

Grassroots Leadership as a Catalyst for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Evidence from Community Mobilization through the Street2Street Movement in Nigeria

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Copyright © 2026 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC) which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial use provided the original author and source are credited.	
Citation: Amb. Nnordee Bariagara King David, Ph.D, & Vivian Ada Uwa Jacobs. (2026). Grassroots leadership as a catalyst for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: Evidence from community mobilization through the Street2Street Movement in Nigeria. UKR Journal of Economics, Business and Management, 2(8), 258-266.	<i>This article explores the function of grassroots leadership as a driving force for realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria, utilising evidence from community mobilisation efforts linked to the Street2Street movement. Notwithstanding worldwide pledges to the 2030 Agenda, the execution of SDGs in Nigeria is hindered by a lack of legitimacy in local administration, as local officials are accountable to state political elites instead of their constituents. This disconnection sustains a hierarchical development model that sidelines grassroots participants and hampers the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The article illustrates that grassroots leadership addresses essential deficiencies that formal institutions are unable to tackle, thereby directly contributing to SDG objectives in education, health, environmental sustainability, and inclusive governance through case studies of student-led SDG advocacy, youth-driven health and environmental initiatives, and community-based mobility programs. Nonetheless, enduring obstacles such as resource limitations, inadequate policy cohesion, and institutional disregard hinder the efficacy and longevity of community-driven projects. The piece contends that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria relies on fortifying authentic local political leadership, institutionalising youth-driven networks, allocating direct financial resources to grassroots participants, and fostering multi-stakeholder collaborations that honour community autonomy. It asserts that when communities recognise their own strength, the Sustainable Development Goals transition from abstract ambitions to tangible realities influenced by local initiatives. Suggestions encompass reforms in local administration, specialised funding strategies, incorporation of SDG education into educational programs, establishment of connections between grassroots movements and governmental planning, and collaborative partnerships among various stakeholders for community-driven solutions.</i> Keywords: Grassroots leadership, Sustainable Development Goals, SDG localization, Nigeria, community mobilization, Street2Street movement, youth advocacy, local governance, legitimacy, community development.

Introduction

The implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 created a global framework aimed at tackling poverty, inequality, climate change, and institutional deterioration by 2030. For the African continent, these objectives take on a distinctly pressing nature. Sub-Saharan Africa confronts a confluence of sustainability issues that cumulatively jeopardise the

realisation of the SDGs, transforming them into a distant goal rather than a feasible outcome (Juju et al., 2020). Nigeria, being the most populated country in Africa, illustrates this developmental contradiction: a wealth of human and natural resources occurring alongside ongoing underdevelopment, governance shortcomings, and social marginalisation. The pressing need for achieving the

Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria is intensified by the impending 2030 deadline, as numerous targets remain significantly off-course despite ten years of policy pledges. This situation necessitates a thorough reassessment of the methods by which sustainable development can be successfully achieved, shifting from mere policy discourse to concrete, community-oriented results that truly enhance lives.

A primary challenge to the execution of SDGs in Nigeria is the significant disparity between overarching policy structures and the actual experiences of grassroots people. The adaptation of the SDGs transforming global objectives into implementable policies, financial plans, and initiatives at the local level is significantly hindered by governance shortcomings that favour centralised authority over community involvement. Academics have recognised the legitimacy crisis in local governance as a significant obstacle to the achievement of SDGs throughout Africa, with Nigeria serving as a notable example of this issue. Okudolo and Hofisi (2024) contend that numerous local government officials get their political accountability from state-level political elites rather than their local constituents, hence making them fundamentally illegitimate representatives unable to advocate for community-focused development. This lack of legitimacy sustains a hierarchical development model that sidelines the communities the SDGs aim to benefit. The durability of this model, bolstered by public-private partnership structures that frequently favour profit over fairness, deepens marginalisation and compromises the social inclusion tenets foundational to the SDG agenda (Mwesigwa, 2025). As a result, communities are compelled to address developmental obstacles in the absence of sufficient institutional backing, resulting in a void that grassroots participants must in.

