



2023

ANNUAL

REPORT



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Message from the founder

Onyinyechi Ough

In 2023, Step Up Nigeria turned five years old and it was yet another remarkable year for the organization. Over the past five years, we have trained more than 50,000 children and raised more than 5,000 anti-corruption champions among young people. It is always a pleasure to see the number of anti-corruption champions growing within the Step-Up Nigeria community.

In 2023, we continued our mission of creating a future society with the values needed to lead with integrity and provide the much-needed society that Nigeria needs. We continued to empower children by giving them a voice and, in our quest for sustainability, we trained teachers on how to teach anti-corruption values. We worked with policymakers to sustain the teaching of anti-corruption values in the curriculum and partnered with schools to build a future of integrity. We also produced new content to build anti-corruption knowledge among young people. We launched a new animated series called “Tosin’s Story,” produced a virtual reality film titled “Abike’s Story,” and developed an anti-corruption board game for families.



We continued to empower children by giving them a voice and, in our quest for sustainability, we trained teachers on how to teach anti-corruption values.



Additionally, we facilitated the provision of grant financing to three sub-grantees. We partnered with the organisations working on improving access to education in poor and marginalized communities. It was a great pleasure to work with Knisk, Not Forgotten Initiative and Illmi Children'Fund.

All this work would not have been possible without the passionate, committed, and hardworking Step Up Nigeria team. We are also grateful to our Board and donor partners, most especially the MacArthur Foundation and USAID/Palladium, for their continued advice and support in empowering young Nigerians with the right values. We hope to sustain and continue these initiatives in 2024. Thank you, and best wishes.

Onyinyechi Ough

About Step Up Nigeria



At Step Up Nigeria, we are building bridges between government and citizens to tackle corruption and improve service delivery in Nigeria. Through a storytelling approach and using innovative and creative tools, we are building a community of anti-corruption champions who will shun corruption and act with integrity; while encouraging others to do the same.

OUR CORE VALUES



Integrity



Accountability



Citizen-focused



Transparency



Result-focused



Embracing new
technology and
platforms

VISION

To ensure Nigeria's socio-economic development is not held back by corruption and poor governance.

MISSION

To promote citizens' engagement in tackling corruption and improve the delivery of public goods and services.

OBJECTIVES

To stimulate public awareness on topical issues in the area of tackling corruption and improving the delivery of public goods and services

To help to create spaces for citizen engagement in the fight against corruption and improvements in service delivery

To educate Nigerians on the ills of corruption and how to tackle corruption

To provide linkages between government and citizens to work collaboratively in tackling corruption and service delivery



OUR STRATEGY

1

Building Social Accountability

Using Social Accountability actions to tackle corruption and improve service delivery.

2

Evidence Based Research

Using Social Accountability actions to tackle corruption and improve service delivery.

3

Communicating

Communicating with impact to influence good governance processes using creative approaches

4

Developing a Membership Base

Connecting local communities and urban elites in the fight against corruption.





OUR INITIATIVES





CATCH THEM YOUNG INITIATIVE

Fighting corruption should start with teaching our children about integrity. The Catch Them Young Initiative (CYI) is a program that aims to prevent corruption by providing integrity education to the younger generation of leaders. Our primary approach is to use storytelling to educate young people about anti-corruption, with a particular focus on children. We have identified seven broad areas under this initiative, which are shown below:

- Young Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (YACCI)
- Teachers' Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (TACCI)
- Parents Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (PACCI)
- Government Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (GACCI)
- Step Up Nigeria Integrity Certification Program (SICP)
- Institutionalizing Anti-Corruption Education in Schools (IAE)
- Integrity Hotline
- Anti-Corruption Star Awards

Our aim is to vaccinate the next generation of leaders against corruption by educating them about integrity and anti-corruption from an early age.

Young Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (YACCI)

YACCI trains children on the negative impact of corruption and the benefits of having integrity using storytelling approaches. It is creating a group of young people who are interested or have made commitments to tackle corruption & promote integrity within their classrooms, schools, or communities.

In 2023, we trained 5,790 children on how to act against corruption through participatory book reading, film screening and book dissemination sessions. Of this number, 1,009 children were out of school and 328 were children living with disabilities. We donated 5,767 free anti-corruption storybooks directly to schools and children in Lagos, Nasarawa, and FCT children.

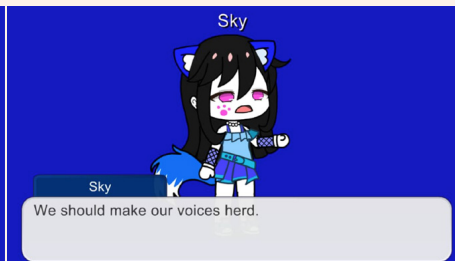
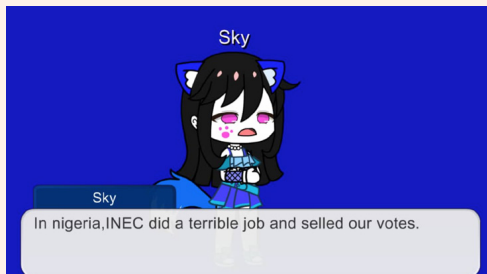


In 2023, Step Up Nigeria provided anti-corruption training and **tools to 2,594 girls and 3,196 boys** including **1,009 children who are out of school and 328 children** with disabilities.

Integrity Hotline

The Integrity Hotline remains a vital platform for children to report their anti-corruption efforts and share creative ways they've inspired others to do what's right—be it through stories, drawings, poems, or drama. We've received 109+ calls/messages from children across our project states; Abuja, Nasarawa, Lagos, and over ten unique expressions of creativity. In cases of sensitive reports, we've collaborated with established agencies to provide the necessary support.

Through the hotline, we have empowered children to take a stand, champion integrity, and reject corruption.



I learn that we should not sell our vote ,i also learn that will should not promise what we cannot fufil and we should stand up no matter what

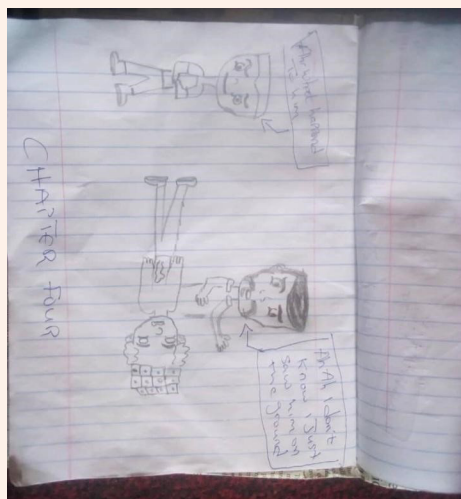
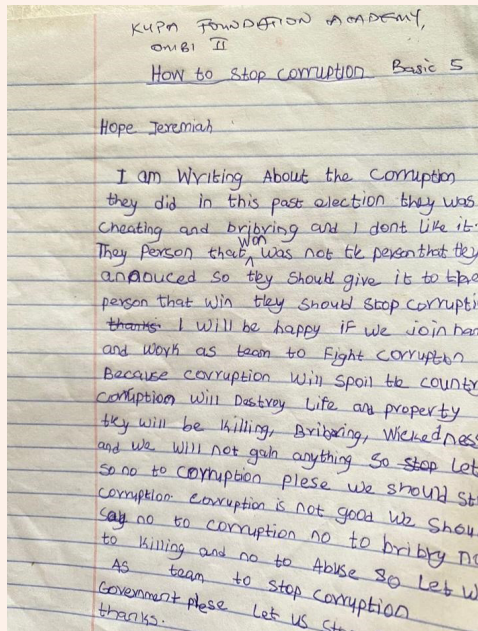
I oluwafemi sikemi had fought many thing on corruption like a boy in our class who steal money from his mummy she came to report to the school and they called the boy and he lied on our class but i stand for our class

How I plan to fight corruption in my own way.

- A.) I will promote awareness and take actions to contribute to the fight against corruption.
- B.) I will educate others on the negative effect of corruption in the society.
- C.) I will Lead by example and practice honestly, fairness and Integrity.
- D.) I will Speak up against corruption.
- E.) Support anti-corruption organizations.
- F.) Spread awareness.

I know that even small actions can make a difference by starting early as a child and taking a stand against corruption. I can help build a more transparent and just society for the future.

19:26



Good evening, my name is Gamaliel Zacks, I am in primary 4 from Springfield Oasis Montessori Academy. Today being 23rd of May 2023 miss Gina and some of her colleagues visited our school and spoke to us about corruption. And I have a speech to share about corruption.

SPEECH ABOUT CORRUPTION.

