



Smart Aid
INITIATIVE

From Community Action to
Smarter Aid



ANNUAL REPORT
2025

Advancing
Education,
DIGITAL INCLUSION,
RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY
AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION.

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Executive Summary

The year 2025 marked a defining period for Smart Aid Initiative (SAI), reflecting the organization's transition from community-based project delivery to a more structured, innovation-driven and systems-oriented youth-led organization. Across the year, SAI consolidated its identity at the intersection of inclusive education, digital inclusion, responsible technology and civic participation, with a strong commitment to serving underserved learners, educators, young people, women and persons with disabilities in Northern Nigeria.

Our 2025 work was anchored in a clear theory of change: when educators are equipped, young people are digitally and civically empowered, communities are meaningfully engaged, and public systems are influenced with evidence, education outcomes and participation can improve in more inclusive and sustainable ways. This approach shaped our school-based outreach, teacher capacity-building, student leadership training, digital advocacy, policy engagement and global representation.

The Equal-Tech, Ethics and Solutions (Equal-TEES) Project served as SAI's flagship education and responsible technology intervention. Implemented with support from Hadis Foundation under the Build-Tech Project, funded by Luminare, Equal-TEES trained 303 teachers from 20 secondary schools in Kaduna State on ethical technology, responsible AI, cybersecurity, digital productivity, digital storytelling and online safety. The project also reached students through school-based awareness sessions on responsible AI use and technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

A major innovation emerging from SAI's work was Njangen AI, an educator-focused platform developed from teacher feedback and validated through engagement with the Kaduna State Ministry of Education. Njangen AI responds to a persistent gap in education technology: while many tools focus on learners, teachers in low resource settings are often left without context-responsive support. The platform is designed to reduce lesson preparation time, support assessment, strengthen professional development and build a community of practice for educators.

SAI also strengthened its civic participation and youth leadership portfolio through dialogues, student leadership training, digital advocacy and participation in governance-focused spaces. These engagements connected digital inclusion to civic agency, positioning technology not only as a tool for learning, but also as a pathway for participation, accountability, social action and youth-led problem-solving.

Across 2025, SAI's programme records show 853 direct beneficiaries and 18,457 indirect beneficiaries reached through education, digital inclusion, civic participation, advocacy and partnership-based interventions. The organization also expanded its public visibility through 37 digital advocacy videos, more than 150 social media posts and over 173,448 reported social media reach and impressions.

At the systems and global levels, SAI engaged with the Kaduna State Ministry of Education, participated in education budget accountability spaces, and represented Nigerian youth-led innovation at platforms including the World Youth Development Forum in China, International Civil Society Week in Thailand and COP30 in Belém, Brazil. These engagements strengthened SAI's visibility, networks and credibility as a grassroots organization with growing policy and global influence.

This report documents SAI's 2025 results, lessons, partnerships and institutional growth. It also reflects our evolving model of Smarter Aid: community-rooted action strengthened by evidence, safeguarding, ethical technology, youth leadership and systems change.

Message from the Executive Director



In 2025, Smart Aid Initiative took important steps to demonstrate what youth-led organizations can achieve when local knowledge, innovation, partnerships and disciplined implementation come together around a shared purpose.

When local knowledge, innovation, partnerships and disciplined implementation come together around a shared purpose. Our work this year was shaped by a simple conviction: the future of education in underserved communities will not be transformed by technology alone, It will be transformed when teachers are supported, young people are equipped, girls and vulnerable learners are protected, communities are heard, and public systems are strengthened to respond to real needs.

Through Equal-TES, our engagement with teachers and students showed both the promise and risks of emerging technology. We saw educators eager to learn, students ready to participate, and institutions increasingly open to responsible AI adoption. These experiences inspired the development of Njangen AI, a locally grounded solution built around the realities of Nigerian classrooms.

We also continued to strengthen youth civic participation, digital advocacy and systems-level engagement. From Kaduna to Kano, from classrooms to policy conversations, and from local partnerships to global platforms, SAI's work in 2025 showed that young people are not only beneficiaries of development. They are designers, advocates, innovators and accountability actors.

I am deeply grateful to our team, Board of Trustees, Advisory Board, donors, partners, volunteers, schools, government stakeholders and community members who made this progress possible. As we move into 2026, our commitment is clear: to deepen impact, strengthen our systems, uphold safeguarding and accountability, and continue building smarter, more inclusive pathways for education, technology and civic transformation.

FAREED IBRAHIM

Executive Director, Smart Aid Initiative

About Us



Smart Aid Initiative (SAI) is a youth-led non-profit organization advancing inclusive education, gender justice, digital empowerment, civic participation and sustainable development for underserved communities in Nigeria. SAI works primarily in Northern Nigeria while building national and international partnerships that strengthen education access, digital equity, responsible technology and community-led systems change.

Founded in response to the overlapping realities of poverty, education exclusion, digital inequality, gender-based violence, displacement and weak access to opportunity, SAI combines grassroots mobilization, capacity building, policy advocacy, responsible technology and strategic communications to support people and institutions closest to the challenges.

Our work is rooted in the belief that underserved communities do not only need aid. They need smarter, locally relevant systems that expand opportunity, protect dignity, build agency and create pathways for long-term transformation.

THE SMARTER AID MODEL

In 2025, Smart Aid Initiative continued to refine its Smarter Aid Model, an approach that connects grassroots realities with innovation, policy engagement, and systems-level change. For SAI, “smarter aid” means designing interventions that do more than provide short-term support. It means using evidence, technology, local knowledge, partnerships, and youth leadership to build solutions that can improve systems and create lasting change.

The model is built around six interconnected pillars:

1. **Community Evidence and Local Realities:** SAI begins with the lived experiences of underserved communities, schools, teachers, young people, and grassroots stakeholders. This ensures that our programmes respond to real needs rather than assumptions.

