

# VOICE GRANTEE UPDATES Newsletter

## Highlights:

Grantees Activity Update

Overview of Grantees

Upcoming Events

### Rightsholders groups

-  Persons with disabilities.
-  Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI)
-  Women facing exploitation, abuse and/or violence
-  Age-discriminated vulnerable groups, (young and the elderly)
-  Indigenous groups and ethnic minorities



## Greetings!!!

Greetings dearest readers,

As we reflect on the recent Nigerian elections, we want to take a moment to highlight the incredible work done by grantees under the Voice Program and the impactful interventions they are making to empower the rightholders in the month of February. In this newsletter, we bring you stories of eventful and impactful interventions by these grantees and how they are working towards creating a more equitable and just society.

From empowering marginalized communities to addressing pressing social issues, both old and new grantees are working tirelessly to bring about positive change. Their unwavering commitment to their cause and their innovative solutions are making a difference in the lives of those they serve.

While the Presidential elections have already taken place, it is important to recognize and applaud the ongoing efforts of Voice grantees in promoting democracy and advocating for the rights of all citizens. In this edition, we hope to shed light on their important work and inspire others to join us in supporting their cause.

So sit back, grab a cup of coffee, tea or water, and join us as we explore the world of grantees and their efforts to make the world a better place.

# Updates

## CAPRIGHTS – Engagement with Community Gatekeepers and Rightholders

The Centre for Advancement and Protection of the Rights of Vulnerable People, recently held an engagement with its partners and stakeholders to review the progress of its "Reclaim Your Future" project. The event provided a platform for community gatekeepers and rightholders to share their thoughts, ideas, and concerns about the project, while identifying areas for improvement. CAPRIGHTS expressed gratitude for the support of its partners and stakeholders, believing that by working together, they can promote the rights of rightholders and empower communities. The organization highlighted the importance of collaboration and partnerships in advocating for the rights of rightholders and creating a better future for all.



## The Albino Foundation – Sensitization Workshop

A one-day sensitization workshop was held in Jos, Nigeria, for persons with albinism (PWAs) to understand the 2018 Disability Act and their rights as individuals with disabilities. The workshop was organized by The Albino Foundation in collaboration with Voice and attended by over 50 PWAs who learned about the provisions of the act and how it impacts their daily lives. Legal experts discussed the provisions of the act in detail, and PWAs actively participated in discussions and asked questions. The workshop was a huge success, and the organizers are planning their next event to continue the conversation and provide ongoing support for PWAs.

## COSROPIN & Dewdrop – Valentines Celebration with Older Persons

The Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN) and Dewdrop Foundation recently partnered to bring joy to the elderly living in the New Kuchingoro IDP Camp in Abuja. The Valentine's Day celebration involved health talks, exercises, dances, and games aimed at combating depression and putting a smile on their faces. The Chairman of Older Persons in the camp expressed gratitude for the gesture and appealed to others to remember people in IDP camps during the Valentine's Day celebration. In a post-Valentine celebration, COSROPIN and Youngstars FC had a football match. The Head of Administration for Dewdrop Foundation, Vivian Ugwu, promised to continue collaborating with COSROPIN and other stakeholders to improve the lives of the elderly and less privileged in society.



## YIAGA Africa Launches Jungle ahead of 2023 Elections

In the bid to sensitize the youth to participate in the forthcoming elections, YIAGA Africa with support from Voice, created and launched a jingle which served as an innovative approach to meeting its advocacy goals. The has been on airplay and is published on the Voice Naija platform.

Learn more at these links:

<https://www.voicenaija.org>

<https://www.wearecognito.org/voice-nigeria-linking-and-learning>

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# More Updates

## CARE – Visit to FAAN to Discuss Seamless Travel of PWDs.

The Center for Ability, Rehabilitation, and Empowerment (C.A.R.E. Nigeria) recently visited the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and The Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCOL) to discuss challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the need for more synergy to maximize the use of the Ambi Lift, which was funded by the Voice Grant. Both SAHCOL and FAAN restated their commitment to ensuring smooth travels for PWDs in Abuja while commending CARE and OXFAM VOICE IN NIGERIA for their innovative intervention. The stakeholders suggested a few mechanical and electrical modifications to improve the Ambi Lift and acknowledged the satisfactory cooperation among stakeholders with room for improvement.



