stakeholders' live TV engagement on preparedness for the inclusive election in Anambra State

The Live TV stakeholder engagement hosted by TAF Africa, with support from the European Union under the EU-SDGN II Programme, provided a strategic platform for signalling strong institutional readiness for a disability-inclusive Anambra State governorship election. Broadcast live on ARISE TV, ABS, and NTA, the event convened representatives from INEC, security agencies, media organisations, and disability rights groups. Panellists highlighted the need for compliance with the 2018 Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition)

Act and relevant electoral regulations, including INEC's audit of more than 5,700 polling units for accessibility and the deployment of assistive devices such as Braille ballot guides, magnifying glasses, and the Form EC30E (PWD) poster for deaf voters. Security agencies reaffirmed their inclusion-focused commitments: the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence

Corps (NSCDC) announced the establishment of Disability Desks in state and zonal commands and the training of officers in basic sign language, while the Nigeria Police Force pledged the deployment of both unarmed and armed officers with emphasis on empathy and the protection of PWDs. Media houses also committed to inclusive election coverage through the use of



Cross – Section of Participants during the Live TV Stakeholder Engagement

sign language interpreters and disability-targeted public service announcements. Collectively, these assurances from INEC, media, and security institutions strengthened public confidence and offered hope to voters with disabilities, ensuring they would not be excluded or marginalised during the Anambra off-cycle election.

1.9 Setting up the Election Hub

TAF Africa established a PWD focused Election Hub for the 2025 Anambra Governorship Election to ensure that disability inclusion was visible, measurable, and accountable in real time. Designed as a central coordination and command centre, the hub integrated data from 150 trained observers using the TAF Disability Hub App, enabling live verification, rapid incident response, and strategic public

communication to strengthen inclusive electoral governance. A key innovation was the Third Eye feature, which allowed citizens across all local government areas to report exclusion or rights violations affecting PWDs, transforming inclusive participation into a shared national responsibility. Supported by extensive public awareness campaigns and real-time geo-tagged reporting, the system enabled





Observers on the election day duty

TAF Africa to continuously monitor polling unit accessibility, the availability of assistive devices, compliance with priority voting procedures, and overall voter experience, while promptly addressing emerging challenges.

On election day, the hub functioned as a dynamic

ecosystem of technology, collaboration, and civic vigilance. Analysts, media partners, and observers worked collectively to ensure that no incident of disability exclusion went unnoticed and that every PWD could vote with dignity. The initiative demonstrated that inclusive democracy is both achievable and transformative,

reinforcing the principle that protecting every citizen's right to participate strengthens democratic integrity. TAF Africa complemented these efforts with pre- and post-election press statements highlighting compliance with the Electoral Act and the active participation of PWDs.

Data from the TAF election observation mission demonstrated substantial progress in disability inclusion. Observation findings showed that 87.8% of polling units were accessible, 68.7% adhered to priority voting procedures, and 57% provided assistive devices. A post-election survey of 130 PWD respondents further validated these outcomes: out of the 80% of respondents who voted, 88% reported participating in the Able2Vote campaign. Despite remaining challenges, such as limited assistive devices, incomplete Form EC40H, and logistical and attitudinal barriers, the vast

majority (92%) rated their voting experience as satisfactory.

Comparative trends from 2023 to 2025 also revealed steady improvements in disability inclusion across successive elections. Off-cycle elections in Kogi, Imo, and Bayelsa recorded accessibility rates ranging from 78% to 90%, while the 2024 Ondo Governorship Election achieved 88% accessibility and 96% compliance with priority voting. Conversely, Edo 2024 showed weaker performance, with only 60% of polling units equipped with assistive devices and 60% compliance on priority voting. The continuous improvement highlights the positive impact of TAF Africa's pre-election initiatives, particularly the Able2Vote campaign and media partnerships.

Key achievements during the election observation included the deployment of the PWD Election Hub App with real-time reporting, the pilot engagement



Pictures during the pre- and post-Election press statements

of sign language interpreters, and strong media collaboration that mainstreamed disability inclusion. Persistent gaps, however, included inaccessible polling units for wheelchair users and older persons, insufficient

assistive devices, incomplete disability data, communication barriers for deaf voters, and inconsistent use of Form EC40H. Recommendations moving forward include auditing and upgrading inaccessible



polling units, standardising assistive device deployment, strengthening disability data collection, scaling sign language interpreter training, integrating disability modules into INEC capacity-building programmes, and expanding voter education, especially in rural areas. Collectively,

these actions reaffirm that democracy thrives when every citizen can participate fully, and media coverage of the PWD Election Hub further amplified PWD visibility, spotlighting both progress and areas for improvement to guide future inclusive electoral reforms.

