

Updated Draft

The Luminary Project 2025 Annual Report

Faith in Action: Lighting Paths Across Africa

“Arise, shine, for your light has come.” — Isaiah 60:1

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Introduction

The Luminary Project exists to identify, celebrate, and support individuals who are driving meaningful change in their communities across Nigeria.

In a time when local changemakers often work quietly behind the scenes, The Luminary Project shines a light on their stories, connects them to resources, and helps them scale their impact.

In 2025, we reached a new milestone:

- **230 Changemakers nominated** from across Nigeria.
- **21 Fellows trained** through the Luminary Fellowship.
- **₦4 million disbursed** to support community projects.
- **40 active initiatives** implementing developmental solutions within SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 16, across 36 communities in Nigeria

Each Luminary represents courage, creativity, and leadership in action.

A Message from the Founder & Executive Director — Napa Onwusah

When we launched The Luminary Project, our vision was to recognise everyday Nigerians creating extraordinary impact.

2025 has shown that when we invest in people who care deeply about their communities, transformation happens — not just in systems, but in lives.

From teachers building digital literacy programs in rural schools to innovators designing clean energy solutions and youth leaders mobilising climate action — the year has been filled with stories of progress, collaboration, and resilience.

Our theme, Architects of Social Change, captures a simple idea: lasting societal change is built by people who create solutions, not just identify problems.

We've seen what can happen when people act on conviction, when they choose to lead instead of waiting to be led.

As we look to 2026, we remain committed to creating platforms that enable changemakers to grow, connect, and multiply their influence.

Thank you to our board, partners, and supporters who have fueled this movement — and to every Luminary whose story reminds us that light grows brighter when shared.

Warm regards,

Napa Onwusah

Founder & Executive Director

The Luminary Project

2025 in Summary — A Year of Growth and Illumination

2025 was a year of expansion, learning, and measurable impact.

Key Highlights

- **230 Changemakers nominated:** From diverse fields — education, healthcare, technology, social justice, sustainability, and entrepreneurship.

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- **20 Fellows trained:** Through the Luminary Fellowship, designed to strengthen leadership, storytelling, and project execution skills.
 - **₦1 Million Raised:** Through donor networks, foundations, and private partners.
 - **₦4 million disbursed:** To support 20 Luminary-led community projects across Nigeria.
 - **40 Projects Active:** Each contributing directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 16, across 36 communities in Nigeria
 - **1,000+ Nigerians** benefited directly from Luminary-led projects in 2025.

Behind every number is a person, a team, and a story of determination.

Our Impact

In 2025, The Luminary Project supported community-driven solutions addressing Nigeria's most urgent development challenges. Across our network, Luminaries delivered programs that increased access, strengthened local capacity, and improved wellbeing for vulnerable groups. This is our Impact Through the Lens of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- **SDG 3 & SDG 5: Good Health and Wellbeing + Gender Equality**

The Menstrual Health Access Initiative.

Over 200 adolescent girls gained access to menstrual hygiene kits and practical training on menstrual health management. This improved their dignity, reduced school absenteeism, and strengthened gender-inclusive health outcomes.

- **SDG 4 & SDG 5: Quality Education + Gender Equality**

Girls' Empowerment – Bloom Girl Conference

324 girls across six secondary schools participated in a full-day conference focused on leadership, personal wellbeing, and academic motivation. The program advanced gender-responsive education and strengthened pathways for girls' participation in public life.

Scholarship Support Program

Six students from Lagos and Plateau States received tuition assistance and essential learning materials, ensuring uninterrupted schooling and easing financial pressure on caregivers.

- **SDG 4: Quality Education**

Digital Education & STEM Exposure – STEM4Growth by IDEAT Africa

A 3-day robotics workshop across three rural communities in Ondo State equipped 150

students with foundational skills in programming, design, and problem-solving. The initiative broadened access to STEM education and expanded career pathways for young learners.

Boys' Leadership Development Program

120 boys were trained in self-awareness, values-based decision-making, and civic leadership. Twenty-seven participants went on to take up leadership roles in their schools, demonstrating strengthened character development and social responsibility.

- **SDG 7 & SDG 13: Affordable Clean Energy + Climate Action**

Community Clean Energy Pilot (Biochar & Briquettes)

This pilot project converted agricultural waste into clean energy alternatives for households in Ogun State. The initiative reduced reliance on firewood, lowered deforestation risks, improved soil fertility, and created green income opportunities for women and youth — directly advancing community-level climate resilience.

