PARADIGM INITIATIVE

Annual Report 2016

Youth + ICTs
=
Socio-Economic Opportunities

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2016. What a year that was!

At Paradigm Initiative, we had a busy and productive year. We added a new office in Kano, reviewed our strategy to reach more youth, upgraded training curriculum to align with new market demands, welcomed additional team members, signed agreements with new partners and added value to the lives of more under-served youth!

After running the #DigitalJobs campaign for 2 years, Paradigm Initiative folded the campaign into our LIFE program to enrich the student experience and focus our impact on students who are able to get the full 8-week (now 10 weeks) LIFE experience. It's no surprise that 1 in every 2 LIFE program graduates either got internships, jobs or built businesses around skills learnt this year. Of course, many got a chance to earn enough in order to continue with the tertiary education they always wanted! It only gets better as we roll out the new curriculum in 2017.

The TENT program (which gets a new name, Techtiary, in 2017) grew from just one school to four, with active student-led groups that spent the year adding skills that will help them graduate with more than just CVs! The least they'll graduate with are market-ready skills in high demand, and who knows, some of them could hire their colleagues to start out even before convocation day. Some of our students who started the program 5 years ago, now in their final year, are using the projects they started in Year 1 as their Final Year Project. We deepen the impact in 2017, as student-led groups come to additional schools across Nigeria.

2016 was very busy for the ICT Policy program – which will be known as Magoyi (Hausa word for advocate) from next year – at Paradigm Initiative no thanks to various government policies and actions that threatened citizen's online rights. We published reports, shared educative information, hosted solution-focused meetings, lobbied at the National Assembly, discussed "complex" issues with relevant agencies and went to court when amber turned red on some of the issues. Considering the similar nature of threats to Digital Rights across Africa during the year – and with the new trend of Internet/application shutdowns and repressive laws/policies – we launched our first Digital Rights in Africa report at the recently concluded Internet Governance Forum. And for the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill, 2016 was a good year. The Bill was introduced on the floor of the House, got first and second reading, and we teamed up with the Committee on Human Rights to make sure the December 5 Public Hearing was public - streamed live and with input from diverse stakeholders.

This year, we welcomed Intel (through the #SheWillConnect program), Facebook, AccessNow, CDI Global (a global network of Digital Inclusion organisations that will help deepen our work in Nigeria and expand into Africa), Global Network Initiative (through an Internews Fellowship) and Ford Foundation (with multi-year support to expand our Digital Rights work beyond Nigeria) as Paradigm Initiative partners, to strengthen our existing stakeholder ecosystem. Hajia Jummai Umar-Ajijola, PhD, a seasoned expert with experience across business and civil society, also agreed to join the Paradigm Initiative Advisory Board!

I'm sure you saw what I did throughout this message, with Nigeria missing from our name. It's not a typo, and we're not leaving Nigeria. Paradigm Initiative's focus as a social enterprise is now pan-African. Our Digital Rights work is taking us into new regions on the continent, and we'll tell you more about that at the Internet Freedom Forum holding April 25-27 in Lagos. If you are yet to register, please head to www.pinigeria.org/iff and register immediately. You've also probably noticed that our social media handles changed to @ParadigmHQ. It's all part of the process that has now started and will culminate in a reintroduction of your favourite Digital Rights and Digital Inclusion social enterprise in April 2017.

As we did just before 2016, and do each year, the team met at the end of 2016 to plan each day of 2017. As we continue to eat our frogs in 2017, I want to say a huge thank you for everything you did to help us inch closer to every plan we had for 2016. We have more than 2,016 reasons to be grateful. Thank you for your continued support, and we sure look forward to an exciting 2017!

'Gbenga Sesan
Executive Director
Paradigm Intiative

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LIFE in 2016:
Breaking New Grounds

Breaking New Grounds

In addition to existing LIFE centers in Lagos and Abia States, Nigeria; the LIFE program added a new center in Kano, North-West Nigeria in 2016. The center was set up in Dakata, an under-served community in Kano State. The LIFE Training Centre in Dakata took off operations in February 2016, though not without a few challenges. The program officer who had been hired and trained in 2015 gained admission into school for his postgraduate studies and left the organization, so recruitment had to begin over again. Another challenge we faced was the language barrier experienced while we tried to conduct the interviews, selection and orientation processes prior to the commencement of the first ever training class in Dakata. In just 12 months however, all of these had become almost distant memories. The Dakata Kano centre has become one of the most vibrant centers in just one short year, with nearly 70 applications received each quarter. Hiring competent hands as staff and volunteers was key to this transition, and especially the acceptance and geniality of the community leaders and key stakeholders. Once the objectives of the LIFE program were well-understood, only appropriate candidates applied and the language barrier problems were soon obliterated. The center held 4 sessions of training in 2016, with a total number of 167 youth trained.

A town hall meeting is organized annually in each of our LIFE centers. It is a forum for stakeholders including volunteers, partners, parents/guardians, community leaders and influencers, alumni and students to meet with PIN staff in order to reflect on the past year and share ideas for improving the program and making it more relevant to the community. 133 stakeholders attended this meeting in Dakata, Kano; giving their recommendations for improving the program, making more accessible to girls, and calling on the government to support and replicate the idea. Generally, there is a growing appreciation of the need for ICT skills and a desire to close the ICT skills gap between Northern and Southern Nigeria. There is also a desire for more empowerment for the girls. PIN is now working concertedly with other critical stakeholders in Dakata to realize these yearnings.

A Girl's Story

Khadijah Muhammad had graduated from secondary school and was pretty much waiting to be married. "I thought since I was a girl, there wasn't any need to exert myself. I will move from my father's house to my husband's house anyway. I will always be someone else's responsibility." Khadijah said.

She heard about the LIFE program from a friend and her mum encouraged her. Khadijah loved the I.C.T classes. "I found it easy to grasp everything and operating the system proficiently made me feel very intelligent and proud of myself." She said.

"When we came to the entrepreneurship classes, I had to ask what I had been doing with my life!" She immediately began to work out how to improve the business of making bags which she had neglected. She started by creating awareness on social media and making new bag designs that were affordable. Within a month, Khadijah started making profit!

"I found it easy to grasp everything and operating the system proficiently made me feel very intelligent and proud of myself."

THE LIFE TRAINING PROGRAM

LIFE is a train-the-trainer capacity building initiative that uses a deferred payment training model and positive peer pressure concept to transform the lives of youth living in under-served communities in Nigeria. Following 8 weeks of training in Life Skills, ICTs, Financial Readiness and Entrepreneurial Skills - from where the program derives its name - selected applicants are matched with companies to compete for internships or supported to pursue their entrepreneurial interests in order to transform their lives by giving them a chance to improve their livelihoods. Graduates of the LIFE program have gone from under-served youth to young women and men who are now achievers in their own right. From going on to become celebrated programmers to working with Nigeria's leading consulting firm and resuming as students in universities across the world, the LIFE program has transformed lives.

Introducing the LIFE Training Program to Public Secondary Schools:

IT has become increasingly expensive to set up and sustain new centers in order to reach more youth. Additional LIFE centers, the way we currently set them up, will cost millions of naira that we would rather spend reaching even more youth through innovative approaches.

This has led to two fundamental changes being made to the LIFE Program:

1. A merging of the Digital Jobs Program with the LIFE Program in order to improve the program curriculum and also provide more post-training engagement opportunities to our graduates through online work, instead of competing for the internships which are not sufficiently available.

2. Moving away from setting up expensive centers to developing versions of the program that can allow us reach more underserved youth where they are by setting up:
   - LIFE clubs in Schools
   - LIFE Lite in Cybercafés
   - LIFE hubs in Libraries

We would eventually develop LIFE Mobile for families and communities, a mobile-based LIFE training for individuals, families and communities to use and which can be downloaded and tracked by PIN.

In 2016, Paradigm Initiative Nigeria wrote letters to the Ministry of Education in the three states where LIFE centers are currently located; formally seeking permission, support and partnership to work in government owned secondary schools. While the formal partnership is still in process, our program staff have through established relationships with community stakeholders approached selected schools in the communities where we work, and have begun the process to establish LIFE clubs in these schools, allowing students to meet during the extra-mural classes to discuss the LIFE curriculum during through the school year.

