



# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

## JANUARY – DECEMBER 2023

## *Reflections of 2023: A Year of Impact and Growth*


As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the remarkable strides made by Bilaad Development Trust (BDT). The year 2023 was a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering social equity, economic empowerment, and sustainable development.

A key milestone was the **Official Launch and Fundraising Dinner** held in July, themed *“Bridging the Divide: Curating a Prosperous and Egalitarian Society”*. This landmark event set the stage for expanded impact, reinforcing our dedication to building an inclusive society.

Through our Gem Hunt Series, we made significant contributions in the education and entrepreneurship spheres. The first edition focused on **tertiary students**, equipping them with the skills to develop innovative solutions to societal challenges, as research has shown that more than 85 per cent of Nigeria’s graduates lack digital skills (**nannews.ng August 2023**). In consideration of the 23 million women that run micro, small and medium scale businesses, making up 50% of Nigeria’s GDP (**businessday.ng December 2023**), the second edition of our Gem Hunt Series celebrated **“30 Under 30 Women in Business”**, providing technical assistance, mentorship, and networking opportunities to female entrepreneurs.

Beyond these structured programs, our commitment to change advocacy led to strategic engagements with key stakeholders such as the North-East Education Endowment Fund (NEDC-EEF) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). These collaborations reinforced our dedication to policy influence and systemic change. Our charity outreach initiatives further demonstrated our mission to uplift the most vulnerable members of society, through visits to orphanage homes across Abuja, wherein we provided essential supplies and created moments of joy for children in need.

We remain committed to deepening our partnerships, expanding reach, and driving sustainable change. To our ecosystem partners, well-wishers, and supporters, your unwavering belief in our mission fuels our progress.



*Dr. Sadiq Suleiman Abdullahi*





# Official Launch And Fundraising Dinner

The Official launch and fundraising dinner took place on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023, themed *“Bridging the divide: Curating a prosperous and egalitarian society”*.

- This event brought together key stakeholders, thought leaders, and philanthropists to discuss strategies for addressing societal disparities.
- It also served as a platform for raising funds to support projects aimed at fostering social equity, economic empowerment, and sustainable development, with a focus on creating opportunities for underserved communities across Nigeria. The event featured inspiring speeches, networking opportunities, and commitments to drive positive change.





# 2023 Key Highlights and Impact Areas:

## Education:

The pilot project of our Gem Hunt Series was delivered on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Themed *“The future in perspective”*, the competition focused on the education sector, specifically targeting tertiary students.

- Participants showcased innovative ideas addressing societal concerns in the Architectural, Engineering, Branding and Sales fields.
- This event was instrumental in facilitating employment and business opportunities while providing mentorship support to participants.





# 2023 Key Highlights and Impact Areas:

## Education:

Cohort - 1 of the BDT scholarship program was executed as part of efforts to catalyze growth in the education space in Nigeria.

- This program provides a platform for highflyers from identified underserved communities that lack the wherewithal, to access educational opportunities.
- The BDT scholarship scheme provides a platform for exceptional beneficiaries to access education opportunities in Division 1 universities and colleges in the United States of America and other educationally advanced countries.



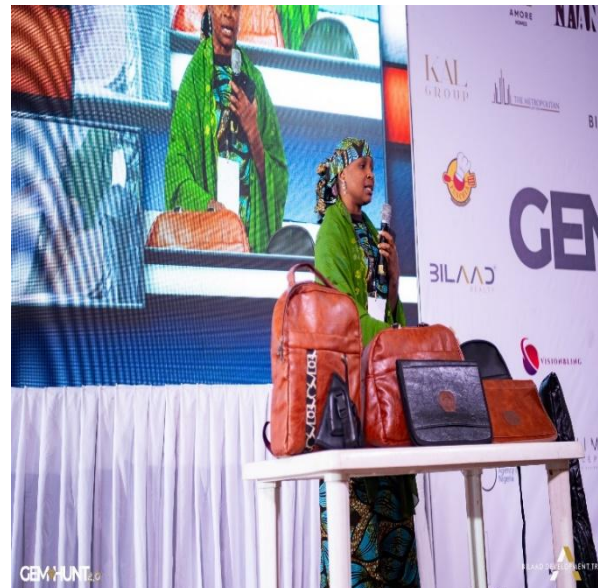


# 2023 Key Highlights and Impact Areas:

## Entrepreneurship:

The second edition of our Gem Hunt Series themed ***“30 under 30 women in business”***, focused on female entrepreneurs.

- Participants drawn from Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Agriculture/Agro, Fashion/Lifestyle, Food Processing, and the Digital Economy across Nigeria showcased their skills in ideation, product development and stakeholder engagement.
- BDT provided technical assistance and mentoring support to these female entrepreneurs, enhancing their capabilities and skills to drive their going concerns.
- BDT also facilitated visibility and networking opportunities to help these women build strong and valuable business connections.



