



Safe Space
Development
Foundation



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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From the Director's Desk.



Evelyn Eyo

"The true measure of our impact is found in the lives we touch and the change we inspire."

2024 was a year of remarkable strides for Safe Space Development Foundation. Guided by our vision of creating safe, clean and inclusive spaces, we forged ahead with determination, delivering programs that uplift communities, empower young minds, and advocate for sustainable development.

From fostering Environmental Stewardship with the Young Environmentalists Club, to intensified commitment advocacy in local communities for environmental restoration through Project Environmental Restoration Advocacy (ERA).

Our efforts this year reflect an unwavering commitment to progress.

Each milestone achieved was made possible by the dedication of our team, the passion of our volunteers, and the trust of our partners and supporters.

As we turn toward the future, we remain steadfast in our mission to drive meaningful change.

Thank you for walking this journey with us. Together, we'll continue to shape a safer, more equitable world.

With Gratitude,

Evelyn Eyo

Executive Director

Safe Space Development Foundation

SHADEF Overview



Vision

Ensuring Our Right To a Clean And Safe Environment

Our Core Focus

- Environmental Justice
- Climate Education
- Child Rights

Mission Statement

- To educate and raise awareness about the causes and consequences of climate change.
- To advocate for policies and solution that reduce the impact of environment pollution.
- To engage young people in taking action to protect the environment.
- To empower individuals to make sustainable choices that reduce their carbon footprint.

SHADEF Advisory Board

Very Rev, Dr Stephen Ogolo (Environmental Justice Advocate)

Grace Ikpe (MDR, Children's Health Advocate)

Esther Eyakndue (Climate Change Activist)

Gideon Edem Esq.(Clean Energy Transition advocate)

Chitzi Ogbumbada PhD (UK, Environmental Justice Advocate)

Evelyn Eyo (Director, SHADEF, Environmental Justice Campaigner).

Franklin Udeme (Environmental Justice Advocate)