Life Curriculum Undergoes A Major Upgrade

In 2016, we conducted a survey with employers to determine the ICTs skills currently required or desirable in entry level staff. Then we had series of meetings to discuss the outcome of the survey and strategizes for improving the LIFE curriculum in order to make it more relevant and empowering and do an excellent job enough to get our program graduates' feet in the door regarding opportunities for employment, further training, or other forms of empowerment. While we continue to engage with under-served youth from poor communities and bare in mind that many of them have not had access to computers prior to their training, we have expanded the program to now run 10 weeks instead of 8, giving more time to learn the basics, and then the new elements we have now introduced based on our survey; including Digital media/Content Management System (Social media, Word Press, Web Analytics) and Web development (HTML & CSS, Java) We are also introducing the concept of 'Business Thursday;' with focus on Microsoft Build Your Business Curriculum,which is a very rich curriculum complete with interesting class activities, a facilitator's guide and videos for the students to watch. With this format, the volunteer facilitator talks to the students about the topic of the day for a couple of hours, then the rest of the day is spent completing activities on the curriculum.

Partnering to Reach More Girls

In July, PIN partnered with Intel 'SheWillConnect' Initiative - a program aimed at reducing the gender and technology gap for young women in emerging markets. The Intel SWC Program delivered digital literacy training to 86 girls, ages 15 to 26, across the 3 LIFE centers in Kano, Abia and Lagos States. The training, covered topics like Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Presentation Programs & Databases, Design Tools, Internet & World Wide Web (Introducing the girls to safety and security on the web), Social Media Tools and Digital security.

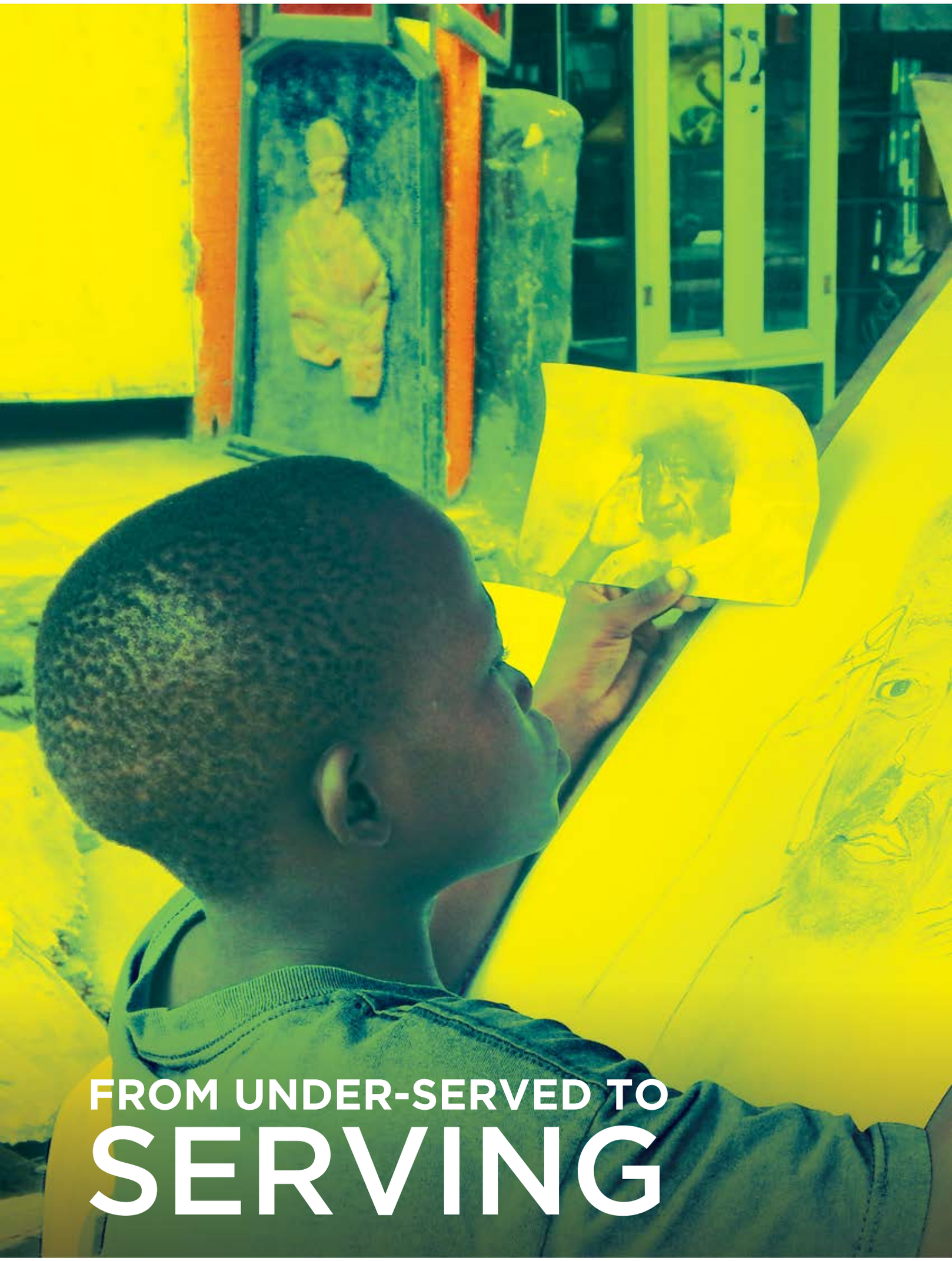
In addition, 125 teenage girls from different Secondary Schools in Lagos, Abia and Kano state participated in 2-day special Digital Readiness Workshop for Girls. The workshop was designed to empower the girls through technology and bridge the Internet gap, ensuring that they had the skills and resources required for their empowerment and safety online. Topics for training at the workshop included 'Microsoft Office for Diligent Girls,' 'Online Research,' 'Social Media for Creative Minds' and 'Digital Security for Smart Girls.' Schools in attendance included Western col lege, Methodist Girls High School, Reagan Memorial Baptist Girls Secondary School, Cifman college, Unique Christian Academy, Big Thinkers Academy, Topfield College, Helifest High School, Givic College, Glorious Bequest College and girls from partner organization such as Halliru Youth development & Empowerment Initiative (AYDI) and Purple Academy, an organization that believes in equal opportunity for young women in the society.

Other 2016 Updates on the LIFE Program

We became an affiliate of the CDI Global Network, a network committed to building a global movement of technology for social change, helping people to recode their lives, their communities and the world. Through a network of digital empowerment centers with presence in Latin America (Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Brasil, Venezuela), US and Europe (Portugal), and now Nigeria, and by extension Africa; CDI Global Network is working closely with local partners to enhance their existing programs, generate new opportunities and strengthen the idea of using technology for social change. Becoming a part of this network has continued to improve our work as we strive to connect under-served youth with demand-driven ICT skills with regards to content & methodology, community-building initiatives, best practices sharing, exposure and peer to peer support to develop leadership and wellbeing.

LIFE now holds quarterly workshops in all centers, facilitated by experienced professionals on topics such as 'Adaptability & Flexibility in the Work Place,' 'Commercial Awareness,' 'Taking Initiative,' 'Networking skills' and 'Researching Skills.' These workshops are attended by both students and alumni of the training program.

A 30-minutes morning drill session has now been introduced each day where students take turns to facilitate important conversations on topics such as managing one's emotions, respect for others, team-work, creative thinking, managing time, setting goals and getting organized.



FROM UNDER-SERVED TO SERVING

> The first day I stepped in the office, I was amazed at the quality of what I was going to be getting free - the classrooms equipped with projectors, screens, computers for each student, the serene environment and welcoming warm colours!

GOLD INNOCENT

(Aba, Abia-State, Nigeria)

Gold had been 5 years at home since finishing secondary school. She wanted more education, but finances were a constraint. There was no money to pay for even a computer training at N15, 500 (about $78) for six months. Her guardian could not afford it. Gold heard about LIFE on radio, where Our Program Officer engaged the audience talking about the relevance of ICT skills, how the training was equipping young people in the town and the process of enrollment. Gold had a few unanswered questions.

