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WOMEN'S VOICE AND LEADERSHIP NIGERIA PROJECT

A PARADIGM SHIFT IN THE WORLD OF GRANTING



WVL NIGERIA BULLETIN



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TABLE OF CONTENT

Background	04
The WVL - Nigeria Project	06
Project Reach	07
Layers of Funding	08
The Multi-Year Grant	08
Multi Year Grant Coverage	09
The Strategic Innovation Fund	10
The Strategic Opportunity Fund	11-12
Covid-19 Top-up Fund	13
Our Trailblazers	15-17
References	18



➤➤ BACKGROUND

Historically, Nigerian women are recognized for playing significant roles in all stages of the country's development. Since the 19th Century, records of women's outstanding contributions to national development have been in existence; so are documentation of their struggles in advancing the rights of women and girls. This has resulted in the formation of women's movements in the country. The present-day Nigeria has witnessed the multiplicity and specialization of women organizations who have developed activities around addressing negative social issues such as Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Women Political Exclusion Women Economic Dis-empowerment, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Maternal Mortality, and Child Marriage to mention a few. Over the centuries, concrete evidences have revealed that the active involvement of women in the social and political landscape helped to improve their status at the grass-root, national and regional levels.

Despite recording landmark achievements in the activism for gender equality, unequal power relations resulting in disproportionate distribution of rights and privileges to women has been a cause for concern. Issues such as unequal participation in politics for women, non-domestication of international instruments that protect women and girls especially CEDAW, weak implementation of laws made to promote the rights of women, and rising injustices against women and girls threaten and overshadow the progresses made in the women's rights space.

The growth and diversity of women's rights movement in Nigeria, however, does not come without its challenges. Fragmentation is one main factor that undermines their effectiveness; geographic, thematic, religious, and political affiliations often result in organizations that - narrowly focus on their own objectives rather than on a broader women's rights movement objectives. In addition to this, many of the organizations have limited resources and weak capacities for effective programme implementation.

Funding has been identified as a major challenge for the advancement of gender equality and empowerment. For example, interventions to raise consciousness on, and respond to GBV issues and other discriminatory practices like sexual violence, domestic violence, harmful widowhood practices such as denial of inheritance rights and Female Genital Mutilation, and trafficking in persons require funds.

Although a number of women's rights organisations and coalitions have benefitted from Donor Funding, Donor's funding priorities are usually thematic based and mostly designed to suit the donor's mandate, thus restrictive with no flexibility for taking on issues considered a priority by local women's groups.

Additionally, some donor's funding targets established organizations, and this excludes organizations with relative capacity - despite their passion and commitments to grass-root change. It is against these backdrop that the Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria Project is designed to primarily break the two major barriers in donor funding architecture - inaccessibility and non-flexibility of available funds for women's rights organisations in Nigeria.

