



# FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE [FOCEI]



## ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### Dear Partners and Supporters

It is with profound gratitude and immense pride that I present this section of the FOCEI 2025 Impact Report. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all our partners, supporters, donors, staff, and volunteers whose unwavering commitment has transformed FOCEI's vision into a living reality. The achievements documented in this report testify to what we can accomplish when compassion, collaboration, and purpose unite. The year 2025 stands out as one of the most transformative in FOCEI's journey. Through strategic partnerships and community-driven action, we expanded our reach, deepened our impact, and strengthened the foundations of sustainable development across Gombe State and beyond. Our collaborations with Women Aid Collective (WACOL), the Nigerian Youth Futures Fund (NYFF), ACRoSAL Gombe State, the Development Exchange Centre (DEC), Bread for the World, ACOMIN, the Global Fund, and many others, have been instrumental in enabling FOCEI to deliver high-quality interventions that empower lives and strengthen communities. This year, FOCEI made remarkable strides in gender justice, partnering with WACOL to empower Christian women and cultural women leaders in Liji and Zambuk to prevent and respond to Gender-Based Violence. Through this project alone, more than 20,000 people were

reached through media campaigns, while over 200 women leaders received leadership and advocacy training. Local Response Structures were established, and religious and traditional leaders have begun championing gender-equitable messaging an encouraging shift toward safety and dignity for women and girls. Our commitment to environmental sustainability reached new heights through the Sustainable Tree Planting and Environmental Protection (STEP) project. In partnership with DEC and Bread for the World, FOCEI planted over 388 hybrid trees, established nurseries with 700 seedlings, trained 100 students and community members, and strengthened two schools with sustainable water supply for seedling care. Additionally, our collaboration with ACRoSAL Gombe State further strengthened environmental conservation efforts through supervised tree growth and continuous monitoring. These collective actions are laying the foundation for a greener, healthier, and more climate-resilient Gombe State. In the area of youth empowerment and governance, FOCEI supported by NYFF made history by facilitating the development and validation of the first-ever Gombe State Youth Policy. Over 80 stakeholders participated in the process, more than 25 youth-led organizations



received capacity-strengthening training, and a Youth Action Group (YAG) was established to sustain advocacy and civic engagement. For the first time, young people across Gombe have a policy framework that reflects their dreams, voices, and aspirations. Our work in health systems strengthening continued through the ACOMIN RSSH Community-Led Monitoring Project, which improved primary healthcare delivery in Doho and Madu Kellumi. Through advocacy, FOCEI contributed to the relocation of a health facility to its permanent site, deployment of essential health workers, installation of solar lighting, and enhanced facility infrastructure. These interventions restored community confidence and improved access to life-saving ATM services. FOCEI also celebrated Children’s Day 2025 with kindness and purpose, visiting Destiny Kids Orphanage in partnership with Jalo Foundation. Through mentorship, play, shared meals, and gift presentations, we reaffirmed to the children that they are valued, capable, and worthy of

opportunities to flourish. Across every sector gender, environment, youth, governance, education, and health FOCEI’s impact in 2025 reflects our steadfast commitment to grassroots empowerment, inclusive development, and social justice. These achievements are not ours alone; they belong to every partner who believed in our mission, every staff member who worked tirelessly, and every community member who embraced change. As we look ahead, I call upon government institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners to continue walking with us. Together, we can sustain this momentum and build a future where every individual especially the vulnerable has the opportunity to thrive. Thank you for your continued support and for believing in FOCEI’s vision. With your partnership, we will continue transforming lives, strengthening communities, and advancing sustainable development across Nigeria.



**PROF. DANIEL D. DABI**  
 Chairman  
 Board of Trustees, FOCEI



**MESSAGE FROM  
THE TEAM LEAD**

**Dear Colleagues, Donors, Partners and Supporters**

**W**ith a heart full of gratitude, I present to you the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI) 2025 Impact Report. Looking back on our journey this year, I am humbled and deeply thankful to God for the remarkable progress we have achieved together. Every milestone contained in this report is a testament to the power of partnership, the strength of community, and the unwavering dedication of all who believe in FOCEI’s mission.

Since our establishment in 2019, FOCEI has remained committed to empowering grassroots communities across Gombe State and beyond. The year 2025 has been especially transformative marked by meaningful actions that have touched lives, strengthened institutions, and advanced sustainable development in countless ways. This year, we moved forward with renewed clarity, purpose, and collaborative energy that made a profound difference in the lives of our beneficiaries.

Our journey began with the Gombe State 2025 Budget Analysis, which followed our internal review meeting and staff-volunteer planning session. Guided by the wisdom and oversight of our esteemed Board of Trustees, we scrutinized the 2025 state budget through the lens of FOCEI’s

thematic priorities. Their leadership charted the path for what has become one of our most impactful years yet. I express my deepest appreciation to our BOT for their vision and guidance.

As a civil society organization, FOCEI continues to champion transparent and equitable allocation in key sectors such as education, health, and environmental sustainability. I particularly acknowledge Mr. Yahaya Atiku Yusuf for his outstanding stewardship in facilitating this year’s budget analysis process. His contribution ensured that FOCEI remained a strong voice for accountability and people-centered governance.

Our work in environmental protection reached significant milestones this year. In partnership with the Development Exchange Centre (DEC) and supported by Bread for the World, we successfully concluded the Sustainable Tree Planting and Environmental Protection (STEP) Project in March 2025. Through this initiative, more than 100 students were trained, over 400 hybrid trees were planted, and Science II School was connected to a water source to sustain the seedlings. .



We also established a school orchard, laying the foundation for a greener and more environmentally conscious generation. I extend heartfelt appreciation to DEC-SSPF for their steadfast collaboration.

Youth empowerment remained a central pillar of FOCEI's work in 2025. With support from the Nigerian Youth Futures Fund (NYFF) and LEAP Africa, we strengthened the leadership, governance, and advocacy capacity of young people across the state

Our efforts resulted in the development of a comprehensive Policy Brief advocating for the establishment of a Youth Policy for Gombe State a major milestone in advancing youth inclusion in governance. We are profoundly grateful to NYFF and LEAP Africa for walking this journey with us and helping shape the next generation of leaders.

