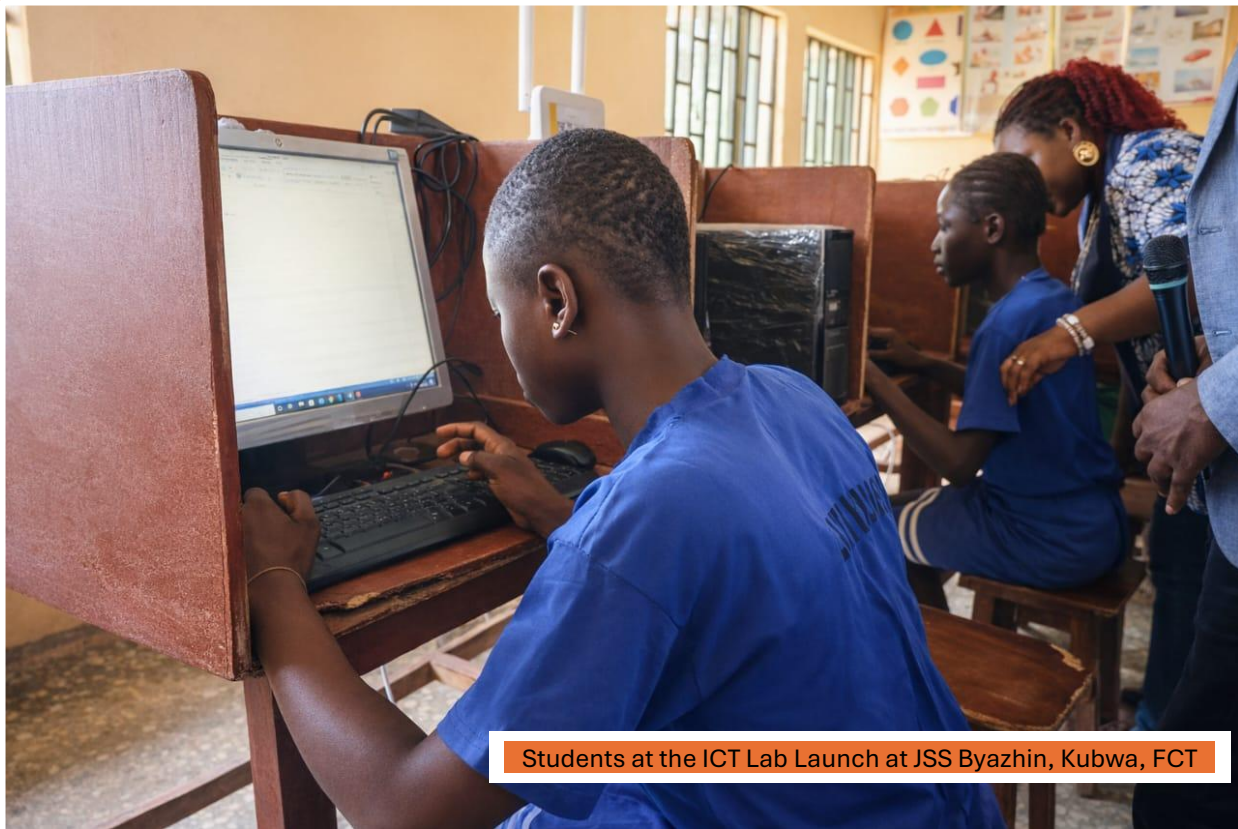




Students at the ICT Lab Launch at JSS Byazhin, Kubwa, FCT

The Role and Impact of Education CSOs under the NGOs Support Initiative (NSI)

The NGOs Grant Initiative, NSI, emerged at a critical period. In January 2025, the United States announced the shutdown of USAID operations as directed by President Trump. This decision immediately disrupted humanitarian and development interventions across the world. Nigeria was among the most affected countries, since USAID-funded programs represented a substantial share of support to health, empowerment, and education projects nationwide. As implementing partners began winding down their activities, communities were left without essential services, and local organizations faced an uncertain future.

NSI filled an urgent gap. Through the initiative, 17 organizations received five million naira (NGN 5,000,000) grants along with structured mentorship in financial management, program and project implementation, and institutional strengthening. While 12 of these organizations incorporated financial, nutritional, and economic literacy components, three grantees delivered fully education-focused interventions. Their work demonstrates how strategic support to community-rooted CSOs can stabilize essential services and deliver measurable gains, even in constrained funding environments.

Partners in Advancing Education for All



The first organization, **Webfala Digital Skills for All Initiative (WEBFALA)**, implemented the SheGrows Bootcamp, a 10-week digital and business capacity-building program for 19 young women from underserved communities in Kwara State. Participants received training in digital literacy, Canva design, Google My Business, online advertising, business development, personal branding, and confidence building.

They were also guided in preparing business résumés, creating digital pitch decks, writing grant proposals, and completing CAC and TIN registration processes. The program strengthened employability, supported entrepreneurship, and improved financial independence pathways for young women.

One participant, Oladipo Ruth, described the impact in her own words. *"This training has provided me with valuable insights and practical skills in content creation, product photography, graphics designing, proper documentation and management of my business, how to pitch my business and have access to grants and many more. My takeaways from the training were registering my business on Google and providing professional and well-branded services to my clients. Overall, the training was an enriching experience that equipped me with the knowledge and skills to have great results. I am excited to apply these new skills to future projects and continue growing in my career. Thank you, SheGrows Digital Bootcamp, for selecting me to be part of this life transforming experience."*

The second organization, SkillHer, implemented the Reviving the SkillHer SAW for Communities in Ibadan program, a four-week hybrid course designed to equip underserved women and girls with

practical digital, entrepreneurial, leadership, and GBV-prevention skills. The initiative directly trained 118 young women between the ages of 18 and 35. Through mentorship and capstone projects, participants gained the confidence and competence to apply their new skills within real community and market settings. Key outcomes included the establishment of functional learning hubs, enhanced capacity of 10 community-based mentors, and increased visibility of SkillHer as a women-focused empowerment organization in Ibadan.

