

# Canada



# act:onaid

## IMPACTING LIVES IN FCT



**THE WOMEN'S VOICE AND LEADERSHIP WVL -NIGERIAN  
PROJECT**  
**2019-2024**

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# ACRONYMS

- AAN- ActionAid Nigeria
- GAC: Global Affairs Canada
- GBV: Gender Based Violence
- WGWD- Women and Girls with Disabilities
- SHGs- Self Help Groups
- VSLAs- Village Loans and Savings
- SWOFON- Small-Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria
- WIPF- Women In Politics Forum
- CWEENS- Christian Women for Excellence and Empowerment in the Nigerian Society
- FIDA - International Federation of Female Lawyers
- AWWDI- Advocacy for women with disabilities initiative
- NILOWV- League of Women Voters of Nigeria
- 100 WLG- 100 Women Lobby Group
- NAWOJ- Nigeria Association of Women Journalist
- FCT- Federal capital Territory

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

One of the beauties of the WVL project was that funders were not only particular about the implementation of activities but were also very much interested in building the capacities of the beneficiary organizations. Hence various trainings were carried out for staff of the beneficiary organizations to build capacity and institutional support was given to develop necessary documents for organizations including policies and strategic plans. These efforts ensured that organizations were able to meet requirements for grants, apply for these grants and access them.

The WVL-N project showcased the strength and beauty of feminist funding and most importantly, the essence of funding women led and women's rights organizations at the forefront in the movement advancing the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls in Nigeria. Today, across Nigeria, the project boasts of impacting millions of lives and hundreds of communities, And in the FCT, eight women's rights organizations implemented the WVL project across various communities.

We not only acknowledge our efforts and contributions as 8 Local Women's Rights Organizations (and networks) in contributing towards our achievements thus far, we also highly acknowledge the intentionality of our funders, Global Affairs Canada and ActionAid Nigeria in ensuring that resources are placed in the hands of women's rights organizations to build Capacity.

Today, as we mark the closeout of this project, we take time to specially acknowledge all our stakeholders who listened to our requests and worked with us to not only ensure project objectives were met but also took ownership of the project to make it a success. And to you, our beneficiaries without whom our work and efforts will be pointless, we say a special thank you for continuing to give us will, hope and reason to continue to advance and promote women's and girls rights. We will continue to do so until the voices of every woman and girl in Nigeria is heard and filled in the leadership spaces.





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria (WVL-N) Project which was funded by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) with support from ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) aimed to enhance women's leadership and participation in governance, promote gender equality, and address gender-based violence (GBV) through advocacy, capacity building, and community mobilization. Beneficiary organizations of the WVL funds in Nigeria worked across three thematic areas namely; **Women's political participation and Leadership; Women Economic Empowerment Programs and Addressing Gender Based Violence/Violence Against Women and Girls.**

Over the past five years, the implementing organizations in the FCT through the Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria Project, have made tremendous strides in empowering women and advocating for gender equality in the FCT and some of our efforts as Networks also extended to other states in Nigeria. Notably, more than 160 women have been appointed and elected to various offices, including traditional councils. The project also supported women through economic and financial empowerment leading to the empowerment of 215 women with grants and startup funding received. Moreover, the project's success expanded to 15 communities in the FCT where survivors of genderbased violence received both legal and psychological support and were rehabilitated and reintroduced to society.

The project also boasts of influencing 50 policies, 25 of which were influenced and supported by implementing partners in the FCT, across institutional, state and national levels. Key policy influences include the 5 gender bills for constitution reform (on indigeneship, equal citizenship rights, 35% Affirmative Action for women in party Administration including other political appointments, 111 seats), Constitutions of 2 political parties (All Progressives Congress, African Democratic Congress, People's Democratic Party); Gender Policies in 5 Universities; Implementation Judgment of the 35% Affirmative Action principle in the National Gender Policy; The cattle damage insurance policy for farmers; and a host of others.

Through this project, FCT partners boast of reaching more than two million (2,000,000) persons and we are pleased to showcase the power of feminist funding through our impact.



# Context and Background

## Political Context in the FCT

Women Exclusion in Political and Leadership Positions in the FCT; Women continue to face significant barriers in political participation and leadership roles. Despite some progress, 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



## Economic Context in the FCT

Economic challenges in the FCT, 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.

# Social Context in FCT

## Violence Against Women's Rights Defenders

FCT has seen a rise in violence against women's rights defenders. 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.



### Impact of COVID - 19

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

These contextual factors in FCT 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 capital.



## PROJECT BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

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 118 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.

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 constrain their impact.

Funding remains 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. The Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) Nigeria Project, funded by Global Affairs Canada, aims to address these challenges by providing financial and technical support to local feminist and women's rights network organizations in the FCT. ActionAid Nigeria manages this project, ensuring effective sub-granting and capacity building tailored to local needs.

