



# IMPACTING LIVES IN ENUGU STATE

## 2019 - 2024



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## Acronyms

ActionAid Nigeria (AAN)

Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

Enugu State College of Education, Technical (ESCET)

Enugu State Ministry of Children, Gender Affairs and Social Development

Enugu Women Network (EWN)

Gender Equality Advocacy Group (GEAG)

Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu

Women Aid Collectives (WACOL)

Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation Initiative (WEPAI)

Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI)

Women Information Network (WINET)

Women's Rights Organizations (WROs)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria (WVL-N) project, funded by Global Affairs Canada and managed by ActionAid Nigeria, represents a significant stride in advancing women's rights and gender equality in Enugu State. Over the past five years (2019-2024), the project has collaborated with local women's rights organizations (LWROs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) to address critical issues including Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), women's political participation, economic empowerment, and the protection of women and girls from violence.

**Key milestones achieved under the WVL-N project include:**

- **Addressing Gender-Based Violence:** Legal and psychosocial first aid services were provided to 567,988 survivors of gender-based violence, and 567,102 individuals were informed about the provisions of the Enugu State Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law.
- **Economic Empowerment:** 709 women received grants and start-up materials for their businesses, while 1,873 women were trained in income-generating skills.
- **Political Participation and Leadership:** More than 160 women were sworn into traditional council cabinets across 22 communities. Notably, five women became counselors at the ward level, and several women assumed significant leadership roles in educational institutions.
- **Women's Peer Education:** Six peer education groups were established, involving 120 women across three communities. This initiative led to the abolition of female genital mutilation/cutting in Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu and increased awareness on the inclusion of women, girls, and persons with disabilities in leadership and decision-making.

The project employed various strategies and approaches to achieve these outcomes, including community mapping, advocacy visits, town hall meetings, community sensitization, media advocacy, leadership training, and capacity-building workshops. Additionally, the project leveraged digital media campaigns and social media presence to amplify its impact.

The WVL-N project's collaborative approach with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, local stakeholders, and partner organizations has been crucial in fostering country ownership and sustainability. This collective effort has shown the project's commitment to enhancing the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and advancing gender equality in Enugu State.

In conclusion, the WVL-N project has made remarkable strides in empowering women and advocating for their rights. Continued support and collaboration are essential to build on these achievements and address the remaining challenges in the journey towards gender equality in Enugu State and Nigeria as a whole.



## CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Historically, women in Enugu State have played significant roles in advancing the state's development. Since the 19th century, there have been documented contributions by women to national development, alongside their ongoing struggles for women's and girls' rights. This has led to the formation of various women's movements in the state. Today, Enugu State hosts diverse women's organizations specializing in addressing issues such as Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Women's Political Exclusion, Economic Disempowerment, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Maternal Mortality, and Child Marriage.

Despite notable achievements in promoting gender equality, challenges persist, including unequal political participation, inadequate implementation of laws protecting women, and rising injustices. Fragmentation among women's organizations, influenced by geographic, thematic, religious, and political differences, sometimes hinders their collective effectiveness. Limited resources and capacity further constrained their impact.

Funding was a critical barrier for advancing gender equality. Initiatives combating issues like GBV, sexual violence, and harmful practices require sustained financial support. Donor funding often targets established organizations, limiting opportunities for grassroots initiatives.

### Political Context in Enugu State

In Enugu state, women exclusion in political and leadership space was alarming, as they continued to face significant barriers in political participation and leadership roles. Despite some progress made, women are still grossly underrepresented in elective and appointive positions. The 2019 general elections reflected this marginalization, with women holding a minimal percentage of elected offices, and facing challenges in being included in decision-making processes. The struggle for implementing the 35% Affirmative Action for women's political participation remains ongoing, with local women's rights organizations pushing for increased representation and leadership roles for women.

## Economic Context in Enugu State

Economic challenges in Enugu State, exacerbated by national policies such as the border closures in 2019, have disproportionately affected women, especially those involved in petty trading and small-scale businesses. Many women face significant economic hardships due to inflation and limited access to essential resources, which hinder their economic empowerment and opportunities for financial independence.



### Violence Against Women's Rights Defenders

Enugu State has seen a rise in violence against women's rights defenders. Women/girls, activists and organizations advocating for women's rights often face threats, harassment, and violence from various quarters, including law enforcement agencies. Incidents of targeted violence against women in politics and leadership positions have also been reported, aiming to intimidate and discourage women from participating in public affairs thus reducing their numbers.



### Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic further complicated the situation, leading to an increase in gender-based violence and restricted access to support services for victims and survivors. Despite these challenges, women in Enugu State have shown remarkable resilience, continuing to advocate for justice and support for one another through collective action.

These contextual factors in Enugu State reveals the critical importance of the WVL Nigeria project and its mission to increase the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and advance gender equality in the region.



## ABOUT THE WOMEN'S VOICE & LEADERSHIP-NIGERIA PROJECT

The Women's Voice and Leadership Project is a five-year Global Affairs Canada development assistance with the goal to support the capacity and activities of local and regional women's organizations and movements seeking to empower women and girls, advance the protection of women's and girls' rights and achieve gender equality. Nigeria is one of the 30 recipient countries, and it is being managed by ActionAid.