A beneficiary, Gbemisola Olubayo, shared her experience. *“During the study of research fundamentals and project management classes, I learned how to conduct research from conception to the end. The team project assignment made it very practical for me. Thank you for the opportunity SkillHer and dRPC.”*



The third education-focused grantee, **Rising Hope Girls Educational Hub (RHGE)**, executed the Digital Empowerment and Girls' School Safety Project in two communities within Bwari Area Council of the FCT. The project established digital learning laboratories in Dutse Alhaji and Byazhin, delivering a sustainable structure for technology-enabled education. A total of 312 students and 185 teachers were trained in digital and AI literacy. In addition, School-Related Gender-Based Violence campaigns reached 904 students, and 100 indigent girls received school fees and PTA grants. Altogether, the project directly and indirectly benefited more than 2,700 individuals across 10 districts. The intervention improved teachers' digital competence strengthened school safety systems, and expanded access to digital tools for girls who are often excluded from technology learning.

A teacher, Ojunde Oluwaseun Omotola, described the benefits of the digital labs. *“The gift of these computers has made research easier both for teachers and students, as teachers can come here to research and students can also come to gain understanding on topics taught. I also thank them for the training on the use of AI for writing lesson notes and how we can use it to broaden our scope and research online.”*



Data Analysis:

S/no	Organization	Direct Beneficiaries	Female	Male	Indirect Beneficiaries
1	Webfala	19	19	0	N/A
2	SkillHer	118	118	0	N/A
3	RHGE	1,505	1,244	261	1,250

The data shows that at least 2,800 individuals benefited directly or indirectly from the three education interventions, with women and girls receiving the highest proportion of confirmed direct support. Webfala and SkillHer collectively trained 137 young women in digital and business skills, while RHGE provided school fee support to 100 indigent girls and delivered large-scale digital literacy and SRGBV interventions across 10 districts. Although RHGE's broader training did not provide gender breakdowns, the cumulative numbers reflect strong outreach and gender-responsive programming. This consolidated impact demonstrates the significant contributions of local CSOs in sustaining digital education, strengthening school systems, and expanding opportunities for women and girls during a period of reduced donor funding.

Conclusion:

Across the three organizations, a key factor driving the quality of results was their collaboration with government agencies, traditional authorities, school leaders, and other community stakeholders. These partnerships facilitated smooth implementation, aligned interventions with community needs, encouraged local ownership, and established structures that will support sustainability beyond the NSI funding cycle.

The collective efforts of the education CSOs under NSI highlight the significant potential of local organizations. Their work enhanced digital literacy, strengthened school safety systems, expanded girls' access to technology, and created community assets that will continue to benefit young people long after the program ends. Even amid a global funding downturn, these organizations demonstrated resilience, innovation, and a strong commitment to inclusion and quality education.

Stories Across the Media

Grantee	Links
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Webfala Digital Skills Initiative	https://drpcngr.org/webfala-digital-skills-for-all-initiative/ https://newtelegraphng.com/ngo-empowers-20-young-women-in-kwara-with-business-digital-skills/ https://www.linkedin.com/posts/webfala-digital-skills-for-all-initiative_webfalainitiative-shegrows-digitailempowerment-activity-7358078879753764864-gywc/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAAC6xCyMBSeRWtDmU_NsoTz6AWHBYbTQdc5s https://www.linkedin.com/posts/webfala-digital-skills-for-all-initiative_webfala-shegrowsdigital-digitalskills-activity-7350846264160272384-oeff/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAAC6xCyMBSeRWtDmU_NsoTz6AWHBYbTQdc5s
SKILLHER	https://techiesnode.com/2025/07/14/oyo-startup-ecosystem-news-jobs-and-development-opportunities-14-07-2025/ https://skillher.blogspot.com/2025/07/skillher-receives-drpc-grant-backed-by.html https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16rkiSh7KP/?mibextid=wwXlfr https://www.instagram.com/p/DL6S09WlwhW/ https://skillher.blogspot.com/2025/08/the-saw-journey-continues.html
Rising Hope Girls Education I Foundation	https://risinghopegirlseducation.com/empowering-girls-through-digital-literacy-and-safe-school-advocacy-a-transformative-july-for-rhge-in-bwari-abuja-in-the-drpc-sponsored-nsi-project/ https://oghoghoahanorrhgf.wixsite.com/rhgecienasstudentblog/post/digital-empowerment-girls-school-safety-street_hawking https://oghoghoahanorrhgf.wixsite.com/rhgecienasstudentblog/post/digital-empowerment-and-girls-school-safety https://risinghopegirlseducation.com/empowering-girls-through-digital-literacy-and-safe-school-advocacy-a-transformative-july-for-rhge-in-bwari-abuja-in-the-drpc-sponsored-nsi-project/ https://youtu.be/vP04fpEssXc?si=Teg3w6c_iKHptF3D https://www.instagram.com/risinghopegirlsedufoundation/p/DN58d5yjFcU/ https://youtu.be/acAs0SSfNUY?si=zMWBWwhwgJ1sCHcl