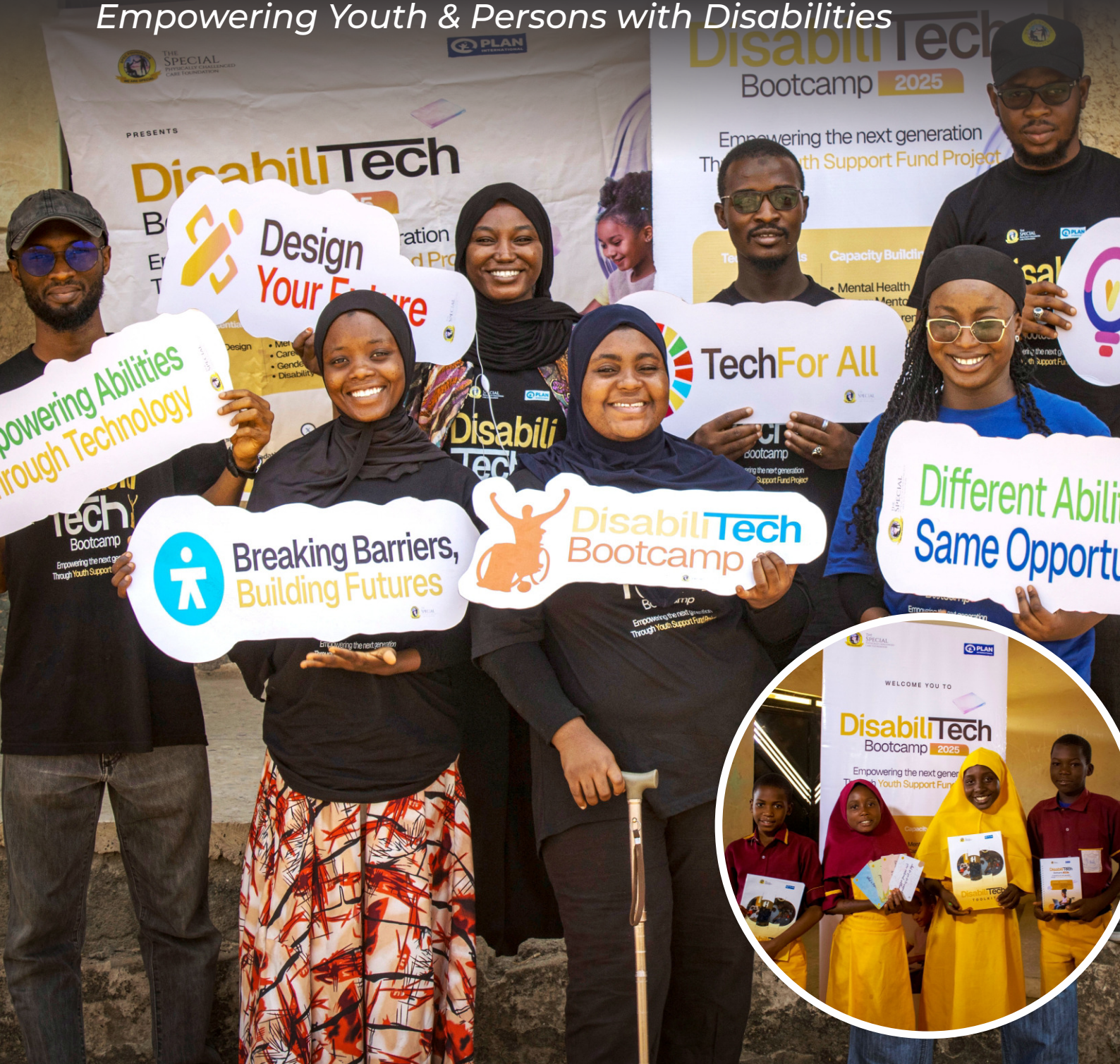




**WE ARE SPECIAL
FOUNDATION**

2024/2025 Annual Report

*Advocating Inclusion | Strengthening Communities
Empowering Youth & Persons with Disabilities*





About SPEC

We Are Special Foundation is a disability-led nonprofit organization committed to empowering children, girls, and young persons with disabilities through inclusive education, climate action, digital literacy, leadership development, and community engagement. Our work ensures visibility, dignity, and equal access to opportunities.

