



RAY'S HAVEN FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN AND ADULTS

A World where no one is Left Out of Life

2025

Annual Report

Inclusion In Action : Creating
Opportunities, Changing Lives.

Compiling & Editing:

Sadiq Abdullateef
Zipporah Emmah Mathias

Reviews:

Rachel Affiong Umoh,
Ibrahim Nana Firdaus
Ibrahim Ibrahim Babatunde
Sadiq Abdullateef
Zipporah Matthias
Sunday Anthony



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2025 was a year of deepening our commitment to inclusion, dignity, and community-based support at Ray's Haven for Special Needs Children & Adults.

Guided by our vision of “A world where no one is left out of life,” we continued working alongside children, young people, adults with disabilities, caregivers, and underserved communities to create opportunities for participation, wellbeing, resilience, and meaningful inclusion.

Throughout the year, our work spanned disability inclusion, psychosocial support, mental health awareness, community advocacy, skills development, caregiver empowerment, and inclusive community engagement. Through these interventions, we continued to respond not only to immediate needs but also to the social and structural barriers that prevent many people from participating fully in society.

A significant part of our 2025 work was the implementation of the Youth Resilience Project, which focused on addressing mental health and economic challenges among young people, particularly persons with disabilities. Through awareness activities, psychosocial support, soft-skills development, peer engagement, and community-based interventions, the project created spaces for young people to build confidence, strengthen resilience, and connect with opportunities for growth.

Our commitment to disability inclusion was further demonstrated through our International Day of Persons with Disabilities activities, community engagements, and advocacy initiatives. These platforms helped bring conversations around disability, accessibility, mental wellbeing, and equal participation into schools, communities, institutions, and public spaces.

We also continued to promote inclusion beyond formal programmes. Initiatives such as The Gift of Inclusion, community outreach activities, and inclusive engagement spaces provided opportunities to connect directly with individuals and families while mobilising practical support for people under our care.

Across our work, partnerships remained central to our ability to create impact. We collaborated with institutions, community organisations, disability advocates, development partners, volunteers, and other stakeholders who shared our commitment to building more inclusive communities. These partnerships strengthened our reach while reminding us that sustainable inclusion requires collective responsibility.

Beyond the activities and numbers, 2025 reinforced an important lesson: people should never have to fight for the right to belong. Inclusion must be reflected in how communities are designed, how services are delivered, how institutions respond, and how society values every individual.

As we look ahead, Ray's Haven will continue strengthening its programmes, expanding community-based support, advancing disability rights and inclusion, promoting psychosocial wellbeing, and creating more opportunities for persons with disabilities and other underserved groups to participate, lead, and thrive.

2025 was not simply a year of activities. It was another step toward the world we envision—a world where every person is seen, valued, supported, and included.



Rachel Affiong Umoh
Founder/CEO

Every person deserves not only to be seen but also to be valued, supported, included, and empowered to thrive; a compassionate society is measured by its commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind and by building a world where everyone belongs.

2025 was a year of learning, growth, partnership, and renewed commitment at Ray's Haven for Special Needs Children & Adults. As we look back, we are reminded that meaningful change is not always measured by how much we accomplish, but by the lives we touch, the voices we amplify, and the doors we help open for people who are too often left out.

Throughout the year, we continued to create spaces where children, young people, adults with disabilities, caregivers, and other underserved members of our communities could access support, build confidence, and participate more fully in society. From psychosocial support and awareness activities to disability inclusion, community engagement, skills development, and advocacy, our work remained rooted in one simple belief: everyone deserves the opportunity to live with dignity, belonging, and hope.

Our programmes and engagements throughout the year allowed us to take inclusion beyond conversations and into communities. Through initiatives such as the Youth Resilience Project, our International Day of Persons with Disabilities activities, The Gift of Inclusion, community outreaches, and our participation in platforms that promote mental wellbeing and disability rights, we continued to connect directly with the people and communities at the heart of our mission.

One of the most important lessons from 2025 was that inclusion cannot be achieved by one organisation alone. It requires families, schools, communities, government institutions, partners, donors, volunteers, and advocates to recognise that every person has a place and a contribution to make. Our partnerships therefore remained central to our work, helping us extend our reach and create opportunities for meaningful collaboration.