2

Disability Rights Fund (DRF) Rivers State Project: Enhancing Disability-Inclusive Governance in Rivers State

The project focuses on promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in government programs at the sub-national level, covering education, health, and justice, to ensure their meaningful participation in budget planning and implementation. The project is intended to respond to the challenge of the delayed domestication of the National Disability Act 2028 in Rivers State to help address the systemic neglect, stigma, discrimination, and limited access to education, healthcare, and employment faced by PWDs.

The project is also to empower persons with disabilities and strengthen inclusive governance in Rivers State, ensuring alignment with the

CRPD and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Specific Objectives include:

1. Strengthen the capacity of state actors to mainstream disability inclusion in policies, programs, and processes, particularly in health, education, and justice sectors.
2. Enhance the capacity of Rivers State legislatures to prioritize inclusive legislation, budgeting, and oversight, starting with the three focal sectors.
3. Build the capacity of persons with disabilities to engage effectively in government planning and programming processes, promoting stronger disability inclusion.
4. Improve access to justice for

persons with disabilities.

The project is guided by a rights-based approach to disability inclusion, prioritizing the person first, recognizing individual capacity, ensuring the right to participation, and promoting social responsibility to guarantee inclusive environments for all.

Key highlights of the project in 2025

- **49** persons engaged through advocacy at different levels
- **32** Disability and Gender Desk Officers were formally appointed and trained across 32 MDAs,
- **12** MDAs engaged on disability inclusion
- **20** Judicial Officers and Law Enforcement Agencies trained on Access to Justice
- **20** PWDs trained on Disability-Inclusive

Budgeting and Budget Analysis in Rivers State.

The following key activities were implemented in 2025 under this intervention:

2.1 First Advocacy visits to MDAs, Security Agencies, Religious leaders, and Traditional Rulers on Disability Inclusion

TAF Africa, alongside Rivers State JONAPWD, conducted advocacy visits to various MDAs to advance stakeholder awareness and commitment to disability-inclusive governance in Rivers State. The advocacy engagement was implemented across key ministries such as the Social



Participants during the Advocacy Visit

Welfare and Rehabilitation, Youth Development, Women Affairs, Education, and Health. This initiative helped to position disability inclusion as a cross-cutting governance priority, aligning with the

SDGs and the Disability Act 2018. The participation of senior government officials and leaders of disability clusters provided legitimacy, ensured representation of lived experiences, and

elevated disability inclusion from a welfare concern to a governance and rights-based issue.

One major outcome of the advocacy engagements was the formal commitment by almost all visited ministries to establish disability desk offices and appoint designated officers to coordinate disability inclusion. The Ministry of Health further committed to expanding its existing gender desk to incorporate disability issues, while the Ministry of Education pledged to collaborate with TAF Africa on implementing the National Policy on Inclusive Education. Collectively, ministries agreed to mainstream disability considerations into their policies, programmes, and service delivery frameworks, demonstrating institutional buy-in beyond symbolic endorsement.

The advocacy also yielded concrete policy-level support, with all ministries expressing

readiness to support the domestication of the Disability Act in Rivers State. While acknowledging structural constraints in recruitment, ministry leadership affirmed their willingness to employ persons with disabilities in line with the 5% quota stipulated by the Act and committed to sustained engagement with the Rivers State Civil Service Commission. These commitments marked an important step toward bridging the gap between national disability legislation and sub-national implementation.

In addition, the advocacy exposed critical accessibility and systemic gaps that informed subsequent advocacy and programming. The elevator failure incident during the visit to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation underscored the urgent need for accessible infrastructure and a reliable power supply in public buildings. The presence and active participation of disability

cluster leaders amplified accountability and reinforced the necessity of follow-up actions. Overall, the advocacy visits achieved measurable progress in awareness, institutional commitments, and policy alignment, laying a strong foundation for implementation, monitoring, and sustained disability-inclusive governance reforms in Rivers State.