Vision

A society where persons with disabilities especially girls and young people have equal access to education, technology, empowerment programs, and community participation.

Mission

- Advocate for inclusive and accessible learning environments
- Strengthen digital and leadership skills for young people and persons with disabilities
- Implement climate action and sustainability programs
- Build capacity for CSOs and communities
- Foster innovation through digital and environmental solutions
- Promote disability rights and inclusive development



“Established We Are Special Foundation to amplify the voices, abilities, and leadership of persons with disabilities. Guided by her lived experience, she believes: “Everyone can live their dreams despite their circumstances.”

Shamsiyyah Umar

PARTNERS & SPONSORS (2024–2025)



SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF,
KEFFI





SECTION 1: 2024 CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT

Empowering Civil Youth Society to building a Stronger community in Nigeria

Funded by NGYouthSDGs & the German Embassy

In 2024, We Are Special Foundation implemented a youth-centered climate policy strengthening program focused on climate literacy, community awareness, and stakeholder collaboration.

KEY ACTIVITIES (2024)

1. Youth CSO Climate Capacity-Building Training

- Held virtually and physically
- 10 youth CSO members trained
- Participating CSOs

The participating CSOs were selected through a comprehensive process to ensure that they aligned with the goals of the training, particularly climate action, youth empowerment, and inclusion. CSOs from Nasarawa West were prioritized based on the following detailed selection criteria. Below is the list of CSOs and their thematic focus areas:



1. Physically Challenged Mobilization for Self-Reliant Vanguard

Focus: Advocating and mobilizing youth and women with disabilities to become self-reliant and independent.

2. Africa Climate and Environment Foundation (ACEF)

Focus: Environmental advocacy and education on climate change.

3. BUTA Initiative

Focus: Women's rights, peace, and development.

4. Green lane Universal Foundation

Focus: Sustainable climate action through advocacy and community engagement.

5. Keffi Youth Development Congress (KYDC)

Focus: Promoting peace, unity, and progress in youth development.

6. Ecocykle Development Foundation

Focus: Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, with a specific emphasis on climate change and reducing plastic waste.

7. School for the Deaf

Focus: Advocating for the inclusion of the deaf community in societal development.

8. Mbegir Humanitarian Initiative

Focus: Advocacy, screening, treatment, and research on breast and cervical cancer, as well as climate change impacts on health.

9. Mission 4 Impact

Focus: Operating in four thematic areas education, climate change, good governance and peace, security, and justice.

10. Basmis Global Link

Focus: Advocating for the rights of orphans and marginalized/vulnerable communities.

Modules included:

- Nigeria's climate policy frameworks (NAP & NDCs)
- Climate advocacy
- Community mobilization
- Climate communication
- Stakeholder engagement
- Monitoring and evaluation basics

Key Achievements/ Impact:

- The training successfully achieved its objectives by:
- i. Providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of Nigeria's National Climate Policies.
 - ii. Equipping CSOs with practical skills to organize impactful community climate campaigns.
 - iii. Enhancing communication strategies for effective climate advocacy.
 - iv. Strengthening stakeholder engagement and financial management capabilities among CSOs.
 - v. Fostering collaboration and partnerships between participating organizations to amplify their climate action efforts.

2. Community Climate Dialogue

- 95 participants from 10+ communities
- Included religious leaders, traditional leaders, students, women groups, PWDs, traders
- Identified local issues: heat waves, waste management, erosion, water scarcity, low climate awareness



Community Climate Dialogue Picture

3. Stakeholder Dialogues & Advocacy Visits

- Engaged Ministries of Environment, Youth & Sports, Humanitarian Affairs
- Engaged the Emir of Keffi, JN1, CAN, and Nasarawa Network for Climate Justice
- Presented community priorities and gathered expert input

4. LAPA Co-creation & Presentation

- Collaboration with two partner CSOs.
- Integrated grassroots data, sectoral recommendations, and ministry contributions .
- Included the Upcycling Project as a climate adaptation strategy