This article asserts that grassroots leadership, illustrated by community mobilisation efforts like the Street2Street movement, serves not only as a supportive factor but as a crucial driver for the attainment of SDGs in Nigeria. Sustainable development relies on the empowerment, credibility, and transformative capabilities of local stakeholders who have a profound understanding of community need and the confidence of their constituents. The incorporation of informal economy viewpoints into development practices demonstrates that community-led strategies provide feasible solutions for reconciling policy goals with actual experiences (Nwosu, 2025). Empirical data from community involvement in development initiatives indicates improved project ownership, sustainability, and congruence with local interests (Adebowale & No, 2024). The Street2Street initiative, featuring a coalition of community organisers and young campaigners, illustrates how grassroots mobilisation may

effectively advance SDG objectives in education, health, governance, and economic development. Global experiences confirm that grassroots economies are vital for empowering local communities and promoting sustainable development (Jayasooria, 2021). In a comparable manner, engaging community networks has demonstrated efficacy in attaining developmental results in diverse settings (Azmi et al., 2025). The participation of non-governmental organisations in sustained community economic empowerment highlights the capacity of grassroots efforts to effect significant transformation when properly backed (Rukundo, 2025). This article delineates grassroots leadership within the Nigerian framework, investigates obstacles to the localisation of SDGs, including the legitimacy crisis in local governance, provides evidence from Street2Street initiatives, and proposes practical recommendations for enhancing grassroots-driven development in Nigeria.

Conceptualizing Grassroots Leadership and SDG Localization in the Nigerian Context

Grassroots leadership, as articulated in this article, transcends official political positions to acknowledge the varied spectrum of community-oriented individuals who galvanise collaborative efforts within their locales. These participants encompass youth leaders, civil society facilitators, traditional entities, social innovators, and community development organisations that have profound understanding of local requirements and the confidence of their constituents. The rise of suburban social movements in underprivileged areas illustrates the capacity of community members to unite in order to tackle common issues and promote enhanced services and infrastructure (Sjöberg & Kings, 2022). These actions frequently emerge from a communal identity and shared discontent, converting passive inhabitants into proactive catalysts for change who seek accountability and impact decision-making. In a comparable manner, youth-driven civil society organisations throughout Africa have exhibited exceptional proficiency in transcalar advocacy, functioning concurrently at local, national, and international tiers to promote development initiatives and enhance community representation (Kumi, Yeboah, & Edudzie, 2026). This tiered involvement allows grassroots leaders to utilise local insights while tapping into wider networks and resources that improve their efficacy. In Nigeria, grassroots leadership holds particular importance due to the historical sidelining of community perspectives in development strategies and the ongoing disparity between policy declarations and their execution at the local tier.

The "Nigerian reality" regarding community mobilisation is significantly influenced by the legitimacy shortfall inherent in local governance frameworks. Utilising

academic research, Okudolo and Hofisi (2024) illustrate that several local government officials in Nigeria get their political accountability not from their local constituents but from state-level political elites who appointed or aided their rise. This essential discord in accountability serves as a significant obstacle to the localisation of SDGs, as local government representatives possess neither the motivation nor the authority to advocate for community-focused development. When local authorities are answerable to outside political entities instead of their citizens, they transform into instruments of centralised authority rather than genuine advocates for community needs. This lack of legitimacy sustains a hierarchical development model that favours the interests of political elites rather than the articulated demands of communities. The enduring nature of political centralisation, as opposed to authentic decentralisation, poses a considerable challenge to grassroots-led SDG execution, given that decision-making power, financial authority, and program monitoring are still centralised at state and federal tiers. As a result, communities become mere passive beneficiaries of development initiatives instead of engaged contributors in determining their own destinies.

Comprehending the concept of SDG localisation is crucial for recognising the significance of grassroots leadership in promoting sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals are not merely theoretical global objectives that can be realised solely thru authoritative policy declarations; they require "domestication" and "localisation" via policies, budgets, and community initiatives that cater to particular local requirements and contexts. Localisation entails converting global objectives into actions tailored to individual contexts that align with community aspirations, utilising indigenous knowledge, and guaranteeing that developmental initiatives address the distinct obstacles encountered by various groups. This is especially vital for Goals 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health), 4 (Quality Education), and 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), which tackle essential aspects of human welfare that vary throughout Nigerian communities. The Street2Street movement, which began as a grassroots organization for political involvement, has transformed to incorporate SDG advocacy by linking community mobilisation with developmental results (Vanguard News, 2018). Student-driven SDG clubs in Nigerian educational institutions illustrate how grassroots participants can convert global objectives into concrete local initiatives, operating "where the silence is loudest" to tackle community need overlooked by formal organisations (University World News, 2025). These projects illustrate that the localisation of SDGs transcends a mere technical endeavour, embodying a profoundly political and social

undertaking that necessitates authentic local governance and engaged community involvement.