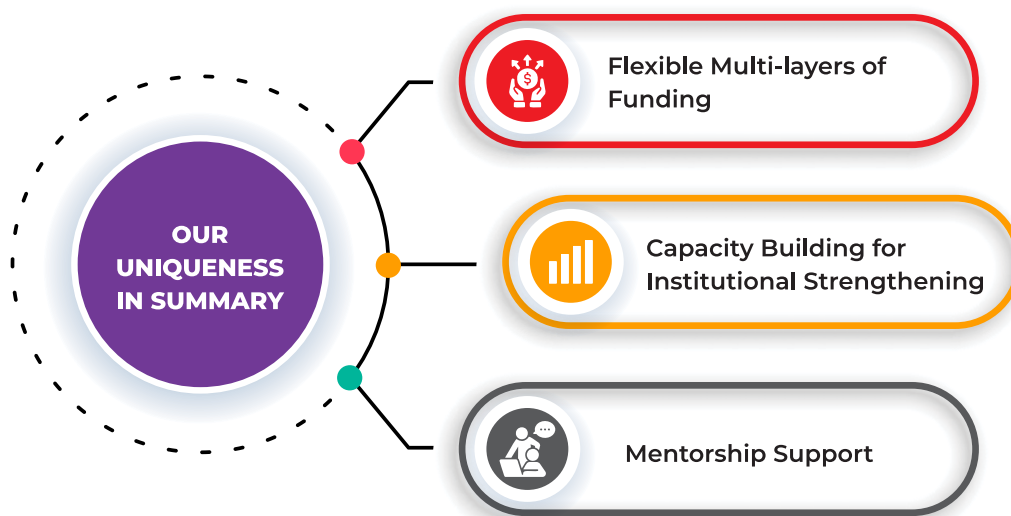


E-learning Centre Resuscitated and Functional in Kebbi State

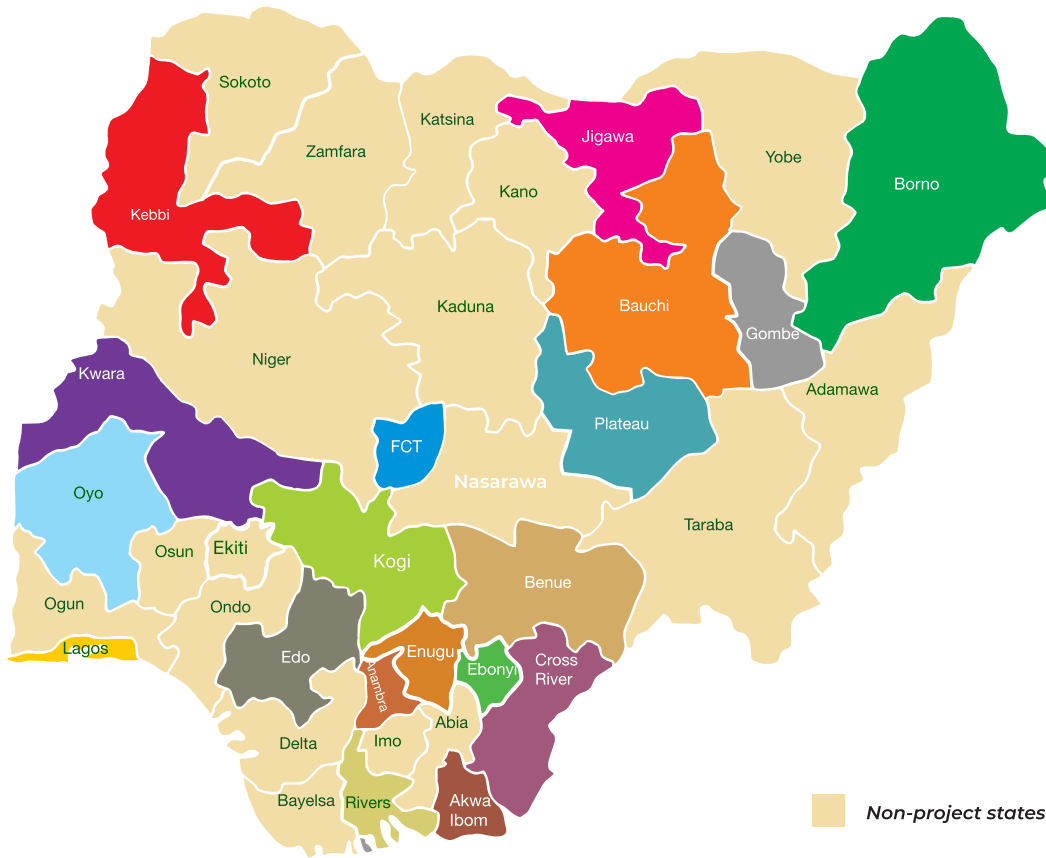
»» THE WVL-NIGERIA PROJECT

The Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria (WVL – Nigeria) project is a five year project that is being funded by Global Affairs Canada. The project is building the capacities and supporting activities of local and national women's rights organisations and movements who seek to empower women and girls, advance the protection of women and girls' rights, and achieve gender equality in Nigeria. Through this project, ActionAid Nigeria has re-defined the narratives of Donor funding by establishing partnerships with 118 women's rights organisations who have the privilege of accessing funds which allows them the flexibility of implementing their respective core mandates as women-focused organisations.

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 which further strengthen and sustain their financial, technical, and organizational capacity in advancing the rights of women and girls and addressing gender equality barriers more effectively. Additionally, the project supports feminist platforms at the state and federal levels for more effective networking and greater cohesiveness in the advancement of women and girls' rights.



