



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN LAWYERS
(FIDA) NIGERIA**



ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT 2023

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CVP's NOTE

COUNTRY VICE PRESIDENT's NOTE

I most heartily welcome you to the 2023 End of year projects report which has over the years been an avenue to showcase the enormous work done by our Programs team in protecting and preserving the rights of Women and Children. We are in a crucial and despair state in our dear nation as the rights and freedom of persons have not been adequately catered for nor promoted. I am using this medium to call on the government and all stakeholders to ensure that persons especially the vulnerable are accorded the utmost respect and recognition they deserve. let us not forget that our strength lies in our collective interests and the need to carry everyone along. My appreciation goes to the Programs team who have put together this beautiful piece of literature and our consistent readers and subscribers, we are indeed most grateful and I urge us all to maintain this standard even as we thrive unto perfection. Once again, I say thank you.

LONG LIVE FIDA NIGERIA!!!

Amina Suzannah Agbaje (Mrs)
Country Vice President/National President



FOREWORD

2023 has been quite a remarkable year with successes achieved towards creating a gender sensitive environment for women, girls and the vulnerable populations in line with our strategic plan. We commenced the year with a follow-on grant on the Strengthening Civic advocacy and Local Engagement grant from USAID and Palladium which has deepened our work across our project locations. 2023 witnessed electoral transition as the Independent National Electoral Commission conducted the General Elections which has yielded a new crop of Leaders at the National and Sub-National Levels. FIDA Nigeria participated actively in the process by observing the participation of women at the elections through strengthening measures in mitigating violence by protective systems. The UNWomen and Government of Canada supported the interventions. We further received a follow-on grant from Action Aid Nigeria on the women voices and Leadership Project. The grant has provided the platform to lay sustainability measures through bye-laws development and referral pathways in local communities towards ensuring community acceptance and ownership. Within October, 2022 to October, 2023,

we concluded two, projects namely Promoting the Inclusion of Women in Peace Building & Conflict Mitigation across communities in Plateau State, Nigeria (CFLI Project) supported by the Canadian High Commission, Promoting Women and Persons with Disabilities at the Electoral Process supported by Goree Institute and year 4 of the Women Voices & Leadership Project supported by Action Aid Nigeria. We are consolidating our efforts in creating a just and equitable society by strengthening Criminal Justice Actors in deepening Nigeria Criminal architecture. This is through the support of the MacArthur foundation and we are currently in year 2 of its implementation. We have within this January - June 2023 implemented seven projects across seventeen (17) states nationwide namely FCT, Anambra, Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Rivers, Kano, Adamawa, Sokoto, Lagos, Kaduna, Ebonyi, Bauchi, Katsina, Osun, Edo, Plateau & Cross River State. We must not fail to acknowledge the tremendous support from funders and partners through which we were able to achieve all of the above. Our profound gratitude goes to the USAID/Palladium, Mac-Arthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, UN Women and Goree institute who have provided the enabling funds to undertake these impact focused interventions



FIKIH OBARO
National Program Manager

BRIEF ABOUT FIDA

In 1964, Ms (Lady) Aduke Alakija introduced the Federacion Internacional de Abogadas (FIDA) in Nigeria. FIDA Nigeria is a voluntary association of women called to the practice of law in Nigeria with over 4,000 members in 45 branches across the 36 states of the Federation. With a mandate to promote, protect and preserve the rights, interests, and wellbeing of women and children through the use of a legal framework to ensure that they live free from all forms of discrimination, violence, and abuse in society, and to also pursue a just, peaceful and equitable Nigerian society where women and children's rights, interests are guaranteed, including the freedom to choose and live their future