2. **Inclusive Education and Learning Equity:** We work to improve access to quality education, support teachers, strengthen school systems, and ensure that girls, children with disabilities, and underserved learners are not left behind.

3. **Digital Inclusion and Responsible Technology:** SAI promotes access to digital skills, ethical technology use, responsible AI, online safety, and practical tools that help learners, educators, and young people participate meaningfully in a digital world.

4. **Youth Civic Participation and Leadership:** We support young people to understand their rights, use their voices, participate in decision-making, and contribute to accountable governance and community development.

5. **Safeguarding, Accountability and Ethical Practice:** Our programmes are guided by safeguarding, responsible data use, inclusion, consent, and accountability to the communities we serve.

6. **Partnerships and Systems Influence:** SAI works with government, civil society, development partners, technology actors, schools, and communities to translate programme evidence into policy learning, institutional collaboration, and sustainable change.

Through this model, SAI’s 2025 work connected direct grassroots delivery with wider systems influence. Teacher training informed the development of Njangen AI. Student digital safety sessions strengthened responsible technology awareness. Policy engagements created pathways for education budgeting, responsible AI, and inclusive learning conversations.

SAFEGUARDING, DATA PROTECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

As SAI's work continues to expand across schools, communities, digital platforms, and youth spaces, safeguarding and accountability remain central to how we design and implement programmes. In 2025, we strengthened our commitment to safe, inclusive, and responsible programming by integrating safeguarding considerations into our education, digital inclusion, and civic participation work.

Our approach recognizes that responsible technology must also be safe technology. This includes protecting children and young people from harm, promoting online safety, addressing technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and ensuring that digital tools are introduced in ways that respect dignity, privacy, and inclusion.

SAI's programme delivery is guided by principles of informed consent, safe participation, responsible use of beneficiary data, protection of children and vulnerable groups, and accountability to communities. For photographs, stories, and beneficiary voices, SAI continues to emphasize consent-cleared documentation and ethical storytelling.

As we move forward, SAI will continue strengthening its safeguarding, PSEA, child protection, data protection, and complaints-response systems to ensure that our work remains trusted, accountable, and aligned with responsible development practice.



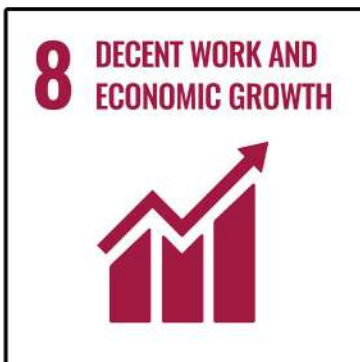
OUR VISION

A future where every young person, regardless of background, gender, location or ability, has equitable access to education, opportunity and resources to become a leader and change-maker.

OUR MISSION

To empower underserved communities through inclusive education, gender and digital equity, youth capacity-building, policy engagement, technology and grassroots innovation.

Strategic Focus Areas



Acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
ANCOPS	All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools
CBO	Community-Based Organization
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
ICSW	International Civil Society Week
IWD	International Women's Day
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
SAI	Smart Aid Initiative
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TFGBV	Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WYDF	World Youth Development Forum
Equal-TESS	Equal-Tech, Ethics and Solutions

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC OVERSIGHT

A defining milestone of 2025 was the formal inauguration of the Smart Aid Initiative Advisory Board. For a youth-led organization, the transition from passion-driven activism to structured institutional governance is an important step toward credibility, sustainability and accountability. The Advisory Board brings multi-sectoral expertise spanning education, legal practice, organizational leadership, advocacy, development practice and institutional strategy. Its role is not limited to oversight. It also provides mentorship to the youth leadership team, strengthens strategic decision-making and supports SAI's commitment to transparent, ethical and accountable programming.

Why Governance Matters to Our Mission

SAI works in complex environments where education inequality, digital exclusion, gender vulnerability and weak institutional capacity intersect. Strong governance helps ensure that our Smarter Aid approach is implemented with clear accountability, safeguarding, financial responsibility, evidence use and alignment with community needs and global good practice.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON REMARK

Assalam Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

It is with deep gratitude and a strong sense of purpose that I address you on behalf of the Advisory Board of SmartAid Initiative as we reflect on the journey of 2025.

This year has been one of resilience, growth, and meaningful impact. Across the communities we serve, we have continued to witness the power of compassion, collaboration, and innovation in transforming lives. From expanding access to education and empowerment opportunities to strengthening community-based interventions and supporting vulnerable groups, SmartAid Initiative has remained committed to creating sustainable impact where it matters most.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, donors, and every individual who believes in our vision. Your unwavering commitment has enabled us to reach more people, deepen our interventions, and strengthen hope within the communities we serve.

As the Lead Advisory Board Member, I am particularly proud of the organization's intentional focus on accountability, inclusiveness, and long-term development. In 2025, we not only responded to immediate needs but also invested in systems and programs that will continue to empower individuals and communities for years to come.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are optimistic and ambitious about the future. We look forward to expanding our reach, building stronger partnerships, leveraging innovation for greater social impact, and implementing more sustainable programs that address critical social and developmental challenges. Our goal remains clear – to continue empowering lives, promoting dignity, and driving positive change across communities.

As we move into a new year, we invite all stakeholders to continue this journey with us. Together, we can build stronger communities, create greater opportunities, and inspire lasting transformation.

On behalf of the Advisory Board, I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who has supported SmartAid Initiative throughout 2025. We remain committed to advancing our mission with integrity, excellence, and compassion.

Thank you, and may we continue to grow in impact and service in the year ahead.