Since its inception in April 2019 and full commencement in July 2019, the project has been funding the implementation of impactful activities around **Gender-Based Violence, Women Political Participation, and Economic Justice** in eighteen (18) states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory. To ensure a geographic balance, the project states were selected to represent the 6 geopolitical zones of Nigeria.



Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, Cross River, Ebonyi, Edo, Enugu, Gombe, Jigawa, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers States, and FCT.

➤➤ LAYERS OF FUNDING

1. The Multi-Year Grant

This is a 5-year predictable funding arrangement that supports the core mandates of 100 Local Women’s Rights Organizations (LWROs) and Networks at the community, state and national levels throughout the project duration. This provision allows beneficiary organizations to continue implementation of on-going or new interventions, and to address core institutional needs of the organizations. The grantees have used the funding on policy influencing, service delivery, advocacy and sensitisation, feminist research, campaign interventions as well as, improving organizations infrastructure development.

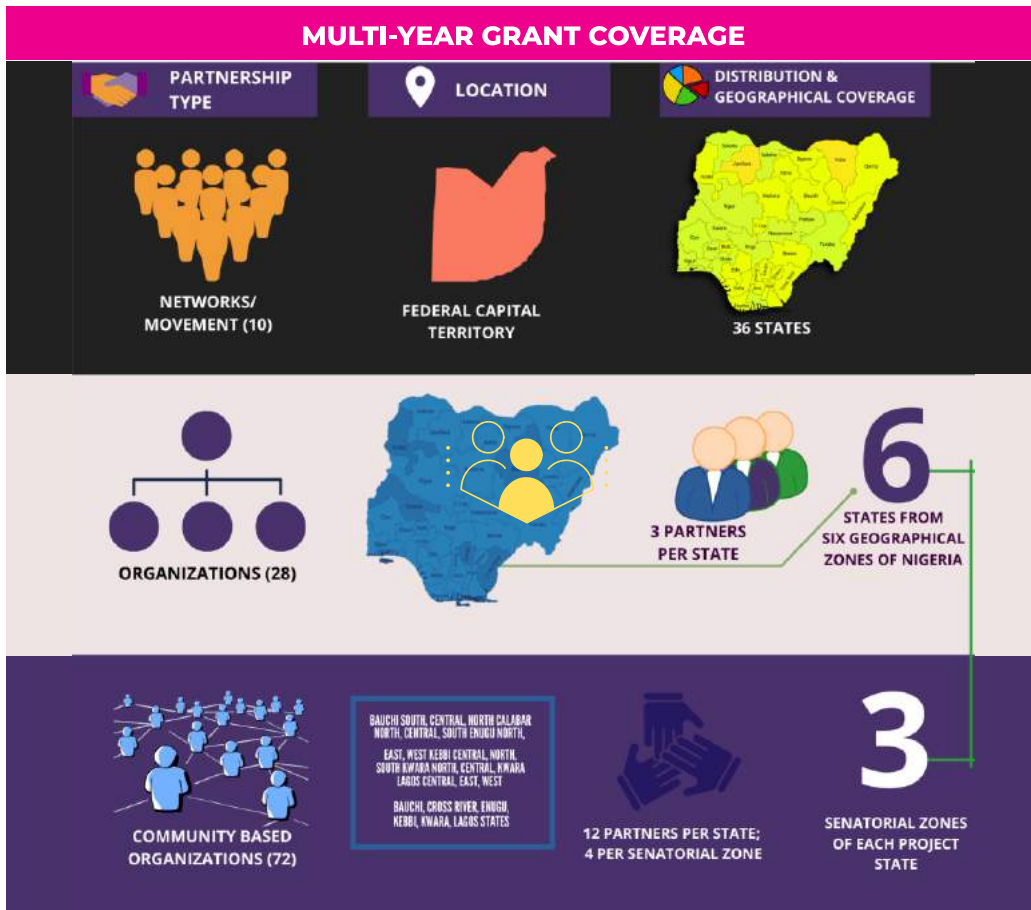


LEVELS OF PARTNERSHIP

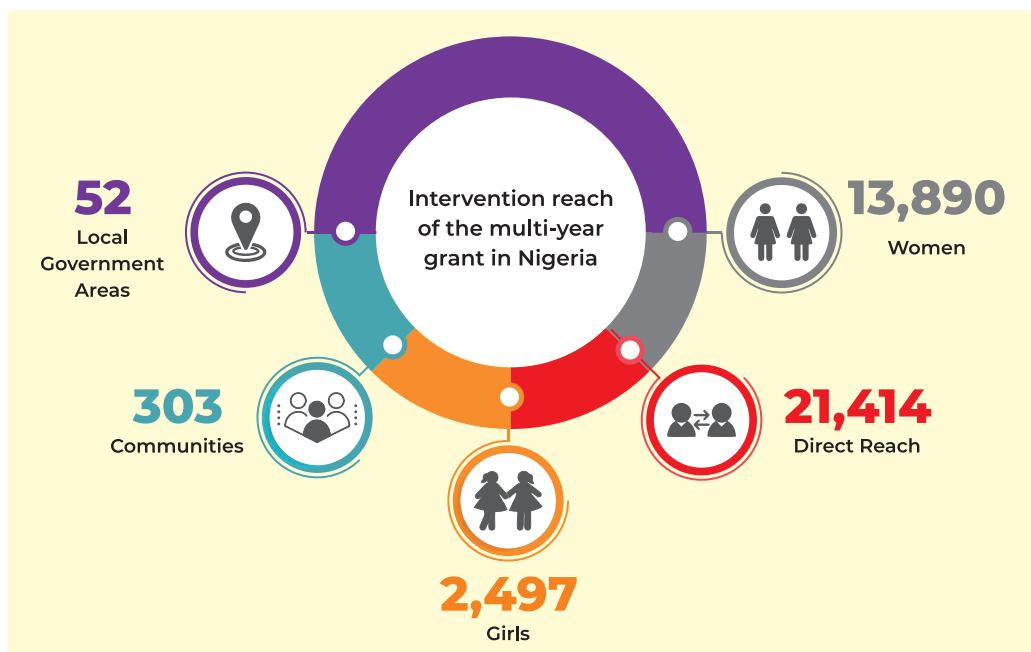


PARTNERSHIP TYPE

AAN used a robust selection process for contracting the beneficiaries of this funding which includes mapping of women’s rights organizations to provide a database as a starting point for engagement, an open call for local women’s rights organizations to apply for funding through a simple Expression of Interest process, conduct of background check on these organizations and finally, a Partnership Assessment and Monitoring Exercise that allows for development of capacity building plans for system strengthening purposes.



For grassroots impact, the project selected 72 Community-Based organisations from the 3 senatorial zones of each project state with a distribution of 4 CBOs per senatorial zone. For ease of coordination given the substantial number of CBOs, one state level partner with demonstrable capacity for grant management in each project state manages the granting process of CBOs in each state. This also allows for the strengthening of the sub-granting capacities of the selected state level partners.