Our health interventions flourished through our partnerships with the Global Fund, Catholic Relief Services, and ACOMIN. These programs strengthened primary healthcare in Gombe and Kwami LGAs, expanded malaria prevention efforts, supported immunization services, and advanced resilient health systems. The improvements in service delivery and community awareness would not have been possible without the dedication of our global and national partners.

In celebration of World Environment Day 2025,

FOCEI also led a major tree-planting campaign at UBEC Smart School to further strengthen environmental consciousness among children and young people. In the same spirit of love and compassion, we commemorated Children's Day with a memorable outreach to an orphanage—bringing hope, joy, and encouragement to children who deserve to be celebrated.

This year, FOCEI also invested significantly in staff and volunteer capacity development. From leadership and advocacy training to conflict resolution, budget analysis, resource mobilization, and GBV case management, we equipped our team with the essential skills needed to drive transformational programs. I am immensely proud of the dedication and resilience of our staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to bring FOCEI's vision to life.

As we reflect on 2025, I urge all our partners, supporters, and community members to continue standing with us. Together, we can accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and expand the reach of our impact to where it is most needed.

Stay connected with us by visiting [www.focei.org.ng](http://www.focei.org.ng) and following our social media platforms for updates on our work.

Thank you for your unwavering support. May God reward your kindness and dedication abundantly.



**MR. BENJAMIN MAINA**  
TEAM LEAD, FOCEI



# WHO WE ARE

The Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 2019 with a strong commitment to transforming lives and strengthening communities across Nigeria. From our operational base at No. 10 & 11 Nygham Zuma Memorial Complex, Adjacent Metro Clinic, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan Road, Federal Low-Cost, Gombe State, FOCEI has steadily grown into a leading voice for grassroots empowerment, social inclusion, and sustainable community development.

We were founded on a simple but powerful belief that true and lasting development begins when people are empowered to define and drive their own progress. FOCEI envisions a society where every individual, regardless of gender, background, or circumstance, has an equal opportunity to live with dignity, contribute meaningfully to their community, and benefit from the nation's development process. Guided by this conviction, we have dedicated ourselves to building an inclusive and empowered society where the voices of the vulnerable are heard, their rights protected, and their potentials unleashed.

Our mission is to promote sustainable development through community-driven

Ministry of Youth Empowerment (0006850) and Gombe Local Government (GLS/ESD/SWD/40), FOCEI continues to earn trust as a reliable partner in advancing human development and social justice.

Our work spans diverse thematic areas that respond to the most pressing needs of society. In the area of Health, we promote awareness, prevention, and access to services for diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other emerging epidemics. In Education,

we advocate for quality and inclusive learning for all, ensuring that no child is left behind. Through Community Empowerment, we provide skills training and livelihood support to reduce poverty and enhance self-reliance. FOCEI also champions Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, creating opportunities for women's leadership and combating gender-based violence in all its forms. Our work in Environment and Climate Action reflects our commitment to safeguarding the planet for future generations through tree planting, environmental education, and sustainable practices. We also engage in Governance and Civic Participation, nurturing a culture of democracy, accountability, and active citizenship across communities.

At the heart of everything we do are the values that define us. Transparency, honesty, justice, patience, and respect for human rights are not just words to us they are guiding principles that shape our actions, decisions, and relationships. We believe that development without integrity is unsustainable, and empowerment without justice is incomplete. Therefore, FOCEI's programs are built on fairness, inclusion, and accountability to those we serve.



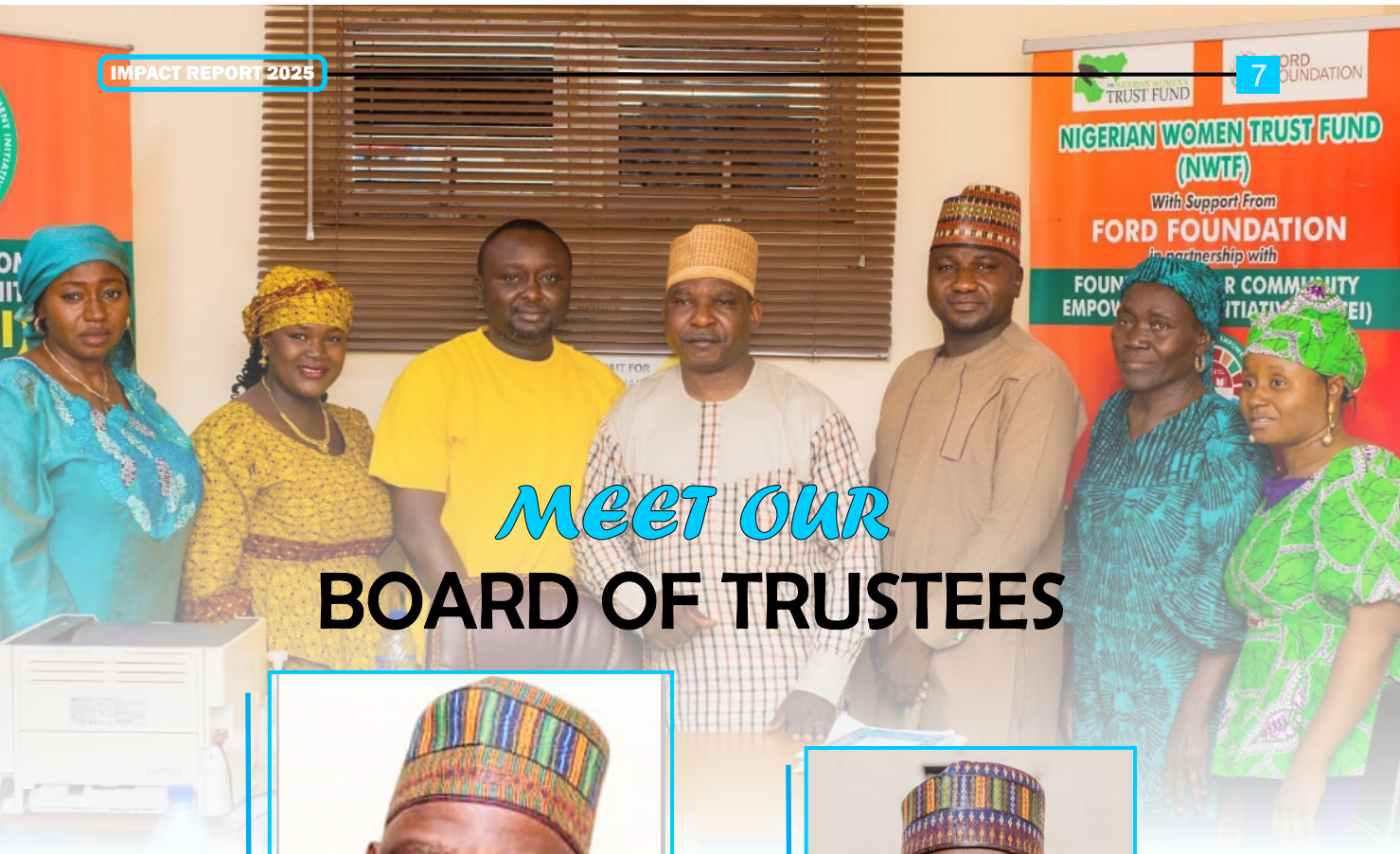
Over the years, our partnerships have been a cornerstone of our success. FOCEI is privileged to collaborate with distinguished organizations such as the Ford Foundation, BudgIT Foundation, LEAP Africa, Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF), Nigerian Youth Future Fund (NYFF), Women Aid Collective (WACOL), Development Exchange Centre (DEC), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and USAID State2State, among others. Through these partnerships, we have been able to expand our reach and deepen our impact, touching thousands of lives across Gombe State and the North-East region.

