

BROCHURE



DEAN
DEVELOPMENT OF
EDUCATIONAL
ACTION
NETWORK



**Governance - Democracy -
Education**



ABOUT US

DEAN Initiative, founded in 2015, is a civic organisation dedicated to using 21st-century advocacy tools to build a sustainable democratic society guided by the rule of law, equity, accountability, inclusion, and respect.

OUR VISION

We envision a world where citizens' voices will be heard and form an integral part of governance.

OUR MISSION

To empower the voices of the people with valid information and engagement tools.



CORE VALUES

Diligence: We exercise utmost diligence in our work, especially in delivering information to citizens.

Integrity: We value integrity and strive to stay consistent with it.

Service: Our passion is driven by the commitment to serve.

Humanity: People’s lives and their experiences are at the centre of our work, and we try to make them better



OBJECTIVES

- Increase citizens' participation in governance
- Promotion of Access to Quality Education with a Special Focus on Girls' Education
- Support the Development of Civil Society and Institutional Development
- Lead creative advocacy for SDGs awareness and action mobilisation
- Promotion of Child Protection, Rights of Children & Youth Development and address the Issues related to Abuse and marginalisation of Children, Adolescents, and Youth



THE PROBLEMS

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Strategic Goal and Commitment

Our overall goal is “to empower the citizens in their demand for service delivery, transparency and accountability in governance through simplified methods to monitor and track government allocations and IGR with the combined effort and use of technology and FOI to drive advocacy in propelling the citizens’ will in asking questions to make government and politicians more accountable and transparent. We believe this will encourage the citizens to independently demand accountability from public officials and elected representatives regarding developmental issues at the community level.

Strategic Plan

DEAN’s strategic plan indicates how the organisation plans to improve public accountability, good governance, youth leadership development, livelihood and SDGs in the marginalised communities.

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Technology Advancement

our technology limitation has been revealed by the Pandemic; as an organisation that works primarily with vulnerable and rural communities, our use of technology has been limited, but our organisation designs innovative solutions that are globally competent and, at the same time domesticated by ensuring we acquire the relevant technical skills to upscale most of our interventions. We are building some of the best tech innovations to solve various development crises.



Opportunities

We have built a strong network of young people, with our volunteers representing the thirty-six states and Abuja; this has provided us with the platform to have physical volunteers supporting the organisation in implementing our projects. Since 2015, we have been working within local communities and have established strong relationships within these communities that have enabled us to sustain our interventions.





THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

Thematic 1 Good Governance- Democracy and Accountability

- #OpenLGAs
- Budget Watch
- #iPledge2vote
- Citizens Election Education Project #CEEP

Thematic 2 Inclusion and Livelihoods

- Women Upgrade
- The Orange Project
- Global Goals Women Empowerment Support Initiative
- Post Covid-19 Women Economics Recovery Initiative
- Education For Girls

Thematic 3 Domestication and Action for the SDGs

- SDGs Activation
- SDGs Story Summit
- Global Goals Community Center
- Climate Education-SDG 13
- Hygiene Quest-SDGs 3 and 5

Thematic 4 Youth Leadership and Development

- #NGO-Connect
- Youth Skill Upgrade
- Internship
- National Volunteer Network





1. GOOD GOVERNANCE- DEMOCRACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Activities under this thematic focus seek to encourage citizen inclusion and active participation across all levels of government, as this will model our governance system and make leaders accountable to the people by providing them with relevant knowledge and tools to engage elected officials and demand a more transparent system where institutions are stronger than individuals heading such institutions. Projects under the Good Governance, Democracy, and Accountability include:



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#OpenLGAs

The #OpenLGAs Project is our flagship initiative that seeks to drive accountability, transparency, and openness at the third tier of government - the local government administration; this tier of government, though the closest to the people, has remained highly inaccessible. DEAN Initiative, through this project, has

- Successfully led capacity building for local government administrators on citizens engagement and budget literacy
- Published a National survey report on Local Government Online Presence to determine local government adaptability in Nigeria
- Published survey report on Citizens' assessment of Local government good-governance performance
- Hosted TownHall meetings with people in governance in all the LGAs in FCT
- Hosted the first-ever Local Government Accountability Award in conjunction with partners
- Coordinated and facilitated the process of AMACs induction into the OGP Global membership
- Coordinated the Onboarding of the Local Parliament into the OGP Local with Parliament members of all Area Councils in FCT as first onboarding members.