How could 8-weeks of training only deliver training all those skills that were mentioned? The computer school where she had previously enquired ran for six months! Another nagging question was about money. The program officer had mentioned that training was free except for picking up the form at N1000 ($5). She couldn't believe there were no hidden charges. But she was determined to give it a shot.

"The first day I stepped in the office, I was amazed at the quality of what I was going to be getting for free - the classrooms equipped with projectors, screens, computers for each student, the serene environment and welcoming warm colours!" The training opened Gold's eyes to opportunities. But she spent some time volunteering at the centre after her training to start with. "I wanted to help other girls who were like me get started on their path to greatness." Today Gold is as a staff of U.O.O Nigerian Plc (Estates Management Division) Aba branch, working as a front desk officer. "I got the job because of the useful ICT skills I picked up at the LIFE training." She says.

Currently, Ransome had not only passed his exams, he has gained admission into the university to study computer science! He also works part time as home-tutor, teaching mathematics to many other youngsters who find it difficult.

RANSOM MUOJEKWU

(Aba, Abia-State, Nigeria)

Ransom had developed deep emotional problems including depression, low self-esteem, and suicidal inclinations, after he found that he had failed Mathematics on the Senior Secondary Certificate Examinations (SSCE). It was while attending a coaching class in order to sit for the exams again that a friend introduced him to the Aba LIFE program.

The program changed Ransom's life, restoring his confidence. "I started to realize I had other talents and abilities and my life had a purpose. I was no longer angry with life or suicidal as my self-esteem improved. I realized that I had a quitter's mentality, and I did not have to be that way. I realized that I could achieve anything I set my mind on, if only I do not quit."

Currently, Ransom had not only passed his exams, he has gained admission into the university to study computer science! He also works part time as home-tutor, teaching mathematics to many other young sters who find it difficult. "Sometimes I teach for more than 4 hours at a stretch. Mathematics has become a passion, and I sometimes I move on to counsel the young people I teach in other areas of life using my own experience."

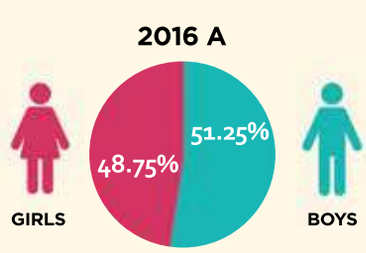
Ransom also volunteers at Aba L.I.F.E training in his spare time.

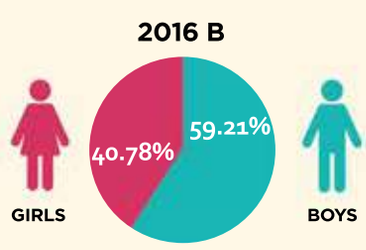
SNAPSHOTS OF LIFE TRAINING IN 2016
BY THE NUMBERS

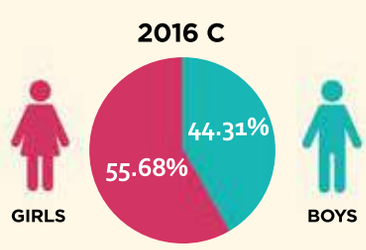
TOTAL APPLICANTS: 662

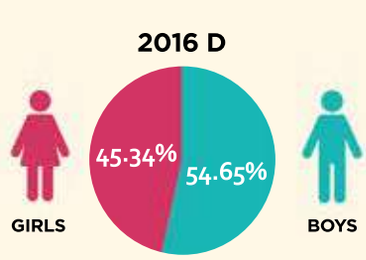
SELECTED STUDENTS 335 — **LIFE** — **330 GRADUATED STUDENTS**

	TOTAL APPLICATIONS	BOYS	GIRLS	SELECTED	COMPLETED
2016 A	213	41	39	90	80
2016 B	137	45	31	86	76
2016 C	153	39	49	89	88
2016 D	159	47	39	90	86







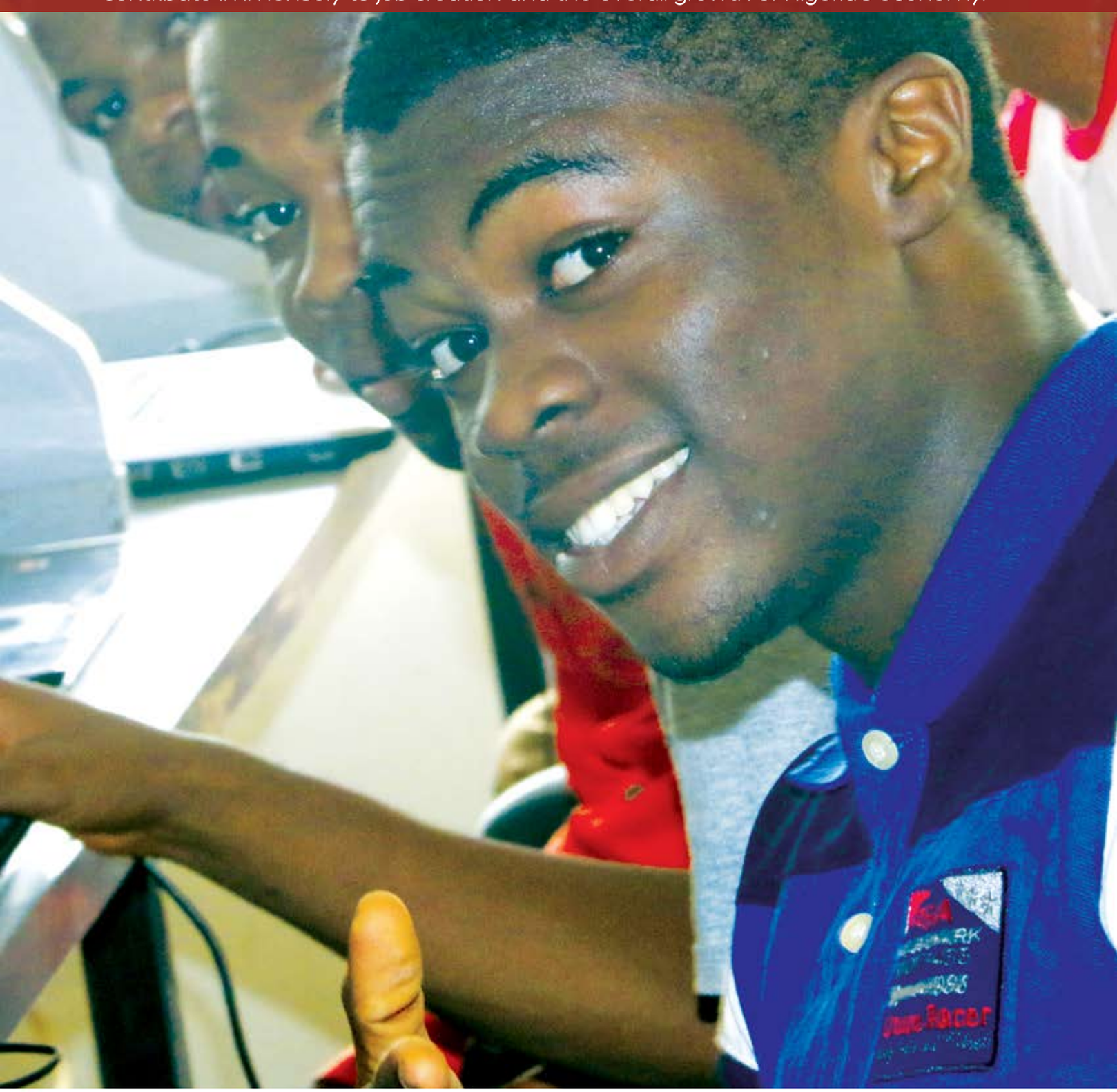


15 Internship Placements

147 Other Income-Generating Engagements (jobs, small enterprise, apprenticeship, allowance-based volunteering, freelancing,)

TENT Became **TECHTIARY in 2016**

Formally known as TENT (Techie, Entrepreneurial, Nigeria, Talented), the Techtiary program connects young people in the universities with ICT-enabled opportunities by ensuring the relevance of computer science programs across education institutions, exposing young Nigerian code-spinners to the technical, business and leadership requirements of ICT innovation in the 21st century so that they can contribute immensely to job creation and the overall growth of Nigeria's economy.



