

ANNUAL REPORT

Building Foundations for Digital Inclusion and Youth Empowerment in Africa





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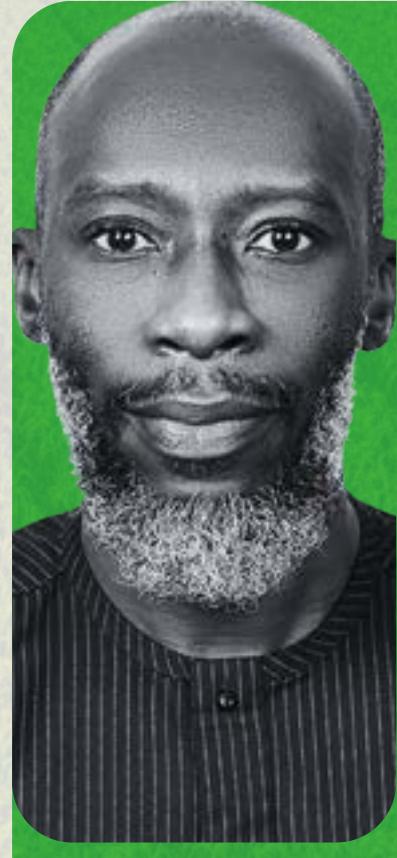
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About DIniti8tive

Digital and Technological Empowerment Innovation Initiative for Next Generation (DIniti8tive) is a nonprofit organisation advancing digital inclusion, innovation and equitable opportunities for young people and underserved communities across Nigeria and Africa.

We exist to ensure that technology serves as a pathway to opportunity rather than a barrier, particularly for young people navigating education, livelihoods and participation in a rapidly digitising economy. Through partnerships, dialogue and programme design, DIniti8tive works at the intersection of digital access, youth empowerment, education and systems resilience, laying the groundwork for inclusive and sustainable development.





Our Foundational Year

2025 marked the first full year of operations for DIniti8tive following its incorporation on 27 November 2024. This year was deliberately structured as a foundation-building phase, focused on establishing the systems, governance structures and partnerships required to support long-term, scalable impact.

As a newly established organisation, DIniti8tive made a conscious decision to prioritise institutional credibility, strong governance and partnership readiness over rapid programme deployment. This approach was grounded in the belief that sustainable impact is built on clear purpose, trusted relationships and sound operational foundations.



Rather than pursuing fragmented or short-term interventions, we focused on building a robust institutional architecture designed to sustain meaningful impact over time.

Highlights of the Year

In 2025, DIniti8tive structured its activities around four core priorities: institutional strength, partnership development, thought leadership and programme readiness.



Institutional Strength



Partnership Development



Thought Leadership



Programme Readiness

2025 highlights at a glance

1 Institutional Development: Building the systems that enable accountability and growth

We invested heavily in developing strong governance and operational frameworks, a vital step for credibility, compliance and donor readiness.

Key milestones included:



Developing
and reviewing
key policy
frameworks:



Onboarding the
pioneer Board
of Trustees

- Finance & Accounting
- Human Resources
- Safeguarding & Protection
- Data Protection
- MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning)
- Establishing an operational presence
in Abuja Federal Capital Territory

Together, these systems position DInitiative for accountability, responsible growth and donor confidence.



2 Strategic Partnership Engagements: Listening, learning, and co-creating with the ecosystem

DInitiative actively built relationships with institutions shaping the future of digital literacy and education.

We engaged:

- Government and statutory bodies (including examination and education regulators)
- State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Cross-River State
- Civil Society Organisations
- EdTech innovators across Nigeria
- Development organisations and policy advocates

These engagements were not transactional. They were designed to listen, learn and co-create, allowing DInitiative to better understand ecosystem gaps, align with national priorities and design interventions that reflect real community and institutional needs.

3

National Visibility & Thought Leadership: Convening dialogue to shape policy, partnerships and practice

In 2025, DInitiative served as a platform for cross-sector dialogue on digital inclusion, education access and innovation-led development. Through national webinars and stakeholder engagements, we amplified evidence-based conversations and elevated underrepresented perspectives within policy and development spaces.



Our Inaugural National Webinar — Setting the Tone

In September 2025, DInitiative hosted its inaugural national webinar, “Bridging Digital Gaps for Equitable Examination Access.” This convening marked DInitiative’s first major public engagement as an organisation and served as an entry point into national conversations on digital equity within Nigeria’s education system.

The webinar brought together representatives from:

- West African Examinations Council (WAEC)
- National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS)
- National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS)
- Education stakeholders, policy advocates, legal and industry experts

Discussions focused on:

- Digital access gaps affecting examination participation
- Infrastructure and policy barriers within the education ecosystem
- The role of institutions, schools and regulators in promoting equity

“

Connectivity is no longer a luxury issue — it is a justice issue. A child in a rural community deserves the same glitch-free examination experience as a child in an urban centre.”

