



**Self Help
AFRICA**
beyond aid



SHA Nigeria

Capacity Statement

SHA Nigeria Overview

- **Vision:** Sustainable livelihoods and healthy lives for all in a changing climate.
- **Mission Statement:** We aim to alleviate hunger, poverty, social inequality and the impact of climate change through community-led, market-based and enterprise focused approaches, so that people have access to nutritious food, clean water, decent employment and incomes, while sustaining natural resources.

SHA Nigeria at a Glance: Operating in Nigeria since 1999, formerly known as United Purpose and Concern Universal.

Geographical coverage: Currently working in 5 states including the FCT, but have cumulatively worked across 8 states in Nigeria. These include, Cross River, Ebonyi, Akwa Ibom, Benue, Lagos, Kano, Sokoto states and the FCT.

Total Portfolio Value:

We manage a multi-million dollar portfolio of five projects focused on sustainable development outcomes.

Total Beneficiaries reached to date: over 5,000 communities reached across 8 states in Nigeria.



Haruna Abubakar, a 35-year-old onion farmer from Sifawa Ward, Bodinga LGA in Sokoto State,

The Context

Nigeria faces persistent challenges in WASH, food security, unemployment and climate resilience, particularly affecting rural communities, women and youth. Limited access to safe water and sanitation, low agricultural productivity, youth unemployment and climate-related shocks continue to deepen poverty and vulnerability.

Self Help Africa addresses these interconnected challenges through long-term, systems-focused solutions. The organisation strengthens WASH systems through government-aligned reforms, rural water maintenance, sanitation programmes and water quality initiatives, including supporting Nigeria's first open-defecation-free local government area.

SHA also promotes resilient livelihoods through market-driven agricultural programmes, climate-smart production, enterprise development and youth and women's economic empowerment initiatives. With over 25 years of experience across nearly 5,000 communities in seven states, SHA continues to strengthen systems, improve livelihoods and build climate resilience at scale.



Esther Geger, a 49 year-old cassava farmer in Jemya community, Gboko LGA of Benue State

Core Technical Pillars (What We Do)

Self Help Africa Nigeria leverages over 25 years of experience, strong local presence, and global technical expertise to deliver integrated development programmes across Nigeria. Our work focuses on three key pillars: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Agriculture and Nutrition, and Livelihoods, supported by systems strengthening, enterprise development, and community-led programming, while mainstreaming climate resilience, gender equality, and social inclusion.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

In the WASH sector, SHA has constructed and rehabilitated over 250 water facilities, providing more than 150,000 people with improved water access. The organisation has also reached over 1.5 million people through sanitation and hygiene programmes, contributing to Nigeria's first open defecation-free LGA and four additional LGAs. Through hygiene promotion campaigns, including partnerships with companies such as PZ Cussons, SHA has reached over 25 million children with handwashing messages. Current interventions also include improving rural water quality through source chlorination across 439 communities in Cross River State and Kano State.

Agriculture and Nutrition

Self Help Africa Nigeria promotes resilient livelihoods through market-driven agricultural programmes, climate smart production, enterprise development, and youth and women's economic empowerment initiatives. Strengthening local systems and community resilience, SHA continues to improve livelihoods and build climate resilience at scale.



SHA also supports small businesses and cooperatives with training, access to finance, and market linkages, while promoting digital inclusion, climate action, and leadership opportunities for women and youth.

Through the -funded Youth in Work Project, over 43,000 young people have received business training, financial inclusion support, and enterprise equipment.

In agriculture, SHA works with smallholder farmers to promote climate-resilient farming, improve productivity, and restore degraded land through agroforestry and Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration approaches.

Resilient Livelihoods and Market Systems:

Self Help Africa promotes economic empowerment through its Women's Business Centre (WBC) model, providing market-driven skills, digital access, and enterprise opportunities for women and youth. The initiative has connected over 110,000 households to health and business services, with centres operating as sustainable social enterprises.

SHA also supports small businesses and cooperatives through training, financial inclusion, and market linkages, while addressing social and systemic barriers. Through digital inclusion and partnerships, women- and youth-led enterprises are supported to grow and engage in climate action and community development. The Youth in Work Project, funded by the World Food Programme, has reached 43,386 young men and women with business training, VSLA services, bank account support, and enterprise equipment.

Cross Cutting Approaches

While SHA focuses on the three thematic areas highlighted above, key crosscutting approaches guide programme implementation to ensure sustainability, equity, and climate responsiveness. These include:

Climate Resilience:

Self Help Africa Nigeria promotes climate resilience through community-driven environmental initiatives, including mangrove restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and agroforestry. Through Farmers Field Schools and the Abatement of Short-lived Climate Pollutants project, over 550 farmers in Benue State adopted alternatives to open-field burning, reducing the practice by about 40%.

Community-led Programming:

SHA believes sustainable development must reflect community needs and participation. The organisation uses approaches such as Human-Centred Design and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) to ensure communities play a central role in programme design and implementation.

Systems Strengthening and Enterprise Development:

SHA combines community-led approaches with support to public and private institutions to ensure sustainable service delivery. Enterprise development is also integrated to strengthen local economies and ensure interventions continue beyond project cycles.

Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI):

SHA promotes gender equality and inclusion by addressing barriers faced by women and vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and the elderly. Through the Family Life Model, the organisation encourages shared responsibilities within households, while affirmative action and inclusive infrastructure designs ensure equitable participation and access.