Introduction

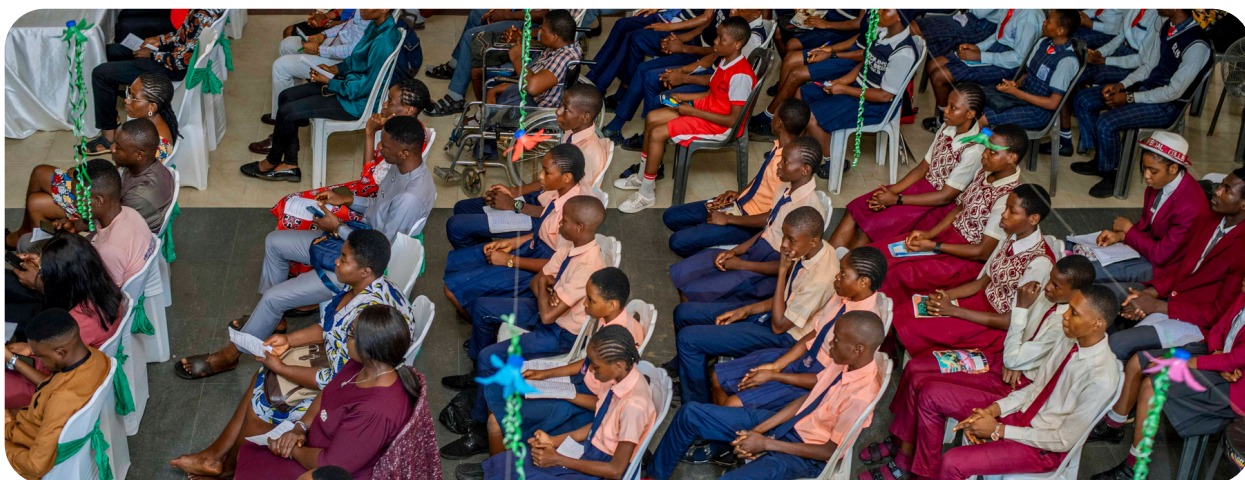


As the global impact of climate change continues to intensify, the urgency of collective action has never been more apparent. In the period under review, the Safe Space Development Foundation has remained steadfast in its mission to combat climate change, advance environmental sustainability, empower children, young adults and communities to build resilient futures. Our work has focused on addressing the most pressing challenges brought about by a warming planet—such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and biodiversity loss—while also creating opportunities for systemic change through sensitization, advocacy, grassroots engagement, and innovative solutions. This report provides a comprehensive overview of our key activities, milestones, and achievements over the past year, illustrating the collective efforts of our dedicated team, partners, and funders. Despite the many obstacles faced, we have made significant efforts in driving climate action across schools and communities, from building a movement of young eco-warriors to fostering climate adaptation strategies. As we reflect on our progress, we also recognize that much work remains ahead, and we remain committed to accelerating our impact in the years to come. In this report, you will find highlights of our programs, partnerships, and campaigns, as well as an assessment of our challenges and learnings.

Overview of Activities for the Year



This year, the Safe Space Development Foundation has undertaken a wide range of impactful activities, each designed to address the urgent and multifaceted challenges of climate change. Our efforts have spanned across various sectors, from Climate Education, policy advocacy to community resilience building. Guided by our mission to advocate for policies and solutions that reduce the impact of environmental pollution, we have implemented projects that not only aim to mitigate the effects of climate change but also create awareness, enhance adaptation and promote sustainable practices at local level. This section provides a detailed overview of the key activities that we have carried out.



SHADEF Actions

Establishment of the Young Environmentalists Club (YEs Club)



In our continued efforts to foster a culture of environmental stewardship, we established the YEs Club in Eight schools :

Independence High School, Essien Udim,

Community Secondary School, Mbak etoi,

Special Education Centre, Uyo,

Royal Christian High school, Uyo,

Royalty special College, Uyo,

Community Secondary Grammar school, Etinan,

Ndikpo Grammar School, Ibesikpo

St. Louis Inclusive High School, Ikot Ekpene.

This initiative was designed to engage and educate the next generation of climate leaders, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to understand the impact of climate change and taking meaningful action. The club focuses on raising awareness among students about the urgent need for climate action, while empowering them to make a tangible difference in their local communities.



Each club was established as a platform for students to learn about the science of climate change, its effects on the environment, and the importance of sustainable practices. Through hands-on activities, educational workshops, and discussions led by experts in the field, the students gained a deeper understanding of how climate change impacts ecosystems, human health, and future generations. The curriculum also highlighted solutions such as renewable energy, conservation, and sustainable agriculture, helping the young members see the practical ways in which they can contribute to mitigating climate change. In addition to learning, the YEs Club also actively participated in recycling initiatives. Students were encouraged to lead waste reduction campaigns within their schools, starting with the introduction of recycling plastics and organizing waste collection methods. Through these initiatives, students not only helped reduce waste in their schools but also inspired their peers and teachers to adopt more eco-friendly habits. These actions have had a great effect, encouraging broader engagement in sustainability practices beyond the classroom. By creating the YEs Club, we have provided a platform for students to become ambassadors for environmental change, shaping a generation of informed and motivated individuals who will continue to advocate for a healthier planet. The success of this program has shown that when young people are empowered with the right resources and knowledge, they can play a critical role in raising awareness and driving positive environmental change.

SHADEF Actions

Environmental Restoration Advocacy



This year, we intensified our commitment to environmental restoration through direct advocacy in local communities. Recognizing the critical need for both awareness and action at the grassroots level, we embarked on a visit to Atan Offot Community aimed at changing harmful environmental practices and encouraging sustainable alternatives. Our advocacy efforts were focused on educating community members about the detrimental effects of climate change and the importance of adopting responsible waste management practices, particularly in preventing the illegal dumping of refuse. One of our messages was the importance of shifting towards more sustainable practices in daily life. This included encouraging waste segregation, proper recycling, and reducing consumption of single-use plastics by reusing our plastics bags and papers. By engaging directly with community members, we were able to not only inform but also inspire change. The result has been a growing sense of responsibility toward local environments, with several communities adopting new waste management practices and taking active steps to reduce pollution. This advocacy work has laid the foundation for long-term environmental restoration, ensuring that communities understand their role in protecting the planet for future generations. The collective effort to stop illegal dumping and embrace sustainable waste practices is a critical step toward mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and promoting healthier, more resilient communities.