Chief Osita Chidoka, Founder & Chancellor, Athena Centre for Policy and Leadership; Former Minister of Aviation, Nigeria



The session established DIniti8tive as a credible voice on digital inclusion in education, demonstrating our ability to convene institutions that rarely share the same platform, and grounding our work in practical, system-level challenges.



Deepening the Conversation — Expanding into Climate & Food Systems

Building on the visibility and credibility gained from its inaugural webinar, DIniti8tive expanded its thought leadership agenda in December 2025 by co-hosting a second national webinar in partnership with Agropedia Limited titled:

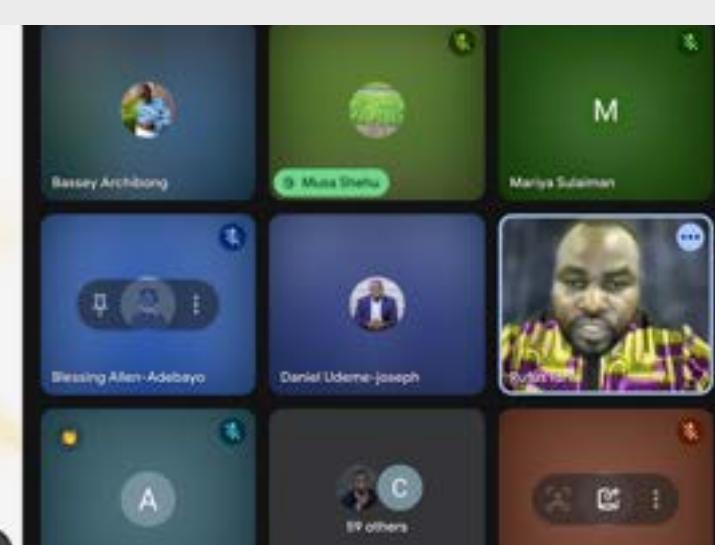
“Climate Risk Management and Its Impact on Food Security: Leveraging Innovation for a Resilient Food System in Africa.”

This webinar broadened the scope of DIniti8tive’s public engagement beyond education to address the interconnected challenges of climate change, food security, digital innovation and youth livelihoods.

This convening brought together a broader coalition of organisations working across climate, agriculture, finance, research and technology, including:

- Agropedia (Co-host)
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- Extension Africa
- Environmental and Economic Resource Centre (EERC)
- Farm Monitor Africa
- Ikore International
- Development practitioners, agri-tech innovators, farmer organisations, and civil society groups



PANEL
DISCUSSION**CLIMATE RISK &
FOOD SECURITY
IN AFRICA:**LEVERAGING INNOVATION FOR
RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS.

Africa cannot feed itself tomorrow with the systems of yesterday. As climate change rewrites the rules of agriculture, we must innovate boldly, collaborate intentionally, and scale solutions rapidly.”

Mrs. Sharon Ayeni, Member, Board of Trustees- Delivered by Dr. Fidelis Ekom, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, DIniti8tive



“

Discussions explored climate risks to food systems, digital and financial innovations for resilience, local adaptation strategies and the critical role of youth and women in transforming agriculture. The diversity of partners reflected DIniti8tive’s commitment to multi-sector collaboration as a pathway to sustainable impact.

Together, both webinars reflected DIniti8tive’s evolving role, from initiating focused conversations on digital access and education equity to facilitating broader, cross-sector dialogue on systems resilience and inclusive development.

Positioning for Impact

These convenings strengthened DIniti8tive’s partnerships and informed programme design and advocacy priorities for 2026.

Our thought leadership approach in 2025 was not event-driven, but mission-driven, using dialogue as a tool to inform action, partnerships and policy engagement.



4 Programme Design & Pipeline Development: Translating insight into action-ready programmes

Insights from DIniti8tive's 2025 national webinars played a critical role in shaping and refining our programme pipeline. Discussions from our inaugural webinar on digital equity and examination access, held in collaboration with education stakeholders and institutions such as **WAEC, NANS and NAPPS**, highlighted systemic access gaps that informed our approach to inclusive digital learning and youth-focused interventions.

Similarly, learnings from our second webinar on climate risk management and food security

supported by partners across agriculture, climate, and development sectors deepened our understanding of climate resilience, innovation and community-led adaptation.

Together, these engagements grounded DIniti8tive's programme concepts in real-world challenges, practitioner experience and cross-sector perspectives, ensuring that our 2026 pilot initiatives are responsive, scalable, partnership-driven and context-aware.

Climate risks are rising. How do we secure Africa's food future?

Join leading experts from policy, research, agritech & development as we unpack how Africa can build climate-resilient food systems.

11 Dec 2025 • 2PM WAT

Register to the webinar for free 



CLIMATE RISK & FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA:

DIniti8tive  @DIniti8tive • 16/07/2025
DIniti8tive Calls for Urgent Overhaul of Nigeria's Foundational Learning at Africa Social Impact Summit

Dr. Fidelis Ekom, the Co-Founder and Managing Partner of DIniti8tive has asked that a "national emergency" be declared on foundational literacy and numeracy in Nigeria.