We plan to seek partnerships with our relevant partners to drive accountability, transparency, and openness at the local level.





Photo Report



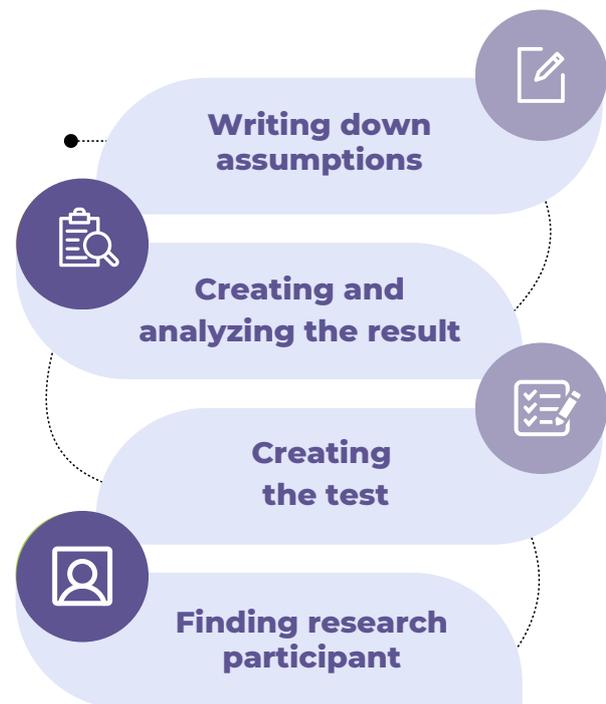


BudgetWatch

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#iPledge2vote(Voters' Activation Project)

#iPledge2vote envisages a renewed and reignition of voters' interest through behavioural change, mobilisation, and increasing and sustaining citizens voting participation to strengthen Nigeria's democracy.

- Engaged Community Voters Activators who gave voter education to citizens
- Assisted in the registration of over 10000 new registrants in Lagos and FCT
- Activated over 22000 citizens for the 2023 election
- The all-round community-level campaign, addressing all voting barriers, provides citizens with on-the-go information



Voters Activation Project will also use her I Pledge to Vote campaign to mobilise youth networks, students, social groups, individuals, institutions, businesses, and organisational entities to perform their civic responsibility of voting in every election. All these activities aim to increase voter turnout to challenge agelong voter apathy in the Nigeria election cycle.



#CEEP(Citizen Election Education Project)

#CEEP is driving voter education centered around strategic behavioural change to combat election malpractice behaviour, such as issues of vote buying and selling, election thuggery, and introducing acceptable election behaviour. We have worked in Abuja, Lagos, and surrounding states to;



- Sensitise and educate citizens at the grassroots on electoral systems and processes
- Equip citizens with the information needed for a successful vote casting
- Reach out to marginalised communities as a way of inclusion in the governance process

We aspire to have improved citizen electoral behaviour and conduct at polling units and an improved democratic system as citizens would be allowed to exercise their right to vote (free and fair).





Photo Report



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2. INCLUSION AND LIVELIHOODS



Driving our vision to create a just and equitable society. This vision also includes leading an inclusive society where the rights of women, children and young people are exclusively delivered to them without any form of barrier and also building the capacity of each group of people with the ability to negotiate their rights. We see a just world as a place where people are not just served but participate in choosing how and what they are served. Activities that drive this thematic focus to be achieved include:



Women Upgrade

The Women Upgrade seeks to provide training and capacity development opportunities for low-income women in disadvantaged and marginalised communities, using the Gwagwalada Area council in Abuja FCT as a pilot location.

- We have incorporated sets of SDGs Accelerator and Recovery strategies to expedient learning on the SDGs as a tool for knowledge upgrade.
- These women undergo intensive life skill training that has equipped them with economic skills to thrive and become economically empowered.
- Developed their understanding of the SDGs and provided them with economic skills that can break the widened poverty gap
- Provision of a women's community hub that will have critical facilities needed to equip women with sustainable skills that provide them with a source of livelihood pursuant to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8,10, 13 and 16



We look forward to ensuring that the poverty gap experienced by women in developing communities is bridged by providing them with continuously upgraded skills that will help them establish a sustainable source of income.