FINAL OUTCOMES (2024)

- LAPA validated by government, traditional rulers, and CSOs.
- 85% improvement in climate knowledge among participants .
- Upcycling Project included as a climate adaptation action.
- Stronger collaboration between community, government & youth networks
- Increased climate awareness in urban and semi-rural communities

CHARTS

Chart 1 – Pre-training knowledge levels

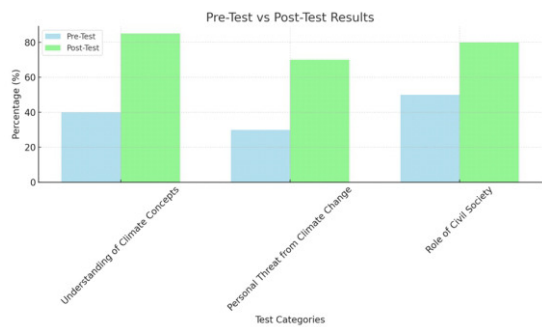
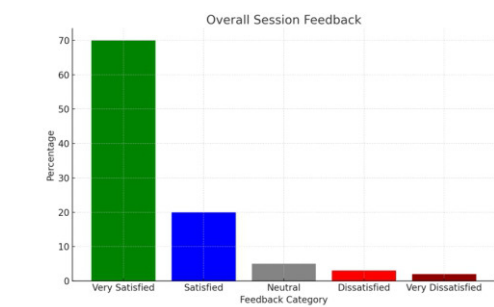


Chart 2 – Post-training improvement levels





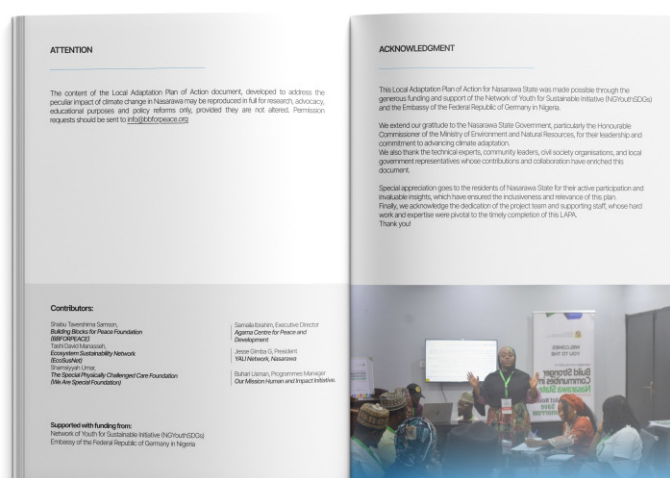
PICTURES OF CLIMATE ACTION PROJECT

TOTAL REACH (2024)

Direct Reach: 182 individuals

Indirect Reach: 3,500+ community members through schools, households, radio & CSOs.

Budget: N3,000,000



LOCAL ADAPTATION PLAN OF ACTION FOR NASARAWA STATE



SECTION 2: UPCYCLING PROJECT EXPANSION (2024–2025)

The Upcycling Project converts plastic waste into usable items, building climate awareness while empowering young people and PWDs.

2024–2025 Highlights

- Expanded to more communities and schools
- Introduced “Waste-to-Wealth” training in the LAPA framework
- Created awareness in communities previously not reached
- Prepared to establish a community-based recycling hub



Next Steps (2025–2026)

- Upcycling & Climate Innovation Hub.
- Training 200 additional youth.
- School-based recycling drives.
- Multi-community waste management campaigns





SECTION 3: DISABILITECH DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (NOV 2024 – AUG 2025)

Funded by Plan International under the Youth Support Fund

The DisabiliTech Bootcamp is a 9-month digital empowerment program designed for primary and secondary school students in marginalized communities including those with disabilities to enhance digital skills, build confidence, promote inclusion, and prepare them for future opportunities.

This program combines practical ICT training, creative design skills, leadership development, mental health awareness, and teacher capacity-building.