We also belong to strong civil society networks that amplify our advocacy and learning, including the Gombe Network of Civil Societies (GONET), Civil

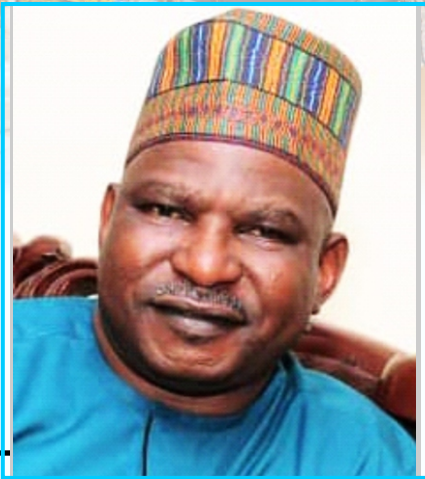
Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA), CiSHAN, ACOMIN, AHBN, and the Nigerian Network of NGOs (NNGO). Together, these alliances have strengthened our collective voice in promoting accountability, gender equity, and inclusive governance.

Today, FOCEI stands as a beacon of hope and transformation, inspiring a movement of change-makers who are transforming ideas to realities. Each year, FOCEI present our Impact Report, Award to Distinguished Personalities, and host our Annual Dinner, we reflect on our journey with gratitude to our partners, communities, and team members whose dedication fuels our mission.





# MEET OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Prof. Daniel D Dabi**  
*Chairman*



**Benjamin Maina**  
*Secretary*



**Mrs. Linda G Allabura**  
*MEMBER*



**Dr. Kachalla Aliyuda**  
*MEMBER*



**Mrs. Rebecca A Kudi**  
*MEMBER*



**Mrs. Fatima Bala Sani**  
*MEMBER*





## CELEBRATING IMPACT HONORING EXCELLENCE: FOCEI's 2025 ANNUAL 3-IN-1 EVENT

In December 2024, the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI) once again proved that commitment, integrity, and collaboration remain the pillars of meaningful development. The organization hosted its highly anticipated Annual 3-in-1 Event, a signature occasion that combines the launch of the Annual Performance Report, the Award of Distinguished Personalities, and a Dinner to Celebrate Achievements. The event, which held under the distinguished chairmanship of the Executive Chairman, Gombe State Revenue Service, was a radiant celebration of service, impact, and excellence. It brought together an inspiring assembly of leaders from government, civil society, the private sector, and grassroots organizations all united by a common goal: to reflect on the progress of 2024 and to honor those whose passion and dedication have left visible footprints in the sands of community transformation. At the heart of the occasion was the unveiling of the FOCEI 2024 Annual Performance Report, a comprehensive reflection of the organization's achievements throughout the year. The report highlighted milestones in education, health, governance, environmental sustainability, and gender

equity each representing a chapter of change in the lives of individuals and communities touched by FOCEI's programs. It was not just a report of numbers and activities, but a story of impact, innovation, and resilience driven by teamwork and shared vision. A major highlight of the evening was the Award Ceremony, where FOCEI recognized men and women who have distinguished themselves through selfless service, leadership, and compassion. The Community Development Excellence Award celebrated outstanding champions such as Honourable Eglia Idris, the dynamic Chairperson of Billiri Local Government Area, whose leadership continues to inspire positive change at the grassroots. Also honoured was **Honourable Yusuf Jidda (Basiran Waja)**, a committed community advocate whose service embodies the spirit of togetherness, and **Mrs. Grace Samuel**, the visionary Executive Director of Kishimi Care and Shelter, whose unwavering compassion continues to uplift vulnerable populations in Gombe State. Equally inspiring was the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Accelerator Award, presented to visionary leaders who have advanced the global development agenda through action and innovation.



Among them were Muhammad Bello Abubakar (MBA), the dedicated State Team Lead of USAID State2State, Gombe, whose leadership in governance reform has strengthened accountability and service delivery; Professor Daniel D. Dabi, an academic giant and mentor whose influence in education and youth empowerment continues to shape generations; and Ismaila Uba Misilli, the articulate Director-General (Press Affairs) to the Governor of Gombe State, whose advocacy for inclusive development reflects his deep commitment to progress. The Humanitarian Leadership Award was presented to exemplary individuals whose compassion and generosity have touched lives beyond measure. Honorees included Dr. Aminu U. Yuguda (Danburam), the Accountant General of Gombe State, celebrated for his unwavering dedication to humanity and community service; Fatima Yerima Askira, Founder of the Borno Women Development Initiative (BOWDI), whose courage and advocacy for women and girls have transformed lives across the Northeast; and Mr. Abodunrin Olubukola, the dynamic Branch Manager of Unity Bank Plc, Gombe, recognized for using his platform to promote social responsibility and empower local initiatives. In a deeply inspiring keynote address, Mr. Ado Solomon, the Guest Speaker, drew the audience's

attention to the essence of service to humanity and the vital role every individual can play in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He emphasized that building a better Nigeria and indeed, a better world requires commitment, empathy, and a willingness to use one's influence for the greater good. His words ignited a renewed sense of purpose among attendees, reminding everyone that impact begins with intention and grows through collective effort.