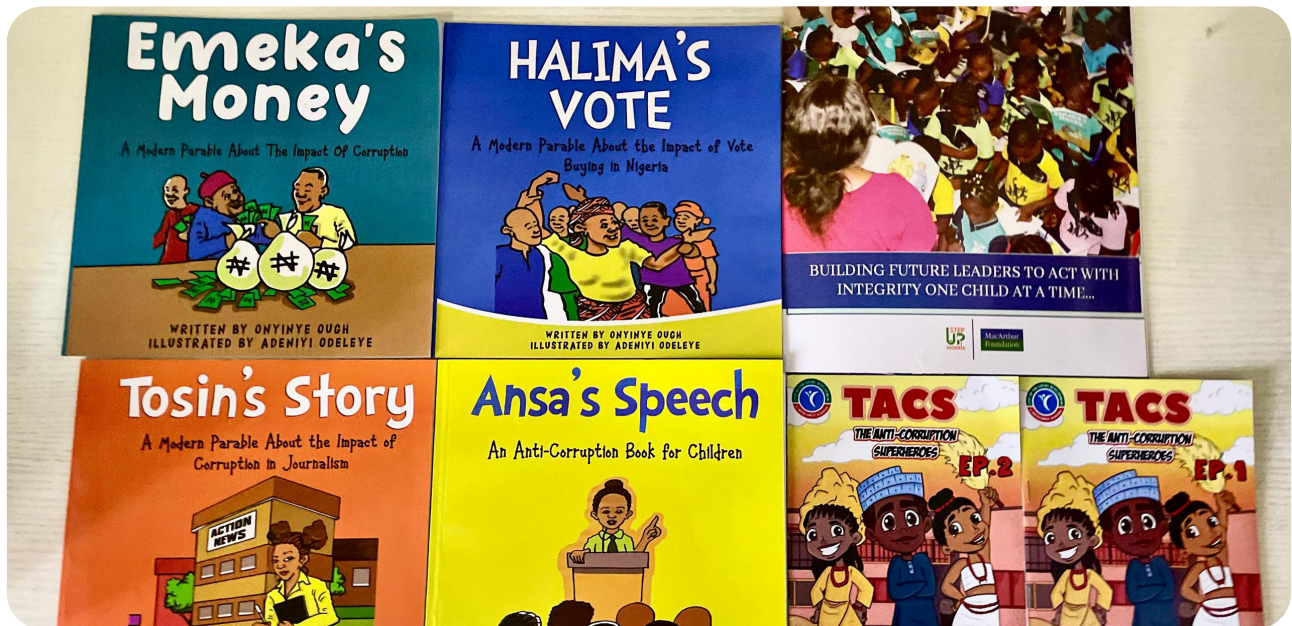
Corruption is a term that refers to the abuse of public power for private gain. It can be something as simple as taking bribes not to report a crime or as serious as human trafficking. Corruption is also the misuse of power for personal gain. It can take many forms, such as bribery, embezzlement, influence, peddling, nepotism and patronage. Corruption undermines good governance, ethical values and public trust. The heights of corruption have reached a great extent where there are no proper laws to bring these corrupt people to justice. Because of the highly corrupt people who would do anything for money, it has become very difficult for the common man or the righteous to survive. Corruption is a serious issue that has many effects, it can have a negative impact on society and the economy which can lead to poverty, unemployment and hunger. Corruption can also lead to the violation of human rights including the freedom of speech and expression. THANKS.

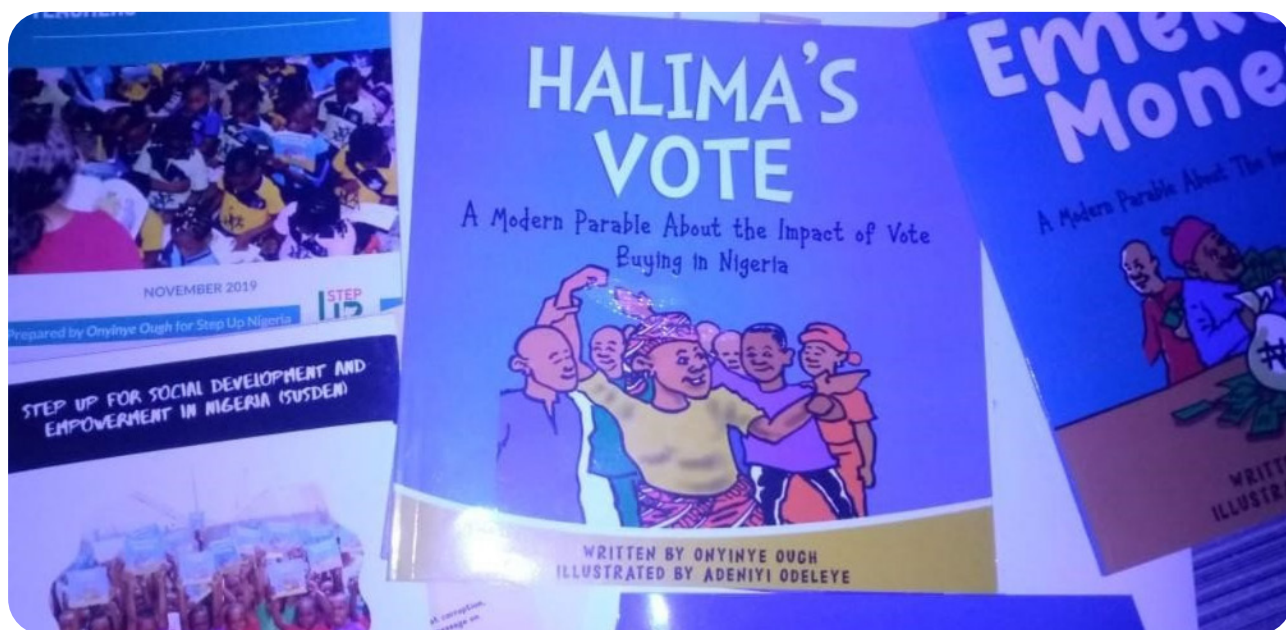
Teacher Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (TACCI)

Teachers play a significant role in the fight against corruption, and our focus is on collaborating with them to shape a generation of children who stand firm against corruption. TACCI is dedicated to training teachers in delivering engaging and creative anti-corruption and integrity lessons. Additionally, we aim to foster a community of educators passionate about integrating anti-corruption education into schools.

In 2023, we successfully trained 301 classroom teachers across our project states—Lagos, Imo, Nasarawa, FCT, as well as other states like Kaduna, Kano, Kwara, Kogi, Oyo, Ekiti, Rivers, and Benue. These teachers are now equipped to impart anti-corruption lessons using innovative methods. Since the launch of this initiative, we have trained 1,110 teachers, consistently advancing our mission to bring anti-corruption education into classrooms.

Teachers trained have started integrating anti-corruption education into classroom teaching in Civic Education, Social Studies, Safety Education, and other subjects. They've also launched clubs and mini-sessions in their schools to educate children on anti-corruption values.

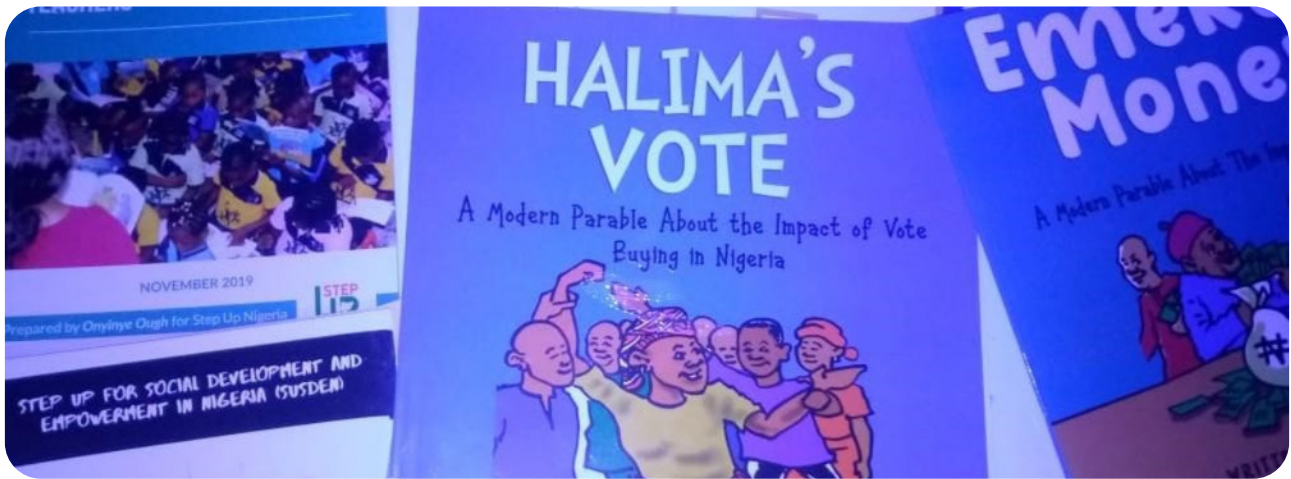




A 2023 Trained Teacher received an award during the 2023 annual anti-corruption awards ceremony for taking actions to integrate anti-corruption values into her teaching.

Parents Anti-Corruption Champions Initiative (PACCI)

As part of our comprehensive approach to catching the children young, we extend the teaching of anti-corruption education beyond schools and into Nigerian homes by building a collective of parents to promote anti-corruption values at home. In 2023, Step Up Nigeria sensitised 345 parents on ways to teach anti-corruption values in their homes and communities.