We also saw the strength that exists within the communities we serve. People with disabilities are not simply beneficiaries of support; they are advocates, learners, entrepreneurs, leaders, caregivers, and contributors. Our responsibility is to help remove the barriers that prevent them from fully participating and to ensure that their voices are present wherever decisions affecting their lives are being made.

As we move forward, Ray's Haven remains committed to strengthening community-based support, expanding psychosocial and mental health interventions, advancing disability inclusion, empowering caregivers and young people, and creating more opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate, thrive, and lead.

Our vision remains simple: a world where no one is left out of life.

To our partners, donors, volunteers, families, advocates, and everyone who stood with Ray's Haven throughout 2025, thank you. Your support has helped turn compassion into action and ideas into opportunities.

The work continues. And as we step into another year, we do so with gratitude for how far we have come and determination to reach even further.

Together, we will continue building a world where inclusion is not an exception, but a reality.

Thank you for being part of this movement.

About Ray's Haven

Ray's Haven for Special Needs Children & Adults is a registered non-governmental, non-profit organisation based in Kaduna, Nigeria, dedicated to supporting children and adults with special needs and persons with disabilities to live with dignity, develop their abilities, access opportunities, and participate meaningfully in their communities. Guided by the vision of "A world where no one is left out of life," Ray's Haven works to create awareness about persons with disabilities, provide rehabilitation services, promote disability rights, and advance more inclusive communities across Nigeria.

Ray's Haven works at the intersection of rehabilitation, special education, disability rights, advocacy, mental health awareness, community engagement and social inclusion, recognising that meaningful disability inclusion requires more than individual support. It requires removing social, institutional and environmental barriers that prevent people with disabilities from accessing education, services, opportunities and community life. Through education, therapy, advocacy, awareness campaigns and community-based interventions, the organisation supports individuals and families while also engaging stakeholders to promote greater understanding and inclusion.

Beyond direct services, Ray's Haven places strong emphasis on rights-based advocacy and community participation. The organisation engages government, communities and other stakeholders to promote better policies and practices for persons with disabilities, challenge prejudice and discrimination, and amplify the voices and experiences of people who are often excluded from decision-making and community life. Its approach recognises persons with disabilities not simply as beneficiaries of support, but as individuals with rights, abilities, aspirations and the capacity to contribute to their communities.

Ray's Haven for Special Needs Children & Adults reached an estimated 30,000+ people and engaged communities across disability inclusion, rehabilitation, education, mental health awareness, advocacy and community development.

- **30,000+ People reached**

Through awareness campaigns, community outreach, school engagement, advocacy activities, rehabilitation-related support, mental-health programming and public inclusion initiatives.

- **3,000+ Persons with disabilities, children, families and caregivers reached**

Through direct and indirect support, awareness, rehabilitation, inclusion and community-based interventions.

- **80+ Communities and institutions engaged**

Including schools, communities, disability stakeholders, government institutions, community leaders and other local institutions.

- **100+ Volunteers and community actors engaged**

Supporting awareness, mobilisation, advocacy, outreach and inclusion activities.

About Ray's Haven

- **1000+ Community stakeholders directly trained**

Through the Youth Resilience Project, with participants drawn from Chikun, Giwa and Zangon Kataf LGAs, including teachers, community leaders and IDP camp coordinators. The training focused on mental health identification, resilience, conflict early warning and response, referral mechanisms and youth engagement.

- **35+ Strategic organisations and institutions engaged**

Across government, disability inclusion, education, community development, mental health, civil society and development sectors.

At the heart of Ray's Haven's work is the belief that disability should never be a reason for exclusion. By combining rehabilitation, education, advocacy, mental-health awareness, community engagement and partnerships, the organisation continues to work towards a society where children and adults with disabilities can access opportunities, develop their potential, participate in their communities and live fulfilling lives.

Ray's Haven for Special Needs Children & Adults — A world where no one is left out of life.

Our Thematic Areas



Our Vision



Our vision is of a society in which all people with disability are equal and active members of society; one where equality and inclusion exists.

Our Mission



Our mission is to provide rehabilitation services for people with physical, emotional or learning difficulties who require specialized accommodation to thrive in their community.