The evening culminated in a celebratory dinner, filled with joy, reflection, and renewed optimism for the future. In attendance were members of the Board of Trustees, the Director of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), representatives from partner organizations, and distinguished guests from various sectors. Together, they celebrated FOCEI's achievements and reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening communities, empowering people, and sustaining hope.

The 2024 3-in-1 event was more than a ceremony—it was a celebration of vision, values, and the power of partnership. It reminded everyone present that true success is measured not by what we achieve for ourselves, but by the lives we touch and the legacies we build for generations to come.



# DRIVING ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROGRESS

## FOCEI's 2025 Gombe State Budget Analysis

In its unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusive development, the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI) carried out a comprehensive and citizen-driven analysis of the Gombe State 2025 Approved Budget. This publication-ready section captures the essence of that work showing how FOCEI continues to champion fiscal justice and good governance in alignment with global best practices and the development needs of citizens.

On March 15, 2025, FOCEI convened stakeholders, civil society representatives, and development partners at its headquarters in Gombe for a detailed examination of how public resources were allocated across key sectors. More than a technical review, the exercise embodied FOCEI's belief that public budgets represent shared values and national aspirations. Citizens deserve to understand how funds are used, not merely as observers, but as active participants shaping the future of their communities.



The analysis revealed remarkable shifts in the health sector, where the 2025 allocation rose from N16.39 billion in 2024 to N32.79 billion, representing 8.9% of the total budget. While this growth demonstrates renewed prioritization of healthcare infrastructure and primary healthcare, it still falls below the Abuja Declaration's 15% benchmark. Persistent gaps in maternal health services, disease surveillance, and health workforce motivation highlight the need for continued commitments and innovative interventions.



Similarly, the education sector experienced substantial improvement, with allocations increasing from N26.19 billion (7.2%) in 2024 to N53.65 billion (14.5%) in 2025 a 100% rise reflecting strong political will for human capital development. Yet, this still remains below UNESCO's 15–20% recommendation. Challenges persist in teacher welfare, school infrastructure, and targeted interventions for girls' education all vital components for inclusive and quality learning.



Environmental investments also rose significantly, with the Ministry of Water, Environment, and Forest Resources receiving N59.1 billion compared to N25.7 billion the previous year. However, the defunding of the Gombe Goes Green (3G) Initiative and reduced support for GOSEPA pose challenges to long-term climate resilience, waste management, and pollution control. While notable progress was recorded in water infrastructure, the analysis underscored the importance of stronger monitoring and sustainability frameworks to ensure lasting benefits.

Following the analysis, FOCEI embarked on strategic advocacy visits to key MDAs such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, and the NEWMAP/EIB Office led by Dr. Shittu J. D. These engagements fostered deeper collaboration on environmental governance and budget transparency. Although visits to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment could not hold as planned, FOCEI remains committed to revisiting these institutions to present findings and advocate for improved sectoral budgeting aligned with global standards.

The dialogue sessions created a valuable platform for shared reflection, inspiring state

actors and civil society to recognize the essential role of citizen-led budget monitoring in achieving equitable development outcomes. FOCEI appreciates the contributions of Mr. Gideon Maisamari of the Ministry of Finance and Mr. Isaac Musa of Hope for the Lonely for their insights and support during the review.

FOCEI's 2025 Budget Analysis stands as a compelling call to action challenging policymakers to close funding gaps, strengthen accountability mechanisms, and ensure that every Naira allocated translates into real and measurable improvements in the lives of the people. By aligning state budget priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and FOCEI's thematic focus areas, Gombe State can advance closer to a future defined by transparency, inclusive growth, and resilient communities.

As an organization rooted in the belief that informed citizens drive good governance, FOCEI reaffirms its commitment to promoting fiscal accountability and civic engagement. Through initiatives like this annual budget analysis, FOCEI continues to champion a Nigeria where resources are used responsibly, opportunities are equitably shared, and sustainable development becomes a reality for all.





## Building Capacity, Inspiring Excellence:

### FOCEI’s 2025 Staffs and Volunteers Development Drive

In 2025, the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI) reaffirmed its commitment to excellence, growth, and sustainability through a series of capacity-building trainings designed to strengthen the skills, motivation, and leadership of its staff and volunteers. These sessions formed a vital part of FOCEI’s long-term strategy to enhance organizational effectiveness and foster a culture of continuous learning and innovation among its team members.

The first quarter training, facilitated by Mr. Atiku Yusuf, FOCEI’s Resource Mobilization Manager, focused on the theme “Reorientation for Motivation and Productivity in the Workplace.” The session provided a powerful reflection on workplace dynamics, emphasizing the types and benefits of motivation, common challenges

affecting productivity, and strategic reorientation for improved performance. Participants engaged in stimulating group discussions, team-building activities, and real-life scenario analysis, creating an environment that inspired renewed commitment to FOCEI’s vision and mission. As part of FOCEI’s collaborative gesture, members of the Hanny Foundation were invited to join the training and participated actively, adding value through shared experiences and collective learning.



The momentum continued in the second quarter, with an intensive training session on Strategic Planning and Policy Development, facilitated by Comrade Abdulaziz Sani Lamarin and Mr. Abdon Sadah, FOCEI's Finance Officer. This session provided staff and volunteers with practical insights into organizational planning, implementation frameworks, and policy alignment. The outcome was remarkable FOCEI's Strategic Plan was reviewed and refined to better reflect emerging realities, strengthen institutional sustainability, and ensure alignment with both local and global development goals.

The third quarter witnessed another transformative session facilitated by Mr. Benjamin Maina, where participants were trained on Volunteerism and Community Development. The training emphasized the power of volunteer service as a tool for social change and highlighted how individual skills, passion, and commitment can drive collective progress. Participants were inspired to see themselves as agents of transformation, using their talents and time to promote community development and contribute to the greater good.