Techtiary is a deliberate 4-5-year process undertaken with Nigerian universities to kick-start a revolution that will ensure that Nigeria produces the next generation of technology entrepreneurs and innovators while also painting a picture of what students can use their years on campus to achieve. Instead of enduring the years while anticipating the future jobs, students should enjoy their education while also building their future businesses. Instead of graduating with CVs and begging to apply, these young innovators should graduate with ready-to-fly business plans - or businesses - that will serve as the platform from which they will take on the world.

The pilot Techtiary activity in the Computer Science and Engineering Department of the Obafemi Awolowo University (O.A.U) provided the participating students with exposure to leading technology companies in Nigeria and the people behind them, mentorship, as well as participation in events and activities that benefitted their research, study and improved their ideas. The university also commited to allowing the students complete their final year projects based on plans they sign up to through the Techtiary process. The students at OAU are currently completing their final year projects based on the idea they started out with 5 years ago in year 1

Olajide Martins is passionate about a safer internet for children and young teenagers, and is building an age recognition system using voice, to help adult content websites and other websites that need to prevent certain contents from being screen viewers. Olajide signed up to the Techtiary club established in his school in his first year, 2012. During the first orientation exercise conducted for Techtiary in Olajide's school that year, they were challenged to start out with an idea they would love to implement as a full-time business by the time they graduate. At the end of the first year, during the annual Techtiary forum, the enrollees shared their detailed 5-year plan of what they'll work towards as they study, with their eyes on the 5-year plan that was to begin with an idea and end with a company. Olajide made his presentation along over 90 other friends, to a gathering of young technology enthusiasts from across Nigerian Universities, tech professionals, academia, media and investors, along with the proof of implementation and suggested timelines. His project was selected to go on to the next stage of the program, and be supported by the Techtiary Angel Investment Scheme (TAIS); an investment which removes the burden of financing the early phase of Techtiary projects, thereby freeing students to focus on finding solutions to the business problems they have chosen to tackle.

Today, Olajide Martins is on his way to fulfilling his dreams of protecting children and being a technology entrepreneur. He is completing his Techtiary project, which he started in Year 1 as part of his final year school work requirements.

Brenda, another quiet young woman, (who is also on our Techtiary Angel Investment Scheme as a beneficiary and in her final year of Computer Science and Engineering at OAU) is currently completing her Techtiary project. Brenda likes nothing more than being helpful, and she believes that Paradigm Initiative is helping achieve this in more than one way. "My app can help people, but as a technology entrepreneur who would be able to generate resources and create jobs, I can do even more." she says. Her Techtiary project is called 'Mobbi-Check,' which allows patients to quickly access medical personnel in real time for first aid tips, especially in the event of emergencies. The app allows users locate the nearest health centre to them, and establish potential life-saving communication before the patient arrives the hospital. Where facilities are inadequate, the app has the potential to help the health centers improve efficiency by monitoring cases remotely.

The Techtiary Club was established in more universities in 2016:

- Federal University of Technology Akure

  18 members

- Lagos State College of Health Technology

  50 members

- Yaba College of Technology

  73 members

- Nnamdi Azikwe University

  73 members

TENT@UNIZIK organized three (3) boot camps before the close of their 2016 calendar session. These were the New Year code week with 30 students in attendance from January 25th to 29th 2016 where participants learnt how to develop mobile applications using Android tools. At the Easter boot-camp the students learnt HTML, CSS, Php, SQL, vb.net, Corel draw and Photoshop. 63 students were in attendance, and this training held from May 5th to June 17th. The summer training was held from September 5th to 17th with 69 students in attendance trained on Android app development, Wordpress, Php, 3D graphic, VB.net, game programing, Corel draw and Photoshop.

MAGOYI

(formerly known as ICT policy intervention)

2016 was very eventful for our ICT Policy work. From the expansion of our work beyond Nigeria into Africa, to a change of identity where our ICT Policy work is now known as 'Magoyi;' (a Hausa word which means 'advocate'). We also increased engagement and advocacy towards entrenching online rights and freedoms in Nigeria and Africa. The Digital Rights and Freedom Bill passed the 1st and 2nd readings within the year, and the bill's public hearing also held. We hosted the Internet Policy Training outside Nigeria for the first time, and launched our first Digital Rights in Africa report at the Internet Governance Forum in Mexico at the end of the year

Special Events

Internet Freedom Forum 2016

The Internet Freedom Forum is a platform for conversations on issues regarding Internet freedom in Nigeria and in Africa at large. The 2016 edition had the goal to be one that truly achieves multi-stakeholder participation and conforms with global standards. More than 100 participants were at the forum with a truly multi-stakeholder representation, cutting across 11 countries in Africa and beyond. The event held at the Chelsea Hotels, Abuja on the 8th and 9th March, 2016. The event was preceded by a welcome cocktail co-hosted by Google at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja. The event had speakers from Nigeria, Uganda, Cameroon, Togo, Guatemala, South-Africa, Kenya, the Gambia, Cote D'Ivoire, Senegal, Ghana and the United Kingdom. Nigeria's Senate President, Dr. Bukola Saraki was represented at the forum, and there were other key parliamentarians present, including Senator Babajide Omoworare, Chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Business, and Honorable Chukwuemeka Ujam, the House Committee Vice-Chairman on Telecommunications. Also, for the first time, the office of the National Security Adviser participated at the forum and sat on the panel to discuss the subject of surveillance and human rights. Two key government ministries; the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Communications were also represented by high ranking officials. The Keynote Address was delivered by Nani Jansen, Legal Director at Media Defence Legal Initiative (MDLI), United Kingdom on the topic; 'Rights are Rights, Offline or Online.'

101 participants **11** countries represented

RightsCon, Silicon Valley 2016

Our team also participated at the RightsCon 2016, which held at the Silicon Valley, San Francisco, California, USA. We hosted a side session at the event, focused on 'Untamed Data Mining Activities in Africa and Implication for Digital Rights of Citizens.' RightsCon is an event organized annually by a US based civil society organization, AcccessNow. RightsCon is a gathering of digital rights enthusiasts from across the world to deliberate on various digital rights issues emerging today. Our session at RightsCon 2016 was attended by participants from Egypt, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan and other countries present as observers. It was a well-attended and engaging session. The session was planned for thirty but had thirty-one people in attendance

31 participants **6** countries represented

Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFA 2016)

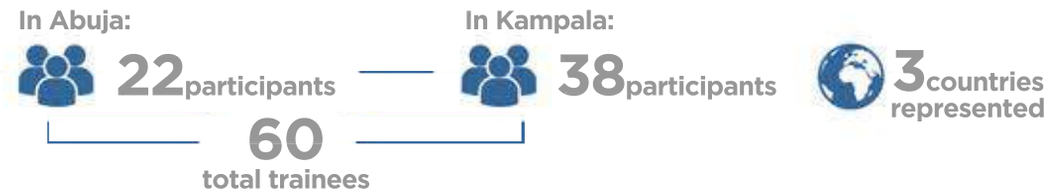
Paradigm Initiative Nigeria participated at the Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa which held on September 28-29 in Kampala, Uganda. PIN was on the panel session to discuss Regional, Sub-regional and National frameworks. The Digital Rights and Freedom Bill was selected as the poster Bill for National Frameworks consideration. We seized the opportunity to enlighten participants drawn from all over the world about how the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill mirrors the concept of regional frameworks such as the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedom, and why such positive rights legislation is urgently required as there has been the emergence of multiple repressive-prone legislation in Nigeria. Also, it was an opportunity to talk about how Nigeria's Cybercrime's act has been used, mostly to wrongfully clampdown on bloggers and how the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill, when passed into law, will address that challenge. The forum had over 200 participants from 22 countries spread across the world in attendance.

200+ participants **11** countries represented

Specific Events

Internet Policy Trainings

We hosted two Internet Policy Trainings successfully; one in Abuja, Nigeria and the other in Kampala, Uganda. The Abuja edition had a total of 22 participants, while the East Africa edition held in Uganda had 38 participants. The Ugandan IPT formally marked the beginning of our intervention to other parts of Africa.