- **SDG 8 & SDG 9: Decent Work & Economic Growth + Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure**

Youth Entrepreneurship Development – U40 BIZGIST (Phases 1 & 2)

Seventy young entrepreneurs received training in financial literacy, digital marketing, and sustainable business development. These skills strengthened their business resilience, improved livelihood opportunities, and supported innovation-driven microenterprise growth.

- **SDG 16 & SDG 17: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions + Partnerships for the Goals**

Changemakers Program

Twenty-two emerging changemakers completed intensive training on designing and implementing high-impact community programs. Five new initiatives were launched as a result, reaching 215 beneficiaries across education, youth development, women's health/mental health, and climate action. This strengthened local leadership capacity and cross-sector collaboration for sustainable development.

In total, an estimated 1,000 Nigerians benefited directly from Luminary-led projects in 2025.

The Luminary Fellowship

The **Luminary Fellowship** was piloted as a 4-week accelerator for changemakers leading social impact projects.

In 2025, 21 Fellows completed the program, which included:

- Structured online courses in leadership, communication, and design thinking.
- Coaching sessions with industry leaders.
- Access to Impact Funds II and The Luminary Network for visibility and collaboration.

Participants have gone on to scale their projects in education, gender equality, mental health, youth development, and digital inclusion.

Impact Funds and Disbursements

Through the **Luminary Impact Fund**, ₦2 million was raised, and ₦4 million was disbursed to 12 active projects across Nigeria.

Focus Area	Amount (₦)	% of Fund	Projects Supported
Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)	1,800,000	45%	2
Quality Education (SDG 4)	1,600,000	40%	4
Zero Hunger (SDG 2)	300,000	7.5%	1
Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3)	200,000	5%	4
Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions (SDG 16)	50,000	1.25%	1
Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)	50,000	1.25%	1
Total	4,000,000	100%	12

All disbursements were tracked and audited through transparent reporting systems.

Stories of Light — Voices from Our Luminaries

1. Ivory Emeka-Oguagha — Y-SIPS Foundation

“Many of our projects have shown strong early promise and could benefit from scale-up support. The Luminary Project didn’t just fund our work, it sparked possibilities. With continued partnership, the ripple effect will be even greater.”

2. Chidera Sandra James-Edeh — Period Slay

“I believe the topics were treated using ABCs model from the design thinking to the team building to creating programs that matter and finally the one that broke the camel's back was the M&E, I have always thought that was a big process. As I prepare for a relaunch, I think I am privileged to be having these classes.”

3. Dr. Lola Odeyale Ayo-Fashida — Outpour of Fragrances Initiative

“This is to say a big thanks to The Luminary Project for the support of the impact fund. We had our Pad our beauties Project and the girls were happy.”

4. Gladness Joseph — Y-SIPS Foundation’s Beneficiary

“I started the Changemakers Program unsure of how to begin, but I now lead a mentorship initiative for teenage girls and young women in my community.”

These stories show what’s possible when purpose meets opportunity.

SDGs Breakdown

Across the 2024 and 2025 cohorts, Luminaries are addressing social challenges in all 36 states through locally-driven solutions rooted in the Sustainable Development Goals.

These initiatives span education, health, youth empowerment, gender equality, economic opportunity, and environmental resilience — reflecting the diverse needs of communities and the strength of Nigeria’s social impact ecosystem.

Overall Breakdown (2024 + 2025 Cohorts Combined, 40 changemakers)			
SDG	Theme	Number	Percentage
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	4	10%
SDG 3	Good Health & Well-being	8	20%
SDG 4	Quality Education	13	32.50%

SDG 5	Gender Equality	2	5%
SDG 6	Clean Water & Sanitation	1	2.50%
SDG 8	Decent Work & Economic Growth	7	17.50%
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	2	5%
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities & Communities	1	2.50%
SDG 16	Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	2	5%
TOTAL		40	100%

Financial Overview

Funds Raised (2025): ₦1 Million

Funds Disbursed: ₦4,225,000

Luminary Awards Cost: ₦2,965,750

Administrative Cost: ₦2,515,430

Every contribution was managed with accountability and impact at the center.

Partnerships and Supporters

We are deeply grateful to our ecosystem of partners and collaborators whose resources and expertise strengthened our work in 2025:

- **B4B Partners** — Strategic Program Implementation
- **PlacidCode Labs** — Technology & Platform Development
- **Luminary Network of Donors** — Recurring Giving Circle
- **Corporate & Foundation Partners** — Funding and Advisory Support
- **New Telegram, Guardian, and The Sun** — Media and Visibility Support

Together, they enable Luminaries to move from passion to measurable progress.