Across all quarters, these trainings not only enhanced technical and leadership competencies but also deepened the team's sense of purpose and unity. FOCEI believes that an empowered team builds empowered communities, and through these capacity-building efforts, the organization continues to invest in the people behind its mission dedicated men and women who are shaping a better future, one community at a time.

**Ephraim Samuel, Program Manager**





# GREENING GOMBE, STRENGTHENING FOCEI

## The Sustainable Tree Planting and Environmental Protection (STEP) Project

In response to Nigeria’s rapidly rising deforestation rate and the deepening impact of desertification across the North-East, the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI) implemented the Sustainable Tree Planting and Environmental Protection (STEP) Project a transformative one-year intervention carried out from April 2024 to March 2025. In partnership with the Development Exchange Centre (DEC) and Bread for the World, the project sought to address critical environmental challenges in Gombe Metropolis by empowering schools and communities to take ownership of climate-resilient practices. The initiative engaged 100 adolescent boys and girls across four selected schools, equipping them with practical skills in tree planting, waste management, and environmental stewardship.

Advocacy visits to the Ministry of Education, ACRoSAL, and the selected schools Government Day Science Secondary School, Government Day Secondary School Orji, Government Girls Mega College Doma, and UBEC Smart School—mobilized 65 key stakeholders to support and sustain the project’s objectives. The Ministry of Education and ACRoSAL endorsed the initiative, recognizing its value in enhancing environmental awareness and integrating climate education into school programs. Following these engagements,

FOCEI conducted intensive training sessions for students, teachers, and community members, focusing on sustainable waste management, recycling innovations, and climate adaptation strategies. Participants learned creative techniques such as converting sachet water waste into interlocking blocks and producing clean energy briquettes from charcoal waste. By March 2025, the STEP Project had significantly transformed school environments across Gombe Metropolis. A total of 388 hybrid economic trees were planted across the four participating schools, turning previously bare spaces into vibrant green zones that promote cleaner air, enhance biodiversity, and provide long-term environmental benefits.



Each school received a 2,000-litre GP water tank to sustain the seedlings and support broader environmental sanitation practices. Tree nurseries were also established in Government Girls Mega School Doma and Government Day Science School, where 700 seeds including flame-of-the-forest, cashew, and mahogany were planted. These nurseries now provide continuous access to seedlings for future planting while serving as practical learning hubs for students.

The project also produced outstanding institutional gains for FOCEI. Through DEC's expert guidance, the organization conducted a complete review of its internal policies, aligning its operational frameworks with global best practices. Staff members received training on report writing and project management, enhancing FOCEI's technical capacity and strengthening its program delivery systems. The

Board of Trustees also benefitted from specialized training on conflict management, further solidifying FOCEI's governance structure. These internal capacity gains will sustain FOCEI's impact far beyond the project's lifespan.

The STEP Project concluded in March 2025 as a resounding success and stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, community engagement, and youth-led action. It not only improved environmental conditions across schools in Gombe Metropolis but also deepened FOCEI's institutional strength to deliver high quality, sustainable development interventions. Through the trees planted, the knowledge shared, and the capacities strengthened, FOCEI continues to nurture a greener, more resilient future for Gombe and remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering communities and protecting the environment.





# Our



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FOCEI Gombe



08024474627



Foundation for community Empowerment Initiative



Focei Foundation for Community Development



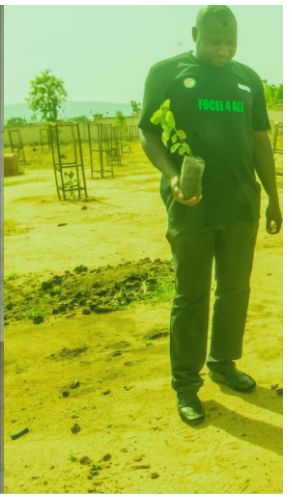
foce\_4\_all



@ForFoce



**Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI)**  
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# Stories..



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FOCEI Gombe



08024474627



Foundation for community Empowerment Initiative



Focei Foundation for Community Development



[foce\\_4\\_all](https://www.instagram.com/foce_4_all)



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**Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI)**  
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Goodluck Ebele Jonathan Road, Federal Low-cost,  
Gombe, Gombe State, Nigeria.



# GROWING TOGETHER FOR A GREENER FUTURE

## FOCEI's Partnership with ACReSAL on Tree Supervision in Gombe State

In 2025, the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI) deepened its commitment to environmental sustainability through a strategic and impactful partnership with ACReSAL Gombe State for the supervision and monitoring of planted trees at Government Day Science Secondary School II and the Science School Second Gate area. This collaboration represents a significant milestone for FOCEI, affirming its reputation as a dedicated and trusted organization in advancing climate resilience and environmental protection across Gombe State.

FOCEI expresses profound appreciation to ACReSAL Gombe State for granting the organization this opportunity. The partnership was extended to FOCEI in recognition of its consistent track record, hands-on experience, and unwavering dedication to promoting environmental sustainability through community-driven initiatives. This collaboration not only strengthened institutional bonds but also demonstrated how strategic partnerships can accelerate progress toward a greener, healthier, and more climate-resilient Gombe.

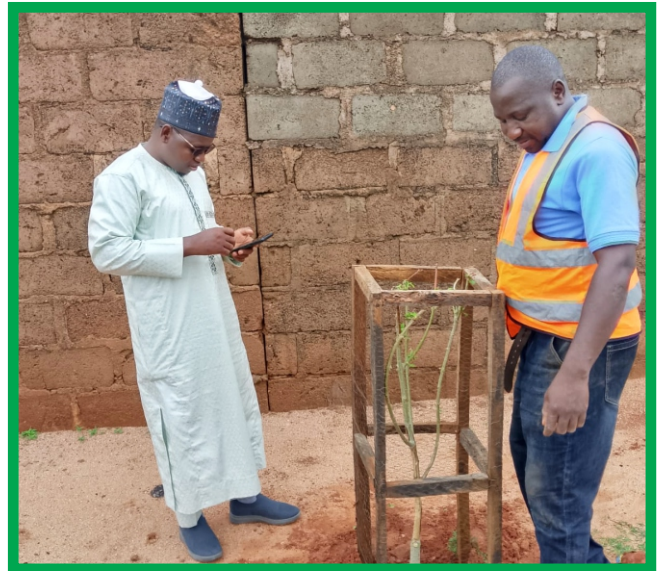
Under this assignment, FOCEI's supervision team diligently monitored the growth conditions, survival rates, and general health of the allocated seedlings. A total of 298 trees were supervised across both locations. During the inspection, FOCEI discovered that some trees are without protective baskets, making them vulnerable to damage, and some trees were lost due to pesticide-related issues.

