

# **REPORT** **OF CAFOD-CWSI**

**GENDER JUSTICE AND INCLUSION PROJECTS  
IN KOGI STATE, NIGERIA.  
(2012-2024)**



**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development





Report of CAFOD-CWSI: Gender Justice and Inclusion Projects in Kogi State, Nigeria 2012-2024

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CWSI	-	Centre for Women Studies and Intervention
CAFOD	-	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
G&G	-	Gender and Governance
CCFN	-	Catholic Carita's Foundation of Nigeria
DPC	-	Development and Peace Canada
CDA	-	Community Development Association
CBO	-	Community Based Organization
CSO	-	Civil Society Organization
HHCI	-	Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus
VAW	-	Violence Against Women
CAC	-	Corporate Affairs Commission
ECOSOC	-	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
		Miseror-German Catholic Bishop's Organization for Development Cooperation
OSIWA	-	Open Society Initiative of West Africa
WISD	-	Women Initiative for Sustainable Development
GEMISA	-	Gender Mainstreaming in Social Accountability
SWAG	-	Strategic Women Advancement in Governance
KWEC	-	Kogi Women Empowerment Coalition
LGA	-	Local Government Area
DELTA	-	Development Education and Leadership Teams in Action
VAPPA	-	Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

*“Women's involvement in decision making is valuable for the good of the world. That women in society must be involved in decision making is not only right for reasons of equality but also for the specific insights that women bring to the process. This 'feminine genius' will prove most valuable as women increasingly play major roles in the solution of the serious challenges the world is facing”*

### - The Holy See at the General Assembly of UN 2007-

**Tribute to CAFOD:** The Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) is profoundly grateful to the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) for over a decade of funding support and collaboration. Excellence is indeed rewarded. CAFOD and CWSI have journeyed together as development partners, sharing the belief that in every community, women, men, girls, and boys should have the best possible chance to thrive and flourish. Our association with CAFOD has helped our organization grow and adopt an integrated and holistic approach, particularly in providing differential options for the poor, especially women and girls who have been victims of inhuman and degrading treatment for centuries. Partnering with CAFOD has inspired CWSI to move beyond thematic program silos to prioritize people, the environment, and the systems in which we exist. Together, we have cooperatively impacted communities by building social capital and implementing interventions that not only confront but also provide solutions to structural problems of poverty and injustice. We thank CAFOD for helping CWSI achieve success in our shared mission of working towards a more just world.

**Mr. Kelechi Emeh:** We gratefully acknowledge the

contributions of Mr. Kelechi Emeh, CAFOD Nigeria Country Representative. His enormous influence has shaped project learning curves, monitoring and evaluation, and outcome harvesting. His unparalleled dedication, technical guidance, and vast experience, which he willingly shares with the project team, have been major factors in the successes CWSI has achieved from the Gender and Governance (G&G) projects in Kogi State.

### **Kogi Women Empowerment Coalition (KWEK):**

The Coalition was formed in 2014 by the women of Kogi State during the implementation of the G&G projects. It has gone through the stages of forming, storming, norming, and performing. Today, it is a semi-autonomous organization under CWSI and a registered Community-Based Organization (CBO). KWEK is one of the milestones of the G&G projects, representing the face of the intervention and the struggle. CWSI is grateful to all KWEK members for their contributions and commitment to the noble cause of including women in governance and decision-making. The successes achieved in the projects represent a small step for the women of Kogi State but a giant stride for the rights of women in Africa and the world.

### **Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN) and Development and Peace, (CARITAS) Canada:**

Distinct thanks to CARITAS Nigeria for its diligent supervisory role during the lifespan of the projects. We especially remember the late Barrister Cletus Alope (may his soul rest in peace), and Mr Mark Asuobi, the CCFN supervisors of CWSI's implementation of the Gender and Governance (G&G) projects. Their inputs on appropriate reporting processes and procedures were invaluable. CARITAS Canada was invited by CAFOD Nigeria to co-fund the G&G project in Kogi State. Their financial contribution was mainly applied to capacity building for the projects' beneficiaries. This added great value, enabling



KWEC members to share their experiences beyond Kogi State and inspire women in Ebonyi State seeking equitable gender-inclusive governance. CWSI appreciates CARITAS Canada for lessons in humanitarian services and for prioritizing people and the planet.

**Projects' Stakeholders:** Without the cooperation of the stakeholders, the project would not have had the level of success it achieved. We thank all advocacy subjects, including traditional leaders in Kogi State, public officers in the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches, leaders of Community Development Associations (CDAs), influential caregivers, members of professional associations, resource persons, community mobilizers, members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and all who believed in the projects' just cause and contributed to its success.

**The Projects Implementation Team:** We first appreciate Rev. Sr. Ngozi Frances Uti (HHCI), the Executive Director of CWSI, for her mustard-seed planting of CWSI, which has grown to provide comfort for the afflicted, and for her excellent administrative leadership. Secondly, we express great gratitude to Rev. Sr. Rosemary Ukata (HHCI), the immediate past Executive Director of CWSI, under whose forward-thinking leadership the

G&G projects were birthed. Lastly, we appreciate all members of the CWSI staff who were part of the G&G project implementation team, including Barrister Nkiru Odoh, Mrs. Angela Onoise, Barrister Paschal Ignatius Idogbe (Program Manager), Sr. Chinyere Obinna (HHCI), Sr. Ann Okem (HHCI), Sr. Perpetua Eke (HHCI), Sr. Margaret Amaakaven (HHCI), Mr. Victor Okechukwu, Mr. Stanley Anunobi, Ms. Favour Ochulor, Ms. Philomena Ndiye, Barrister Winifred Haruna, Barrister Precious Owubiti, Ms. Edith Ugwu, and CWSI Regional Officer for Kogi State, Mrs. Stella Olabayotan.

**Technical/Information Assistance:** We extend our appreciation and thanks to Mr. Daniel Ogabiela Danladi for designing the pie chart representing the percentage of women in governance in Kogi State at the end of the G&G project; Mr. Bello Adams for calculating the increase in women's inclusion in democratic governance in Kogi State during the project; Mr. Joseph Obitie for his assistance in typing parts of the Report, and Hon. Chief Joan Abi Obaje JP (Acai Omi akele Attah Igala, Adebu) for providing the picture of some Igala female chiefs featured in this Report.



# DEDICATION



**Late, Hon. Mrs,  
Acheju Salome Abu**

This report is dedicated to the late Hon. Mrs. Acheju Salome Abu, who was a member of the Kogi Women Empowerment Coalition (KWECC) and the Women Leader of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the Ochadamu ward, Kogi State East Senatorial District. She was a rural political activist and a vocal advocate for the inclusion of women in governance and decision-making.

