

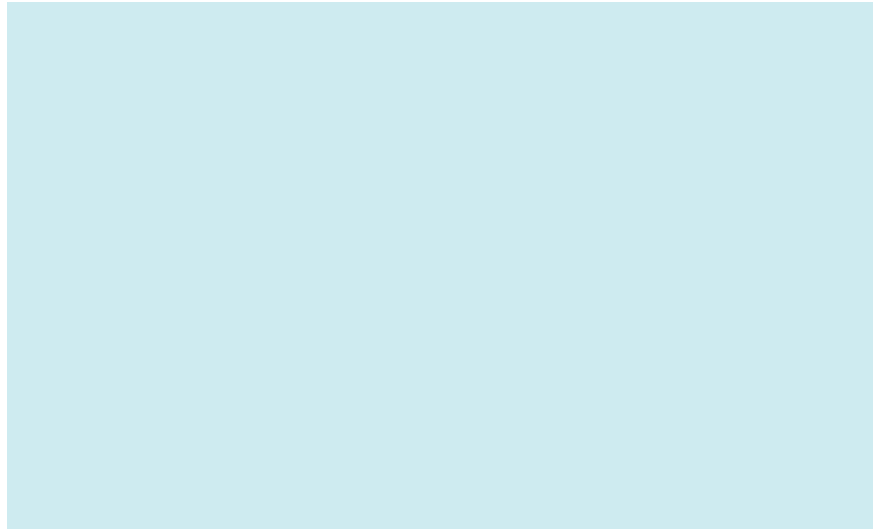


Partners West Africa
Nigeria

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



FOREWARD



The constant thing in life is “change” and this we have seen at Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN) in 2022. Our transformation journey is evident through the recognised value of our technical outreach within the security governance sector and improving capabilities of our key resource – the PWAN team. We are aware that the operational context is undergoing fundamental transitions, nationally in terms of government and externally with differing strategic priorities reflected across the development space. Our plan at PWAN is to respond proactively, especially by building on learnings identified throughout our journey, either by demonstrating replicable project achievements or realignment of our programmatic needs.

In keeping with this learning theme, this report illustrates through case studies how our work is driving impact and making positive inroads within the institutional environment. These interventions include those that are capacity driven: strengthening the technical and operational capabilities of community organisations in Northern Nigeria to provide local solutions for local issues and research driven: regional collaborations to promote survivor centred policing in West African countries; and process driven: technological solutions for selected Nigerian courts to strengthen the administration of criminal justice system.

We remain committed to being at the forefront of progressing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, improving participation, representation, prevention and protection. We will continue to amplify these efforts as we move forward using multiple approaches including our membership of the Africa Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and the CSO working group on WPS established by the African Union. PWAN remains deeply committed to changing the narrative towards equity and inclusion, not only for women but also youth and other marginalised groups by entrenching our core values across our operation. We have extended our influence through the introduction of innovative approaches (engagement mechanisms at community level) and solution-driven interventions in our niche areas which have started yielding positive results as attested to by the testimonies this year’s report.

Ms 'Kemi Okenyodo
Executive Director



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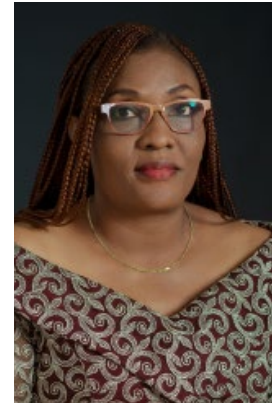
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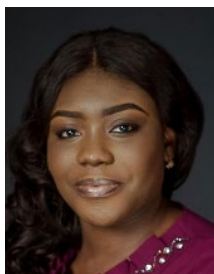
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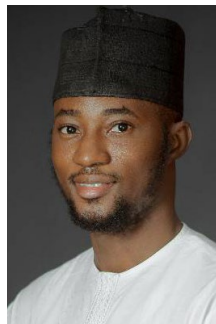
STAFF



Gloria Egbeyemi
Administrative
Assistant



Kpeta Toyo
Program Officer



Taiye Fadayini
Program Officer



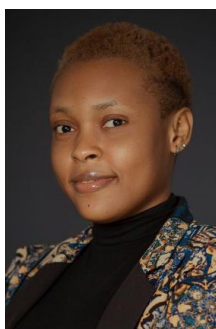
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Executive Assistant
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Joy Edo
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Program Assistant



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Communications
Officer



Vivian Ojumu
Communications
Officer





THE EVOLUTION OF PWAN

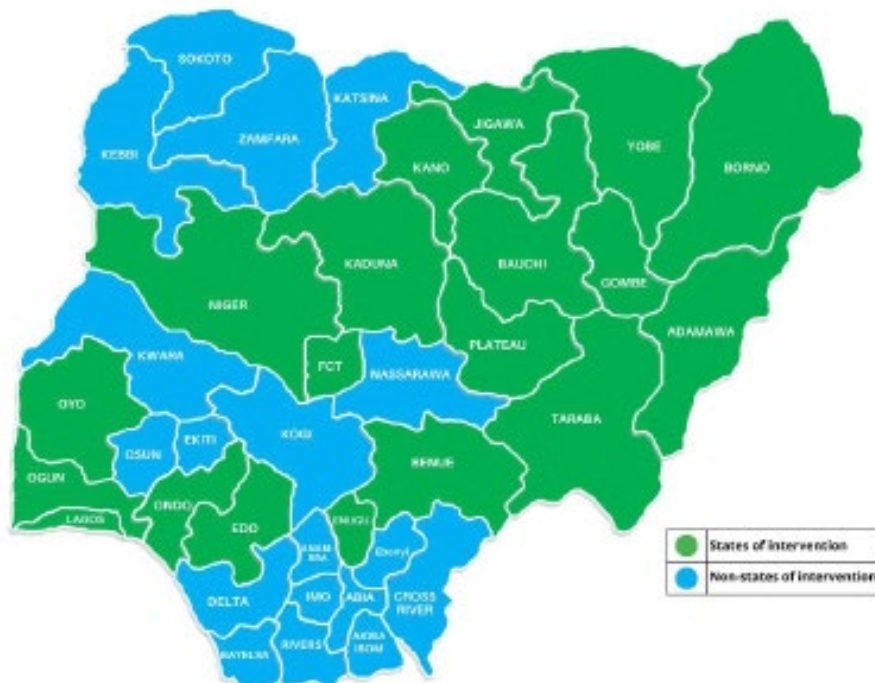
PWAN was founded in 2015 by Ms Kemi Okenyodo, whose uncommon passion and desire is to see a functional society in which women are equally represented across the strata of society. She is driven by the desire to challenge the predicaments that inhibit women from attaining their full potential as human beings, especially in the security and governance sector where women are underrepresented and their voices are silenced by male dominance. Thus, with over 20 years of experience in the NGO sector in various capacities, she has broken the barrier of male dominance in the security and governance ecosystem in Nigeria thereby becoming one of the loudest voices advocating for the reform of the criminal justice system in Nigeria and the inclusion of women in the governance.

Conceived as a women-led and women-driven organization eight years ago, PWAN has worked assiduously in enhancing citizens’ participation in security governance in Nigeria and West Africa at large. We have been able to achieve the many successes that we have achieved so far through our Rule of Law and Citizens Security program areas.

We have evolved over the years and have continued to expand our reach and impact through the introduction of a new program area called CSOS strengthening. This program area seeks to improve the resilience of other civil society organizations. We have secured funding across a diverse portfolio which includes funding from bilateral, multilateral, foundation, and donor-driven mechanisms. Starting out with only one employee in 2015, PWAN now has a total staff strength of 30 people. We have established state offices to oversee our widespread programs in Nigeria.

Below is a map of how PWAN has evolved over the years.

STATES OF PWAN INTERVENTION FROM 2016 - 2023





WHO WE ARE NOW

ABOUT US

PWAN is a passionate team of women who showcase an organizational model where young women are provided with safe and flexible working spaces to learn and develop skill sets to further their careers.

As a team, we have collectively over 30 years of experience in the peacebuilding and development sector. Our leading conversations around key thematic areas of education, security, and governance continue to drive the need for collaborative efforts.

The strategic focus of the organization is on increasing the participation of youth, women, and vulnerable groups in security and governance dialogues, through our Citizens' Security, Rule of Law, and CSO Strengthening program areas, we undertake specific interventions around women and citizens' participation, equal access to opportunities, rights, knowledge, and skills to engage.

Finally, we focus not only on short to medium-term improvements but have a deep-rooted commitment to driving longer-term change. This is demonstrated through our ongoing support to train and mentor young women in the political space to gradually increase their attainment of leadership roles in government. In these positions, women can more effectively influence necessary institutional and legislative changes which will positively impact future generations of women.

VISION

Robust good governance & accountable institutions in Nigeria and West Africa.

VALUES

Integrity, Trust, Inclusion, Humility, Accountable collaboration, Courage of Conviction, Innovation

MISSION STATEMENT

Enhances citizens' participation and improves security governance in Nigeria and West Africa.