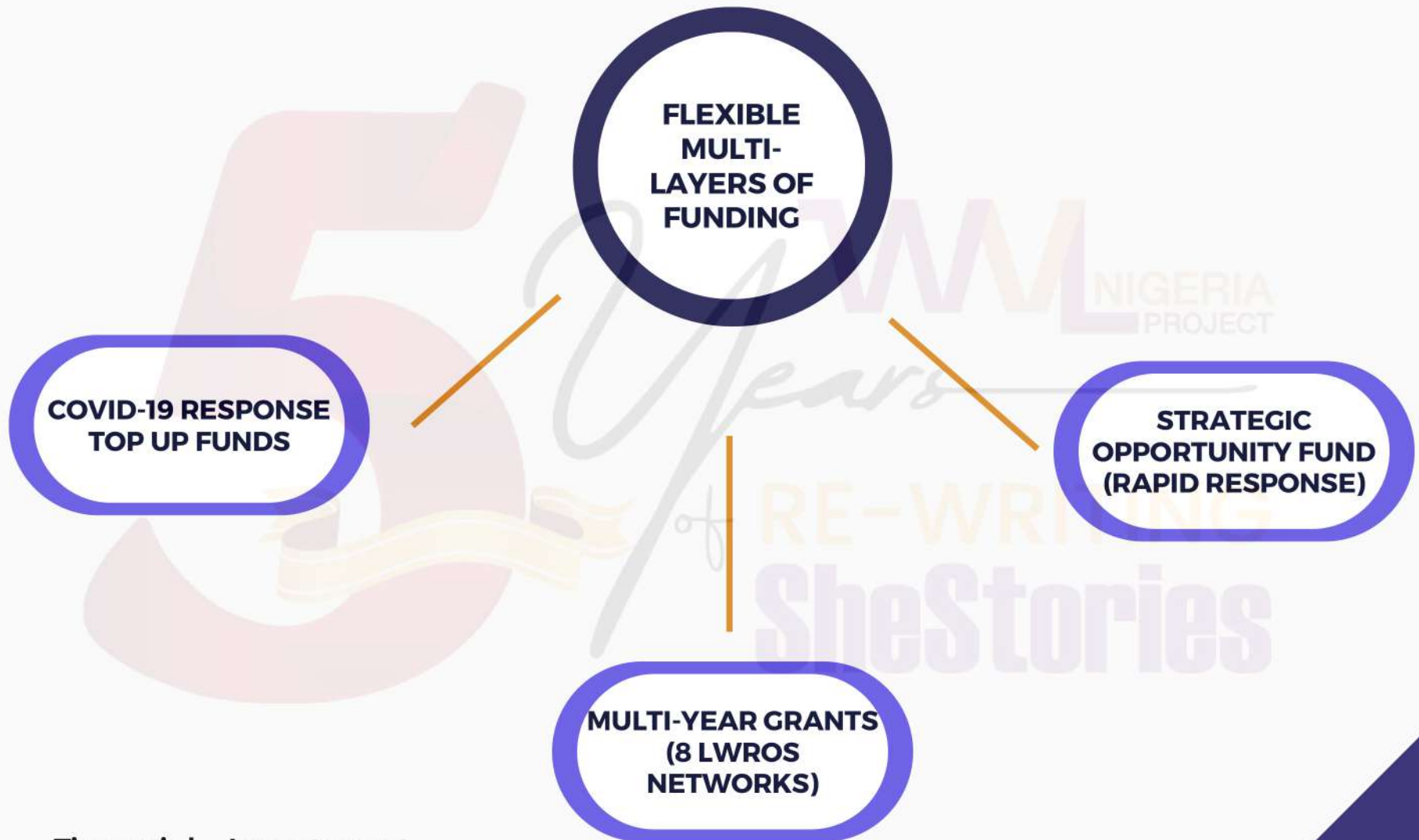
**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:** Work to protect women and girls from violence, create opportunities for economic independence, and enhance decision-making capabilities.

### **SCOPE AND DURATION**

The project is a five-year initiative from 2019 to 2024, carried out in various communities across 6 Area Councils of the FCT, and 12 other states in Nigeria.



# MULTIPLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES ACCESSED BY NETWORK PARTNERS ON THE WVL PROJECT



Financial Investment  
made via Granting  
(2019 to June 2024)



**N 372,693,336.13**

# IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS IN FCT AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS COVERED

There are 8 implementing partners in FCT and all 8 partners are Women's Rights Organizations with network and chapters across the country and headquarters in the FCT. These organizations demonstrate great capacity to implement women's rights and feminist interventions in the FCT and 13 other states.

