YIAGA AFRICA AT A GLANCE

YIAGA AFRICA INITIATIVE
Democracy, Governance & Development
YIAGA AFRICA is a non-profit civic hub of change makers committed to the promotion of democratic governance, human rights and civic engagement. YIAGA AFRICA was launched as a student organization in 2007 at the University of Jos, Nigeria and has since established itself as a leading civil society organization in Africa. Since its inception, the organization has carved a niche for itself as one of Africa’s frontline non-profit organization promoting participatory democracy, human rights and civic participation. With its operational base in Abuja, Nigeria, YIAGA AFRICA focuses on in-depth research, providing critical analysis on key democratic and governance issues, crafting practical solutions, training and empowering citizens to lead change in their community. YIAGA AFRICA implements several innovative programs aimed at stimulating active citizenship, protecting human rights and deepening democratic governance. We invest in building networks and social movements to drive social change and transformation. YIAGA AFRICA has leadership structures and members in all 36 states and 774 Local Government Areas (LGA) of Nigeria. YIAGA AFRICA is registered in Nigeria as an independent nonprofit organization.
OUR VISION:
To empower state and non-state actors with relevant tools and knowledge for enhancing sustainable democracy and development in Africa.

OUR MISSION:
Our mission is to build and support sustainable democracy and development anchored on the principles of inclusion, accountability and justice through research, advocacy and capacity development.

CORE VALUES:
- Integrity
- Inclusion
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Excellence
- Teamwork
- Innovation
WHERE WE WORK

GAMBIA  |  GHANA  |  LIBERIA  |  NIGERIA  |  SIERRA LEONE
YIAGA AFRICA is organized into five departments: Administration and Human Resource; Programs; Finance; Research, Monitoring & Evaluation; Media and Communications and Information, Communications and Technology (ICT). To enhance efficiency and quality service delivery each department is structured into units.
Elections

As an indispensable foundation of democracy, elections avail citizens the opportunity to exercise their franchise and participate in shaping how their society is governed. Competitive and democratic elections are central to democratic consolidation, political stability and legitimacy. YIAGA AFRICA has a four-pronged approach to election-related programming:

1. Electoral Research:
   To facilitate data driven election programming, YIAGA AFRICA conducts quantitative and qualitative research on elections in Africa. In addition to contributing to the body of knowledge on elections, YIAGA AFRICA electoral research efforts drive advocacy on electoral reforms undertaken by election management bodies, parliaments, civil society, media etc. YIAGA AFRICA research findings are published in monographs, policy briefs, reports, newsletters and magazines.

2. Electoral Integrity:
   In pursuit of its goal of enhancing the quality of elections, YIAGA AFRICA deploys citizens’ observers to observe the conduct of elections at international and country level. This is informed by the ardent need to deepen electoral integrity and accountability. Our election observation programs cover key election activities like voter registration, political party congresses and candidate nomination processes, political campaigns, election day and post-election audit. Through Watching The Vote, a movement of citizen election observers, YIAGA AFRICA promotes the conduct of elections in line with democratic principles and global standards. YIAGA AFRICA conducts Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) for national and local elections in Nigeria.

3. Electoral Institutions Support Program:
   YIAGA AFRICA delivers electoral assistance to election management bodies to improve their capacity to manage electoral operations, voter education, communications and stakeholder engagement. YIAGA AFRICA supports election management bodies and electoral institutes through capacity development programs and electoral policy design.

4. Citizen Participation:
   YIAGA AFRICA promotes active and sustained citizens participation in the electoral process through campaigns, workshops, web-based tools and traditional media. YIAGA AFRICA also runs periodic civic camps for first time voters in addition to democracy clubs established in high schools to mobilize young people for civic leadership.
Watching The Vote observer watching the conduct of elections in Osun State, Nigeria.
H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of Liberia and Head, ECOWAS election observation mission visiting Watching The Vote data centre during the Nigerian 2019 elections.

(R – L) Amb. Johnnie Carson, Former Assistant Secretary of State for Affairs; Amb. Derek Mitchell, NDI President; Richard Young, Deputy Head of EU delegation to Nigeria; Isabel Candella, Head, EU Democracy & Governance; Bernhard Schlageck, German Ambassador to Nigeria and Serah Makka-Ugbabe, Country Director, ONE Campaign Nigeria attending Watching The Vote press conference.
YIAGA AFRICA recognizes the legislative arm of government as a vehicle for the promotion of good governance, accountability and national development. The legislative function of lawmaking, representation and oversight deepens social accountability and delivery of public good. YIAGA AFRICA has an integrated approach that promotes the development of the legislature in Africa through innovative research, training and citizens engagement.