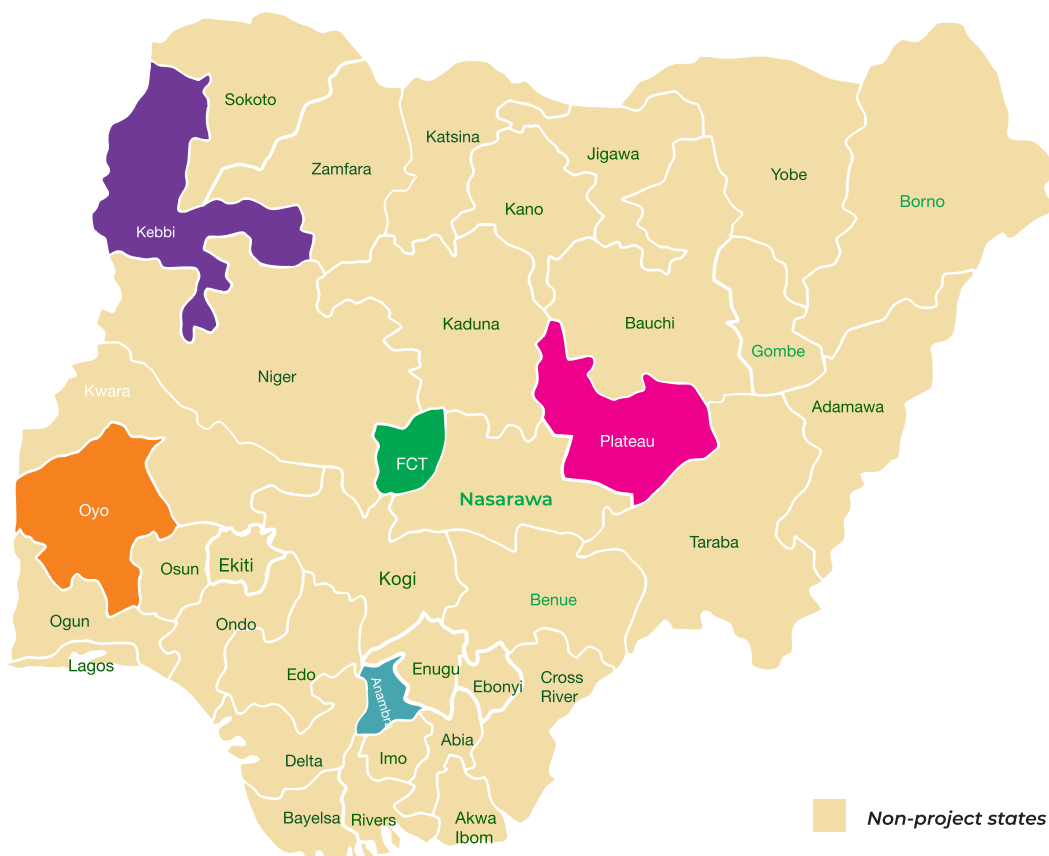


2. The Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF):

This Fund is available throughout the life cycle of the WVL-N project. It is designed to support emerging innovations and new initiatives from women's rights organisations, networks, and movements. It is especially exciting because it is also accessible to women's rights organisations who are not benefitting from the multi-year grant. The flexibility of the grant lies in the fact that it is not restricted to WVL-N project states.

The SIF is available to be accessed on an annual basis. Since the launch of this grant stream in March 2020, it has benefitted five (5) women's rights organisations with innovative ideas which can serve as a catalyst for new ways of doing things within the Women's Rights movement in Nigeria.

The Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) States



The Strategic Innovation Fund Geographical Coverage

The Call for Proposals for the SIF opens every April through which applicants are expected to provide a brief concept note outlining their innovative ideas. The timeline from announcing the call to the selection and awarding of the grants is not more than three months.

➤➤➤ 2020 INNOVATIVE PROJECTS FUNDED










3. The Strategic Opportunity Fund (SOF):

The grant allows Women Rights Organisations (WROs) to be agile in responding to women and girls' rights issues. It is set up as a rapid response fund that can be quickly accessed by women's rights organizations. This grant enables WROs and their movements respond promptly to rights violations, or to seize opportunities to create change in the lives of women and girls across the country.

The uniqueness of this grant is that it does not follow the long grant award continuum - call for proposals, proposal development, review, pre-selection, due diligence, final selection, Work Plan development, and Work Plan Approval, and Funds Transfer- but rather a simple and speedy process of not more than 24 hours response from receipt of applications from women's rights organization and not more than 7 days for project implementation and funds liquidation. To achieve this, the Grant Selection Committee adopts a virtual approval process for awarding of grants.

To access this fund for an emerging issue of rights violation, applicants must take into consideration the following factors:

- The impact of the action on the rights of women and girls
- The envisaged changes/results the action will have on the lives of women and girls.
- The multiplier effects of the intervention on a national scale
- The broader contribution of the intervention to the achievement of gender equality.