Parents in a sensitization session in Abuja



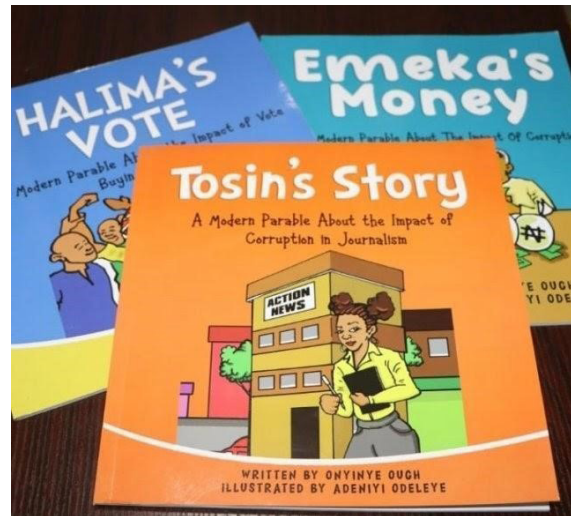
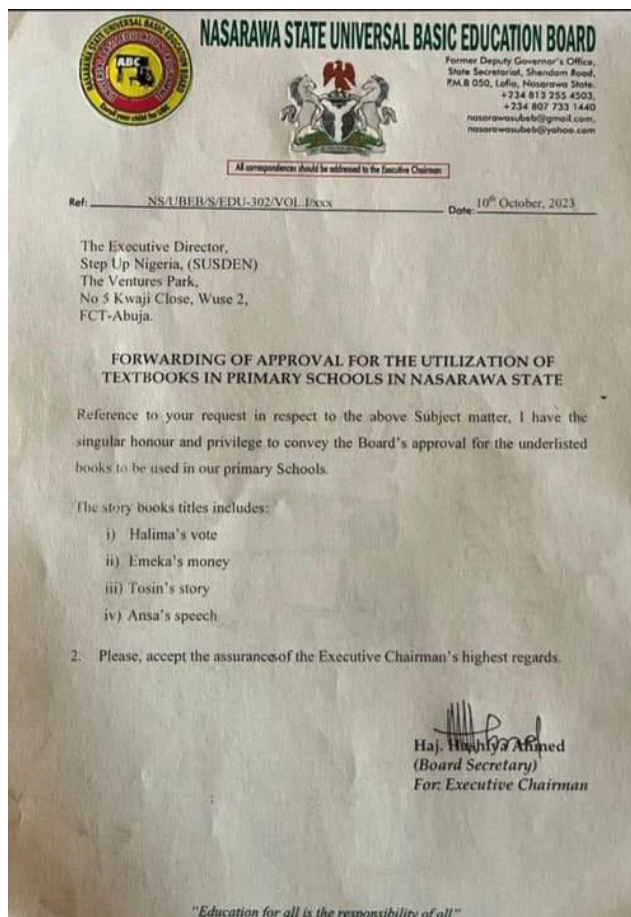
Parents in a sensitization session in Lagos

Institutionalising Anti-corruption Education in Schools (IAE)

We continued advocating for the integration of our storytelling tools into the civic education curriculum for primary and junior secondary schools, at both the Federal and state levels. As a result of our partnership with the Nasarawa State Universal Basic Education Board (NSUBEB), all four of Step-Up Nigeria's Anti-Corruption Storybooks have been approved and designated as recommended texts for primary schools. Similarly, the Edo State Ministry of Education has endorsed Halima's Vote Storybook as essential literature for lower-basic schools, which reinforces our commitment to promoting anti-corruption education in schools across Nigeria.

Step Up Nigeria's Partnership with the Association for Formidable Education Development (AFED) has seamlessly integrated anti-corruption education into the scheme of work of over 15,000 low-cost private schools in 2022. As we transition into 2023, AFED-affiliated schools have pledged to continue teaching anti-corruption education, and over 700 books and workbooks have been purchased for use in their schools.





Letter of Approval from the Nasarawa State Universal Education Board

In 2023, all four of Step Up Nigeria's Anti-Corruption Storybooks were approved as recommended texts for schools by the Nasarawa State Universal Basic Education Board

Step Up Integrity Certification Program (SICP)

The Step-Up Nigeria Integrity Certification Programme (SICP) is an initiative created to recognise schools that have put standard measures in place to mitigate against academic and admissions dishonesty. Through this programme, Step Up Nigeria continues to support interested schools with technical assistance to strengthen their integrity measures. The program promotes a culture of integrity in schools.

In 2023, 115 schools expressed interest to join the program. Out of these, 56 schools completed the process. This included expressing interest after a briefing session, going through a validation exercise in their schools, attending an integrity clinic to improve their policies, and making concrete plans to put these policies into action. Step Up Nigeria has certified these schools across our project states; Nasarawa, Lagos, and Abuja as having high integrity standards.



Representatives of schools during the integrity clinic in Abuja



Certified schools receiving their certificate during the 4th annual awards ceremony

Partnership with Stakeholders

- We have achieved significant milestones in our efforts to promote anti-corruption education in Nigeria, in collaboration with various government bodies, NGOs, and private organizations. Our achievements include:(use infographics to illustrate this):
- Obtaining approval from the Nasarawa State Universal Basic Education Board for the integration of four anti-corruption storybooks into lower primary schools in the state.
- Partnering with the United Nations Nigeria to showcase our films to children at the 75th-anniversary event on Human Rights at the Embassy of Brazil.
- Collaborating with the Children of Africa Values Development Initiative (CALDEV) for the National Children Conference to educate parents and students on the negative impact of corruption and how to take actions against it.
- Pioneering the development of a manual and handbook for moral reorientation in Nigeria's Basic Education, in conjunction with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), with a focus on the seamless integration of anti-corruption education in schools.
- Securing approval from the FCT Universal Education Board to sensitise parents in public schools on promoting anti-corruption values at home.
- Inaugurating more anti-corruption clubs in schools through partnerships with the ICPC in Lagos and Abuja.
- Successfully integrating anti-corruption education into the curriculum in Lagos, in partnership with the Curriculum Services Department.
- Gaining approval from the Edo State Ministry of Education for Halima's Vote to be used as recommended literature in lower primary schools, through our partnership with the Edo State Government on the Edo Book festival.

- Institutionalising anti-corruption education in all 15000 low cost private schools under the Association for Formidable Educational Development (AFED) across the country through the purchase of our storybooks and workbooks, giving millions of children access to learning about fighting corruption.
- Successfully premiering our animated film, Tosin Story, on May 3rd, in collaboration with Pineapple TV, to commemorate World Press Freedom Day.
Continuing to work with our government partners to educate children living in correctional and disability facilities.



Launch of Tosin's Story Animated Film

On May 3rd, 2023, to commemorate World Press Freedom Day, we premiered an animated film titled "Tosin's Story". The film was produced in collaboration with Basement Animation, one of Africa's fast-rising animation studios, and was funded by the MacArthur Foundation.

"Tosin's Story" is an adaptation of the book by Onyinye Ough, which focuses on the impact of corruption in journalism. It aims to teach children aged 9 to 15 about how corruption undermines the coverage of important issues and how investigative journalists with integrity and courage can make a difference. The film also encourages young people to turn away from a "culture of brown envelope" and be willing to speak out to make a difference.

We partnered with Pineapple's TV to premiere the film on YouTube, and it has garnered over 6.7k views so far.





Anti-Corruption Star (ACS) Awards

The ACS awards identified outstanding anti-corruption champions within our programs who have taken extra steps to educate, campaign or change behaviours which enable corruption to thrive. These champions are children, teachers, schools, parents, youths, and government stakeholders whom we have trained, sensitised or participated in our behavioural change initiatives.

On December 1st 2023, we held the fourth Anti-Corruption Star Awards Ceremony, with ten winners emerging in 9 categories.



Stories of Change

How anti-corruption education is enabling behavioural change against corrupt behaviors in targeted communities.

Young Anti-Corruption Star (Junior Category) Winner

- Ekong Mary John

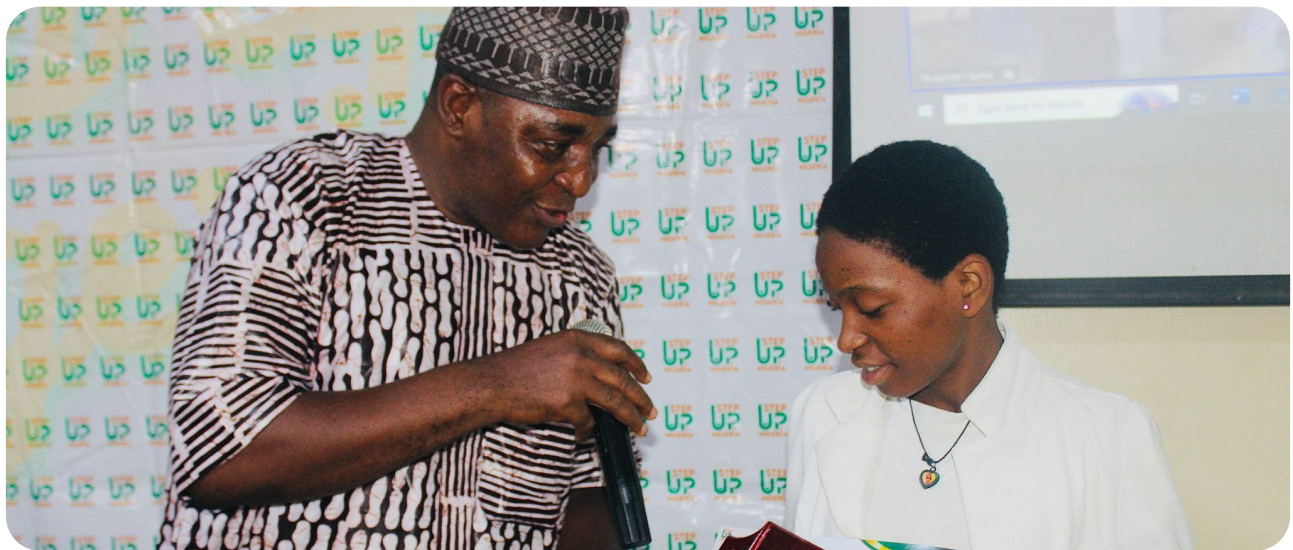
Just before the general election, Mary and her classmates participated in an interactive session with “Halima’s Vote”. The story had a profound impact on Mary, making her realise that campaign promises on TV were like the empty assurances made by the Governor character in the story. This realisation motivated her to act. With determination and a clear message, she created a bold poster that said “STOP VOTE SELLING AND VOTE BUYING” to challenge electoral malpractices in her community. Mary didn’t stop at posters; she also upheld integrity in her school. During an exam, when she saw a classmate and a teacher involved in cheating, she reported it to the school authorities, which resulted in the teacher’s dismissal. This action was confirmed by her school principal, teacher, and classmates.