The YIAGA AFRICA Centre for Legislative Engagement operates as a think-tank that delivers high quality research and capacity building on legislative practice and procedure. This includes, legislative drafting, bills analysis and scrutiny, parliamentary committee support etc. The Centre also facilitates effective legislator – constituent engagement through constituency outreach initiatives. The Centre promotes peer learning and networking amongst young legislators through the establishment of Young Parliamentarians Forums in National parliaments in Africa. Through the forums, YIAGA AFRICA is building a new generation of legislators and political leaders committed to transformative leadership, legislative accountability and qualitative representation. As part of its mandate, the Centre leads YIAGA AFRICA work on constitution reforms, political party reforms, local governance and international development cooperation.
YIAGA AFRICA CLE research team led by Professor Attahiru Jega meeting with members of the Nigerian Senate at the National Assembly.

YIAGA AFRICA Senior Research officer, Safiya Bichi facilitating a training session.
YIAGA AFRICA is committed to harnessing the potentials of Africa's largest demographic block for democratic development and social change. The organization firmly believes young people possess the creativity, intellect, energy and resilience required to solve Africa's governance and development challenges hence its investment in mobilizing and empowering young people with the requisite skills and knowledge that makes them agents of change in their community. YIAGA AFRICA views youth as a heterogenous group with diverse needs and priorities. The youth program targets female and male youth, youth with disabilities, rural youth, out of school youth, unemployed youth, youth in conflict, illiterate youth and youth in diaspora. The approach to youth development is stratified into three key pillars:

1. **Youth policy development:**
YIAGA AFRICA promotes formulation and implementation of policies and legislation aimed at promoting youth development. This includes youth policies, regional and international instruments. YIAGA AFRICA supports legislative actions on youth and conducts periodic research and sectoral debates on youth to facilitate quality policies and legislation targeted at youth. YIAGA AFRICA works closely with Ministries of youth development, Parliamentary youth committees and youth organization on this program.

2. **Youth leadership:**
YIAGA AFRICA places premium on leadership capital development because it provides young people with the skills, knowledge and networks necessary for civic engagement and community development. YIAGA AFRICA runs leadership development and mentorship programs and community organizing trainings that stimulate responsible citizenship and community leadership in Africa. Internships, volunteer opportunities and peer-to-peer engagement are tools utilized for youth leadership development. YIAGA AFRICA designs curriculum and training resources on youth leadership e.g. Leadership program for student union leaders.

3. **Youth political participation:**
YIAGA AFRICA is a strong voice for youth political participation in Africa. YIAGA AFRICA works with political parties to design and implement programs and policies targeted at youth. This includes working with party youth wings, youth leaders and youth candidates on youth membership recruitment, political organizing, youth advocacy, non-violence electoral participation etc. YIAGA AFRICA also undertakes advocacy legal and policy reforms that promote youth representation in politics. Under this program, YIAGA AFRICA run a Youth Observatory on Political Participation, an initiative that assembles, analyzes and disseminates credible and up-to-date data on youth participation to facilitate evidence-based advocacy and political engagement.
President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari signing the Not Too Young To Run bill into law

Vice President of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo with members of the Not Too Young To Run movement during an advocacy visit in the State house, Abuja

Not Too Young To Run strategy team members with young female candidates during a post-election reflection meeting
The quality of democracy is enhanced by the level of vertical and horizontal accountability. Public officials and institutions are obligated to uphold the rule of law and to account for actions and decisions taken on behalf of the people. In the same vein, citizens are duty bound to perform their civic responsibilities and hold their leaders to account. YIAGA AFRICA considers this relationship essential for democratic development. YIAGA AFRICA efforts aims at sustaining the campaign for zero tolerance for corruption, impunity and social injustice. To this end, YIAGA AFRICA advocates for open governance, access to information and anti-corruption legislations. YIAGA AFRICA aims to reduce human rights violations and citizens vulnerability to oppression to oppression and injustice through public education, legal support and campaigns.
Winners of the national debate on anti-corruption receiving their laurel

Winners of YIAGA AFRICA Hack4Good competition pose with judges with their awards
Landmark Initiatives

Watching The Vote

WTV is a citizens movement that leverages technology, data and statistical principles for promoting electoral integrity. Under WTV, YIAGA AFRICA conducts sample-based observation of pre-election, during and post-election activities. YIAGA AFRICA conducts Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) for local and national elections in Nigeria experienced in YIAGA AFRICA has deployed international election observation missions to South Africa, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia and United States.