Internet Governance Forum 2016

The ICT Policy team was present at this year's Internet Governance Forums (IGF); the National IGF, the Regional IGF and the Global IGF. We represented the civil society on the panel that reviewed the Cybercrime Act 2015 at the Nigerian Internet Governance Forum. We also participated at the African Internet Governance forum in Durban, South Africa and the Global Internet Governance forum which held in Gualadajara, Mexico from December 6-9 where we launched our first report on Digital Rights in Africa.

PARADIGM INITIATIVE

Reports

State of the Nation Report – Status of Internet Freedom in Nigeria

To mark the World Information Society Day 2016, we released a report titled 'State of the Nation - Status of Internet Freedom in Nigeria.' This report was released alongside a press statement with definitive references made to the content of the report, bordering on the government's responsibility for the Internet freedom of Nigeria. The report extensively assessed the impact of legislative and non-legislative actions on Internet freedom in Nigeria.

Digital Rights in Africa Report – "Choking the Pipe; How Governments Hurt Internet Freedom on a Continent that Needs More Access"

We also released the first edition of Digital Rights in Africa report, titled "Choking The Pipe: How Governments Hurt Internet Freedom on a Continent That Needs More Access", at the Internet Governance Forum in Guadalajara, Mexico. The report provides information about the status of digital rights in 30 African countries, including 5 countries in Central Africa (Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo and Gabon); 7 East African countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda); 4 countries in North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia); 9 West African countries (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) and 5 countries in Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The report was launched at a side event which was co-hosted with Facebook and had up to 70 Africans in attendance.

Digital Rights & Freedom Bill

19th April & 22nd June

Passed First and Second Landmark Readings:

On the 19th of April and 22nd of June, 2016, the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill (HB.490) passed first and second reading respectively in the House of Representatives in Nigeria. This marked a glowing success in a measure for this piece of legislation and the global movement on digital rights and freedom.

22nd September

Stakeholders' Roundtable on The Digital Rights And Freedom Bill:

On the 22nd of September, we held a Stakeholders' Roundtable on the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill at Rockview Hotel in Abuja. The roundtable had participants from the civil society, the private and public sector and government representatives present to discuss issues surrounding the speedy passage of the Bill and other attendant issues. The consensus after the event was that the Bill needs to become law in earnest and a call was made to the Nigeria National Assembly to expedite the process of passing the Bill for onward transmission for assent to the Mr. President. The Roundtable was attended by a variety of stakeholders including the National Institute of Advanced Legal Study (NIALS), Policy and Legislative Advocacy Centre (PLAC), National Human Rights Commission, (proposed custodians of the Bill), The Nigeria Communication's Commission (NCC), The Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA), The Guild of Professional Bloggers of Nigeria (GPBN), Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Enough is Enough Nigeria (EIE), Public, Private Development Centre (PPDC) and Honorable Chukwuemeka Ujam who is the sponsor of the Bill.

5th September

Public Hearing on the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill:

On December 5, 2016, the House of Representative held a public hearing on the Digital Rights and Freedom Bill. The Public hearing was well attended by stakeholders and the Bill received positive review and support from various stakeholders in attendance. Well-meaning Nigerians participated at the Public hearing including the former vice-president of the World Bank and the Co-convener of the "Bring Back our Girls campaign" Dr. Mrs Oby Ezekwesili. All participants at the hearing publicly declared support for the Bill. Government institutions represented at the public hearing included; The Nigeria's Communication Commission(NCC), National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Nigerian Communication Satellite Limited (NIGCOMSAT), and the National Human Rights Commission(NHRC). The Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) present at the hearing included Enough is Enough Nigeria (EIE) and the Public and Private Development Centre(PPDC). The United States Embassy was also represented at the hearing as observers, as a show of support for Nigeria's effort to codify citizen's rights online.

Other Advocacy Activities & Interventions

1 The Frivolous Petition Bill (SB. 143) – also known as the "Anti-Social Media Bill"

In 2016, PIN spear-headed various advocacy initiatives to fight to a stand-still, the unpopular 'Frivolous Petition Bill' at the Nigeria Senate. The Bill, which had sections that threatened freedom of speech online, became a subject of controversy from the moment it was introduced by the Senate, and the speed with which it progressed at the Senate gave an indication of its sinister objectives to silence opposition voices and deny people of their fundamental rights to freedom of expression.

At a dialogue session with the sponsor of the controversial Bill, Senator Ibn Na'Allah, we queried the Senator on the import of the opening Section of the Bill, as to what was meant by "Notwithstanding any law in Nigeria…"; as this was indicative of an attempt to override all existing legislation in Nigeria, including the Nigerian Constitution. We also asked how it would be possible to protect whistle-blowers in the age of systemic corruption in Nigeria, given the challenges the bill poses to seeking a sworn affidavit before lodging a complaint. We further interrogated the distinguished senator on the need for his Bill when there were already provisions for slander and libel in existing legislations. We went further to explain to the Senator how if passed, his Bill would stifle freedom of expression and be used as an instrument to oppress the citizens.

Together with a coalition of Nigerian, African, and international organizations, we reached out to the Nigerian Senate about the proposed 'Frivolous Petitions Bill,' stating our belief that the bill is a dangerous encroachment on free expression and urged the Senate to reject it from further consideration because the use of social media is a mainstay of free expression in the digital age. Criminalizing its use in the guise of 'frivolous petitions' will adversely impact human rights while violating the principles underpinning Nigeria's own constitution.

In addition to this, we wrote a memo to the Senate Committee on Human Rights and Judiciary to argue against the Bill and gave reasons why the Bill should not be allowed to pass as Law in Nigeria. We also participated at the Public hearing organized by the committee to re-echo the concerns we had raised in the memo and through other platforms.

Together with two members of the NetRights Coalition, EIE (Enough is Enough Nigeria) & MRA (Media Rights Agenda), we sued the National Assembly on "The Frivolous Petitions Bill SB. 143" in a Lagos Federal High Court. The organizations asked the court to stop the parliament from passing the Bill into Law due to the adverse implications its provisions has on human rights of the Nigerian citizens. The Organizations, through their counsel sought an ex-parte motion for injunction against the National Assembly to refrain them from further activities on the passage of the Bill till the substantive suit is determined.

18th of May, 2016, the Nigerian Senate in one of its rarest moments stood for posterity by rejecting the "Frivolous Petitions Bill" sponsored on its floor by Senator Ibn Na'Allah. This was a remarkable achievement for the Digital Rights movement in Nigeria, Africa and the world at Large.

Other Advocacy Activities & Interventions

2 FOI Requests

We sent out Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to the following organizations:

- Universal Service Provision Fund USPF: we made a Freedom of Information request to the Fund to kindly make available the details of its finances from August 2006 to date to help in sustaining the crusade of public service accountability and transparency especially in the ICT Public sector. The request was also made in order to be able to monitor the spate of growth and application of available resources towards the realisation notable ICT development in Nigeria.

- Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC): On the 19th of September, 2016, we wrote a Freedom of Information request to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) about the information on electorates found on on the information of electorates found on the platform of a third party, www.voters.ng. This was necessary to know the true state of facts between INEC and the third party in relation to the personal information of private individuals deposited with the Commission in trust. Again the action was necessary in order to stem the tide of exchange of personal information between government agencies and third parties without the consent of the owners of this information. Private data is social infrastructure held in trust. Government agencies must ensure that trust isn't eroded, and that citizen's data in it's custody is protected in accordance with highest standards.