BREAKDOWN OF DISABILITECH

A. Program Foundations (Nov–Dec 2024)

1. School Outreach & Onboarding
 - Project was implemented in 3 schools.
 - i. Government JSS Gurku
 - ii. Government SSS Gurku
 - iii. School for the Deaf Keffi
 - Assessed learning environment, accessibility, ICT availability
 - Registered 86 students and 45

B. Core Training (Jan–Aug 2025)

1. Digital Essential Skills

Students learned:

- Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel
- Formatting documents, creating assignments
- Research skills
- Email etiquette
- Internet safety (passwords, cyberbullying, data privacy)

Outcome:

Students could create basic documents, school projects, digital homework, and presentations independently.



2. Graphic Design & Creativity Module

Using Canva and Photoshop Fundamentals, students learned:

- Flyer and poster design
- Color theory
- Visual storytelling
- Layout composition
- Simple photo editing
- Introduction to logo creation
- Exporting and sharing designs

Outcome:

Students created posters for school events, mental health messaging, climate awareness, and personal branding.

3. Gender Awareness Sessions

Topics included:

- Gender equality
- Stereotypes (e.g., “girls cannot be leaders”)
- Shared responsibilities at home and school
- Respect and safety
- Women in STEM
- Support for boys on emotional expression

Outcome:

Students developed empathy, reduced bias, and embraced equality in group activities.

4. Disability Inclusion Workshops

- Understanding different disability types
- Respectful communication
- Supporting classmates with disabilities
- The power of inclusion
- Creating supportive school environments

Outcome:

Students from all three schools demonstrated improved attitude, especially toward Deaf students.

5. Mental Health & Expressive Art Sessions

- Self-awareness
- Identifying stress
- Healthy coping strategies
- Peer support
- Group painting & creative expression
- Journaling

Outcome:

Students bonded more, expressed emotions, and showed improved confidence.

6. Pair Mentorship Program

Selected Students grouped under mentors and advanced in the tech training

- 20 students were selected across the 3 schools
- Personal development support
- Guidance on career interests
- Help with projects and assignments

Outcome:

Students produced more structured work, expressed leadership qualities, and began exploring tech career paths.

7. Train-the-Trainer (TOT) for Teachers

Teachers were trained on:

- Mental health awareness
- Disability inclusion; Inclusive teaching methods
- Gender awareness; Gender-responsive classroom management
- Creating inclusive lesson plans

Outcome:

Teachers can now independently run ICT sessions and support students with disabilities more effectively.



Pictures from DisabiliTech Bootcamp

DISABILITECH OUTCOMES (NOV 2024–AUG 2025)

- ✓ Increased digital confidence
- ✓ Improved inclusive classroom behaviors
- ✓ Students produced flyers, presentations, essays, posters
- ✓ Stronger peer bonding between PWDs and non-PWDs
- ✓ Girls gained confidence in STEM-related activities

TOTAL REACH (DISABILITECH)

Direct Reach: 131

Indirect Reach: 2,700+ through:

Families

School assemblies

Peer-to-peer learning

Teachers training other classes

Budget - N10,000,000



131 Direct
Beneficiaries



86
students



49
Teachers



28
persons with
disabilities
(from total of 86)





SECTION 4: CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Global Platform for Artists with Disabilities Project

We Are Special Foundation x .ART Registry x
Ripple Art Initiative

1. The Initiative is to create more visibility, opportunity, and recognition for artists with disabilities. This project is built to give these artists a global stage that truly values their voice and their work.

2. The aim is to open creative pathways for artists with disabilities by giving them access to a professional online presence, curated open calls, and direct exposure to international art audiences.

The project focuses on shifting the narrative from under represented to fully seen.