The Street2Street Movement: A Model of Grassroots Mobilization

The Street2Street initiative originated in Nigeria as a grassroots support system that utilises community organization for political involvement and societal transformation. Situated within the expansive realm of Nigerian civic engagement, Street2Street exemplifies a type of interconnected digital activism that functions via community networks, social media channels, and grassroots mobilisation to promote shared objectives and elevate under-represented voices (Fadugba, 2023). The inception of the movement can be linked to political initiatives where community organisers rallied supporters via grassroots involvement, door-to-door efforts, and local assemblies that circumvented conventional media and established political frameworks. This approach to grassroots mobilisation has notable efficacy in engaging marginalised communities that traditional political parties and institutions have long overlooked. The Street2Street Support Initiative for Atiku illustrates this methodology, showcasing how community networks may be mobilised for political objectives via decentralised, volunteer-led organization that leverages local trust networks and personal connections. Street2Street set itself apart from traditional political mobilisation thru its focus on community ownership, participatory governance, and the development of local leadership that can maintain involvement beyond individual electoral periods. This structural framework, established on bonds of trust and a collective identity, served as the basis for the movement's progression toward more expansive developmental goals.

The transformation of Street2Street from political mobilisation to Sustainable Development Goal advocacy signifies a notable adjustment in grassroots organising for developmental aims. Programs like Street2Forbes have transformed the movement's community networks to focus on youth entrepreneurship education, connecting young individuals to the Sustainable Development Goals via training, mentorship, and resource access. This initiative illustrates how community mobilisation may function as a potent means for promoting awareness and action regarding the Sustainable Development Goals, transforming intangible global objectives into tangible local prospects that align with the ambitions of young people. The facilitation of youth-driven innovation has been recognised as a vital catalyst for sustainable development, with young individuals serving as change agents capable of advancing several SDG objectives (Purcell et al., 2025). Young individuals exhibit distinctive qualities technological proficiency, flexibility, inventiveness, and a vested interest

in enduring sustainability that render them inherent leaders in the execution of Sustainable Development Goals. Street2Forbes leverages these characteristics by offering forums for emerging entrepreneurs to cultivate business concepts that tackle community issues, thus synchronising economic prospects with developmental results. The program's emphasis on entrepreneurial education directly supports SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and indirectly promotes objectives including poverty alleviation, innovation, and sustainable communities. Global evidence substantiates that solutions spearheaded by youth are crucial for realising the Sustainable Development Goals, as young individuals contribute innovative viewpoints, vigour, and dedication to tackling enduring developmental issues (Piselli et al., 2019). Through the investment in youth entrepreneurship and its clear connection to SDG frameworks, Street2Forbes illustrates how grassroots initiatives may connect community mobilisation with sustainable development. The methodological framework of Street2Street sets it apart from standard development initiatives and conventional political mobilisation. The initiative functions via decentralised networks of community volunteers, emphasising local ownership and participatory decision-making rather than hierarchical directives. Community targeting guarantees that activities are directed at "where the silence is most pronounced" in marginalised communities that formal programs sometimes neglect owing to logistical obstacles, political disenfranchisement, or assumed impracticality. This deliberate emphasis on overlooked populations corresponds with the SDG tenet of inclusivity, guaranteeing that developmental advantages extend to the most disadvantaged and marginalised. The youth-centric strategy harnesses the vigour, technological proficiency, and social connections of young leaders as key drivers of change, acknowledging that young individuals are not just recipients of development but vital collaborators in its execution. The partnership framework significantly boosts effectiveness by promoting cooperation with educational institutions, governmental bodies, global entities, and business sector participants, thus extending the influence and longevity of community-based projects. The Street2Forbes campus tour, which delivers entrepreneurial education to university students around Nigeria, illustrates this collaborative strategy by involving academic institutions, development partners, and community networks in common goals.