## The 8 Local Women's Rights Network Organizations include:

- Women In Politics Forum (WIPF)
- Christian Women for Excellence and Empowerment in the Nigerian Society (CWEENS FCT)
- International Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA NIGERIA)
- Advocacy for women with disabilities initiative (AWWDI)
- League of Women Voters of Nigeria (NILOWV)
- 100 Women Lobby Group (100 WLG)
- Nigeria Association of Women Journalist (NAWOJ)
- Small-Scale Women Farmers Organization in Nigeria (SWOFON)



Map of Nigeria Indicating States WRO Networks worked



Map of FCT



# PROJECT THEMATIC AREAS IMPLEMENTED IN FCT

The project addresses multiple thematic areas, with specific focuses for the LWROS Networks

## THE 8 LWROS NETWORKS AND THEIR THEMATIC FOCUS

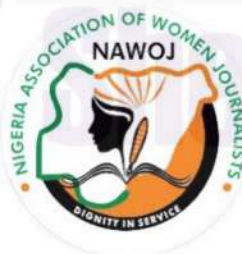
### Thematic Area 1

Addressing Gender-Based Violence/Violence Against Women and Girls



### Thematic Area 2

Women's Political Participation and Leadership



### Thematic Area 3

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
- Traditional and Social Media Advocacy
- Legal Aid Support
- Educational and Empowerment Programs
- Formation and Support of Cooperatives
- Leadership Training and Capacity Building Workshops
- Networking and Resource Sharing at Events
- Policy Influencing
- Educational Programs on Reproductive Health and Rights
- Awareness Campaigns
- Direct Learning Initiatives with Schools
- Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation





## MILESTONES

**Total Direct  
Reach  
348,336**

**Reach through the  
partners in the FCT**

**Total Indirect  
Reach  
1,1715,484**

### Thematic Areas Reach

**300,008  
Prevention and  
Response to GBV**

**323,975  
Women Economic  
Empowerment**

**442,025  
Women's Political  
Participation**

## MILESTONES

**4 SGBV Clubs formed in secondary schools and 2 political networks for young women**

**1 Shelter established, 42 survivors provided with economic empowerment**

**74 community self-help groups of WGWDs trained on addressing SGBV issues faced by WGWDs across 20 (LGAs)**

### Thematic Area 1

Addressing Gender-Based Violence/Violence Against Women and Girls

**7,130 persons sensitized on laws criminalizing GBV**

**Gender policies developed and implemented in 5 universities to combat sexual harassment**

**692 survivors of GBV provided with legal, psychological and shelter support**



## MILESTONES

**12 women supported gained political appointments, 1 in traditional council**

**Over 20 policies influenced by partners**

**217 women supported to contest 2023 general elections**

**Thematic Area 2**  
Women's Political Participation and Leadership

**5 Young women supported contested and won elections for non-political offices**

**1st female senator representing FCT elected after 2023 general elections**

**93 women supported emerged as elected officials in 2019/2023 general elections**

## MILESTONES

**296 beneficiaries  
from COVID-19  
support**

**2 vigilante groups formed  
increasing women's  
participation in peace and  
security**

**74 community self-  
help groups of  
WGWDs trained on  
addressing SGBV  
issues faced by  
WGWDs across 20  
(LGAs)**

**Thematic Area 3**  
Women Economic  
Empowerment

**60 women enrolled in 4  
VSLAs creating more  
sustainable incomes**

**218 women provided with  
grants/startup equipment  
to create more income**

**15 women now have  
established/own a live  
skill business**



# POLICIES INFLUENCED BY PARTNERS

During the course of the project intervention by the networks, over 20 policies were influenced across institutional, state and national levels.

## POLICIES/LAWS

**5 Gender Bills for Constitutional amendment on indigeneship, equal citizenship rights, 35% Affirmative Action for women in party Administration including other political appointments, 111 seats.**

**35% Affirmative Action.**

**The cattle damage insurance policy for farmers**

## LWROS EFFORTS

Advocacy to NASS Plenary session on Gender Bills.  
6 months radio program on the constitution Nigerian Women Want.  
Lobbying during the legislators' retreat.  
Press releases and press conferences

filed case against the president and federal government of Nigeria for not accenting to the 35% affirmative action that was signed during the Beijing Conference, included in the National Gender Policy for women.

conducted consistent advocacies and policy influencing presentation to NAIC on the importance of farmer cattle policy as an insurance cover for smallholder women farmers

## LWROs/NETWORKS

**Women in Politics Forum (WIPF)**

**Women in Politics Forum  
FIDA Nigeria  
100 Women Lobby Group**

**SWOFON**

# POLICIES INFLUENCED BY PARTNERS

## POLICIES/LAWS

**Gender Policy for 5 Universities  
Nigeria; University of Nasarawa,  
University of Benin, University of  
Abuja, Delta State University,  
Michael and Cecilia Ibru  
University**

**Gender Equal Opportunity Bill**

**National Gender Policy on  
Agriculture Implementation**

**Gombe State Gender Policy**

## LWROS EFFORTS

Advocacy to universities.  
Liaised with the Centre of Gender Studies  
in the Universities and Provided technical  
support for the development of the  
policies for the universities.  
Facilitated meetings that brought the  
different universities together.