2.2 Second Advocacy Visits on Disability Inclusive Governance in Rivers State

The second round of advocacy visits yielded further concrete commitments from key Rivers State institutions toward advancing disability inclusion. Engagements with the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Office of the Head of Service, and the

Rivers State Traditional Council resulted in explicit assurances to establish or nominate Disability Desk Officers, support capacity-building training for relevant stakeholders, and integrate accessibility considerations into policies, infrastructure, and service delivery. Notably, the Ministry of Justice committed to partnering with TAF Africa to review and advance the draft Rivers State Disability Bill, while the Head of Service pledged to consider the 5% employment quota for persons with disabilities in the follow-up general recruitment exercise and facilitate the deployment of desk officers across MDAs.

The advocacy equally solicited institutional buy-in for disability-inclusive governance and secured sector-specific commitments. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Women's Affairs expressed readiness to mainstream accessibility initiatives within health facilities and ministry

complexes, respectively, and to nominate staff for disability inclusion training. The Ministry of Transport pledged interim measures toward disability representation pending formal deployment of desk officers, while the Traditional Council offered strong backing to combat discrimination and promote inclusion at the community level. These outcomes collectively enhanced the visibility of TAF Africa's Charter of Demands

and positioned disability inclusion as a cross-cutting governance priority within the state's administrative and traditional structures.

Despite resistance from some MDAs, the advocacy achieved measurable progress by consolidating on the gains made during the first advocacy visits and setting timelines for implementation. The results underscore the effectiveness of sustained, participatory





Participants during the Advocacy Visit

advocacy in translating dialogue into commitments, particularly when aligned with legal frameworks such as the National Disability Act

and the SDGs. TAF Africa also instituted formal follow-up communications to agencies visited, target re-engagement of resistant stakeholders, and

continued collaboration with disability cluster leaders to convert commitments made into tangible institutional reforms that could improve access, representation, and rights for PWDs in Rivers State.

2.3^{The}

Assessment of the Impact of Political Instability in Rivers State on Persons with Disabilities

Following the declaration of a state of emergency in Rivers State and the suspension of established government engagement channels, persons with disabilities were effectively excluded from decision-making processes. In response to this governance vacuum, TAF Africa examined the impact of the emergency rule on PWDs. The assessment reviewed the role of the sole

administrator and found that no formal consultation mechanisms, representation structures, or supervisory processes for Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) were activated during this period, thereby silencing disability voices in public policy, budgeting, and service oversight.

Also, the findings from the assessment revealed disruption in access to essential services for PWDs. Participants reported interruptions in healthcare access, including delays in assistive devices, specialist care, and fee waivers, compounded by increased transport and mobility barriers linked to heightened security measures. In education, reasonable accommodations such as interpreters, readers, and accessible learning materials were paused due to administrative bottlenecks. Social protection schemes and livelihood support were also

delayed, disproportionately affecting PWD-owned small businesses amid economic instability.

The assessment also revealed a widening gap between existing legal protections and actual implementation during the emergency period. Despite the provisions of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018, and the Rivers State Persons with Disability Welfare (Enhancement) Law, 2012, participants reported weak enforcement, stalled accessibility improvements, and the absence of disability-responsive protocols in emergency governance. This gap has heightened exposure to discrimination, exclusion, and rights violations.

Participants further highlighted increased risks to safety, dignity, and access to information. Heightened insecurity and movement restrictions were

reported to disproportionately affect PWDs, particularly those with mobility, visual, hearing, and cognitive impairments. Emergency communications were largely inaccessible, lacking sign language interpretation, braille, large print, or plain-language formats, leaving many PWDs uninformed during critical periods.

As a direct outcome of the activity, the assessment produced a consolidated evidence-based communiqué articulating priority demands of the disability community. These include the urgent establishment of structured dialogue with the state administrator, appointment of a disability focal point or Special Adviser, restoration of OPD governance processes, transparent disclosure of emergency funds, and immediate alignment of emergency measures with national and state disability



Pictures during the stakeholders roundtable

laws. The findings provided advocacy tools to engage government, media, and development partners toward restoring inclusive governance and safeguarding the rights of PWDs during and beyond the emergency period.

2.4

Capacity Building Workshop on Disability-Inclusive Budgeting and Budget Analysis for Disability Cluster Leaders in Rivers State

The two-day capacity-building workshop on Disability-Inclusive Budgeting and

Budget Analysis, convened by TAF Africa under the DRF-supported project, successfully enhanced the knowledge and skills of disability cluster leaders in Rivers State. Participants gained a comprehensive

understanding of the principles of inclusive budgeting, the state budget cycle, and practical tools for budget analysis. Through interactive sessions, case studies, and group work, participants were able to



Pictures with the participants during the training workshop

identify gaps in government budget allocations for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and understand strategic entry points for advocacy within ministries, the State Assembly, and development planning processes.