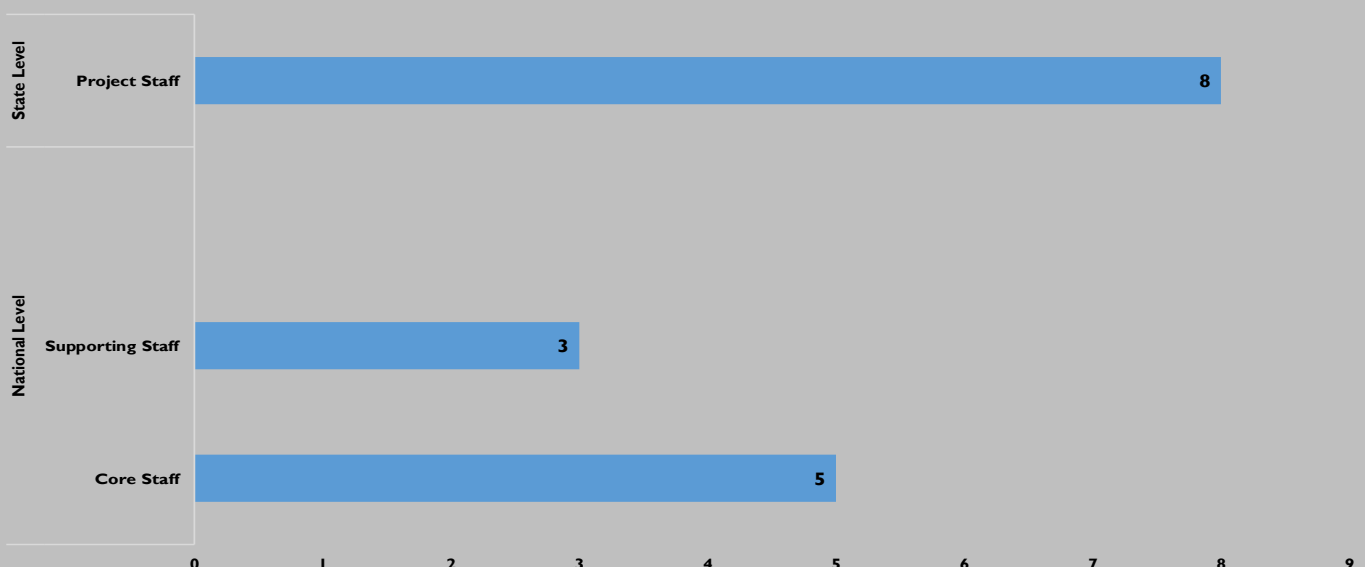
Objectives

To establish friendly international relations on the basis of equality and mutual respect for all peoples. To promote the principles and aims of the United Nations in their legal and social aspects To promote the study of comparative Law To enhance, promote, protect and preserve the rights and welfare of women and children, realizing that on their wellbeing depends the happiness of the home and strength of the society. To proffer advice to the government in all cases of disregard relating to women and children

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

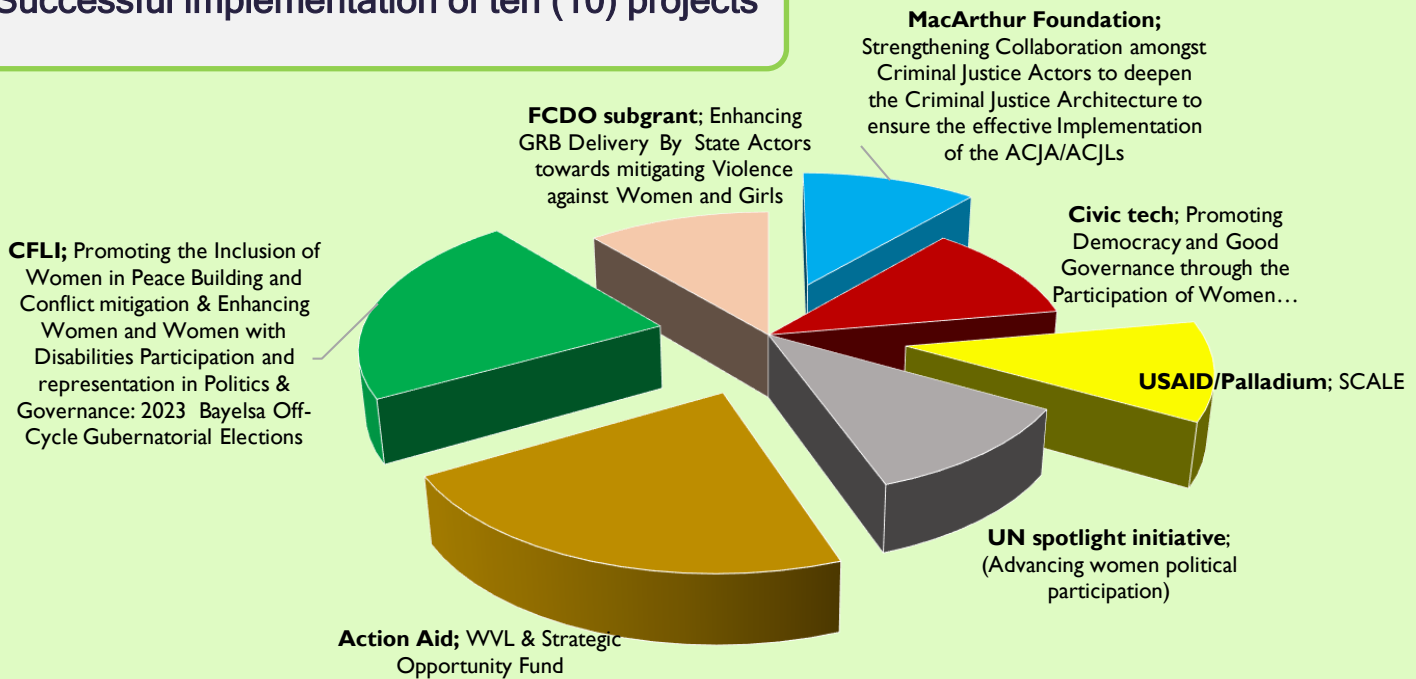
FIDA Nigeria has 45 branches in the 36 States of the Federation as well as the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and there are Seven (7) trustees of the Organization. Each branch has a Secretariat while membership consists of women lawyers practicing in that jurisdiction, who have volunteered their time and services. These branches are led by duly elected State Officers. The FIDA National Secretariat is in Abuja Nigeria and the National officers (also known as the National Executive Committee) consist of the Country Vice President/ National President, Deputy Country Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Publicity Secretary/Editor, Assistant Publicity Secretary/Assistant Editor and two (2) ex-officio members. The highest decision-making body of the organization is the National Executive Council which comprises the National Executive Committee, Branch Chairpersons and Secretaries, Past Branch Chairpersons and Past National Presidents and Secretaries. The National Secretariat has the following departments: Programs, Administrative, Finance, Monitoring & Evaluation, Communications/IT and Litigation PARTNERS FIDA Nigeria, in collaboration 15 17 with like-minded organizations, have come together to ensure the successful execution of standout activities. Some of our key partners include: UN Women Ford Foundation ActionAid MacArthur Foundation United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Federal Ministry of Women Affairs Social Development through the Gender Based Violence Working Group (GBV WG) National Democratic Institute (NDI