Dr Khadijah Sanusi Gumbi
Advisory Board Chairperson



Smart Aid INITIATIVE

**Khadijah
Sanusi Gumbi
(PhD)**

Advisory Board
Chairperson

**Dr. Hussein
Abdu**

Advisory Board
Member

**Abosedo
Paul-Obameso**

Advisory Board
Member

**Sani
Muhammad**

Advisory Board
Member

**Fareed
Ibrahim**

Advisory Board
Secretary



Our Advisory Board Members

2025 Impact at a Glance

853

**DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES**

Reached through training, outreach, dialogues and school-based activities.

18,457

**INDIRECT
BENEFICIARIES**

Reached through school communities, digital advocacy and partner-supported activities.

303

**TEACHERS
TRAINED**

Educators engaged through Equal-TES and related teacher capacity-building.

303

**YOUNG PEOPLE
ENGAGED**

Reached through digital literacy, civic participation and student leadership interventions.

13

**DIGITAL VIDEOS
PRODUCED**

Advocacy and educational videos supporting awareness and learning.

173,448+

DIGITAL REACH

Reported social media reach and impressions across platforms.

How Our Work Connected in 2025

- Education: teacher training, school outreach, digital learning support, pedagogical tools and education-sector engagement.
- Digital inclusion: AI literacy, cybersecurity, digital storytelling, automation skills and access to digital tools for teachers and students.
- Responsible technology: ethical AI, online safety, digital responsibility, TFGBV awareness and localized technology development.
- Civic participation: youth dialogues, student leadership, digital advocacy, citizens engagement and participation in governance and accountability spaces.
- Policy and Systems influence: collaboration with the Ministry of Education, education budget accountability engagement, stakeholder convenings and global representation.

Outcome-Level Impact

Beyond participation numbers, SAI's 2025 work contributed to measurable changes in knowledge, behaviour, institutional practice and systems engagement.

- In the Equal-TES intervention, MEL assessments recorded learning gains ranging from 25% to 50% across AI confidence, digital responsibility, online safety and digital wellbeing.
- In the Equal Access intervention, the evaluation recorded a 63% gain in foundational competencies related to digital safety, ethical online engagement and peer advocacy among student leaders. These results show that SAI's work is not only reaching participants, but also strengthening how they understand, use and respond to technology in safer and more responsible ways.
- SAI also recorded institutional change through the way programme learning shaped new solutions. Teacher feedback and field experience from 2025 informed the development of Njangen AI, an educator-focused platform designed to support lesson planning, assessment and professional development. This demonstrates how SAI is translating grassroots evidence into practical innovation that can strengthen classroom practice and education systems over time.
- At the systems level, SAI's engagement with education stakeholders, including the Kaduna State Ministry of Education and gender-responsive education budgeting processes with YouthHub Africa, created pathways for grassroots realities to inform broader policy and accountability conversations especially around Technology Facilitated Gender Based Violence (TFGBV).

Our Programmes and Impact

Equal-Tech, Ethics and Solutions (Equal-TES): Advancing Digital Literacy, Ethical Technology and Responsible AI in Education

Strategic link

Education, digital inclusion, responsible technology and systems strengthening.

Impact logic

Equal-TES was SAI's flagship 2025 intervention.

Implemented with support from Hadis Foundation under the Build-Tech Project, funded by Luminate, the project addressed gaps in digital literacy, ethical technology use, civic participation through technology, AI literacy and digital responsibility within public secondary schools in Kaduna State.

Key activities:

1. Trained 303 teachers from 20 secondary schools in Kaduna State between August and September 2025.
2. Integrated inclusive training design, including balanced gender participation and accessibility support for teachers with disabilities through sign-language interpretation.
3. Delivered practical sessions on AI literacy, digital productivity tools, cybersecurity, digital storytelling, online safety and digital wellbeing.
4. Produced multilingual educational content in Hausa and Pidgin to make digital ethics more accessible.
5. Reached 200 students across Government Secondary School KASSES and Government Secondary School Barnawa with awareness on responsible AI, ethical technology use and technology-facilitated gender-based

Reported-results and learning:

1. MEL assessments recorded learning gains ranging from 25% to 50% across AI confidence, digital responsibility, online safety and digital wellbeing.

2. Project-related content generated 51,248 reported digital impressions.

3. Teacher feedback and project learning informed the development of Njangen AI, an educator-focused platform for lesson planning, assessment and professional development.

4. The project strengthened SAI's evidence base for responsible AI in education and its engagement with education-sector stakeholders.



International Day of Education: AI Literacy Outreach at GGSS Kawo

Strategic link:

Education access, AI literacy and teacher readiness.

Impact logic

To commemorate the International Day of Education in January 2025, SAI delivered an AI-focused outreach at Government Girls Secondary School Kawo, Kaduna. The engagement demystified AI and positioned it as a practical tool for teaching, learning and future career pathways.

Impact logic

1. Reached 100 students and 47 teachers with awareness on ethical AI use, digital safety and technology career pathways.
2. Trained teachers on practical ways to integrate AI and digital tools into classroom instruction.
3. Provided two MTN internet routers to support technology enabled teaching and learning.
4. Used the engagement as a baseline learning activity that informed Equal-TES design.

Reported-results and learning:

1. Improved teacher and student understanding of AI as a learning support tool.
2. Generated school-level insights on educators' digital readiness and needs.
3. Strengthened SAI's context-responsive approach to responsible education technology.

Equal Access Project: Digital Ethics and Civic Leadership for Student Leaders

Strategic link:

Digital inclusion, civic participation and responsible technology among tertiary students.

Impact logic

Across tertiary institutions, young people increasingly face digital risks linked to cyberbullying, plagiarism, impersonation, academic dishonesty and unsafe online engagement. SAI responded through a one-day leadership and digital ethics training for student leaders at Maryam Abacha American University of Nigeria in Kano State.