 <p>Electoral Violence against female political leaders (Burning of PDP Women leader in Kogi state, 2019)</p>	 <p>Exclusion of Women in Political Offices (Ogun state 2019 Commissioner Nomination List)</p>	 <p>Police Brutality Against Women's Right's Defenders (Physical assault of a Lawyer in Enugu, 2020)</p>
 <p>Physical and Sexual Violence on Women by Political Office Holders (Assault by Kogi state Commissioner for water resources)</p>	 <p>Community Response to COVID 19 from a women's rights perspective (Kwara, Lagos, Kaduna, Kebbi, Enugu, Cross River, 2020)</p>	 <p>Policy Dialogue and Influencing (Public hearing of VAPP Act in Kwara State, Legislators' retreat to fast-track the passage of VAPP Act in Kebbi, 2020)</p>
 <p>National Campaign to combat GBV (2020 SGBV State of Emergency Campaign in 6 states and FCT)</p>		

This grant is accessible all year round open to women's rights organizations, networks and movements across Nigeria. To apply, submit a simple concept note using the link: <https://www.feministhub.org/strategic-opportunityfund/>

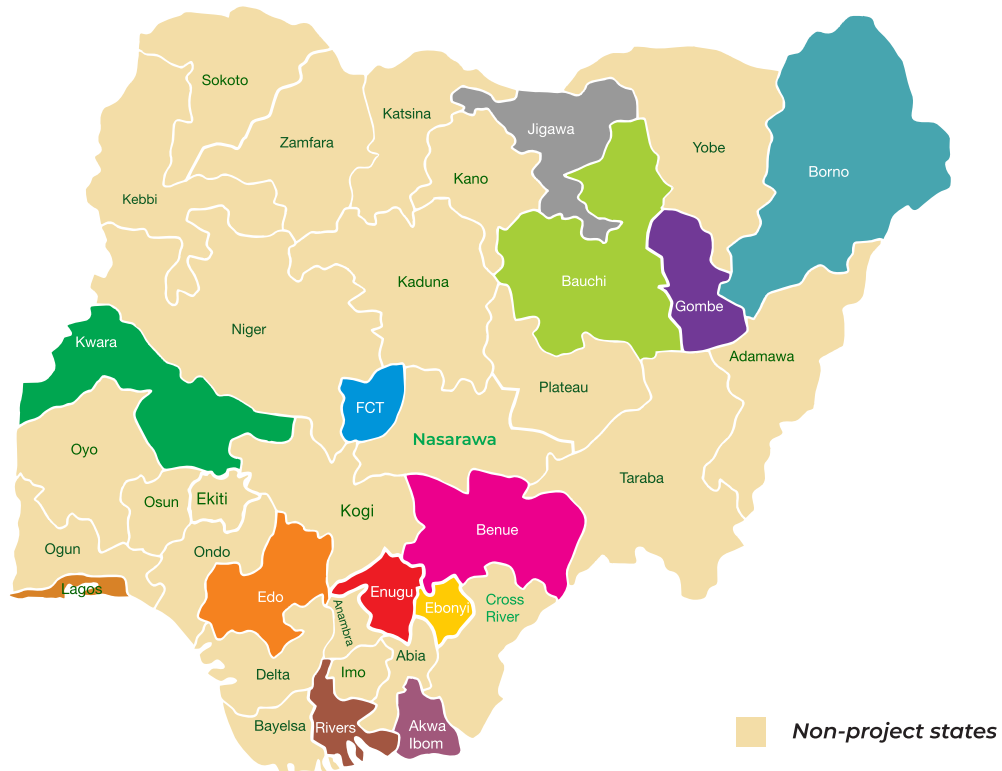
4. COVID-19 Top-Up Fund

The COVID 19 pandemic took the world by surprise. Most worrisome is the rise in sexual and gender-based violence. To mitigate the impact of the pandemic on women and girls, Global Affairs Canada introduced this new short-term grant stream. This created an opportunity to further support existing and new partners with experience in the provision of protection interventions for women and girls.

The grant is a one-off fund channelled towards the provision of critical protection services for vulnerable women and girls within and Post Covid-19 Period in Nigeria. It is a small grant designed to support WROs to implement actions that will lead to women and girls living in reduced violence or fear of violence by supporting victims and survivors of gender-based violence to access protection services.

In total, 7 existing partners and 13 additional women's rights organisations were selected and granted for a 6 months period to implement protection services.

States of Implementation



Services provided under this grant stream include legal aid services, short-term shelter services, evacuation and/or escort services, medical support, psychosocial support, and emergency support to indigent women and girls, women with disability and elderly women. In addition, the fund also supported actions such as consciousness building using traditional and new media, evidence gathering on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), and advocacy for implementation of VAWG related legislation.