High level advocacy.  
Advocacy to NASS Plenary session  
Gender Bills

pushed for the implementation of the  
National Gender Policy on Agriculture.

supported in development of the  
Gender Policy in Gombe State

## LWROs/NETWORKS

**100 Women Lobby Group**

**Women in Politics Forum**

**SWOFON**

**100 Women Lobby Group**



# POLICIES INFLUENCED BY PARTNERS

## POLICIES/LAWS

**Gender Policy Amendment for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) – FCT.**

**INEC Gender Policy**

**Land Rights Act**

**Development of gender policy for university of Calabar**

## LWROS EFFORTS

supporting with technical by reviewing the document, providing guidance, and adding their voice to the amendment of the document to ensure the inclusion/representation of women.

supported in the update of the INEC Gender Policy on the National Level

Advocated for implementation of land rights act give women farmers access to land for farming activities

Continuous efforts in relationship building, advocacy, engagements, and meetings with both the gender departments and the university senate demonstrated innovation.

## LWROs/NETWORKS

**League of International Women Voters**

**100 Women Lobby Group**

**SWOFON**

**100 Women Lobby Group**

# POLICIES INFLUENCED BY PARTNERS

## POLICIES/LAWS

**Electoral Act passed in 2022**

**All Progress Congress National Constitution**

**Draft of African Democratic Congress Gender Policy**

**Nigeria Constitution Amendment**

## LWROS EFFORTS

campaigned, advocated and lobbied for the passage of the Bill

Provided technical support for the development of APC Constitution

supported them in developing their gender strategy

were part of the constitution amendment committee and supported in the geo-political advocacy.

## LWROs/NETWORKS

**Women In Politics Forum**

**Women In Politics Forum**

**Women In Politics Forum**

**Women In Politics Forum**



## Activities carried out

- **Advocacy visits** to political party executives and political leaders, including parliamentarians, to pass and implement laws and policies promoting women's political participation.
- **Media Advocacy;** Engaged the media as a strategic tool to launch campaigns targeted at addressing violence against women and girls, promoting the rights of women and girls and increasing women's political participation. Partners engaged in media advocacy through live radio programs, documentaries, jingles, billboards, TV interviews, and consistent social media presence.
- **Trainings** for and advocacy to Religious and community leaders on GBV prevention and response in religious settings. Training organized on gender reporting for Journalists in the FCT and engaged grass roots women in Edo and Ondo states for robust political participation in the forthcoming governorship elections.
- **Legal Aid and Psychological Support-** 18 GBV cases were referred to various service providers (SARC, NAPTIP, and NPF) by community paralegals from the two communities. This is an outcome for us because before now, our community paralegals had no access to or information on the existence of these service providers attached to their Area Councils and Communities;





## Activities carried out

- **Young women political participation:** Trained, mentored and supported young women to run for political and non-political offices. SGBV clubs supported and established in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.
- **Economic Empowerment;** By establishing 4 Village Savings and Loans Associations with 60 women enrolled to have access to other sources of income.
- **Mobilization and Campaigns;** A total of 217 women supported during the 2023 general elections through trainings, press conference, printing of campaign posters and banners and mobilization by creating linkages with grass root voters.
- **Judicial Activism;** Partners prosecuted GBV cases and have recorded about 15 judgments so far. Partners also got judgment in favor of the implementation of the affirmative action principle in the National gender policy to promote women's political participation.
- **Policy Influencing:** Partners supported and influenced policies promoting and protecting women and girls rights.





# COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

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

## Empowering survivors of GBV

Rejoice Dodo (real name withheld), a 39-year-old survivor of domestic violence, referred to CWEENS on 31st March 2021 by the Social Development Secretariat, FCT. She suffered terrible domestic violence through her so-called husband with physical abuse and injuries, especially on one of her eyes that almost gone blind. She was traumatized and confused with the fear of losing one of her eyes and had lost their unborn child to this violence.

She was admitted into the CWEENS FCT Kamkpe Shelter some day she was brought to CWEENS FCT and she lived in the shelter for three months receiving all necessary medical care and psychosocial support services for her healing, rehabilitation and restoration process and while in the Shelter, was given the opportunity to upgrade her skills in confectionery and learned other skills to help her grow and increase her value. she received start-up capital to begin her confectionery business.

Today, Rejoice Dodo is happy, working with a school and engaged in small- scale business of liquid soap production, cake baking, and other confectioneries as demanded. She celebrated her 40th birthday with her family members at the CWEENS FCT office in August 2022 with the cake made by her, showcasing her skills in confectionery. She is hopeful of a better life and excited about the brighter future that lies ahead of her.

