

MARCH 2024

# NEWSLETTER



BUILDING, PROJECTING AND PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF AFRICA TOGETHER

ISSUE #3



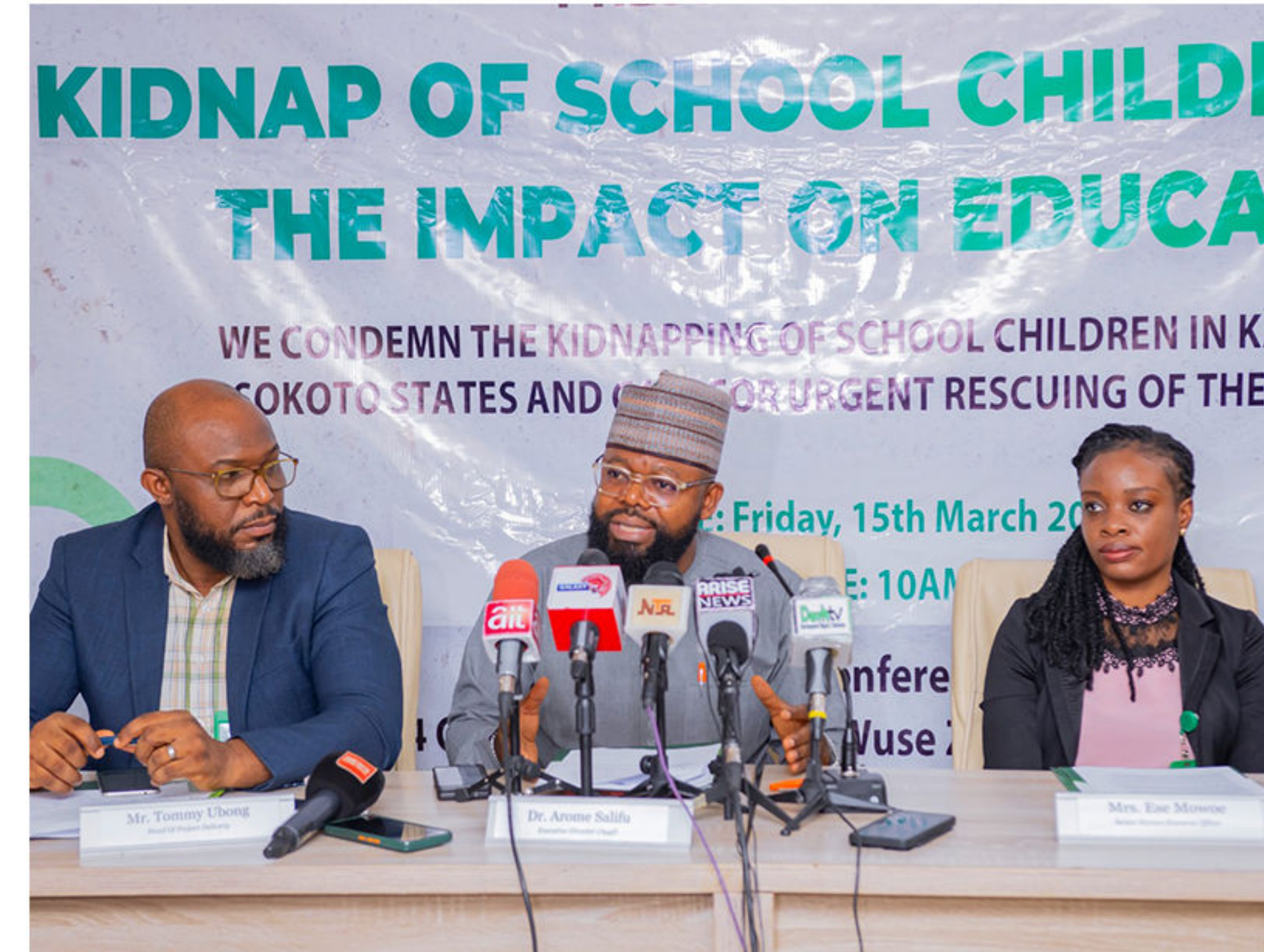
MARCH 2024 INTERNATIONAL

# WOMEN'S DAY

Invest in women:  
Accelerate progress



AYGF Celebrates National  
Nutrition Month



PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE  
KIDNAP OF 287 SCHOOL CHILDREN  
IN KADUNA AND 15 FROM  
SOKOTO

# SENSE

PODCAST SPECIAL

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No. 4 Ouagadougou, Street,  
Wuse Zone 2, Abuja



## INTRODUCTION

As we draw the curtains on the first quarter of 2024, we are delighted to take you through some of our activities for March.