OUR OBJECTIVES

- Promote disability inclusion and rights.
- Provide rehabilitation and psychosocial support.
- Advance inclusive and special education.
- Promote mental health and wellbeing.
- Empower persons with disabilities, children, youth and caregivers.
- Create awareness and reduce stigma and discrimination.
- Build inclusive, accessible and supportive communities.

OUR CORE VALUES



At Ray's Haven, our work is guided by a commitment to inclusion, dignity, empowerment and equal opportunity. These principles shape how we serve, advocate and create meaningful impact in the lives of persons with disabilities, children, families and communities.

WE
REHABILITATE
ALL

WE ARE
ADVOCACY-BASED

WE WORK IN
PARTNERSHIP

WE CHAMPION
INCLUSION

WE VALUE
INDIVIDUALS

WE UPHOLD
PRINCIPLES

2025

impact in numbers

30,000+

Through awareness campaigns, community outreach, school engagement, advocacy activities, rehabilitation-related support, mental-health programming and public inclusion initiatives.

3,000+

Persons with disabilities, children, families and caregivers reached Through direct and indirect support, awareness, rehabilitation, inclusion and community-based interventions.

80+

Communities and institutions engaged, Including schools, communities, disability stakeholders, government institutions, community leaders and other local institutions.

100+

Volunteers and community actors engaged Supporting awareness, mobilisation, advocacy, outreach and inclusion activities.

1,000+

Community stakeholders directly trained Through the Youth Resilience Project, with participants drawn from Chikun, Giwa and Zangon Kataf LGAs, including teachers, community leaders and IDP camp coordinators. The training focused on mental health identification, resilience, conflict early warning and response, referral mechanisms and youth engagement.

35+

Strategic organisations and institutions engaged Across government, disability inclusion, education, community development, mental health, civil society and development sectors.

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REFLECTING ON
2025

2025 Key Knowledge & advocacy Seminars

Building a World Of Inclusion and Awareness

Every journey toward meaningful change begins with a commitment to be heard, understood, and valued. At Ray's Haven For The Special Needs Children And Adults, We recognized early on that providing exceptional care is only one part of our calling the true measure of our impact lies in changing how the world sees, speaks about, and embraces individuals with special needs. Through intentional dialogue and global outreach, we set out to turn awareness into action and compassion into systemic change.

Our work took center stage through two transformative virtual gatherings that captured the heart of our mission.

First, we convened an international dialogue on inclusive education and gender equality, tackling the layered challenges that persons with disabilities face in learning environments worldwide. We explored how equal access to education, paired with gender equity, opens doors to self-determination and lifelong independence. Shortly after, we turned our focus inward to emotional well-being with our Mental Health Series, hosting a critical conversation titled "Mental Health vs. Mental Illness: Know the Difference." This initiative aimed to peel back decades of societal stigma, helping families, caregivers, and individuals understand that mental health is a spectrum every human navigates, while equipping them with the language and confidence to seek support without shame.

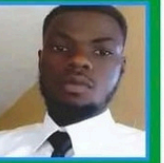
Together, these initiatives reflect the core story of Ray's Haven in 2025: a story of unyielding advocacy, shared learning, and unconditional support. By confronting difficult topics and amplifying the rights of neurodiverse individuals, we continued to cultivate a world where every child and adult under our care is not only sheltered, but truly seen, heard, and celebrated.



RAY'S HAVEN
FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN & ADULTS

EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL

TOPIC: UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND GENDER EQUALITY ON PERSON'S WITH DISABILITIES

FIRST SPEAKER	MODERATOR	SECOND SPEAKER
 Bagudu Enoch Sheyin CEO INFO-TECH RESEARCH & ICT CONSULTANT LTD	 Rhodiyat EDUCATION INTERN	 Mr. Kingdom Obadiah SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERT



MENTAL HEALTH SERIES
Proudly Presents

MENTAL HEALTH VS. MENTAL ILLNESS
Know the Difference.

Speakers :

 SADIQ ABDULLATEEF PROGRAMS MANAGER RAY'S HAVEN	 NANA FIRDAUS IBRAHIM PSYCHOLOGIST RAY'S HAVEN
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03 May 2025 **8 PM - 9 PM** **GOOGLE MEET**

@rayshaven.org **www.rayshaven.org**
info@rayshaven.org

2025 Key Knowledge & advocacy Seminars

Understanding and Supporting Children with Intellectual Disabilities

As part of our commemoration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2025, Ray's Haven hosted a virtual webinar focused on understanding and supporting children with intellectual disabilities.

