

2024

Annual Report



FIDA Nigeria Annual Project Report 2024

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Country Vice/National President Note



ELIANA MARTINS
(CVP) FIDA NIGERIA

I most heartily welcome you to the 2024 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!!!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



FIKIH OBARO
PROGRAM MANAGER
FIDA NIGERIA

2024 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 by concluding on several follow-on grants while enhancing platforms for sustainability at locations where the projects were implemented. Within the reporting period (October 2023 – September 2024), We witnessed electoral transition as the Independent National Electoral Commission conducted Off-Cycle Governorship Elections in Kogi, Bayelsa & Imo states in 2023 and Edo state in 2024. The process has led to the inauguration of Governors in these states. FIDA Nigeria with the support of the High Commission of Canada to Nigeria participated actively in the process by observing the participation of women at the Bayelsa Off-Cycle Governorship elections in November 2023 through strengthening measures in mitigating violence by protective systems while working with women groups towards advocating and influencing policies on inclusion and representation of women in Governance. This observation was replicated during the Edo State Governorship Election in September 2024. We concluded our 5 year grant from Action Aid Nigeria on the women voices and Leadership Project which 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 the reporting period, we consolidated our efforts in creating a just and equitable society by strengthening Criminal Justice Actors in deepening Nigeria Criminal architecture through the support of the MacArthur foundation , enhanced a gender responsive environment in Kogi state through the incorporation of gender sensitive issues in the 2024 state budget with the support from the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), promoted best practices through shared learnings on SGBV & CEFM prevention and response on the SCALE Project with support from USAID & Palladium.

We received a grant from Ford Foundation which is improving our engagement, and coordination with Traditional, Religious and Government Leaders on Gender Based Violence prevention. A total of six projects across fourteen (14) states were implemented nationwide namely include FCT, Kano, Bauchi, Katsina, Plateau, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Anambra, Rivers, Bayelsa, Lagos and Kogi states. 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 Mac-Arthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, USAID /Palladium, Action Aid Nigeria , Foreign Common Wealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the High Commission Of Canada to Nigeria for their support through provision of the enabling funds to undertake these impact focused interventions

BRIEF ABOUT FIDA NIGERIA

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 46 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.

FIDA Nigeria has 46 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 three departments: Programs, Administration & Operations, and Finance/Accounts

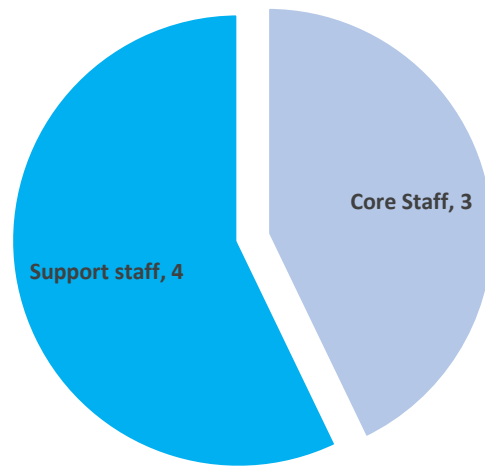
Role of the Programs Department

The Programs Department is domiciled within the National Secretariat and saddled with the responsibility of attracting, managing and responding to Donor funded and supported interventions in line with the organizational mission and vision. The Department ensures compliance to Donor requirements, identifies project beneficiaries, and measures outcomes and successes of interventions while working in unison with all other supporting departments and units within the Organisational structure towards ensuring accountability and efficiency in the management of Donor Funds.

Departmental Structure



Program Staff

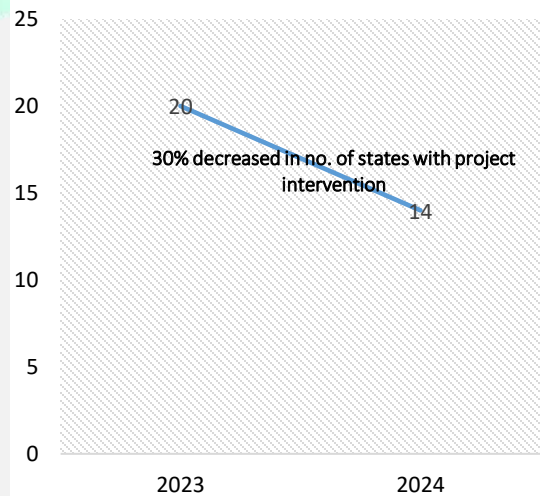
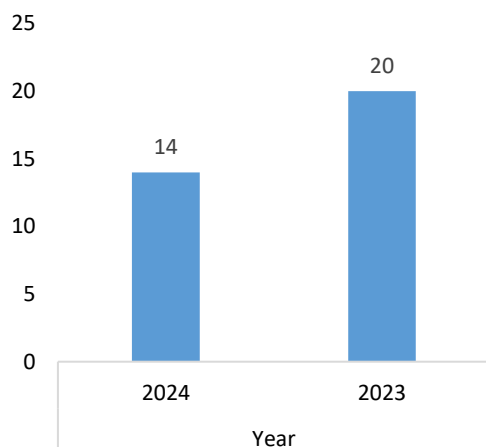


STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS

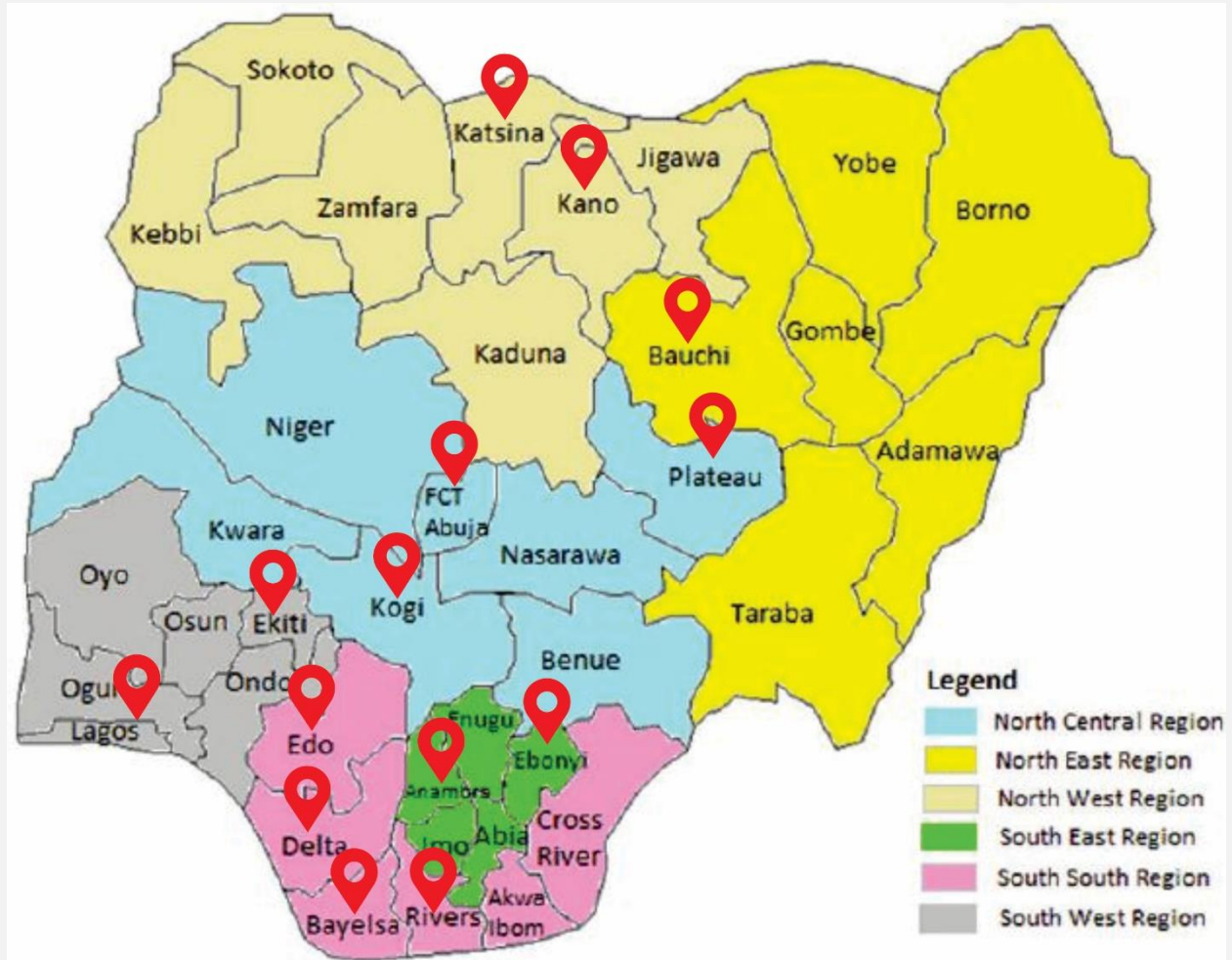
- i. Increased presence of project interventions in 14 out of 36 states and FCT. Our interventions are more reflected at the sub-national levels which reflects our genuine intentions for impact led programming at these levels. States with project presence within the period include FCT, Kano, Bauchi, Katsina, Plateau, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Anambra, Rivers, Bayelsa, Lagos and Kogi states.