Conferences

We place strong emphasis on fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and introspective leadership through participation in and hosting of key conferences. Recognizing that climate change is a global challenge requiring diverse perspectives and coordinated action, Attending and organizing these conferences served as a platform to engage with experts, policymakers, activists, and other stakeholders from within our reach. These events provided valuable opportunities to share our own findings and experiences and also learn from the innovative solutions and strategies being implemented worldwide.

Volunteers' Conference



On the 27th of April, we hosted the Volunteers' conference with the **Theme : Volunteerism ; Where Compassion Meets Action** , bringing together over 25 dedicated volunteers. The event aimed to inspire, educate, and empower volunteers to continue making a positive impact in their communities. The conference had renowned speakers shared their experiences and insights on the power of volunteerism, emphasizing the importance of compassion and action in driving change. The Interactive workshop focused on topics like effective volunteering, leadership, and teamwork, providing attendees with practical skills and knowledge. Volunteers connected with like-minded individuals and organizations, fostering new partnerships and collaborations. Volunteerism: Where Compassion Meets Action conference was a resounding success, inspiring and empowering volunteers to continue driving positive change. We were grateful for the dedication and compassion of our volunteers and look forward to seeing the impact of their continued efforts.

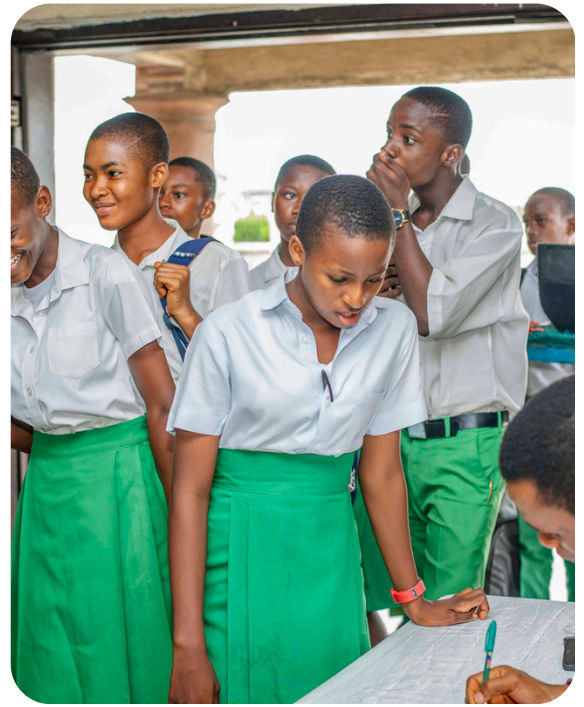


General Environmental Assembly



The General Environmental Assembly was a resounding success, bringing together 200 students, 8 schools from 5 local government, guests, and volunteers to discuss and address pressing environmental issues. The highlight of the assembly included a debate session, a panel session, an exhibition session, keynote address from the director of climate change and lectures on issues bothering our climates. The debate session saw enthusiastic participation from students, who presented well-researched arguments on topics such as climate change, sustainable practices, and conservation. The judges were impressed with the students' critical thinking and public speaking skills.





The panel session featured students representing each of the schools who were in attendance and shared their valuable insights and concerns on issues affecting our environments and giving ways on how these effects can be controlled. The discussion focused on climate change education, recycling processes, and collaborative efforts in environmental protection. The exhibition session showcased the students' innovative projects using plastics waste, highlighting their creativity and commitment to environmental stewardship. The exhibits covered a range of topics, including renewable energy, waste management, and eco-friendly technologies. The Renowned speakers delivered informative lectures on various environmental topics, including Climate change and Health, and how the environment impact our well-being. The assembly focused on fostering awareness, education, and inspiring the young people to take the issues of climate change seriously. The General Environmental Assembly was a remarkable success, demonstrating the power of collective action and the potential of young minds in driving positive change. We extended our gratitude to all the participating schools, guests, volunteers, and sponsors for their support and enthusiasm.