Structure



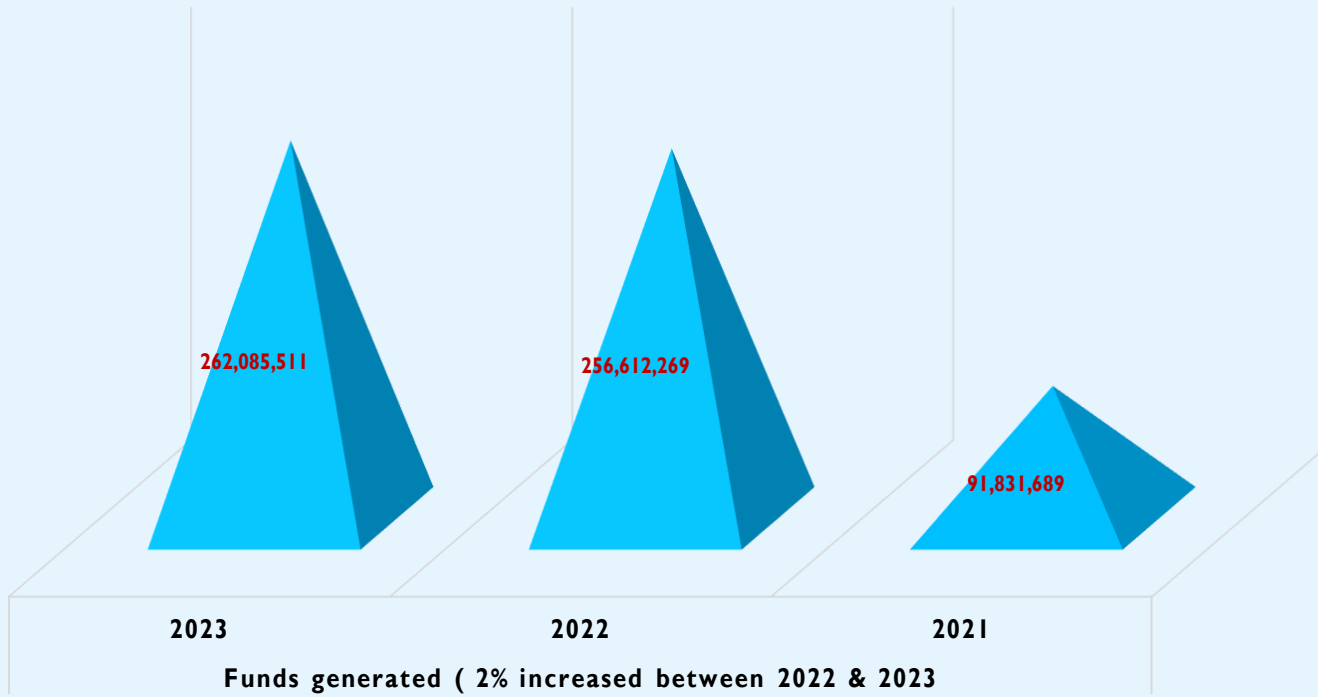
STRATEGIC ARCHIEVEMENTS

Successful implementation of ten (10) projects

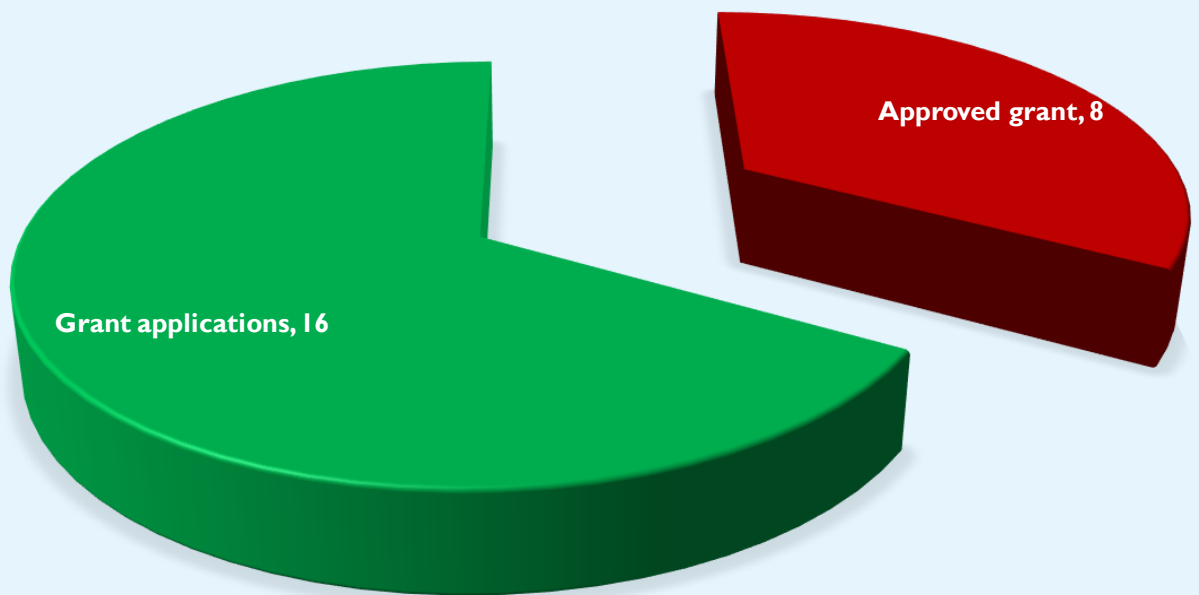


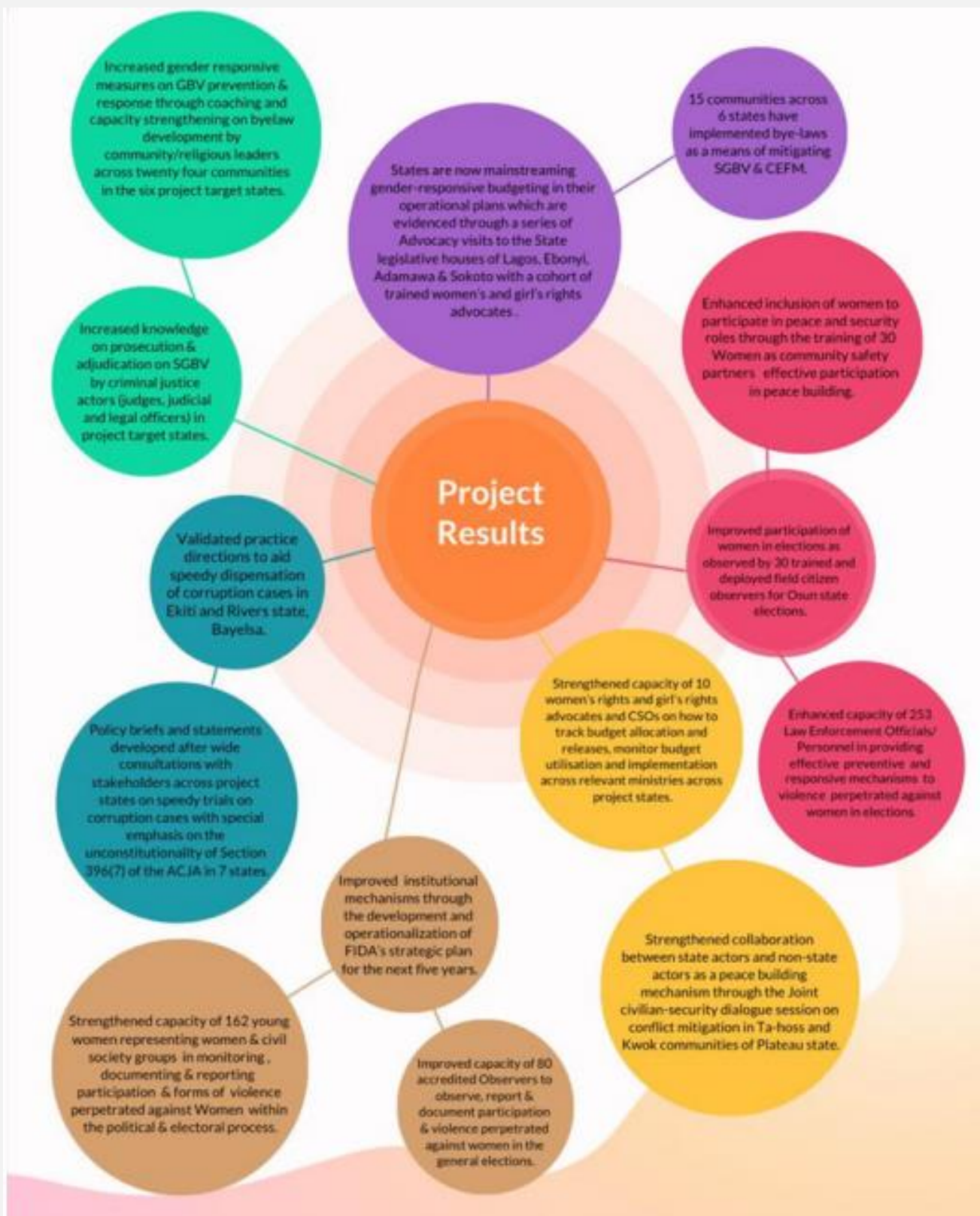
- The department has been able to specialize project interventions across 3 thematic areas namely; **Legal frameworks and Criminal Justice** (Macarthur & Alliances for Africa projects), **Mitigating Gender Based Violence** (UNSI, SCALE, WVL, FCDO sub–grant), and **Elections, Democracy and Conflict Mitigation** (CFLI, Goree Institute, UN women).
- Monthly Departmental meetings have been institutionalized and several WhatsApp platforms created to foster information dissemination, interactions, and collaborations among staff.
- Mapping, building, and maintaining strong strategic stakeholder relationships to amplify and foster FIDA Nigeria’s interventions.