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No. of Project Implementing states

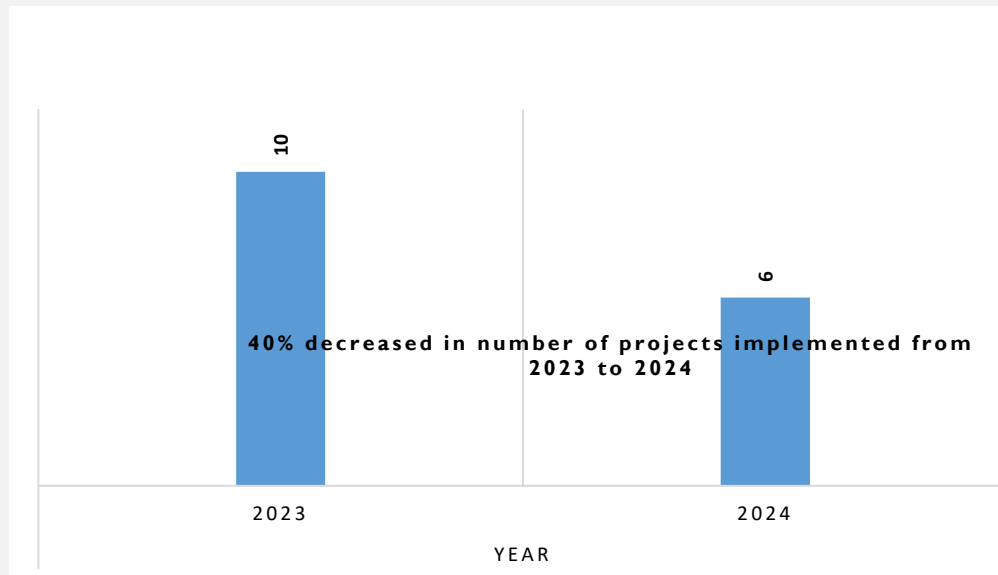


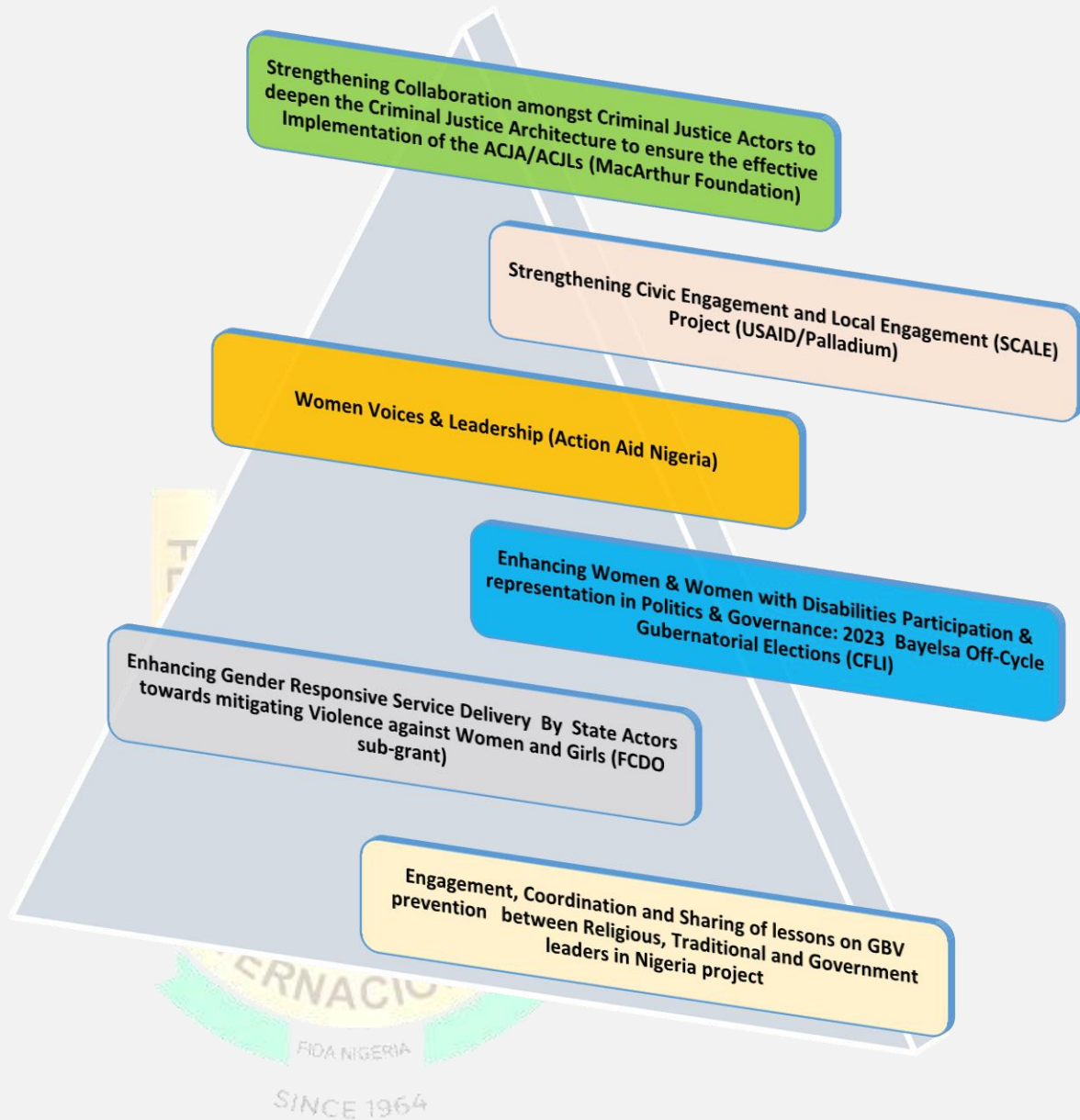
Project Implementing States Map



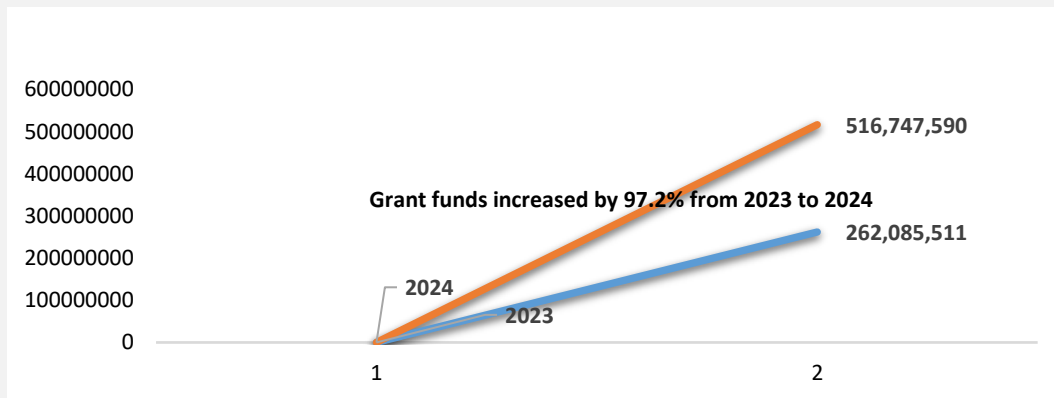
SINCE 1964

- ii. Successful implementation of six (6) projects within the reporting period with support from Donor organizations