### Before intervention



REJOICE BEFORE

### After intervention



Rejoice (After)



# COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

## CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM FOR INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP

Though a large number of Nigerian women have joined various political parties to drive women's political participation, this has not translated to increase in the number of elected women. One major factor contributing to this is the fact that most political parties lack gender sensitive policies needed to promote women's political participation. With the support from the WVL project supported by ActionAid Nigeria and Global Affairs Canada, WIPF was able to carry out advocacies and provide technical support to All-Progressives Congress (APC) to reshape the party constitution to promote women's political participation. As a result, the APC's 2022 convention for the first time produced 2 women on the party's NWC by adopting the constitutional changes, from WIPF's recommendation, that made the office of the Deputy National Woman Leader a member of the NWC. By increasing the number of women on the APC NWC by 100%, the offices of the National and Deputy National woman leaders were able to jointly advocate and lobby for more women to emerge as candidates in the party and after the 2023 general polls, Nigeria recorded 83 female elected officials and 44 of them are from the APC. This is an improvement from the 70 women elected in 2019, 26 of which were from APC.



“Today I stand before you, not only as the Deputy National Woman Leader of the APC, but also as a member of the National Working Committee of the party and this was made possible by my party's constitutional reform championed by Women In Politics Forum. I am confident that this will contribute to an increase in the number of women my party will support to win elections in the 2023 electioneering cycle”. **Haj. Zainab Ibrahim, Deputy National Woman Leader APC.**



## COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

### Visibility and Voices: Women with Disabilities Overcoming GBV

Jamila Abdullahi, FCTJ amila Abdullahi, a young woman with a physical disability, was once unaware of her legal rights and how to protect herself from gender-based violence (GBV). Limited access to information and support networks made her vulnerable. However, her life took a transformative turn through a step-down training organized by her self-help group (SHG) leader. The training covered crucial topics such as legal rights for women and girls with disabilities (WGWDs), GBV reporting mechanisms, and advocacy skills. Empowered by this knowledge, Jamila became an active advocate within her community. She educated other WGWDs about their rights and how to protect themselves from GBV. Her advocacy efforts created a safer environment, significantly increasing awareness and the ability of WGWDs to report GBV incidents.



"The step-down training organized by my self-help group leader empowered me to become an advocate within my community. I learned about various legal rights for women and girls with disabilities, and this knowledge has transformed my life. I am now able to effectively advocate for our rights and create a safer environment for all women and girls with disabilities." – **Jamila Abdullahi**



# COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

## Farming succes for rural women

Smallholder women farmers in the rural community has been faced high incidence of poverty due to economic injustice, none or paucity of livelihood, looming food and nutrition insecurity, and huge post-harvest loss in the agricultural value chain among others. (200 words or less)

The smallholder women farmers were losing their agriculture harvests to pathogens, lack of storage facility and no improved knowledge to store/keep their harvests, obviously impacted on smallholder women farmers in the rural community losing their little resource investments, increased food, and nutrition insecurity, additionally, no economic empowerment to support their families and communities.



Based on the foregoing, 10 rural women farmers each from the six (6) area councils in Abuja were trained on Tomato Puree/Paste processing and preservation skills and empowered with start-up packs.

As a result of the training, 10 Women farmers have learnt to process and preserve tomato in glass containers using the natural indigenous technique. They sell the item to increase their livelihood and take care of their families.

One and half months after, the women have confirmed post -harvest loss on tomato have greatly reduced owing to this technique and skills. Smallholder women farmers and the families feed from the naturally processed and persevered tomato puree, at same time experiencing improved food and nutrition security.

Essentially, there is increased economic justice and empowerment in the six (6) area councils in Abuja, FCT, precisely in AMAC and Gwagwalada area councils. The pioneer smallholder women farmers trainees have stepped down the acquired skills to their different co-operative groups. Again, the community leaders engaged them to train other rural women in their community (AMAC) and she is also earning money as a consultant.

To enable the smallholder women farmers to be economically independent, improve food and nutrition insecurity for the family and community.



# COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

## Eradicating Patriarchal Potency

Nigerian Universities are institutions where patriarchy greatly exists. In 2019, the University of Nasarawa State Keffi, recorded a case of SGBV involving a student and her lecturer which was not openly announced, where the lecturer boasted that nothing can be done to him because he's influential. There have been so many unreported cases of SGBV, low female student enrolment as well as low female staff employment in the Universities. Working with the Academia's we get to hear disheartening issues which has made the 100 Women Lobby Group in 2022 with funds from ActionAid Nigeria supported by Global Affairs Canada, to collaborate with 5 Universities (University Abuja, Nasarawa State University, Michael and Cecelia Ibru University, University of Benin and Delta State University) by influencing and contributing in the development of their Gender Policy.

The Vice Chancellor Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammed of the Nasarawa state University urged students to take advantage of the whistle-blowing apparatus set in motion by the school authority to report any form of intimidation and sexual harassment by lecturers, according to him any lecturer found culpable will face the full wrath of the law.