A significant outcome of the workshop was the development of a practical Action Plan aimed at strengthening PWD engagement in Rivers State's budget processes. Participants committed to establishing Disability Desk Officers in key ministries, advocating for a dedicated Committee on Disability Matters in the State Assembly, leveraging media campaigns to highlight inclusion gaps, and building coalitions with CSOs and OPDs for sustained advocacy. The workshop also equipped participants with communication and negotiation skills, enabling them to present evidence-based demands effectively

to policymakers and track government implementation of disability-inclusive provisions.

The workshop led to measurable improvements in participants' capacity for disability-inclusive advocacy, fostering unity and strategic thinking among disability clusters. Participants reported increased confidence in engaging government institutions, tracking budget allocations, and mobilizing collective action. While challenges such as accessibility barriers and low awareness among some officials were noted, the workshop provided concrete strategies to overcome these obstacles. Overall, the workshop strengthened the foundation for sustained advocacy, ensuring that PWDs in Rivers State have a clearer pathway to influence governance, budget decisions, and development planning.

2.5 2-Day Capacity Strengthening for Disability and Gender Desk Officers from Rivers State MDAs on Disability Inclusion in Governance

The 2-day capacity strengthening workshop delivered tangible institutional results for disability-inclusive governance in Rivers State. As a direct outcome of prior advocacy, 32 Disability and Gender Desk Officers were formally appointed and trained across 32 MDAs, establishing a statewide coordination mechanism for disability inclusion within government structures. Participants demonstrated improved understanding of disability as a rights and development issue, shifting from welfare-

based perceptions to rights-based, inclusive governance approaches aligned with the CRPD, SDGs, and Nigeria's Disability Act.

The training translated knowledge into practice through clear role definition and operational clarity for Desk Officers as internal advocates, policy advisers, and coordination focal points within their MDAs. Officers gained practical competencies in inclusive budgeting, accessibility standards, disability-disaggregated data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and inter-sectoral collaboration. This resulted in strengthened inter-MDA linkages and a shared commitment to mainstream disability inclusion across policies, programmes, and service delivery. The workshop also led to the development of MDA-specific Disability Inclusion Action Plans by all participants. These plans



Pictures with the participants Disability and Gender Desk Officers

outline immediate, medium-term, and long-term actions, including disability audits, identification of accessibility gaps, engagement with OPDs, advocacy for disability-responsive budget lines, and institutionalization of reasonable accommodation processes. The action plans ensure ownership, accountability, and a clear pathway for implementation

beyond the training.

The workshop also delivered broader systemic outcomes. High-level political and administrative commitment was reinforced, particularly through the Office of the Head of Service, positioning Rivers State as a leading example of institutional disability desks across MDAs. Press engagement increased public

visibility and accountability, while partnerships between government, OPDs, and TAF Africa were strengthened. Collectively, these results lay a solid foundation for sustained disability-inclusive governance and support future efforts toward domestication, enforcement, and resourcing of disability laws and policies in Rivers State.

2.6 Training for the Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, and Law Enforcement Agencies in Rivers State on Access to Justice

The two-day disability inclusion training for the Rivers State Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, and NSCDC, organized by TAF Africa under the DRF-funded project, was designed to enhance participants' understanding of disability

rights, legal frameworks, and access-to-justice principles for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Through interactive presentations, case-based learning, and group exercises, participants deepened their knowledge of disability models, Nigerian and international legal obligations, and practical accommodations, ranging from assistive technologies to inclusive communication. Despite the absence of the Nigerian Police Force, the 20 attendees from the Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, and NSCDC actively engaged in discussions, sharing experiences and identifying institutional barriers to PWD inclusion.

The training also led to actionable commitments by each institution to advance disability inclusion. Participants developed sector-specific plans that included requests for accessible infrastructure such as lifts, toilets, and designated parking; training for frontline

staff on inclusive service delivery; provision of braille and audio materials; and engagement of sign language interpreters. The session strengthened cross-sector collaboration and fostered a collective sense of responsibility, as evidenced by the formal pledge by all participants to champion disability rights in Rivers State. Leadership reflections and practical exercises also reinforced the importance of ethical leadership, respectful communication, and proactive institutional reform to ensure that PWDs can access justice effectively.