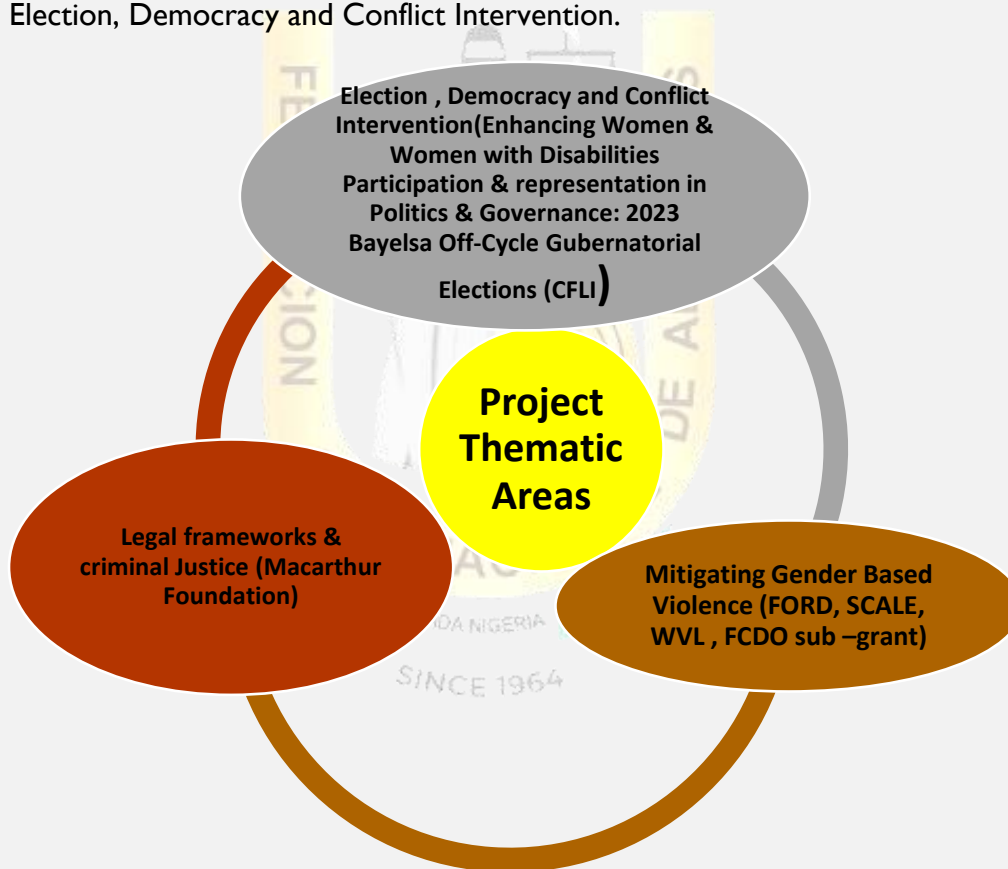




- iii. We have generated grant income of N516, 747,590 million from new proposals within the reporting period making the Department the highest source of revenue generation within the organization. However for this financial period/year, the sum of N215, 821,783 was expended during the period.