In response, FOCEI conducted fumigation and replanting activities to ensure the restoration of affected areas and to maintain the ecological balance envisioned for the project.



The seedlings supervised under this partnership included Anti-Monkey trees, Guava, Mango, Black Currant, Green Bushi, and Algist trees, in addition to the 40 lost seedlings subsequently replaced through FOCEI's intervention. This careful supervision not only safeguarded the seedlings but also strengthened environmental consciousness among students, teachers, and surrounding communities who observed FOCEI's efforts firsthand.

Through its partnership with ACRoSAL, FOCEI has reaffirmed that safeguarding the environment requires long-term dedication, collaboration, and proactive action. The organization is proud to contribute meaningfully to Gombe State's environmental transformation and remains committed to nurturing the trees, the land, and the generations that will benefit from this work. Together with ACRoSAL, FOCEI is shaping a future where green landscapes flourish and communities thrive in harmony with nature.





# STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERSHIP

## FOCEI's Role in GONET 2024/2025 Elections and Inauguration

The year 2025 marked a historic moment for civil society development in Gombe State as the Gombe Network of Civil Society Organizations (GONET) successfully conducted its first transparent, inclusive, and highly participatory general election. Held on 19th December 2024 at the Public Finance Management Unit (PFMU) Gombe, the election demonstrated GONET's commitment to democratic strengthening, institutional accountability, and coordinated civic action. For

the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI), this moment was especially significant, as the organization secured a key leadership position within the Network's executive council.

FOCEI's Team Lead, Mr. Benjamin Maina, emerged as the duly elected Secretary of GONET, reflecting FOCEI's growing visibility, leadership credibility, and strategic contribution to civil society advancement in Gombe State.



The elections produced a vibrant and diverse leadership team comprising: Amb. Ibrahim Yusuf (Chairman), Mrs. Beakey Wayas Bappah (Vice Chairperson), Mr. Benjamin Maina (Secretary), Abdul'azeez Sani Labaran (Assistant Secretary I), Muhammad Salisu A. (Assistant Secretary II/PWD Focal Person), Zainab A. Abubakar (Treasurer), Abubakar A. Hussaini (Financial Secretary), Maigari Danladi Hamza (Resource Manager), Mwalin Naomi

Abdu (Gender Inclusion Officer), Talatu Abubakar (Legal Adviser/FIDA Representative), Phoebe Caleb (Mobilization Manager), Nyaga Kanu (Women Focal Person), and Ibrahim A. Waziri (Youth Focal Person). These leaders represent the collective strength of over 70 registered civil society and community-based organizations under the GONET umbrella.



The newly elected officials were formally inaugurated in February 2025 during a distinguished ceremony that highlighted the importance of civil society in state-building. The inauguration lecture was delivered by the Speaker of the Gombe State House of Assembly, who emphasized the crucial role of CSOs in shaping policy, strengthening democracy, and bridging the gap between citizens and government. The officials were then formally sworn in by the Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Gombe Branch, Barrister Benjamin Sati, adding legal weight and institutional legitimacy to the event. The occasion was further honored by the presence of the Executive Governor of Gombe State, Alhaji Inuwa Yahaya, represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Prof. Ibrahim Njodi, alongside distinguished guests from government, academia, the media, and civil society. Throughout the 2024–2025 period, GONET continued to champion inclusive governance and social accountability. The Network intensified legislative advocacy through strategic engagements with the Gombe State House of Assembly on the VAPP Law, Child Rights Act, and the Disability Rights Bill key legal

frameworks essential for the protection and empowerment of vulnerable groups. GONET also expanded civic awareness through town hall meetings, radio programs, and community education campaigns, while mobilizing humanitarian assistance for communities affected by disasters. These efforts were complemented by expanded collaboration with government MDAs, security institutions, and development partners, further reinforcing GONET’s presence as a central coordinating body for civil society action in the state. FOCEI’s emergence as Secretary stands as a powerful testament to its long-standing commitment to leadership, transparency, and community-centered service. This achievement not only solidifies FOCEI’s influence within the civil society landscape but also deepens its role in advancing accountable governance, gender equality, youth empowerment, and human rights across Gombe State. As FOCEI steps into this new chapter of institutional responsibility, it remains committed to strengthening civic institutions, fostering partnerships, and championing a governance system where every citizen’s voice counts.





# INSPIRING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

## FOCEI's 2025 Children's Day Celebration at Destiny Kids Orphanage

**O**n May 27th, 2025, the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI), in partnership with the Jalo Foundation, marked the 2025 Children's Day with a heartwarming and impactful outreach to Destiny Kids Orphanage. Guided by the belief that every child is a bearer of limitless potential, FOCEI dedicated the day to celebrating, uplifting, and inspiring children who deserve to feel valued, supported, and empowered to pursue their dreams.

The visit was purposefully designed to honor vulnerable children on their special day, create an atmosphere of encouragement, and reinforce FOCEI's commitment to promoting equitable opportunities for every child, regardless of background. The event sought not only to celebrate the moment but to plant seeds of aspiration, confidence, and hope that will grow with the children long after the day had passed.

The celebration began at 4:00 pm with an opening meditation that set a tone of unity and gratitude. Introductions followed, after which FOCEI's Team Lead shared a brief but inspiring overview of the organization's mission,

emphasizing FOCEI's long-standing dedication to child development and community empowerment. The children were then invited into an engaging interactive session, where they eagerly spoke about their dreams ranging from becoming doctors and lawyers to security officers and other admired professionals. FOCEI staff encouraged them with heartfelt guidance, reminding them that resilience, hard work, and belief in oneself are powerful tools for achieving any goal.