Overall, the workshop laid a strong foundation for systemic change in justice and security institutions in Rivers State. Key results include improved knowledge and awareness of disability inclusion, reinforced institutional commitment to accessibility, and concrete steps toward implementing inclusive practices across offices. The training

highlighted both opportunities and challenges, notably infrastructure limitations and the need for legal reforms, while establishing a clear pathway for sustained action, inter-agency collaboration, and follow-up advocacy. By equipping participants with practical tools and a shared vision for inclusive governance, the workshop represents a significant milestone toward ensuring equal access to justice for persons with disabilities in the state.





Pictures during the Training

3

Disability Rights Advocacy Project for Inclusive Development (D-RAPID)

The Disability Rights Advocacy Project for Inclusive Development (D-RAPID) is designed to advance a more inclusive and equitable society in Nigeria by strengthening the protection, promotion, and enforcement of the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The project supports Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), and the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) to enhance the implementation of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018, ensuring that the rights guaranteed by the law translate into meaningful change for persons with disabilities. By strengthening institutions, empowering civil society actors, and promoting accountability, the project contributes to the broader

objective of positioning CSOs as independent actors in good governance and development.

Jointly implemented by Christian Blind Mission (CBM) International, Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) and TAF Africa, with a focus on Benue and Delta States, the project addresses critical capacity gaps among government institutions, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), and community stakeholders to accelerate the domestication and effective enforcement of disability rights legislation. Through a three-pronged strategy operating at the national, state, and community levels, the action strengthens institutional capacity to mainstream disability inclusion, promotes policy dialogue and advocacy for the domestication of the Disability

Act, and advances sustainable economic empowerment for persons with disabilities through technology and entrepreneurship skills development. Aligned with the global “Leave No One Behind” principle, the initiative ultimately seeks to foster greater social inclusion, reduce inequality, and enable persons with disabilities to actively claim their rights and contribute meaningfully to Nigeria’s development.

The key objectives include

1. Strengthened the capacity of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) and other Human Rights stakeholders to implement the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2018.
2. Enhanced platforms for dialogue and advocacy for the adaptation and domestication of the Discrimination against PWDs (Prohibition) Act.
3. Enhanced awareness at the state and community levels on the importance of inclusion and protection of PWDs.
4. Strengthened technological/entrepreneurship skills among PWDs.

3.1 Summary of Key Results and Achievements

a. Advocacy and Policy Influence

The project conducted sustained advocacy with MDAs, traditional institutions, and the Delta State House of Assembly. High-level engagements led to:

- Commitments to mainstream disability inclusion into the 2026 state budget.
- Legislative discussions on increasing the PWD employment quota from **1% to 5%.**
- Policy momentum towards inclusive education rather than segregated special schools.
- Strengthened collaboration between OPDs and government agencies.

b. Stakeholder Coordination and Institutional Engagement

3 Quarterly stakeholder meetings were held creating functional platform for multi-sector collaboration. Key outcomes include:

- Formation of a Stakeholder Coordination Taskforce.
- Commitment to establish a State Disability Commission.
- Institutionalisation of disability focal persons across MDAs.

c. Community Mobilisation and Town Hall Engagements

Town Hall meetings in Warri South, Oshimili South, and Ughelli North mobilised 160 participants including OPDs, women-led groups, and youth advocates. Results include:

- Increased registration on the NCPWD portal.
- Enhanced awareness of rights and services.
- Community-led action plans on stigma reduction,

vocational training, and enforcement of the Disability Act.

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- Enhanced awareness of rights and services.
- Community-led action plans on stigma reduction, vocational training, and enforcement of the Disability Act.

d. Capacity Building and Training

Two-day trainings on the National Disability Act and UNCRPD strengthened the advocacy and technical capacity of OPDs and MDAs.

Pre- and post-tests showed measurable knowledge improvement, and participants developed institutional action plans for disability-inclusive programming.

e. Mapping and Economic Inclusion

56 PWDs were profiled across three LGAs with gender-disaggregated livelihood data collected. Skills mapped include ICT, catering, tailoring, hairdressing, shoemaking, and fish farming—laying the foundation for future economic empowerment interventions.

f. Assistive Devices Initiative

Fifty (50) PWDs were identified to receive assistive devices including wheelchairs, hearing aids, crutches, prosthetics, and cane guides. Procurement is ongoing and distribution is planned with OPDs and community leaders.