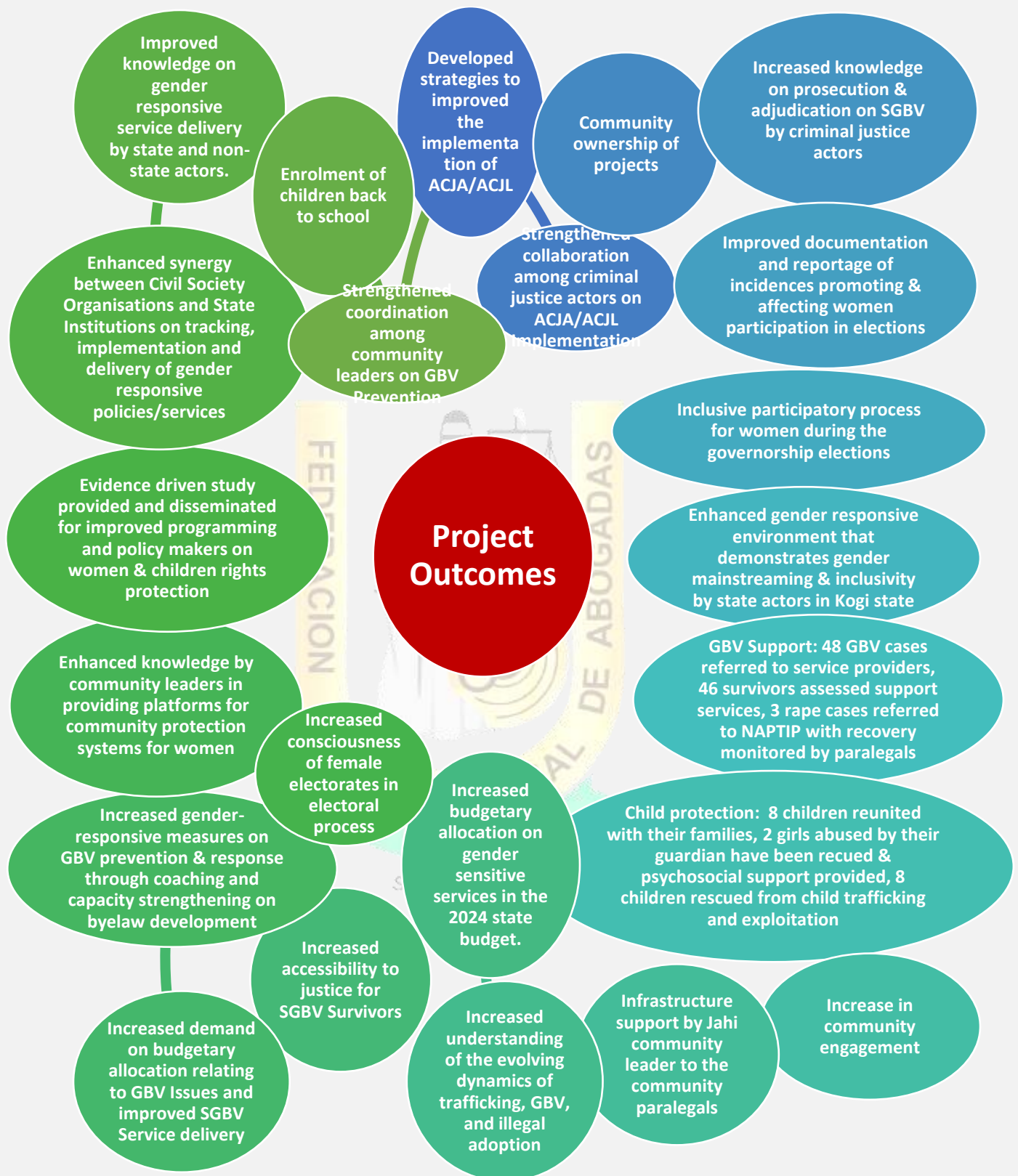
- iv. We have been able to specialize our project interventions across three thematic areas namely Legal frameworks & criminal Justice , Mitigating Gender Based Violence and Election, Democracy and Conflict Intervention.



- v. Capacity strengthening of Departmental Staff through attending various self-sponsored identified workshops around thematic areas which has supported improved programming

- vi. Timeous submission of reports to Donors
- vii. Strict compliance to project implementation Plan and timelines which has helped smooth programming
- viii. About 3,000 direct beneficiaries across the 14 focal states have been reached and impacted





3.0. Donor Supported Interventions

3.1. 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.

Project Coordinator: Mariam Omeiza with support from Rita Lasaju

FIDA Nigeria implemented a MacArthur Foundation supported project known as the MAF on Nigeria 2.0. Since its inception, the project has focused on creating synergies among key stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, legal practitioners, court support officials and civil society organizations, to ensure the seamless implementation of the Administration Of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) and Administration Of Criminal Justice Laws (ACJL). The project has also aimed to address systemic challenges such as corruption, delays in justice delivery, and human rights abuses within the criminal justice system.

Over the project period, FIDA Nigeria has engaged in various initiatives, including capacity-building workshops, advocacy meetings, and the development of resource materials aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Administration Of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) and Administration Of Criminal Justice Laws(ACJL).