Through this project ActionAid Nigeria has re-defined the narratives of Donor funding by establishing partnership with 153 women's rights organizations who have the privilege of accessing funds which allows them the flexibility of implementing their respective core mandates as women-focused organizations.

### OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

If Local Women's Rights Organizations (LWROs), Networks and Movements have technical and institutional expertise, assuming they have the courage of conviction for transformative gender equality work and relevant stakeholders are committed with enabling environment for the advancement of gender equality in Nigeria, then they will deliver interventions that influence programs, policies and legislations, change negative social beliefs relating to women and girls' rights; thus contributing to enjoyment of human rights of girls and women in Nigeria

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE** - Work to protect women and girls from violence, create opportunities for economic independence, and enhance decision-making capabilities.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

#### ULTIMATE OUTCOME

Increased enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and the advancement of gender equality in Nigeria.

#### Intermediate Outcome 1

Improved management and sustainability of local women's rights organizations in Nigeria

#### Intermediate Outcome 2

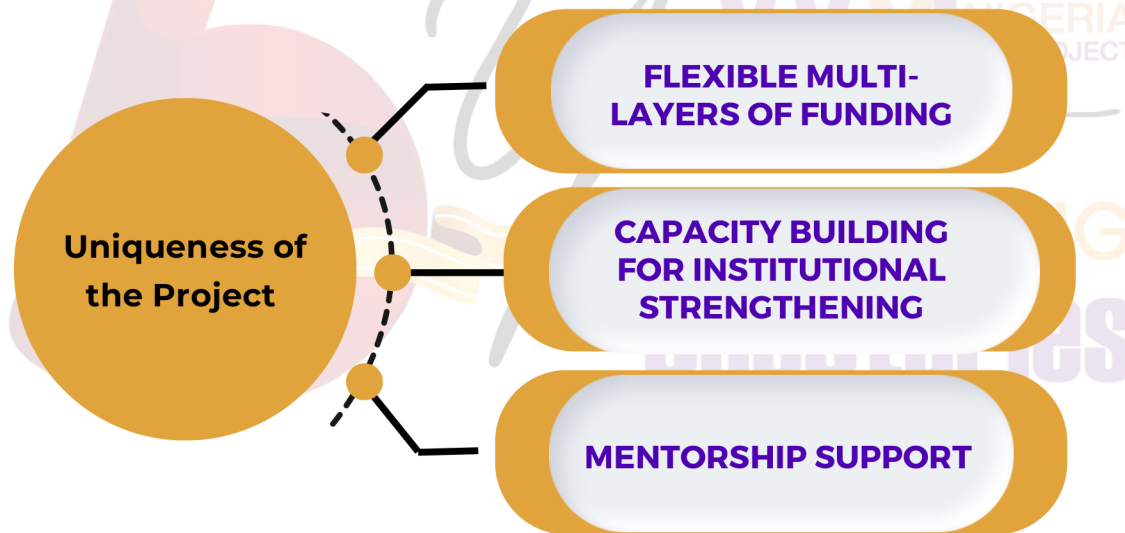
Enhanced delivery of programming and advocacy to advance gender equality by local women's rights organizations in Nigeria

#### Intermediate Outcome 3

Increased effectiveness of sub-national, national, and regional women's rights platforms, networks and alliances to affect policy, legal and social change in Nigeria

The Women's Rights Unit in ActionAid Nigeria works to protect women and girls from violence, create economic independence, and provide decision-making opportunities. They mobilize women to challenge unequal power relations and demand their rights to participate in decision-making processes. The project provides multiple layers of funding and tailored capacity building to support these organizations. Apart from funding, partners have access to tools, resources, and mentorship opportunities to strengthen their financial, technical, and organizational capacities in advancing the rights of women and girls and addressing gender equality barriers more effectively. Additionally, the project supports feminist platforms at state and federal levels for more effective networking and greater cohesiveness in the advancement of women and girls' rights.

And in Enugu State, three lead women's rights organizations and twelve community-based organizations are implemented the WVL project across various communities in the 17 Local government areas of Enugu state to protect Women and Girls from violence, create opportunities for economic independence and part of decision making spaces.