Core Methodology

Street2Street uses neighbourhood targeting, youth-driven tactics, and partnership models to differentiate itself from traditional development interventions and political organising. Community targeting ensures that initiatives

reach "where the silence is loudest" underserved groups that formal programs neglect owing to logistical issues, political marginalisation, or perceived unviability. As part of the SDG principle of leaving no one behind, neglected communities are targeted to ensure that development benefits the most disadvantaged and excluded from mainstream initiatives. Street2Street addresses important gaps in poorly functioning government services and shows that sustainable development must start with the most marginalised.

The youth-driven strategy uses young leaders' energy, digital literacy, and social networks as change agents, recognising that youth are not just beneficiaries of development but crucial partners. Young people are natural SDG leaders due to their adaptability, creativity, technical fluency, and personal stake in long-term sustainability.

The Street2Forbes campus tour and youth mentorship programs explicitly link community mobilisation to SDG aims. Entrepreneurship education supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by teaching practical skills and knowledge. Youth employment and economic empowerment enhance SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by enabling enterprise growth for young people. SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) promotes inclusive growth by giving marginalised youth access to opportunity. Street2Street shows how grassroots mobilisation may be systematically modified to promote SDG targets and build local capacity and ownership through various interconnected techniques.

Grassroots Impact on SDG Achievement

The impact of grassroots leadership on SDGs is best understood using data from community-driven projects in Nigeria. These case studies show that grassroots mobilisation turns SDG awareness into community results, addressing important issues that formal institutions and hierarchical approaches miss. Student volunteers, youth activists, and community foundations provide first aid in marginalised communities without government backing and when at-risk persons are disregarded. Case Study 1 examines student-driven advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through projects like the TAR SDG Club in Kwara State, which has improved secondary school students' peace education, disability inclusion, and health awareness. By expanding educational opportunities beyond the standard curriculum, this project meets SDG 4 (Quality Education). It promotes SDG 16 (Peace and Justice) by teaching youth conflict resolution and social solidarity through peace education. SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) is addressed via inclusion initiatives that combat discrimination against disabled children and encourage their full participation in educational and community activities. A parent's statement "This is the first instance anyone acknowledged children like mine" shows

how grassroots activism affects under-represented communities (University World News, 2025). Global studies show that student-driven frameworks, which foster ownership, peer-to-peer education, and long-term commitment, are effective for SDG engagement (Lee et al., 2023). Social action in education improves students' abilities to be change agents (Sarilita, Murniati, & Yusuf, 2025).

In Case Study 2, SDGs Advocate Network members conduct blood pressure screening campaigns for SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and market clean-ups for SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). These programs show that grassroots efforts may turn Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) knowledge into quantifiable community outcomes by using development frameworks to address local needs. Youth-driven climate action projects benefit youth, families, and communities (Trott, 2021). Encouraging young people to lead nutrition, climate, and public health projects creates lasting community advancement (Gaithuma et al., 2025).

Case Study 3 shows how the GRA Empowerment Foundation donates bicycles to poor Lagos kids, supporting several Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by making schooling easier for underprivileged children. It promotes SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) by exercise. It reduces fossil fuel use and helps achieve SDG 13 (Climate Action) by enabling sustainable mobility options. Inclusive bicycle education has helped marginalised groups like disabled children (Wilmot et al., 2026). Bicycle commuting to schools has health benefits and reduces carbon emissions, demonstrating the program's cross-sectoral impact (Goodman et al., 2019).

Barriers and Pathways for Strengthening Grassroots SDG Leadership

Despite grassroots leadership's potential to advance SDGs, Nigeria's community-led programs face major challenges to effectiveness and sustainability. The legitimacy issue in formal local governance is the biggest barrier to localising the SDGs. When local government leaders serve state political elites rather than their constituents, grassroots initiatives fail to gain institutional support, public resources, and policy integration (Okudolo & Hofisi, 2024). This legitimacy deficit creates a vicious cycle: people cannot rely on formal local institutions to address development issues, yet grassroots initiatives that fill this vacuum are typically disregarded or discouraged by the same institutions. Properly executed decentralisation brings decision-making closer to communities and allows local governments to meet unique needs, improving SDG accomplishment (Guha & Chakrabarti, 2019). In Nigeria, decentralisation has remained symbolic, with state and

federal governments controlling fiscal and programmatic matters. Local development involves genuine devolution of authority, resources, and accountability to local governments and community institutions (Ingram, 2022). Lacking devolution, grassroots leaders work in a hostile institutional environment without legitimacy or support.