3 Policy Recommendation to The National Assembly

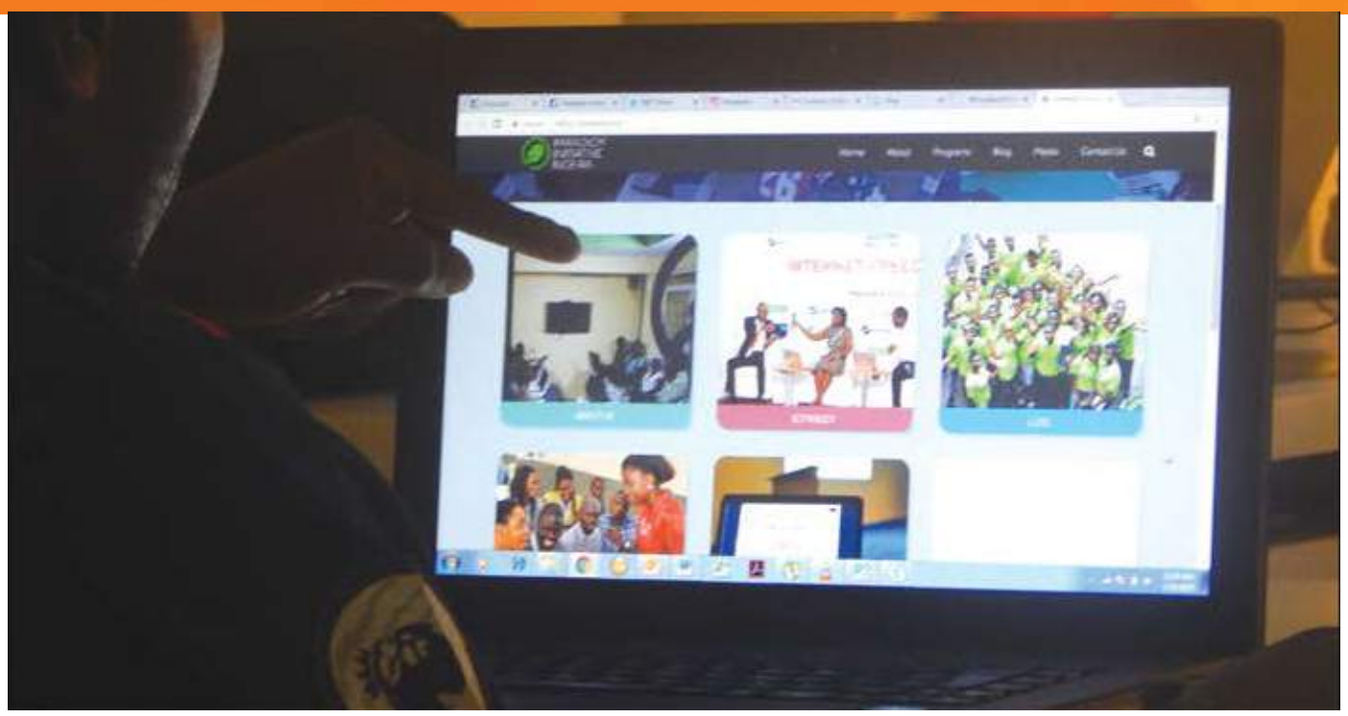
Following PIN's recommendation to the Senate President on the need for a Digital Rights and Freedom Bill in Nigeria, the office of the Senate President wrote to commend PIN for drafting the Bill and expressed willingness to work with PIN to make the Bill a reality in the 8th NASS.

4 Letter to the Central Bank of Nigeria on BVN and Pending Lawsuit

The ICT Policy Office sent a letter to the Central Bank of Nigeria to suspend the Bank Verification Exercise (BVN) it mandated all Nigerian banks to embark on. The letter was written because of the call of the President for the harmonization of all data collection agencies in Nigeria pending the time a viable law is passed by the National Assembly to cater for data privacy and protection in Nigeria. The letter was acknowledged by the Apex Bank as received by them. We have now approached our lawyers to commence a litigation process against the Apex bank to ensure that concerns about citizens' privacy rights are addressed.

Government agencies must ensure that trust isn't eroded, and that citizen's data in it's custody is protected in accordance with highest standards.

Digital Media Report

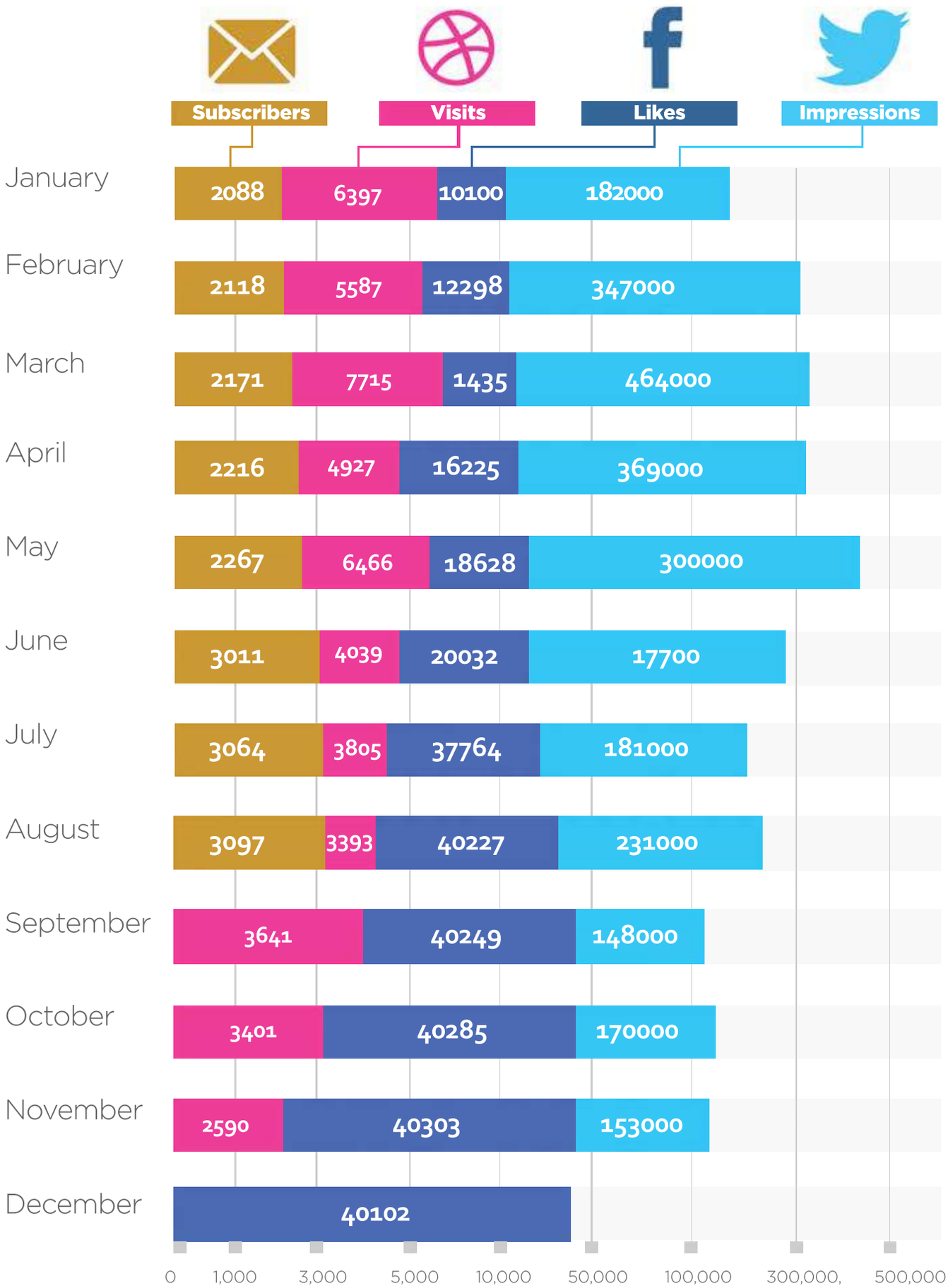


In the course of the year, the Digital Media unit was involved with planning and implementation of the media strategy for some of the organization's key activities and events such as the Social Media Week, Tech for Good Day, and the Internet Freedom Forum which reached 101,462 twitter accounts and had 313,997 impressions on day one of the event, while the hashtag also reached 125,091 twitter accounts and had 712,492 impressions on day two of the event. Pictures and the live stream videos from the event can be found on our website. The Digital team was also actively involved in events like the Safer Internet Day (Focused on Safe Internet Use for Children and Teenagers), and the New Media and Citizen's Governance Conference. The team produced the organization's first orientation video for new staff and redesigned the PIN website, which was launched in August 2016. The Digital Media Manager, Olamide Egbayelo facilitated the Social Media and Digital Security training at the Digital Literacy Workshop For Girls organized by PIN and Intel. The students in attendance were assigned tasks to create a social media campaign for one of the clubs in their respective schools and also create a pitch on a PowerPoint slide.