Conclusion — The Light Ahead

2025 reaffirmed one truth: sustainable change begins with people.

Our focus for 2026 will be to:

- Increase the number of Luminary Fellows to 50.
- Launch **LegitGood**, a digital platform connecting verified changemakers to funders.
- Grow the **Luminary Impact Fund** to ₦25 million.
- Strengthen governance and data systems for transparency.

The work ahead is vast, but with a growing community of committed Luminaries and supporters, the path forward is bright.

Meet Our Board of Directors

Guiding Vision. Strengthening Governance. Amplifying Impact.

The Luminary Project proudly welcomes its **inaugural Board of Directors** — a diverse group of professionals whose leadership, integrity, and expertise will shape the project’s long-term vision and growth.

Ogochukwu Onwuzuruike

[LinkedIn](#)
[Image](#)

Ogochukwu is a business development strategist and market leader with extensive experience driving growth, partnerships, and profitability across Africa’s technology, FMCG, and payments sectors. She currently serves as **Director of Market Development at Truecaller**, leading expansion and user growth in Nigeria.

Before Truecaller, she was **Sales Director for Africa at MetaMap**, scaling its operations to four countries and exceeding \$3 million in annual revenue. She has also held leadership roles at **Interswitch Group, Philip Morris International, and GSK**.

We’re delighted to welcome Ogochukwu to the Luminary Project Board of Directors.

Collins Ndukwe

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Collins is a seasoned technology leader with expertise in software engineering, product management, and digital transformation. He has led high-growth teams that build scalable products and promote innovation, mentorship, and operational excellence.

Collins is also a community builder who supports developer communities and learning initiatives across Africa.

We're excited to welcome Collins to the Luminary Project Board of Directors.

Napa Onwusah

[LinkedIn](#)

Image: *Napa 2.jpg*

Napa Onwusah is a business leader with over 25 years of experience in sales, marketing, and public policy. She leads **PlacidCode Labs** and **B4B Partners**, and has held executive roles at **AWS, Google, Microsoft, Visa, and Cisco**.

As the Founder of The Luminary Project, she continues to drive innovation and empower changemakers through technology, leadership, and storytelling.

She has been featured in *Forbes Africa* and was named one of the *Top 100 Career Women in Africa (2024)*.

Eliezer Ajah

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Image: *Eliezer Ajah.JPG*

Eliezer Ajah is Head of Job Creation & Placement for the **3 Million Technical Talent (3MTT)** Programme under Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy.

An **IVLP Alumnus**, Eliezer is passionate about talent development, mentorship, and capacity building for Nigeria's next generation of innovators.

We're honored to have him on the Luminary Project Board of Directors.

Ebere Nkoro

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Ebere is a technology sales executive with 18 years of experience leading business growth across global tech firms including **Microsoft, Oracle, Cisco, McAfee, Dimension Data, and AWS**.

She brings strong expertise in enterprise sales, partnerships, and customer success, along with

a passion for advancing African innovation.

We're thrilled to welcome Ebere to the Luminary Project Board of Directors.

Funmilola Akinteye

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Funmilola is a certified **Project Management Professional (PMP)** with an **MBA** and a proven record in operational excellence and change leadership.

She has managed large-scale programs, optimized systems, and mentored emerging leaders across industries.

Her emphasis on structure, efficiency, and collaboration makes her a valuable addition to the Luminary Project Board of Directors.

Closing Note

The Board's guidance strengthens The Luminary Project's commitment to governance, accountability, and sustainable impact.

Their collective experience will help ensure that Luminaries — from grassroots leaders to national innovators — continue to thrive, collaborate, and illuminate change across Nigeria.

Appendix

 Y-SIPS-FOUNDATION-IMPACT-REPORT.pdf Aug - Oct 2025

 Luminary Impact Fund Progress Report 2025 (Responses) May - June 2025

Tab 1 - Placeholder

The Luminary Project 2025 Annual Report

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In 2025, we reached a new milestone:

- **250 Luminaries nominated** from across Nigeria.
- **50 Fellows trained** through our Luminary Fellowship.
- **₦10 million raised** and **₦5 million disbursed** to community projects.
- **20 active initiatives** implemented in education, health, innovation, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.

Each Luminary represents courage, creativity, and leadership in action.

A Message from the Founder & Executive Director — Napa Onwusah

When we launched The Luminary Project, our vision was to recognise everyday Nigerians creating extraordinary impact.