Global Leadership and Organization Development- ActionAid Nigeria



We participated in the Global Leadership and Organization Development Conference organized by ActionAid Nigeria. This three-day conference was an invaluable platform for deepening our understanding of the complex intersection between gender-based violence, climate change, and human victimization. The event brought together a diverse group of activists, advocates, and organizations working at the forefront of social justice, environmental protection, and human rights. Throughout the conference, we gained crucial insights into the ways in which climate change worsen existing vulnerabilities, particularly for marginalized groups such as women and children. We discussed the concept of gender-based violence in the context of climate-induced pressures, highlighting how environmental crises—such as extreme weather events, displacement, and resource scarcity—can increase the risk of violence against women and girls. These discussions were eye-opening, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach to combating climate change that also addresses social justice and gender equality. In addition to gender-based violence, the conference provided us with practical strategies to combat climate change and its disproportionate impacts on vulnerable communities. Speakers shared case studies and real-life examples of people who had endured the double burden of climate adversity and human victimization, offering a stark reminder of the human cost of environmental degradation. These stories of resilience and survival served as a powerful call to action, motivating us to incorporate more inclusive and approach our climate advocacy with passion.

Collaboration



We believe that collaboration is key to achieving meaningful and lasting impact in the fight against climate change.

We have built and nurtured invaluable partnerships , showcasing the collective strength and shared vision that drive our work.

In celebration of World Environment Day 2024, we partnered with Plastic-Cultured, an innovative organization committed to environmental sustainability through the reduction of plastic waste.

This collaboration was aimed at raising awareness about the growing plastic pollution crisis and promoting actions to keep our environment clean.

Projects

Project Clean4Climate- Community Secondary School, Mbak Etoi, Uyo.



The project aimed to promote environmental sustainability and enhance waste management practices within the school community. As part of this initiative, we donated waste bins to the school to encourage waste segregation, proper disposal and raise awareness about the importance of keeping the environment clean.



Plastic Latrine Project- Independence High School, Essien Udim

The YEs Club students at Independence High School, Essien Udim, successfully transformed 5,000 plastic waste items into a functional, eco-friendly urinary. This pioneering project combines sustainability with improved hygiene, providing students with better sanitation facilities while promoting environmental conservation.





The Vision Behind the Project :

Plastic pollution poses a significant threat to environmental well-being, particularly in developing communities. To address this challenge, the project aimed to merge sustainability with enhanced hygiene access. By repurposing plastic waste, the initiative demonstrates a simple yet powerful solution to support both health and environmental conservation.

Independence High School like most places in the world, faced significant sanitation infrastructure challenges, exacerbated by a growing student population. The project provides a dual solution, supporting health and sanitation while addressing the environmental burden of plastic waste.

The Execution of the Project :

The project began in mid-October 2024 with an extensive plastic collection process.

A total of 5,000 plastic bottles and non-biodegradable plastics were sourced, cleaned, and prepared for construction.

By engaging the Young Environmentalists (YEs) Club students, the project fostered a sense of ownership and environmental responsibility, empowering the next generation of sustainability leaders.



Being On the SHADEF Team



Inyene-Christ David
Communications Officer

Working with the Safe Space Development Foundation has been an enriching and transformative experience. From promoting house planting and experimenting with it at home, while witnessing its benefits firsthand to helping establish environmental clubs in secondary schools, I have gained a deeper understanding of climate action.

These initiatives have instilled a strong sense of responsibility in me and the communities we've engaged, emphasizing the importance of building a climate-friendly world. I was also privileged to attend workshops addressing fossil addiction and its devastating impacts on the environment, broadening my knowledge and commitment to the cause.

Being a part of SHADEF has been fulfilling, and I look forward to contributing even more in 2025.



Esther Ubak
Creative Team Lead

As the Creative Team Lead for the Safe Space Development Foundation, 2024 has been a dynamic year of impact and growth. In my solo role, I led initiatives focused on combating climate change, promoting environmental sustainability, and fostering education and awareness.

Created engaging materials to promote sustainable practices like building with recycled plastics.

Engaged students in workshops on upcycling, creative reuse, and pollution impacts.

Remarkably, 2024 was a smooth and productive year, reflecting strong preparation and commitment.

Looking Ahead: 2025. We will:

1. Build an Army of Upcyclers : Train youth to embrace upcycling as a lifestyle and skill.

2. Expand Awareness Campaigns : Reach more schools and communities using innovative tools.

3. Strengthen Climate Education : Develop tailored resources for diverse learning needs.

Gratitude goes to the schools, students, and stakeholders who embraced this journey. Together, we are shaping a resilient, eco-conscious community.