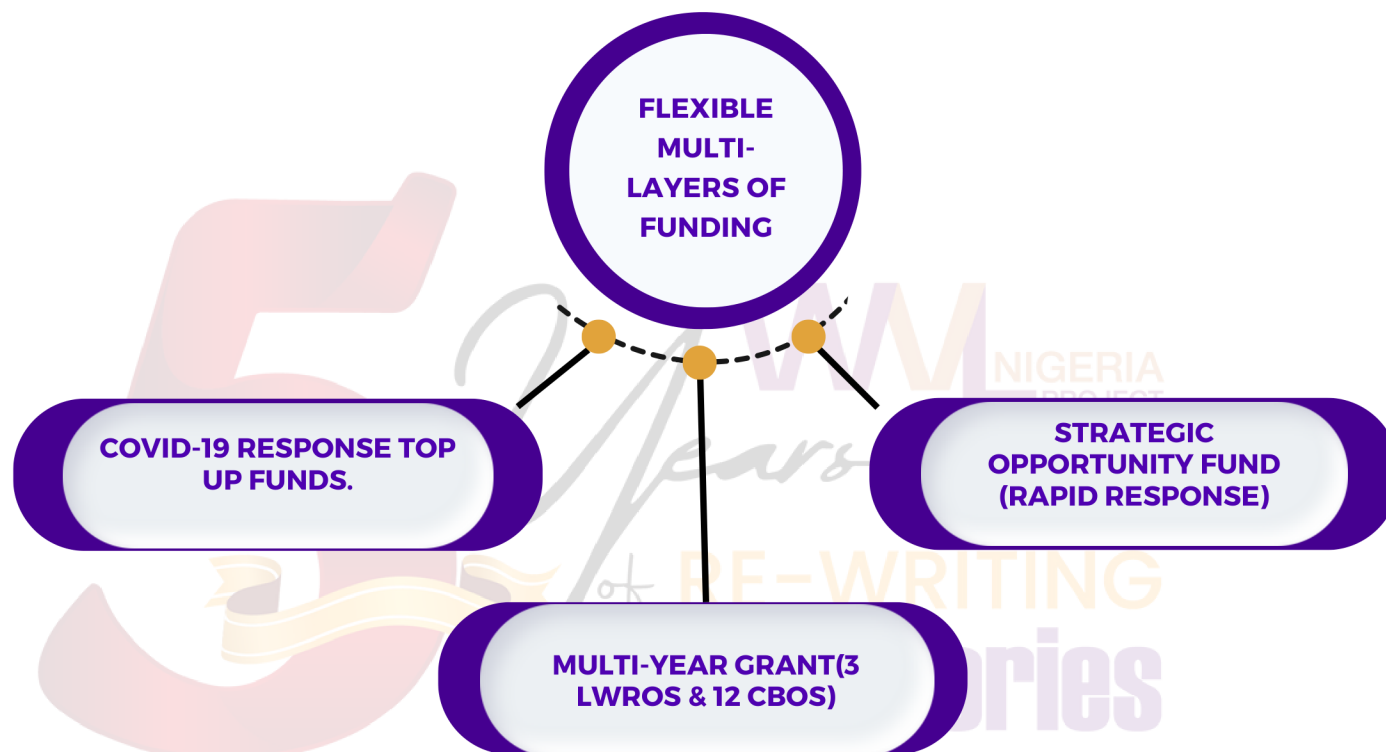


### SCOPE AND DURATION

The project is a five-year initiative from 2019 to 2024, carried out in various communities across the 17 local government areas of Enugu State, Nigeria.



## MULTIPLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES ACCESSED BY ENUGU STATE PARTNERS ON THE WVLP PROJECT



Financial Investment  
made via Granting  
(2019 to March 2024)



**N261,382,261.29**

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN ENUGU STATE AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

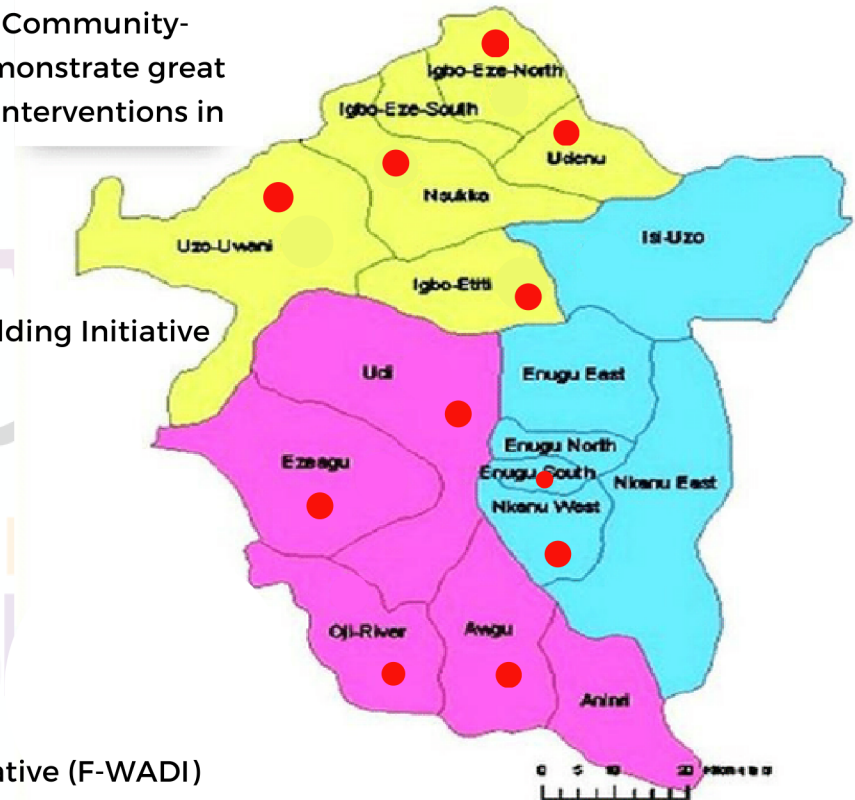
There are 15 implementing partners in Enugu State, comprising 3 Local Women's Rights Organizations (LWROs) and 12 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). These organizations demonstrate great capacity to implement women's rights and feminist interventions in the state.