Key activities:

1. Trained 37 student leaders on leadership, ethical technology use, digital safety, civic rights and peer advocacy.
2. Delivered the intervention in collaboration with Mecin Consult Limited and Dahausa Initiative under the Equal Access Project.
3. Positioned participants as campus-level advocates for responsible digital behavior and healthier online cultures.

International Youth Day: Local Youth Actions for the SDGs and Beyond

Strategic link:

Youth civic participation, innovation, education advocacy and SDG localization.

Impact logic

For International Youth Day 2025, SAI convened young changemakers, community leaders and ecosystem partners to spotlight how local youth action contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals. The event created a platform for youth voices on education, technology, innovation, leadership and national development.

Key activities:

1. Hosted a youth-focused dialogue in partnership with Yandy Tech, NEST Africa AI and other stakeholders.
2. Amplified the stories of young innovators and community leaders driving change across sectors.
3. Promoted equal access to quality education, digital citizenship and meaningful youth participation.

Reported-results and learning:

1. *The evaluation report showed a 63% gain in foundational competencies related to digital safety, ethical online engagement and peer advocacy.*
2. *The project strengthened the connection between digital literacy, civic responsibility and peer-led accountability among young leaders.*

Reported-results and learning:

1. *Reached 30 community leaders and youth stakeholders.*
2. *Strengthened SAI's role as a convener of youth civic dialogue and community-led development.*
3. *Linked youth innovation narratives to broader SDG implementation and national development priorities.*

AI Automation Workshop

Strategic link:

Digital skills, youth employability and future-of-work readiness.

Impact logic

As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly important in the future of work, SAI supported practical skills development through a two-day AI Automation Workshop focused on hands-on learning, workflow design and problem solving.

Key activities:

1. Introduced participants to AI-driven workflows and automation tools.
2. Supported experiential learning through practical automation projects.
3. Promoted teamwork, peer learning and digital problem solving.

Tomorrow Starts With Us

Strategic link:

Teacher empowerment, education quality and community partnership.

Impact logic

Delivered in partnership with the Global Shapers Community -Kaduna Hub, this initiative focused on reducing education gaps by supporting teachers with modern pedagogical tools and creating space for local education stakeholders to discuss practical solutions to learning challenges.

Key activities:

1. Provided teachers with digital toolkits to improve lesson delivery, classroom management and student engagement.
2. Convened local education stakeholders to identify challenges and co-create context-appropriate solutions.
3. Supported practical classroom improvement through collaboration between educators and community partners.

Reported-results and learning:

1. *Equipped 22 young people with practical AI automation skills.*
2. *Improved participants' competitiveness within the digital economy and technology ecosystem.*
3. *Strengthened SAI's contribution to youth employability through emerging technology skills.*

Reported-results and learning:

1. *Trained 27 teachers in modern pedagogical approaches and practical classroom tools.*
2. *Supported 100 students through improved classroom engagement and learning environments.*
3. *Demonstrated the value of partnership-led interventions for improving teacher support and learner experience.*

Policy Engagement and Partnerships

In 2025, SAI's work moved beyond direct service delivery into policy engagement and systems influence. Engagement with the Kaduna State Ministry of Education, education stakeholders, youth networks and civil society partners enabled SAI to connect grassroots evidence to policy conversations on digital literacy, online safety, responsible AI and gender-responsive education financing.

This systems-facing work is central to SAI's organizational positioning. While direct training and outreach remain important, sustainable change also requires public systems, school leadership, communities and civil society actors to adopt better practices, improve accountability and align resources with the needs of underserved learners.

Engagement with the Kaduna State Ministry of Education

SAI strengthened collaboration with the Kaduna State Ministry of Education through courtesy visits, technical conversations and project validation processes. These engagements created pathways for improved alignment around digital literacy, online safety, responsible technology use and emerging responsible AI approaches in education, in collaboration with NEST Africa AI.

Gender-Responsive Education Budgeting and Education Systems Accountability

SAI participated in the Stakeholders' Review and Validation of Findings on the Analysis of Gender Responsiveness of the Kaduna State Education Budget. This engagement reinforced the importance of ensuring that education budgets respond to the needs of girls, learners with disabilities and underserved communities. It also strengthened SAI's ability to link community insights with policy dialogue and public resource accountability.

A key lesson from this engagement is that gender-responsive education budgeting must go beyond broad education allocations. It must ask whether public resources are responding to the specific barriers faced by girls, children with disabilities, and learners in underserved communities. Issues such as school safety, retention, re-entry, menstrual hygiene, teacher availability, digital access, and inclusive learning support must be reflected in planning and budget priorities.

The engagement also reinforced the importance of connecting grassroots evidence to policy dialogue. Community realities, teacher experiences, student voices, and school-level data are essential for making education budgets more responsive and accountable. For SAI, this process strengthened our understanding that civil society has a critical role to play in translating community needs into practical recommendations for education financing, policy implementation, and systems reform.

Policy Engagement and Partnerships Cont...

KADA EduPACT International Summit 2025

SAI was represented at the Kaduna Education Pact Summit, a high-level convening of education stakeholders focused on equitable access to quality education and improved learning outcomes. Participation in the summit provided an opportunity to align SAI's work with broader education sector priorities and identify new collaboration pathways.

Strategic Partnership Engagement with Bridge Connect Africa Initiative

SAI's visit to Bridge Connect Africa Initiative in Kano created space for knowledge exchange and future collaboration around youth voices, civic engagement and inclusive community development. The engagement reinforced the importance of partnership-building as a strategy for scaling sustainable impact.