Young Anti-Corruption Star (Senior Category) Winner

- Omano Esther

Esther, a fourteen-year-old student from a school in Ajegunle, a slum area, has become a symbol of integrity after participating in Step Up Nigeria's teachings during an interactive session at her school. Despite living in a world that is often tainted by corruption, Esther chose not to follow the trend of remaining silent against corrupt behaviours. One day, while at her mother's office, she witnessed a job applicant attempting to bribe his way into the position with the recruiters. Thanks to the lessons she had learned, Esther bravely approached her mother and urged her to report the incident to the authorities. She emphasized the importance of adhering to due process and considering all candidates based on their qualifications alone. Esther knew that if the incident went unreported, the applicant would get the job ahead of others who were more deserving. Esther reminded her mother of the teachings of Step-Up Nigeria and stressed the importance of fairness. Her words were not just empty talk; they were a moral force that inspired her mother to choose transparency and merit over bribery. Esther's story serves as a beacon of moral strength, demonstrating how knowledge empowers us to make the right choices in a corrupt world.



“Esther’s mother, moved by her daughter’s conviction, chose transparency and merit over bribery”

Young Anti-Corruption Star (Out of School Category) Winner

- Aminu Imam Mahmud

Aminu is a 19-year-old young man who hasn't had the opportunity to receive formal education. He attends an Almajiri centre where he receives Islamic education and resides with his teacher. His routine involves attending the centre from Monday to Wednesday, while he spends Thursday and Friday on the streets, either begging for food or engaging in small jobs to sustain himself. The Step-Up Nigeria team visited Aminu's Al-majiri centre in November of the previous year. They took the initiative to educate him about the significance of not trading his vote and the importance of selecting the right candidate during elections... This information was imparted to empower Aminu and his peers to make informed and responsible choices in the democratic process. When the 2023 general election arrived, an aspiring politician paid a visit to Aminu's centre with a variety of gifts, including money and food supplies, as part of his campaign strategy. Despite the tempting offerings, Aminu took a principled stance. He not only refused the gifts but also inspired his fellow students to do the same. Instead of being swayed by material incentives, Aminu and his friends displayed a remarkable level of maturity by questioning the politician about his plans to address the challenges they faced.



“ Putting her knowledge into action, Lois initiated significant changes in her school by creating an anti-corruption club in the school, providing a platform for 35 students to engage with and understand anti-corruption values ”

Parent Anti-Corruption Star Winner

– Mrs Jennifer Joel Akwe

Mrs. Jennifer Mrs. Jennifer was inspired to take action against corruption after attending a briefing session organized by Step Up Nigeria in Lafia, Nigeria. The session was part of the Parent's Anti-Corruption Champion Initiative (PACCI), which aims to empower parents to teach their children about the importance of honesty, integrity, and accountability.

Mrs. Jennifer was particularly impressed by the session's focus on engaging children in anti-corruption activities. She felt that this was an important way to start building a culture of integrity from a young age. A week after the session, Mrs. Jennifer established an anti-corruption club for children in her community.

The club met once a week to discuss topics such as the definition of corruption, the different forms of corruption, and the importance of speaking out against corruption. The club was a success, and Mrs. Jennifer was proud of the children's enthusiasm and participation.

She was also surprised to see how much the children had learned about anti-corruption.



At one of the club's sessions, the children were able to identify and define anti-corruption values such as integrity, transparency, and accountability. Mrs. Jennifer was confident that the children in her club would grow up to be honest and ethical adults who would help to fight corruption in Nigeria. She is grateful for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these children and to contribute to the fight against corruption in her country.

“A week after the session, Mrs. Jennifer established an anti-corruption club for children in her community”

First-Time Voter Anti-Corruption Star Winner

– Ruth Jonathan

Ruth Jonathan We met a young woman named Ruth, who lives in Akeleku Sidi. She is dedicated to empowering women in her community to break free from the practice of selling their votes during elections. During a virtual reality session, Ruth bravely shared her own experiences of being prevented from voting in previous elections because she is a woman. She explained that women in her community were discriminated against because they were deemed uneducated and therefore unable to make informed decisions when voting. This injustice inspired Ruth to educate and mobilize women in her community to stand up against electoral malpractice. She spoke passionately about the negative impact of corruption on women's access to healthcare, education, and justice. Ruth's efforts paid off during the subsequent elections, where women were able to vote independently for the first time, without any external influence. This was a significant achievement, highlighting the power of information and collective action.



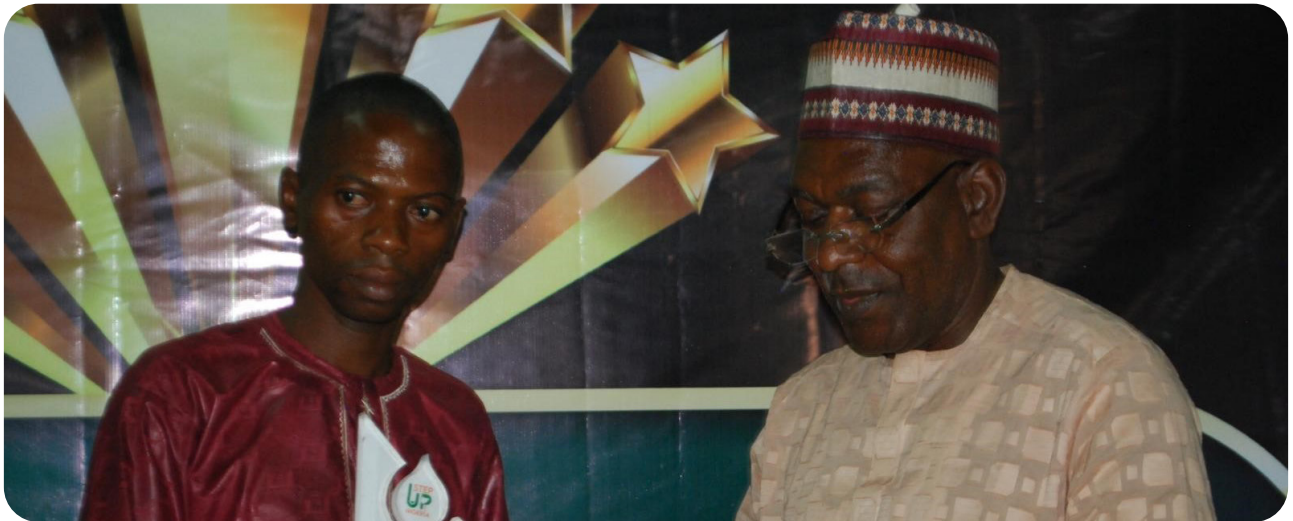
“Ruth’s efforts bore fruit during the 2023 elections, where, for the first time, women in her community were able to independently cast their votes without any external influence”

Community Anti-Corruption Star Winners

– Ajibola Nurudeen Akanbi and Clement Moses

Clement Moses is an active member of the Agunji community who participated in a virtual reality session organised by Step Up Nigeria. The session inspired him to act towards bringing transformative change to his community. He started a door-to-door campaign to facilitate dialogue between the community and their elected representatives. His efforts led to the restoration of essential amenities such as electricity and clean water.

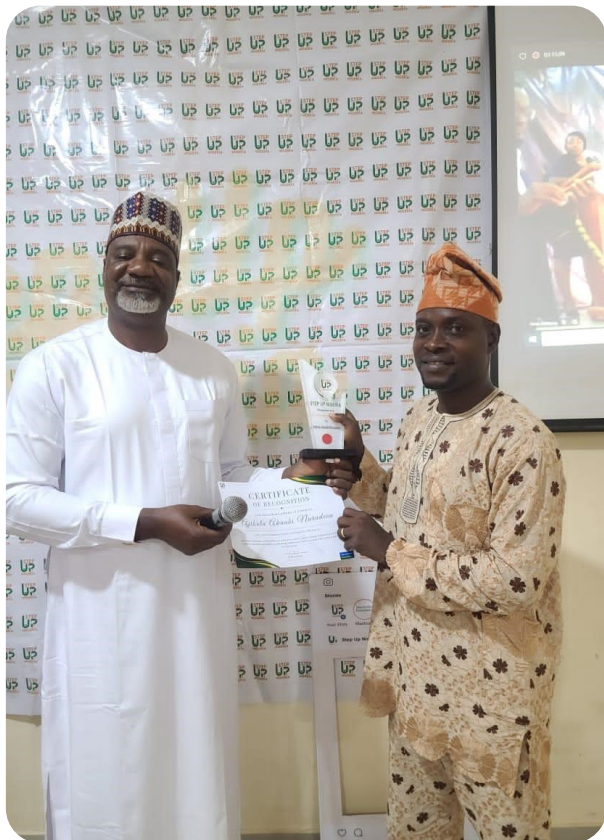
Clement's enthusiasm for change didn't stop there. He went on to educate various groups within Agunji, such as school children on integrity and responsible voting, and women's groups on anti-corruption songs. He also used his storytelling skills acquired from a bootcamp to guide first-time voters in educating neighbouring communities through engaging drama and art sessions. Clement's efforts emphasized the importance of informed electoral choices and discouraged vote-selling. His actions empowered communities with knowledge and fostered a culture of integrity in the electoral process.