## 2023 Nigerian Elections update

The 2023 Nigerian presidential elections have been plagued with serious issues and allegations that have undermined the credibility and fairness of the electoral process. The alleged fraudulent compilation of results by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is one of the most concerning issues, which is a serious infringement on the democratic rights of citizens. However, some polling units have celebrated the ease of access for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and older persons during the voting process, which is proof of the advocacy carried out by several Voice grantees. As we await the verdict of the presidential elections, let us continue working towards a just and equitable society.

## FIRC Trains Female Ex-Inmates

In a recent training program, Female Inmates and Returned Citizens Cooperative Society of Nigeria (FIRC) provided ex-inmates from Enugu and Lagos with the skills to produce reusable sanitary pads, with the aim of addressing the challenge of providing female inmates with access to sanitary pads while in custody. The trainees will now go on to train others in their respective custodial centers.



## CSAAE – C Advocates Launch

A group of committed barristers from Southeast Nigeria are working together on a Pro-Bono basis to promote human rights, good governance, and anti-corruption efforts in the region. They meet annually to strategize and express their passion for defending the defenseless and creating a better Southeast Nigeria. CSAAE expressed gratitude to the Chief Judge of Abia State for supporting the release of 35 young people unjustly detained for their involvement in the 2020 ENDSARS protest. The C-Advocates made this happen through their jail deliveries and are making a positive impact on individuals and families.



Learn more at these links

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## Street Project Foundation – Artvocacy Activation in Lagos

Following the shows in Abuja and Enugu, Artvocacy Foundation has yet found its way to Lagos-Nigeria, where it organized a show which featured several creatives who were trained by the foundation. “Kala: For Yourself, For Naija” was a stage play which centered on the forthcoming elections and most people considered it as the highlight. It encouraged people to stay away from violence and to vote the right candidate.



## Voice Grantees Overview

● New Grantees

● Old Grantees

SPF

- Street Project Foundation
- Project title: Artvocacy
- Goal: mobilize young people to become social change influencers through their arts

CARE

- Center for Ability, Rehabilitation & Empowerment
- Project title: Access for All
- Goal: a campaign challenging discriminatory practices against PWD in the aviation sector

CC

- Citizen Common
- Project title: ‘From Protest to Action- Activating our New Nigeria’
- Goal: Equipping young people with tools to lead local change within their communities and demand accountability from government at all levels

YOUTH HUB

- Youth Foundation for Development, Education & Leadership
- Project title: ‘You Matter in this Matter’
- Goal: Tracking the promises of government to young people, Nigerians particularly victims of #EndSARS; and also monitoring the judicial processes set up to address #EndSARS complaints

PPDC

- Public & Private Development Center
- Project title: Inclusive governance through civic engagement
- Goal: promote civic engagement in government by creating opportunities for public voices to be represented in conversations around policy reforms especially as they relate to judicious use of public resources

CODE

- Connected Development
- Project title: SABI
- Goal: stimulating nationwide movement to end VAWGs; campaign led by men

CSAAE

- Center for Social Awareness, Advocacy & Ethics
- Project title: ‘Soro Soke OR Park Well’
- Goal: Mobilizing young people to monitor and track compliance of relevant policies by security personnel, an effort to end police brutality & human rights violations of young in South East

COGNITO NINE

- COGNITO & NINE
- Project title: ‘Connecting Voices in Nigeria’
- Goal: Facilitate, motivate and support grantees Linking & Learning activities in Nigeria

Y-SDG

- Network of Youths for Sustainable Initiative
- Project title: Speak up, Stand Out!
- Goal: promoting the push for accountability and greater participation of young people in decisions that affect them, by providing them with tools to be engaged

YIAGA

- YIAGA Africa Initiative
- Project title: Run to Win
- Goal: supporting young people with competence and character to run and win elections in 2023

FOSER

- Foundation for Societal Empowerment & Rejuvenation
- Project title: ‘Know your Rights’
- Goal: civic education & engagements to sensitize citizens on their rights and strengthen their capacity to hold security agents accountable for any human rights violations against citizens in Bauchi State