Grant Income Generated

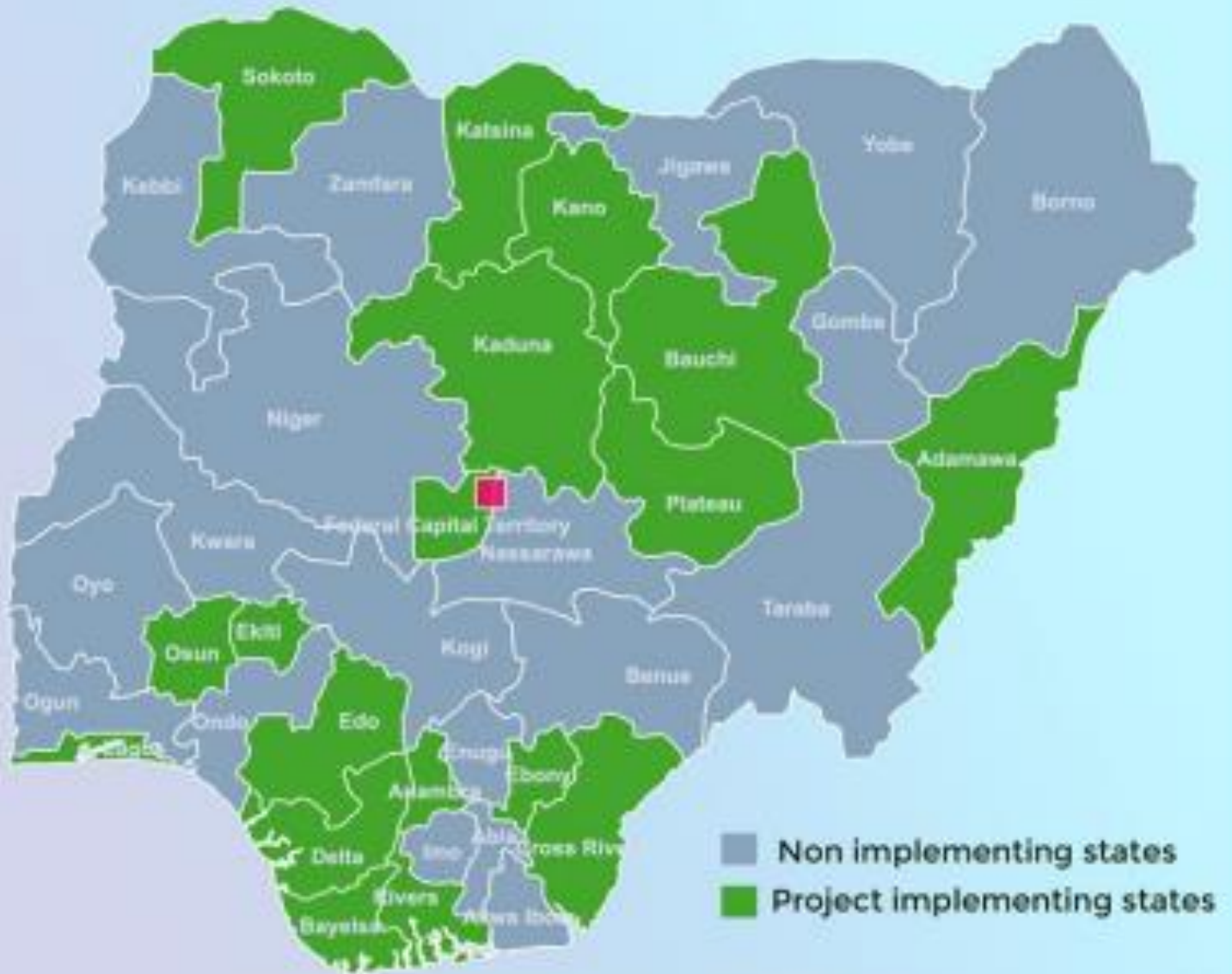


Grant





PROJECT LOCATIONS



PROJECT DISTRIBUTION ACROSS STATES

 Plateau	 Borno, Kwara Plateau, Kaduna	 Abuja Lagos Ebonyi Adamawa Sokoto Cross-river	 Anambra Kano Bayelsa Abuja EKITI Rivers	 Bauchi Katsina Delta Plateau Ebonyi Edo
 Abuja	 Osun			

DONOR FUNDED INTERVENTIONS

1.1 PROJECT TITLE: CANADIAN FUND FOR LOCAL INITIATIVE (CFLI)- PROMOTING THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN PEACE BUILDING & CONFLICT MITIGATION ACROSS COMMUNITIES IN PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA

Donor: *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Canadian High Commission, Nigeria*

Project Duration: *8 months (July 2022 – March 2023)*

FIDA Nigeria is currently implementing this intervention across two vulnerable communities (Ta-Hoss, Riyom Local Government Areas & Kwok Communities, Barkin-ladi LGA) in Plateau State, North Central Nigeria.