There was also an exclusive media hangout organized by the team in a bid to increase media partnerships and relations. The Digital Media unit identified and hosted 11 journalists and online influencers to an exclusive media hangout at Best Western Staffire Hotel on Wednesday 8th November, 2016. The hangout was organized to get feedback from the journalists and influencers, suggestions and advise concerning ways in which PIN can improve its media relations.

PIN reached a total of **26,849,676** people through various online campaigns and activities in 2016.

Highlights from Digital Media Accounts



Financial Report & Statement Of Affairs

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2016

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COMPANY INFORMATION

COMPANY NAME	Paradigm Initiative For Information Technology Development
REGISTERED OFFICE	385, Herbert Macaulay Way, Yaba Lagos**.**
DATE OF INCORPORATION	December 16, 2008
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Prof Pat Utomi - Chairman Dr. Seyi Adebayo Olubi Nick Jekogian 'Gbenga Sesan - Executive Director
COMPANY SECRETARY/LEGAL ADVISER	
BANKERS	DIAMOND BANK PLC GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC UNITED BANKFOR AFRICA PLC
AUDITORS	DEBAYO AJAYI & CO *(Chartered Accountants)* 18A, Akinola Cole Crescent, Off Adeniyi Jones Street, Ikeja – Lagos.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors have pleasure in presenting to the members of the organization, their Statement of Affairs for the year ended December 31, 2016.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

Paradigm Initiative for Information Technology Development is an organization registered under Nigeria Companies and Allied Matters Decree as an Incorporated Trustee. It is a non-profit social enterprise set up to empower and connect under-served Nigerian youth with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) opportunities in order to improve their lives and that of their families.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENTS

In the opinion of the Directors, the state of the organization affairs is satisfactory and no events have occurred after the balance sheet date, which would affect the state of affairs presented.

FIXED ASSETS

Information relating to changes in fixed asset is provided in Note 2 to the financial statements.

DIRECTORS

The following Directors were in office as at December 31, 2016:

- Prof Pat Utomi - Chairman
- Dr. Seyi Adebayo-Olubi
- Nick Jekogian
- 'Gbenga Sesan - Executive Director

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF PARADIGM INITIAITIVE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2016

We have audited the Statement of Affairs of **PARADIGM INITIATIVE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT** on pages 7 -12 in respect of the Company's activities for the year ended December 31, 2016, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and on the basis of the significant accounting policies set out on page 6.

The Company's Directors are responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Affairs. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those financial statements and to report our opinion to you.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the Statement of Affairs. It also includes an assessment of the significant accounting estimates and judgments by the Directors in the preparation of the Statement of Affairs, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to provide sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the Statement of Affairs are free from material misstatement. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the information presented in the Statement of Affairs.

In our opinion, the Statement of Affairs gives a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the Company at December 31, 2016 and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Allied Matters Act, 1990.

DEBAYO AJAYI & CO

(CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS)

LAGOS, NIGERIA

Dated this…… 2017

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Depreciation of Fixed Assets

Depreciation of tangible assets is calculated to write off the cost on a straight – line basis over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. The annual rates used for various classes of tangible fixed assets are as follows:

Description	%
Furniture, Fittings and Fixtures	12½
Motor Vehicles	25
Improvements to leasehold	20

Exchange Rates

Transactions in foreign currencies were translated to naira at the rate ruling at the date of transaction while balances were translated at the rate ruling at the balance sheet date.

STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS

For The Year Ended December 31st, 2016

	Note	2016 ₦	2015 ₦
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible Assets	2	24,770,581	24,944,321
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash in Hand and at Bank	3	2,587,881	21,616,769
Debtors / Prepayments	4	2,584,344	3,449,239
		5,172,225	**25,066,008**
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors & Accruals	5	1,427,298	120,000
Net Current Assets		3,744,927	24,946,008
Total Assets		**28,515,508**	**49,890,329**
FINANCED BY:			
Accumulated Fund	6	**28,515,508**	**49,890,329**

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOW

For The Year Ended December 31st, 2016

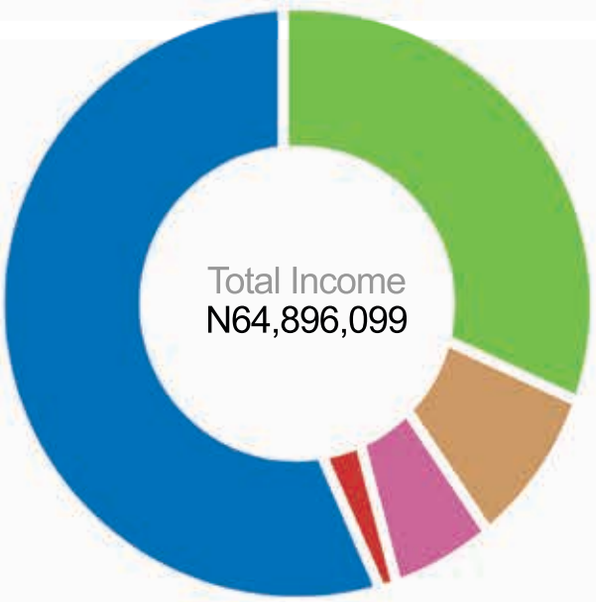
	2016 ₦	2015 ₦
Cash flow From Operating Activities		
(Deficit)/excess of income over expenditures	21,374,821	31,023,133
Adjustment For Items Not Involving Movement Of Cash:		
Loss on disposal of assets	548,429	-
Depreciation	8,084,345	6,883,875
Operating Surplus Before Working Capital Changes	**13,838,905**	**24,139,258**
Changes In Working Capital:		
Increase in debtors and prepayments	864,895	1,161,011
Increase in creditors	307,298	-
	12,666,712	**22,978,247**
Cash Flow From Financing Activities		
Advance from Director	**1,000,000**	**-**
Cash Flow From Investing Activities	9,177,229	8,857,824
Purchase of fixed assets	1,815,054	-
Disposal of fixed assets		
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	19.028,887	31.836,070
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	21,616,769	53,452,839
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	2,587,881	21,616,769

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
For The Year Ended 31st December, 2016

INCOME

Financial Reports

2016



Grants
-

Consulting
31,931,812

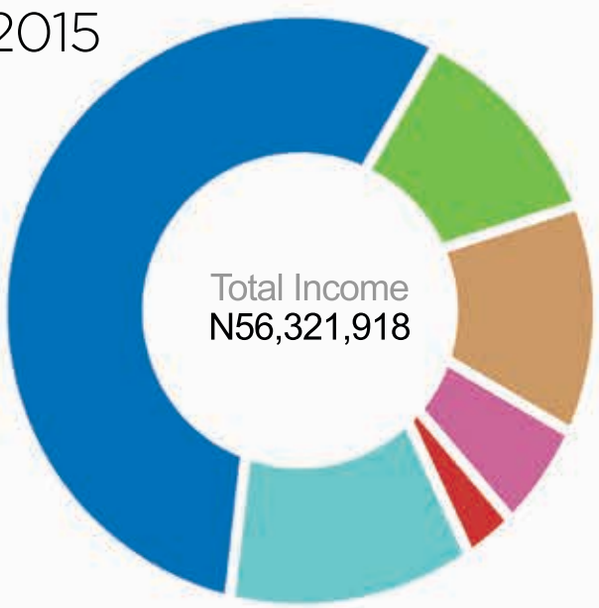
Donations
9,788,770

Income from L.I.F.E
762,590

Other income
1,171,851

Exchange difference
21,241,076

2015



Grants
15,314,468

Consulting
26,969,134

Donations
4,990,000

Income from L.I.F.E
727,650

Other income
219,500

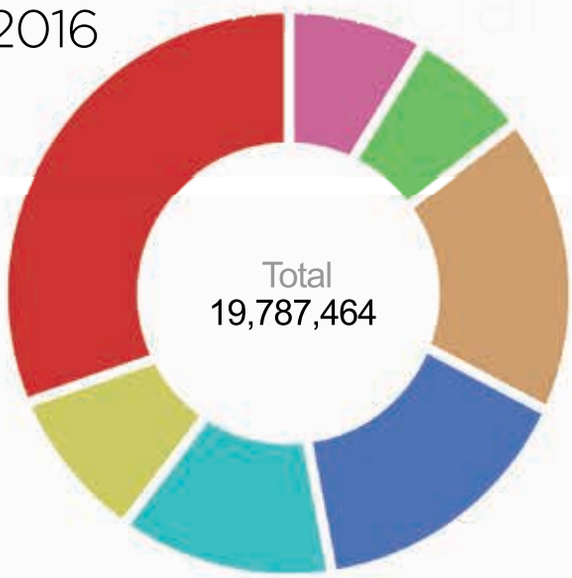
Exchange difference
8,101,166

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
For The Year Ended 31st December, 2016