During the 2019 election campaign, she was forcefully locked up in her family house by armed male political thugs who then set the house ablaze. She died in the inferno. Her gruesome and cold-blooded murder, which shocked the nation of Nigeria, is unforgettable evidence of mindless violence against women (VAW). May her soul and the souls of countless women who have been murdered as a result of their gender rest in peace. Amen





**Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI)** is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) registered in 1999 with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It has consultative status with the **Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC)** and is affiliated with the **Department of Global Communication at the United Nations**. CWSI is a not-for-profit and non-partisan initiative of the **Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCJ)**. HHCJ is a congregation of women religious founded in Calabar, Nigeria, in 1931 by Mother Mary Charles Magdalene Walker of the Religious Sisters of Charity (RSC). Mother Mary Charles Walker's vocation centered on empowering Women and the girl-child; facilitating their education, inspiring them to achieve, and promoting their dignity and

human rights. The yearning to continue her significant contribution to human development propelled the formation of the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention.

CWSI carries on studies and interventions to dismantle unjust systems that discriminate and problematize vulnerable persons irrespective of their sex, race, creed, or status. Primarily, the organization campaigns for the elimination of violence against female persons and, the deconstruction of cultural, social, political, religious, and economic barriers and stereotypes that impair the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise of their rights, liberty, and freedom. CWSI empowers women and girls toward the actualization of their legitimate aspirations.





## *Mission*

CWSI propelled by faith in the creator of all beings is committed to upholding the dignity of women and other vulnerable persons through capacity building, advocacy, awareness raising, research, and documentation.

## *Vision*

CWSI envisions women and other vulnerable persons empowered, liberated and active in the creation of a better world.



## *Core Values*

- **Courage** – to choose life and not let fear cripple our imagination in the breaking of unjust fetters.
- **Accountability**—to that which gave rise to us and causes us to be responsible to our beneficiaries and partners.
- **Commitment** – to take action in freedom for the establishment of a New World; a new order.
- **Integrity** – to speak of what we know: of our experience and the hope we bear.



## **Our Strategic Goal**

CWSI seeks the holistic empowerment of women for social rebirth and the promotion of gender equality and equity.

## **Where Are We Located**

The Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) is located at Flat 2, Block 3, Bichi Close, off Sokoto Street, Area 1 Section 1, in Garki, Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria. Visitors and mail can be directed to P.O Box 4686, Garki, FCT, Abuja, Nigeria, 900241.





## OUR THEMATIC AREA OF DEVELOPMENT WORK

- **Democratic governance/human rights:** CWSI contributes to the inclusion of women in the governance and leadership process in Nigeria by mainstreaming gender in decision-making. We also struggle for the dismantling of oppressive systems through sensitization, advocacy and human rights education for the implementation of gender-sensitive laws and policies to end discrimination and violence against women and girls.
- **Migration and movement of people:** CWSI aims at promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration. CWSI further aims at ensuring the protection and empowerment of vulnerable refugees in IDP camps in Nigeria
- **Economic and poverty alleviation:** CWSI promotes and empowers women to be financially independent to combat poverty and advance the sustainable development of their communities
- **Environment and sanitation:** CWSI aims at implementing an environmental protection framework and create community and institutional awareness on mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- **Research and documentation:** CWSI aims to become a research and documentation centre where data and recommendation briefs on the advancement and protection of the rights of women and girls can be accessed.



# PROLOGUE

**T**he life cycle of the female human being, from prenatal, infancy, childhood, and adulthood to the elderly is heavily laden with man-made burdens. It is not an easy road. In many African societies, a woman is not considered equal to a man. She is expected to be married to a man who will be her husband and for whom she will bear and raise children and to whom she will remain subjugated to the obligation of quiet obedience and humble submissiveness. On the premise of patriarchal norms; a female from the outset is nurtured to take up subordinate roles and mentored to be a good mother and a dutiful wife who satisfies the needs of her husband. In the gender-biased environment in which women live, they are bedeviled with multifaceted exploitation and violence including physical abuse, emotional and psychological abuse, sexual abuse, harassment and rape, neglect, including differential access to food, health care and education, early/forced marriage, and genital mutilation. In many situations, women are extremely vulnerable and they can be likened to an endangered species.

It was against this background that CWSI started development work in Kogi State in the year 2000 following a need to carry out grass-root human rights education, advocacy, and sensitization for improved gender mainstreaming in the cultural life of Kogi State



**Rev. Sr. Ngozi Frances Uti (HHCI)**  
Executive Director, CWSI

communities. Beginning from the year 2002 to 2007, CWSI implemented the following programmes in Kogi State:

- Grass-root Human Rights Education; held at Pastoral and Catechetical Centre, Anyigba, Kogi East on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2002, implemented with the funding support of **Heinrich Boll Foundation**, gender training workshop for men, held at Anyigba, 28th-30<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Implemented with the funding support of Heinrich Boll



Foundation, advocacy visits to traditional leaders and stakeholders in Okene, Kogi Central. October to December 2007, Implemented with the funding support of MISEREOR, report back session of women from Okene on the human rights training of workshops held in Okene from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2007, implemented with the funding support of OSIWA, gender Training Workshop on Human Rights Education at the grass-root held at Da-villa Guest House, Okene, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007, implemented with the funding support of OSIWA.

**The objectives of the projects were as follows:**

- To sensitize and conscientize traditional leaders and other duty bearers on the human rights of women and girls
- To enlighten the communities on gender bias, human rights violation and strategies to defend individual and community rights, especially the rights of vulnerable persons
- To educate the communities on the need for their full and equal and full participation in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life at all levels
- To educate the male population of the community about gender issues and their importance in promoting gender equality.

In furtherance of CWSI's vision that women and other vulnerable persons are empowered, liberated, and active in the creation of a better world. The projects above summarized contributed toward ending discrimination against women in Kogi State perpetrated in the forms of conjured images

of rejection, violation of women's bodily integrity, humiliation and abnegation, which destroy women mentally and psychologically. It was in the continuum of the noble objective of ending violence against women that the partnership of the **Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)** and the **Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI)** was birthed to the glory of God and the advancement of justice and peace.