This intervention has advanced skill sets of community-based women leaders especially within a conflict-context as they require a deeper understanding of the dynamics and nuances of such environment in addressing the prevailing gender issues affecting security operations and community dialogues. It has affirmed women strategic roles, insights and competencies for addressing security challenges and underlying factors in Conflict-ridden societies.

Status of Project Activities Implemented:

All project activities have been fully implemented. This include:

➤ Mapping and Advocacy visits to Community Stakeholders/Gatekeepers: A total of six stakeholder groups namely women groups, youth groups, religious groups, informal security actors and members of the traditional councils were mapped in two communities in the project state.

➤ Advocacy visits were conducted to the groups intimating them on the project as well as foster an understanding the dynamic of conflict and security issues in the focal communities.

➤ Inception Meetings in each focal community: this activity centered around introducing the project and obtaining the buy-ins from key community stakeholders such as members of The traditional ruling council, women leaders, religious leaders, youth leaders, informal security actors etc.

➤ FIDA Nigeria at this meeting was able to receive the commitment of 30 stakeholders drawn from 6 different community stakeholder groups into supporting the goals of the project. ➤ Capacity Building Sessions for Women as Community Safety Partners: FIDA Nigeria through this activity built the capacities of 30 women across focal communities on identifying and escalating to relevant security actor's early warning signs of conflicts within their communities.

The training further strengthened abilities of beneficiaries to participate in peace building activities and initiate conflict mitigation processes within their communities

- Validation of Conflict Mitigation Plans for focal communities: FIDA Nigeria organized a Validation Workshop on Conflict Mitigation Plan for stakeholders in focal communities. 30 stakeholders across focal communities participated in the workshop where conflict mitigation strategies such as constant capacity building of community members by community leadership on identifying early conflict signs and initiating early response among 9 other strategies were validated as Conflict Mitigation Plans to be utilized by the Project communities.
- Community of Practice/Peer Learning/Peer Review Meeting: under this activity, FIDA Nigeria drew 15 community representatives comprising of women who were able to share experiences and learn best practices for women involvement in peace building process

Project Outcomes

- i. Enhanced inclusion of women in focal communities to participate in the performance of peace and security roles. This has translated into community stakeholders recognizing the significant role of women in community development and have commenced discussion on the inclusion of women members in the traditional council
- ii. Women playing leading roles as Community Safety Partners (CSPs) by verifying security information, identifying impending attacks and escalating same to informal and formal security agencies for response.
- iii. Improved coordination & collaboration between security agencies and local communities in preventing, responding and mitigating conflicts
- iv. Reduced conflicts and incidences targeted against women in focal communities through adherence to a conflict mitigation plan developed and validated by stakeholders in both communities towards improving peace-building effort and conflict prevention.

1.2 Project Title: Promoting Democracy & Good Governance through the Participation of Women & Women with Disabilities in the Electoral Process; 2022 Osun State Gubernatorial Elections Case Study.

Donor: *Goree Institute, Senegal*

Project Duration: *8 Months (June 2022 - January 31, 2023.)*

Project State: *Osun & Nationwide*

STATUS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE REPORTING PERIOD.

All project activities have been concluded. FIDA Nigeria during this period attended a project close-out meeting in Dakar, Senegal, and highlighted her contributions to the project to various stakeholders. A roll call of completed project activities includes

- Project Inception meeting,
- Recruitment of citizen observers

- Development of an election monitoring tool
- Training of citizen observers
- Establishment of an election monitoring situation room
- Election Day Observations
- Preliminary & Post-Election findings on women & women with disability participation
- Social Media campaigns on women participation
- Development of Osun State Governorship Election report
- Virtual conversations on women political participations ahead of the 2023 Elections. Social Media Campaigns ahead of 2023 elections
- Project Close Out Meeting

Project Outcomes

- Improved Capacity of State & Non State actors in driving advocacy for women participation in the political process.
- Increased knowledge in using simple digital tools i.e google forms and analytical software's in data collection while engaging in the civil space and data driven observation.
- Enhanced knowledge of Civil Society Organisations on Election observation of Women & Persons with Disabilities through



1.3. TITLE: STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION AMONGST CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACTORS TO DEEPEN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ARCHITECTURE TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACJA/ACJLS”

Donor: *MacArthur Foundation.*

Project Duration: *Three years (October 2021 - September 2024)*

Project States: *Anambra, Kano, Bayelsa, FCT, Ekiti and Rivers.*

FIDA Nigeria is currently implementing a MacArthur Foundation project known as the MAF on Nigeria 2.0.

STATUS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE REPORTING PERIOD.

- Methodology workshop on the development of practice directions across two states namely Anambra & FCT.
- Debate for 80 persons to deliberate on the unconstitutionality on Section 396(7) ACJA across the six project states.
- Validation workshop on the development of practice directions across three states namely Kano, Rivers, and Bayelsa state.