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The organization employs an approach that embodies continuous improvement - internally to promote a center of excellence building the capacity of young women from internship to senior level positions and externally to produce value-driven and context-specific output. The organization is modelled to address key issues within security and governance:

Citizen Security: Nigeria is confronted with security challenges and social inequalities which are exacerbated and persistent in marginalized communities where there is a high level of distrust for the government. Through its citizen security program area, PWAN works to improve relations between the government and the citizens. These efforts involve activities to enhance the capacity of women to engage in politics and governance and provide a collaborative platform and cooperation between security agencies and oversight bodies.

Rule of Law: The Nigerian Legal/Judicial institutions are faced with various challenges impeding the Successful promotion of the Rule of Law and effective dispensation of justice with corruption and inadequate capacity overshadowing constitutionalism and constitutional democracy. To address this, PWAN through its Rule of Law program area works to improve transparency and accountability through court observation, provision of technical support that hastens the dispensation of justice, and training/capacity buildings of criminal Justice Actors.

CSO Strengthening: PWAN works with Civil Society organizations to strengthen their capacity and ensure they become resilient, and have the ability to function and thrive within the closing civic space. The organization has published a memorandum on the NGO regulatory bill and also participated in conversations about the CAMA Act. To further improve CSOs' accountability, PWAN is currently implementing a project that seeks to ensure that CSOs are more deliberate and conscious in addressing sexual harassment and inappropriate conduct.

PWAN has remained a source of information and a learning platform for young women who are encouraged to pursue their goals despite the constraints that come with being a woman.



PROGRAM AREAS



RULE OF LAW:

Under the program area, PWAN seeks to improve integrity and strengthen institutions that play a role in safeguarding the society and its governance structures, through a cooperative advocacy approach with all key stakeholders.

PWAN aims to create a more stable society, by ensuring that the civil society sector and justice system are effective, sustainable, and accessible.



CITIZENS SECURITY:

The objective of the organization borders around ensuring that citizens are well-informed and participate in decisions made by the government that affect their everyday lives.

PWAN has adopted a strategy of partnering with civil society organizations, ministries, departments, agencies and security personnel to curb issues that obstruct the delivery of justice and the security of citizens.

PWAN facilitated the passage of the Niger State Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) and the development of a 3-year action plan for the Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC) in Taraba State.

Through PWAN's activities, there has been increased capacity for the judiciary support staff in Bauchi, Plateau and Ondo states, increased capacity for low-ranking police officers Bauchi and Ondo states, improved access to justice through the implementation of the Police Duty Solicitor Scheme (PDSS).



CSO STRENGTHENING:

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INTERVENTIONS, MEASURES, AND STRATEGIES

CAPACITY BUILDING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MENTORING FOR SELECTED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN YOBE STATE

SUPPORTED BY: NORTHEAST CONNECTION

Maikudi Magaji is a beneficiary whose testimonies illustrate the importance of building the capacity of community-based organizations to empower them with the requisite skills and knowledge to be able to carry out interventions more efficiently and professionally within their local communities. When local CSOs/CBOs like Mr. Maikudi Magaji's Almagda Community Development Initiative are properly groomed to provide local solutions to local problems in their communities they become reliable partners of progress and development. His and the testimonies of the other beneficiaries underscore the conceptualization and implementation of the capacity building and organizational mentoring for CSOs/CBOs conducted by the Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative also known as Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN) in Yobe State. The need for enhanced CSOs/CBOs engagement in the North East was fueled by the array of challenges brought about by the advent of the Boko Haram insurgency and other social anomalies in the region.

Similarly, Trauma Healing Support Initiative (THSI), is another beneficiary whose story of the impact of capacity building and mentoring is telling of the encompassing effects that this intervention has had on the beneficiaries. According to Musa Mohammed, the Program Manager of the Initiative, the training has had a positive impact on their operations and has also helped in attracting the attention of international partners to their project, he opines that

“We are very delighted that the impact of this activity has further drawn the attention of an international organization that is very willing to fund and expand the same activity to more communities in the state.”

The project has enabled them to update existing/developed new organizational policies, improved/updated financial documentation, and effectively implemented activities, for example, 25 marginalized women in the Ngalgerma community were successfully trained in the production of local pasta and how to package it to be marketable and to maximize profit thereby improving the economic conditions of the women.

As the anchor organization, PWAN along with the support of the Nigeria Northeast Connection, supported and mentored 5 CSOs/CBOs in Yobe State by strengthening their managerial and operational capacities to effectively implement local projects in their communities. The training was based on the findings of the Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) which influenced the development of training modules that were tailored to the needs of the CSOs/CBOs. The modules covered in the training covered such areas as operational, administrative, financial, and technical/programmatic proficiencies, project management, financial management, proposal development, leadership, advocacy and safe-guarding, community awareness, and effective engagement with security providers. Post-training engagement with the beneficiaries included a six-month period of close mentorship and coaching which was intended to enable them to accomplish their goals.



We also developed a CSO compact as part of our contribution to making the civil society space safe and secure. The CSO compact is a self-regulatory document that contains mutually agreed-upon standards and benchmarks for internal governance, as well as other operational and behavioural measures for CSOs in Nigeria, which was one of the recommendations made by participants at a 2-day retreat for CSO leaders in June 2021.



POLICE DUTY SOLICITOR SCHEME (PDSS) INTERVENTION

FUNDER:

The vague nature of the administration of criminal justice law in Nigeria which often results in long pre-trial and detention of up to 10 years, informed PWAN's pragmatic resolve to push for a reevaluation of the process to address the issues of pre-trial detention through the implementation of the Police Duty Solicitor Scheme (PDSS) and to ensure adequate oversight of the implementation of the ACJA by providing institutional support by the Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC). PWAN adopted Force Order No. 20 (as amended) which was signed and launched by the former Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, on September 20, 2017, which provides for access to legal services by detainees in Nigerian police stations across the country.

Force Order No. 20 highlights the following key innovations:

Police Duty Solicitors, where available, are to be posted to every Police formation in Nigeria.

Police Duty Solicitors are to be provided by either individual or institutional legal aid service providers.

Police Duty Solicitors are to maintain a schedule, on an 8-hour rotation basis in each Police formation where they operate.

The Police Duty Solicitors Scheme (PDSS) was successfully implemented in the FCT, Kano, and Jigawa States commands respectively. A total of 32 police divisions across the 3 states were involved in the project and the majority of the cases reported were: criminal conspiracy, drugs, and alcohol-related offenses, larceny, receiving stolen property, theft, debt recovery, disputes between tenants and landlords, family and matrimonial disputes, land disputes, recovery of loans and witchcraft. The project commenced in April 2021 and ended on 11th December 2022, and the data obtained from the intervention indicates a significant success as represented below:



40 Lawyers were assigned across the **32 police divisions** where PWAN had access in the **3 state commands.**

6,701 Suspects were detained across the police divisions where PWAN had access in the **3 state commands.**



2,290 Detainees received **legal service** across the police divisions where PWAN had access in the **3 state commands**

2,135 Detainees were released on intervention by PDSS pro-bono lawyers across the police divisions where PWAN had access in the **3 state commands**



The project has also strengthened the capacity of stakeholders through training. A one-day intensive training for lawyers, prosecutors, and investigators in the FCT, Kano, and Jigawa States on the Police Duty Solicitor Scheme in line with the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), ACJA/L and supported by the Force Order No. 20 of the Nigeria Police Force, was organized on March 1, 2022. The training had 112 participants comprising 36 duty solicitors, 3 supervisors, investigators, and prosecutors from the selected police divisions in the respective states on the objectives of the activity and the provisions of the ACJL. Out of this number, 36 were female and 76 were male. Between April and August 2022 in the 3 states of intervention, access to legal services was provided to 3793 detainees.

This intervention led to the release of a victim who was arrested and detained under unlawful circumstances. The first case was that of a woman who was arrested in the stead of her husband, who was accused of a criminal offense when the police could not arrest her husband. Through the intervention of PWAN'S PDSS lawyer, the woman regained her freedom, she narrated her traumatic experience and detention thus,



The police officers pushed me into the reeking cell, and I was welcomed by the unpleasant smell of faeces and urine, and a swarm of mosquitoes waiting to make a feast of me. Suddenly, my two-year-old son whom I even forgot was on my back started screaming! He was probably scared of the darkness of the cell. The cell was where I spent the longest and most terrifying night of my life! Many thanks to the PWAN's PDSS lawyer that saved my life.

A victim's testimony (Her identity was deliberately omitted)

The second case is that of a 50 years old deaf mechanic known as Kurma who was involved in an accident in which he lost three of his fingers as a result of the reckless actions of a client, and when the matter was reported to the police station for legal action and possible compensation, the police could not prosecute the case because of his inability to speak so they attempted to dismiss the case until PWAN'S PDSS lawyers intervened and pushed for reopening of the case. They found a way around the communication gap and the man's case was heard and handled professionally by the police leading to an amicable settlement.