The atmosphere soon buzzed with excitement as the children participated in group games, including the beloved "Fire on the Mountain," fostering laughter, teamwork, and joyful expression. A shared meal further deepened the sense of connection, offering the children a warm and welcoming family-like environment.

One of the most cherished moments came when Mrs. Rahab M. Loh presented thoughtful gifts to the children. Their joy and heartfelt gratitude reflected the emotional impact of the gesture, leaving a lasting impression on both the beneficiaries and the FOCEI team.



The Children’s Day outreach made a meaningful contribution to the emotional and psychological well-being of the children. It strengthened their sense of self-worth, encouraged them to articulate and believe in their ambitions, and provided psychosocial support through play, interaction, and compassionate engagement. The visit also deepened FOCEI’s partnership with child-welfare institutions and reinforced the organization’s role as a champion of equity and empowerment.

As the event concluded at 5:20 pm, the children offered sincere prayers and words of appreciation for FOCEI’s continued impact an affirmation of the bond formed and the hope ignited in their young hearts. The celebration stood as a testament to FOCEI’s unwavering dedication to nurturing the next generation of leaders and ensuring that every child, regardless of circumstance, has the opportunity to thrive.





# STRENGTHENING LIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY POWER

## FOCEI's ACOMIN RSSH Health Systems Improvement Project

In 2025, the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI), through the ACOMIN RSSH (C-19) Community-Led Monitoring Project, recorded remarkable progress in revitalizing primary healthcare systems and expanding access to AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (ATM) services across supported communities. This initiative demonstrated FOCEI's unwavering commitment to empowering citizens, strengthening health facilities, and ensuring that quality healthcare becomes a right not a privilege for all. Throughout the year, FOCEI carried out a series of targeted advocacy engagements with community leaders in Doho and Madu Kellumi, PHC Coordinators in Kwami LGA, facility in-charges, and relevant authorities. These engagements were informed by findings from community entry meetings, baseline assessments, client exit interviews, and focus group discussions all of which highlighted gaps in service delivery and resource availability. FOCEI

responded to these gaps with precision, collaboration, and a strong belief in citizen-driven solutions. One of the most significant achievements of the year was the successful relocation of a health facility from a temporary structure to its permanent site, where full-service delivery was restored. This milestone became a symbol of renewed hope for residents who had long awaited a functional and dignified healthcare environment. In response to coordinated advocacy efforts, the Local Government Authority also deployed a medical doctor and a nurse to Doho PHC, dramatically improving human resource capacity and elevating the quality of patient care. Energy challenges were addressed through the installation and repair of solar lighting systems in Doho and Madu Kellumi facilities, ensuring uninterrupted night services, enhanced safety, and improved working conditions for health personnel.



Additional infrastructure improvements including minor renovations, refurbished hospital curtains, and community-supported repairs created cleaner, safer, and more functional spaces for patients and health workers alike. The heart of this project was the communities themselves. Residents demonstrated impressive ownership by monitoring staff attendance, initiating small-scale repairs, participating in dialogue meetings, and showing readiness to collaborate with FOCEI and government stakeholders for lasting solutions. Continuous sensitization sessions including awareness on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) further strengthened community knowledge and response systems, ensuring that healthcare improvements were accompanied by enhanced

protection and dignity for all. As a result of FOCEI's interventions, communities witnessed increased utilization of ATM services, improved patient satisfaction, and strengthened relationships between health facilities and the people they serve. Beneficiaries expressed deep appreciation for the restored services, improved staff presence, and more welcoming facility conditions. The collective achievements of 2025 reflect FOCEI's conviction that sustainable health improvements are driven from the ground up. By amplifying community voices, strengthening systems, and fostering partnerships, FOCEI continues to empower communities to lead the change they wish to see one health facility at a time.





# RAISING A NEW GENERATION OF CHANGE MAKERS

## FOCEI’s Youth Policy Implementation Project for Inclusive Governance in Gombe State.

In 2025, the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI), with the invaluable support of the Nigerian Youth Futures Fund (NYFF), embarked on a groundbreaking journey to empower young people and position them at the heart of governance in Gombe State. This transformative initiative sought to bridge long-standing gaps in youth inclusion by developing and domesticating the Gombe State Youth Policy a policy shaped by the voices, aspirations, and lived realities of young people themselves.

The project began with a series of high-level advocacy engagements involving the Senior District Head of Gombe, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, and the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning. These strategic visits built strong institutional alliances and secured essential government commitment toward the youth policy development process. Stakeholders consistently affirmed the urgency of youth participation, signaling their readiness to collaborate with FOCEI in charting a brighter future for young people across the state. With this momentum, FOCEI facilitated an inclusive, evidence-driven policy drafting process. Through consultations, community dialogues, focus group discussions, and data gathering, young people, traditional leaders, civil society actors, and government

collectively identified key thematic priorities such as education, employment, entrepreneurship, digital innovation, governance, health, and security. Their contributions shaped a comprehensive draft policy that reflects both community needs and the broader developmental priorities of Gombe State.

To ensure meaningful youth participation beyond consultation, FOCEI organized an intensive two-day capacity-building training for youth-led organizations and community-based groups. Over 25 organizations benefited from practical training in leadership, advocacy, project management, financial systems, and organizational governance. This training strengthened the skills and confidence of youth actors, empowering them to contribute actively to policy implementation and civic engagement efforts across the state.

Upon completion of the draft Youth Policy, FOCEI convened a multi-stakeholder validation forum that brought together representatives from relevant MDAs, civil society, academia, youth networks, and development partners. The session provided space for collective review, refinement, and endorsement of the draft, reinforcing ownership and setting the stage for successful state-level adoption and domestication.



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Recognizing that policy change must be rooted at the community level, FOCEI established the Youth Action Group (YAG) a dynamic grassroots structure designed to support advocacy, community mobilization, and social accountability.

The YAG received training on governance monitoring and amplifying youth voices at both local and state levels. Their presence has already begun to energize community engagement and increase youth involvement in decision-making processes.

Throughout the year, FOCEI amplified public awareness of youth inclusion through media advocacy, community dialogues, and radio programs on AMANA FM Gombe. These platforms broadened civic understanding, deepened public support, and enhanced the visibility of the project across Gombe State.