This month, we honored the incredible women who have inspired us over time with our International Women's Day activity.

March, also being Nutrition Month, we highlight the different activities carried out by the field officers in Kogi, Niger, and Katsina states as they promote good health in our fight against malnutrition.

We hosted a press conference to address the crucial kidnapping situation in Nigeria and embarked on a series of courtesy visits to foster and rebuild partnerships to achieve our mission.

Finally, you get to watch our color-themed bonding activities and birthday soiree.

Thank you for staying with us so far, and we wish you a great second quarter.

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### PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE KIDNAP OF 287 SCHOOL CHILDREN IN KADUNA AND 15 FROM SOKOTO



*L-R: Mr. Boniface Imo, Internal Auditor/Compliance Manager, Ubong Tommy/ Head of Project Delivery, Dr. Arome Salifu, the Executive Director of AYGf, Mrs. Ese Mowoe, HR Manager (Human Resource Manager), Gamble Aniekan / Head of Operations and Finance. Photos: @AYGF 2023/Jeremiah Ifeanyichukwu, AYGf Communications Officer*

We held a press conference on the 15th of March, condemning the abduction of 287 students in Kaduna and 15 in Sokoto states.

AYGF expressed outrage at the state of insecurity in the nation and how porous the security in some schools has become and highlighted the devastating impact these crimes have on education and the safety of children.

We emphasized the critical role education plays in society, pointing out that constant abductions will not only increase the number of out-of-school children but also create setbacks for the education sector. Furthermore, uneducated children are more susceptible to exploitation by criminal and terrorist groups.

We urged the Nigerian government and security agencies to take immediate action to secure the safe release of all abducted children. We emphasized the need to prevent these tragedies from becoming another "Chibok situation," referencing the mass kidnapping of schoolgirls in 2014. AYGf urged all stakeholders to intervene and ensure the children's safe return.

Click the [LINK](#) to watch the full Press Conference Video on Arise TV.



## AYGF CELEBRATES NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH



*Representatives of Radio Nigeria with AYGF Head of Programs Mr. Nelson Egbunu*



*Mr. Nelson Egbunu During the discussion on National Nutrition at Radio Nigeria*

March is National Nutrition Month, a time to raise awareness about the importance of healthy eating. Established by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in 1980, this annual campaign highlights the role of proper nutrition in maintaining good health and well-being.

Here at AYGF, we recognize the critical role nutrition plays in the lives of Nigerians, especially children. We've actively improved the nutritional outcomes through various initiatives, including the World Bank-funded ANRIN (Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigerians) project implemented in Kogi, Niger, and Katsina states.

One of our key contributions is providing Vitamin A supplements to children under five. Vitamin A offers a multitude of benefits for young children:

**Boosts Immunity:** An active immune system helps children fight off infections and stay healthy. Vitamin A plays a vital role in building this protective shield.

**Nourishes Growth:** Vitamin A is essential for the proper development and growth of cells and tissues throughout the body.

**Bright Eyes:** This vital nutrient contributes to healthy vision and promotes good eyesight in children.

To commemorate this, we featured live on the Radio Nigeria Network duly represented by the head of programs, Nelson Egbunu. During this session, he gave detailed information concerning the importance of nutrition in Nigeria, the need to fight malnutrition, and AYGF's effort to combat malnutrition in Nigeria.

At AYGF, we are committed to combating malnutrition and achieving universal health coverage in Nigeria. Every dose of nutritional supplement we administer is a step towards a healthier future for all children and women.



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## INT'L WOMEN'S DAY ON RADIO



To further commemorate IWD2024, AYGf had a special interview session on Kapital FM 92.9 Abuja. The discussion focused on the theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" and the work AYGf is doing in different parts of Nigeria through its Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria Project to empower women.

The interview highlighted women's crucial role in overcoming the world's most pressing challenges, from geopolitical conflicts and rising poverty to the intensifying effects of climate change.

Here's a deeper look at the key points discussed:

**Investing in Women Drives Progress:** The interview emphasized that investing in women is essential for achieving progress across all aspects of society. When women are empowered and have equal opportunities, they contribute significantly to building a healthier, safer, and more equitable world.

**AYGF's Commitment to Women's Empowerment:** We shared our organization's ongoing efforts to empower women. These include specific initiatives and programs, such as the ANRIN Project, Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria, a project designed to increase the utilization of quality, cost-effective nutrition services for pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, and children under five years of age in select areas of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. AYGf acted as non-state actors for the world bank project in the following states: Katsina, Kogi, and Niger state.