Project Results/Outcomes.

- We have been able to improve the knowledge of the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act & the respective Laws in the focal states of our MacArthur Foundation funded intervention
- Validated and Signed practice direction to aid speedy dispensation of corruption cases in Kano & Rivers State
- Validated practice directions to aid speedy dispensation of corruption cases in Ekiti and Rivers state.
- Policy briefs and statements being developed after wide consultations with stakeholders across project states on speedy trials on corruption cases with special emphasis on the



1.4. PROJECT TITLE: STRENGTHENING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND LOCAL ENGAGEMENT (SCALE) PROJECT

Project Duration: *January -December 2023.*

Donor: *USAID/Palladium.*

Project Coordinator: *Program Manager with support from Ezinwa Obiajunwa and Josephine Christopher*

Project States: *Bauchi, Katsina, Delta, Plateau, Ebonyi and Edo*

The project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations towards improving local engagements with key stakeholders in countering trafficking in persons and responding to issues of Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Child Forced Marriage which are the two core component areas FIDA Nigeria is implementing

STATUS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE REPORTING PERIOD.

- Capacity building workshop for 30 Prosecutors, Judicial Officers and Legal Practitioners on SGBV Case adjudication.
- Formative Research on the intersection between Gender Based Violence, Trafficking in Persons & Illegal adoption
- 1st Bi-annual coordination meeting on SGBV & CEFM
- Bye-Law Development on SGBV & CEFM mitigation Workshop for 50 Traditional Leaders

Results/Outcomes

- a) Increased gender responsive measures on GBV prevention & response through coaching and capacity strengthening on byelaw development by community/religious leaders across twenty four communities in the six project target states.
- b) Increased knowledge on prosecution & adjudication on SGBV by criminal justice actors (judges, judicial and legal officers) in project target states.
- c) Improved coordination and networking by CSOs at both the national and regional levels towards an improved GBV response.
- d) Increased gender responsive measures on GBV prevention & response through mentorship and coaching on byelaw development by community/religious leaders across twenty four communities in the six project target states.
- e) Increased knowledge on countering trafficking in persons (CTIP) by criminal justice actors (judges, judicial and legal officers) in project target states.
- f) Established referral pathways through the provision of legal counselling and other support interventions for twenty two gender-based violence survivors from both northern and southern Nigeria.
- g) Enhanced the capacities of thirty beneficiaries including advocacy cluster's drawn from CSO's in northern and southern Nigeria on effective monitoring, evaluation, documentation & learning approaches.
- h) Enhanced the capacities of thirty beneficiaries inclusive advocacy cluster's drawn from CSO's in northern and southern Nigeria on victim-centered and trauma informed shelter and case management approaches.



1.5. PROJECT TITLE: SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE PHASE 2 PROJECT.

Donor: UN WOMEN

Project Duration: 15months (April 2022- June 2023)

Project States: FCT, Lagos, Ebonyi, Adamawa, Sokoto, & Cross-River State.

FIDA Nigeria is currently implementing the phase 2 of this project in the aforementioned six states. The main objective is to build the capacity of women rights organizations to lead discussions on Gender Responsive Budgeting with state actors through strategic advocacy & engagement. Implementation of project activities commenced late May 2022. Due to delays in disbursement of the 2nd tranche funds, we received a no cost extension on the project till June 30, 2023. FIDA Nigeria in achieving the outcomes of this project would carry out the following interventions

STATUS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE REPORTING PERIOD (March-June 2023).

- Capacity building Workshop on gender responsive budgeting for VAWG/SGBV/HP and advocacy to strengthen the capacities of the selected advocates in Ebonyi, &FCT

- Advocacy visit to National Assembly Committees with a cohort of trained women's and girl's rights advocates and CSOs to present a joint advocacy Asks and advocate for gender responsive budgeting for VAWG/SGBV/HP.

This would be actualized through:

- I. Establishment of a cohort for the joint advocacy.
 - II. Provision of technical support for the development of the Advocacy Asks.
- Advocacy visit to State legislative houses of Lagos, Ebonyi, Adamawa & Sokoto with a cohort of trained women's and girl's rights advocates and CSOs to present a joint advocacy Asks and advocate for gender responsive budgeting for VAWG/ SGBV/HP
 - Capacity Strengthening of 10 women's rights and girl's rights advocates and CSOs to have greater knowledge on how to track budget allocation and releases, monitor budget utilization and implementation across relevant ministries across project states.
 - Review meetings to access progress of the cohorts in tracking budget allocation and releases as well as monitoring utilization of the budget by the relevant ministries across project states



1.6. PROJECT TITLE: ADVANCING WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Donor: UN Women and Government of Canada.
Project Duration: Seven Months (October 2022 – April 2023,).