“Clement led a door-to-door campaign in bridging the gap between the community and their elected representatives through town hall meetings in his community which led to the restoration of electricity and clean water in his community”

In the remote community of Mawere, Ajibola Akanbi is considered a beacon of community empowerment and visionary leadership. His journey began as the Community Facilitator for Mawere during the inaugural phase of the First-Time Voters Integrity Initiative (FTVII) and he became its strongest advocate from the outset. When the Step-Up Nigeria team introduced Ajibola to the vision and objectives of the project, he not only embraced it, but passionately championed its cause. He rallied executive members of the Mawere Community Development Association and key stakeholders behind the initiative and facilitated a 2-day Advocacy walk in his community, educating them against vote-selling ahead of the 2023 General Elections. Ajibola's commitment did not stop at persuasion; he assumed a pivotal role in the meticulous planning and execution of the project within his community.

As the secretary to the community development association (CDA), he ensured that there was a youth representative on the CDA, and that young people were allowed to speak during meetings. What sets Ajibola apart is not just his dedication but his commitment to inclusivity. He tirelessly fostered the participation of first-time voters (FTVs), particularly young women, from his community in all its activities.



“Ajibola facilitated a 2-day Advocacy walk in his community educating them against vote-selling ahead of the 2023 General Elections”

Special Dedication Award Winner

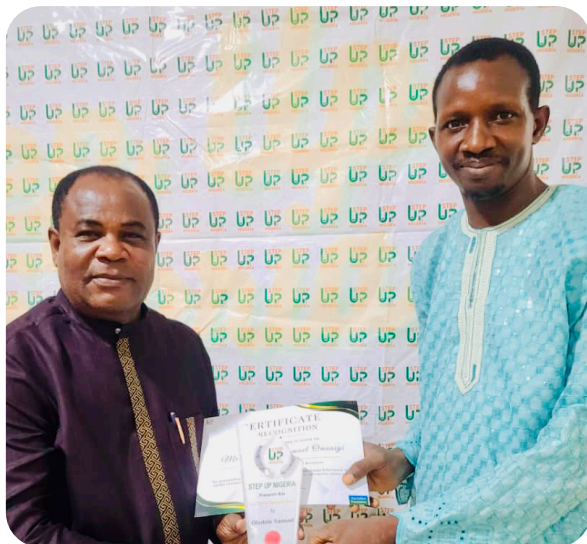
–Oladele Samuel

Mr. Oladele is the owner of Leading Lamps School and he participated in our anti-corruption training program that was specially designed for teachers. He encouraged his fellow educators from Leading Lamps School to join him in the training, and through their collective commitment, they were able to raise anti-corruption awareness within the school.

Leveraging the power of civic education, Mr. Oladele integrated anti-corruption principles into the curriculum. He also created a collection of anti-corruption storybooks that serve as a moral compass for the young minds of the school. In May 2023, the Step Up Nigeria team visited Mr. Oladele's school to monitor his teaching of anti-corruption education, using "Halima's Vote."

The results of his teaching were impressive. An analysis of evaluation sheets from the session revealed a remarkable 67% increase in the number of pupils who exhibited a strong understanding of corruption. Mr Oladele also wholeheartedly engaged in the school integrity certification program to foster an integrity-centred culture within Leading Lamps School.

Furthermore, Mr. Oladele has reached out to other schools, inviting them to join the movement for a corruption-free future by integrity certifying their schools. He is a true champion of anti-corruption education and tirelessly strives to nurture a generation that will lead with integrity.



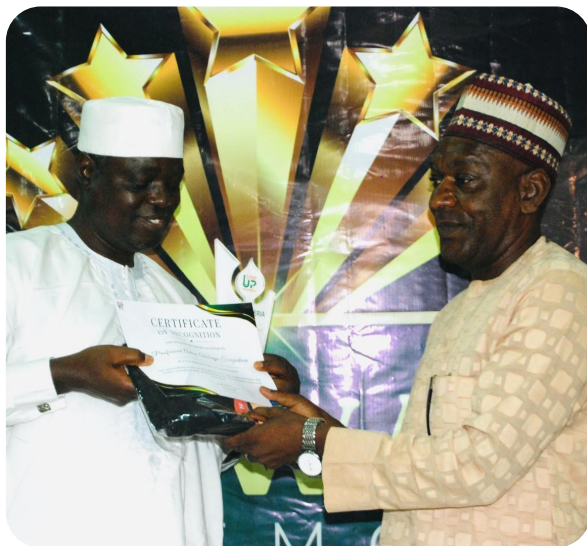
“The school’s library now boasts a collection of anti-corruption storybooks that serve as a moral compass for impressionable young minds”

Special Recognition Award Winner

- Professor Adam Adebayo

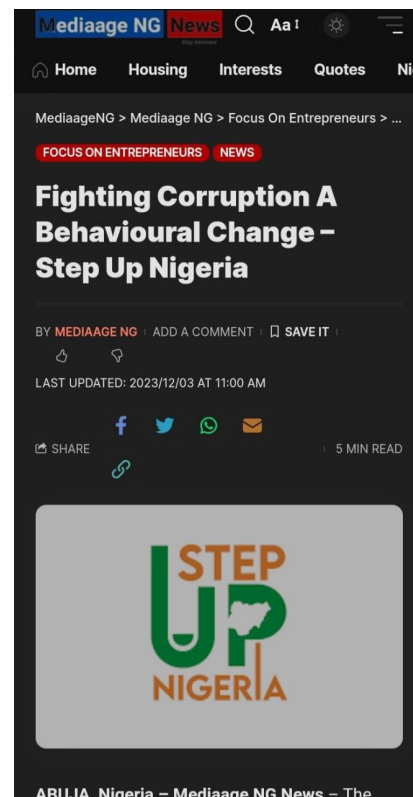
Professor Adam is an integral part of the Anti-corruption Committee at the esteemed Federal University, Lafia. He is committed to fighting corruption and demonstrated his active participation in a virtual reality session where he served as a panel discussant. During the session, Prof. Adam pledged to combat corruption and created an action plan outlining his intentions for meaningful change. Two months after the session, he put his promises into action and collaborated with the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) to officially inaugurate the commission's presence within the university. He also organized an orientation program dedicated to anti-corruption for both students and staff, highlighting the importance of education and awareness to instill a culture of integrity within the university community.

To support his efforts, he partnered with Servicom, a government agency focused on improving service delivery, and the Student Affairs body. This partnership aimed to establish an efficient mechanism for tracking and addressing any reports related to corrupt practices. Prof. Adam also initiated a comprehensive survey on the student-lecturer relationship within the institution, with the aim of eradicating any instances of sexual extortion or harassment. This demonstrates his commitment to fostering a safe and ethical environment for all members of the university.



“Prof. Adam initiated a comprehensive survey on the student-lecturer relationship within the institution, with the aim of combating any instances of sexual extortion or harassment”

Media Coverage Of Anti-Corruption Star (ACS) Awards





What have we achieved?

We have engaged

300

schools to teach children about
anti-corruption & integrity

5,790

children were trained on anti-corruption
values and how to act against it

5,767

Anti-corruption storybooks and
resources distributed to children
and schools.

301

teachers have been trained in teaching
children about anti-corruption & integrity
using interactive tools and approaches

345

parents have been trained to
imbibe anti-corruption values in
their children at home.

56

Schools have been supported to build
and promote a culture of integrity in their
schools.

What is changing?

1

Children trained are showing an increased understanding of the negative impact of corruption and the need to act with integrity