The second case highlights the challenges many people with disability faced in Nigeria in seeking justice, their cases are often treated with neglect by the police or authorities in charge, but with PWAN'S intervention through the PDSS, hope is returning as people with disability can now get adequate legal representation for their issues. The success also indicates that PWAN'S PDSS is paying off and can contribute a lot to changing the old narratives.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE NETWORKS IN BORNO AND ADAMAWA

FUNDER: Africa Transitional Justice Legacy Fund (ATJLF)

The Boko Haram insurgency in the Northeast has created many challenges that continue to threaten the life and livelihood of the people. Chief among the negative impacts of the violent insurgency is the proliferation of atrocious crimes and human rights violations with huge consequences for the justice system which requires concerted efforts of stakeholders to address. And as relative peace and stability return to parts of the region, adjusting to normal life after the disruptions caused by the war has proven to be a herculean task thus it became expedient to innovate new approaches to managing the transition from a crisis era to a post-crisis life. And one of the challenges observed by PWAN was access to justice, especially by vulnerable groups in society hence PWAN intervened through its “Engaging Security, Justice Actors, and Civil Society in Transitional Justice Mechanism in Northeast Nigeria” project. Since governments efforts alone are not sufficient to manage the various challenges, PWAN created the Criminal Justice Network Platform in Borno and Adamawa States aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. **Improve the technical capacity of justice sector actors towards effective investigation/prosecution of atrocious crimes.**
2. **Increase the resiliency of local communities in the Borno and Adamawa States.**
3. **Improve engagement between criminal justice actors and the state-level, and community stakeholders in Borno and Adamawa States.**

In the wake of PWAN’s meeting and training of justice actors, law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and CSOs, there was a call for vigilante members to be trained in human rights promotion. Now, the situation is different. Even if a terrorist is arrested, he is not manhandled by our members because they have been taught that every human has rights. Therefore, when we make arrests, we transfer such persons to the appropriate law enforcement agency. We do not detain suspects anymore. In many instances, we have provided meals and water for them after arrests.

This critical intervention brought together stakeholders from the various spectrum of society who worked together to reform the justice system. This action has led to commendable responses that are yielding positive results in the communities. Testimonies from some of the stakeholders indicate an improvement in access to justice, for example,

Mallam Adamu Abdullahi who is the Commander of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN), a local community security group explains that VGN was dreaded because of the highhandedness of its personnel and their incessant violation of the rights of others. Mallam Abdullahi attributed their tough behaviors to the deadly attacks they faced from the insurgents but the intervention and training of his men led to a change in their dispositions. In his own words, Mallam Abdullahi spoke on the impact of the intervention thus,

Mallam Abdullahi’s testimony affirms the change in behavior of his men and their operations which is a result of PWAN’s intervention. This has also led to the adoption of the value of promoting human rights and the abandonment of the violation of human rights by the VGN. His expression of



gratitude illustrates the awareness and change caused by PWAN's efforts, "It has been a journey, but we are grateful for the opportunity to be trained and also to partner directly with multisectoral stakeholders."

Access to justice has also increased significantly as a result of the intervention, according to Mr. John Gadzama, the Adamawa State Secretary of Internally Displaced Persons, the training organized by PWAN allowed them to share their problems and receive legal assistance. Mr. Gadzama narrated how a landowner who had sold land to members of his group turned around to say that he was no longer selling the land. This turned into a problem when the land seller refused to refund to the buyers the full payment that they had made for the land, and knowing that the buyers were a vulnerable group affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, the seller wanted to take advantage of them until PWAN's intervention changed everything. Mr. Gadzama expressed his gratitude to PWAN thus "I am thankful that the process of getting back our money is now ongoing, and this has rekindled our hope. We have the assurance that there is light at the end of the tunnel and that our money will be refunded." The intervention has also strengthened stakeholder collaboration working for the acceleration of a smooth transition to normal life in their communities.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE SECURITY OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

FUNDER: UN Women

The Boko Haram insurgency in the North East has occasioned enormous security challenges that have left the people of the region devastated and in need of special intervention to help ameliorate the negative impact of terrorism. Women and children and other vulnerable groups are often the worst victims of this needless war. Also, issues of sexual gender-based violence were rampant in conflict communities. It was therefore pertinent to institute measures that will not only contain the impact of the conflict but that will also serve as a protective cover against future conflict situations and would involve women who are often the victims of SGBV. It is this dire situation that provided the basis for gender-specific responsive security operations and community dialogue intervention. For any society or community to thrive, peace must be the driving force and sturdy peace can only be attained through dialogue. The Gender Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue executed in Borno and Yobe States by PWAN have led to significant outcomes.

The project aimed to increase the full participation and representation of women in peace and security in their communities, create safe spaces for women to voice out their security concerns, and contribute to decision-making on the security and protection of women and girls in the targeted communities. The project was implemented in the following local government areas of the states: MMC, Jere, Damaturu, and Gujba. The project recorded the following outcomes:



These results were as a result of the following outputs:

- **Regular community security platform meetings held.**
- **Mixed Observer Teams (MOT) constituted and functional/active.**
- **Women in MOT trained in security awareness, civil-military cooperation, early warning, etc.**



The project developed the capacity of 40 executive members of the MOT for the 4 LGAs in Borno and Yobe States, in reporting template, SGBV referral form, work plan, survivor consent form, and documentation. This engagement has led to positive feedback indicating the overall anticipated impact of the project, for example, in Damaturu the MOT highlighted some positive trajectories in their work such as being able to carry out successful mediation and resolution of conflicts among community members, seeing an increase in the number of reported SGBV cases in Gujba, which before the formation was abysmally low, only about 5 cases were reported per month. However, as a result of the activities carried out by MOT, about 10 cases of SGBV are now reported to the police monthly. These successes were achievable because they built cordial relationships with key stakeholders in the communities and trust with members of the community. They also developed work plans to guide their activities for a period of 6 months. A WhatsApp group was created for all MOT members for ease of communication.

Involvement of government partners in some of the activities, specifically the CSP meetings. This is quite innovative because they are oversight agencies, but they made referrals of women who had SGBV concerns.

Because of the strategic importance of the project in strengthening the capacity of women to undertake the aforementioned responsibility we established a Women's Security Concerns Committee as a sub-committee within the CSP to provide a safe space for the women to share experiences and discuss security concerns and protection issues. Equally, the involvement of security agencies, specifically the Gender Advisor from the Nigerian Army at the Federal Level and Desk Officers as part of the training to concretize the efforts towards the realization of the desired results. PWAN also developed a training manual to manual which was shared with the women-led organizations to further guide their engagements with SSI and aid step-down training for their organizations and partners.

The overall objective of the project sought to promote meaningful engagement and collaboration between affected women, women's organizations, and security sector institutions and personnel. This contributed to the implementation of Nigeria's 2nd National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 which aims at gender mainstreaming in decision-making and actions relating to peace and security and in all sectors. Thus, the established Community Safety Partnership forums continued to run a platform for community women to be involved in peace and security by mainstreaming gender in its leadership composition and leading discussions on women's security needs within the communities.

STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Fatsuma is a mother to a three-year-old girl who was raped in her neighborhood in Yobe State. When she came in contact with the Mixed Observer Teams during one of their community awareness programs, she reported the incident to them. The case was reported to the police where it was referred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and prosecuted in court. The perpetrator has since been imprisoned.

Binta, a young girl between the ages of 20-25 years is one of the numerous wives of a trader. On one occasion, she had a heated argument with her co-wife, and it result in a fight that left Binta with a head injury, her co-wife had smashed her on the head with an object. The incident was reported to PWAN's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) group which immediately took her into custody and reported the matter to the police. After questioning her, the CSP took her to the hospital where she was treated. The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)'s representative who is a member of the CSP followed up on the case and the co-wife was arrested and asked to pay a fine. The CSP supported Binta with some cash and household items to enable her and her children to live separately from her co-wife.

It is because of circumstances like the ones highlighted above that inspired PWAN's establishment of community engagement structures for the protection and response to gender-based violence against women. Often, society ignores

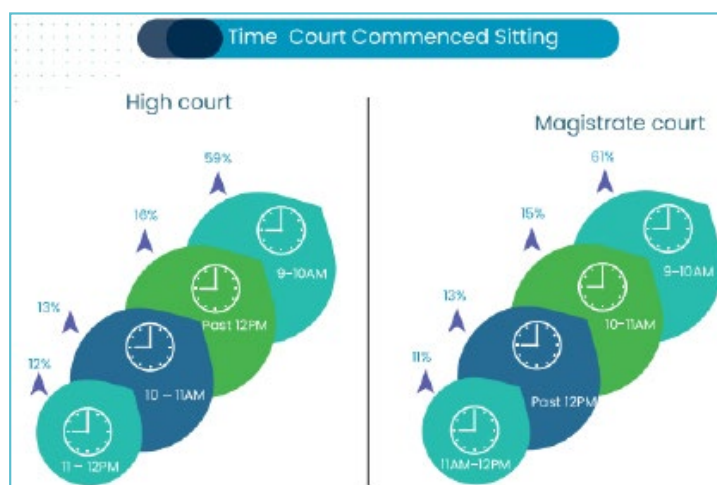
the endemic nature of gender-based violence that women, especially those in rural areas endure daily. The CSP and MOT structures which were established in 2021 by PWAN have been actively sustained by the communities where they were set up. These structures were established under the Security Sector Reform project and so far, it has contributed to the achievement of PWAN’s strategic objectives of “improving collaboration between non-state, state actors and citizens” and “increased participation of youth/ women/ vulnerable groups in security and governance dialogues”. To document the key successes and impacts of the project, PWAN produced a documentary titled – “A United Front: Dealing with Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Other Security Concerns of Women and Girls in Northern Nigeria” which is available on our YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YwCbhqt8_4. Next year, PWAN intends to expand the MOT model to other parts of northern Nigeria.