The Power of 18

The #ThePowerof18 is a citizen’s driven voter mobilization initiative that focuses on recruiting voter education volunteers to support election management bodies in mobilizing first time voters to participate in the electoral process. The campaign leverages traditional/new media, arts and music to promote issue-based electoral participation.

#NotTooYoungToRun

The Not Too Young To Run is a global movement promoting youth inclusion in politics, transformative leadership and democratic rights. The campaign was initiated by YIAGA AFRICA to remove age restrictions from the Nigerian constitution to enable young people run for public office. In 2018, Nigeria passed the legislation to reduce the age for running for the President, National and state parliament. The hallmark of the campaign was the adoption of the campaign by the United Nations, African Union and the Economic Community of West Africa States. Not Too Young To Run has been launched in several countries in Africa like Kenya, Gambia, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Cameroun and Sierra Leone. Other countries are making efforts to launch the campaign as a strategy of mobilizing youth to reclaim Africa.

Media for Development

YIAGA AFRICA leverages new and traditional media to promote democracy and drive social change. YIAGA AFRICA hosts TV and radio shows on national and local stations to promote democratic values and mobilize citizens to participate in democracy. YIAGA AFRICA builds communities of media practitioners, broadcasters and journalists to promote public accountability and credible elections.
Bounce Corruption is designed to mobilize citizens to lead the war against corruption and impunity as well as hold public institutions and officials accountable at the local and national level. The project seeks to build resistance against corruption by exposing corrupt practices and demanding prosecution of indicted suspects. Through #BounceCorruption, YIAGA AFRICA has established resource platforms for effective anti-corruption campaigns and public outreach. The platforms promote anti-corruption efforts by other stakeholders fighting against corruption and promoting public accountability. #BounceCorruption facilitates access to information on corruption and anti-corruption efforts through using data, technology, media reporting of corruption cases. Through Bounce Corruption, 20 million Nigerians are mobilized to rise against corruption in their community through radio, social media and public debates. 40 Bounce Corruption radio ambassadors from the 36 states of Nigeria are leading the charge against corruption using radio for anti-corruption advocacy.

Ready To Run is an offshoot of the Not Too Young To Run campaign aimed at inspiring young women and men to run for office. The campaign which provides strategic support to young people running for elective office. Ready To Run equips youth candidates with necessary tools for running effective political campaigns and building communities/networks for political solidarity and advocacy. Ready To Run also seeks to influence political behavior and public perception of youth candidates through strategic communications and media reporting/coverage of youth candidates elections. The campaign also targets young female politicians through training, mentorship and networking. Ready To Run is Nigeria’s most recognized and successful intervention on increasing youth participation in politics in Nigeria.

YIAGA AFRICA established the Centre as a think-tank delivering cutting edge parliamentary strengthening programs in Africa. The Centre provides technical assistance to parliamentarians, legislative committees and aides through research, trainings, legislative drafting, bills scrutiny and analysis and legislative exchange programs.
Using data and technology to tell compelling stories that promote democracy and accountability
The Convergence is an annual conference hosted by YIAGA AFRICA and the Not Too Young To Run movement to build strength and solidarity amongst emerging leaders. The Convergence is Nigeria’s largest gathering of young women and male politicians and public leaders.
RECENT RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

- Understanding the electoral amendments passed by the legislature (2017)
- Duly elected or duly purchased: Vote Buying and Selling in Ekiti 2018 Election (2018)
- Guidelines for Gender Budgeting (2018)
- Guidelines on Youth-responsive Budgeting (2018)
- Nigerian Legislature and Constituents Relationship: Citizens demand more (2016)
- Legislative Oversight Toolkit on Youth Development (2018)
- Review of 2018 Budget from Youth Perspective (2018)
- Review of 2018 Budget from Gender Perspective (2018)
- The Youth Candidacy in 2015 General Election (Survey) (2015)
- Report on Social Movements and Social Activism in Nigeria (2017)
- Assessment of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to Youth Candidacy in the 2019 elections (2019)

Publications can be downloaded on www.yiaga.org
OUR PARTNERS: (Present and Past)

- ActionAid
- DFID (Department for International Development)
- European Union
- Ford Foundation
- International Republican Institute
- MacArthur Foundation
- National Endowment for Democracy
- NDI (National Democratic Institute)
- OSIWA
- UK aid
- UNDP
- USAID
- USA
- and many others.

OUR AUDITORS

- Ernst & Young
- KPMG
- PwC
- Ugochukwu Ukah & Co.