### The 3 Local Women's Rights Organizations are:

- Women Information Network (WINET)
- Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI)
- Women Aid Collective (WACOL)

### Our 12 Community Based Organizations includes:

- Health Care Support Services (HCSS)
- Ogene Ifunanya Women Association (OIWA)
- Njikoka Women Association (NWA)
- Udi Progressive Union (UPU)
- Catholic Women Organization (CWO)
- Felicitas Women Advocacy for Development Initiative (F-WADI)
- New Life Community Care Initiative (NELCCI)
- Iyom Umuevu Njoku Eji Women Association
- Global Mission International (GLOMINT)
- Oji-River Urban Women Association
- Obiege Obukpa Widow's Care Foundation (OWCF)





# PROJECT THEMATIC AREAS IMPLEMENTED IN ENUGU STATE.

The project addresses multiple thematic areas, with specific focuses for the LWROs and CBOs:

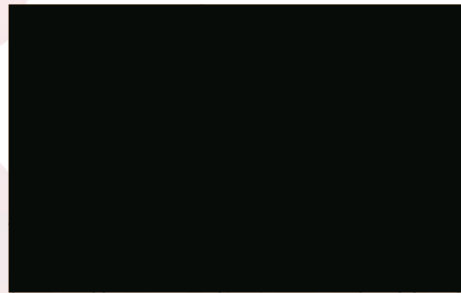
## THEMATIC AREA 1

**Addressing Gender-Based  
Violence/Violence Against  
Women and Girls**



## THEMATIC AREA 2

**Women's Peer  
Education Program**



## THEMATIC AREA 3

**Women's Political  
Participation and  
Leadership**



## THEMATIC AREA 4

**Women Economic  
Empowerment  
Programmes**



## Project Implementation Strategies

- ✓ Skill Training and Financial Literacy
- ✓ Research (Focus Group Discussion and In-Depth Interview)
- ✓ Community Mapping
- ✓ Advocacy Visits and Consultative Meetings
- ✓ Community Sensitization and Mobilization
- ✓ Media Advocacy
- ✓ Legal Aid Support
- ✓ Consistent Social Media Presence
- ✓ Educational and Empowerment Programs
- ✓ Formation and Support of Cooperatives
- ✓ Leadership Training and Capacity Building Workshops
- ✓ Networking and Resource Sharing at Events
- ✓ Peer Education
- ✓ Educational Programs on Reproductive Health and Rights
- ✓ Awareness Campaigns
- ✓ Collaboration with Schools for Events and Training
- ✓ Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation
- ✓ Funding

## KEY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

- **Legal & Psychosocial Support** - Provided comprehensive legal and psychosocial first aid services to 567,988 survivors of gender-based violence, ensuring immediate assistance and long-term support for their recovery and empowerment.
- **Community Sensitization** - Conducted extensive community sensitization and mobilization activities to raise awareness about gender-based violence and the crucial importance of women's participation in politics and decision-making spaces. These efforts aimed to educate and engage community members in the fight against gender inequality.
- **Advocacy and Consultative Meetings** - Held targeted advocacy visits and consultative meetings with key community leaders and stakeholders, including Local Government Chairmen, the Commissioner of Gender Affairs, Traditional Rulers, and the Commissioner of Chieftaincy Matters. These meetings fostered dialogue and collaboration to advance women's rights and gender equality at various levels of governance.





## KEY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

- **Town Hall Meetings** - Organized town hall meetings and community dialogues to address and discuss issues related to gender-based violence and women's participation in decision-making spaces. These inclusive events involved community men, political stakeholders, media personnel, university student union governments (SUGs), governing bodies, community women and girls, and faith-based organizations.
- **Media Advocacy** - Engaged in robust media advocacy efforts, including live radio programs, documentaries, jingles, billboards, TV interviews, and a consistent social media presence. These activities aimed to amplify the message of gender equality and women's rights to a wider audience.
- **Legal Aid Support** - Provided legal aid support to survivors of violence, offering crucial legal assistance and representation to ensure justice and protection for those affected by gender-based violence.
- **Financial Literacy:** Educated women on financial literacy and business management.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Offered practical advice and mentorship programs to women and young girls in the community.



## Milestones

**REACH through efforts  
of partners in Enugu  
State**

**Overall Direct  
Reach: 571,236**

**Overall Indirect  
Reach: 1,367,012**

### THEMATIC AREA 1

**Addressing Gender-Based  
Violence/Violence Against  
Women and Girls**

**567,102** persons reached with  
information on the Enugu  
State Violence Against  
Persons Prohibition Law.

**30** out-of-court  
cases resolved with  
verdicts

Legal & Psychosocial services  
provided to 567,988 survivors of  
Gender-Based Violence.

### THEMATIC AREA 2

**Women Economic  
Empowerment  
Programmes**

709 women received  
grants and start-up  
materials for  
businesses.

**1,873** women  
trained in income-  
generating skills.

## Milestones

### THEMATIC AREA 3

#### Women's Peer Education Program

Age-long practice of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting abolished through a Proclamation by the Traditional Ruler of Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu Community, His Royal Majesty, Igwe Ignatius Ugwu.