REFORMING PRETRIAL DETENTION IN KUJE PRISON (REFORM KUJE)

FUNDER: US Department of State Bureau International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Concerned about the challenges associated with the nebulous nature of pretrial detention in Nigeria which often affects the rights of citizens’ access to justice promptly. PWAN as part of a consortium through the “Reforming Pre-Trial-Detention in Nigeria Project” funded by the US Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs successfully installed three (3) Q-Soft Denovo technological solutions in a high court in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and 2 magistrate courts at the magistrate complex in Wuse Zone 2.

This innovation has ushered in an era of seamless administration of criminal justice in the FCT. In addition to the installation of the technological solutions, the staff of the courts was trained on how to use the new technology thereby bringing an end to the project in March 2022. The Court Observer App has enabled the analysis of data from the court to observe the operational pattern of the courts’ processes. The result of the findings is represented in the infographics below:

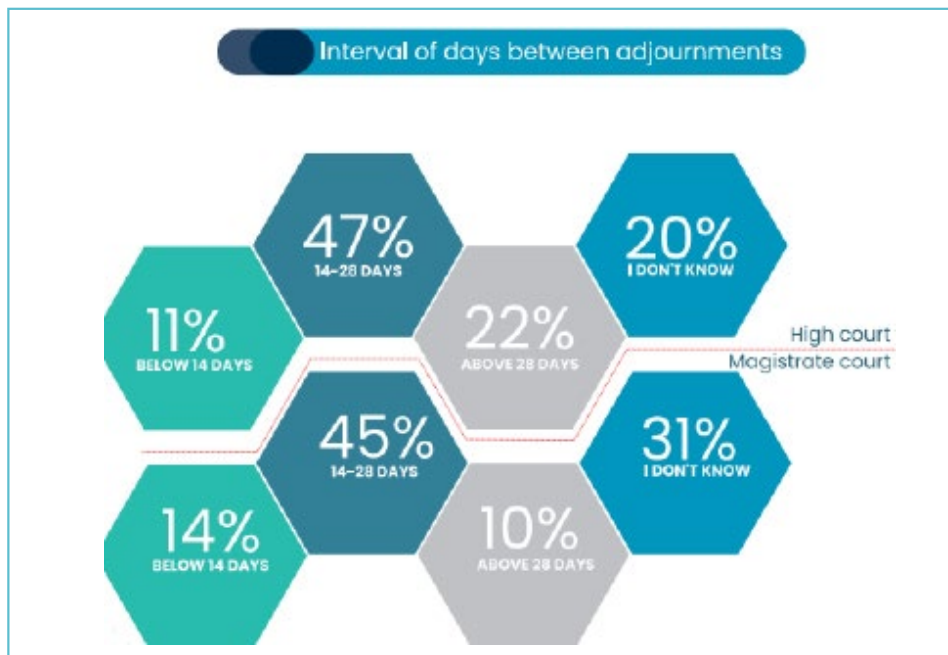
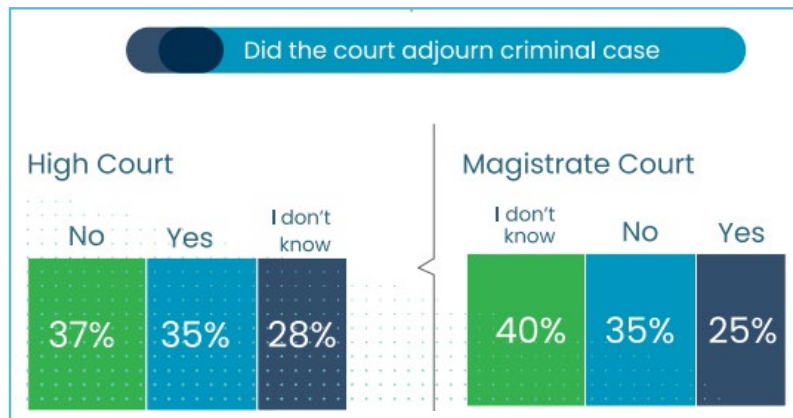




The analysis revealed that the timing of the High courts' sitting was fairly consistent as 59% of high courts under observation commenced sitting between 9 am- 11 am, 12% of the high courts commenced sitting between 11 am – 12 noon and only 13% commenced around past noon. At the Magistrate courts, 61% commenced sitting between 9 - 11 am, 11% commenced between 11 – 12 pm and only 13% commenced sitting beyond noon. This is indeed commendable, but there is still room for improvement.

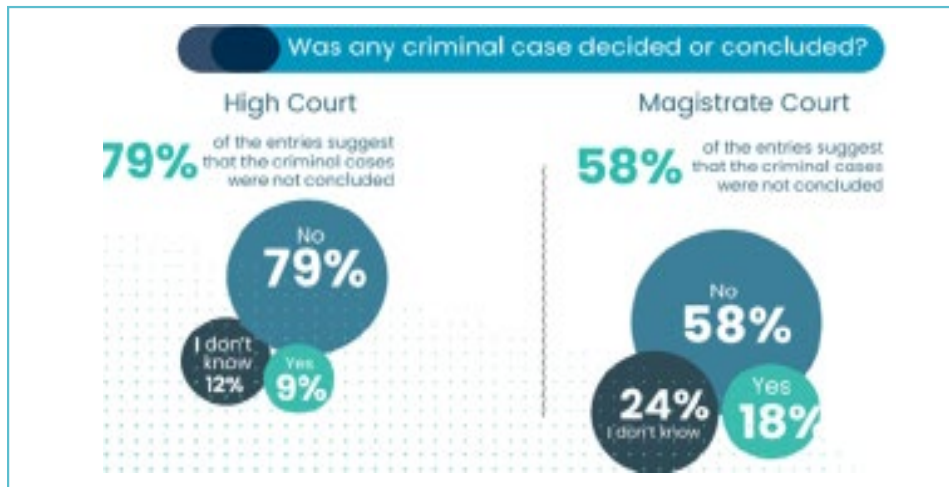
With regards to adjournment of cases, the data revealed that criminal cases were adjourned at the high court 35% of the time under investigation while 25% of the same were adjourned at the magistrate courts during the period of review.

The data also showed that over half the times, cases were adjourned in less than 28 days both at the magistrate and at the high courts. The infographics below represent the findings of the review

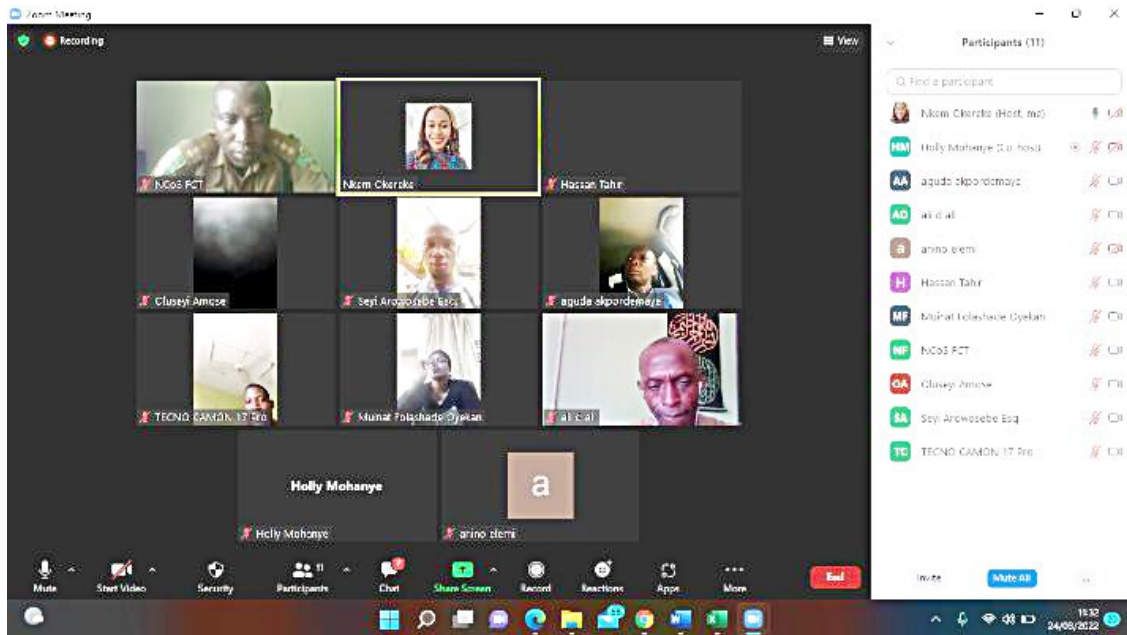




With regards to decided cases, 79% of the entries responded that cases were not decided at the High Court while 58% responded that criminal cases were also not decided at the magistrate court. For the period under review, more criminal cases were decided at the magistrate courts.



The foregoing analysis was possible because of the introduction of technology into the courts by PWAN which enabled the collation and analysis of data that could influence future intervention programming.



A cross-section of participants at both the physical and virtual inter-agency meeting which was held on the 24th of February 2022 and 24th March 2022 respectively.