The CAFOD-CWSI collaboration began when **Mr. Patrick Wajero**, the Director of CAFOD Office in Nigeria walked uninvited into CWSI office in 2012 to make an offer of collaboration. He had seen a publication of CWSI in McAthur Nigeria office which attracted his interest and he felt the organization which produced such a superb publication is worth working with. Since then, CAFOD and CWSI have journeyed together as development partners. In 2012 CWSI started the implementation of the Gender and Governance (G&G) Project (with the support of Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and supervisory collaboration of Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN) The first project which CWSI implemented with CAFOD funding support was Gender Audit for Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN) and Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN). The second G&G Project, Gender awareness in the Catholic Dioceses of Lokoja and Idah, Kogi state of Nigeria aimed at promoting Social Justice, alleviating poverty, building strong governance institutions, processes and structures that are transparent, accountable and intolerant of impunity and corruption by Government agencies. Secondly, it also aimed to intervene in violence and all forms of discrimination against Women and girls which manifest in



social, political, economic and cultural gender inequality.

In 2014/2015 the G&G project was continued with specific focus on political marginalization and exclusion of women from governance and decision making. The Project was titled **“Women Initiative for Sustainable Development (WISD)”** The intervention was to empower women to overcome obstacles that prevented their full participation and inclusion in decision making and to overcome negative stereotypes about women leadership roles, particularly, assumed female person's limited capacity or potential to effectively hold public office and false perceptions about women that has resulted in many forms of stereotyping of women seeking election into democratic representation. The project motivated women aspiring to contest electoral positions to deconstruct the obstacles that prevent their full participation and inclusion in decision making and to alter wrong perceptions about women's alleged inferiority. The project made tremendous progress on repositioning women them to confidently seek competitive and appointive position for gender inclusive governance.

In 2015/2016 the G&G project was implemented with the project name **“Gender mainstreaming in social Accountability (GEMISA)”**. CWSI's unrelenting motivation and animation of Kogi women to seek competitive, elective and appointive positions for inclusive governance yielded an epoch outcome; **“KOGI WOMEN EMPOWERMENT COALITION”** (KWECC) was formed by the Project's beneficiaries. In due course, CAFOD-CWSI intervention to increase women representation in governance in Kogi State was also supported by **Canada**

**Development and Peace** also known as CARITAS CANADA. KWECC was registered under the authority of Kogi State Ministry of Women Affairs on 1st June 2016. The **“Gender mainstreaming in social Accountability (GEMISA) Project** aligned with Civil Society and United Nations International best practices of **right based approach** was diligently implemented in phases. The project produced ground-breaking outcomes of unprecedented number of women elected and appointed into public offices and into traditional councils.

Based on the increased number of women representatives in the governance of Kogi State the G&G project was implemented with the project name, Strategic Women Advancement in Governance. (SWAG). The project was implemented in two phases. SWAG 1 was aimed at building the knowledge of the women in government on the nuances of governance while SWAG 2 which was the last phase of the G&G Project was a project of capacity utilization aimed at assisting the women to practicalize effective representation in governance. This fact sheet details the journey of the G&G Project which is a *“locus-classicus”* of a successful intervention on equitable gender inclusive governance.

**Rev. Sr. Ngozi Frances Uti (HHCIJ)**  
Executive Director, CWSI



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# **PART 1**

## **Gender Awareness and Human Rights Projects**



## GROUND ZERO: BACKGROUND TO THE G&G PROJECTS:

**G**ender and Governance (G&G) is the umbrella name for the projects that CAFOD supported CWSI in implementing from 2012 to 2024. These twelve-year projects aimed to close the significant gender gaps in Kogi State, Nigeria, which arose from socially entrenched gender inequalities and categorizations that suppress women's rights. The gender system had created such an imbalance and inequality that customary frameworks and policies were embedded in patriarchal power structures, resulting in the exclusion of women from power, governance, privileges, and decision-making. In light of the severe gender injustices by which women in Kogi State were relegated to tumultuous social, economic, and political disadvantages and suppression by their male counterparts, CAFOD and CWSI deemed it appropriate to carry out interventions. In the best interest of human development, they sought to achieve a more equitable gender balance in Kogi State. The most glaring gender inequality identified by CWSI through meticulous studies

and surveys was the exclusion of women from governance and decision-making in both civil democracy and customary governance. It was on account of this that CAFOD and CWSI initiated the G&G Project. The projects underwent processes of metamorphosis and upscaling. From 2012 to 2024, a total of twelve projects were implemented under the G&G Projects. Each project had a specific name and distinctive feature. The names of the projects and their years of implementation are chronicled in this report as follows:

### MILESTONE 1:

#### COMMENCEMENT OF CAFOD-CWSI COLLABORATION AND INITIATION OF THE GENDER AND GOVERNANCE PROJECTS



# FIRST PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD FUNDING SUPPORT:

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Gender Audit for Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN) and Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN).

**PROJECT NAME:** Engendering Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) Partners Organization for Sustainable Development.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Abuja

**PROJECT DURATION:** May 2012 – September 2012

**PROJECT AIM:**

- To assist, support and inspire Catholic Partners and Catholic Church Organizations to institutionalize gender mainstreaming policy towards the achievement of gender equality.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The month of May 2012 is the first milestone in the history of CAFOD – CWSI Collaboration for social justice development work. It was the year CAFOD engage CWSI to implement the project titled “**Engendering Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) Partners Organization for Sustainable Development**”. The project was formulated or designed to help bridge the gender gaps for institutions working with CAFOD. This was in line with

CAFOD's thematic focus on gender justice and for the Catholic Community to promote gender equality. The principal organizations which worked with CWSI for the achievement of the projects objective are the Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN) and Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN).

**SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT**

- Data collected from staff and key persons on gender related issues from CCFN and CSN FOR analysis
- Baseline information established for building of CCFN and CSN staff capacities on gender related issues.
- Improved understanding of CCFN and CSN staff on gender related issues.

**PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED**

- Developing and adopting gender office and programme analysis
- Gender institutional review and programming analysis in CCFN and CSN
- Gender office audit in CCFN and Church and society
- Documentation of findings, and recommendations and buy-in



## OVERALL ACHIVEMENT OF THE PROJECT

- The project culminated into publication of a book in 2013 titled *“Gender Audit for Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria”*. The publication is archived in the National Library of Nigeria, Cataloguing in publication data ISBN:978-978-923-995-3. It amplified the gender justice concern of the Catholic Church and drew attention to the 1963 encyclical, (*Pacem in Terris*) whereof the Pope, St. John XXIII recognized the political rights of every person to take active part in public affairs and to contribute one's part to the common good of citizens. The publication reported that years later, the statement was articulated in the 1995 Beijing platform for Action. Furthermore, the Catholic voices on the rights of women in Africa buttressed it by observing that women's equal participation in decision making is not merely a demand for inclusivity but a necessity for social justice and sustainable development.