6 women Peer Education Groups in 3 communities. Ugwuaji in Enugu South LGA, Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu and Umuatugboma in Nkanu West LGA. A total of 120 women are members of the peer education circle.

Women peer education members now have increased awareness on the issue of inclusion of women, girls and persons with disabilities in leadership & decision making.

Women in Ugwuaji, Amagu Akegeb-Ugwu & Umuatugbuoma mobilize, organize and take collective actions on issues that affect their lives politically, culturally, socially and economically, while bringing changes to their Communities. Some have started income generating businesses.

Following reports and incidences of misbehavior by children and teenagers in the Ugwuanyiovu at night, the Traditional Rulers council issued a proclamation banning teenagers and children from being in the market from 7.00pm to 6:00am. This is to check harassment of girls, acts of impunity and immoral acts in the market.

# Milestones

## THEMATIC AREA 2

### Women's Political Participation and Leadership

169 women sworn in as members of traditional council cabinets from 22 communities in Enugu State:

Over 700 women trained for leadership roles both at rural & urban areas.

Commissioner of Girls Guide in Enugu State is a beneficiary of the academy.

37 women in Town Union Executive

5 women became counselors at ward level

Executive Director of WEBPI, given the Chieftaincy title of Ada Ife (Daughter of Light), in recognition of their efforts.

Establishment of Women Leadership Academy

1st female president in computer science department, IMT Enugu State

Igwe Umuwanyi of Ndeagbor, coronated

23 women in neighborhood watch, increasing women's involvement in decision making on security matters

1st female student became deputy Chief Judge, student senate, IMT, Enugu State.

2 students became SUG Presidents in Enugu State College of Education, Technical and Peace Land College.



# WARNING

Disturbing Content!  
Viewer Discretion is Advised

## Collection of Success Stories

Initiatives undertaken over the past year have led to significant positive changes in the lives of women and girls in Enugu State. Below are some of the key impacts and success stories that demonstrate the effectiveness of the strategies and activities implemented.

1

This is a breastfeeding mother, whose nipple was bitten off by an uncle during a heated argument: a victim of domestic violence.

WACOL intervened, provided shelter, legal and medical support. The suspect was tried by a magistrate court and eventually convicted.



2

This is a 9-year-old that was serving as a house help and experienced domestic violence here in Enugu town.

WACOL rescued her following a complaint of a good Samaritan and provided medical and legal support.

The perpetrator couple are now convicted and doing time.



## Success Stories Cont.

3

This woman lives in Enugu, she was terribly battered by her spouse who pulled her hair during an argument.

WACOL waded in and provided medical and legal support.  
The perpetrator is currently undergoing trial in Enugu.



4

A Russian woman and victim of intimate partner violence who was also put under house arrest by her a Nigerian from Anambra State. He also cut her off from communicating with friends and family.

WACOL assisted her to get passports for and her children. They also ensured she was successfully repatriated back to Russia and reunited with her family.

This was achieved in collaboration with Project Alert, an organization based in Lagos that co\_ provided shelter before for a while before she finally travelled back to Russia.







**Palm oil  
processing factory  
with machines set  
up Njikoka Women  
Association,  
Asaba Ozalla Ezimo**



Canada



act:onaid

### WVL SHESTORIES

Meet Sunday Rachael Chinelo,  
A wife turned empowered  
entrepreneur through the WVL-N  
Project. From full-time housewife  
to skilled confectioner, she now  
sweetens life for her family while  
fulfilling her own needs.



**Global Mission International during their  
Material Distribution to confectioners**





Piggery farm at Udi



Mrs. Ogbunisi and Miss Nnaji are successful entrepreneurs



Beneficiaries from the palm oil processing stipend were able to send their children back to school



Ogene Ifunanya Women and their beneficiaries on liquid soap, disinfectant and deodorant making.



Global Mission International Institutional support (Conference office)



## Success Stories Cont.



Graduation from Women Leadership Academy (WLA)



WLA at the community



The first female president, Computer Science Department, IMT Enugu



Mrs. Aneke during her coronation as Commissioner of Girl's Guide Enugu



Women Peer Educators and members of the peer education Groups





## Success Stories Cont.



Proclamation letter from Community Traditional Rulers in Enugu state .



Inclusion of women in traditional council at onitsha Enugu Igboeze north L.G.A



Billboard celebrating women inclusion in traditional cabinet and creating awareness on women inclusion in decision making



Inclusion of women at Abor in Udi L.G.A and at Ikpamodo in Igboeze North



## Challenges, Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Despite the significant strides made in advancing women's rights and gender equality in Enugu State, several challenges persist. Recognizing and addressing these challenges is crucial for the continued success and sustainability of the initiatives and the recommendations outline the future directions and strategies to ensure sustained progress in advancing women's rights and gender equality.

### Challenges

- Deep-rooted cultural and traditional norms that perpetuate gender inequality and discrimination against women. These norms often hinder women's participation in political, economic, and social activities.
- Limited political will and support for gender equality initiatives. Slow progress in achieving policy changes and implementing laws that protect women's rights.
- Economic hardships exacerbated by factors like border closures and inflation. Increased financial instability for women, limiting their ability to engage in empowerment activities.
- Rising incidents of violence and intimidation against women, especially those in politics and rights defenders. These thereby deter women from participating in leadership roles and advocacy.
- Insufficient funding and resources to support women's rights initiatives. Constraints on the scope and reach of programs aimed at empowering women.
- Unanticipated health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, Increased gender-based violence and restricted access to support services for victims.

