



# Transforming Education through Innovation, Collaboration and Technology.

Aid for Rural Education Access Initiative (AREAi)

# 2021 Impact Report



# Our 2021 In Numbers



**30** Schools  
Reached



**36** Communities  
Impacted



**12** States  
Visited



**7** Policy Dialogues  
Organized



**35,000** Direct  
Beneficiaries

**2,534,000**

Total Number of People Reached



In the 21st Century, quality learning must encompass the acquisition of foundational skills and practical competencies that enable learners to be active contributors to the growth of their communities and the world at large. Since 2014, AREAi has been at the forefront of mobilizing technical and infrastructural support to enhance learning outcomes and transform educational systems at the community level. With over 45,000 children supported so far, we are resolute in our pursuit of providing access to quality learning opportunities for Nigeria's most disadvantaged populations.

2021 marked a remarkable turnaround for us as an organization as we were able to mobilize an unprecedented level of financial support for our work, the first since its establishment. I am immensely grateful to our donors, volunteers, partner schools

and community heads, the Board of Trustees and staff for the continuous support towards the successes we have recorded in our work. Without your cooperation, our efforts are nothing but intent. I am also pleased to dedicate our global recognition to the selfless and relentless hard work the staff put in every day and every time.

According to the Ubuntu Philosophy, "I am who I am because We are"

**Prince Gideon Olanrewaju**  
Chief Executive Officer



## 1. Piloted an innovative evidence-based approach to providing access to informal and accelerated foundational skills development opportunities in displaced contexts (FastTrack)

**Reach:** 1500 beneficiaries across 2 IDP Camps

Over a period of 6 months, we equipped 1,500 children living in internally displaced person (IDP) camps with foundational literacy and numeracy skills through FastTrack - a technology-enabled and self-assisted accelerated foundational skills development program. At the endline, only 38.15% of children enrolled could not recognize letters as opposed to 58.88% at baseline. Similarly, the population of learners who could read words was at 7.44% at baseline, however, this increased to 31.61% within 24 days of teaching and learning. 10.84% of learners also progressed into paragraph level which means they can read short sentences as against 1.76% recorded at baseline. The percentage of learners who could read, comprehend and answer questions from a text also significantly increased from 1.92% to 10.84% at the end line which indicates an increase in literacy levels of learners who participated in FAST Track intervention. For numeracy, there were 38.36% of learners at beginner level (could not identify up to 5 single digit numbers), 20.08% at One-digit level and 24.68% at two-digit level. However, at the endline, learners who could not identify up to 5 single digit numbers reduced to 12.21%, number of learners who could do simple subtraction and division increased from 12.12% to 21.06% and 4.76% to 17.67% respectively.

## 2. Facilitated research-based knowledge development efforts to close digital access gaps and needs in 6 States (Funded by FCDO)

**Reach:** 10,800 beneficiaries across 24 communities  
<https://equity.areai4africa.org/>



Using a multi-stakeholder approach structured to drive digital equity through a fact-finding survey and information access strategy, we supported 8,500 students to access online and remote learning, equipped 1430 teachers with tools to facilitate remote teaching and learning, and provided 70 education administrators and policy makers with policy recommendation to promote digital education in Adamawa Bayelsa, Ekiti, Ebonyi, Kano and Kwara state. We produced a Policy Guide for Education Stakeholders and Policy Makers, an AccessToolkit for Teachers and School Leaders and a Digital Learning Manual for students. We also hosted regional and national focus group dialogues with key representatives from diverse stakeholders populations including from the Ministries of Education and Communication, internet service providers, research institutes, mobile network operators, private telecommunications agencies and other specialised regulators such as the National Information and Telecommunication Development Agency (NITDA), International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). The event was also attended by representatives from the Digital Access Program of the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.



### 3. Created youth-led community-based climate action initiatives for educational access.

(Funded by Coca Cola Foundation)

**Reach:** 10,000 beneficiaries across 60 communities

<https://missionzeroplastic.ng/>

Through the Mission Zero Plastic Initiative sponsored by the Coca-Cola Foundation, we contributed global effort in combating climate change by recovering and repurposing 10,000,000 PET Bottles and reached over 1,000,000 people through public awareness actions, online advocacy efforts, youth engagement activities, behavioral change campaigns and environmental outreaches across 24 communities in 6 states, leveraging a network of 600 recycling champions. We engaged over 600 youths as recycling champions, more than 30 women while also working with local recycling organizations as well as environmental organizations such as Eco Champions, Eco Barter, Chanja Datt, StopDon'tDrop among others.