3.2 Beneficiaries

Primary beneficiaries:

- **Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)** – especially women, youth, and rural residents.
- **Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)** – strengthened in advocacy and coordination roles.
- **Government Institutions** – equipped to mainstream disability inclusion.
- **Traditional and Religious Leaders** – engaged as social change agents.

3.3 Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenge	Lessons Learned & Solutions
Digital barriers to NCPWD registration	Introduce offline forms, digital help-desks, and OPD-led facilitation
Weak enforcement of disability laws	Strengthen coalition advocacy and legislative follow-ups
Stigma and cultural bias	Use community champions and media campaigns
Inaccessible public infrastructure	Advocate for disability audits and standards

Inadequate PWD data

Institutionalise Washington
Group Questions (WGSSQ)

3.4 Monitoring, Learning and Adaptation

The project adopted adaptive learning by:

- Integrating lessons into subsequent advocacy strategies.
- Refining community engagement models.
- Improving data collection and feedback mechanisms.

3.5 Sustainability and Way Forward

In Year Two, the project will:

- Intensify legislative follow-ups on quota increase and inclusive education reforms.
- Roll out economic empowerment interventions.
- Expand assisted registration for NCPWD.
- Institutionalise disability desks across MDAs.
- Strengthen OPD-government partnerships for long-term ownership.

3.6 Conclusion

Year One of the D-RAPID Project in Delta State demonstrated that rights-based advocacy, participatory engagement, and institutional collaboration can drive systemic change. The project has laid a strong foundation for inclusive governance, economic participation, and dignity for Persons with Disabilities. With sustained advocacy and partnerships, D-RAPID remains firmly on course to transform disability inclusion from policy to lived reality.

3.7 Picture Gallery



Mapping at Warri, Delta State



TAF/CBM Team with the Permanent Secretary Delta State Ministry of Women Affairs



TAF/CBM Team with Personnel of Oshimili South LGA, Delta State



CBM/TAF with Asagba of Asaba, Delta State



CBM/TAF with the Ovie of Ughelli, Delta State



Cross Session of Participants at the town hall meeting in Warri South, Delta State



Cross Session of Participants at the town hall meeting in Warri South, Delta State



The permanent Secretary, Delta State Ministry of Women Affairs @ town hall meeting, Delta State



Dr Andrew facilitating a session @ town hall meeting, Delta State



Advocacy Team in Ministry of Economic Planning, Delta State



OPDs Training, Delta State



Advocacy visit to the State House of Assembly, Delta State

4

Special Initiatives Implemented by TAF Africa in 2025

4.1 TAF Africa's Engagement at the Global Disability Summit (GDS) 2025

In 2025, following an invitation from the German government, TAF Africa, led by its CEO and Founder, Amb. Jake Epelle headed the Nigerian delegation to the Global Disability Summit (GDS). This strategic participation helped advance the organisation's advocacy for disability inclusion across employment, governance, and social protection systems. Through high-level speaking engagements, panel contributions, and a dedicated side event, TAF Africa positioned itself as a leading African voice influencing

global policy dialogues on mainstreaming disability inclusion in public discourse. At the summit, the organisation amplified critical issues aligned with the UNCRPD, including inclusive labour markets, accessible governance, and the importance of strong partnerships between government institutions and OPDs.

Amb. Epelle delivered substantial thought leadership across multiple panels, highlighting Nigeria's progress in disability policy reforms and underscoring the need for strengthened government-OPD collaboration. He also showcased TAF Africa's impactful programs (Able2Vote, Electability, Able2Serve, and the National Access to Work Scheme) as scalable models