ACHA

- Africa Caribbean Heritage Alliance
- Project title: ‘Celebrating Inclusion in Nigeria’
- Goal: facilitate and celebrate inclusive practices of Voice rightsholders in Nigeria

CAPIO

- Carmelite Prisoners’ Interest Organization
- Project title: Polrite 23
- Goal: Ensure participation of inmates in 2023 election

CCD

- Center for Citizens with Disability
- Project title: Justice & political participation for PWD
- Goal : access to justice, democratic governance & political participation for PWD

INTEGRITI YWC

- Integriti Technologies
- Project title: Politracy
- Goal: capacity building for young people in rural communities, with digital skills and encourage them to lend their voices on social issues via the digital space

YSAD

- Youth & Students Advocates for Development Initiative (YSAD)
- Project title: ‘No Dey Give-Follow Traffic Rules’
- Goal: ending police extortion against road users within the south east region through sensitization and facilitating strategic partnership between citizens and security agents

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## MDF

- Mother Hen Development Foundation
- Project title: 'I am Female and more'
- Goal: Comprehensive programs that lead to empowerment and livelihood including mentoring and Microfinance training (e.g., information on rights, conflict resolution, sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and financial literacy training- including business planning and budget management etc.)

## CAPRIGHTS

- Centre for the Advancement and Protection of the Rights of Vulnerable Persons
- Project title: 'Reclaim Our Future.'
- Goal: To empower women with knowledge, courage and tools to take charge of lives and live life to the fullest.

## TAF

- The Albino Foundation
- Project title: 'We live to shine'
- Goal: To create self-awareness and build more confidence among PWA about their rights and sharpens up strategies for demanding them through capacity building of rights holders and advocacy engagement with power brokers

## COSROPIN

- Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria
- Project title: 'Older Persons Hangout'
- Goal: This intergenerational and gender-based initiative is aimed at including and re-integrating indigenous, marginalised and vulnerable older persons, especially older women, into the society through social gatherings that will rejuvenate and empower them mentally and psychologically to continue to fully participate in the society.

## FIRC

- Female Inmates and Returned Citizens Cooperative Society of Nigeria
- Project title: 'Enhancing Access to Self-reliance for Female inmates and ex-inmates'
- Goal: Enhanced access to self-reliance opportunities and healthy rehabilitation of incarcerated women and female ex-inmates in Nigeria.

## MAMA CENTER

- Mothers & Marginalized Advocacy Center
- Project title: 'Accountability for Empowerment (A4E)'
- Goal: Government completes abandoned road projects to improve the rightsholders livelihood.

## GMI

- Gender Mobile Initiative
- Project title: 'Campus Safety Initiative'
- Goal: Bridging existing gaps an approach that centres the voices of women, girls and young people including persons with disabilities, increases reportage, holds perpetrators accountable to further deter potential perpetrators and improves institutional accountability.

## NAYA

- Novel Association for Youth Advocacy
- Project title: 'Creating hope among Nigerian girls through enterprising (Change - Project)'
- Goal: Reduce poverty among adolescent girls and young women through livelihood empowerment and life skills education

## IFA

- IKE Foundation for Autism
- Project title: 'HEAL AUTISM PROJECT'
- Goal: To improve the capacity of stakeholders in the Autism community through training

## DDF

- DEWDROP Foundation
- Project title: 'Women Empowerment and Inclusive Governance'
- Goal: To strengthen the economic capacity, voice and participation of women in governance through access to land resources for cooperative farming and sustainable income generation.  
To reduce the economic vulnerability of women, enhance their self-reliance, amplify their voices in the community and advocate for their protection from sexual exploitation and violence.

## ICEHD

- International Center for Environmental Health & Development
- Project title: "
- Goal: To improve economic empowerment for marginalised women and improve their access to skills

## HOOMSEN

- HOOMSEN Women Farmers, Shepwan
- Project title: 'Mu ma a yi da mu'
- Goal: Women representation in decision-making at the traditional council in Shepwan village, Shendam LGA of Plateau State.

## Upcoming Activities

Upcoming Activities

For updates on upcoming events, visit:

<https://www.voicenaija.org/Newsroom/Event>

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We hope you found it informative and engaging. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Finally, we urge you to stay curious, stay connected, and as always, stay awesome!

Until next time,  
Cognito/NINE Team.