### Lesson Learnt:

- Engaging community leaders and members in dialogues and sensitization programs fosters acceptance and support for women's rights initiatives.
- Persistent advocacy and media campaigns can bring about policy changes and increased awareness.
- Providing education and training on leadership, financial literacy, and reproductive health significantly empowers women.
- Collaboration with schools, local organizations, and international bodies enhances resource sharing and amplifies impact.



## Challenges, Lessons Learned and Recommendations

- Adapting strategies to respond to emerging issues such as health crises ensures continuity and relevance of programs.
- Providing holistic support, including legal aid, psychosocial services, and economic empowerment, addresses multiple aspects of gender inequality.
- Tailoring programs to be culturally sensitive and context-specific increases their acceptance and effectiveness.
- Utilizing digital media and technology for advocacy and awareness creation reaches a wider audience and enhances engagement.
- Building solidarity and collective action among women strengthens their resolve to fight for their rights.

### Recommendations:

1. Encourage women's organizations to explore various funding opportunities, including grants, partnerships with the private sector, and crowdfunding.
2. Promote inclusive leadership within women's organizations by encouraging the participation of young women from diverse backgrounds.
3. Enhance monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress, measure impact, and inform decision-making.
4. Implement programs that actively involve men and boys as allies in promoting gender equality and challenging harmful gender norms.
5. Advocate for the adoption of gender-responsive budgeting at the state and local government level to address the specific needs of women and girls.
6. Expand economic empowerment programs to provide women with skills training, financial literacy, and access to capital to enable them participate fully in the society.

## CASE STUDIES AND SUCCESS STORIES

### **‘Freedom at last’**

WACOL received a plea to save a life of a Russian woman. In her plea for help, Mrs M. narrated her ugly experiences in the hands of her husband. The victim had been married and lived with her husband who hails from Nkrefi community in Nkanu East Local Government of Enugu for over three years. The many years of her marital relationship was turned into tales of woes with episodes of severe, physical and verbal abuses on her and the three children. To the extent that he carried out these abuses even in the presence of his parents and siblings without any remorse on his part, and with no intervention of either his parents or his siblings on her behalf. He had on several occasions seized her phone after physically abusing her and the kids and was always in the habit of taking illicit drugs which he normally vents on them after taking such drugs. These abuses became very unbearable for her that she decided to quickly drop a piece of distress message to the Executive Director of WACOL who counselled and assured her of WACOL's unflinching support in making sure that she and her children are evacuated for safety. WACOL team of lawyers, paralegal officers worked relentlessly in making sure that the victim and her children were successfully evacuated from Enugu to Lagos. Their cost of transportation, accommodation, feeding and PPE were all sponsored under the integrated assistance (WVL) project in partnership with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and Action Aid Nigeria (AAN) in conjunction with the Project Alert Team, an NGO that runs shelter in Lagos State. The victim and her children were further assisted by securing and processing of valid travel papers with visa back to Russia.

In appreciation for all the efforts made by WACOL and the Project Alert team she wrote in the survivors' forum as follows:

*"God bless you guys you gave me support and freedom as a result of hard work team."*

## CASE STUDIES AND SUCCESS STORIES

### **The Women of Ndeagboh Stand Up for Their Rights**

The women of Ndeaboh are a shining example of what can be achieved when women come together and fight for their rights. Supported by the Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project, funded by Global Affairs Canada and facilitated by ActionAid Nigeria. Ndeagboh is the headquarters of Aninri Local Government Area, shares boundaries with Nkanu-East to the northeast and Awgu to the northwest. This community has produced notable figures both within Enugu State and Nigeria at large, but lets take our minds back to the women of Ndeagboh and their noble act for justice and outcome.

Before the intervention of the WVL project, the women of Ndeagboh were marginalized and excluded from the decision-making processes in their community. They were frustrated by their lack of representation and yearned for an opportunity to have their voices heard. The WVL project aimed at tackling barriers to gender equality and supporting the empowerment of women and girls through the provision of technical and financial resources to local feminist and women's rights organizations. Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI), through the WVL project and Women Leadership Academy, provided the women of Ndeagboh with capacity building, training, and sensitization.

When WEPBI first engaged with the women of Ndeagboh, they focused on building their skills and confidence. Through the Women Leadership Academy, the women learned about leadership, advocacy, and how to run for office.

This training equipped them with the tools they needed to step forward and claim their rightful place in local governance. When the time came for councilor elections, the women of Ndeagboh were ready. They selected two candidates to represent them in different wards and campaigned tirelessly for their election. Despite winning the election, the women were shocked when the governor appointed two men to the councilor positions instead. Refusing to accept this injustice, the women of Ndeagboh organized a rally in their communities and marched to the state government house in Enugu. Determined to make their voices heard, they chanted slogans, threatened to go naked, and refused to leave until the governor agreed to their demands.