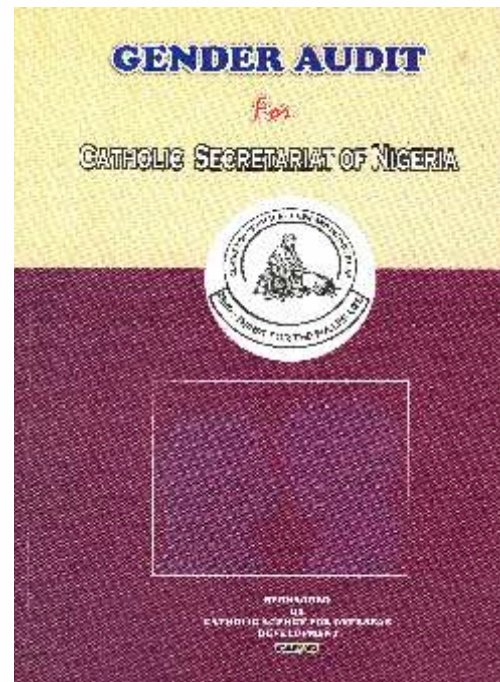
To emphasize the importance of gender justice, the publication also re-echoed on-the-marble words of St. John Paul II that:

*“In creating the human race male and female; God gives man and woman an equal personal dignity endowing them with inalienable rights and responsibilities proper to the human person” (160). The Synod deplored those African Customs and practices “which deprive women of their rights and respect due to them” (161) and asked the church on the continent to make every effort*

*to foster the safeguarding of this rights.*

-1963 encyclical,  
(*Pacem in Terris*)-

- The gender audit as a governance tool helped the management of CCFN and CSN to analyze its standard of gender equity and to be gender sensitive in their allocation of resources, administrative practices and processes.
- As a result of the project, CSN and CCFN which are organizations seeking to feed the hungry, heal the sick, educate the public, preserve the environment and protect human rights had improved knowledge on gender mainstreaming as best practices for effective intervention.
- The project also enhanced the capacities of the desk officers of CSN and CCFN on gender and the entire staff to reposition for effective service delivery.





## SECOND PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD FUNDING SUPPORT:

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Gender awareness in the Catholic Dioceses of Lokoja and Idah, Kogi state of Nigeria.

**PROJECT NAME:** Engendering the Local Church for Sustainable Development

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 4 communities in the Catholic Dioceses of Lokoja and Idah i.e. Lokoja, Kabba, Idah and Ibaji

**PROJECT DURATION:** April 2013 to October 2013

### PROJECT AIM:

- The project aimed to create awareness on genders issues, targeting civil society organizations, traditional institutions, the private sector and media practitioners in Lokoja and Idah Diocese.
- The project also aimed to contribute to the Churches mission of promoting social justice, ending poverty, building strong governance institutions, processes and structures that are transparent, accountable and intolerant of impunity and corruption.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Sequel to CWSI's successful implementation of '*Engendering Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) Partners organization for sustainable development*' project in 2012, CAFOD collaborated with CWSI again to carry out another project in

2013. The project was in tandem with a CWSI's thematic area of development work, gender and governance (G & G) and it was a run-up to the human rights and women inclusive Projects which were subsequently designed and implemented by CWSI with CAFOD support.

### SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT

- Improved awareness of citizens in rural communities on gender issues.
- Increased stakeholders support, participation and cooperation to promote social justice and accountabilities

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

- Production of IEC materials
- Reviewed meetings
- Two capacity building workshops on gender and human rights
- Workshop materials
- Development and production of training manual





## OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT

- Perceptual and attitudinal change on stereotyping of women and increased inter-gender cooperation in the communities.
- Increased number of beneficiaries became change agents for involvement of women in community building after the human rights training.
- Increased awareness of beneficiaries on the need to challenge impunity and corruption at the Local Government levels and for collective activism towards building of strong governance institutions.

### ON THE MARBLE

The **Foreword** to the gender training manual written by **Mr. Kelechi Emeh** CAFOD representative as he then was before his elevation to the position of Country Director laconically highlighted the importance of knowledge building on gender awareness and the essence of the project as follows;

*“In the image of God, he created them-men and women he created them” (Genesis 1:26)*

*At the heart of the Christian faith is creation; of the universe and the natural world of humanity. People, each man and woman created in the image and likeness of God and in continuing relationship with God. Each person unique but with equal dignity as an image of God the creator.*

*Centre for women and Intervention in collaboration with Catholic Agency for Overseas Development and Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria is implementing a gender equality and empowerment Project.*

*This focus on the equality of women and men is particularly important as we see gender inequality as a critical factor in global development. Our understanding of gender is centered on the recognition of the the power imbalance between women and men and the unjust disadvantages that this produces for women in accessing the resources, education, health, security and other essential elements that help to build a dignified life. This understanding of gender does not neglect or negate the deep injustice and disadvantage experienced by many in the world.*

*We recognize that gender is a social construct that helps us to understand and explore*



*differences in the relationships and experience of men and women. As such, gender will mean different things to different people. In this manual our understanding is rooted in the teachings of the equality of men and women, which reflect in the position of the church. The manual elucidates the deep forms of discrimination and injustice experienced by women and by the poorest women in particular that should be transformed in our generation.*

*The purpose of the manual is to provide individuals, community (socio-political, religious and economic) elites, social workers, service providers as well as law enforcement officers with requisite information and guidance to enable them identify and*

*effectively manage issues related to gender equality. Addressing gender equality is a shared responsibility as its negative effect cuts across all development sectors and levels. Also, the manual provides a quick reference guide on gender equality in different contexts, highlights specific legal provisions and practical advice to survivors/victims and stakeholders on how to respond where it responds as well as preventive measures. Therefore, I call upon all stakeholders and community members to use the manual and work together to prevent and respond to Gender Based violence. Collectively we have the capacity to support gender equality and live in a gender-based violence free community.”*

## THIRD PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD FUNDING SUPPORT:

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Human Rights Project in Lokoja and Idah Dioceses.

**PROJECT NAME:** Formation and training of human rights advocates in Lokoja and Idah Dioceses.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 4 communities in the Catholic Dioceses of Lokoja and Idah i.e., Lokoja, Kabba, Idah and Ibaji

**PROJECT DURATION** November 2013 to March 2014

### **PROJECT AIM:**

- To promote and protect civil and political rights, especially women in politics who are vulnerable to violence and marginalization

within political systems.