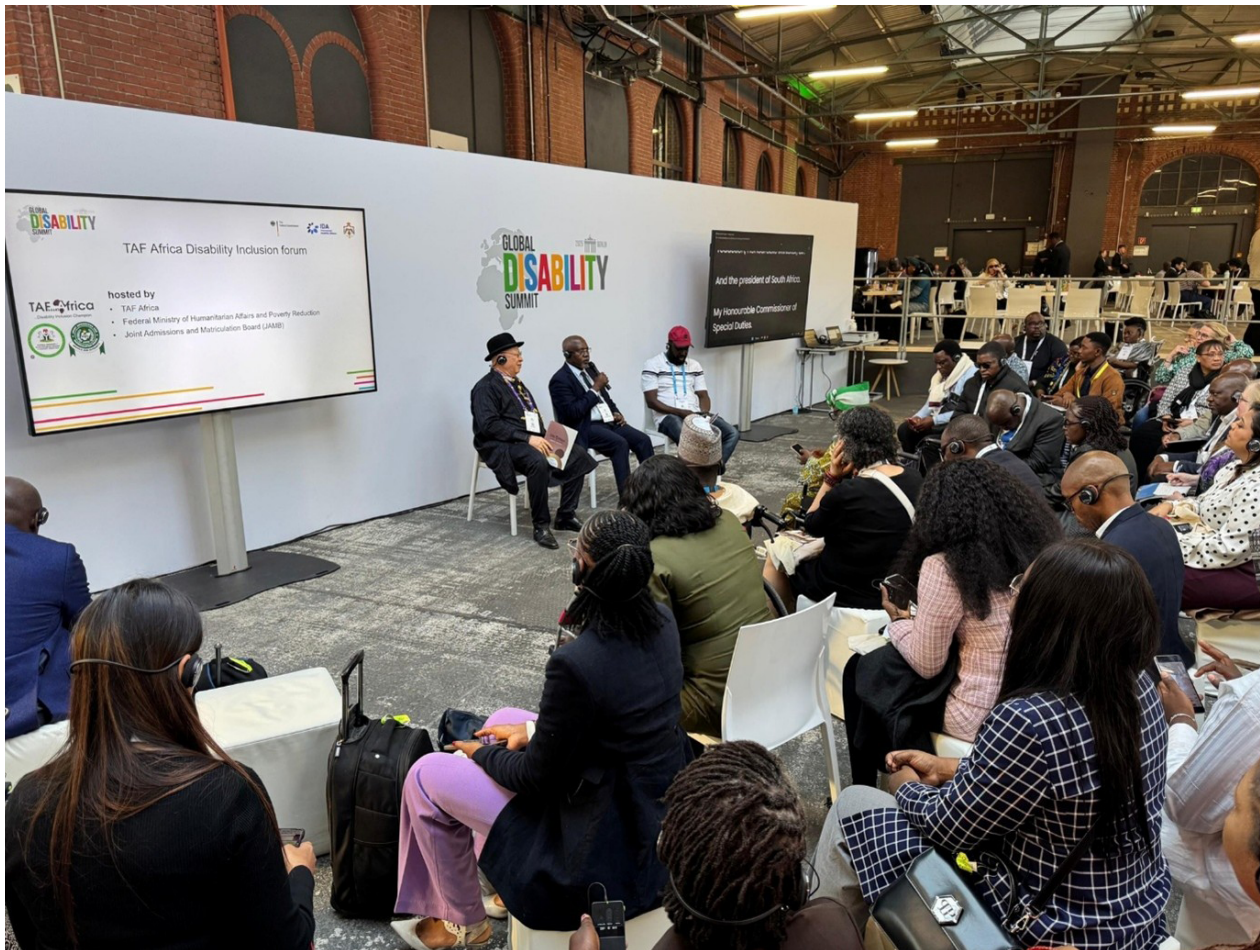
Amb Jake (CEO/Founder) at a Panel Session at GDS

for political empowerment and decent work inclusion within Nigeria and across the world.

Through the event, TAF Africa further deepened its influence at the summit by hosting the TAF Africa Disability Inclusion Forum, which convened high-level government officials who reaffirmed the transformative role of social protection programmes,

including the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) scheme, in improving the lives of PWDs. The forum strengthened national dialogue on inclusive governance, showcased TAF Africa's evidence-driven programming, and expanded multi-sectoral commitment to disability-inclusive political and economic participation.

Overall, TAF Africa's strategic



Cross-section of participation during the fireside session organised by TAF Africa at the GDS

presence at GDS 2025 enhanced its global visibility, broadened partnerships with UN agencies, international OPDs, and development organisations, and created new opportunities for resource mobilisation. The summit reaffirmed TAF Africa's reputation as a technical leader in disability inclusion and set the Foundation for sustained follow-up advocacy with Nigerian policymakers and

global partners to implement the new commitments and collaborative initiatives emerging from the summit.

4.2 The Launch of AI-Enabled Healthcare Services for PWDs

To promote seamless and barrier-free healthcare access for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), TAF Africa, in partnership with Koyo HealthTech Ltd., launched an

AI-enabled healthcare service, marking a paving way for advancing inclusive healthcare in Nigeria. During the launch, held in collaboration with the Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen Resource Centre, the initiative introduced a free, AI-powered digital health platform designed to provide PWDs with fast, safe, and direct access to qualified medical professionals. This innovative solution addresses longstanding healthcare



Pictures during the Launch of the Initiative

inequalities experienced by millions of Nigerians with disabilities and aligns with global trends that leverage AI-driven technologies to expand access to quality, equitable healthcare.