**Inclusion Matters:** The discussion X-rayed the importance of creating inclusive spaces where women's voices are heard and valued. These could involve initiatives to break down barriers and ensure women have equal access to opportunities in areas like education, employment, and leadership roles.



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# COURTESY VISITS

## MALARIA CONSORTIUM



*AYGF Executive Director Dr. Arome Salifu and staff paid a visit to the West & Central Africa Programs Director Malaria Consortium, Dr. Kolawole Maxwell*

The AYGf team, led by the Executive Director, Dr. Arome Salifu, paid a visit to the West & Central Africa Programs Director Malaria Consortium, Dr. Kolawole Maxwell, and his Technical Team. The meeting centered on further building synergy in the fight against Malaria in Nigeria and Africa and the importance of working with accurate data.

## COURTESY VISIT TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AFDB)



*African Development Bank, AFDB. Led by the Executive Director, Dr Arome Salifu*

The team also visited the African Development Bank, AFDB. Led by the Executive Director, Dr Arome Salifu, the AYGf management team was well represented to reiterate the strength and capacity of the organization in project implementation and capacity building across Africa.



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## COURTESY VISIT - UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME, UNODC.



*AYGF team with the Project Lead Alternative to Incarceration Dr. Akanidomo Ibanga, the National Programs Officer Corruption Risk Mitigation, Francis Umendiego, and Program Officer Trafficking in Person, Ifeoma Kanebi of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC*

The AYGf team also visited the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC. The meeting brought to the fore the need to improve information sharing, a data-driven system, and build more national response centers to mitigate against issues around Migration, trafficking in persons, Drug Abuse, and Wildlife crime, especially among the youths.

In attendance were the Project Lead Alternative to Incarceration, Dr. Akanidomo Ibanga, National Programs Officer Corruption Risk Mitigation, Francis Umendiego, and Program Officer Trafficking in Person, Ifeoma Kanebi.



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## COURTESY VISIT - FHI360



*The Executive Director of AYGf Dr. Arome Salifu and AYGf team with staff and the Acting Country Director of Fhi360, Victor Ogbodo*

The team dropped by the Fhi360 office for an introductory visit ably received by the Acting Country Director, Victor Ogbodo.

The Fhi360 team was happy about the Introductory visit as the country director noted they were open to working with more local and indigenous NGOs in Nigeria to aid technical support, policy implementation, and humanitarian intervention. Also in attendance was the Director of program operations, Ngozi Ezema. FHI 360's work in Nigeria addresses a range of human development challenges.



## COURTESY VISIT TO SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HEALTH (SFH) HQ



*AYGF Executive Director Dr. Arome Salifu and AYGf Staff with the Managing Director of SFH.*

The AYGf team, led by the Executive Director, Dr. Arome Salifu, visited the Society For Family Health HQ. Received by the Managing Director, Dr. Omokhudo Idogho, the strategic meeting with SFH touched on the need to increase impact and performance in the development space in Nigeria. Both organizations also discussed possible working partnerships, technical support, and exploring new opportunities.

## SSA ON FOOD SECURITY POST



*AYGF Executive Director Dr. Arome Salifu with the Senior Special Adviser to the President on Food Security, Barr Yejide Ogundipe*

The AYGf team was honored with the presence of the Senior Special Adviser to the President on Food Security, Barr Yejide Ogundipe at the HQ.

Given the current challenges of food scarcity and the rising cost of living, AYGf is committed to developing initiatives that address food insecurity. The productive discussions focused on potential collaborations and partnerships to build a future where food security is a reality for all Nigerians.



*AYGF Executive Director Dr. Arome Salifu with the Senior Programme Manager, Ms. Ana Letícia Medeiros of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

## COURTESY VISIT TO IOM

Still, on partnerships, the AYGf team, led by the Executive Director, Dr. Arome Salifu, met with the technical working group of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Senior Programme Manager, Ms. Ana Letícia Medeiros, on behalf of the IOM Chief of Mission Monsieur Laurent De Bœck, received the team. The meeting explored potential partnership opportunities across various thematic areas and some Nigerian states.





**AYGF is a regional non-governmental Organisation established in April, 2003 and registered in July, 2006 with the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja, Nigeria, with over 17 years of developmental projects implemented with the European Union (EU), International Organisation Migration (IOM), Johnson & Johnson, Dimagi, ECOWAS through the, Spanish Government, German Government, World Bank, Vitamin Angels, amongst others.**

**AGYF has operational base in British Columbia Canada, and Nigeria (Kogi, Niger, Abeokuta, Katsina, and FCT). The organisation's purpose is to strive for positive change in the economic and social status of Africans, the poor, the vulnerable and minorities, by implementing effective programs that deliver sustainable outcomes.**

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