The significance of this innovation is instructive, it is illustrative of the long-awaited call for the digitization of the Nigerian justice system processes to fast-track justice administration in the country. The success of this project is therefore an indication that the entire governance system in the country stands to benefit more if the deployment of technological solutions is encouraged across the board. The testimonies of the direct beneficiaries as relayed below amplifies the imperative of this innovation.



Magistrate Nweke Chukwuemeka is the Magistrate in charge of Court 5, Wuse Zone 2 Abuja, her court was one of the beneficiaries of the project. She recounts how she used to have a tedious schedule and difficulty in managing her work efficiently because of the nebulous processes and hours it required for things to be done, however, with the intervention of PWAN's project and installation of the technological solutions, her work has become easier and faster as she can now handle several cases in one sitting.

I stopped sitting on Thursdays so that I could grant the registry access to the record books on that day and write my rulings and judgments subsequently. But ever since the Q-soft Denovo recording system was installed in my court by Partners West Africa, it has significantly simplified my work, because the registry now produces the records seamlessly. In addition, lawyers have behaved better because sometimes people would say certain things happened in court which are not true, but now whatever has transpired, the Court has a real-time record of it. If it is the judiciary that has not done its job properly, the record would show too. I now take more cases per day since I don't have to write everything manually. Before, I used to have an average of about 7 cases in a day, but now I could have up to 14 or 15 because the recording of the proceedings has become a lot easy.

Magistrate Nweke Chukwuemeka, Magistrate of Court 5, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja.

Similarly, Magistrate Folashade (no surname) who is in charge of the Magistrate Court 2, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja, who is also a beneficiary of the PWAN's intervention expressed satisfaction and elation over the great relief that the introduction of the technological innovation has brought to her work experience. While highlighting the importance and purposefulness of the technological solutions and the change that it has brought to her work life, she narrated how she has suffered from medical conditions like Cervical Spondylosis due to long years of using longhand to write. She said that the innovation has led to an increase in productivity and a reduction in the amount of stress she goes through while doing her job.

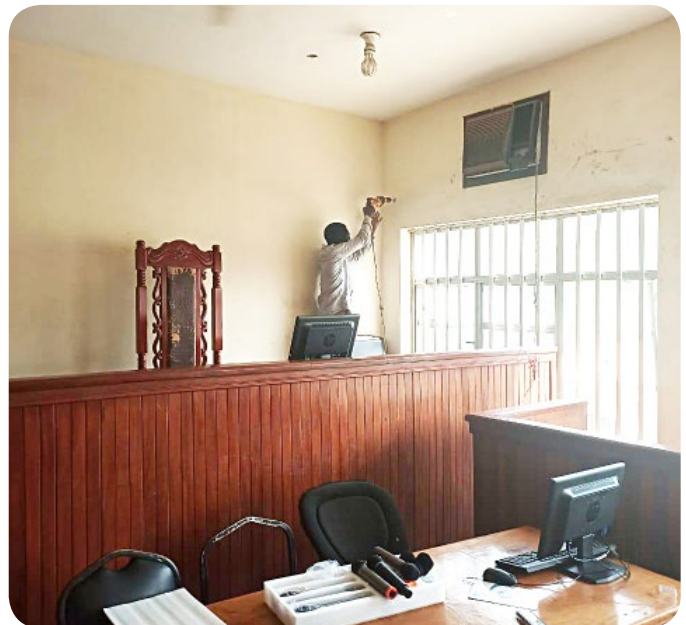
The Q-Soft Denovo technological solution has been wonderful because before now what we did was to use longhand like everybody knows. There were a lot of medical issues associated with that practice, for example, I have been writing in longhand for over eighteen (18) years and I have experienced a lot of medical issues like Cervical Spondylosis. But with the Q-soft Denovo recording system, I have stopped using longhand for the recording of cross-examination and examination questions, we now use the Q-soft Denovo technological solution has made the recording of our proceedings extremely seamless.

Magistrate Folashade, Magistrate of Court 2, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja

Some of the challenges that confront this remarkable innovation include inexperienced staff who are not computer literate and might find it challenging to manage the recording and transmission of records of proceedings. Another major challenge is the lack of stable power supply which will affect the functionality of the systems. Thus, to manage this challenge, PWAN with the support of INL installed an inverter at the FCT High Court to ensure that constant power supply to power the systems for smooth operation. The installation of the inverter has led to constant power supply which has led to an increase in productivity as the Judge and Magistrate of the beneficiary courts have noted that this has enabled them to sit for longer hours and are now able to handle more cases.

PWAN also integrated pro bono lawyers into the Police Duty Solicitors (PDSS) and assigned lawyers to 10 police stations. The lawyers who are mostly serving corps members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) are trained to offer legal services to detainees and users of the police stations, they also ensure that the police officers comply with the relevant provisions of the law.

PWAN also conducted data-driven advocacy (interagency meeting), the hybrid meeting included physical and virtual participation with key stakeholders. The meeting had a total of 13 persons in physical attendance (6 males and 7 females) and 8 people in virtual attendance. Present at the meeting were representatives from the following agencies: the Federal Ministry of Justice (FMOJ), the National Agency for the Protection and Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), The Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS), Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), FCT judiciary represented by one of the Chief Magistrates, and the Legal Assistant to the Chief Judge, Legal Aid Council, Earth Spring, Citizens Gavel, and NULAI.



These activities have resulted in a collaboration between PWAN and the ACJMC which has led to the training of PDSS. The Registrar of High Court 23, Jabi, has started producing transcripts of court proceedings. PWAN through the PDSS intervention has supported over 200 detainees in the police stations and secured bail for over 182 detainees.



FREE LEGAL SERVICES TO DETAINEES IN KANO STATE

Access to justice is both a basic human right and a means of implementing other human rights. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) access to justice is “the ability of people to seek and obtain a remedy through formal or informal institutions of justice, and in conformity with human rights standards.” However, because of various reasons including lack of education and awareness of fundamental human rights, many people in Nigeria have no access to justice. A society in which citizens have no access to justice and are subjected to reckless human rights abuses cannot attain its full potential the imperative of ensuring access to justice by ordinary citizens cannot be overemphasized.

The Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative also known as Partners West Africa Nigeria has been at the fore of addressing challenges relating to access to justice and the protection of the rights of citizens by providing free legal services to indigenes in communities and through other innovative programming grounded in human rights approaches and reforming justice institutions to make them effective, accountable and legally empowering to all.

Consequently, PWAN through the Greater Access to Defence and Justice Empowerment (GADJET) project established the Public Defender’s Office in Kano State in 2017 and its primary mission was to ensure access to justice for all in Kano State by providing free legal assistance (Pro bono) to indigent communities and serving the needy and disadvantaged. The project was concluded in 2021 and about 800 cases were successfully dispensed comprising both shariah, criminal, and civil cases. Although the project was targeted to benefit both men and women of all demographics, the project was strategic in improving access to justice for women.

PWAN successfully discharged about 68 cases between 2021 and 2022 comprising legal advice, mediation services, litigation, and referrals of both criminal and civil cases. These cases are identified through client walk-ins, referrals, custodial center visits, legal clinics during awareness programs, and PWAN hotline services. However, the services concluded in 2022 with inspiring successes. The story of one of the beneficiaries, Muhammad Abubakar of Sabon Gida Sharada in Kano State, illustrates the impact of the project.

Abubakar who is a father of three children and the breadwinner of his family was remanded in 2018 when he pleaded not guilty to a First Confirmation Report filed against him. He was first identified by PWAN at Kurmawa Correctional Centre in Kano State during a periodic visit to identify inmates who had stayed in the custodial center beyond the constitutional time allowed. PWAN took up his case and he was discharged on the 27th of July 2022 but not acquitted, after spending four years in incarceration without a formal charge. Abubakar expresses his happiness over his release and acknowledged the role that PWAN played in the process thus,

Similarly,

This organization helped me regain my freedom. I am a beneficiary of the good deeds of this organization. I thank God for using this organization to set me free. I was in prison when my dad passed away, he tried to get me out of jail but it never happened. But as



God will have it, this organization came and made it possible. Honestly, I have nothing to say to this organization than to thank God for allowing me to meet with this organization that has helped me get out of prison. May God continue to bless and increase them and whatever they desire may God grant them victory.

Mohammed Abubakar, a beneficiary of PWAN's Free Legal Services in Kano

Like Mohammed, in January 2017, Abubakar Umar is another beneficiary of PWAN's free legal service intervention in Kano. He was arrested while in his shop at Kawon Maigari in Kano State along with Hafsat Auwal, they were accused of the crime of kidnapping and conspiracy to commit kidnapping. It was for this reason that he was remanded in prison until PWAN's legal intervention came to his rescue. It was discovered during the trial that there was no evidence traced to him as having committed the crime that he had been accused of committing. Upon his release, Umar could not contain his elation as he was dumbfounded with joy, in an obvious show of gratitude he enthused,

I thank you so much, I do not have anything to pay you, but the Almighty Allah will pay you back for what you have done to me, through the years I spent in prison, I gave up not believing that one day I will be a free man again.