- To have a group of human rights advocates who will sensitize communities on human rights and encourage realization of economic, social and cultural rights in the communities of the dioceses of lokoja and idah.
- To stand against all forms of human rights abuses, including violence against women and girls (VAW/G) and to work towards upliftment of social justice and to encourage the basic principles of dignity, liberty and equality and respect for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to caste, greed, race, gender, language ethnicity or religion.
- To track, monitor, and report and document



human right violations.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** In furtherance of the “*engendering the local church for sustainable development*” project, another project was implemented in Lokoja and Idah Dioceses in 2014. The project focused on human rights. This was an important upscale of the 2013 project. The rationale being that the gender imbalances which CAFOD and CWSI aimed to address were intertwined with human rights violations. It was on this ground that the project was formulated and executed. The project was a prelude to the Gender and Governance projects. The main thrust of the project was that nothing is more fundamental to peace than the full realization of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Conflict can be avoided through the reaffirmation of fundamental human rights, therefore establishment of community institutions for Justice and the promotion of social progress and sustainable development become very important.

#### SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT:

- A group of youths who are zealous and willing to address human rights issues in their communities formed.
- Sensitizing of human rights advocates on the criteria for membership of human rights advocates group.

#### PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:

- Formation of human rights groups
- Sensitizing of human rights advocates group on the criteria for membership.

#### OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT

- Successful formation of human rights advocates group
- Increased knowledge of the human rights advocates group on monitoring, tracking, defending and reporting of human rights violations in the project locations.



Group Photograph after the Human Rights training held at Idah, Idah Diocese, Kogi State





The Human Rights training session during the third G&G Project held at Lokoja, Lokoja Diocese.

## Map of Kogi State Nigeria; projects location





# PART 2

## Women Inclusive Governance Projects



## FOURTH PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD FUNDING SUPPORT:

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Inclusion of Women in governance and decision-making projects

**PROJECT NAME:** Women Initiatives for Sustainable Development.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Lokoja and Idah Diocese of Kogi State

**PROJECT DURATION:** April 2014 to November 2014

**PROJECT AIM:**

- To promote and protect civil and political rights, especially women in politics who are vulnerable to violence and marginalization within political systems.
- To have a group of human rights advocates who will sensitize communities on human rights and encourage realization of economic, social and cultural rights in the communities of the dioceses of Lokoja and Idah.
- To stand against all forms of human rights abuses, including violence against women and girls (VAW/G) and to work towards upliftment of social justice
- To encourage the basic principles of dignity, liberty and equality and respect for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to caste, greed, race, gender, language ethnicity or religion. Lastly to track,

monitor, and report and document human right violations.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Women's Marginalization in Nigeria cuts across every aspect of the society, despite their contribution towards sustainable development. Their voices are rarely heard in decision making creating a big question on the possibility of achieving the 35% Affirmative action bench mark of women's space in the governance of Nigeria as enunciated in the 2007 National gender policy. The previous projects executed by CWSI was on the theme of gender awareness and protection of human rights. The fourth G & G project focused on women inclusive governance and is the first of the subsequent projects that addresses exclusion of women from decision making. The facts of the project are provided below:

**PROJECT AIM:**

- To establish a bench mark that will provide an insight on the level of women's of women's political participation in the state and build a crop of human rights monitors who will help to protect the rights of women, especially their political campaigns.
- To create awareness on gender issues targeting government, civil society organizations, especially faith-based organizations, traditional institutions and the private sectors in Idah and Lokoja Diocese of Kogi State.



### SPECIFIC CHANGES/OUTCOME PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT

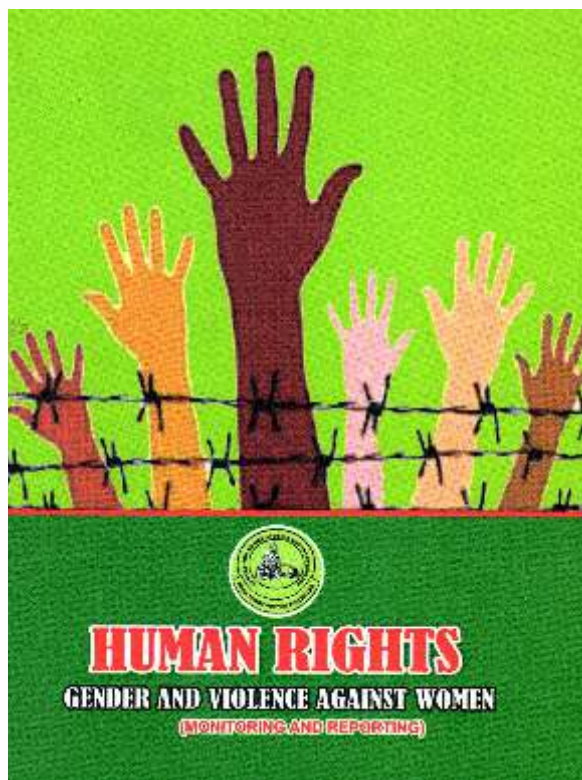
- Knowledge built on gender related human rights monitoring in Kogi state.
- Coordinated and functional human rights groups in Idah and Lokoja Diocese
- Evidence based information for proactive intervention on women in politics in Kogi State established.
- Women politicians are introduced to political party leaders in Kogi state
- Women are conscientized on political participation in Kogi State.
- 80 women to become card carrying members of political party of their choice.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

- 2-day capacity building on human rights with emphasis on violence against women and girls.
- Design and development of training manual and workbook which include monitoring template
- One day training on use of Human rights monitoring manual and template
- Quarterly animation by human rights groups in the two dioceses
- Survey on the level of women political participation in governance in Kogi State
- Critical analysis of research responses
- Reporting of the research responses
- Publication and presentation of survey finding
- Two-day political summit for women and men in Kogi state
- 2-day capacity building on leadership
- Quarterly in advocacy visits to 7 gate keepers and 2 CSOs in the state to gain support for women on politics.

### OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- Sixty (60) member human rights advocates formed in Lokoja and Idah Diocese.
- Human rights advocates group introduced to the Executive arm of government of Kogi State
- Increased number of women expressed stronger resolve and aspiration to context in the 2015 election.
- Increased capacity of women in politics on leadership skills, politicking and electioneering competences.
- The leaders of Nigerian Labour Congress NLC in Kogi State chapter declared support for women aspirants to context 2015 election.
- Increased unity and support of solidarity of women for each other
- Increased number of men expressed readiness to support women in the 2015 election.





- Increased number of political party leaders support women politicians
- 250 copies of human rights manual published.

Kogi Women Empowerment coalition (KWEC) formed on 23rd November 2014 by women in politics from various political parties as a pressure group and women development organization for the advancement of women's socio-political and economic interest in Kogi state. The laudable

objective of the coalition was to amplify their voices, support one another, strengthen their opportunities and capacities, carry out strategic advocacies and make stronger demands for inclusive governance.