2025 has shown that when we invest in people who care deeply about their communities, transformation happens — not just in systems, but in lives.

From teachers building digital literacy programs in rural schools to innovators designing clean energy solutions and youth leaders mobilising climate action — the year has been filled with stories of progress, collaboration, and resilience.

Our theme, *Faith in Action: Lighting Paths Across Africa*, captures a simple idea: belief in something better, translated into tangible work.

We've seen what can happen when people act on conviction, when they choose to lead instead of waiting to be led.

As we look to 2026, we remain committed to creating platforms that enable changemakers to grow, connect, and multiply their influence.

Thank you to our board, partners, and supporters who have fueled this movement — and to every Luminary whose story reminds us that light grows brighter when shared.

Warm regards,

Napa Onwusah

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Key Highlights

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- **₦10 Million Raised:** Through donor networks, foundations, and private partners.
- **₦5 Million Disbursed:** To support 20 Luminary-led community projects across Nigeria.

- **20 Projects Active:** Each contributing directly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Behind every number is a person, a team, and a story of determination.

Your Impact

In 2025, The Luminary Project supported initiatives that addressed some of Nigeria's most pressing social challenges.

Your contributions made possible:

- **Access to Education:** Scholarships, literacy programs, and school infrastructure repairs.
- **Health & Wellness:** Community medical outreach, menstrual health education, and mobile health units.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Micro-grants for small businesses and vocational training for women and youth.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Clean water access, tree-planting drives, and waste-to-wealth recycling programs.
- **Civic Engagement:** Leadership and advocacy training to strengthen community participation.

An estimated **15,000 Nigerians** benefited directly from Luminary projects this year.

The Luminary Fellowship

The **Luminary Fellowship** is a six-month accelerator for changemakers leading social impact projects.

In 2025, 50 Fellows completed the program, which included:

- Structured online courses in leadership, communication, and design thinking.
- Mentorship sessions with industry leaders.
- A 90-day project incubation and funding period.
- Access to The Luminary Network for visibility and collaboration.

Graduates have gone on to launch or scale projects in education reform, mental health, youth development, and digital inclusion.

Impact Funds and Disbursements

Through the **Luminary Impact Fund**, ~~₦~~10 million was raised, and ~~₦~~5 million was disbursed to 20 active projects across Nigeria.

Focus Area	Amount (₦)	% of Total	Projects Supported
Education & Literacy	1,800,000	36%	7
Health & Well-being	1,200,000	24%	4
Women & Youth Empowerment	1,000,000	20%	4
Clean Energy & Environment	700,000	14%	3
Governance & Advocacy	300,000	6%	2
Total	5,000,000	100%	20

All disbursements were tracked and audited through transparent reporting systems.

Stories of Light — Voices from Our Luminaries

1. Chiamaka — Education for Every Girl

Chiamaka launched a program providing free learning kits and mentorship to 120 girls in Enugu State. Her project is now being replicated by other community educators.

2. Emmanuel — Health in Motion

In Kaduna, Emmanuel and his team organized community health screenings and distributed 2,000 malaria test kits. Their initiative has become a local model for preventive health outreach.

3. Halima — Solar for Her

Halima, an engineer from Kano, built solar kiosks that help women entrepreneurs power their businesses affordably. The project now supports 15 market stalls daily.

4. The Lagos Fellowship Pod

A collective of 12 Fellows in Lagos launched *Feed the Future*, serving 10,000 nutritious meals to children in low-income neighborhoods.

These stories show what's possible when purpose meets opportunity.

Regional Highlights

The Luminary Network now has representation in all six geopolitical zones of Nigeria:

- **North Central:** Agricultural cooperatives for widows and farmers.
- **North East:** Skills training and psychosocial support for displaced youth.
- **North West:** Community hygiene and maternal health programs.
- **South East:** Literacy initiatives for girls and young mothers.
- **South South:** Waste management and climate-action projects.
- **South West:** Tech upskilling and entrepreneurship accelerators.

Financial Overview

Funds Raised (2025): ₦10,000,000

Funds Disbursed: ₦5,000,000

Administrative Cost: ₦0.00 (covered by partner organizations)

Funding Sources:

- Individual Donors – 40%
- Corporate Partners – 35%
- Foundations – 25%

Every contribution was managed with accountability and impact at the center.

Partnerships and Supporters

We are deeply grateful to our ecosystem of partners and collaborators whose resources and expertise strengthened our work in 2025:

- **B4B Partners** — Strategic Program Implementation

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