The Orange Project

This project seeks to address the increasing statistics of gender-based violence expressed in physical violence, sexual violence, child marriage, and other harmful practices like female genital mutilation over the years. We

- Conducted a survey using semi-structured questionnaires and captured feedback from local CSOs, Women's rights groups, Faith-based organisations, and some members of the public over some time.
- Conducted a Community Level Data Mining to assess the knowledge about Gender-Based violence and existing laws, policies and state action plans in ending violence against women and girls in local communities within the Federal Capital Territory,
- Held an in-house training for the 20 Field volunteers
- Prepared a practical training guide for the 100 GBV Champions to ensure the project outcome was achieved. 30 communities in the 6 FCT Area Councils were mapped out for the training.
- 15-Days GBV Champions Training was held for 100 participants to strengthen their personal, organisational and technical capacities and support to design and implement advocacy programmes that will create awareness of the prevailing cases of Gender-Based Violence.
- Also hosted a training on laws, policies and action plans established to fight against violence against women and girls.



Global Goals Women Empowerment Support Initiative:

The Global Goals Women Empowerment Support Initiative aims to empower rural women and provide a safe space where they will interact, learn and mobilise resources to improve their overall living conditions.

- Brought together vulnerable women who share similar challenges to share their stories while relying on available resources to gain economic skills and improve their lives.
- Built a network of rural women positioned to contribute meaningfully to their family and community development while becoming part of the decision-makers.
- To bring women together from the 6 geo-political zones into a community free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination commemorating IWD 2022.



This GGWESI Group will continue to serve as a platform for women to interact with each other monthly on issues that bother health, well-being, finance, and growth generally.





Post Covid-19 Women Economic Recovery Initiative:

The Post Covid-19 Women and Gender Economic Recovery Initiative seek to provide training and capacity development opportunities for low-income women in disadvantaged and marginalised communities, using the Gwagwalada Area council in Abuja FCT as a pilot location. The project has been able to

- Provide financial/economic literacy training that served as a Post Covid economic recovery plan.
- Intensive skill and personal development training that has helped them develop both their personal, social, and economic capacities.
- Facilitate training around crisis management, wealth creation, sexual reproductive rights/family planning, business development, bookkeeping and basic accounting, waste recycling, and up-scaling.



At the end of the training, we hope to provide these women with Seed Grants as support to help them start up their businesses or strengthen their existing ventures as a Post Covid-19 Economic Recovery Plan.





Photo Report





Education for Girls

The Girls back to school project with the theme "Education Empowers" is a campaign that advocates for the return of the girl child after the Pandemic ends and ensures that learning never stops for girls.



- We reached out to Religious leaders, Community leaders, Traditional heads, Youths, Journalists, Parents/guardians, Students, Teachers/Educators, Civil Society Members, Lawyers, and Policy Makers, amongst others, to join forces to prioritise the need of girls in education, such as radio, T.V. digital technology, mobile phones as well as books.
- Through a multi-approach campaign using offline and online mediums, we implemented the campaign in Abuja and Katsina; through Facebook and WhatsApp, we reached 3423 audiences using selected community groups.
- We also carried out a monthly Radio program and used radio reach analytics; the campaign message reached 989,173 listeners through a series of Focus group discussions.
- We had 1000 community stakeholders, including traditional leaders, religious leaders, parents, teachers, and policymakers.





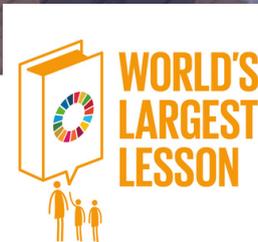
3. DOMESTICATION AND ACTION FOR THE SDGs



As we race towards the 2030 deadline, we aim to create a web of social change makers from all parts of Nigeria who will be empowered individually as well as collectively to drive actions that will;

- See to the implementation of the SDGs in a personal way.
- Pressure the policymakers at all levels to implement the SDGs.
- Monitor all projects and demand accountability from the leadership on them.