Status of Project Activities Implemented within the Reporting Period.

- i. Workshop on Plea Bargain for Criminal Justice Stakeholders at Sub-National Level.
- ii. Embarked on a Formative research on promising practices in advancing the rights of women and children through the administration of criminal Justice Act/Laws across focal states.
- iii. Methodology workshop on promising practices in advancing the rights of women and children through the administration of criminal Justice Act/Laws across focal states.
- iv. Validation Workshop on promising practices in advancing the rights of women and children through the administration of criminal Justice Act/Laws across focal states.

- v. National Project Close-Out/Learning Dissemination Workshop on best practices in advancing the ACJA/ACJL
- vi. Public presentation of a formative research on promising practices in advancing the rights of women & children through the administration of criminal justice ACT/LAWs in selected states
- vii. Airing of Radio Jingles on Gender sensitive provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Laws in selected focal states.
- viii. Scripting, Production and Airing of Radio Jingles on Gender sensitive provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Laws in selected focal states.
- ix. On boarded partners to further our Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) work in FCT (Helpline Social support initiative/ Inclusive Skills development initiative and Oyo state (Family Health and Population Action Committee).
- x. Provided technical support in amplifying the provisions of the Disability against persons prohibition Act which resulted in a draft framework for monitoring and tracking the implementation of the Act.
- xi. Undertook Impact Assessment on impact, effectiveness, and achievements of the project in six project states.
- xii. As part of our Gender Equality and Social Inclusion work, we organized sensitization programs on the Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Institutions Prohibition Bill passed by the National Assembly vis a vis preventive and response mechanisms on sexual harassment prevalent across tertiary institutions in Oyo state
- xiii. Empowered voices of school Girls in the FCT to combat injustice and sexual violence

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3.2. Women Voices & Leadership Project

Donor: Action Aid Nigeria.

Project State: FCT, Abuja

Project Coordinator: Ezinwa Obiajunwa with support from Deborah Olamide

Duration: 5 years (2019 -2024)

The WVWL is a 5-year project which culminated in July 2024. The project was being implemented in 6 communities of 3 Area councils in the FCT. Our project activities were focused on Kuchiyako, Jahi, Utako, Bamishi, Dutse Alhaji and Gaba Tudun in AMAC, Bwari and Kuje Area Councils in the FCT. The project aimed to contribute to the 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.

- One (1) day Review Meeting of Community Paralegals to track the implementation of action plan and bye- laws for GBV response in three area councils of the FCT.
- Two Days local fund raising and leveraging community resources training for Community Paralegals to advance GBV prevention & response in three area councils of the FCT.

3.3. Project Title: Enhancing Gender Responsive Service Delivery by State Actors towards mitigating Violence against Women and Girls.

- Donor: Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
- Project Duration: 6 months (October 2023 – March 2024)
- Project Coordinator: Program Manager & Abu Ayuba
- Project State: Kogi State

The International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria with support from the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room and Foreign Common Wealth and Development Office have been working since October 2023 towards creating and ensuring a gender sensitive and protective environment for women , girls and vulnerable groups through gender responsive policies and budgeting approach by state actors in Kogi State. Our interventions have resulted to short and medium term outcomes pertaining increased budgetary allocations on gender sensitive issues and demonstration of responsiveness by state actors

FIDA Nigeria in achieving the outcomes of this project as follows:

- **Status of Project Activities Being Implemented within the reporting period**
 - Stakeholders Consultative Forum on the implementation/Status of Gender Responsive Services for Women & Girls

- Capacity Building Workshop for Relevant Civil Society / State Actors on Gender Responsive Policies/ Budgeting
- Advocacy for Implementation of State-Initiated Gender Responsive Policies/ Budgets
- Monitoring of Proceedings on the 2024 Appropriation Budgets
- Drafting Workshop on a Road-Map for Gender Responsive Policies/ Budgeting /Progress Review Meeting.

3.4. Project Title: Enhancing Women & Women with Disabilities participation & representation in Politics & Governance: 2023 Bayelsa Off-Cycle Gubernatorial Elections
Project State: Bayelsa State.

Project Coordinator: Ifeanyi Eze with support from Deborah Olamide

Donor: High Commission of Canada to Nigeria

Duration: 5 years (2018 -2023)

Project Activities

- Virtual Conversation on Women Participation
- Capacity Building Workshop for Selected Election Women Observers On Observing, documenting and reporting women participation
- Established Data Analytical Center towards Observing the Participation of Women at the 2023 Governorship Elections
- Capacity Building Workshop for Women Groups on Policy Influencing & Advocacy
- Capacity Building Workshop for Selected Community Leaders on prevention & response to Violence against Women in Elections
- Virtual experiential learning Session/Project Close-Out

3.5. Project Title: Strengthening Civic Engagement and Local Engagement (SCALE) Project
Project Duration: January 2023 – March 2024.

Donor: USAID/Palladium.