Resources are another impediment to grassroots SDG leadership's reach and sustainability. "Donations, the commitment of student volunteers, and improvised strategies rather than relying on institutional funding" fund the TAR SDG Club (University World News, 2025). Due to financial instability, many grassroots efforts operate project-by-project, unable to plan for long-term impact or growth. Community-led development lacks formal financial mechanisms, forcing grassroots players to focus on resource mobilisation rather than program execution, limiting their effectiveness. International NGO administration of SDG-related activities shows that sustainable financing, capacity training, and institutional support are needed to turn grassroots energy into lasting development (Woodworth, 2024). Third, policy integration is lacking. Many grassroots organisations operate alongside government programs without obvious strategies to scale up, duplicate successful models, or influence policy. This mismatch between grassroots innovation and formal policy procedures prevents community-led projects from informing development strategies (van Lunenburg, Geuijen, & Meijer, 2020). The lack of institutionalised engagement between grassroots actors and policymakers fragments development and isolates community initiatives from national SDG strategies.

These obstacles can be overcome to improve grassroots SDG leadership in Nigeria. Development experts say youth involvement and community mobilisation are crucial to achieve the SDGs, recommending institutional backing for grassroots efforts (Vanguard News, 2024). The SDGs Advocate Network shows how structured youth leadership networks may boost grassroots impact through training, resource sharing, and advocacy (2025). The Global Localisation Forum allows grassroots actors to network with policymakers, share best practises, and lobby for community-led development policy reforms (Connected Advocacy, 2026). Strengthening these routes needs purposeful investment in grassroots capacity, specialised funding sources, and institutional bridges between community activities and formal governance systems.

Pathways Forward

Addressing the barriers that constrain grassroots SDG leadership requires deliberate and multi-dimensional strategies that strengthen local legitimacy, institutionalize youth-led networks, provide direct funding, and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships. These pathways are not

mutually exclusive but mutually reinforcing, creating an ecosystem within which grassroots initiatives can thrive and contribute meaningfully to SDG achievement.

Strengthening local political legitimacy emerges as the foundational imperative for SDG localization in Nigeria. Okudolo and Hofisi (2024) argue persuasively that SDG attainment is predicated on embedding truly legitimate local political leaders who owe accountability to their communities rather than to state-based political elites. This requires electoral reforms that ensure local government chairpersons and councilors are genuinely elected by their constituents through free and fair processes, with mechanisms for recall and accountability that give communities meaningful oversight. When local leaders derive their authority from community mandate, they become natural partners for grassroots initiatives, providing institutional support, access to resources, and policy alignment that amplify community-led efforts. Legitimate local governance also creates an enabling environment for civic participation, ensuring that community voices are heard in development planning and that grassroots initiatives are integrated into formal development frameworks.

Institutionalizing youth-led networks represents a second critical pathway for strengthening grassroots SDG leadership. Future-oriented mechanisms for localizing the SDGs must prioritize the integration of youth SDG advocacy networks into formal education and local governance structures (Bonsu, TyreeHageman, & Kele, 2020). Programs like the SDGs Advocate Network, which aims to integrate SDG education into every primary and secondary school in Nigeria, exemplify a scalable model that embeds sustainable development awareness within formal education systems while empowering young people as agents of change. Youth engagement and partnerships for SDG progress require innovative approaches that move beyond tokenistic consultation toward genuine co-creation and shared decision-making (Swist & Collin, 2021). This means establishing formal mechanisms for youth representation in local government planning processes, creating youth advisory councils that influence policy development, and ensuring that educational curricula equip young people with the knowledge and skills to lead SDG implementation in their communities.

