RESOURCE CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

A women-led, community-powered nonprofit

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Driving Community-Led Climate and Sanitation Transformation in Nigeria



Project ReFresh Apo Resettlement — RCDI with the Apo Resettlement community on World Earth Day 2025.

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A Message from RCDI

In 2025, the Resource Conservation Development Initiative (RCDI) deepened its commitment to the communities, classrooms and ecosystems we serve. From World Water Day at the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, to school WASH Clubs in five secondary schools, to an illegal dumpsite reclaimed in Apo Resettlement, to dignity kits placed in the hands of 150 adolescent girls, to a national stage at the Federal Ministry of Environment, this year reminded us that durable change begins where people live, learn and lead.

We are women-led and community-powered. We work where SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) meets SDG 13 (Climate Action), and we believe these are not separate agendas. A clogged drain is a climate story. A girl missing school during her period is a sanitation story. A tippy tap built from local materials is both. Our model is to put practical tools and trusted information in the hands of young people, educators and frontline households — and then get out of the way.

This report walks through our 2025 in four quarters: World Water Day and our WASH Clubs in Q1; Earth Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day and World Environment Day in Q2; quiet consolidation in Q3; and continued WASH Club programming through year-end. We released a press release on our work in the second quarter of 2025, and this annual report carries that story forward across the full year. It closes with the partners who walked alongside us and the priorities we are carrying into 2026. To every volunteer, partner agency, school administrator and household that opened a door to us this year — thank you. The work continues.

The RCDI Team
Abuja, Nigeria

About RCDI



The RCDI team launches Project ReFresh Apo Resettlement, World Earth Day 2025.

The Resource Conservation Development Initiative (RCDI) is a women-led, community-powered nonprofit advancing sustainable development through climate action and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) interventions. We work alongside schools, faith communities, market women and household leaders to build a Nigeria where clean water, safe sanitation and a livable climate are everyday realities rather than aspirations.

Our Mission

To equip young people, educators and vulnerable communities with the tools to transform their environment — because change that begins at the grassroots endures the longest.

Our Anchor in the SDGs

- SDG 6 — Clean Water and Sanitation: dignified, safe, and accessible WASH for every household.
- SDG 13 — Climate Action: community-led environmental stewardship and waste reduction.

- Cross-cutting: SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

How We Work

We design low-cost, locally fabricated solutions — tippy taps, reusable pad hubs, school WASH Clubs, Eco Clubs — then surround them with peer-led education, government partnership and continuous monitoring. We are intentionally small, deliberately rooted, and built to scale through schools and community structures rather than through parallel infrastructure.

2025 At a Glance

A snapshot of our reach across schools, communities and national platforms this year.

5 **SCHOOLS WITH ACTIVE WASH CLUBS**	**250** **STUDENTS IN WASH CLUBS**
150 **ADOLESCENT GIRLS REACHED ON MHD**	**4** **NATIONAL OBSERVANCE DAYS ACTIVATED**
1 **DUMPSITE RECLAIMED**	**6+** **GOVERNMENT & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

> *"Clean water and a healthy climate are not luxuries — they are rights."*
>
> — RCDI guiding principle

The Year in Action

Across 2025, RCDI ran a steady programme of school WASH Clubs alongside four major activations tied to national environmental observances. The pages that follow walk through the year quarter by quarter — what we did, who we reached, and why each activation matters beyond the day itself.

Quarter 1 — January to March

WASH Clubs Across Five Schools

Q1 belonged to our schools. RCDI ran regular WASH Club days across five secondary schools in the Federal Capital Territory, bringing hygiene education, peer-led action and a sense of ownership to roughly 250 students. Each club is led by an educator champion and supported by student officers, so the work continues between our visits.

- JSS Durumi
- JSS Durumi (Games Village)
- JSS Kabusa
- GSS Kabusa
- GSS Ushafa



A school WASH Club session in the FCT — Q1 2025.

World Water Day — 22 March 2025

On World Water Day, RCDI joined the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation's 2025 commemorative press conference at Chelsea Hotel, Area 10, Abuja, themed "Glacier Preservation." The platform brought RCDI into the same room as UNICEF, UNESCO and other water-sector partners, and grounded our school-level WASH work in the wider national policy conversation.



The Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation's 2025 World Water Day Press Conference, Abuja.