Finally, the governor relented. He removed the two men he had appointed and replaced them with the women who had won the election. The victory of the women of Ndeagboh showcased the power of collective action and the importance of women's participation in decision-making processes.

# CASE STUDIES AND SUCCESS STORIES

## ACTIONAID NIGERIA WVLN INTERVENTION: CHANGES THE FORTUNES OF WINET

In 2019, ActionAid Nigeria called for expression of interest from organizations that wanted to work in a project with them, Women Information Network WINET applied and was selected. The Partnership Appraisal Monitoring (PAM) of (WINET) by ActionAid Nigeria positively changed our story. The engagement brought to light our short comings. Before WINET received ActionAid Nigeria WVL-N project grant, the organization did not know the importance of social media visibility for the organization and its activities. At that time, Management and staff were under the false impression that NGO staff do not pay tax and were not required to participate in the contributory pension scheme for workers. WINET did not have Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse, Gender and Anti-Terrorism policies.

The partnership with ActionAid Nigeria under the Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria project funded by Global Affairs Canada has positively changed the fortunes of WINET following capacity building trainings and mentoring by ActionAid Nigeria. The new knowledge we acquired led us to review our operations by developing new policies, recruiting a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning officer and designating a staff as Communications officer. WINET has produced SHEA, Gender and Anti-Terrorism policies among others. WINET now deducts a percentage from the salary of all staff and remits as the Pay as You Earn Tax (PAYE) to Enugu State Board of Internal Revenue and staff pension contributions to PENCOM in compliance to the Pension Reform Act of 2014. We learned that in a changing digital world, WINET needed to have social media handles to disseminate stories of its activities and success stories. We opened our organizations Facebook, Instagram and X Handle accounts to give our activities and our funders more visibility, by tagging them and stakeholders to follow our activities. WINET currently has 140 followers on Facebook, 436 followers on X Handle, and 117 followers on Instagram. Since the ActionAid Nigeria WVL-N project in 2019, our organization has received seven grants from different funders, thereby changing the fortunes of WINET.

*WINET Finance officer, Bridget Chide says that "ActionAid has supported us to put in place structures that qualify staff to receive pensions at the end of their service years".*

*According to the Executive Director of WINET, Miriam Menkiti, "Our organizations activities are more visible on social media making our partners and beneficiaries to see our activities on social media, thus knowing the focus of our work and what we stand for".*



## Quotes from Beneficiaries

*'The WVL project is a blessing to the women of Obinagu community'. Before now, I was merely a housewife who cannot boast of any money in her account, thank God that now with the knowledge gained through the skill acquisition, the reverse is the case.* **By Mrs Obidiya - Women leader**

*'God bless Action Aid and Global Affairs Canada for the opportunity'* **By Miss Chidera Nnamani.**

*'May your labor of love never be in vain, both your organization and your sponsors'* **By From the Priest Rev. Charles**

*"Chikwu gozie ndi Action Aid na Global Affairs Canada for bringing Iyom Umuevu Njoku Eji Women on board the WVL project. I now have reason to live and smile again"* **By Mrs. Maureen Ndidiamaka**

**Ogbodo Ngozi** *"Through HCSS training I've been able to sell more products online than I've ever sold in offline"*

**Odo Eunice** *thanked God and said. Women can now play many roles apart from domestic roles. ("O bughi mgbe a na asi na nwanyi abughi ihe ka nwanyi nuzi ihe")*

*"Our group of women now have a communication channel with our Traditional Ruler whereby we interact with him regularly to share our concerns that need his intervention".* **by Madam Rita Ani**

**Mrs. Bridget Ogbodo**, fifty-nine year- old widow, expressed her joy and exclaimed *"The Peer education brought by WINET to our Community is a blessing to me".*

**Mrs Ngozi Ugwu of Ugwuaji said** *"I learnt that being a woman is valuable as no woman is inferior to another woman or a man. I no longer hide at the back, I can speak boldly in our meetings or at any gathering."*

**Mrs. Helen Ude said** *"For the first time in our Community, Umuatugbuoma, members of the women peer learning group visited our Traditional Ruler Igwe Okechukwu Nwobodo to request for the inclusion of women in the Igwe's Cabinet"*

## Quotes from Beneficiaries



**Mrs Odo Francisca** in her exclamation said Arinze ndi WEPBI na Action Aid. Asi na-obughi ha amaghim ihe m'ga eme. Ekele diri ndi WEPBI, Action Aid Nigeria Abuja na ndi na eweta ego bu ndi Global Affairs Canadda. Unu emeenu ooo.

infact, when a woman has money, there's stability in her life and family especially when children need something, the woman can easily provide it without stress thanks to WVL project with the help of GLOMINT that remembered somebody like me".