The session provided a platform for learning and meaningful conversation around intellectual disabilities, with emphasis on understanding children's unique needs, promoting supportive environments, challenging misconceptions, and strengthening the role of families, caregivers, educators and communities in fostering inclusion.

The webinar reinforced Ray's Haven's commitment to promoting awareness, inclusion, dignity and meaningful participation for children and persons with disabilities.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (IDPD) 2025 WEBINAR

Theme: "Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress"

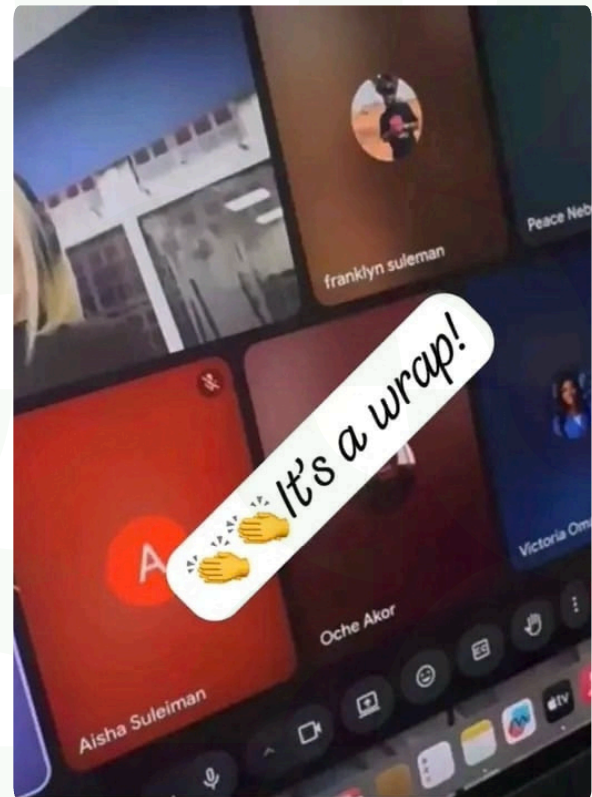
Topic: Understanding and Supporting Children with Intellectual Disabilities

PANELISTS:

			
HOST Rachel Umoh Founder/ Executive Director Ray's Haven	Orlane Writer, Educator, ADHD Advocate, Parent & Coach	Paul Nebechukwu Clinical Psychologist	Maimuna Ummi Abdullahi (Coach Diddi) Mental Health Coach

 Google Meet | [Join Here](#) 

Date: 29 November, 2025
Time: 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM (WAT)
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM (GMT)



THE GIFT OF INCLUSION 2025

For many children with developmental and learning disabilities, inclusion is not only about being welcomed—it is about having the right tools, support and people around them to learn, participate and thrive.

As part of Ray's Haven's International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025 commemoration, we took the message of inclusion from conversation to action through The Gift of Inclusion 2025, visiting Open Arms Children Centre, Kaduna, a school dedicated to nurturing children with developmental and learning disabilities.

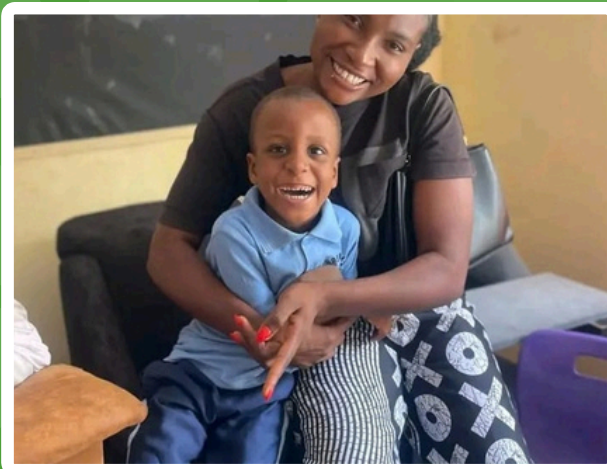
The visit was more than a donation exercise. We came with materials designed to support the children's everyday learning and development, including sensory tools such as colour cards, textured toys, musical instruments and visual aids, alongside educational books, stationery, writing and art materials.