PROGRAM COSTS

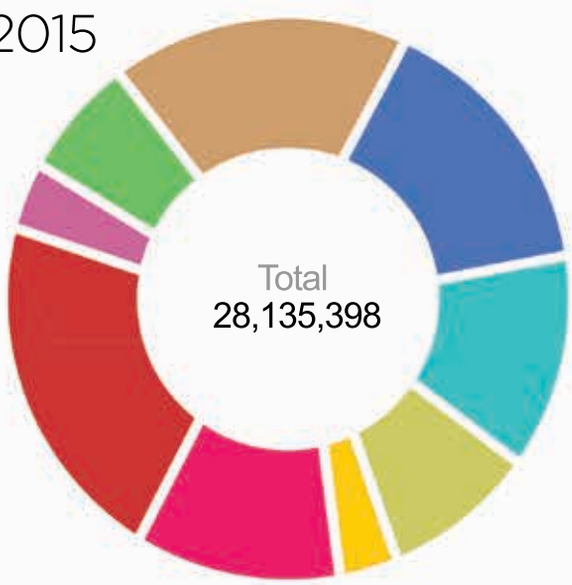
Financial Reports

2016



NGO Connection Day
2,432,600
Internews
1,437,174
Digital Rights & Freedom Bill
2,254,266
IPT
3,227,338
Internet Freedom Forum
9,527,394
Techie Entrepreneurial Nigerian Talented
501,752
Digital Jobs Project
406,940
Social Media Consulting (CTFK)
-
Cybercrime Bill Advocacy
-
World Wide Foundation
-
Hackathon Office of the Citizen
-
Google
-

2015



NGO Connection Day
865,200
Internews
1,455,112
Digital Rights & Freedom Bill
-
IPT
-
Internet Freedom Forum
-
Techie Entrepreneurial Nigerian Talented
6,901,530
Digital Jobs Project
4,560,004
Social Media Consulting (CTFK)
4,353,168
Cybercrime Bill Advocacy
1,050,024
World Wide Foundation
138,000
Hackathon Office of the Citizen
73,400
Google
8,738,960

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
For The Year Ended 31st December, 2016

EXPENDITURE

	2016	*2015*
	₦	₦
EXPENDITURE: OPERATIONS		
Salaries & Wages	**28,478,285**	**24,496,568**
Repairs & Maintenance	**2,762,210**	**1,308,000**
Office Stationeries	**126,100**	**465,225**
Rent	**4,237,755**	**6,645,750**
Courier Service/Bulk SMS .	**271,792**	**391,480**
Depreciation	**8,084,345**	**6,883,875**
Bank Charges	**357,390**	**229,705**
Professional Services	**237,000**	**310,000**
Office cleaning	**28,970**	**-**
Transportation	**7,086,890**	**6,026,517**
Entertainment	**459,960**	**180,500**
Internet Service	**718,700**	**802,077**
Town hall meeting	**393,580**	**267,880**
Telephone expenses	**552,500**	**546,800**
Office supply	**1,197,290**	**971,750**
Electricity	**209,173**	**190,215**
Advertising	**202,500**	**268,000**
Motor vehicle running expenses	**1,582,411**	**1,487,950**
Fuel & lubricants	**3,467,600**	**2,336,800**
Staff retreat	**2,229,261**	**3,141,696**
Staff training & development	**1,914,336**	**694,550**
Medical expenses	**450,000**	**100,000**
Security expenses	**47,900**	**66,000**
Loss on disposal of assets	**548,429**	**-**
General expenses	**839,260**	**1,398,313**
	66,483,457	59,209,652
Total Expenditure	86,270,920	87,345,049
Deficit of Income over Expenditure	**(**21,374,821)	**(**31,023,133)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
As At 31st December, 2016

CORPORATE STRUCTURE AND BUSINESS

The organisation was incorporated on December 16, 2008 as a non–profit social enterprise, an incorporated trusteeship under the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990

1. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT	IMPROVEMENT TO LEASEHOLD	MOTOR VEHICLE	TOTAL
COST	₦	₦	₦	₦
As at 1/1/2016	10,532,386	25,011,635	2,260,000	37,804,021
Additions during the year	5,694,675	3,482,554	-	9,177,229
Disposals during the year	(1,663,000)	-	-	(1,663,000)
As at 31/12/2016	**14,564,061**	**28,494,189**	**2,260,000**	**45,318,250**
DEPRECIATION				
As at 1/1/2016	4,519,944	7,209,755	1,130,000	12,859,699
Charge for the year	1,820,508	5,698,838	565,000	8,084,345
Eliminated on disposals	(396,375)	-	-	(396,375)
As at 31/12/2016	**5,944,077**	**12,908,593**	**1,695,000**	**20,547,669**
NET BOOK VALUE				
As at 31/12/2016	**8,619,985**	**15,585,596**	**565,000**	**24,770,581**
As at 31/12/2015	**6,012,441**	**17,801,880**	**1,130,000**	**24,944,322**

2. BANK AND CASH

		2016	2015
		₦	₦
i.	Diamond Bank Plc Naira Account	5,366	1,688,326
ii.	Guaranty Trust Bank Plc:		
	* Naira account	111,471	4,681,428
	* Dollar account	2,334,823	15,137,030
	* Euro account	13,520	-
iii	United Bank for Africa Plc -		
	* Naira Account	114,545	-
iv	Cash at hand	8,157	109,935
		2,587,881	**21,616,769**

3. DEBTORS / PLEDGES

Prepaid Rents	1,900,833	2,164,500
Staff Debtors	683,511	1,284,739
	2,584,344	**3,449,239**

4. CREDITORS / ACCRUALS

Director's Current Account	1,000,000	-
Other Creditors	307,298	-
Accrued Audit Fee	120,000	120,000
	1,427,298	**120,000**

5. ACCUMULATED FUNDS

At January 1,	49,890,329	80,913,462
Deficit of Income over Expenditure	(21,374,821)	(31,023,133)
At December 31,	**28,515,508**	**49,890,329**

INCOME

The major sources of income of the social enterprise are through consulting services/donations/ contributions/ grants from notable foundations, charitable organizations and individuals within and outside Nigeria.

	2016	2015
	₦	₦
6. GRANTS		
Internews	-	1,928,438
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids	- .	13,386,030
	- .	**15,314,468**
7. CONSULTING		
Facebook	4,215,000	-
Intel (She will Connect)	7,230,434	-
Internews	7,761,781	-
Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids	-	4,872,042
Microsoft Nigeria	-	4,600,000
Google	11,822,440	7,231,363
New American Foundation	-	336,600
World Wide Web Foundation	614,187	3,083,800
World Economic Forum	-	381,521
Others	- .	6,463,808
	72,911,848	**26,969,134**
8. DONATIONS		
Access Now	9,538,770	-
NITDA	-	3,475,000
Stanbic IBTC Bank	-	500,000
Remita STP Transit Account		1,000,000
Others	- .	15,000
	9,538,770	**4,990,000**

9. EXCHANGE GAIN

This represents the translation difference arising from the transactions relating to the grants received during the period.

. The exchange rate as at the time of report is as follows:
Dollar Rate: N305 - $1 (2015 : N199 - $1)
Euro Rate: N322 – E1
Pounds Rate: N375 - GBP

ParadigmHQ

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+234 1 342 62 45