Key results from the event included a strong multi-stakeholder engagement, wide participation from disability clusters, and extensive media coverage that amplified national visibility of the initiative. Technical partners showcased the Koyo Navigate App, emphasizing its AI-driven medical guidance, virtual doctor-supervised consultations, mental health support, and dermatological services, particularly beneficial for persons with albinism. The pilot phase will benefit 350 PWDs and will serve as a learning period to improve accessibility, medical quality, and user experience.

A major outcome was the

Speaker of the House of Representatives' commitment to institutional sustainability of the initiative. He announced five years of subscription coverage for all PWDs and proposed legislation to secure permanent government funding for AI-enabled healthcare services. This political endorsement positions the initiative for national scale-up and strengthens Nigeria's commitment to inclusive, rights-based, and technology-driven healthcare systems.

4.3 Able2Play Children's Day Football Tournament

To commemorate the 2025 Children's Day celebration, TAF Africa organised an Able2Play Children's Day Football Tournament on May 27, 2025, at the Nigerian Army Polo Resort. The event successfully



Pictures during the children's football tournament

leveraged sport as a platform to promote youth engagement, inclusion, and positive social interaction among children. The event brought together young participants from diverse social

and economic backgrounds to celebrate Children's Day through structured football activities that emphasized teamwork, confidence building, and fair play. Hosted at the El



Classico Football Pitch within the resort, the tournament provided a safe and well-equipped environment that enabled children to actively participate, showcase their football talents, and interact with peers in an atmosphere of celebration and learning.

The tournament also achieved substantial visibility and stakeholder engagement, strengthening advocacy for child development and inclusive sports programming. Distinguished national leaders (including the Honourable Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, and the Former Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development) attended the event, demonstrating high-level support for youth-focused initiatives for PWDs. The presence of TAF Africa's leadership, partners, and strong media coverage from major national outlets further

amplified awareness of sports as a tool for social inclusion and empowerment. As a result, the event not only boosted morale and confidence among participating children but also reinforced broader advocacy for grassroots sports development and the use of inclusive recreational platforms to advance child-centered social development in Nigeria.

4.4

Community Engagement and Education Intervention for Karonmajigi, FCT, Abuja

Driven by its commitment to advancing disability inclusion and expanding equitable access to quality education, TAF Africa implemented a strategic community engagement initiative in Karonmajigi, a

community in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) notable for its significant population of persons with disabilities.

The first phase of this engagement involved a courtesy visit led by the Programme Manager, Mr. Adeolu Kilanko, to the Emir of the disability community, Alhaji Mohammed Suleiman Katsina, at his palace. The visit served as an entry

point for a comprehensive needs assessment aimed at identifying the systemic, social, and economic barriers limiting access to basic education for children of persons with disabilities within the community.

During this engagement, the TAF Africa team held consultative discussions with the Emir, his palace secretary, and key



Pictures during the Official Presentation of the Cash Donation to the Community

cabinet members. Insights gathered highlighted critical challenges, including limited financial resources, inadequate learning infrastructure,

low awareness of inclusive education practices, and insufficient support for teachers serving the community. These findings are instrumental in



TAF Team with the Karonmajigi, community leaders



The CEO/Founder with Community Leaders During Cash Donation

shaping TAF Africa's targeted academic intervention strategies, designed to bridge existing educational gaps and foster inclusive learning environments.

Building on this initial engagement, a follow-up visit was conducted weeks later, led by the CEO/Founder of TAF Africa, Amb. Jake Epelle. This visit further strengthened the organization's relationship with the traditional leadership and reinforced its commitment to sustainable community

support.

A key highlight of the visit was the presentation of a cash donation of 100,000NGN to support teachers' salaries and facilitate the education of children of persons with disabilities in the community. This intervention was made possible through contributions generated via the Givon platform - an innovative micro-donation system that enables direct support to nonprofit initiatives, complemented by TAF Africa's financial support.

Notes:

A faint, light purple watermark illustration is centered on a white background with horizontal lines. The illustration depicts a person in a wheelchair, facing right. Surrounding the person are several symbolic elements: a heart shape to the left, a lightbulb above the heart, a magnifying glass to the right of the person, and a gear below the magnifying glass. The entire watermark is rendered in a soft, light purple color.

Notes:

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...Disability Inclusion Champion



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