To this end MCIU have been able to conclude with their Gender Policy while the University of Benin have concluded and awaiting the schools Senate approval. The significance of the intervention was to allow for disciplinary actions to be taken which will serve as examples to others, as we do not want reoccurrences of incidences of SGBV and others.



"The school did not know anything about gender or the policy but after series of meeting organized by 100WLG, I understand better and we will start the development of our policy and conclude with it" **Dr Eugenia Oladayo Director of Center for Gender Studies MCIU**



# COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

## Empowering survivors of GBV

Shayet Yahaya (Real name withheld) who is based in Tudunwada-Lugbe, AMAC, FCT Abuja was neglected by her boyfriend after she got pregnant for him and gave birth to the first child. He denied her second pregnancy and stopped giving her money for the upkeep of the first child. She had initially supported him when he was to learn driving and even when he got a job, she also supported in building the house, he promised that the two of them would stay together when the building is finished, unknown to her, he got another woman and married and moved into the house with the woman.

When Shayet found out and confronted him, he sent her out of the house never to return, she never went for any ante-natal service. Blessing had nowhere to stay, She was heavily pregnant, had no access to medical attention, couldn't feed well, and was emotionally neglected and financially decapitated. She was referred to CWEENS by the Community Chief of Tundunwada who was a beneficiary of CWEENS sensitization.

She was given Psychotherapy, Medical Services/referral, spiritual counseling, enrolment of her 4 year old son in school, skill building activities, livelihoods support and Economic empowerment. Shayet gave birth through Caesarian Session to a baby girl on the 18th of August 2021, she was taken to the CWEENS shelter where she was rehabilitated to join society rented a house for her and supported her with a bag of Rice to start up her food vendor business. Shayet has started selling food and pure water, her two children are healthy, the first son is in school and she is able to take care of herself.

### Before intervention



Shayet Before

### After intervention



Shayet AFTER



# COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

## YOUNG WOMEN BREAKING CEILINGS

In January 2022 two of the network members in Abuja aspired and emerged as candidates of political parties to contest in the FCT Area Council elections. Barr. Juliet Isi Ikhayere contested in the 2022 Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Area Council Elections for the office of councilor of Kubwa ward in Bwari Area Council as the flag bearer of African Democratic Congress and Amb. Mina Horsfall contested in the 2022 FCT Area Council Elections for the office of chairman of Abuja Municipal Council (AMAC) as the flagbearer of National Rescue Movement. In the 2023 elections, 13 of the trainees in participated in the 2023 elections as observers while 2 were polling unit agents of their political parties in Ohafia and Umuahia south state constituencies of Abia state. Barr. Juliet contested still as the ADC candidate for the AMAC/BWARI Federal Constituency and she has become the recipient of a number of local and international awards including the Srtv Legendary 2022 Girl child Youth Achiever Award. In 2023, Young women trained in the FCT engaged in voter education and engaged in the get out the vote campaign at grass root level ahead of the 2023 general elections with a target of getting women elected in the 2023 elections. These young women mobilized funds independently to reach the grassroots. Also, FCT now has a female senator, for the first time since the beginning of its 4th republic.



“YWIPF Abuja gave me a circle of female politicians for support and a safe space made up of people who could understand my race and this gave me closure and drive to run again. Though I contested in the 2022 FCT Area Council and 2023 general elections and did not emerge winner, I will still be contesting in subsequent elections. I now have a visible platform and have become a known name in FCT.”

**Barr. Juliet Isi Ikhayere 2023 ADC Candidate  
AMAC/Bwari Federal Constituency, Member YWIPF**



# COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

## Safe Farming for Women

The smallholder women farmers in the six (6) area councils were unable to carry out their farming activities due to farmers – herders clashes, intimidations by bandits, kidnapping, rape at their farmlands, aggravated by lingering insecurity in the nation. These have contributed to insecurity, and loss of livelihood among the smallholder women farmers, low food, and livestock production in all the agricultural value chain and high cost of living in the rural areas to mention but a few.

SWOFON organized community engagement to identify strategies for resolving the issues faced by smallholder women farmers and provide an enabling environment for the rural women farmers to carry out their farming activities safely and seamlessly. SWOFON followed through with advocacy and partnership visits to FCT Police Command, other security agencies and Nigeria Meteorological Agency (NiMet)

Today, the rural women farmers capacities have been developed on indigenous farming techniques, agroecology, sustainable smart agriculture as solutions to climate change impacts.



The real time weather forecast has enabled them to start farming at the right time and weather to avert loss of investment.

Despite the population explosion in the nation and acquired knowledge, the smallholder women farmers, use cassava peels, poultry dung and fishpond water as organic fertilizers on their overused farmlands to increase food production.