For Ray's Haven, The Gift of Inclusion represents what becomes possible when compassion is matched with action. Every sensory tool can create a new avenue for learning. Every book can open a new world. Every supportive caregiver can make a child feel seen. And every act of inclusion can help build a community where disability does not determine a person's opportunity to thrive.

The experience strengthened our commitment to supporting children, caregivers and institutions working every day to make inclusion a reality.

We believe every child deserves the opportunity to learn in a way that works for them, every caregiver deserves support, and every child deserves to know that they belong.

The Gift of Inclusion Project was made possible through collective goodwill and it reminded us that when we invest in inclusion, we are not simply giving resources; we are helping create possibilities.



YOUTH RESILIENCE PROJECT: ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES



In March 2025, Ray's Haven began a new chapter in its work to address the interconnected mental health and economic challenges affecting young people in Kaduna State through the Youth Resilience Project (YRP).

The first engagement brought together 60 community stakeholders from Chikun, Igabi, Giwa and Zangon Kataf Local Government Areas, including teachers, community leaders and IDP camp coordinators. These were people already positioned within their communities to identify challenges, support young people and connect them to available resources.

Over two days, participants explored practical approaches to conflict early warning and response, mental-health identification and community-based resilience. Discussions went beyond awareness, addressing issues such as stress, anxiety and depression, while introducing participants to referral mechanisms and ways of responding to young people experiencing emotional difficulties. Through expert-led sessions and participatory discussions, participants shared experiences from their own communities and began developing community-specific action plans focused on youth engagement, awareness creation and economic empowerment.

For Ray's Haven, this first engagement was about more than training 60 people. It was about equipping people who can carry knowledge beyond the room—into schools, communities and spaces where young people are navigating difficult social, economic and emotional realities.

The engagement marked an important foundation for YRP: strengthening local capacity so that conversations around mental health, resilience and economic wellbeing can move closer to the people who need them most. Because resilience does not begin with a programme; it grows when communities are equipped to recognise challenges, respond with empathy and create pathways for young people to thrive.

Youth Resilience Project

In August 2025, Ray's Haven successfully implemented a 2-Day Capacity Building Training under the Youth Resilience Project to address conflict, mental health, and economic challenges affecting young people in Kaduna State. This held at YandyTech Community Solution Lab, the training convened 45 community stakeholders (29 men and 16 women) from Chikun, Giwa, and Zango Kataf Local Government Areas of Kaduna State, including Teachers, Community Leaders, and IDP camp coordinators.

Participants were equipped with practical skills on conflict early warning and responses (CEWER), mental health identification, and community-based resilience strategies, with a focus on stress, anxiety, depression, and referral mechanisms. Through expert sessions and a participatory panel discussion, stakeholders shared local experiences and developed community-specific action plans targeting youth engagement, awareness creation, and economic empowerment.



4 LGAs reached



60 participants
trained across 3 LGAs in

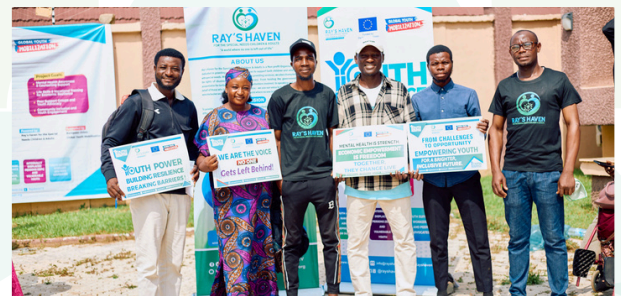


40 Men



20 Female





YOUTH RESILIENCE PROJECT: ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Skills, and Economic Resilience for PWDs



The second engagement of the Youth Resilience Project (YRP), held at the Kaduna State Disability Affairs Board Kaduna, focused on strengthening the capacity and confidence of young people with disabilities through soft-skills development and practical learning.

The session recognised that resilience is not only about coping with mental and emotional challenges. For young people with disabilities, it is also about having the confidence, communication skills and personal competencies needed to participate meaningfully in education, work and community life. Participants engaged in practical learning around soft skills that can support their personal development, relationships and future economic opportunities. The session created an encouraging environment where participants could learn, interact, ask questions and recognise their own strengths and potential.