Training, Coalition Work and Internal Capacity Strengthening

During the year, SAI strengthened internal and external capacity through participation in the Citizens Engagement Workshop organized by SDA Trust and the UNFPA Training of Trainers on Advancing Positive Masculinities. These engagements deepened SAI's work on accountable governance, civic consciousness, gender norms, GBV prevention, child marriage, FGM and youth-led coalition building.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT / PARTNERSHIP PHOTO



GDSS Kawo



Bridge Connect, engagement



International Day Of Education

POLICY ENGAGEMENT / PARTNERSHIP PHOTO



International Day Of Education



International Youth Day



Citizens Engagement Workshop



Today starts with Us Project

GLOBAL REPRESENTATION AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

In 2025, SAI expanded its global presence and strengthened cross-border learning through major international convenings. These platforms elevated SAI's work on education, digital inclusion, responsible technology, youth leadership and civic participation while opening new pathways for partnership and learning.

World Youth Development Forum 2025 - China

SAI represented African youth-led innovation at the World Youth Development Forum in Suzhou, China. The organization's Education for Digital Skills Advancement project was recognized among the 2024-2025 100 Excellence Actions for Global Youth Development. SAI also engaged in the Thematic Forum on Artificial Intelligence, Science and Technology Innovation, connecting with delegates from multiple countries and international organizations.

International Civil Society Week 2025 - Thailand

SAI participated in International Civil Society Week in Thailand, including the Youth Assembly. The Executive Director facilitated a panel discussion themed "Youth Power: Re-imagining Citizen Action," contributing to global conversations on democracy, youth civic action, inclusive participation and the CIVICUS Youth Manifesto.

COP30 - Belém, Brazil

SAI contributed to a high-level side event at COP30 in collaboration with NEST Africa AI Innovation Lab, The HEY Campaign, YandyTech Community and other partners. The session explored the role of artificial intelligence in climate resilience and a just transition, including early warning systems, climate-smart agriculture and community-led adaptation.

Why Global Representation Matters?

1. It positions SAI as a credible Nigerian youth-led organization contributing to global conversations from a grassroots perspective.
2. It expands learning and partnership opportunities that can strengthen local programming.
3. It connects Northern Nigeria's education and digital inclusion realities to broader debates on responsible technology, civic space and sustainable development.
4. It helps SAI bring global standards and ideas back into community-rooted implementation.

GLOBAL REPRESENTATION PHOTOS



GLOBAL REPRESENTATION PHOTOS (Con't)



NJANGEN AI: FROM PROJECT LEARNING TO LOCAL INNOVATION

One of SAI's most important 2025 institutional innovations was Njangen AI, an educator-focused platform that emerged from Equal-TES project learning and classroom-level engagement with teachers. The platform reflects SAI's commitment to localizing innovation and ensuring that technology responds to the lived realities of Nigerian schools.

The name "Njangen," derived from the Fulfulde expression for "seek knowledge," reflects a deliberate commitment to grounding advanced technology in culturally relevant learning contexts. The platform was developed from teacher feedback and validated through engagement with the Kaduna State Ministry of Education in line with responsible AI principles.

Njangen AI responds to a critical insight from SAI's work: education technology often focuses on students while under-supporting teachers, especially in low-resource settings. Yet teachers remain central to improving learning outcomes. By supporting lesson planning, assessment, professional growth and teacher collaboration, Njangen AI aims to strengthen the educator as a driver of classroom transformation.

Key Features

1. **AI Lesson Note Generator:** supports teachers to generate structured, Nigerian curriculum-aligned lesson notes in minutes, reducing manual preparation time and allowing more focus on classroom engagement.
2. **Assessment and Planning Support:** helps educators prepare questions, marking guides and learning activities that can improve teaching efficiency.
3. **Teacher Academy:** provides access to digital professional development resources and modern pedagogical strategies.
4. **Community of Practice:** creates a digital staffroom where educators can share resources, solve classroom challenges and build collective learning.

Njangen AI: Outlook for Scale, Sustainability and Responsible Deployment

As SAI moves into 2026, Njangen AI will remain a major proof of concept for our Smarter Aid approach: using local evidence, teacher feedback, and responsible technology to strengthen education systems. The platform will continue to be refined through teacher validation, curriculum alignment, user feedback, and engagement with education stakeholders.