Being On the SHADEF Team



Anietie Timothy Volunteer

As someone passionate about environmental sustainability, I was excited to contribute to the organization's efforts in addressing climate change, waste management, and climate education. I participated in awareness campaigns in Secondary Schools and local communities.

These campaigns focused on the impacts of climate change, sustainable practices, individual actions to reduce carbon footprints and education workshops. I helped develop and implement climate education programs for schools and community groups. These programs empowered participants with knowledge and skills to address climate change and promote sustainability.

Volunteering with SHADEF has expanded my professional network, enhanced my skills, and deepened my passion for environmental sustainability, it helped me understand the intricate relationships between climate change, waste management, and environmental sustainability.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such a dedicated and passionate team and look forward to continuing my involvement in environmental sustainability efforts.

Challenges

Despite the growing awareness of the importance of environmental protection, we face several challenges in our efforts to safeguard our planet :

1. Lack of Awareness and Action :

Despite growing concerns, there remains a significant gap between environmental awareness and actual behavioral change. Many individuals, businesses, and governments still prioritize short-term economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability.

2. Unsustainable Resource Use :

Overconsumption of natural resources in the Niger delta region such as water, fossil fuels, and deforestation of our mangroves, is depleting the earth's finite reserves. Unsustainable practices in agriculture, fishing, and mining are causing long-term damage to ecosystems and threatening future generations' ability to meet their needs.

3. Inadequate Policy and Enforcement : While some governments and organizations are taking steps to address environmental issues, weak environmental policies and poor enforcement of existing laws remain significant barriers. Corruption, lack of funding, and political instability in certain regions further hinder progress.

4. Economic Pressures : Economic growth models that prioritize rapid development often overlook environmental considerations. The challenge lies in shifting towards a more sustainable economic model that balances development with the preservation of natural resources.



Recommendations



1. Strengthen Environmental Policies and Enforcement :

Governments should implement and enforce stricter environmental regulations to protect ecosystems, curb pollution, and address climate change. Policies should incentivize businesses to adopt green technologies, promote renewable energy, and reduce carbon footprints.

2. Invest in Renewable Energy :

Transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydroelectric power is crucial to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Governments and businesses should invest in renewable energy infrastructure and technology to reduce dependence on non-renewable resources.

3. Raise Awareness and Education

: Environmental education and awareness campaigns should be expanded to inform the public about the importance of sustainable living. Schools, universities, and community organizations can play a key role in teaching people how their actions impact the environment and how to make more responsible choices.

4. Encourage Corporate

Responsibility : Businesses should take on more responsibility for their environmental impact, adopt green practices, and focus on sustainable supply chains. Implementing corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives that support environmental sustainability will lead to positive changes across industries.

Partners

We had the pleasure of receiving immense support in funding from
The Global Greengrant Funds

In Partnerships and Collaboration we received support from these
esteemed institutions and organizations :

Action Aid

Policy Alert

Clement Isong Foundation

Audrey Craft

Zero Waste Ambassadors



Conclusion

In conclusion, the health of our environment is directly linked to our own well-being and survival. The challenges we face—ranging from pollution and climate change to deforestation and resource depletion—pose significant risks to both natural ecosystems and human societies. As we continue to witness the detrimental effects of environmental degradation, it is clear that urgent action is needed.



However, the path forward is not without hope. By adopting sustainable practices, strengthening policies, investing in renewable energy, and embracing innovation, we can mitigate the impact of these challenges.

Reforestation, waste reduction, and global cooperation are key steps that will not only protect our environment but also ensure the long-term sustainability of our communities and economies.

The Plastic Latrine Project and Project Clean for Climate are prime examples of the positive change that can be achieved when individuals and organizations come together with a shared commitment to the environment.

Through collective efforts and continued dedication, we can create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable world.

If we act now to protect and restore our environment, we safeguard not only the planet but also the future of the younger generations. The time to act is now—because if our environment dies, we follow suit.

SHADEF Media



On Facebook we can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1BSsKmEUX2/>

On Instagram we can be found at

<https://www.instagram.com/shadefofficial/profilecard/?igsh=MW05MG93NzJtODAzNg==>

Connect with us @:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/safe-space-development-foundation-shadef-789183297?>

Our You Tube handle is:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoFZCcZqFTHgGGSkvvMGjUw/>

Follow us on X

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