For Ray's Haven, this engagement connected two important dimensions of YRP: mental wellbeing and economic resilience. By investing in skills and confidence alongside mental-health awareness, the project sought to support young people not simply to navigate challenges, but to become more equipped to pursue opportunities and contribute within their communities.

This was another step toward Ray's Haven's vision of ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left at the margins, but are equipped, included and empowered to participate fully in society.



Youth Resilience Project 3rd Engagement

Building Skills, Confidence and Economic Resilience



The Third Youth Resilience Project engagement at YandyTech's office equipped Stakeholders with practical skills to strengthen their confidence, communication and readiness to pursue opportunities and participate more fully in their communities.

Closing the First Phase of the Youth Resilience Project:

On The first phase of the Youth Resilience Project (YRP) came to a close at Arewa House, Kaduna, bringing together a diverse network of voices committed to addressing the mental health and economic challenges facing young people across Kaduna State.

Over the course of the project, Ray's Haven created spaces for young people, community and religious leaders, schools, persons with disabilities, mental health advocates and other key stakeholders to come together, share experiences and explore practical ways of strengthening resilience within their communities.

The final engagement provided an opportunity to reflect on the journey, share experiences from communities, schools and IDP camps, and highlight how participants were carrying conversations around mental health, inclusion and economic wellbeing beyond the project spaces.

With support from the European Union and Global Youth Mobilization, the first phase of YRP helped strengthen awareness, connections and community capacity around issues that are often overlooked or discussed in silence.

As the project reached this milestone, one message remained clear: building resilient young people requires resilient communities around them.

Ray's Haven remains committed to ensuring that the conversations, relationships and lessons generated through YRP continue to inform our work toward a more inclusive, supportive and resilient Kaduna.



The Inclusion Booth

The Inclusion Booth

In December 2025, Ray's Haven took inclusion into the heart of the community through The Inclusion Booth at the Kaduna Young Entrepreneurs Network's Business & Vibe held at Centenary Park, Kaduna.

Designed around Spreading Joy, Inclusion and Mental Wellness, the booth created a lively space where people with and without disabilities could connect through sign language mini-lessons, sensory play, games, interactive activities and face painting.

But beyond the conversations and joyful moments, the booth had a clear purpose: to turn awareness into tangible support. Through the sale of inclusion-themed souvenirs and contributions from participants, the engagement created a fundraising channel dedicated to supporting children and adults with special needs under Ray's Haven's care.