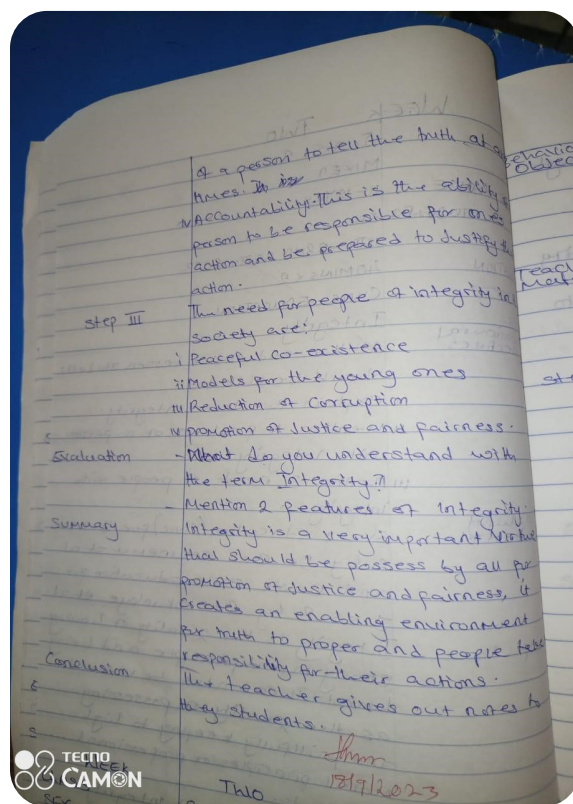
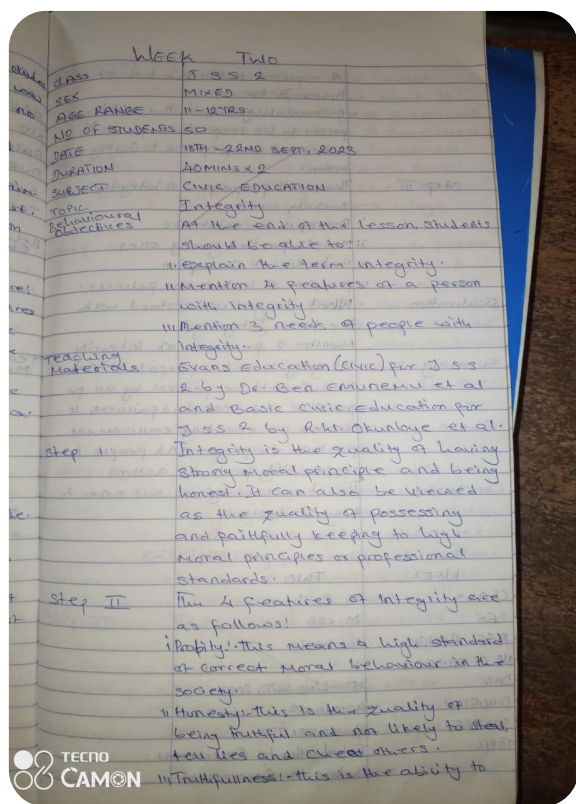
We have noticed a positive change in children's understanding of corruption and the importance of integrity through our engagement with them. Children who have received training from us have shown a greater commitment to fighting corruption in their communities.

We are pleased to have recognized some outstanding actions taken by these children and awarded them as Anti-Corruption Stars for 2023. Our aim is to inspire more children to act against corruption and promote integrity in their communities. We strongly believe that these young leaders have the potential to make a real difference in the fight against corruption and create a better future for everyone.



More teachers are teaching anti-corruption education in classrooms using Step Up Nigeria's tools and resources.

After completing our training program, more teachers have become enthusiastic about spreading anti-corruption messages to other schools and students. They have taken the initiative to train their colleagues, sensitize other schools, and integrate anti-corruption messages into classroom teaching and extracurricular activities. This increased advocacy is contributing to the development of a culture of integrity and transparency in schools, which will ultimately help build a society where corruption is not tolerated.



Lesson notes of a teacher in Nasarawa who have integrated anti-corruption messaging into their lesson plan.

3

More public servants are willing to join the fight against corruption

Public servants sensitised using the VR documentary have demonstrated interest in supporting the fight against corruption by developing action plans and making pledges.



Educational Stakeholders during the Virtual Reality Film Screening

4

More schools are improving their standards of integrity

Through the integrity certification program, more school owners and administrators have shown commitment and taken significant measures to improve the standards of integrity in their schools.



Step Up Nigeria's Director of Programmes with an Integrity Certified School

5

More parents are taking actions to instil anti-corruption values in their homes and communities.

We have successfully received support from parents who have been sensitised through the Parents' Anti-Corruption Champion Initiative. They are taking actions in their homes and communities to instil anti-corruption values. These sensitized parents have started a one-on-one approach by inaugurating clubs for children in their communities and leveraging their religious organizations to train them



A parent educating children in her community on acting with integrity

THE CITIZEN WATCHDOG INITIATIVE

FIRST TIME VOTERS INTEGRITY INITIATIVE

In 2022, Step Up Nigeria launched the First Time Voters Integrity Initiative (FTVII) aimed at encouraging young people who are first-time voters to participate effectively in governance by empowering them to act with integrity during elections and to hold their elected representatives accountable. In 2023, the project received funding from the USAID SCALE to implement a project in Nasarawa and Lagos states.

The 'First Time Voters' project was an innovative initiative that nurtured collective action among first-time voters. It empowered these individuals by fostering leadership skills that enabled them to participate meaningfully and ethically in the election process.

This 6-month project, spanning January 2023 to July 2023, sensitised more than 600 first-time voters in 13 communities across Lagos and Nasarwa. It was marked with several activities, including:

1

Virtual Reality Film Screening: Using immersive virtual reality technology to illustrate the detrimental consequences of vote-selling to first-time voters and politicians increased their interest, shaped their mindset and motivated them to act.

- 2 **Storytelling Bootcamp:** A comprehensive session that harnessed the transformative power of stories in advocacy, enabling participants to craft compelling narratives to drive change in their communities.
- 3 **Election Hustings & Town Hall Meetings:** A platform for first time voters to interact with politicians, highlighting their concerns and needs before the elections.
- 4 **FTVII Fellowship Scheme:** A fellowship program targeted at marginalised youth. This scheme provided 12 fellows with professional experience in budgeting, advocacy, and storytelling, equipping them with crucial skills to be effective community advocates.

The FTVII project brought about several changes, including increased understanding of the downsides of vote-selling and motivation to tackle it with a notable 21% increase, platforms created for dialogue, increased confidence amongst first time voters to effectively communicate with politicians, leading to tangible improvements like the restoration of electricity and water in specific communities, heightened confidence in actively engaging and challenging their elected representatives.



Stories of Change

AbdulGaniyu Habeeb

A young man from Mawere, Lagos, used to doubt the power of his vote. However, after engaging with Step Up Nigeria, his perception changed. He watched a virtual reality film that altered his views and encouraged him to obtain his Permanent Voters Card (PVC). Habeeb's change of heart motivated his peers as well. Many of them pledged to participate in the next elections. Habeeb's story exemplifies how awareness can spark a civic revolution.

Mariam Saidu

Mariam was persistent at the polls, ensuring that every vote counted, including hers. She educated local women about not selling their votes, emphasizing the value of electoral integrity. Her dedication shaped the community's perspective on the true worth of their voice.

The newly enlightened first-time voters challenged a State House of Assembly member who tempted voters with empty promises. They demanded better services over petty gifts and sent him away with boos. This marked a win for Step Up Nigeria's educational efforts against vote-selling. This story underscores the influence of education in fostering democratic participation and challenging the status quo.

Shedrack, an 18-year-old from the Agunji community, had limited knowledge about vote-selling. However, after experiencing the virtual reality film screening, he crafted an action plan against vote-selling and engaged his community. As a result, they rejected vote-buying bribes. This collective determination paid off when a politician delivered his promise, bringing solar panels for community electricity.

Mariam Saidu

First-time voters from Shogbesan Ajegunle highlighted service delivery issues to a PDP candidate. Their powerful voice caught the attention of an APC incumbent, resulting in the swift repair of a malfunctioning transformer. This story underscores the importance of vocal first-time voters and their ability to instigate quick positive change.

Post-fellowship, Nasarawa State fellows empowered their community's youth with anti-corruption education. They visited schools and shared their transformational experiences, underlining the importance of continuous community engagement.

Photos from various engagement session during the First Time Voters Project



Engaging the Public Sector to Tackle Corruption

In 2023, we used innovative tools to sensitise senior public officials about the negative impact of corruption. More specifically, we employed our virtual reality film titled "Sherifat's School" to directly engage with 49 senior public officials from the education sector in Abuja and Lagos. Through an immersive experience, these officials gained a better understanding of the cost of corruption. Out of the 49 participants, 17 pledged to stop corruption in their respective bodies, including schools, agencies, ministries, and parastatals.



PROVIDING ACCESS TO GOOD EDUCATION FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES – PAGE PROJECT

This grant provided poor and marginalised children, including those with special needs, access to innovative, creative, and sustainable learning that is future-proof and will help them break the poverty cycle. Step Up Nigeria implemented this project with funding from the MacArthur Foundation and in partnership with Knosk 100-A-Day School, Illimi Children's Fund, and the Not Forgotten Initiative.

Key Outputs

The project made substantial progress towards achieving its goals and objectives including:

1 Marginalized Youth Acquire Knowledge and Skills for Future-Proof Jobs

- **Empowered 676 marginalised students** in targeted communities with digital literacy and expanded educational opportunities.

- Provided scholarships for higher education access, benefiting students who couldn't afford school.
- Enhanced knowledge on life skills, gender-based violence, personal development, and girl child education.

2 Improved Access to Quality Learning for Disadvantaged Children

- 69% of marginalised children from the KNOSK school achieved credits in both Mathematics and English Language in the 2023 Junior Secondary School Certificate Examination.
- Recruited 25 teachers for KNOSK N100 a Day Charity School, ensuring consistent access to quality education for 12 months.
- Established four science laboratories and provided 46 tablets and 14 laptops preinstalled with educational software.



3

Increase in Qualified Teachers for Children with Special Needs

- Trained 129 teachers from 20 schools on Special Needs Education and Jolly Phonics.
- Improved teaching skills and retention of knowledge among over 60% of trained teachers.
- Enhanced reading abilities in students with special needs, showing an average improvement of 76.11% in various reading assessments.