Project Coordinator: Program Manager with support from Rita Lasoju

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

The project was 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 Being Implemented within the Reporting Period.

- Reviews by SCALE team and updates by FIDA on final project narrative report
- Review by SCALE team and updates by FIDA on endline evaluation report
- Review by SCALE team and updates by FIDA team on learning dissemination workshop report
- Organised and attended Shared learning sessions with project beneficiaries.

3.6. Project Title: Engagement, Coordination and Sharing of lessons on GBV prevention between Religious, Traditional and Government leaders in Nigeria project.

Donor: Ford Foundation.

Project State: Plateau, Ekiti & Lagos

Project Coordinator: Rita Lasoju with support from Ifeanyi Eze

Duration: 3 years (2024-2027)

FIDA Nigeria is currently implementing the very first phase of the new FORD Foundation 2.0 project. This project funding has been received as a result of grant application efforts conducted in the earlier quarters of the year 2024.

The project titled **Engagement, Coordination and Sharing of lessons on GBV prevention between Religious, Traditional and Government leaders in Nigeria project** is a 3-year project funded by FIDA Nigeria focusing implementation in 3 states to include plateau, Ekiti and

Lagos with traditional heads, religious leaders and relevant government bodies as key stakeholders and beneficiaries.

FIDA Nigeria through this project aim to enhance its engagement with these gatekeepers by institutionalizing gender-based violence prevention structures. This includes reviewing and strengthening gender-sensitive legal frameworks, increasing dialogues, and improving coordination among community leaders.

This approach will gravitate towards a shift in attitudinal behaviors and abandonment of social norms, cultural practices that subjugate the rights of women and girls in Nigeria local communities across Plateau (North Central), and Lagos and Ekiti (South- West) States.

Status of Project Activities Being Implemented within the Reporting Period.

- FIDA Nigeria consulted and secured the consent of Traditional and Cultural Institutions across the three project focal states namely Ekiti, Plateau and Lagos. We engaged these institutions through lawfully recognized and established Council of Traditional leaders in their states during the leaders of the traditional institutions were engaged on the project objectives and mandates. The State Councils of Traditional Leaders especially Lagos and Ekiti State demonstrated commitment to the project mandates and nominated representatives from the traditional institutions across the focal states to attend a two days annual dialogue with Traditional Leaders on Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls held in October 2024.
- We consulted and interfaced with the leadership of dominant religious groups including the Christian Association of Nigeria and Supreme Council For Islamic Affairs (Ekiti State)/ Jama'atu Nasril Islam (Plateau and Lagos state) respectively. They committed to support the objectives of the project by nominating representatives to participate in the annual dialogue For Religious Leaders on preventing violence against women and girls across respective states.
- We introduced the project and obtained the buy—in of the focal States Ministries of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development. The Gender and Equal Opportunity Commission were also

consulted in Plateau State. This consultation led to their attendance and support at the Annual dialogue on prevention of violence against women and girls for traditional leaders and Bi-annual Shared learning forum for men in Plateau State where they did not only attend and delivered Goodwill messages but also engaged actively with the representatives of the traditional council at the dialogues and provided technical support.

- We engaged with 80 traditional and cultural leaders drawn from the Ekiti and Lagos State Council of Traditional Leaders through a dialogue on preventing violence against women and girls. These Leaders were engaged due to the fact that they are uniquely placed to prevent sexual and gender based violence where they are domiciled given their understanding of the local context, and having native knowledge of predisposing factors & practices that encourage and allow these menace to thrive. Through this dialogue, Traditional Leaders have begun demonstrating commitments to serve as change agents and advocates of women and girls rights in their communities through identification of GBV practices and development of locally enabled solutions in addressing these practices. The dialogue has provided a platform for a community of practice that will enable these leaders to share learnings and best practices and also work collaboratively through shared knowledge of local realities and solutions that can aid GBV prevention in their communities.
- Additionally, FIDA Nigeria engaged and Interfaced with 120 Religious Leaders across the three focal states of Lagos, Ekiti and Plateau through an annual dialogue on Preventing Violence against Women and Girls. The dialogue served as medium in diagnosing VAWG issues/beliefs and social norms embedded in religious beliefs that promotes Gender Based Violence within religious circles including issues of patriarchy, idolization, Mis-interpretation of scriptures, doctrinal teachings amongst others that transmits Gender Based Violence. Through this dialogue, Religious Leaders are now demonstrating commitments to serve as agents of change and transformation by leveraging on their spiritual capital in developing tailored messages that counters teachings and religious texts that promote GBV in places of worship. Through

developed messaging, campaigns, preventive strategies and a plan of action in preventing gender based violence occurrences in places of worship; these religious leaders have begun advocacy with their umbrella religious groups on abdicating some of these social norms, attitudes and beliefs of their members and leaders of congregations. An Inter-Faith Movement made up from beneficiaries in each of the project states has been established towards enhancing coordination and collaboration amongst Christian and Islamic Leaders in advancing GBV prevention through shared and collective interventions and engagements in places of worship. The inter-faith movement in each state has two conveners from each faith who will guide the operations of the movement and co-create workable strategies.