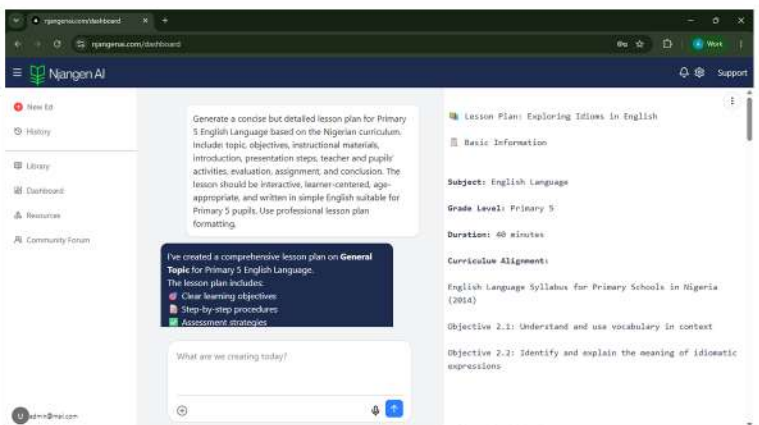
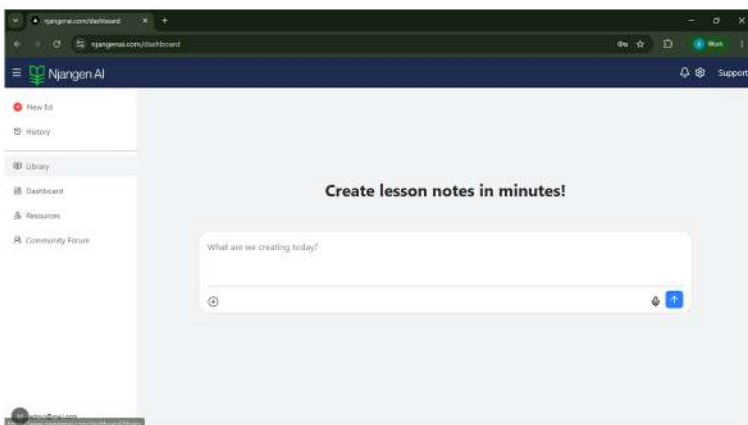
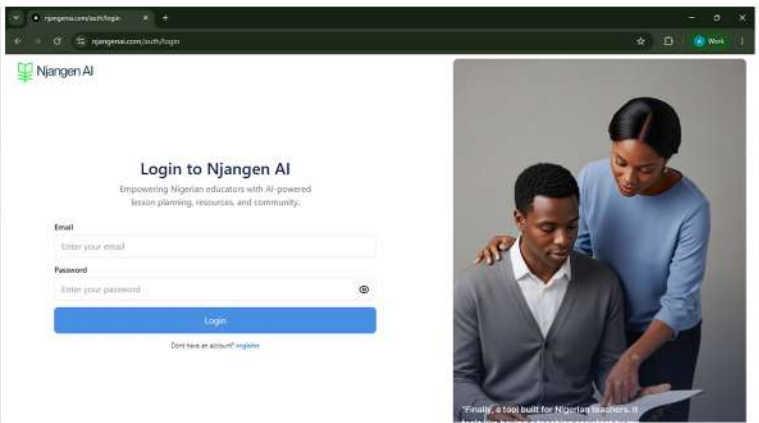
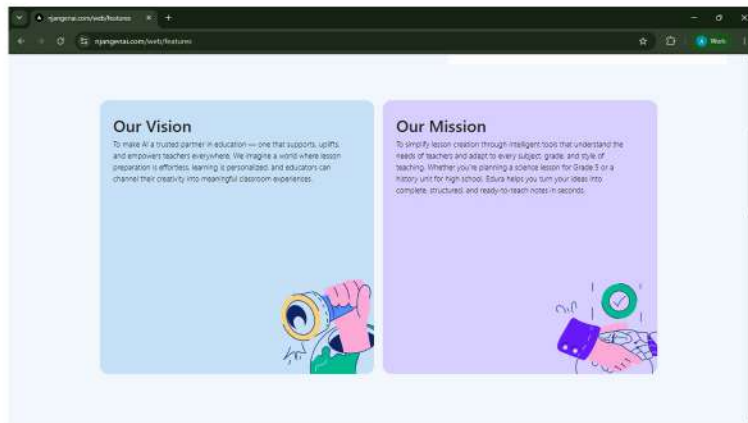
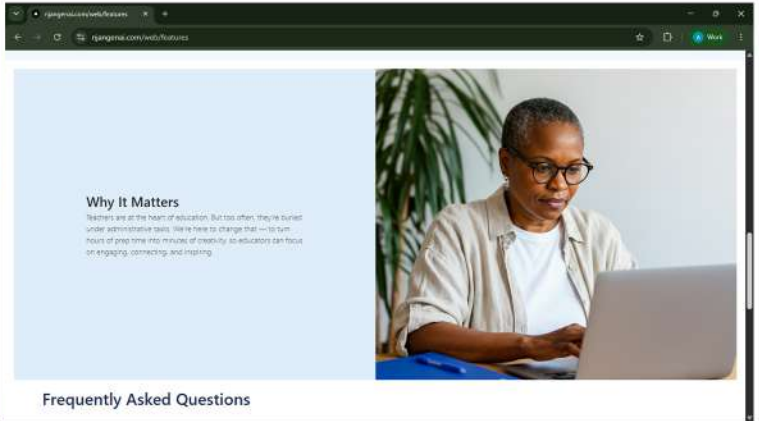
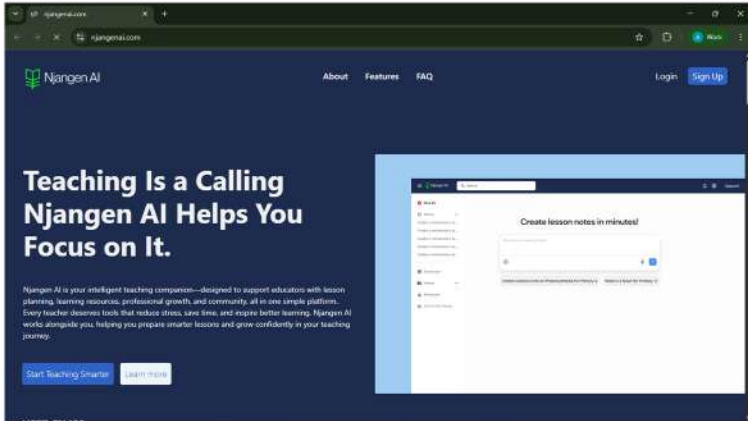
SAI's long-term vision for Njangen AI is to develop a scalable, accessible, and context responsive teaching companion that supports educators across Nigeria, particularly those working in underserved and resource-constrained schools. Future deployment will focus on practical classroom use, teacher professional development, lesson planning support, assessment assistance, and peer learning through a community of practice. Responsible AI governance will remain central to the platform's growth. This includes attention to data privacy, safe use, transparency, curriculum relevance, human oversight, and protection of teachers' and learners' information. SAI will continue to explore safeguards that ensure Njangen AI supports, rather than replaces, the professional role of teachers.

To support sustainability, SAI will explore partnerships, phased deployment models, institutional collaboration, and resource mobilization pathways that can help maintain and improve the platform over time. Njangen AI reflects SAI's belief that locally built technology can strengthen education when it is ethical, inclusive, and grounded in the realities of the people it is designed to serve.