For more information about the project, please visit www.feministhub.org



E-LEARNING BENEFICIARIES



MAR'ATUSSALIHA WIDOWS & ORPHANS INITIATIVE, CBO IN KEBBI



INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MATCH FOR PHYSICAL FITNESS OF ELDERLY WOMEN, LAGOS.

➤➤ OUR TRAILBLAZERS

S/N	LOCATION	PARTNERS
WVL-N Women's Rights Networks/Movements		
1.	FCT	International Federation of Women Lawyers of Nigeria (FIDA)
2.	FCT	Women in Politics Forum (WPF)
3.	FCT	League of Women Voters of Nigeria (NILOWV)
4.	FCT	Small Scale Women Farmers Organization of Nigeria (SWOFON)
5.	FCT	Network of Disabled Women of Nigeria (NDW)
6.	FCT	100 Women Lobby Group
7.	FCT	Christian Women for Excellence and Empowerment in Nigerian Society (CWEENS)
8.	LAGOS	NECA's Network of Entrepreneurial Women (NNEW)
9.	IMO	Nigerian Feminist Forum (NFF)
10.	BAUCHI	Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN)
WVL-N Women's Rights Organisations		
11.	LAGOS	Women Radio 91.7
12.	LAGOS	Center for Gender Economics Initiative (CGE)
13.	LAGOS	Women's Rights and Health Project (WRAHP)
14.	ENUGU	Women Information Network (WINET)
15.	ENUGU	Women Aid Collective (WACOL)
16.	ENUGU	Women Empowerment and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI)
17.	CROSS RIVER	Neighborhood Care-Well Foundation
18.	CROSS RIVER	Child Care and Adult Protection Initiative (CCAPI)
19.	CROSS RIVER	Centre for Training and Development Activities (CETDA)/Gender and Development Action (GADA)
20.	KEBBI	NANA Girls and Women Empowerment Initiative
21.	KEBBI	Association of Women Living with HIVAIDs (ASWHAN)
22.	KEBBI	Kungiyar Tallafin Mata Development Initiative (KTMDI)
23.	BAUCHI	Attah Sisters' Helping Hands Foundation (ASHH)
24.	BAUCHI	Fahimta Women and Youth Development Initiative (FAWOYDI)
25.	BAUCHI	Rahama Women Development Programme (RWDP)
26.	KWARA	Olive Community Development Initiative (OCDI)
27.	KWARA	Global Hope for Women and Children Foundation (GLOHWOC)
WVL-N Community-Based Organisations		
28.	CROSS RIVER	Akpabuyo Women Development Association
29.	CROSS RIVER	Double Grace Chapel
30.	CROSS RIVER	Enyierebe Ibiang Akpoji
31.	CROSS RIVER	Good Sheperd Initiative
32.	CROSS RIVER	Radiant Women Association
33.	CROSS RIVER	Ikpiri Ikang Farmers Association
34.	CROSS RIVER	True Beauty Initiative
35.	CROSS RIVER	Perfect Future International Foundation
36.	CROSS RIVER	Voice Of Ejagham Women Association
37.	CROSS RIVER	A Well-Informed Adolescent Association
38.	CROSS RIVER	Nka Iban Uko Foundation
39.	CROSS RIVER	Women Directorate Initiative
40.	BAUCHI	Aid Connect for Development (AIDCODE)
41.	BAUCHI	Khairi Women And Youth Upliftment For Development Association (KWAYUDA)
42.	BAUCHI	Reproductive Health Initiative and Support Association (RHISA)
43.	BAUCHI	Small scale women farmers organization in Nigeria
44.	BAUCHI	Child Is Gold Foundation

