

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 dear readers,

The month of March was the vibrant women’s month all over the world, and in this newsletter edition, we are focusing on the incredible work of Voice-funded organizations in Nigeria that are championing the rights of women and girls.

From empowering women to be leaders in their communities to promoting gender equality, addressing gender-based violence, and bridging the gender gap in digital technology, the work being done by Voice-funded organizations is inspiring and impactful. We bring you stories of the innovative approaches and the positive impact they are making in the lives of women and girls.

This edition serves as a reminder of the importance of embracing equity and the need to continue to support the efforts of organizations working towards achieving it, as well as recognizing the resilience and strength of women.

So sit back, grab a cup of coffee, tea, or water, and join us as we celebrate the achievements of women, through the lens of organizations working tirelessly to empower them.



Gender Mobile – Celebrating International Women's Day 2023!

Voice Nigeria and grantee organisations have celebrated International Women's Day 2023, with a focus on the theme "DigitAll: Innovation and Technology for Gender." Activities organised by the grantee organisations aim to empower women through technology, promoting gender equality by addressing the digital divide. Gender Mobile Initiative held advocacy programs to promote girls' participation in STEM, documented in Abuja and Ekiti under their "Campus Safety Initiative Project." The collaboration has resulted in remarkable outcomes towards women empowerment through the effective use of technology.



Creating Hope and Change for Nigerian Girls in FCT Slums: NAYA's Economic Empowerment Project.

Creating Hope Among Nigerian Girls through Economic Enterprise (CHANGE) is a project aimed at empowering 16 Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) in the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria through vocational training programs in fashion design, hairdressing, and bag making. With the support of Voice to Novel Association for Youth Advocacy (NAYA), the beneficiaries are being mentored by highly skilled Master tradesmen/women to gain hands-on knowledge and practical skills. NAYA's goal is to make the beneficiaries financially resilient, thus sheltering them against gender-based exploitation, abuse, and violence they face. The project will culminate in the establishment of two joint business hubs for 12 beneficiaries who complete the training and mentorship phase. The project is not only changing the lives of the beneficiaries but also the perception of the community, and community leaders promise to stand by NAYA throughout the project.

COSROPIN – Steady Putting Smiles in the Faces of Older Persons in Vulnerable Communities.

The Coalition of Societies for the Rights of Older Persons in Nigeria (COSROPIN) and Save our Heritage Initiative (SOHI) collaborated to host the 3rd "Older Persons' Hangout" sponsored by Voice, which took place on March 18th, 2023. The event was well-attended by 'senior citizens' who had an opportunity to interact and engage in valuable conversations, network, and participate in various recreational activities. The organizers ensured that the older persons' needs were met, and their well-being was prioritized throughout the event. These periodic hangouts for older persons are becoming a norm in the community and provide a platform for them to socialize and form new friendships, which is essential for their emotional, mental and physical health.



Cognito and NINE join Gender Justice Community of Practice to celebrate International Women's Day on Twitter.

In collaboration with the Gender Justice Community of Practice, Cognito and NINE celebrated International Women's Day with a Twitter conversation, highlighting success stories and challenges as regards the gender gap in digital technology. This Twitter space created a learning platform for other organizations to pick learnings from their peers as regards maximizing digital technology in advocating for the cause of their rightholders.

You can still catch all the action by checking out the recorded twitter space at the link below.

[Twitter Space](#)

Learn more at these links:

[Voice Najja Platform](#)

[Cognito - Link & Learn](#)

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Abuse Knows No Gender: A Project to Educate Boys on Gender-Based Violence.

During the project SABI advocacy visit to secondary schools, one of the mentors, Stephanie Iwunze encountered a young boy in Junior Secondary School, JSS3, who had a warped understanding of gender, believing that being a boy exempted him from abuse or violence. The project SABI is aiming to educate and mentor boys like him to become gender advocates. One initiative is the Boys Against Gender-Based Violence (BAGBV) Club, engaging boys and men in the project's focal states. Connected Development (CODE) engaged with boys to change their mindset, showing that they are capable of understanding gender-based violence and becoming advocates for gender equality. Project SABI is seeking to engage men and boys at the grassroots level to change societal stereotypes and beliefs, one boy at a time.



Gender Mobile Initiative partners with the University of Abuja for a Townhall forum.

The Gender Mobile Initiative team visited the University of Abuja, Gwagwalada, to increase reportage, hold perpetrators accountable, and improve institutional accountability in tertiary institutions. They briefed the University Management on their ongoing activities, and together they agreed to hold a Town-hall forum to discuss gender equity, sexual harassment, and discrimination. The team also met with the Student Union Government representatives, who pledged their support for the initiative. The Center for Gender expressed excitement about the partnership and the opportunity to engage with students and stakeholders. The visit promises to be a catalyst for positive change in the university community.

Homsen Women Farmers Extend International Women's Day Celebration with Nba'al Traditional Council.

Homsen Women Farmers joined forces with 'Magajiya Mat Nagiya', their prospective Women Representative in the Nba'al Traditional Council, to extend their International Women's Day celebration on March 31st, 2023. The event was attended by His Royal Highness Miskoom Yenyil (Noebang Nbaal) of Shendam LGA in Plateau state, who pledged maximum cooperation towards the completion of the "Mu ma a yi damu" project. The event highlights the Homsen Women Farmers' dedication to promoting women's rights and economic empowerment.



Cognito and NINE - Capturing Grantee Innovations.

Cognito & NINE visited four grantee organizations in fulfilment of the Innovate and Test approach under the Voice Program, with the aim of capturing their learnings in the form of audio-visual materials. The organizations visited were CARE, CODE, FOSE, and YIAGA Africa, all of which have implemented projects that have made significant changes in Nigerian communities. CARE's "Project Accessible Aviation" made Nigerian airports more accommodating for PWDs, CODE's "Project SABI" focused on increasing awareness and understanding of reproductive health and gender-based violence, FOSE's "Know Your Rights" aimed to curb police brutality and educate communities on their basic human rights, and YIAGA Africa's "Run to Win" encouraged more young people to run for office. Cognito & Nine plans to release documentaries featuring these materials in the near future.

Learn more at these links:

- [Voice Najja Platform](#)
- [Cognito - Link & Learn](#)

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Voice Grantees Overview

● Old Grantees ● New Grantees

SPF

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

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

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

CAPIO

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

CARE

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

CCD

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

CODE

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

YIAGA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COGNITO NINE

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

ACHA

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

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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 this edition of the 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.