3. Platform Development.

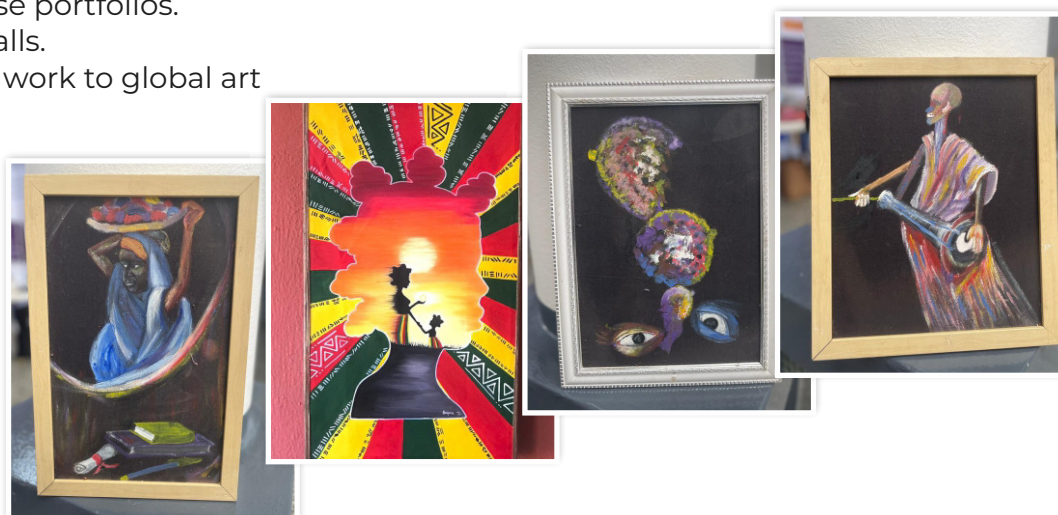
A dedicated website hosted on the .ART Registry domain serves as:

- A gallery space to showcase portfolios.
- A hub for ongoing open calls.
- A bridge connecting their work to global art networks and collectors.

4. Open Calls & Featured Opportunities.

The first open call, UNMUTED, celebrates the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. Selected artists may also be featured on .ART Registry's main account, offering meaningful exposure development programs and international partnerships. The long-term goal is to help shape an inclusive art world where artists with disabilities are fully celebrated.

International Day of persons with disabilities edutainment Video on what inclusion means and what disability is, the video featured different advocates, persons with disabilities and even Head of people with disabilities bureau in the ministry of youth and sports Egypt striking new partnership



PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

SECTION 5 : SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES (2025–2026)

1. DisabiliTech Learning App

A digital platform being designed to:

- ✓ Host accessible lessons
- ✓ Provide sign-language supported videos
- ✓ Enable offline learning
- ✓ Offer mentorship and peer interactions
- ✓ Track learning progress

2. Disability-Inclusive ICT & Innovation Hub

A physical hub to:

- ✓ Provide free computer and internet access
- ✓ Support coding, graphics, robotics for youth
- ✓ Serve as an inclusion & climate education center
- ✓ Host the expanded Upcycling & Waste

Innovation Lab

NEXT STEPS (2025–2026)

Climate & LAPA

- ✓ Advocate for state adoption
- ✓ Introduce climate clubs
- ✓ Expand Upcycling to 5 more schools
- ✓ Quarterly multi-stakeholder reviews

DisabiliTech

- ✓ Launch the App
- ✓ Establish Innovation Hub
- ✓ Expand to 5–7 New Schools
- ✓ Add Robotics & Multimedia Modules

CONCLUSION

Across 2024–2025, We Are Special Foundation strengthened climate resilience, scaled disability inclusion, empowered hundreds of young people, and positioned itself as a leading voice for inclusive development in Nasarawa State.

With your continued support, we remain committed to ensuring that no child, no youth, and no person with a disability is left behind.

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS



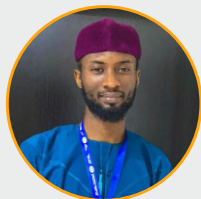
Shamsiyyah Umar
Founder/Executive Director



Shamsideen Umar
Deputy Coordinator



Safiya Muhammed Gambo
Project Coordinator



Mansur Umar waziri
Head of Finance



Rahama Ibrahim
Head of Human Resources



Abdulqadir Kawu Shuaibu
M&E officer



Yasmin Bawa Abubakar
Head of administration



Fatima Mato
Administration officer



Virginia Edor
Assistant project coordinator



Patience Adikinyi
Creative Inclusion Lead
(Unmute Art Initiative)





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Checkout our
New Toolkit

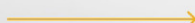
DisabiliTech



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Contacts:

Phone: +234 818 427 5900

Email: wearespecialfoundation1@gmail.com.