Mudassir Danliti is another victim and beneficiary of the PWAN's free legal intervention in Kano. He was incarcerated for five years until PWAN's project gave him another chance to live as a free man again. It is important to note that there are many people like these folks who are wallowing in detention because they cannot afford legal representation. It is through organizations like PWAN that many helpless victims like them find hope again. Even though Danliti had speaking and hearing challenges, it did not exonerate him from suffering from the anomalies of the justice system.

EXPANSION OF THE LEGAL CLINIC

Leveraging on the successes recorded by the free legal service in Kano, PWAN is now using other platforms to provide legal support. Legal clinics have been an effective way of providing legal services in communities. It is typically a program for providing services to various clients and often a way of acquiring hands-on legal experience for law school students. Through the various awareness programs conducted in various communities, PWAN has been able to use these avenues to work with lawyers and paralegals in communities in providing legal services such as client advice, litigation and referrals thereby gaining hands-on practical experience with Citizens in communities.

On the 4th and 11th of February, PWAN conducted awareness on election security through Volunteers from the Citizen Support Centre at Bichi and Ungogo local government. The awareness was leveraged as an opportunity to conduct legal clinics in the two communities after which members of communities were able to get free legal services to address their challenges.



PWAN is also using technology and digital innovative forms to provide legal services to indigenes. According to Data Reportal's 2021 report, there were about 187.9 million mobile connections in Nigeria i.e., about 187.9 million Nigerians have access to phones as of January 2021. This provides an opportunity for facilitating access to information and legal services in a way that is safe and accessible to citizens when physical services are not feasible or for cases requiring emergency response. PWAN through its free toll lines now provides legal services to clients and citizens in communities at no cost to the user. The organization has previously operated only costed-call lines and not Toll-free. This expansion will especially be beneficial in responding to SGBV cases or by school students or people in marginalized inaccessible communities.

KEY FINDINGS

The following are the findings uncovered as a result of PWAN's interventions:

- There is no platform for multisectoral justice planning and coordination in the states of intervention to address issues of speedy justice delivery, capacity building for key justice and security actors, and the conditions in which justice is delivered.
- The lack of comprehensive strategies and referral pathways to take advantage of multiple access points in the justice chain to promote access to justice.
- Inadequate engagement with informal justice systems, despite these forums being a significant source of dispute settlement (recognizing, however, that informal justice systems oftentimes lack effective dispute resolution skills).
- Inadequate interventions for inmates and detainees, in response to addressing gaps in delayed justice delivery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following were the recommendations made for overhauling the justice system so it becomes more accessible to citizens:

- There is a need to enhance the Legal Aid Scheme to meet the yearnings of Nigerians by widening the scope of its operations. It is important to increase the level and category of potential beneficiaries of the scheme, the subject matter coverage, and an aggressive public enlightenment exercise.
- There is a need for training, awareness creation, and education of justice and security sector personnel.
- There is a need to encourage procedural fairness and equal application of the law to all manner of people without discrimination including facilitating transparency in all judicial processes.
- Supporting legal service provision through entities such as paralegals and CSOs as the foundation of promoting access to justice.
- Strengthening of informal dispute resolution mechanisms and even more significantly, efforts should be made to increase awareness of and resort to other methods of alternative dispute resolution.
- Strengthening and promoting legal awareness to the citizens.

The implementation of these recommendations is pivotal and will lead to the entrenchment of the right justice system meets the needs of citizens irrespective of social or political class.



DEVELOPMENT OF MANUAL AND TRAINING OF SECURITY AGENCIES WITH A FOCUS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND OTHER VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS

PWAN continues to work in developing the capacity of security agencies with women, children, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups. In the 2021 annual report, PWAN highlighted the need to develop manuals and conduct training for security agencies with a focus on women, children, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups. In 2022, PWAN was able to achieve this by successfully developing these manuals and conducting training to improve the capacity of the stakeholders. PWAN developed a Human Rights and Law Enforcement Training Manual, which focused on the rights of women, children, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups. The manual is aimed at enhancing the capacity of security agencies to protect and respect the rights of these groups in the course of their operations.



PWAN also conducted several training sessions for security agencies on various topics, including conflict resolution, early warning and early response, community policing, human rights, and anticorruption. These trainings were designed to promote the inclusion and participation of women, children, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups in security-related activities. The list of activities and funders carried out in the year under review includes:

5/12/22

01

PWAN, with support from NED and in partnership with the Electoral Hub, commenced a **2-day training for security agencies** in Gombe and Kano States on the effective management of security and the integration of gender-sensitive protection measures in the 2023 general elections.

19/7/22

02

PWAN with support from Nigeria Northeast Connection commenced a **3-day capacity-building initiative** for organizations in Yobe state.



25/8/22

03

PWAN with support from the Macarthur Foundation conducted a **one-day training of the support staff of the judiciary** on the provisions of the Administration of the Criminal Justice Law (ACJL).

19/8/22

04

PWAN with support from Nigeria Northeast Connection conducted **one-on-one training/ mentoring, and coaching sessions** for five selected CSOs/CBOs in Yobe State.

3/8/22

05

PWAN with support from the Joint Civic Defense Fund organized a **2-Day Capacity Building training on Good Practices** to Promote Safe Work Environments.

21/2/22

06

PWAN commenced a **3-day Young Women Leadership and Mentorship Program**, which was the second phase of a training program supported by NED that began with a virtual component in December 2021.

1/10/22

07

PWAN conducted a **one-day training for court observers** deployed to several courts to monitor the implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Law in the FCT and Ondo State.

3/1/22

08

PWAN conducted a **one-day intensive training for lawyers, prosecutors, and investigators** in the FCT, Kano, and Jigawa States on the Police Duty Solicitor Scheme in line with the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), ACJA/L and supported by the Force order no. 20 of the Nigeria Police Force.

25/5/22

09

PWAN in partnership with North East Connection organized a **2-day capacity building event focused on early warning/early response and other relevant/emerging issues** around the gender-based concept.

22/6/22

10

PWAN commenced a **3-day training of Criminal Justice Actors** in Gombe State on the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) Gombe State 2020.

**1/9/22****11**

PWAN conducted a **one-day training of the support staff of the judiciary** on the provisions of the Administration of the Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) Plateau State 2018.

6/9/22**12**

PWAN conducted a **2-day capacity building training for justice and security sector actors** in Borno State towards the investigation and adjudication of Human Rights Violations and Mass Atrocities in the state.

20/9/22**13**

PWAN conducted a **2-day capacity building training for justice & security sector actors** in Adamawa State towards the investigation and adjudication of human rights violations & mass atrocities in the state.

18/10/22**14**

PWAN with support from MacArthur Foundation conducted a **two-day training of the staff of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF)** on the provisions of the Administration of the Criminal Justice Law (ACJL).

SCALING UP IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY IN NIGERIA

In 2022, PWAN scaled up its contribution to the implementation of women, peace, and security agenda in Nigeria, a journey that began in 2015 when the organization started its operations. However, PWAN deemed it fit to accelerate the implementation of this agenda in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic worsened the impact of social, economic, and cultural inequalities that women in Nigeria face. PWAN, through its citizens' security program area, developed a WPS profile in alignment with the strategic objectives. Furthermore, these activities align with the five (5) pillars of the second NAP, namely (1) Prevention and Disaster Preparedness, (2) Participation & Representation, (3) Protection & Prosecution, (4) Crisis Management, Early Recovery, and Post Conflict Reconstruction, and (5) Partnership, Coordination and Management.

However, in 2022, PWAN focused on enhancing the third pillar – “Protection and Prosecution”. PWAN looked at the security and protection of women at the community level and increased prosecution of cases involving violence against women. Women at the grassroots are often undermined because of their limited participation in governance and peacebuilding. Quotas set aside for women were not sufficient to guarantee their representation due to negative cultural beliefs. Therefore, PWAN provided safe spaces for women by expanding tested and proven community structures and approaches in the Northwest. This also enabled entry into new locations for the organization.

BEYOND VOTING: IMPROVING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

FUNDER: The National Endowment for Democracy

In continuation of its National Endowment for Democracy (NED)-supported intervention and in line with its strategic objective of “Increasing participation of youth, women and other vulnerable groups in security and governance dialogues”, PWAN carried out activities to strengthen young women’s participation in politics and shape government policies. The activities were aimed at improving accountability in the political process toward the 2023 general elections, and to achieve these objectives, PWAN carried out several capacity-building programs for women, particularly young women who are interested in pursuing political careers and women leaders of political parties in Nigeria. The



engagement model applied for party women leaders originated from the poor representation of women in political party leadership despite their numbers in the membership list. PWAN reached 12 women leaders from various political parties at the national and state levels, and 30 young women and 5 mentors benefitted from the mentorship program.

In a bid to improve accountability in the political process, PWAN strengthened the capacity of security agencies for election security management in the 2023 general elections. Firstly, PWAN conducted a gender-based pre-2023 election security threat assessment highlighting

the factors affecting the safety of women in the pre-election season. To enhance the protection of women from physical violence – a major highlight of the assessment, PWAN developed a training manual on election security management including strategies for the protection of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups. Officers of the Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Immigrations Service, Nigerian Correctional Services, Federal Road Safety Corps, Federal Fire Service, National Drug and Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Police Service Commission, and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) participated in the training. A total of 108 officers benefitted from the training which took place in the FCT, Kano, and Gombe States.

STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS

As a result of the leadership and mentorship program for young women organized by PWAN, many of the participants found the motivation to go into politics. The program was organized as a boot camp to train young women and strengthen their capacities for active political participation. Some of the participants share their testimonies on the impact of the program on their political careers below:

Faith Omoregbe, is an active volunteer, entrepreneur, agriculturist, grassroots mobilizer, and politician. In 2015, she began to develop a strong interest in politics based on the need to change the social narrative that politics is a “dirty game” and not meant for women. She was however clueless about the political landscape and how to engage with the system so she began to groom herself by investing in capacity-building programs. In furtherance of this, she applied for the



PWAN’s political leadership and mentorship program for young women and was accepted into the program. According to Omorege, one of the key lessons she took away from the program was the need for active participation in the process to gain recognition which has helped her to improve her political engagements and navigate the scene. In applying the knowledge gained from the program also, she began to create awareness for other young women in her community and has helped some of them to join political parties. Her activities over time gained the needed recognition and as a result, more responsibilities were assigned to her by her party. For example, in recognition of her hard work and dedication, her party’s gubernatorial candidate won his election bid in Edo State in June 2022 and appointed her as one of his Special Assistants.

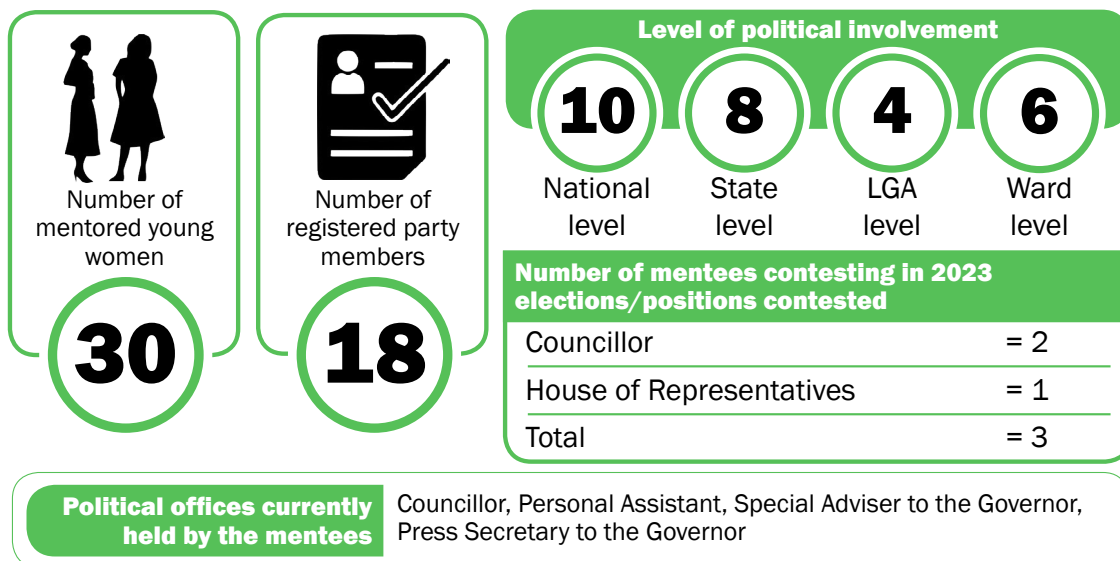
Ifedolapo (No Surname) is an entrepreneur who has been actively involved in politics since her days as a student unionist at the university. Her involvement in student unionism soon developed into a full-blown desire to become an active participant in politics, she began to engage in mainstream politics but suffered constant berating by her contemporaries because of her inadequate skills, but she was determined to overcome this challenge. So, when she came across the training and mentorship opportunity by PWAN, she applied and got selected to participate in the program. She reflects on the impact that the program has had on her thus,

Consequently, she was nominated by the former First Lady of Ekiti State, Erelu Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi as a member of the Campaign Committee on Youth and Students, for the Governorship bid of her husband in 2022. Her responsibilities included mobilizing female youths, students, and women for the elections. Her modest efforts contributed to her party’s flag bearer’s victory. She is currently the Organizing Secretary of the PROGRESSIVE SISTERS’ NETWORK, Ekiti State chapter. She has contributed immensely to the development of her community by attracting social amenities and empowering young women.

The boot camp was organized using a hybrid method, it accommodated virtual and physical training sessions. The virtual training had over 100 young women participants; they were engaged in an essay competition through which 30 young women were selected for the second cohort that took part in the physical training. A total of 51 essays were received and reviewed by the team before the best essays were selected. Afterward, the young women were paired with five seasoned female politicians who mentored them for a period of 6-months.

Through the leadership and mentorship program, some of the young women developed an interest in politics and took the first step of joining political parties.

The table below shows some of the key successes recorded.





ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRUCTURES FOR THE PROTECTION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Fatsuma is a mother to a three-year-old girl who was raped in her neighborhood in Yobe State. When she came in contact with the Mixed Observer Teams during one of their community awareness programs, she reported the incident to them. The case was reported to the police where it was referred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and prosecuted in court. The perpetrator has since been imprisoned.

Binta, a young girl between the ages of 20-25 years is one of the numerous wives of a trader. On one occasion, she had a heated argument with her co-wife, and it result in a fight that left Binta with a head injury, her co-wife had smashed her on the head with an object. The incident was reported to PWAN's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) group which immediately took her into custody and reported the matter to the police. After questioning her, the CSP took her to the hospital where she was treated. The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)'s representative who is a member of the CSP followed up on the case and the co-wife was arrested and asked to pay a fine. The CSP supported Binta with some cash and household items to enable her and her children to live separately from her co-wife.

It is because of circumstances like the ones highlighted above that inspired PWAN's establishment of community engagement structures for the protection and response to gender-based violence against women. Often, society ignores the endemic nature of gender-based violence that women, especially those in rural areas endure daily. The CSP and MOT structures which were established in 2021 by PWAN have been actively sustained by the communities where they were set up. These structures were established under the Security Sector Reform project and so far, it has contributed to the achievement of PWAN's strategic objectives of "improving collaboration between non-state, state actors and citizens" and "increased participation of youth/ women/ vulnerable groups in security and governance dialogues". To document the key successes and impacts of the project, PWAN produced a documentary titled – "A United Front: Dealing with Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Other Security Concerns of Women and Girls in Northern Nigeria" which is available on our YouTube channel https://youtu.be/5YwCbhqt8_4 . Next year, PWAN intends to expand the MOT model to other parts of northern Nigeria.

ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTOR

FUNDER: MacArthur Foundation

The Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative also known as Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), having previously implemented the “Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in the Judicial Sector” project, commenced the implementation of the “Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in the Criminal Justice Sector” project in 2022 as part of the MacArthur Foundation’s “On Nigeria 2.0 Project”. The intervention leveraged the gains of the first project, while also continuing with the implementation of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Law (ACJA/L) in several states of Nigeria, and supporting the anti-corruption efforts of the Government of Nigeria (GoN). Under this project, PWAN has conducted several activities some of which were commenced in 2021 with noticeable results that are contributing to the many changes that are happening in the justice system in Nigeria. These activities include:



PWAN undertook the review of the draft ACJL of Niger State where it conducted a clause-by-clause review of the draft ACJL from the 29th of November 2021 to the 4th of December 2021. Stakeholders from the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Nigerian Police Force, Niger State House of Assembly, Nigerian Bar Association, Nigerian Correctional Services, and International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) participated in the review. The review took into consideration the peculiarities of the state while carefully highlighting the implications of the law for the state. The review had a total of 31 participants involved 12 females and 19 males. The review led to the production of a draft law which was also submitted to the State House of Assembly for passage and consent by the Executive

Governor of the state.

PWAN conducted court observation to monitor the implementation of the ACJ Act/Law in the Federal Capital Territory and Ondo State. The Chief Judges of Ondo State and Federal Capital Territory, Honourable Justice Williams Akintroye and Honourable Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf gave approvals for the commencement of the court observation. This activity has produced reports that provide insights into the nature of court proceedings and issues that can guide the policy direction of the justice system. PWAN also conducted a one-day training of 23 court observers and 2 supervisors comprising 9 males and 14 females in the FCT and Ondo States on the 10th of February 2022. The training was delivered through a hybrid approach with the observers from Ondo State joining virtually. The observers were subsequently assigned to their various courts.

Review of the Penal Code and Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Bauchi State. PWAN conducted a stakeholder review of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) of Bauchi State 2018 and the Penal Code Law of Bauchi

State 1960, from the 11th - 14th of April 2022 with relevant stakeholders from Bauchi State including representatives from the High Court, Ministry of Justice, Magistracy, Registry, Members of the Bauchi State House of Assembly, and representatives of the Federal Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC). This activity resulted in the drafting of a revised ACJL and Penal Code Law, which has been submitted to the State House of Assembly for passage and assent by the Governor.

PWAN inaugurated the Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC) in Gombe



State on the 20th of June 2022, with committee members drawn from the agencies as specified in the ACJL. A total of 40 participants were present, 16 females and 24 males. This preceded an inaugural meeting held on the 21st of June 2022 where the committee was trained on the objectives of the law and their roles and responsibilities by the law. In furtherance of this, the committee developed a 3-year action plan to effectively conduct their oversight functions in the state. A total of 17 participants were in attendance comprising 11 males and 6 females.