# COLLECTION OF SUCCESS STORIES

## National Assembly as Allies

In 2020 an Advocacy visit by 7 members of the 100 Women Lobby Group was conducted to the Chair of House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development, House of Representatives (Hon. Adewunmi Onanuga), the Clerk of the committee and their team to support the Gender Responsive Budgeting training. It was after this advocacy visit that 19 House Members, Committee Chairmen, Clerks (Women Affairs and Social Development, Poverty Alleviation, Budget and Research, Education, Appropriations, Health care Services, Justice, Poverty Alleviation, Basic Education) their staffs and subordinates were trained in one day workshop. This held at the NASS premises on the 20th October 2020. The training has allowed the Chair and Honourable Members to have better understanding of GRB and these also strengthened ties between 100WLG and the National Assembly. After the training the members confirmed in engaging with submissions of the ministry which led to the production of a gender friendly national budget. National pronouncement by the Minister of Finance and National Budget on the use of a Gender Responsive Budgeting for Nigeria in all sector. This pronouncement serve as a policy statement made as a result of the work of 100 WLG and the other stakeholders working to influence budgetary process in Nigeria



“all over Nigeria there is an on-going National conversation about the role of women in the public life of our country and the need to remove barriers hindering the realization of women’s full potential in politics, governance and economy of our nation which is long overdue but better late than never” **Rt. Honourable Femi Gbajabiamila, Speaker, 9th House of Representatives.**



## QUOTES FROM BENEFICIARIES

"If not for the help received through CWEENS, I would have been stranded with my daughter because we don't have anyone to help us. She wouldn't have gone back to school at all. Meeting CWEENS is like God coming down to intervene. I'm happy today for the mode impact in my life and in the life of my daughter, and i will never forget. Thanks to the donor and ActionAid "— Mama Tabawo (Tabowo's mother).



"I was beaten and battered without hope of Survival when I was received into the CWEENS shelter. I lived in fear with my children because of the violence I encountered with my husband. Today, my story has changed. Now fear is gone, and i have peace of mind, having gone through the shelter for 11 months with my three children, accessing medical care, legal aid, and psychosocial support services rendered. The legal aid has delivered to me the full custody of my three children from the court. I won! Thank you, ActionAid Nigeria and Global Affairs Canada, for providing support to CWEENS FCT to provide this wonderful help and support to me and my children. My hope is revived, my confidence restored, and self-esteem strengthened. Now, as a teacher, I can teach with confidence and live happier." - Joy Nnenno poto (not real name)



## QUOTES FROM BENEFICIARIES

“The bye law has reduced a lot of cases because when people remember that there is a penalty for offenses, they become very cautious and careful.”-**Utako community**

“Due to the byelaws, a woman was able to save herself from her abusive husband after reminding him of the community byelaws.”-**Kuchiyakwo community**



“Thank you for breaking all the barriers concerning our independence. Today is a moment for us to be happy and be proud that we have Action Aid supporting us to put on our action and make it workable”  
-**Chief Moji Makojoula, chairperson NAWOJ Board of Trustee**

“The Women Voice and Leadership Project will go down in the anal of NAWOJ as the best and strategic intervention that puts the Association on the map of community of recognized women networks with capacity for development work” - **Ladi Bala Past President, NAWOJ**

“We were at the time an exploited organization before WVL funding. Bigger organizations were taking our ideas to implement because we lacked necessary systems and structure to access funding to make impact because we were tagged as a political organization and not a Civil Society Organization but contact with WVL has helped put in place in the structure needed to gain access to funds” **Barr. Ebere Ifendu, President WIPF**





## CASE STUDY

### INCLUSIVE CONSTITUTION FOR NIGERIAN WOMEN

In Nigeria, women's rights movement existed even in precolonial days and keeps growing every day. With the growth of the women's rights movement, Nigerian women have been able to get some laws passed in the parliament to help promote and protect their rights. One of such laws is the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015 which has helped to address Gender Based Violence in Nigeria. However, one aspect of women's rights that has been largely ignored by decision makers in Nigeria is the political rights of Nigerian women and this is a major contributor to the low percentage of women representation in governance. This has in turn contributed to the gender disparity that exists in decisions made by the government.

In seeking to address this, Women In Politics Forum (WIPF) began advocacy for legislative and constitutional reform. Though this advocacy had lasted for a number of years, it was not able to grow into a campaign or drive necessary stakeholders to action. However, in 2020 when WIPF got funding from ActionAid Nigeria and Global Affairs Canada for the WVL-N project, WIPF was able to strategically implement "The Constitution We Want" as a campaign which addressed the constitutional gaps and amendments needed to have a constitution that promotes the rights of Nigerian women. From running the campaign primarily on Rhythm FM, a Nigerian radio station, it grew beyond WIPF attracting other women's rights activist to amplifying the call for constitutional amendment promoting political rights of women in Nigeria.

Building on this, WIPF had a dialogue with the Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory and recommendations made to have a more inclusive constitution was taken. WIPF also had consultations with female parliamentarians from African countries namely Kenya and Uganda, who had improved women's political participation through legislation or quota system. WIPF made a draft of the constitution with the amendments recommended.