5 Building Our Digital Presence

In 2025, DIniti8tive used its digital platforms, LinkedIn and X, to share insights, promote dialogue and amplify conversations around digital inclusion, education equity and climate resilience.

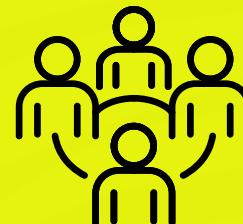
Our social media presence supported:



Visibility for national webinars



Knowledge-sharing with practitioners and stakeholders



Early community-building around DIniti8tive's mission

Financial

Summary(FY 2025)

DInitiative recorded no income or expenditure in its foundation year. All activities were self-financed and focused on building systems, governance, research, and strategic partnerships.

This lean approach ensures future donor funds are directed toward impact-driven programmes.

2025 in Reflection

2025 was a year of deliberate foundation-building for DInitiative. Through institutional strengthening, strategic partnerships and national convenings, we focused on laying the groundwork for a movement rooted in digital equity, youth empowerment and inclusive development.

Our engagements throughout the year reinforced the importance of collaboration across sectors in addressing systemic challenges. These conversations deepened our understanding of systemic challenges while strengthening the partnerships needed to address them.

As the year comes to a close, DInitiative stands positioned to move from preparation to action. The foundations laid in 2025, in governance, partnerships, and shared vision, now set the stage for delivering measurable, community-centred impact in 2026.

Our Partner & Collaborators in 2025

DIniti8tive's work in 2025 was strengthened through collaboration with institutions and organisations committed to advancing digital inclusion, education equity, climate resilience and youth empowerment. We are grateful for the partnerships that shaped our learning, conversations and future direction.

Partner Organisation & Collaborators (2025):



NAPPS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
PROPRIETORS OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

IITA
Transforming African Agriculture

AGRA
Sustainably Growing
Africa's Food Systems



Extension Africa
Connecting African Farmers



Environmental &
Economic Resource
Centre



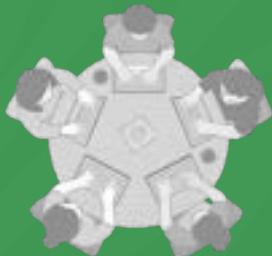
FARM MONITOR



DIniti8tive also acknowledges the valuable contributions of both moderators, Ms. Esther Adegunle and Dr. Blessing Allen-Adebayo, and subject-matter experts who supported the planning, facilitation and delivery of our 2025 national webinars.

Outlook for FY 2026

2026 will be a year of activation and expansion. Our priorities include:



Programme Launch

Rolling out pilot projects in underserved communities across at least two geopolitical zones.



Funding Mobilisation

Engaging donors, foundations, CSR units and international development partners.



Strengthened Advocacy

Deepening our national advocacy on digital inclusion, examination access and youth empowerment.



Thought Leadership

Building on our webinar ecosystem to drive national conversations.



Monitoring & Learning

Formalising our MEL systems to measure, document and communicate impact.

Message from the Board

"DIniti8tive exists to ensure that technology serves as a bridge, not a barrier, to opportunity. In 2025, we took intentional steps to build the foundations of a movement for digital equity, grounded in strong governance, meaningful partnerships and inclusive dialogue.

With these foundations in place, 2026 will be a year of action. We move forward committed to delivering measurable impact, empowering young people and working alongside partners and communities to advance inclusive development across Africa."

Board of Trustees & Management



Dr. Aiyemidara Akala,
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Mrs. Sharon Ayeni,
Board Member



Prof. Kelechi Nnoaham
Board Member



Dr. Fidelis Ekom
Co-founder & Managing Partner



Chukwuemeka Nwankwo
Co-founder & Managing Partner

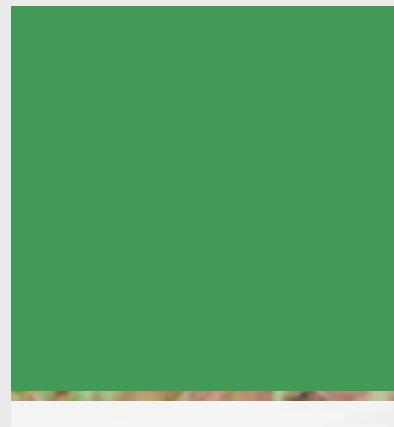
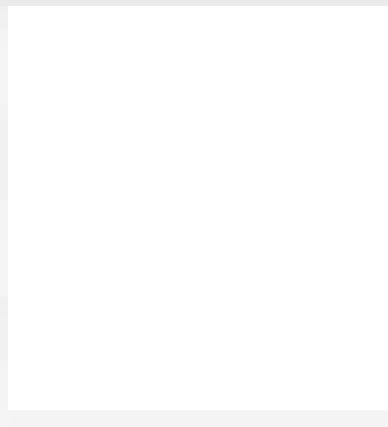
Core Team



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Communications Lead & Board Secretary



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