**Press Release by Save the Future of Children Initiative (SAFIN)**

**International Literacy Day 2025: A Call for Action**

Today, as the world marks International Literacy Day 2025, it is a moment to reflect and evaluate our nation’s progress in ensuring that every Nigerian can read and write. While access to education has improved over the years, the reality remains troubling with over 97 million Nigerians still cannot read and write. This calls for urgent and deliberate action if we are to raise our literacy rate from the current 61% to 90% by 2030, just as many countries have successfully achieved.

One of the most pressing issues is the persistent underfunding of education by the government. Nigeria currently allocates only about 7% of its national budget to education, far below the global benchmark. To truly transform the sector, this must increase to at least 20% within the next five years, especially as over 15 million children remain out of school or lack access to basic education and as the world accelerates to achieve sustainable development goal 4 by 2030.

The theme for this year, “Promoting Literacy in the Digital Era,” underscores the importance of preparing children for a rapidly changing world where opportunities and the future itself are deeply connected to technology. Literacy today goes beyond the ability to read and write; it is about equipping children with values, digital skills, and mentorship that will prepare them for a productive and responsible adulthood.

Literacy is the foundation of sound education and civilization. It fuels informed citizenship, drives innovation, and ensures meaningful contribution to national development. It is also central to achieving SDG 4 (Quality Education) for Lifelong Learning and other related SDGs.

As we commemorate this day, Save the Future of Children Initiative (SAFIN) calls on the Government of Nigeria to:

1. Increase investment in education by prioritizing digital literacy.

2. Connect primary and secondary schools to the internet, with emphasis on rural communities.

3. Provide access to digital training and tools in schools, especially now that WAEC and other national examinations have transitioned to Computer-Based Testing.

4. Ensure every child, regardless of status, learns in a safe and conducive classroom environment.

Every Nigerian child has the right to learn, to dream, and to thrive. Investing in literacy today is investing in the future of our nation.

E-signed

Oyedeji Olufemi

Chief Executive Officer,

Save the Future of Children Initiative.