This activity led to the establishment of the ACJMC in Gombe State and the development of a 3-year action plan for implementation by the committee.

On 24th June 2022 PWAN carried out public sensitization of citizens on the provisions of the ACJL in Gombe State using the media. PWAN was invited by Amana FM 98.1 to come and educate the people about the AGJL. The sensitization was done in the Hausa language because the majority of the listeners understand the language. The listeners were enlightened about their rights by the provisions of the law and were also informed about how to properly register their complaints or grievances against any of the practitioners of the law. A total of 9 listeners (8 males and 1 female) from Adamawa,



Bauchi, and Gombe States called in during the program where they made comments and sought clarifications on the issues discussed. Amana FM has over 3 million listeners across Gombe, Adamawa, Borno, Taraba, and Bauchi States, therefore, the sensitization reached a wide range of listeners across the states.

Similarly, an in-person awareness campaign on the provisions of the ACJL in Gombe State was organized by PWAN on the 19th of July 2022 and it provided the opportunity for communities from across the state to be sensitized on the provisions of the law, especially as it concerns their rights by the law. At least 200 participants including women, men, and youth were informed about



their rights regarding arrest, bail, search, detention time limits, women as sureties, and the abolition of arrest in lieu. On completion of the intervention, PWAN was given a free onehour radio slot to sensitize members of the public on the provisions of the law by Jewel FM in Gombe State.

In Bauchi, PWAN conducted a 1-day intensive training of trainers for the support staff of the judiciary on the provisions of the ACJL, civil procedure laws, and other complimentary laws in Bauchi States on the 25th of August 2022. The training had in attendance 32 participants, 15 females and 17 males comprising court registrars, commissioners of oath, court clerks, bailiffs, court secretaries, and other administrative staff of the court. The training was aimed at building their capacity to effectively conduct their roles and responsibilities under the law and to promote the implementation of the provisions of the ACJL in the state, especially about proper case management to ensure speedy dispensation of justice. The training focused on the roles and responsibilities of the support staff, the effects/consequences of the failure of the staff in performing their duties, and case management. The use of practical tools such as illustrations and case scenarios were employed to buttress submissions and to keep participants engaged. The training increased the capacity of 60 support staff in the state on the provisions of the ACJL and their roles and responsibilities under the law and other complementary laws.

Capacity building for criminal justice actors on the provisions of the ACJL of Gombe state PWAN conducted a 3-day training of criminal justice actors in the state on the provisions of the ACJL from the 22nd - 24th of June 2022. The training focused on the roles and responsibilities of the practitioners by their designations to improve their knowledge of the provisions and efficient implementation of the law. The training had in attendance 107 participants, 47 females and 60 males from various criminal justice institutions and agencies.

SUPPORT TO EXISTING AND NEW EARLY WARNING DETECTION SYSTEMS (EWER)

SUPPORTED BY: NORTHEAST CONNECTION

The conflict in Northeast Nigeria has affected over 7.1 million people. Particularly in Borno State, the conflict has resulted in killings, displacement, insecurity, violation of international human rights, and violence against the marginalized population. Activities of the Boko Haram Sect and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) have continued to aggravate the insecurity in the region. The United Nations described an attack by ISWAP on rice farmers in Jere, Borno State, as the most violent direct attack against civilians in 2020. To mitigate the violent conflict in the state, non-state and state actors have deployed varied interventions to help vulnerable communities that have been affected by this conflict through strengthening community resilience, and safety and empowering youth that could have been potential recruits (particularly as foot soldiers, informants) for Boko Haram and ISWAP. One of the most relevant efforts in this direction is the establishment of Early Warning/Early Response (EW/ER) mechanisms.

Thus, PWAN supported early warning early response detection systems in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Jere, and Biu LGAs of Borno State, through capacity building on Early Warning Early Response detection mechanisms, peace, communication and leadership skills, and gender concept. PWAN also provided technical support for the platform to hold monthly meetings and provided Information, Education and Communication (IEC), and Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) materials supported by Northeast Connection, from February 1st – August 31st 2022. The broad objectives of project include:



1. Establish EW/ER platforms in communities where they do not exist and strengthen and enhance capacity of 18 existing EWER platforms across project communities.

2. Enhance knowledge of communities, local government officials and security actors to respond to EW/ ER signs of violence.

3. Increase collaboration between CSOs, CBOS, communities, local government authorities, and security actors to implement EW/ER mechanisms in MMC, Biu and Jere LGAs.



This intervention has strengthened and enhanced the capacities of 18 existing EWER platforms in 18 communities in MMC, Jere and Biu LGAs. It has also improved the knowledge of the communities, local government officials, and security actors to respond to EWER signs of violence. PWAN provided 6,270 IEC materials, and EWER materials including 42 security whistles, 42 hand cranked solar flashlights, 42 automatic large umbrellas, 42 raincoats and 42 rubber boots in each target LGAs.



INNOVATIONS

It is known that offenders of the law are sent to correctional centres to be detained and sometimes rehabilitated. In Nigeria, most of the correctional centres available are overcrowded with inmates. Some of these inmates are in for smaller crimes and need a fine to be set free while some cannot afford legal fees.

Being overcrowded, the correctional centres in Nigeria need to be decongested. However, due to the economic hardship in Nigeria currently, not everyone has the money to pay these fines and legal fees, and as a result, they are detained longer than they should be.

It is for this reason PWAN came up with the Waste for Justice (W4J) and Yard sale Initiatives.

WASTE FOR JUSTICE (W4J)

There are wastes everywhere and PWAN in the promotion of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) and the Nigeria Correctional Service Act on reformation and rehabilitation of offenders, collaborated with Chanja Datti to create W4J.

W4J is an initiative that seeks to collect, sort, and recycle waste, eventually converting them to cash. Not only does the cash raised go into paying the fines and legal fees of inmates, thereby setting some inmates free and decongesting correctional centres, it also makes the environment eco-friendly. It's a win-win initiative.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT TALK SHOW

The “**Women Empowerment Talk Show**” is a weekly television program that airs every Friday on PWAN’s Facebook Page and Akweya TV. It is the first TV show to be conceived, produced, and hosted by a non-governmental organization in Nigeria. The show focuses on gender equality, women and girls’ independence, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), women and girls’ empowerment, and related topics.

The show, which has aired more than 80 episodes since it began, has raised public awareness about gender inequality issues, encouraged girls’ and women’s independence, and informed women about their rights and other opportunities for participation in governance, peacekeeping, and security efforts, among other things.

The show has grown in popularity over the year as more women and girls actively participate in community and societal governance issues. From home to international institutions, more men have been encouraged to support women.

The show has featured guests from a variety of industries including the late Barrister Esther Uzoma, Mrs. Ene Ede, Ms. Cynthia Mbamalu, Ms. Osia Ojigbo, Mr. Peter Mancha, and several other distinguished personalities.



WAY FORWARD

PWAN will continue to explore opportunities to expand and deepen our interventions in the criminal justice sector. We plan to achieve this by continuing our engagement in the sector with the aim of making it more transparent and responsive to women, children, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups.

We shall prioritize the security and safety of women during the 2023 general elections by providing empirical data to support election security management and citizens' awareness and sensitization campaigns.

In the coming year, we look forward to expanding our work into the humanitarian assistance sector with a particular focus on our core areas of strength which are: partnership, participation, and protection.

Lastly, as an organization that strives to remain successful and relevant, we will continue to improve and adapt to changing circumstances by strengthening our learning environment for continuous improvement by encouraging active learning and participation for both staff and partners.



GALLERY





GALLERY





FIVE-YEARS FINANCIAL SUMMARY NON-IFRS STATEMENT

| | 31-12-2022 N | 31-12-2021 N | 31-12-2020 N | 31-12-2019 N | 31-12-2018 N |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Financial Position | | | | | |
| Non-Current Assets | 116,998,339 | 18,168,889 | 19,143,846 | 19,207,390 | 9,850,240 |
| Current Assets | 251,945,933 | 308,044,853 | 208,736,341 | 147,283,456 | 103,819,453 |
| | 368,944,272 | 326,213,741 | 227,880,187 | 166,490,846 | 113,669,693 |
| Current Liabilities | 110,543,916 | 119,869,682 | 69,760,374 | 62,887,348 | 60,179,506 |
| Accumulated Funds | 258,400,356 | 206,344,059 | 158,119,813 | 103,603,498 | 53,490,187 |
| | 368,944,272 | 326,213,741 | 227,880,187 | 166,490,846 | 113,669,693 |



OUR FUNDERS

MacArthur
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OUR PARTNERS



International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria





**Partners West Africa
Nigeria**

CORPORATE INFORMATION

RC NO. - CAC/IT/NO86627

TIN - 19761763-0001

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Hussein Abdu - Chairman

Hon. Justice Olufuntola Adekeye JSC.

(Rtd) CFR - Vice - Chairperson

Habib Isa Dutse - Member

Kehinde Togun - Member

'Kemi Okenyodo - Secretary/Executive Director

AUDITORS

Bidemi Aiyesoro & Co

(Chartered Accountants)

7 Oshifila Street Anifowoshe,

Ikeja, Lagos.

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United Bank for Africa Plc |

Infinity Trust Mortgage

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