The high-table panel addresses press and partners at the 2025 World Water Day commemoration.

> *"Schools are where habits are formed. The WASH Club is where we make those habits stick."*
>
> — RCDI school WASH lead

Quarter 2 — April to June

Q2 was our busiest stretch of the year. Three major environmental observances — Earth Day, Menstrual Hygiene Day and World Environment Day — each became a vehicle for practical community work and national-level engagement.

Earth Day — 19 & 22 April 2025



Project ReFresh Apo Resettlement — the campaign banner rides on an AEPB waste truck during the clean-up.

What We Did

- Cleaned an illegal dumpsite in Apo Resettlement, Zone E, Abuja — restoring a neglected public space and demonstrating community-led waste reclamation.
- Installed a handwashing tippy tap using low-cost local materials, a replicable design that any household or school can build.

- Partnered with RUWASSA (the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency) to convene dialogues on environmental health and sanitation in FCT schools.
- Engaged the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) to support household waste bin use and ongoing dumpsite restoration.



A resident uses the newly installed tippy tap — the design is replicable by any household.

Why It Mattered

Earth Day in Apo was less an event and more a working demonstration. The dumpsite clean-up paired with a tippy tap installation showed residents that environmental action and household hygiene live on the same axis — and that both can be addressed with locally available materials, a few hours of collective labour, and the right institutional partners standing alongside.

> *"The dumpsite was here for years. In one weekend, RCDI showed our young people what is possible when the community decides to act."*
>
> — Apo Resettlement community partner

Menstrual Hygiene Day — 28 May 2025



Adolescent girls receive RCDI Dignity Kits during a Menstrual Hygiene Day classroom session in the FCT.

What We Did

- Reached 150 adolescent girls across 6 schools in the Federal Capital Territory with dignity kits and menstrual health education.
- Hosted a radio talk show spotlighting menstrual hygiene and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), extending the conversation beyond the classroom.
- Launched ThriveFlow Nigeria — our flagship initiative dedicated to menstrual dignity — with a multi-year vision for reusable pad hubs and school-based ambassador networks.
- Empowered student ambassadors and educators to lead school-based outreach, building peer-to-peer infrastructure that outlasts any single visit.
- Joined the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs' commemoration and participated in the national Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management convening alongside AWA Initiative, Wonder Woman and Alora Reusable Pads.



RCDI staff at the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs' Menstrual Hygiene Day commemoration, hosted by the Honourable Minister Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim.



RCDI delegates at the Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management convening, with AWA Initiative, Wonder Woman and Alora Reusable Pads.



The May 27 radio talk show on Wazobia FM 99.5 — starting the conversation and sustaining the power of dignity.

Why It Mattered

Menstrual hygiene in Nigerian schools is a quiet barrier to education. Girls miss class, lose confidence, and leak out of the system. RCDI's response is not a one-time handout: dignity kits are paired with health education, ambassador training and reusable pad hubs so that a school we touch this year becomes a school that runs its own programme next year. ThriveFlow Nigeria gives this work a name, a brand and a roadmap.

> *"I used to dread my period at school. Now I know what to do, and I help my younger sisters too."*
>
> — Student ambassador, FCT

World Environment Day — 5 June 2025



The Executive Director of RCDI delivers a keynote address at the Federal Ministry of Environment's World Environment Day 2025 commemoration.

What We Did

- Participated as a member of the Federal Ministry of Environment's planning committee for the national observance, contributing youth and community perspectives to the programme.
- Delivered the keynote address through RCDI's Executive Director, voicing youth-led community action on the national stage.
- Donated education kits to students who showcased climate actions from their Eco Clubs — rewarding the work, not just the words.
- Distributed RCDI-branded stickers, learning materials and paper cups, reinforcing plastic-free behaviour at the event itself.

Why It Mattered

A seat at the planning table is an outcome in its own right. RCDI moved from organising in communities to helping shape the national observance — carrying the lived experience of FCT schools and Apo Resettlement households into a room of federal agencies, ECOWAS partners and security services. This is the kind of partnership posture we are building toward across all of our work.



RCDI takes its seat alongside federal agencies, ECOWAS partners and security services under the Federal Ministry of Environment's commemoration banner.