4

Empowered Female Educators and Promoted Gender Equality

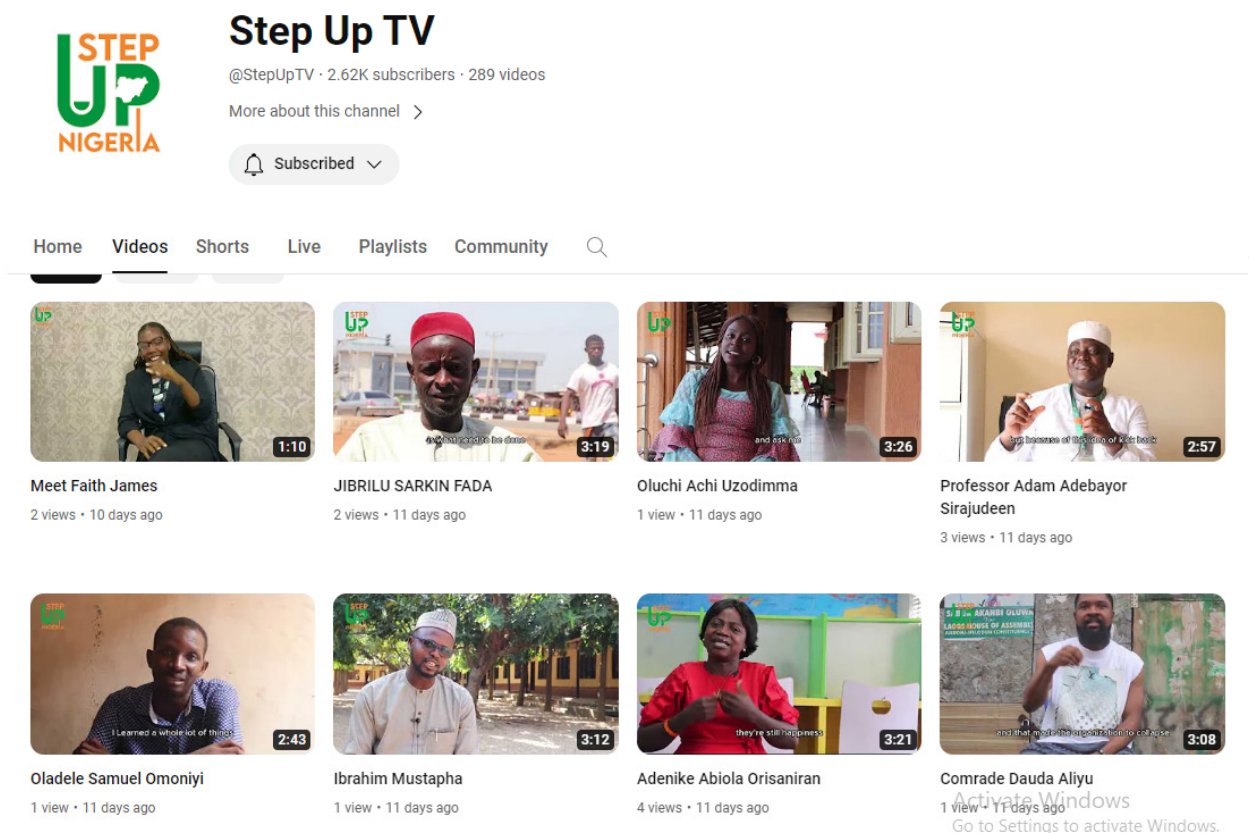
- Addressed school-related Gender-Based Violence (SRGBV), financial management, and technology integration through specialized training for 60 female teachers.
- Enhanced financial literacy and technology adoption in teaching through trained female educators training 820 other educators.



STEP UP MEDIA

Engaging the Public Sector to Tackle Corruption

In 2023, we continued to use our media platforms to educate more people beyond the school environment. We had up to 14, 763 views on our YouTube page, 2,036 listens on our podcast and 17, 153 visits on our website. Our social media channels also saw increased followership by 2,834 across all platforms!



Most Significant Change of the Year

Educating and mobilising women to resist electoral malpractice

Ruth Jonathan, a determined young woman residing in Akeleku Sidi, exemplifies change in liberating her community; specifically women against electoral malpractices. Ruth, during the course of the First-time voters integrity initiative, courageously shared her past experiences with elections, highlighting the unjust practices preventing women from voting. The discrimination stemmed from the belief that women lacked education, making them unable to make informed electoral choices.

Motivated by the character Halima and Abike in the films used to sensitise her community, she dedicated herself to educating and mobilising women to resist this electoral malpractice and take a stand to cast their votes themselves. Ruth passionately addressed the impact of corruption on women's access to essential services like healthcare, education, and justice. She worked tirelessly to enlighten women about the importance of voting for candidates with integrity. Her efforts bore fruit during the 2023 elections as women voted independently.



This transformative achievement marked a significant leap forward, highlighting the empowering effects of information and collective action in breaking free from corrupt practices. Ruth's story showcases the potential for individuals to make a lasting impact on their communities.

Resisted corruption while participating in democratic processes

Aminu's story highlights the importance of education in enabling marginalised and vulnerable individuals to make informed decisions. Aged 19 and without any formal education, Aminu attends an Almajiri center to receive Islamic education and earns a living through begging or small jobs on the streets. In November of the previous year, the Step-Up Nigeria team visited Aminu and his peers to educate them on the significance of safeguarding their votes and electing the right candidates during elections. The session was aimed at empowering them to make responsible and informed decisions in the democratic process.

When the general elections unfolded in 2023, an aspiring politician visited Aminu's center bearing gifts, including money and food supplies, as part of his campaign strategy. Despite the tempting offerings as he begged to sustain himself, Aminu was resolute in his principles, inspired by the engagement he had with the Step Up Nigeria team. He refused the gifts and encouraged his fellow students to do the same. Aminu and his friends questioned the politician about his plans to address the



challenges they faced, refusing to be swayed by material incentives.

Aminu's unwavering stance and his peers' actions signify how education can empower individuals to resist corruption and actively participate in the democratic process.

5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND REPORT LAUNCH

In July 2023, Step Up Nigeria celebrated its fifth anniversary with the theme "Celebrating Five Years of Empowering Youths, Igniting Change, & Inspiring Integrity". The event was attended by high-level stakeholders from Nigeria and beyond, as well as students, teachers, parents, and youths from disadvantaged communities. It served as an opportunity to reflect on the organization's accomplishments and impact over the past five years.

One of the highlights of the event was an exhibition showcasing Step Up Nigeria's anti-corruption tools. These included the recently launched DO IT RIGHT Anti-corruption Board Game, as well as Virtual Reality films (Sherifat's School and Abike's Story), Animated Films (Emeka's Money, Tosin's Story, and Halima's Vote), and four Anti-corruption Storybooks (Halima's Vote, Tosin's Story, Emeka's Money, and Ansa's Speech). The exhibition provided an opportunity for beneficiaries and stakeholders to learn about integrity and the importance of fighting corruption.





Launch of the **Do It Right Game**

The DO IT RIGHT integrity board game was designed by members of the Step Up Nigeria team as a unique approach to promote integrity behaviors in Nigeria. The game mimics real-life situations, and the players' choices influence the final outcome of the game. Although, as in real life, the right decision may not always be the most advantageous or favorable in the game, players are encouraged to select choices that align with anti-corruption values and demonstrate integrity.

The DO IT RIGHT integrity board game was created by the following members of the Step Up Nigeria team on behalf of Step Up Nigeria and is the intellectual property of Step Up Nigeria:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Feranmi Iyanda | 3. Shekwogaza Kure | 5. Efeose Aikomogbe | 7. Olajumoke Bamidele |
| 2. Godfrey Itatu | 4. Rilwan Abuh | 6. Shulamite Okafor | |

The unveiling and launch of the board game was attended by the Country Director of the MacArthur Foundation Nigeria, representatives from the FCT Education Resource Centre, the Association for Formidable Education Development, the Universal Basic Education Commission, the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

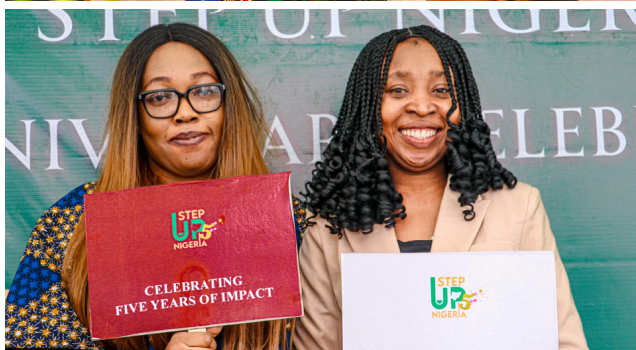
Launch of Step Up Nigeria's Report on Anti-Corruption Education In Nigeria: **Complementary Or Alternative Tool To Enforcement In Nigeria**

The report, Anti-corruption Education in Nigeria: A Complementary or Alternative Tool to Enforcement in Nigeria, provides empirical findings from Step Up Nigeria's 5 years of anti-corruption education. Officially unveiling the report were:

- Maureen Ideozu, Board Chair, Step Up Nigeria
- Onyinye Ough, Founder, Step Up Nigeria
- Bar. Lilian Ekeanyanwu, Head, Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms, Tugar Nigeria
- Dr. Garba Ganju, Director of Curriculum, NERDC
- Ketty Regis, Representative of the French Embassy (Cooperation Attaché)
- Mr. Olaleye F. Bolaji, Curriculum Services Department, Ministry of Education, Lagos
- Representatives from the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC)
- Representatives from the Ministry of Education, Nasarawa
- Representatives from the FCT Education Secretariat



Photos from the anniversary



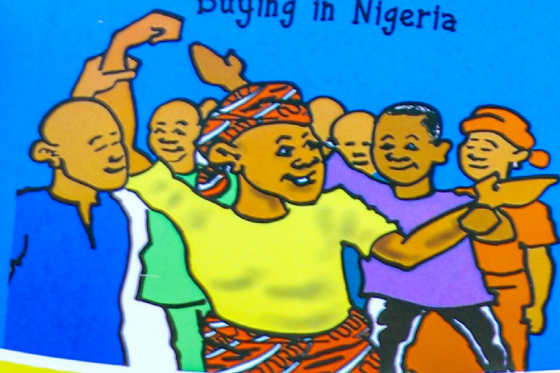
BUILDING TEAM CAPACITY

In December 2023, Step Up Nigeria held its annual retreat, which included insightful reflection sessions on the past year and strategic planning for the upcoming year. The team also participated in team-building and capacity development training led by Maureen Ideozu, a seasoned leadership consultant and the Board Chair of Step Up Nigeria. This training played a crucial role in improving our abilities to promote collaboration, teamwork, and communication, resulting in a more effective and unified team. Additionally, the retreat featured an annual dinner and team bonding activities to help strengthen the team's bonds.