Operational Excellence & Governance

Compliance:

The organisation has maintained a strong and consistent audit track record over the years, with non-material audit opinions recorded across all external audits. This reflects a high level of financial discipline, transparency, and adherence to donor and statutory requirements.

Our internal control framework is well-established and operates effectively across all programme and operational areas.

These systems have consistently received positive assessments from external auditors and donor agencies, highlighting strong financial management, clear segregation of duties, reliable documentation, and timely reporting.

This demonstrates the organisation's ability to manage funds responsibly while complying with local regulations and international donor standards.

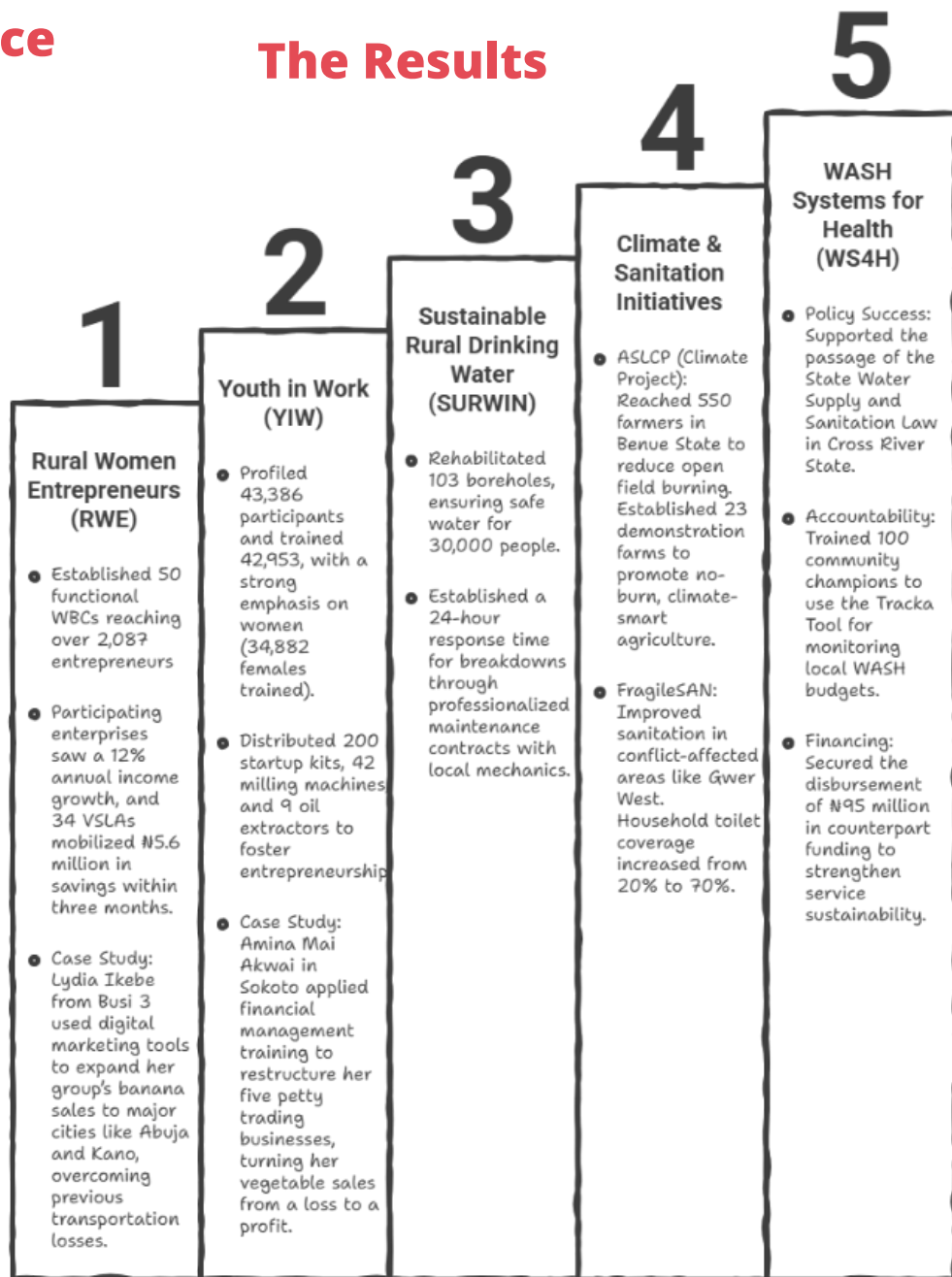
Internal Controls and Governance:

The organisation maintains strong internal controls through established board governance structures, documented policies, structured approvals, compliance reviews, and digital systems that ensure accountability and transparency.

Safeguarding and PSEA:

The organisation demonstrates strong safeguarding and PSEA compliance, with a current score of 91%.

The Results



Its framework includes robust policies, mandatory staff training, confidential reporting channels, and clear investigation procedures, supported by active case management and continuous improvement.

Financial Management:

Self Help Africa Nigeria has extensive experience managing multi-million-dollar donor-funded programmes through strong financial systems that ensure compliance, audit readiness, and accurate multi-donor, multi-currency reporting. IRIS Financials supports real-time financial management, budget monitoring, variance analysis, and strong controls that prevent fraud and misuse of resources.

Public Sector Partners



Technical and Implementing Partners



Donors over the years



Contact

We welcome the opportunity to partner with your organisations to deliver programmes that meet the highest standards of accountability and impact. If our profile aligns with your areas of implementation and strategic priorities speaks to your areas of implementation and strategic priorities, please contact us to explore potential partnerships and collaboration opportunities.

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