As a way of achieving the 17 SDGs, the following activities have been implemented:



SDGs Activation

With support from the World's Largest Lesson (WLL), whose vision is to take Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to classrooms all over the world, we have implemented the SDGs Activation with the following achievement:



- The Students Activation reached 1,827 schools in 1,702 communities.
- We organised 3,357 community town hall meetings, religious partnerships, and community outreaches.
- We advocated for the inclusion of sustainable development goals education into the national education curriculum.
- We collected 700,000 students' signatures through our pledge cards/registers.
- Convene a 500 delegates capacity stakeholders' summit with the office of the president on SDGs and education ministry with the support of WLL.

Building on this over-reaching goal, DEAN Initiative, through a partnership with World's Largest Lesson UK, proceeds on a 5 years project plan, the single largest local action mobilisation.





SDGsStory Summit

The National Youth SDGsStory Summit annually mobilises the largest local action for the sustainable implementation of the Global Goals in Nigeria through effective collaboration among CSOs, youth networks and influential policymakers coming together for intentional dialogue and partnerships.



- Mobilisation of the largest local action for the sustainable implementation of the Global Goals in Nigeria through effective collaboration among CSOs, youth, and the legislature.
- The creation of the Annual SDGs Story Summit brings young people together using targeted themes to showcase the critical roles that young people play in a nation's development.

Ahead of the 2030 agenda, DEAN, through this annual summit, aims to mobilise the largest youth network that has developed the capacity and knowledge to integrate the sustainable development agenda into the development policy and plan of Nigeria and support the government to mainstream sustainable actions across the different sectors of governance.





Photo Report

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Global Goals Community Centre

SDGs Goalkeepers Hub is designed to take development innovation to the people. Located in Gwagwalada in close proximity to the University of Abuja mini campus, GGCC is the first community-based SDGs innovation hub in Nigeria, providing all-round ideas hibernation and resource connectivity to young people and women at the grassroots level. The centre provides a daily 14 hours electricity supply to the users and connects them to internet access while shaping their ideas through technology and mentoring to address specific SDGs that affect their immediate environments.

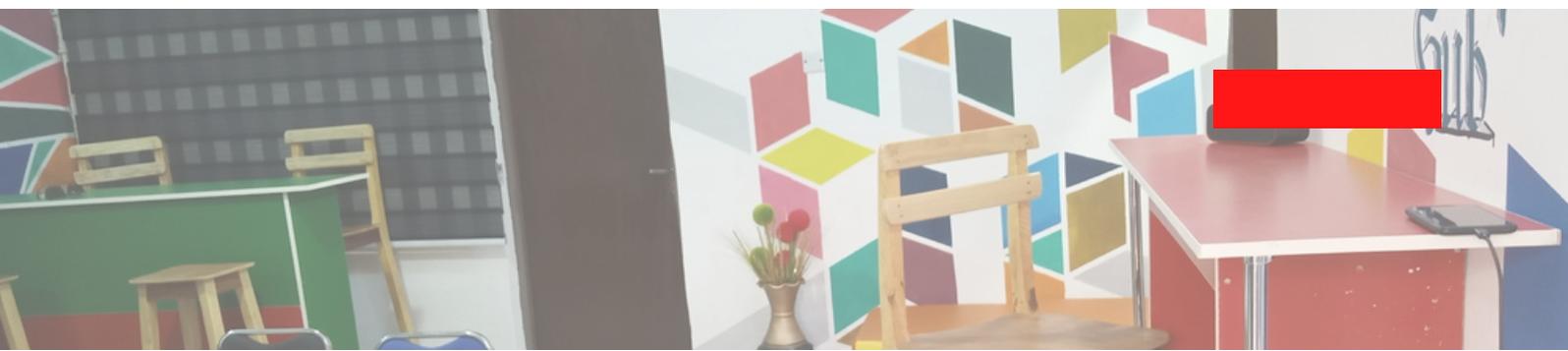


Proximity to the University

Because of the amount of research work and community intervention practices the center engages in, GGCC supports student and development experts' research in daily SDGs global reports and references.



We are working to increase the facilities in the centre to be moderately equipped with a digital audiovisual data studio with a complete online dashboard web porter that will collaborate with key stakeholders to mine targeted SDGs data sets while harnessing the grassroots reach of our national volunteers' network to fact-check community-based data around project implementation.