The pioneer officials were as follows

- Dr. (Mrs) Dorcas Onuminya (President)
- Hajia Jumai Isah (Vice President)
- Nnansha Michael Ihunde (Secretary)



Dr. Mrs. Dorcas Onuminya, First President of Kogi Women Empowerment Coalition (KWEC) standing middle in the group photograph with some pioneer members of KWEC after the election of first KWEC Executives.

## MILESTONE 2:

### KOGI WOMEN EMPOWERMENT COALITION FORMED ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2014 AND FIRST OFFICIALS ELECTED





Inauguration of KVEC at Lokoja Kogi State



Mass mobilization of women in Kogi East to campaign for inclusion of women in governance and decision making



## FIFTH PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD SUPPORT:

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Increasing women's participation in political processes and demanding that duty bearers be held accountable for inclusion of women in governance and decision making.

**PROJECT NAME:** Gender Mainstreaming in Social Accountability (GEMISA PHASE 1) 2015

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The three senatorial Districts of Kogi State

**PROJECT DURATION:** April 2015 to March 2016

**PROJECT AIM:**

- To empower women and facilitate their full participation on the basis of equality in decision-making process and access to power which are fundamental for the advancement of equality, development and peace.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** After the primary election of 2014 which was a run-up to the 2015 election, all the women across the various political parties who contested in the election did not win their party's nomination. All the positions were taken by men. CWSI carried out a post-election assessment to

ascertain the root cause for the mass failure of the women to win party primary election despite the spirited struggle they had put up to get elected. The assessment revealed that there is wide-spread tribal and cultural paradigm of patriarchal dominance that fuels the exclusion of women from Leadership and decision-making right from the grass root communities. This situation holds sway and it is a formidable obstacle to women's quest for electoral position. This culturally institutionalize patriarchy is generally internalized and translated to further exclusion of women in civil politics, governance and decision-making processes. The customary setting at the grass-root was a major culprit in the regime of gender inequalities in Kogi State. This situation also hinted a cause to address the gender gap right from the grass-root i.e., there was need to penetrate the deeper structure of tribal, cultural and communal traditions that exclude the female gender from participating in the decision-making process. It is the tributaries of customary exclusion that forms the larger pool of general female exclusion in decision-making and denial of access to power. Our submission was that intervention was needed at the grass-root communities for paradigm shift. This is an effective strategy that will not only address the exclusion of women from



decision-making but also help to dismantle the cultural system that discriminate against the Nigerian/Kogi woman right from birth, through adolescence, adulthood, marriage, death and widowhood. Even though the Nigerian constitution which is the ground norm guarantees every individual the right to freedom from discrimination, such rights are violated in practice due to long-held **beliefs and customary practices**. These practices are mostly discriminatory against the female whether as a daughter, a wife, a mother, or a widow.

### SPECIFIC CHANGES/OUTCOME PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT

- Strategic and positive gender interventions in governance that will close the existing gender gap towards sustainable development.
- Women acquire and develop skills that will enhance their political ambition.  
Women inclusiveness in governance come 2015.
- A proactive human right gender-based intervention encouraged and supported in Idah and Lokoja dioceses.
- Existence, efficient and functionality of at least 2 human rights clubs in Idah and Lokoja dioceses.
- Reduction in the percentage of physical assault cases on the female gender by 10% using the result of the survey from the locations already analyzed as bench mark.

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

- Organize quarterly advocacy visits to

gate keepers in the state

- Build the capacity of 35 members of the human rights club in each diocese on human rights
- Train 70 human rights clubs' member on the use of template and incidence reporting workbook
- Animate the human rights clubs through quarterly visits and inputs
- Carry out survey on women political participation in Kogi state
- Organize a state summit to sensitize 100 women in Kogi state on political participation
- Training for women politicians
- Presentation of survey findings and submission of final report

### OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- Leadership and political knowledge of women in politics enhanced
- Increased awareness of gender and human rights in the Catholic Dioceses of communities of Idah and Lokoja.
- Human rights advocates groups established in Idah, Lokoja and Kabba
- Human rights members acquired knowledge on monitoring, tracking and reporting human rights violation.
- Women in politics sensitized on participation in political processes.
- Women in politics trained on the nuances of politicking and constituency mobilization skills.
- Readiness of CBOs, NGOs, and other Civil Society groups to partner towards the project's success.
- KWEK members build their coalition, amplified their voices, connected grass-root women and aimed to



- change stereotypical mindsets through engagements of duty bearers and influential citizens.
- Advocacy visits carried out to traditional leaders and influential persons on supporting inclusion of women in decision making.
- Survey on female participation in democratic processes in Kogi State published





## FINDINGS OF CWSI SURVEY ON THE CAUSES OF EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING IN KOGI STATE WERE AS FOLLOWS:

·**Cultural And Patriarchal Ideology:** Structural and functional constraints faced by women are shaped by socio-political relations of the society and that the common patterns of women's political exclusion stem from ideological factors. this restricts women access to public space and their roles. Culture and societal norms define political and decision-making space as an arena for male dominance resulting in structural blockages for women's access to resources and opportunities. Culture is a strong factor in understanding the predominant gender ideology of Kogi State society and that socio-cultural environment undermines women's status and autonomy and act against the principle of social justice and equality. Dominant patriarchal ideology has been inhibiting the attainment of equal status and opportunities for the women.

·**Finance:** Furthermore, the feminization of poverty and expensive nature of politics puts political representation beyond the income of women.

·**Political Structural Barrier:** Relegation or marginalization in political party administration and structure has resulted into monopolization of plum positions of power and influence by men. Women are rather downgraded to women wings of the political parties where they are referred to as 'power behind the throne' to mobilize votes for men who control the political parties. Non-inclusion of women in top party hierarchy and structure of the political parties leads to the

absence of women in the mainstream of political parties and ultimately exclusion from governance.

·**Violence:** Additionally, electoral malpractices such as rigging and violence easily scare women away from politics and have impeded women's active and equal participation.

·**Societal Factor and the use of invectives:** The problem of 'God Fatherism' is the exercise of influence and control by influential political party leaders who use their position to create advantage for favoured political aspirants. Women who actively pursue their political ambition suffer invectives from male opponents. Such women are labeled as cultural deviants and harlots. For this reason women in politics are not easily disposed to work with God-fathers due to the negative image that such relationship may connote e.g. that such a female political aspirant is "*ashawo*" meaning that she is a prostitute or that she is promiscuous.

·**Lack of Capacity:** General lack of interest in political activities due to the perception that 'politics is a dirty game' has also militated against women participation in the political and decision-making processes.