Project Officers: Ifeanyi Eze, Rita Lasoju, Abu Ayuba,

Project States: Borno, Kwara, Plateau & Kaduna

The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria with support from the UNWomen & the Government of Canada is implementing her intervention on advancing Women’s Participation In Nigeria” across 4 focal states namely Kwara (North Central), Borno (North East), Plateau (North Central) and Kaduna (North West). The project aims to mitigate violence against women in elections through a collaborative and systemic approach with Stakeholders such as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the Nigeria Police Force, Security agencies, the Electoral institute, and other credible organizations. FIDA Nigeria will through various interventionist approaches improve the participation of women in the general elections by strengthening the capacity of selected networks, institutions, electoral bodies, and oversight mechanisms to better prevent and respond to VAWP, SGBV, and other forms of VAW”

that may deter female electorates towards exercising their franchise at the polls across the 4 project states. Status of Project Activities Implemented within the reporting Period: Establishment of Situation Room: Election Day Observation across the four focal States and FCT, Abuja for the gubernatorial elections Performance monitoring & project impact assessment Development & Submission of project narrative & financial reports Project Outcomes Strengthened capacity of 162 young women representing women & civil society groups in monitoring, documenting & reporting participation & forms of violence perpetrated against Women within the political & electoral process. Enhanced capacity of 253 Law Enforcement Officials/ Personnel in providing effective preventive and responsive mechanisms to violence perpetrated against women in elections. Increased capacity of peace building & security architectures in responding to issues of Violence against women in elections through early identification of hotspots/conflict prone areas triggering violence / Issues promoting violence. Improved capacity of 80 accredited Observers to observe, report & document participation & violence perpetrated against women in the general elections. Reduced violence against female voters during the 2023



1.7. PROJECT TITLE: WOMEN VOICES & LEADERSHIP PROJECT

Donor: Action Aid Nigeria.

Project State: FCT, Abuja

Duration: 5 years (2018 -2023)

The WVL is a 5 year project, FIDA is currently in the final year, having secured a follow-on grant in May 2023. Project is being implemented in 6 communities of 3 Area councils in the FCT. Our Year 4 project activities are focused in Kuchiyako, Jahi, Utako, Bamishi, Dutse Alhaji and Gaba Tudun in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Councils in the FCT.

The project aims to contribute to institutional building of the Organization as well as building the capacity and institutionalizing paralegals across six communities in the Area councils of FCT.

STATUS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES BEING IMPLEMENTED WITHIN THE REPORTING PERIOD

- Development and submission of year 5 proposal
- Workshop for the development of sustainability plans & bye laws for local community leaders

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- 18 GBV cases were referred to various service providers (SARC, NAPTIP, and NPF) by community paralegals from the two communities. This is an outcome for us because before now, our community paralegals had no access to or information on the existence of these service providers attached to their Area Councils and Communities.
- We have been able to improve our institutional mechanisms through the development and operationalization of FIDA's strategic plan for the next five years. We have been providing legal services, psycho-social support & referrals for survivors of gender based violence in three area councils in the Federal Capital Territory, training & re-training of Paralegals amongst others.
- Eight Children have been reunited with their families as a result of collaboration of multiple service providers; Community paralegals, NPF and NAPTIP.
- Two young girls who were abused and molested by their guardian have been retrieved, reunited with their families and are currently receiving psycho-socio support. In the period under review, we have 5 Certified True Copies of Judgment on cases.



FINANCIAL REPORT

RC No: No. 4645

TIN: 6500102113

BOT MEMBERS:

1. Chief Mrs. Tessa Ikimi – Chairperson.
2. Hajia Fatima Kwaku -Member
3. Mrs. Susan Onyeche – Member
4. Prof. Jummai Audi – Secretary
5. Hon. Justice Margaret Mary Igbetar (Rtd.) Member
6. Hon. Justice Elsie Thompson
7. Mrs. Veronica Odunuga
8. Hon. Justice Mary Odili, JSC
9. Dr. Zuwairatu .I Mantu.

AUDITORS: Kodi Ohakin and Co (Chartered accountants)

Non-current Assets: 118,157,325

Current assets: 327,681,898

Current liabilities: 182,459,311

Accumulated funds: 262,849,168

PARTNER

- NDLEA,
- POLICE,
- NAPTIP,
- UNWOMEN,
- FORDFOUNDATION,
- MACARTHUR FOUNDATION,
- ACTION AID,
- IOM,
- CANADA HIGH COMMISSION,
- BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION,
- GOREE INSTITUTE

CORE STAFF



FIKIH OBARO
National Program
Manager



**EZINWA E.
OBIAJUNWA**
Administration/Operations
Manager



**OKONKWO
PHILIP**
Finance/Accounts
Manager



**MARIAM
OMEIZA**
Senior Legal Officer/
Litigation Lead



RITA ABAH
Senior Program
Officer



IFEANYI EZE
Program Officer



**UGBOJI
HORSFALL**
Senior Comms Officer/
IT Lead



ABU AYUBA
Senior Admin Officer/
Program Officer



**JOVITA
CHECHET**
M & E Officer



RAHILA DAUDA
Admin/Legal Officer



**MADUBUGWU
JOY**
Account Officer



**Olagbami Olu-
waseun Bode**
Account Officer 2

CORE STAFF



**KOMO,
HARUNA
DAUDA**
Comms./IT Officer



**DEBORAH
ABODUNDE**
Programs/Admin
Asst. Officer



**ANIEKEME
IDONGESIT**
Volunteer