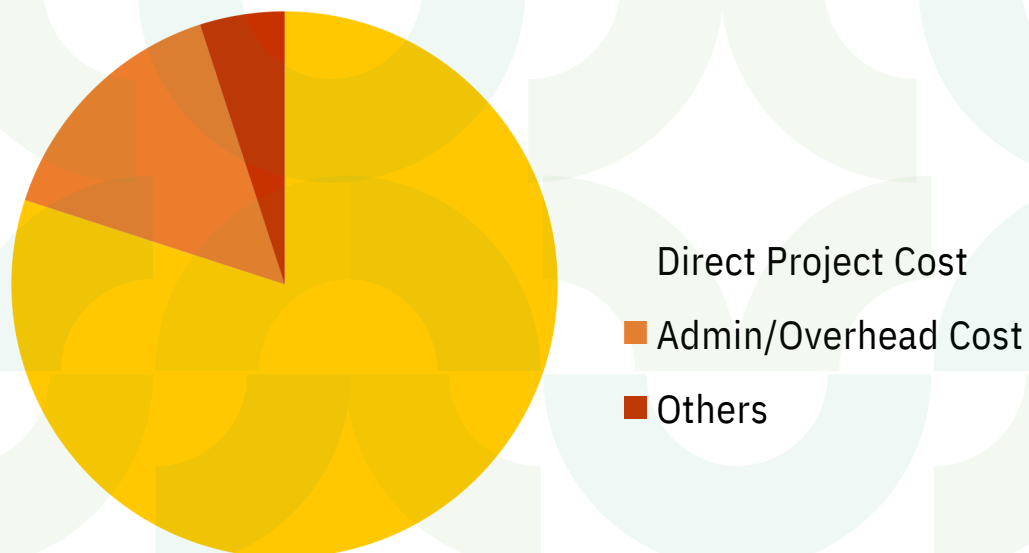
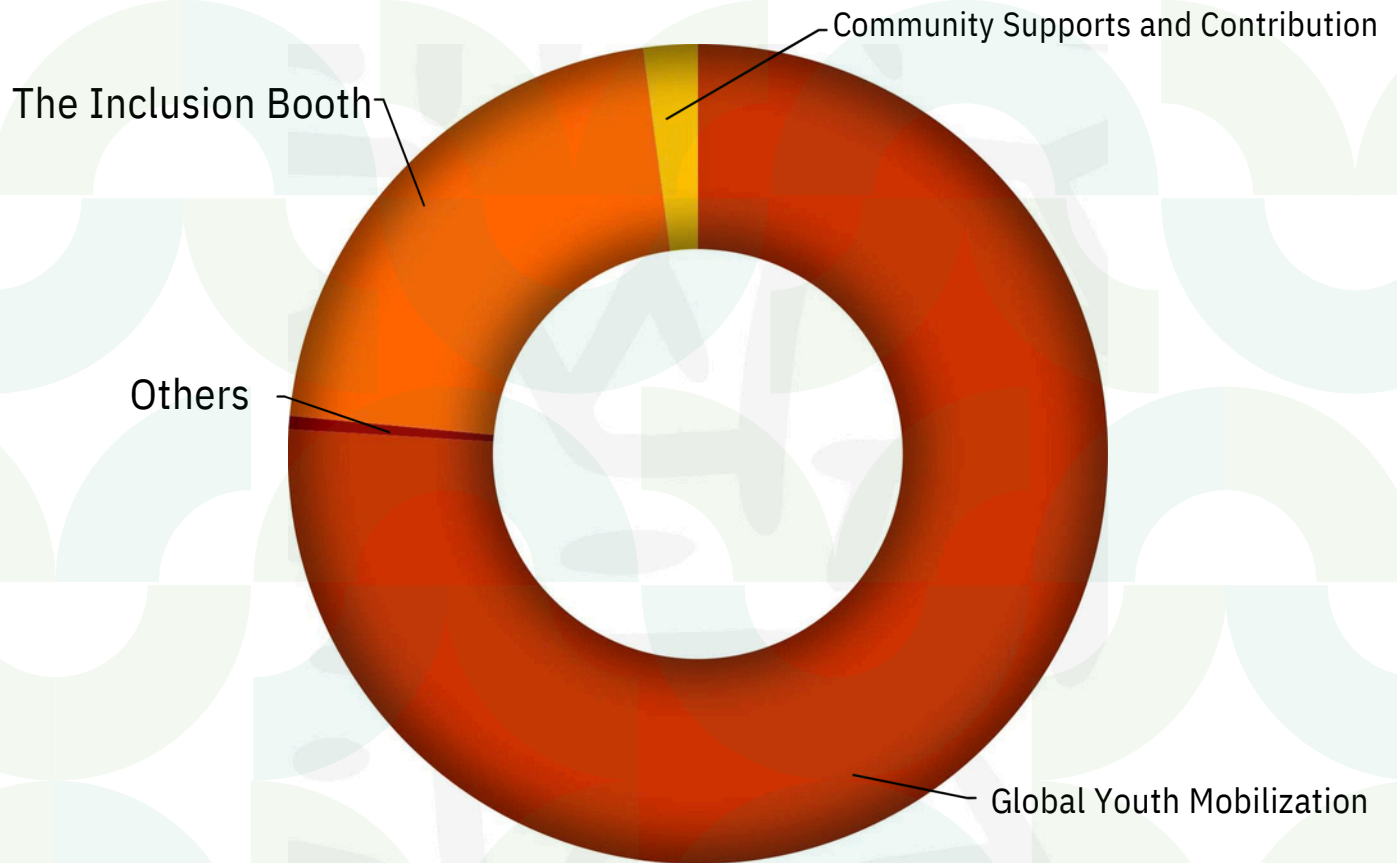
Every souvenir purchased became more than a transaction—it was a contribution toward the care, support and inclusion of someone who needs it. In this way, the booth brought together advocacy, community engagement and resource mobilisation in one space.

The experience showed us that when people are given an opportunity to learn, connect and give, a simple community event can become a meaningful investment in inclusion.