Global Goals Community Centre

Sounds and Sites of the Center

- **The Goalkeepers' Hub:** A 20-user capacity workstation for students, young people and techpreneurs to bridge the gap of workspace challenges this set of young people face that stage barrier to practise and launch their innovations.
- **SDGs Resource Center(Library):** The Hajia Amina Mohammed SDGs Resource Centre is a mini library that collects and stores development focus books that support students' research and development experts in their research and academic works.
- **SDGs Community Story Studio:** This is an in-house studio that documents and amplifies the SDGs action drive by young people in video and photo documentaries
- **Zero Hunger Kitchen:** It is a kitchen that promotes zero hunger and responsible consumption.
- **Ideation Room:** provide opportunities for Hub users to host business meetings, strategy and design sessions, and ideate for brighter innovation projection.
- **SDGs Art Wall:** Beautification part of the centre that uses art to describe and express the connectivity of the SDGs to our being.
- **Outdoor Work-station:** An extension of the Goalkeepers Hub, but an outdoor experience.



Photo Report





Climate Education - SDG 13

The National action day for climate education

The National action day for climate education is a movement that advocates for the inclusion of climate education in the Nigerian Educational Curriculum. DEAN facilitated a lot of activities, including:



- Held a campaign designed to strategically address the exacerbating climate emergencies that have continued to affect millions of people within our communities, especially young people and children whose future stands on the brink.
- A strategic consultation meeting was held at the Department of Climate Change Federal Ministry of Environment, and a climate change education policy webinar.
- The national action day was rounded up with a press conference held in Abuja, with several media stations in attendance.

- Engaged in state-level actions- Radio talks, focused group discussions, government visits, and social media campaigns using hashtag #ClimateEducationNow.
- Engaged volunteers who were well-trained on climate matters.





SDGs 3&6 (Hygiene &Me, Hygiene Quest) Hygiene and Me

The covid-19 pandemic revealed the total collapse of hygiene and sanitation facilities across public institutions in Nigeria; the lack of access to clean and affordable WASH facilities further increases the vulnerability of most Nigerians to the virus and other hygiene and sanitation-related diseases. Through our Wash Naija project, Dean Initiative



- Launched a research study to understand the impact of lack of access to clean and affordable WASH facilities on the Education of children in public schools and underserved communities.
- The Pilot research was launched in Lagos State.
- We carried out research in 30 schools across 5 LGAs and collected genuine and verified data on the impact of poor hygiene and sanitation facilities on children's learning success.
- The research project resulted in teaching 1363 students aged 6/10yrs old at 15 schools.
- We engaged 30 volunteers "champions" who delivered Hygiene and Me lessons using well-curated lesson materials.

We aim to provide simple basic WASH facilities to improve children's learning and retention ability and overall well-being and health.



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Hygiene Quest

Hygiene Education



The Hygiene Quest project consolidated the result achieved through the Hygiene and Me Campaign implemented between May and June 2021.



- For the project's second phase, the target was a total coverage of the 20LGAs in Lagos State.
- Building on the short-term result of the research project, the Hygiene Quest Project was launched between September and October 2021.
- The Hygiene Activation was done in 200 schools. We worked with 200 volunteers to provide Hygiene Education to 85,888 children across Lagos State in six days.





Photo Report



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4. YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT



The gathering of young Non-profit operators to learn the art of Organisational Growth Systems, Developing Fundable Projects, Engaging Funding Organisations, Networking, and Proposal/Report Writing.

- #NGO-Connect
- Youth Skill Upgrade
- Internship
- National Volunteer Network



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The Academy(NGO-Connect)

A vast capacity gap has consistently undermined the passion of young people to serve Nigeria through civic space. Capacity around project design, reporting, implementation, fundraising, and general organisational management has continued to be a challenge these young people still need help with. The Academy was designed to bridge these gaps and to provide leadership training for built civic leaders to develop all-round capacities to deliver excellent results. We have:

- Held an annual academy session for 50 participants annually.
- Provided mentoring, networking and funding exposure for participants.
- Served as a hub for youth civic leadership collaboration and partnership.



We would continue to help bridge the gap of capacity deficit among young citizens and leaders at the grassroots.