"I am not ashamed of being called a divorcee because it's better tell our children 'come and see where your mother is staying than look at where she is buried or your Late mum's tomb" quote **by Victoria Onwo from the community**

*"I want to be sincere to you there are a lot of challenges we have seen facing before the inclusion of women in the cabinet that have been resolved. We were having stray animals and invasion by the herdsmen; it was these women that controlled it".*

*" Since the LG is no longer taking care of the market, the women go about sweeping and managing the market."*

Chief M.D. Chibueze (Eze Chukwudebere 1)  
Personal Secretary to HRH Igwe B. N Eze of  
Ndeagbor

"We were overwhelmed with joy because of the WVL project sponsored by Global Affairs Canada in partnership with Actionaid Nigeria and our Local Women Rights Organization - WEPBI" **by GLOMINT team**

### Interventions during the COVID 19 pandemic

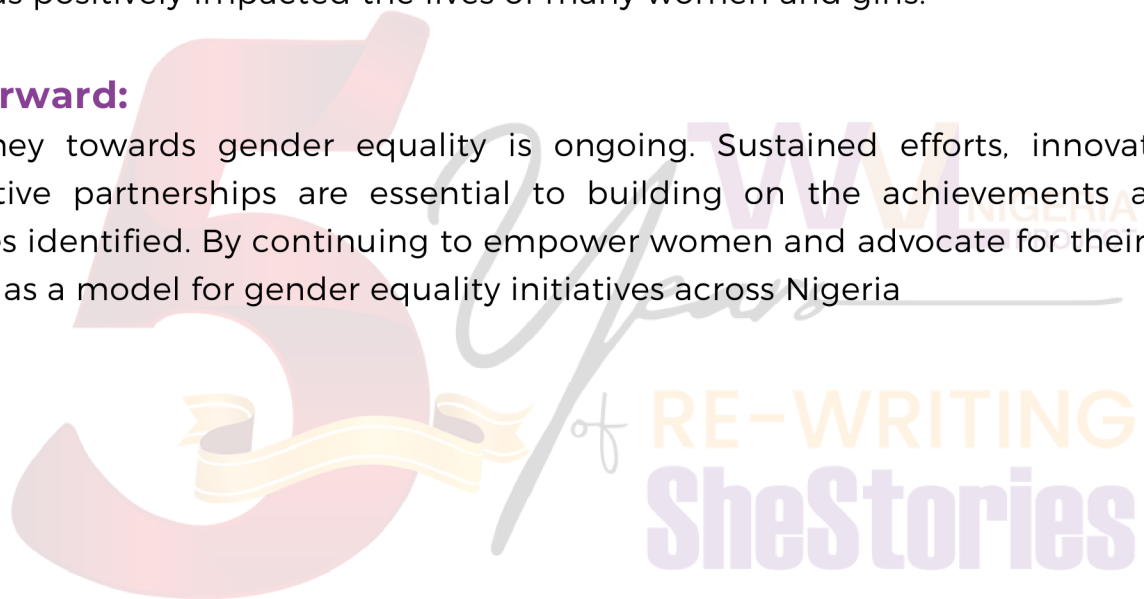


## Conclusion

The Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria (WVL-N) project in Enugu State has made significant strides in advancing women's rights and gender equality. Through strategic interventions in economic empowerment, political participation, and combating gender-based violence, the project has positively impacted the lives of many women and girls.

## Path Forward:

The journey towards gender equality is ongoing. Sustained efforts, innovative strategies, and collaborative partnerships are essential to building on the achievements and addressing the challenges identified. By continuing to empower women and advocate for their rights, Enugu State can serve as a model for gender equality initiatives across Nigeria.



## MEET THE TEAM

### Lead Women's Rights Organization

**WEPBI**



**WINET**



**WACOL**



### Community Based Organization



**Health Care Support Services**



**Ogene Ifunanya Women Association**



**Iyom Umuevu Njoku Eji Women Association**



**Udi Progressive Union (UPU)**



**Njikoka Women Association (NWA)**



**Global Mission International (GLOMINT)**



**Iyom Umuevu Njoku Eji Women Association**



**Obiege Obukpa Widow's Care Foundation**



**Oji-River Urban Women Association**



**Felicitas Women Advocacy for Development Initiative**



**New Life Community Care Initiative**



**Catholic Women Organization (CWO)**



## Appendices

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who played a role in the success of the Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project in Enugu State.

Firstly, thank you to Global Affairs Canada (GAC) for your generous sponsorship and unwavering support. Your commitment to gender equality has been instrumental in driving positive change in our communities.

To ActionAid Nigeria team, your invaluable partnership and guidance have provided us with the necessary framework and resources to make a tangible difference.

Our sincere thanks to the Enugu State Ministry of Children, Gender Affairs, and Social Development for your collaboration and support in addressing the challenges faced by women and girls.

To the Community-Based Organizations thank you for your grassroots efforts and community engagement, ensuring our initiatives reach those who need them most.

To the traditional leaders, community members, and volunteers, your willingness to embrace change and support women's empowerment has been inspiring.

Lastly, to all the brave women we've worked with, and all the communities we have worked with, your courage and resilience is an inspiration to all.

Thank you all for your dedication and support.



**Our mission is to create a world where every woman and girl can live free from violence, have equal opportunities for economic empowerment, and participate fully in all aspects of society.**

### **Social Media Handles:**

#### **WEPBI**

Website - <https://www.wepbi.com>

Facebook, Twitter - @wepbi89

LinkedIn - @Wepbiinitiative

Instagram - @wepbi892

#### **WINET**

Website: <https://www.winetng.org>

Facebook; Twitter and Instagram: - @winetng