Direct funding for grassroots actors constitutes a third essential pathway for overcoming the resource constraints that limit community-led initiatives. Increasing direct financing for community-based organizations and youth networks, bypassing bureaucratic bottlenecks that typically hinder local action, enables grassroots leaders to plan strategically, scale successful interventions, and build organizational capacity (Ingram, 2022). Locally driven

development requires financing mechanisms that are accessible, flexible, and responsive to community priorities, rather than imposing rigid donor-driven frameworks that undermine local ownership. Building multi-stakeholder partnerships represents a fourth pathway that encourages collaboration between grassroots actors, government agencies, international partners, and private sector stakeholders to co-design locally-led solutions. Equitable climate adaptation architecture in Nigerian cities demonstrates how integrating hybrid infrastructure with community initiative can produce sustainable outcomes that neither top-down nor bottom-up approaches could achieve alone (Alabi et al., 2026). Similarly, urban climate adaptation planning in African cities reveals gaps, challenges, and opportunities for nature-based solutions that require collaboration across sectors and scales (Hansen & Breed, 2026).

Conclusion

This article argues that grassroots leadership is a key driver of SDG accomplishment in Nigeria. Community mobilisation directly supports SDG targets in education, health, environmental sustainability, and inclusive government, according to Street2Street initiatives. Students' advocacy, youth-driven health campaigns, and community foundations' mobility and inclusion programs cover gaps that official institutions and top-down programs cannot. The TAR SDG Club in Kwara State, the SDGs Advocate Network's community projects, and the GRA Empowerment Foundation's bicycle giveaway program show that community mobilisation and empowerment make sustainable development a reality. This shows that grassroots leadership can turn SDG awareness into practical results, reaching underprivileged populations that official programs ignore and meeting needs governmental frameworks miss.

The findings support the academic view that SDG localisation in Africa requires credible local political leadership. Sustainable development relies on local leaders' accountability to their communities, but Nigerian local governance's legitimacy deficit hampers community-led projects. Where local government leaders serve state political elites rather than citizens, grassroots activities struggle to get institutional backing, resources, and policy influence. Local political legitimacy must be strengthened thru election changes, devolution of authority, and community scrutiny to enable grassroots leadership. Without this core reform, grassroots efforts would continue to exist alongside formal governing mechanisms, limited by institutional neglect and resource precarity.

The greatest development impact frequently comes from communities facing difficulties they cannot ignore, not policy manuals or international conferences. Grassroots

movements turn sorrow and powerlessness into collective action that changes development paths. Thru direct finance, legitimacy changes, and institutional support for youth-led networks, policymakers, development partners, and civil society must prioritise grassroots leadership. A student said, "I didn't know I had the power to stop violence without fighting back." When communities realise their power, the SDGs become lived realities influenced by local agency and collective action. The difficulty is not determining what must be done, but creating the political and institutional conditions that allow grassroots leadership to fully contribute to sustainable development in Nigeria and Africa.

Recommendations

Based on the analysis of grassroots leadership and SDG achievement in Nigeria, the following recommendations are offered for policymakers, development partners, civil society organizations, and community actors:

1. Electoral processes for local government positions must be reformed to ensure that leaders are genuinely accountable to their communities rather than to state-based political elites. This requires independent electoral commissions at the local level, mechanisms for citizen recall, and transparency provisions that enable communities to monitor the performance of their elected representatives.
2. Direct financing should be made available to community-based organizations and youth networks through accessible grant programs that bypass bureaucratic bottlenecks. Funding mechanisms must be flexible, responsive to community priorities, and designed to support both operational costs and program implementation.
3. Programs like the SDGs Advocate Network should be institutionalized within Nigeria's education system, ensuring that every primary and secondary school student receives SDG education and opportunities for civic engagement.
4. Formal mechanisms for dialogue and collaboration between grassroots actors and government agencies should be established at local, state, and federal levels. This includes youth advisory councils, community representation in development planning committees, and pathways for grassroots innovations to inform policy formulation and program design.
5. Collaboration between grassroots actors, government agencies, international partners,

private sector stakeholders, and academic institutions should be actively encouraged and supported. These partnerships must respect grassroots leadership while leveraging institutional resources, expertise, and networks to amplify community-led development outcomes.

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