- We have initiated an engagement program with over 35 men to promote gender justice, drawing stakeholders from gender-sensitive and progressive communities who were part of our year one intervention in Plateau State. This engagement took the form of an annual dialogue dedicated to empowering men in advancing gender justice. The dialogue has established a platform for these men to develop a shared understanding of prevention strategies, enabling them to serve as custodians of knowledge and advocates in addressing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG). They are also actively challenging traditional, religious, and gender norms that contribute to gender-based violence, working towards gender equality by leveraging community resources to foster gender justice and promote positive masculinity. Additionally, this dialogue has led to the creation of a virtual community of practice, allowing participants to continue sharing experiences and strategies to prevent GBV across focal communities. Through action plans developed during the dialogue, this network is facilitating sustained collaboration and impact in the prevention of gender-based violence.

4.0. Strategic Partnerships.

During the reporting period, we received high profile visits from the Kofi Annan International Peace building Centre (KAIPBC) and the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) both based

in Ghana. The visit provided the platform for cross learnings, mentorship, and co-creation on areas relating to local fundraising and women peace and security respectively.

A Performance Appraisal and Review (PAR) was organized by Action Aid Nigeria for FIDA Nigeria where our programs and project deliverables were assessed from an institutional lens.

Furthermore, FIDA Nigeria applied to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for accreditation as an observer group for the 2024 Governorship Elections in Edo & Ondo states within the reporting period. FIDA Nigeria was accredited by the Election Management Body to observe both elections



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 (Late)**
- 6. Hon. Justice Elsie Thompson- Member**
- 7. Mrs. Veronica Odunuga - Member**
- 8. Hon. Justice Mary Odili, JSC - Member**
- 9. Dr. Zuwairatu .I Mantu. - Member**

AUDITORS: Kodi Ohakin and Co (Chartered accountants)

Non-current Assets: 262,818,032.

Current assets: 471,262,064.

Current liabilities: 377,475,812.

Accumulated funds: 355,604,283.

Gallery



Dialogue with Religious Leaders to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in Plateau State



Annual Dialogue with Traditional and Cultural Leaders on Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls! Lagos



Annual Dialogue with Traditional and Cultural Leaders on Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls! Ekiti



One-Day Capacity Building Workshop in Ekiti State: The Role of Plea Bargain in Hastening the Resolution of Corruption-Related Legal Disputes



One-Day Capacity Building Workshop in Kano State: The Role of Plea Bargain in Hastening the Resolution of Corruption-Related Legal Disputes



One-Day Capacity Building Workshop in Anambra State: The Role of Plea Bargain in Hastening the Resolution of Corruption-Related Legal Disputes



One-Day Capacity Building Workshop in Rivers State: The Role of Plea Bargain in Hastening the Resolution of Corruption-Related Legal Disputes



One-Day Capacity Building Workshop in Bayelsa State: The Role of Plea Bargain in Hastening the Resolution of Corruption-Related Legal Disputes



FIDA Nigeria's Capacity Building Workshop for Election Women Observers in the 2023 Bayelsa State Off-Cycle Governorship Elections



FIDA Nigeria's WVL Project Close-Out Meeting and the Launch of a One-Year No-Cost Action Plan



FIDA Nigeria's Capacity Building Workshop for Community Paralegals on SGBV/CEFM Service Delivery in Northern Nigeria

EXECUTIVE



Eliana Martins
Country Vice President/
National President



Olubunmi Arajawa
Deputy Country Vice President



Rekia Rachael Adejo-Andrew
National Secretary



Nnenna Igbokwe
Assistant National Secretary



Beatrice Awah
National Treasurer



Philomena Nneji
National Financial Secretary



Chineze Obianyo
National Publicity Secretary



Amina Suzanna Agbaje
Ex-officio

STAFF



Fikih Obaro
Program Manager



Ezinwa E. Obiajunwa
Administrative Manager



Philip Okonkwo
Finance Lead



Mariam Omeiza
Senior Litigation Officer



Ifeanyi Eze
Program Officer



Rita Abah
Senior Program Officer



Ugboji Horsfall
Senior Communications/IT



Rahila Dauda
Asst. Admin, Human Resource



Abu Ayuba
Senior Admin Office



Madubugwu Joy
Accounts Officer



Deborah Abodunde
Program/Administration Asst



Olagbami Oluwaseun Bode
Account Officer

SINCE 1964

Conclusively, the year 2024 has been a testament to FIDA Nigeria's unwavering commitment to advancing justice, empowering women and children, and fostering a society free from discrimination and violence. Through strategic initiatives, impactful programs, and collaborative partnerships, we have made significant strides toward our vision of a just and equitable society. As we look ahead, FIDA Nigeria remains resolute in its dedication to advocacy, capacity-building, and community engagement, ensuring that every woman and child has access to justice, protection, and opportunities for a better future. The journey continues with renewed determination to drive meaningful change and inspire hope across communities in Nigeria and beyond