45.	BAUCHI	Nagari Women Farmers Bauchi (NAWORFAR)
46.	BAUCHI	Karofi Hazaka Ethics and Values Multipurpose cooperative Society (KHEV-MSC)
47.	BAUCHI	Women Wing Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN)
48.	BAUCHI	Awalah Women of Wisdom Farming Cooperative Society (ABWW-FCS)
49.	BAUCHI	Women Empowerment Initiative (WEIN)
50.	BAUCHI	A Syndicate in Supporting Women and Children Initiatives (SISWACHI)
51.	BAUCHI	Nigeria Women's Rights And Empowerment Network (NIWOREN)
52.	KEBBI	Yauri Women Development Association (YAWDA)
53.	KEBBI	Bright Capacity Initiative for community Enhancement
54.	KEBBI	Aminchi Support Group Koko (ASGK)
55.	KEBBI	H.SARNA Women Arise
56.	KEBBI	Mar'attussaliha Widows and Orphans Initiative (MWOI)
57.	KEBBI	Nabuche Community Development Association
58.	KEBBI	Taimako Support Group
59.	KEBBI	Zumunchi Support Group
60.	KEBBI	Maginga Women Development Association
61.	KEBBI	zaki gem
62.	KEBBI	D'sete support initiative zuru
63.	KEBBI	Zamare Community Development Association (ZACDA)
64.	ENUGU	Global Mission International (GLOMINT)
65.	ENUGU	Health Care Support Services (HCSS)
66.	ENUGU	Ogene Ifunanya Women Association
67.	ENUGU	Njikoka Woman Association
68.	ENUGU	Catholic Women Organization
69.	ENUGU	Widows Support Group Imezi Olo
70.	ENUGU	Oji River Urban Women Association
71.	ENUGU	Women Advocacy for Development
72.	ENUGU	Udi Progressive Union(UDU)
73.	ENUGU	New Life Community Care Initiative
74.	ENUGU	Obige Obukpa Widows Care Foundation
75.	ENUGU	Iyom Umuevu Njoku Women Meeting
76.	KWARA	Omu-Aran Women Forum
77.	KWARA	Health is Wealth Women's Wing
78.	KWARA	Golden Heart Women Forum
79.	KWARA	Gender Emancipation Support
80.	KWARA	Golden Sisters
81.	KWARA	KW.ST Association Marketer Women Wing
82.	KWARA	Unique Ladies Foundation
83.	KWARA	Community Need Care Development Initiative (CONCED)
84.	KWARA	Asiri-Abo Women Development Association
85.	KWARA	Ifedara Women Group
86.	KWARA	Waaruu Suuru Women Community Based Organization
87.	KWARA	Gesthemane Grace and Mercy Women Development Centre
88.	LAGOS	Bisi Adebayo Networking Gems
89.	LAGOS	Catholic Sisters United in Christ Foundation
90.	LAGOS	Edda Women Progressive Development Initiative
91.	LAGOS	Ejigbo Grinding Machine Operator Association
92.	LAGOS	Epe Women-Help Association
93.	LAGOS	Havilah Impact Women Initiative
94.	LAGOS	Healthy Living Women Empowerment Initiative
95.	LAGOS	Humanity Family Foundation for Peace and Development
96.	LAGOS	My Body My Asset Cancer Foundation
97.	LAGOS	Ogo-Oluwa Women Association
98.	LAGOS	Women Liberation and Transformation Group
99.	LAGOS	Women of Wisdom

WVL-N SIF Organisations		
100.	OYO	Teens Lead Initiative
101.	PLATEAU	Total Stage2Screen Academy
102.	ANAMBRA	Women Foundation for Improved Living Standard (WOFILS)
103.	FCT	Yes to Life for Women and Children (YES2LIFE)
104.	KEBBI	Nana Girls and Women Empowerment Initiative
WVL-N COVID-19 TOP-UP Organisations		
105.	BAUCHI	Attah Sisters' Helping Hands Foundation (ASHH)
106.	KEBBI	Association of Women Living with HIVAIDs (ASWHAN)
107.	JIGAWA	Baba Azimi Foundation (BAF)
108.	FCT	Dorothy Njemanze Foundation
109.	BENUE	Okaha Women and Children Development Organization
110.	FCT	Dinidari Foundation
111.	KWARA	Global Hope for Women and Children Foundation
112.	GOMBE	Hill Of Hope Empowerment Foundation
113.	PLATEAU	Christian Women for Excellence and Empowerment in Nigerian Society. CWEENS
114.	BORNO	SAHEI
115.	LAGOS	Women's Rights and Health Project (WRAHP)
116.	ENUGU	Women Aid Collective (WACOL)

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