Youth Skill Upgrade

Challenging the shortage of modern-day work skill sets deficit among young people at the community level to access opportunities, this scheme was introduced to facilitate young people's needed job skills, build their capacity and peer them with skill development mentors that can advance their opportunities. We have;

- Trained 70 youths as beneficiaries of this initiative.
- Peered several community-level youths with mentors.
- Bridged the job skill gap by building capacity around communication, interpersonal relationship, tech skills, writing, and entrepreneurial skill, among others.



We want to continue to devise means of working with young people to enhance their skill sets, building them for global opportunity while ensuring the solutions they co-create are homegrown and can be domesticated.



Internship

DEAN Initiative created this on-the-job learning skill development opportunity to strengthen our existing skill and opportunity development programmes. The internship project aims to create work experience and build qualified youths that would give expert work delivery to their community of work interest.

Through this Internship Programme, DEAN has:

- Impacted 25 Graduates and 20 Undergraduates in their field of study and other development-related fields.
- Provided work tools for the easy practice of Training and Learning.
- Helped to access Scholarship opportunities nationally and internationally.





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National Volunteer Network

In 2017, DEAN started building a national volunteer network to enhance the culture of community service delivery and provide young people nationwide with a platform to identify and deploy their youth power to positive use. In 2019, the network grew and had a presence in every state of the federation, including the FCT. The national membership grew within this space of time from 15 at the start to over 5000 in that space of two years. Through the national youth network, We have

- Held National SDGs Activation in 625 local governments, 1827 Schools, in 1702 communities and worked with over 5000 volunteers.
- Hosted 3357 community Town hall meetings to educate citizens on climate actions, gender-based violence and community action for SDGs.
- Served as implementing partners with organisations needing volunteers to implement their projects nationwide at state and local government levels.
- Built the capacity of these volunteers to improve skills around governance, leadership and SDGs.



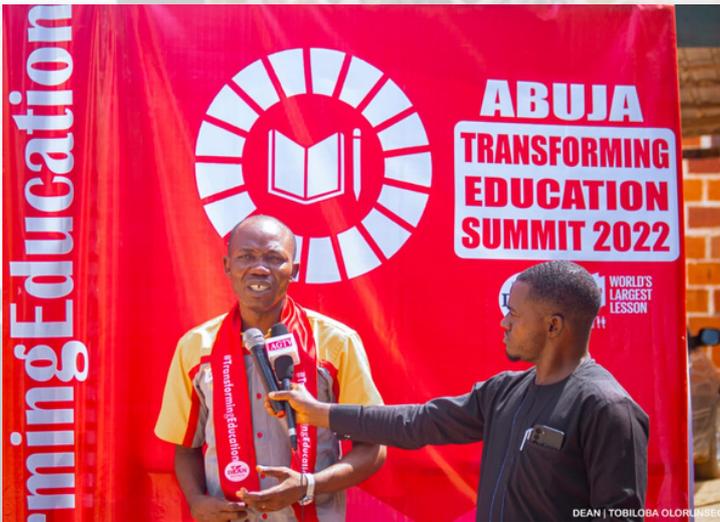
- Our community volunteers have grown to become advocates and activists for pressing issues in their communities.







Photo Report





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FUNDRAISING STRATEGY



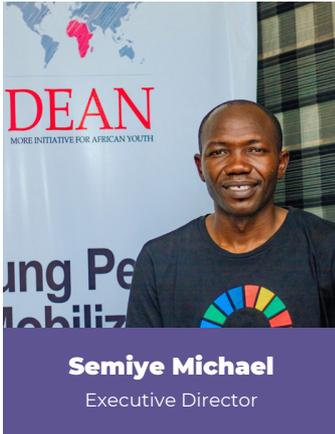
Grants: Project proposals that align with the objectives of the DEAN initiative are created periodically. This is usually the foundation for funding requests submitted to prospective donors. The funding modality for each project is usually concise and precise to ensure independence, transparency, accountability, and efficient financial reporting.

Partnership: to improve cost-effectiveness and strengthen the eligibility of grants from donors, we have leveraged partnerships with other NGOs and private bodies as a strong drive that has facilitated knowledge sharing.

Sustainable financing options: hope to wean down on aid support for its SDGs projects as the organisation is creatively considering ways of generating income to cover the operational program cost of running the organisation.

OUR SUPER TEAM

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OUR SUPER TEAM

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