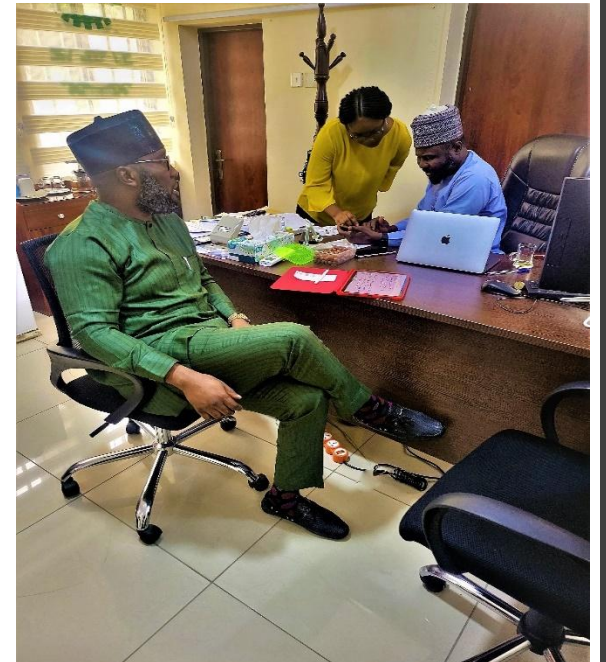


# 2023 Key Highlights and Impact Areas:

## Change Advocacy:

As part of efforts to drive change advocacy across identified sectors, BDT had engagements with key stakeholders.

- Strategic engagements were held between BDT and the senior management of the North-East Education Endowment Fund (NEDC-EEF), focused on key initiatives and potential areas for collaboration.
- The BDT team also met with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) to explore opportunities for promoting sustainable human development in Nigeria.





# Other Projects and Interventions

Bilaad Development Trust provided tangible aid to identified underserved communities via focused intervention programs, inspiring hope among beneficiaries. One of such interventions is the Charity outreach to orphanages in Abuja. Below are the orphanages visited during the year:

- **Mother Theresa Children's Orphanage Home, Gwarinpa, Abuja** (22<sup>nd</sup> June & 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023).
- **City of Refuge Orphanage Home, Durumi, FCT-Abuja** (3<sup>rd</sup> July & 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023).





# BDT Activity Summary for January to December 2023

Focal Area	Activities	Impact & Outcomes
Education	Gem Hunt Series 1.0 <i>"The future in perspective"</i> .	This initiative laid a solid foundation for future editions and demonstrated the potential of education-driven programs to foster social change, skill development, and economic empowerment in Nigeria. It also provided participants with the opportunity to express their creativity and passion for making a positive impact through their chosen fields, effectively cultivating talent, driving innovation, and creating meaningful pathways for professional growth in vital sectors.
	BDT Scholarship Program	The BDT scholarship program significantly enhanced educational access and equity by providing high-achieving students from underserved communities with opportunities to study at top-tier universities, fostering social mobility, global competitiveness, and community development while driving innovation and leadership.
Entrepreneurship	Gem Hunt Series 2.0 <i>"30 under 30 Women in Business"</i> .	This initiative helped elevate female owned enterprises, providing them with critical resources, support, and visibility to drive their businesses and contribute to Nigeria's economic growth.
		Participants were offered tailored mentorship and technical assistance to deepen their skills in business management, helping these entrepreneurs build sustainable business practices.
		Participants gained access to a strong, resilient network of female entrepreneurs and became better equipped to make a lasting impact on their communities and Nigeria's economy.



# BDT Activity Summary for January to December 2023 Cont'd

Focal Area	Activities	Impact & Outcomes
Change Advocacy	Engagement & Deliberation Meeting with Top management of the North-East Education Endowment Fund(NEDC-EEF).	BDT collaborated with NEDC-EEF to foster collaboration targeted at addressing regional educational challenges, and ensuring resource mobilization, in order to contribute significantly to the advancement of education in the North-East, Furthermore, promoting sustainable development and growth for the region.
	Partnership Meeting with AECID Nigeria.	BDT sought opportunities for collaboration with AECID Nigeria to forge partnerships and leverage on approaches to achieve shared goals.
	Deliberation meeting with SMEDAN.	BDT carried out continuous engagement in areas of promoting innovation and synergy to pave way for wealth creation and expansion within MSMEs space in Nigeria.
Other Projects and Interventions	Charity Outreach to Orphanages in the FCT.	BDT's efforts helped foster a sense of security, stability, and hope, aiding in their emotional recovery and development.



# OUR ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS AND SPONSORS FOR GEM HUNT 1.0

## “THE FUTURE IN PERSPECTIVE”





# OUR ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS AND SPONSORS FOR GEM HUNT 2.0



WOMEN IN BUSINESS



# APPRECIATION

As we look back on the achievements and impact of our activities and interventions in 2023, Bilaad Development Trust extends its heartfelt appreciation to our well-wishers, ecosystem, and funding partners. Your unwavering commitment, and invaluable contributions have played a pivotal role in driving our mission forward, enabling us to create meaningful change and positive impact in the communities we serve. We remain grateful for your continued support and partnership in our journey towards sustainable development and social transformation.

## Appreciation

**We extend special recognition to:**

- **A.A Rano Foundation**, for your moral and financial support.
- **Dr. Dalhatu Hamza**, for your commitment to promoting academic excellence.
- **Suburban Fiber Co. Ltd**, for your exemplary commitment and efforts towards addressing unemployment amongst teeming youths in Nigeria.





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