Strategic Importance for Smart Aid Initiative

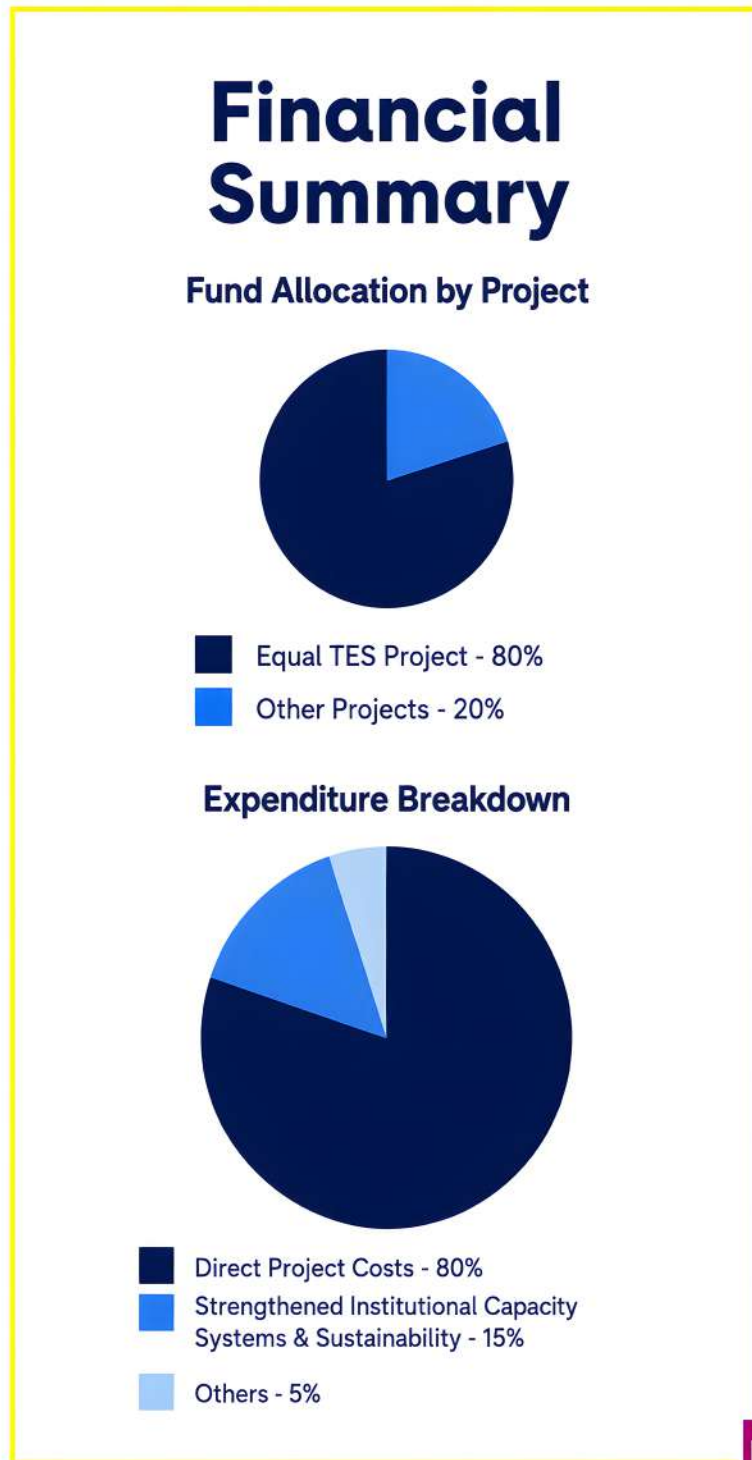
Njangen AI is more than a technology product. It is SAI's proof of concept for Smarter Aid: using community insights, responsible innovation and institutional partnership to build solutions that can support educators, improve systems and expand opportunity. In 2026, SAI will prioritize further refinement, teacher validation, safeguarding, responsible AI governance and expanded deployment pathways.

Njangen AI Preview



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

SAI's 2025 resources were supported through grants, donations and partner-enabled collaboration. The draft programme record indicates a funding mix of approximately 80% grants and 20% donations.



BENEFICIARIES AND PARTNERS VOICES

The voices below illustrate how SAI's work was experienced by educators and partners.



"I thank Smart Aid Initiative. I have learnt a lot. I cannot wait to use the tool created to help prepare lesson notes concisely, set questions and foster collaboration."

– Juliana Kubai Kantiok, GSS U/Sarki



"No more time wastage in preparing lesson plans and marking schemes."

– Hapikal, Teacher



"This training changed how I see AI and cybersecurity."

– Lami Ayok, School for the Deaf, Kawo



"ANCOPSS Kaduna is willing to give the necessary cooperation to achieve the objectives of this project."

– President, ANCOPSS Kaduna

OUR TEAM, DONORS AND PARTNERS

Success at Smart Aid Initiative is a collective achievement. Our multidisciplinary team across programmes, communications, operations, research, partnerships and innovation translated strategy into measurable action throughout 2025.

Their work helped bridge local challenges and global solutions while keeping SAI accountable to the communities that inspire its mission.