#### 4. Enhanced low-cost educational Access for last-mile learners through Edtech Innovation

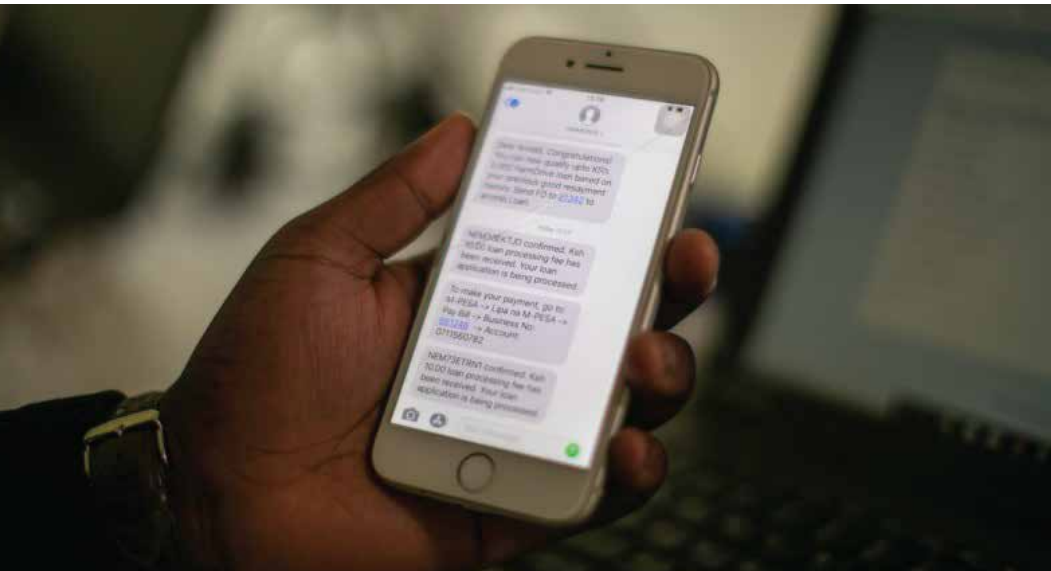
(Funded by Zurich Foundation, One Young World and the Queens Commonwealth Trust)

**Reach:** 50,000 beneficiaries across Nigeria

<https://web.digilearns.ng/>



To avert learning loss due to school closures caused by the Covid19 pandemic, we designed and deployed Nigeria's first adaptive mobile learning solution that leverages AI as well as SMS and USSD solution to provide access to continually relevant and government approved educational content to learners particularly learners from low-income backgrounds. We provided 500 mobile phones for indigent students across 6 orphanage homes and supported 50,000 learners with zero-rated airtime support to have unlimited access to our mobile learning platform. Our endline qualitative evaluation report shows that there was a 70% increase in student performance in external examinations due to unlimited access to remote teacher support, exam practice quizzes and quality learning materials we provided using our solution.



## 5. Increased Campaign for Improved COVID19 Sensitization and Vaccine Uptake in Nigeria (VaccineAlert)

With funding support from the Mastercard Foundation, we creatively generated awareness, mobilized citizens for rapid vaccination uptake and reached hard-to-reach rural communities by leveraging effective communication channels that can reach so many, so fast and so well. Through our vaccineALERT initiative, we used a nationwide citizen-centred USSD and SMS-based texting campaign and mobile telephony reminder system to drive and improved COVID19 awareness and increased vaccination rates. This 2-pronged strategy enabled the dissemination of tailored information through mass messaging for specific groups in defined locations as well as one-on-one generic and automated interactions for anyone across Nigeria. Over a period of 3 months, we reached 5 million Nigerians across 6 states including Lagos, Nasarawa and the FCT.



## 6. Contributed to thought leadership and knowledge development with a Peer Reviewed Academic Publication



By adopting a concurrent embedded mixed method, we collected data from rural secondary schools in 6 Nigerian states to analyze the effects of digital gaps on e-learning in rural secondary schools and remote communities across Nigeria during the COVID19 pandemic. Findings from the study identified a lack of ICT strategies and policies in Nigeria, socioeconomic status, poor internet connectivity, electricity, and a high poverty level as the primary drivers of digital gaps in remote communities. To address these challenges, as a form of policy, we proposed that the government can provide amenities such as internet-enabled community e-learning centres and equip them with computers. These interventions would ease physical access to technological tools and aid the acquisition of digital literacy skills, among other socio-cultural framed interventions that can bridge the digital divide.

# Partners and Donors






We are grateful and proud of our partners and sponsors, whose generosity has enabled us to reach over 35,000 marginalized people by 2021. Our impact can be linked to their support, for which we are grateful.



United Way Greater Nigeria



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Learning  
without  
barriers