This created a platform for WIPF to lead advocacies to the National Assembly, primarily Sen. Ovie Omo-Agege, the Deputy Senate President of the 9th National Assembly who also doubled as the Senate Committee chair on constitutional amendment. During the advocacy, WIPF presented the draft of the constitution which was received by the deputy senate president. In response to this advocacy, Sen. Omo-Agege sponsored a constitution alteration bill seeking to reserve 30 percent of cabinet appointments for youth and women at the federal level and 40 percent at the state level. This bill became one of the 5 gender bills for constitutional amendment. Due to the strategic advocacies to principal officers of the National Assembly (Including Rt. Hon. Nkiruka Onyejeocha who sponsored the specific seats bill) the bills were able to receive support from other parliamentarians as co-sponsors including Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, the speaker of the 9th National Assembly.



## CASE STUDY contd

As a result, for the first time since the advocacy for constitutional amendment to promote political rights for women began, the gender bills were able to progress and in January 2022, they were passed by the National Assembly Joint Committee on constitutional amendment. From the committee level, the bills progressed to the plenary session of both houses of the National Assembly. Ahead of the plenary session, WIPF, together with other women's rights leaders who had joined the campaign, further intensified awareness and advocacy to pass the gender bills and in March 2022, the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives joined the campaign and sent out a personal appeal to parliamentarians to vote in favor of the bills.

Though some of the bills were passed separately by both houses at the plenary, the constitutional amendment failed at this level because it was required for both houses to pass the bills before they could become law. For Women In Politics Forum and Nigerian women, the failure of the bills at the plenary of the 9th National Assembly did not mean a dead end but was a reminder of the progress the advocacy for constitutional reforms has achieved and we have gone back to the drawing board to strategize.

Today, the campaign for the constitution that Nigerian women want has received international recognition and more women's rights activists are lending their voices to the advocacy. WVL FCT Partners have begun to engage the members of the 10th National Assembly in this regard and more importantly, we understand now that there is a need to engage the state parliamentarians as they also have powers to make laws that can promote political participation of Nigerian women at state level. On 10th July 2024, members of the House of Representatives of the 10th National Assembly, passed the bill creating specific seats for women in the National parliament for the second reading stage which is a significant step beyond the progress made with the 9th National Assembly.

Hence, this is a call to every well meaning Nigerian, and not just members of the 10th National Assembly or civil society actors or women's rights groups; No! This call is to all well meaning and patriotic Nigerian to act now and ensure the 10th National Assembly passes the bills for constitutional reform to give Nigerian women more voices and spaces in Leadership.



## **APPRECIATION**

**Today, WVL Partners in FCT can boast of access to other funds and having a larger reach, bigger platform for impact and it is because the funders of the WVL project, Global Affairs Canada and ActionAid Nigeria took a chance with us.**

**Today, these 8 organizations are evidence that feminist funding pays and intentionally funding feminist and women led organizations will not just lead to the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls alone, but will lead to an inclusive society promoting the rights of everyone.**

# **Thank You!!!**



## MEET THE TEAMS



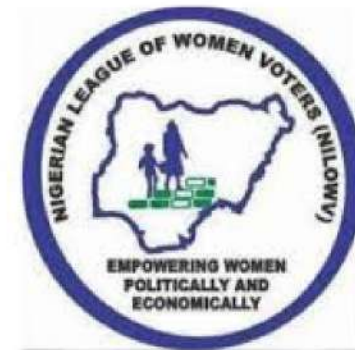
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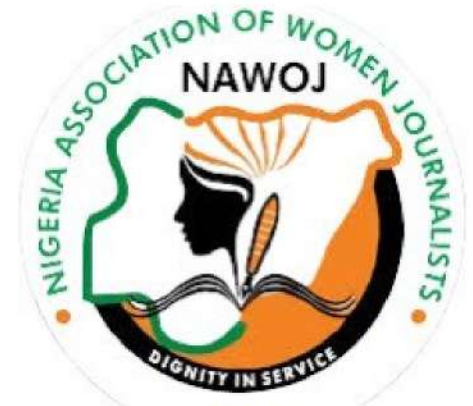
AWWDI



NILOWV



NAWOJ



FIDA







## Connect With Us Via Social Media!

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Voters in Nigeria  
X (Twitter): @Nilowvoters  
Instagram: @nilowvoters  
Website: [www.nilowv.org](http://www.nilowv.org)

### FIDA

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X (Twitter): @FIDA Nigeria  
Instagram: @fida.nigeria  
Website: [www.fida.org.ng](http://www.fida.org.ng)

### AWWDI

Facebook: @AWWDI Nigeria  
X (Twitter): @AWWDI  
Instagram: @awwdiwomen  
Website: [www.awwdi.org.ng](http://www.awwdi.org.ng)

### SWOFON

Facebook: @Small Scale Women  
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### NAWOJ

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