HALIMA'S VOTE

A Modern Parable About the Impact of Vote
Buying in Nigeria



WRITTEN BY ONYINYE OUGH
ILLUSTRATED BY ADENIYI ODELEYE

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

Revenue and Support

Support	N
Grants (MacArthur Foundation)	155,448,545.87
Grants (Palladium)	19,973,418.66
Other donations	30,956,120.45
Inflow	
Book sales	818,450.00
Total Revenue	207,196,534.98

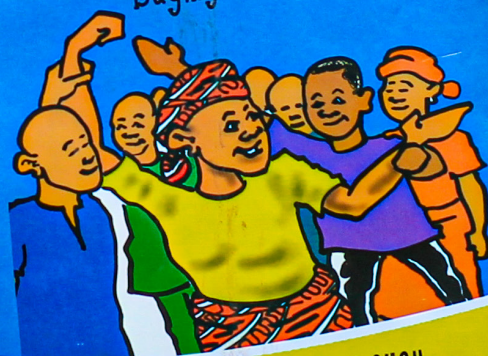
Programmes and Operating Expenses

Description	N
Staff Salaries/Benefits	35,501,607.00
Audit Fee	717,500.00
Health Insurance	621,600.00
Statutory payments	9,750,577.14
Purchase of work tools/gadgets	5,501,500.00
Subscriptions/licenses	3,203,552.03
Communications/Internet	2,218,250.00
Office Rent	2,407,700.00
Project Implementation (FCT, Lagos, and Nasarawa)	130,847,379.60
Staff Interview/training	1,753,464.40
Staff Retreat/Rewards	4,393,723.00
Logistics	2,052,465.00
Asset Insurance	44,065.00
Electricity/fueling	1,715,300.00
Repairs and maintenance	577,460.00
Other Administrative expenses	2,906,700.00
Total Expenditure	205,012,843.17



HALIMA'S VOTE

A Modern Parable About the Impact of Vote
Buying in Nigeria



WRITTEN BY ONYINYE OUGH
ILLUSTRATED BY ADENIYI ODELEYE

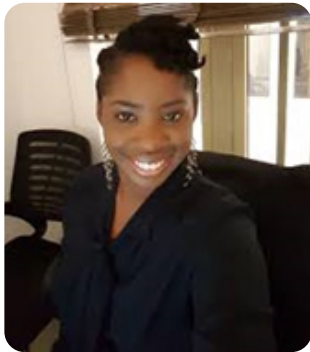
HALIMA'S VOTE

A Modern Parable About the Impact
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WRITTEN BY ONYINYE OUGH
ILLUSTRATED BY ADENIYI ODELEYE

Meet Our Board of Directors



Ugochi Ekwueme

Ugochi Ekwueme is currently a partnership associate at B Team. Ugochi is a communications professional with advocacy experience in open contracting, climate change, open government partnership, safer internet, films for change, open data and digital inclusion.



Dapo Olorunyomi

Dapo Olorunyomi is the founder and publisher of Nigeria's foremost investigative online newspaper, The Premium Times. Mr. Olorunyomi has 25 years experience working as a reporter, editor, trainer, and manager in the media sector.



Ekanem Bassey

Ekanem Bassey is an expert on Civil Society, Media and anti-corruption reforms and currently works with the United Nations in South Sudan



Akin Oke

Akin Oke is a certified Executive Coach and Organizational Leadership expert who serves in an advisory capacity to several public and private corporations, as well as international development organizations such as, UK Department for International Development (DFID), United States Department of International Development (USAID), the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs Trade & Development (DFATD) and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His expertise is currently deployed as an Executive Coach and Public Sector Management Strategist leading the Centre for Sustainable Leadership, where he acts as a social commentator contributing to the national discourse on good governance and public accountability.



Maureen Ideozu

Maureen Ideozu is a chartered management consultant and development professional with over 20 years' experience working with international and national organizations in the areas of communications, development, public sector administration reforms, service delivery and change management.



Oiza Nicholson

Oiza Nicholson is the country director for Palladium in Nigeria a global consulting firm, where she leads its portfolio valued at over £350million pounds, providing country representation and leadership for its relationship with donor clients, its growth and portfolio diversification within the development sector. She is an expert in design and implementation of large and complex multiyear development projects across governance and social development sectors and has led teams that have secured multimillion-pound development projects.

Oiza is passionate about positive impact in the lives of people and communities and has contributed and led innovative approaches that support women empowerment through livelihoods and entrepreneurship.



Richard Ough

Richard Ough was named recently an independent board member. He is a senior economist and international development practitioner focused on economic development and good governance in emerging markets. His experience spans work in Africa, South Asia and more recently with Small States. Richard is passionate about the role of innovation and investment to unlock economic development as well as the need for good governance as the foundation to it all. His career spans almost 17 years, and includes work aiming to strengthen transparency and accountability in Nigeria's oil and gas sector, promoting taxation in Pakistan and Nigeria, and expanding the evidence eco-system on economic reforms, supporting the development of pivotal research such as the use of social norms in the fight against corruption.



Onyinye Ough

Onyinye Ough is a Nigerian international development practitioner specialising in anticorruption, service delivery and behavioural change. She is the Founder of Step Up Nigeria which she established with the aim of strengthening accountability in service delivery by tackling corruption challenges. Onyinye is the author of four children's books which focus on the impact of corruption and the importance of showing leadership to tackle it. She has also worked with film producers to produce anti-corruption films to teach young people about corruption.

Meet Our Staff



Oluwaferanmi Iyanda
Director of Programmes



Andrew Idoko
Deputy Director
of Programmes



Grace Ezema
Program Administration
Manager



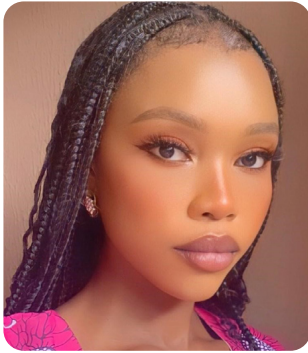
Halimat Olufade
Senior Programme Associate



Joseph Akujuobi
Communications Coordinator



Iyua Gbamwuan
Programme and Finance Associate



Shular Okafor
Programme Associate



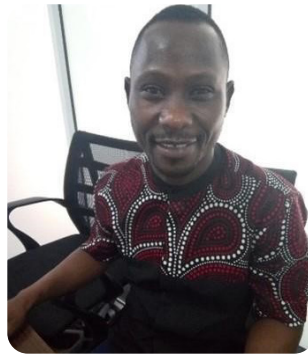
Goodness James
Programme Associate



Godfrey Itatu
Data Analyst and
Programme Associate



Gina Essien
Junior Programme Associate



Ahmadu Saidu
Junior Programme Associate



Faith James
Junior Programme Associate



Shekwogaza Kure
Senior Programme Assistant



Judith Wobin
Office Assistant

Step Up Interns

In 2023, Step Up Nigeria launched the internship program to give young individuals passionate about a corrupt-free society a platform to contribute to change and learn. Currently, we have over 6 interns across Lagos and Abuja offices.



Abideen Owolabi



Joshua Odidi



Elizabeth Awonusi



Hadiza Abubakar



Uzoamaka Onukaogu



Abdulrasheed Aliyu



IMPORTANT RULES
1. Visitors Other Classes for allowing visitors into the classroom is prohibited.
2. All visitors (anyone) should be registered with your Form Tutor. Missing a valuable without registering will be at your own risk.
3. Visitors must not use your bags when leaving the classroom especially when you have valuables in it.
Signed:
Form Tutor
Class B Self-Control

ADVENTURE
LEARNING
EXPLORE
DISCOVER
GROW

Table with 2 columns and multiple rows of text, likely a class list or schedule.

HALIMA'S VOTE
A Modern Parable About the Impact of Vote Buying in Nigeria
Illustrated by ADAMU ABU

HALIMA'S VOTE
A Modern Parable About the Impact of Vote Buying in Nigeria
Illustrated by ADAMU ABU

HALIMA'S VOTE
A Modern Parable About the Impact of Vote Buying in Nigeria
Illustrated by ADAMU ABU



FCT Address:

The Ventures Park, No 5. Kwaji Close, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja

Lagos Address:

Premier Hub Innovation Center, No 1B Birrel Avenue,
Onike, Sabo Yaba, Lagos State

www.stepupnigeria.org