By the close of 2025, the FOCEI–NYFF initiative had achieved remarkable milestones: a comprehensive draft youth policy was developed; more than 80 stakeholders were meaningfully engaged; youth-led organizations gained stronger institutional capacity; and sustainable structures were established to champion youth participation in governance.

This year’s achievements reflect a renewed and unstoppable movement toward inclusive governance in Gombe State. Through strengthened partnerships, empowered youth structures, and a shared vision for progress, FOCEI has helped lay the foundation for a future where young people are not just beneficiaries—but leaders, innovators, and central contributors to state development.



# CHAMPIONING SAFETY AND DIGNITY

## FOCEI's Partnership with WACOL to Prevent and Mitigate Gender-Based Violence in Gombe Satte

In 2025, the Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative (FOCEI) entered a transformative partnership with Women Aid Collective (WACOL), with support from the Ford Foundation, to strengthen community resilience and institutional capacity for the prevention and mitigation of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Gombe State and across Nigeria. This collaboration marked a major turning point in FOCEI's mission to promote gender justice, elevate women's leadership, and dismantle deep-rooted patriarchal norms that hinder equality and safety for women and girls. Through strategic programming, targeted community interventions, and powerful advocacy, the project empowered Christian women, traditional women leaders, and youth advocates to become champions of change within their families, churches, and communities.

The project began with a rigorous baseline assessment conducted in the communities of Liji and Zambuk, where FOCEI engaged 100 households, clergy, traditional leaders, and both women and youth representatives. The findings exposed significant gaps, including low awareness of GBV, limited representation of women in leadership, and the strong influence of cultural and religious beliefs on gender norms. Armed with this evidence, FOCEI designed tailored interventions that addressed both knowledge gaps and systemic challenges. Early stakeholder engagements including meetings with district heads, pastors, women's groups, and youth networks secured the trust, buy-in, and commitment necessary to implement the project effectively. This early collaboration set a strong foundation for community ownership and long-term sustainability.



FOCEI’s media and advocacy component amplified the project’s reach across Gombe State and the Northeast. Culturally relevant IEC materials—posters, stickers, shirts, drama scripts, and policy briefs were widely disseminated, while radio programs and jingles aired on AMANA FM reached an estimated 20,000 listeners. Community drama performances vividly illustrated harmful cultural practices, survivor support systems, and the roles of faith and cultural leaders in shaping equitable norms. These messages sparked meaningful conversations and enhanced public understanding of GBV and women’s rights.

On 27 October 2025, FOCEI convened a landmark multi-level dialogue and sensitization workshop, which brought together more than 50 stakeholders, including clergy, traditional leaders, security agencies (NSCDC, DSS), CSOs, and youth organizations. The forum provided space for reflection, learning, and joint problem-solving, leading to concrete action points such as forming community GBV committees, improving support systems for survivors, integrating gender-equitable messages into sermons, and fostering inter-agency collaboration for prevention and response.

Monitoring structures were strengthened through the establishment of Local Response Structures (LRS) in Liji and Zambuk—functional mechanisms designed to coordinate GBV prevention, response, and referrals. Regular field visits, quarterly reporting, and follow-up

meetings ensured ongoing accountability and adaptation. As the project progressed, FOCEI expanded its reach by training an additional 100 women leaders and providing mentorship to another cohort of 50 women advocates. Additional radio programs, drama shows, and updated policy briefs further reinforced public awareness and mobilized wider community involvement.

By the end of 2025, the partnership between FOCEI and WACOL had made remarkable strides in increasing community awareness, empowering women leaders, and strengthening collaboration between religious, cultural, and security actors. More than 20,000 citizens were reached through media campaigns, while hundreds of women assumed new roles as advocates, trainers, and protectors of their communities. Traditional and religious leaders began integrating gender-equitable teachings into sermons and meetings, signaling a powerful cultural shift.

This year’s achievements reflect a growing movement toward gender justice, safety, and dignity across Gombe State. Through capacity building, strategic partnerships, and community-driven advocacy, FOCEI has helped dismantle harmful norms, strengthen local structures, and ignite a powerful collective commitment to protecting the rights of women and girls. The foundation now laid in Liji and Zambuk is poised to inspire broader transformation across the state and beyond.



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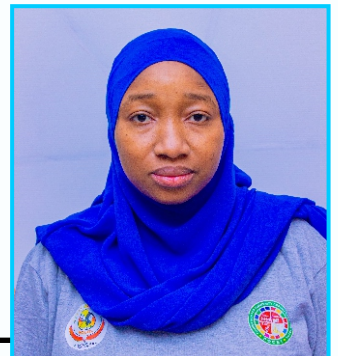
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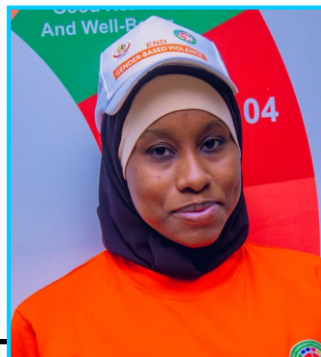
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**Fatima Muhammad Babayo**  
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# FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE (FOCEI) WINNERS OF FOCEI 2025 OUTSTANDING IMPACT AWARD



**Aminu Muhammed Bello**  
Squadron Leader  
Nigerian Air Force



**Halima M. Usman**  
Founder and Chairman BOT,  
Halimafactor Community Initiative



**Hon. (Dr.) Iliya Suleman Jatau**  
(Togor Yamb Kaltungo)  
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**Jamilu Ja'afaru Ph.D.**  
M.NIN, FOCAL, M.CiOD  
Directorate of Government  
Relations and Abuja Liaison



**Barr. Benjamin Sati. MCI Arb(UK)**  
Former Chairman NBA  
Gombe Branch



**Hajiya NANA FATIMA  
KOLO-ABDULLAHI**  
Senior Manager - Operation ACOMIN,  
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**Diplomat (Dr) Dauda Babi Stanley**  
Founder/CEO BaBi Foundation



**Mrs. Grace Macdonald Garba**  
Founder/Executive Director  
TEEMIN



**Late Yusuf Mohamed Kulani**  
Former Permanent Secretary  
Special Duties and  
Regional Integration



**Fatima Bala Sani**  
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**Prof. Saliba B. James**  
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**Mohammed Abubakar Bose**  
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