2025

Financial Summary



2025 Communications in Numbers



Instagram

35,112

2,619

Account Views

1,210

219

Interactions

New followers



Facebook

97,784

5,168

Account Reach

552

751

Average View

Visits

X (Twitter)

45,600

1,736

Impression

4.21

1.8k

Engagement Rate

Average View



LinkedIn

13,504

10,169

Impression

6.5

912

Engagement Rate

Total Followers



Amazing Team



Rachel Affiong Umoh
Founder/Chief Executive Officer



Rodiyat Isah
Education Officer



Sadiq Abdullateef
Program Lead



Umami-Khari Salma
Mental Health Associate



Nana Firdaus Ibrahim
Head Of Rehabilitation & Counselling Department



Zipporah Mathias
Finance & Procurement Officer



Sunday Anthony
Admin & Operation Officer



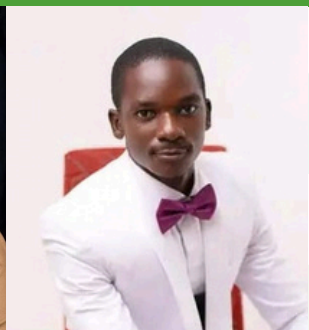
Rachel Oladapo
Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Associate



Ibrahim Babatunde
Communications Officer



Pricilla Ochanya
Clinical Psychology Associate



Jerry La'ah Tachio
People and Culture Associate

100+

Volunteers

APPRECIATION TO OUR VALUED PARTNERS, TEAM AND VOLUNTEERS – 2025

2025 was a year of learning, service, advocacy and meaningful community impact at Ray's Haven For The Special Needs Children And Adults and none of it would have been possible without the people who continued to believe in the work. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our partners, funders, supporters and collaborating organisations whose trust, resources and shared commitment helped us create opportunities for children, young people and adults with disabilities and special needs.

To our dedicated team and volunteers, thank you for showing up with compassion, patience and purpose. From community engagements and awareness activities to direct support, advocacy and outreach, your time and commitment helped turn our vision of inclusion into practical action.

We are equally grateful to the families, caregivers, schools, community leaders and individuals who opened their doors, shared their experiences and trusted us to be part of their journey.

Every programme delivered, every person reached, every conversation started and every smile shared was made possible by collective effort.

Thank you for standing with Ray's Haven in 2025. Together, we are building a more inclusive world where no one is left out of life.

MANAGEMENT

Fueling Impact Together



To our donors and partners thank you for your commitment to Ray's Haven in 2025, thank you for believing in the work and standing with the people we serve. Your generosity, partnership and encouragement helped us turn ideas into action, reach more communities and create moments of dignity, joy and inclusion.

We are grateful for the journey we shared this year, and we look forward to doing more, reaching further and creating greater impact together.

Conclusion

As we close Ray's Haven's 2025 Annual Report, we do so with deep gratitude and a renewed commitment to the work ahead.

This year reminded us that meaningful change is built through consistent action, compassion and community. From supporting children with disabilities and promoting inclusive learning, to strengthening mental health awareness, building resilience and creating spaces for participation, every engagement reinforced one simple truth: everyone deserves the opportunity to live, learn, participate and thrive.

To our donors, partners, volunteers and supporters, thank you for believing in our mission and standing with us throughout the year. Your generosity, collaboration and trust made it possible for us to reach people, create opportunities and respond to needs with greater purpose.

To the children, adults, families, caregivers and communities we serve, thank you for trusting us and allowing us to be part of your journeys. Your stories, courage and resilience continue to shape our work and remind us why inclusion matters.

2025 was not without its challenges, but each challenge brought an opportunity to learn, adapt and strengthen our approach. As we look ahead, Ray's Haven remains committed to expanding inclusion, strengthening support systems, promoting dignity and creating lasting opportunities for persons with disabilities and special needs.

This report represents more than a record of activities. It represents people reached, connections made, barriers challenged, moments of joy shared and possibilities created.

We are grateful to everyone who made the journey possible. Together, we move forward towards a world where no one is left out of life.

Thank You



RAY'S HAVEN FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN AND ADULTS

A World where no one is Left Out of Life

#3 Gatta Street Kudendan Kaduna, Nigeria

info@rayshaven.org
www.rayshaven.org
+234 (0) 8024650025