> *"The earth is our business — make it plastic free."*
>
> — Campaign message echoed across the day

Quarter 3 — July to September

Q3 was a deliberate season of consolidation. With FCT schools on their long break and the rainy season at its peak, RCDI used the quiet stretch to debrief Q2, refresh training materials for our school WASH Clubs, plan ThriveFlow Nigeria's scale-up in Benue, and prepare for the new academic year. Quiet quarters are not empty quarters — they are when sustainable programmes are built.

Quarter 4 — October to December

Q4 returned RCDI to where the year began: in classrooms. With schools back in session, our WASH Clubs resumed across all five secondary schools, carrying forward the hygiene practices, peer leadership and Eco-Club-style activities that anchored our Q1 programme. Continuity

through the year is the point: a club that meets once is a visit; a club that meets every term is an institution.

- JSS Durumi — club days resumed.
- JSS Durumi (Games Village) — club days resumed.
- JSS Kabusa — club days resumed.
- GSS Kabusa — club days resumed.
- GSS Ushafa — club days resumed.

Across the year, roughly 250 students moved through our school WASH Clubs — a steady cohort building habits, peer networks and a sense of agency that will outlast any single observance day.

> *"A club that meets once is a visit. A club that meets every term is an institution."*
>
> — RCDI school WASH programme principle

Partners and Collaborators

Our work is only possible because government agencies, schools, peer organisations and community leaders trust us to show up. We are grateful to the partners who walked with us in 2025.



RCDI's mission and vision alongside the wall of public-sector, UN-system and private-sector partners working on water, sanitation and climate in Nigeria.

Government and Public-Sector Partners

- Federal Ministry of Environment — Department of Planning, Research and Statistics
- Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation (2025 World Water Day commemoration)
- Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (Menstrual Hygiene Day commemoration)
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA)
- Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB)
- FCT school administrations across five secondary schools: JSS Durumi, JSS Durumi (Games Village), JSS Kabusa, GSS Kabusa and GSS Ushafa.

Movement and Community Partners

- Climate Justice Youth Ambassadors
- African Activists for Climate Justice
- Oxfam (Beat Plastic Pollution campaign)

- AWA Initiative, Wonder Woman and Alora Reusable Pads (Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management convening)
- Apo Resettlement community and local volunteers

> *"Each clean-up, dignity kit, or student-led action echoes our core belief: clean water and a healthy climate are not luxuries — they are rights."*
>
> — RCDI

Looking Ahead

As schools head into break and the rainy season begins, RCDI is preparing for a more ambitious 2026. Our priorities for the next twelve months focus on depth, durability and measurement — not just on adding new activities.

Expanding WASH Clubs

We will extend our school-based WASH Clubs into new schools across the FCT and Benue State, with a particular focus on under-served communities. Each new club includes student leadership, an educator champion and a starter sanitation kit.

Scaling ThriveFlow Nigeria

We are finalising the operating model for reusable pad hubs in Benue, designed so that community women fabricate, distribute and continually improve the product themselves — turning a menstrual hygiene programme into a livelihood programme.

Deepening Eco-Club Partnerships

We are finalising a partnership with another development partner's Eco Club network to co-develop youth climate projects, sharing curriculum, ambassadors and measurement frameworks.

A Real-Time Impact Dashboard

Beginning in 2026, RCDI will roll out a real-time community impact dashboard, so partners and funders can see beneficiary numbers, club status and infrastructure outcomes as they happen.

This builds on our continuous monitoring visits and replaces episodic reporting with continuous accountability.

Comprehensive Impact Reporting

A comprehensive impact report will be prepared for government and development partners, integrating the dashboard data with qualitative case studies from the communities we serve.

Join the Movement

RCDI grows through partnership. There are four practical ways to stand with us in the year ahead, whether you are an individual, a corporate partner or a development institution.

Four Ways to Partner

- Sponsor a school WASH Club — underwrite the leadership, training and starter kit for a new club in the FCT or Benue.
- Support a reusable pad hub in Benue — fund the women fabricators, materials and distribution network for one community hub.
- Co-host a clean-up or tree-planting event — bring your team, congregation or class; we bring the design, partners and logistics.
- Fund student training and educational kits — equip the ambassadors and educators who carry this work forward inside their own schools.

Talk to Us

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#RCDIClimateAction · #ThriveFlowNigeria
#PlasticFreeNigeria · #BeatPlasticPollution · #EndOpenDefecation

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