Smart Aiders



Fareed Ibrahim



Yasmin M. Hassan



Florence Y. Hosea



Veronica Pana Igube



Yusuf Abdulhadi



Umar Umar



Fatima Katcha



Sadiq Ba'aba



Aliyu Ahmed Bello



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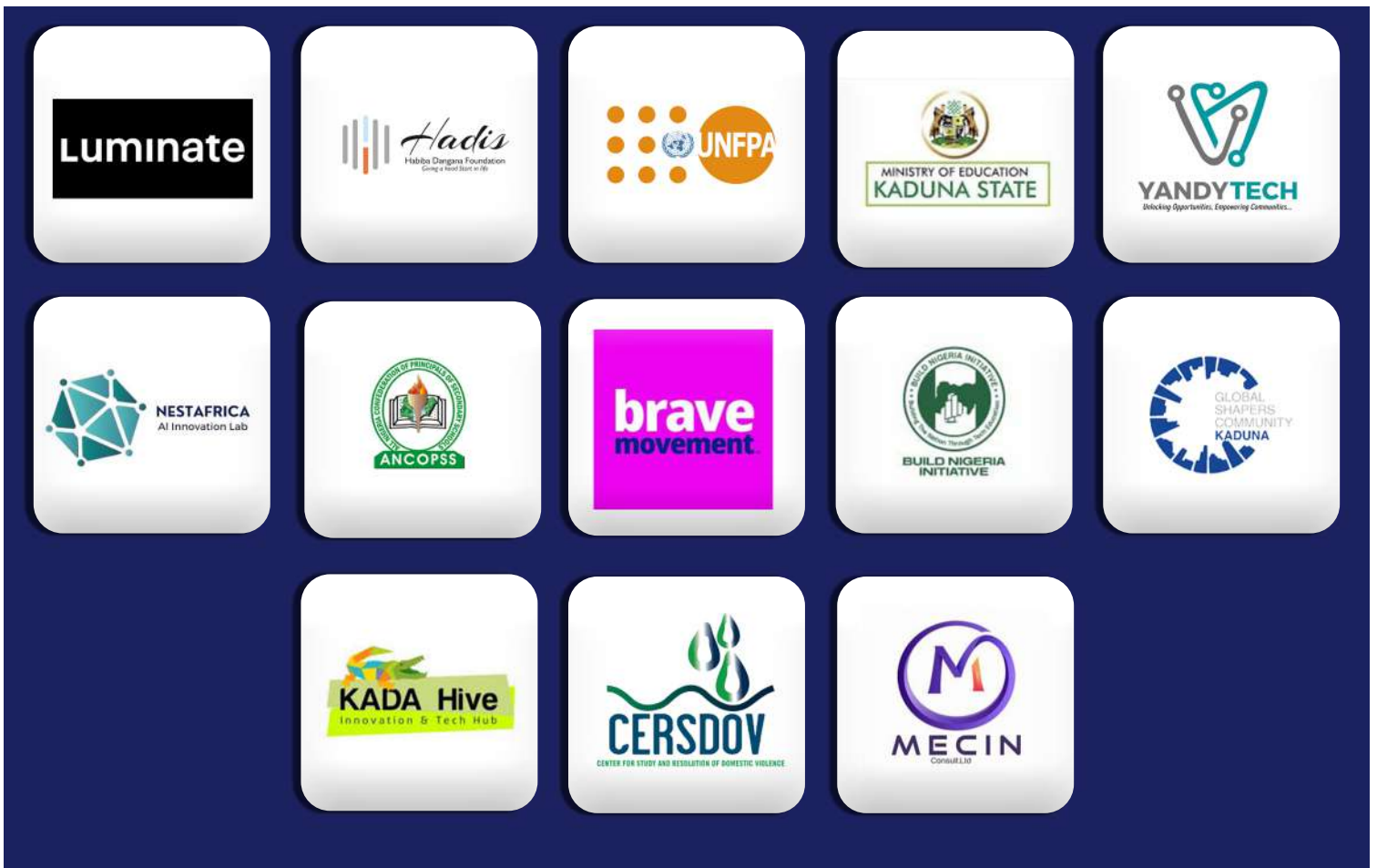


Halima Musa Abdulmalik



Donors and Partners

SAI's 2025 work was made possible through collaboration with donors, government stakeholders, civil society organizations, school communities, youth networks, technology partners and creative collaborators. Partner logos should be inserted only with permission and according to each partner's brand guidelines.



2025 DIGITAL IMPACT

In 2025, Smart Aid Initiative significantly expanded its digital presence and used communications as an accountability, advocacy and learning tool.

10,000+

Instagram reach grew from approximately **2,000** to over **10,000** views within a 30-day period.

1,000+

Smart Aid Initiative surpassed **1,000** Instagram followers during the year.

150+

Across platforms, Smart Aid Initiative published more than **150** advocacy and impact-focused posts.

Digital communications supported public visibility around education, responsible technology, youth leadership and civic participation.

ACCOUNTABLE. ADVOCATE. AMPLIFY.

Stories. Voices. Change.

Lessons, Challenges and Priorities for 2026

Key Lessons from 2025

1. Teachers must be centered in education technology. Supporting educators is essential for improving learning outcomes and responsible AI adoption.
2. Digital inclusion must go beyond access. It must include safety, ethics, confidence, productivity and civic agency.
3. Youth participation is stronger when young people are given platforms, skills and evidence to influence decisions.
4. Partnerships with public institutions, schools, CSOs and youth networks are essential for scale and sustainability.
5. Grassroots innovation becomes more credible when it is supported by monitoring, governance, safeguarding and systems engagement.
6. Final reporting and design processes require stronger documentation, consent management, photo archiving and data verification.

2026 Priorities

1. Finalize and strengthen Njangen AI through continued teacher validation, responsible AI safeguards and deployment planning.
2. Engage education stakeholders for more education financing especially towards girls education.
3. Empower girls and young women with digital and livelihood skills to be active citizens.
4. Deepen SAI's education technology and digital inclusion work across schools and communities.
5. Strengthen civic participation programming through youth leadership, digital advocacy and accountability initiatives.
6. Improve MEL systems, financial reporting, safeguarding documentation and knowledge management.
7. Expand strategic partnerships with government, donors, CSOs, schools and youth-led innovation networks
8. Continue positioning SAI as a credible youth-led organization at the intersection of education, responsible technology, civic participation and systems change..

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