·**Social Capital and Political Capacities:** Women often lack required political skills, education and training because they rarely have the opportunities of being head of clans, communities and kinship groups – schools for leadership training.

·**Lack of Level playing ground and unfavorable Political Party policies and practices:** Even though the challenges that



have stunted women's political participation are mostly informed by numerous economic, social and cultural constraints, the most formidable factor responsible for the exclusion of women is at the political party level. This is the point where women are tactically marginalized and prevented from accessing power. This explains why all the women who contested in the primary elections on the platform of all political parties lost to their male counterparts. It is at the political party level that party meetings are deliberately held at nocturnal and unsociable hours. As a result of the prevailing gender division of labour in women are most often than not unable to attend these meetings where very crucial decisions of who gets what, when and how are taken. It is at the party level that women are excluded from holding important positions in the party. The party structure de-emphasizes the formation of women's caucuses in order not to give women autonomy within the party, rather they are made subject to it. This constraint has been deliberately imposed on women by the establishment of "Women's Wing", which are mere nominal position of no consequence.

### MILESTONE 3 BASELINE ON EXCLUSION OF WOMEN IN

#### LEADERSHIP AND DECISION MAKING IN KOGI STATE ESTABLISHED:

- The study established that the gender gap was so wide that there was not a single woman in the Kogi State legislature (House of Assembly). The numerical composition of the House of Assembly is 100% male.

- In the entire government of Kogi State comprising elective position and appointive portfolio, men constitute 93%. The residue of 7% which women occupy is only by the magnanimity of the Executive Governors appointment.

- At the grass-root communities, the local traditional decision-making councils are exclusively 100% male.

This means that **at all levels of decision-making in the state, women are grossly under represented and so do not have a say, even where matters or issues concerning them is being decided.**

It was based on this finding that the G&G project sought to address and change the issue of marginalization of women in public and decision-making including other issues of violence against women. Both of which are issues of equality. Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and a condition for social justice. It is also a fundamental prerequisite for development and peace.



## SIXTH PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD FUNDING SUPPORT:

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Enhanced participation of women in political processes

**PROJECT NAME:** Gender mainstreaming in social accountability (GEMISA Phase 2) 2016

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Three senatorial Districts (East, West and Central) Kogi State

**PROJECT DURATION:** April 2016 to March 2017

**PROJECT AIM:**

- To empower Kogi women to further and better organize and develop their capacities, participate in political processes and claim their spaces to have more women in governance and decision making.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project gave visibility to Kogi Women Empowerment Coalition (KWECC), which became the testimony of the CAFOD-CWSI gender intervention projects in Kogi state to perform the leveraging function of mobilizing Kogi women towards achieving increased inclusion of women in politics and decision making in Kogi state. The most visible good result of the Gender and Good Governance projects in Kogi State as implemented by CWSI with the support of CAFOD and supervision of CCFN is the formation of Kogi Women Empowerment Coalition (KWECC) by the women of Kogi State who were participants at the awareness and sensitization programmes in the preceding year. In this project, KWECC was

expected to be the catalyst for the achievement of the objectives and the expected outcome of GEMISA 2016 intervention. KWECC had branches in the three Senatorial Districts and the number of women in the organization had grown astronomically. There was strong need to keep empowering them. The coalition registered with the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Kogi State. KWECC also developed a constitution, a by-law, elected officials and an Office Headquarter in Lokoja, Kogi State Capital. The main thrust of the gender and good governance projects was intervention to address exclusion of women from politics and decision making. This has remained a burning issue since women were still visibly absent in all levels of governance with only 7% representation in Kogi State governance even though women are about 51% of Kogi state population. The result of the 2015 general election showed that not a single woman was elected into the Legislature and the Executive arm of government. (SEE TABLE ON PAGE 83) Constant and exclusive over representation of men in political decision-making is antithetical to democracy and good governance.

**Other concerns of the project were firstly to drive for the passage of the gender and equal opportunity bill** which will leverage women's gender status and capacitate them to situate their demand for gender equality in a right based context. Secondly, the project was also to develop the managerial competences of KWECC women



and officials to effectively manage their coalition, speak out and take action against gender inequality.

#### **SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT:**

- Enhanced knowledge of the increased KWEC members at the grass-root level to be able to organize as one body, carry out lobbying and claim their political space in all its diversity.
- Increased number of women in political parties who registered as card carrying and involved members of the party (s).
- Improved women's ability to challenge social constructions that limit women in their locations
- Working together on women development agenda e.g., pushing for the passage of the gender and equal opportunity bill proposed for Kogi state.
- Improved data base showing Catholic based organization carrying out gender intervention in Kogi state.
- Increase in the number of professional men and women supporting gender equality
- Increased member of women holding leadership positions in political parties.

#### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:**

- KWEC executives held central meeting in their respective senatorial districts to strategize mass mobilization of women to register in political parties i.e., a total of

21 Executives.

- KWEC with CWSI support carried out advocacy visit to political leaders. (APC, PDP etc.) and working committees of the Parties to canvass for leadership positions in the parties.
- KWEC carried out 20 Radio programmes to be aired in the three senatorial districts to motivate women on participation in political processes and accessing KWEC offices for guidance, mentoring and counseling of women political aspirants.
- KWEC carried out bi-monthly group mentoring for intending female aspirants.
- A 5-day capacity building training on DELTA for 30 members of KWEC was implemented
- A 2-day training on legislative and public policy advocacy training was held for 21 KWEC leaders i.e. Executives and Local Government coordinators; for effective lobbying of members of the state house of assembly towards passage of the gender bill.
- 15 delegated KWEC officials carried out 1 advocacy visit each to; 3 Legislators each from their respective senatorial Districts to lobby them to initiate and support passage of the gender and equal opportunity Bill on the floor of the State House of Assembly.
- 1 Advocacy visit each was carried out to the Catholic Bishop of Lokoja Diocese,



Anglican Bishop of Lokoja Diocese and Imam of Lokoja Central Mosque to canvass support for KWECC and for gender and equal opportunity in Kogi State.

- 5 members of KWECC carried out advocacy visit to the Executive Governor of Kogi state, Secretary to the state Government and Chief of Staff to Kogi State Government to introduce and solicit support for KWECC and for more space to be opened for women to be included in the government
- 5 members of KWECC carried out 1 advocacy visit each to 3 professional women associations and 3 human rights and women focused non-governmental organizations to popularize KWECC, canvass synergistic support for KWECC's gender agenda and elicit increased professional women's membership of KWECC.
- 1 day sensitization and orientation for 60 new members of KWECC in the three senatorial districts.
- KWECC carried out Advocacy visit to Attah Igala and 5 traditional rulers; Eje of Ibaji, ojogba of Ife, Eje of Ofu, Achadu Attah and Ethimayi of Igala Mela to seek further support for women empowerment and inclusion of in decision making at the traditional councils.
- KWECC carried out advocacy visit to the wives of 6 traditional leaders.
- CWSI Supported other cogent and

important needs of KWECC. i.e., office chairs, secretarial equipment, stationaries etc.

#### OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT:

- As a result of activities which took place and the subsequent mobilization of Women in the various communities; there was a massive increase in the number of KWECC members as women in Kogi state from diverse sectors joined KWECC. Also, there was more expansion of KWECC branches in many more communities of Kogi state;
- Three members of KWECC were appointed into the Government of Kogi state: Mrs. victoria Okolo (Supervisory councilor for Education, Ibaji Local Government Area of Kogi state) Ojone Ojonuba (Special Assistant to the Local Government Administrator of Ibaji LGA) Mrs. Mercy Okpe (Chaplain, Kogi State Government House Lokoja.).
- Many Women indicated interest to contest for various elective positions in the 2019 election among whom the following:
  1. Mrs. Olabisi Yusuf (08062789307) Kabba Bunu. LGA
  2. Hon. Mrs. Gloria Adewale. (08035931032) Ogori Magongo LGA
  3. Ruth Oyiza Zaccheaus (08062959255) Okehi LGA
  4. Mrs. Ebun Alice Adeyemi (08068678683) Yagba West LGA.
  5. Hajia Jumai Isa (08032895424) Okene LGA.



6. Mrs. Gloria Ategbe (07038448495) Bassa LGA
7. Nandawa Salihu (08035268691) Ajaokuta LGA
8. Hassana E.B Nuhu (0805462106) Ajaokuta LGA
9. Zuerat Aminu (08069454177) Idah LGA
10. Mrs Bose Olukpeka 08036266273 Ijumu LGA
11. Mrs Esther Ocheni (08074808042) Omala LGA

- As a result of the mentoring session, the aspirants decided to be “stronger together” through networking and linkages
- Ten members of KWECC and five Male supporters of KWECC participated as speakers on the radio programme. The participation of members of KWECC on radio evidenced increased visibility and improved capacity of women to speak up and speak out.
- As a result of the Radio programme many new members of KWECC attributed their joining the Coalition to the Radio programme where they heard of KWECC for the first time.
- As a result of the training, participants showed functional capacity in the comprehension, translation and utilization of the principles of DELTA by

their practical formulation of generative themes and demonstration of codes towards effective intervention in social problems.

- Another evidence of change as a result of activities which took place was that Mr. Idris Miliki Abdul (Executive Director, Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution CHRCC) who is the brain behind the modification and adaptation of the Gender and equal opportunity Bill to Kogi State specific context pledged to work with the Coalition to see to it that they successfully get the same bill presented and passed.
- The Honourable speaker of Kogi state House of Assembly Rt. Honourable Matthew Kolawole acquiesced to spearhead the processes of getting the proposed Gender and equal opportunity Bill passed in the House of Assembly. The speaker called for 40 Copies of the proposed bill to be submit to the House.
- Five (5) other Honourable members of the Kogi State House of Assembly, namely; Hon. Adoke Mucta (Chairman House Committee on women Affairs) 08101308123 Hon. Tonyin Lawal (Deputy Minority Leader) 08033938482 others are; Hon. John Abah and Hon. Haruna Idoko Musa of Idah and Igalamela- odolu constituencies respectively. They undertook to support the gender and equal bill when it comes up on the floor of the House and backed up their pledge by signing a declaration of support



document.

- As a result of the advocacy, the Imam and members of his council understood the need for the passage of the Gender and equality bill and the need to protect the dignity and right of women through legislation. Thus, the Council requested further information and collaboration with KWECC and CWSI.
- Council of Ulama linked KWECC to the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria, FOMWAN (Lokoja branch) for collaboration, interface and for members of FOMWAN to join KWECC.
- CWSI was informed that some women in Kogi East Senatorial District were beaded as Igala female Chiefs and are participating decision making among whom were Chief's Abi Obaje of Idah and Her Highness, chief, Mary Etuh of Igalamela.
- His Royal Highness Abel. E. Etuh (the Etimahi Igala Mela Ajaka) called a meeting of women in his domain and tasked them to present their gender agenda and demands to be discussed at the traditional council for possible change. He also offered the same opportunity to give his assistance to Igalamela KWECC initiative of Sachet Water factory.
- Chief Allen Umaru (Doga Oji Ofu) Ayingba, Dekina LGA of Kogi state have willingly invited his wife to join KWECC and pledged to include women in his cabinet.

He also pledged to be an advocate for the inclusion of women in governance and decision making. The other traditional Leaders pledge to support the KWECC members in their communities towards the materialization of their aims and objectives.

- The All-Progressives Congress (APC) Chairman discussed with the party chieftains of the LGA to give the party Chairmanship position to a woman while the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman endorsed a member of KWECC, Mrs Rashidat Shaibu to be the party chairmanship Candidate in the next election in 2019.
- Many women from professional organizations joined KWECC and there is a blossoming partnership interface between KWECC and Women Professionals Associations.

#### MILESTONE 4

#### GENDER AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BILL PRESENTED TO KOGI HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY





*Photograph taken on the occasion of the presentation of the Gender and Equal opportunity bill to the former of Speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly, Honourable Michael Kolawole standing second from left. He is flanked by representatives of KWECC Late Mrs. Deborah Kadiri, standing first from left and Honourable Gloria Ategbge, third from left and Paschal Idogbe, Programme Manager ,CWSI.*

#### MILE STONE 5:

A SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP TEAMS IN ACTION (DELTA) WAS IMPLEMENTED; FACILITATED BY MR. PETER KIMEU FROM KENYA, EAST AFRICA.



A session of the DELTA Phase 1 Training held in Abuja. Sitting second from right is Sister Rose Mary Ukata, former Executive Director of CWSI, standing in the middle is Mr. Simon Enejo, a participant from the Justice Development and Peace (JDPC) of the Diocese of Lokoja. Next is Mr. Peter N. Kimeu, the facilitator of the Delta training from the University of Tangaza, Kenya.





*Completion of the DELTA Phase 2 Training held in Lokoja Kogi State. Participants flank Mr. Peter Kimeu happily displaying their Certificates.*



**MILESTONE 6**

THREE WOMEN WERE BEADED AS CHIEFS. TWO IN IGALA KINGDOM KOGI EAST SENATORIAL AND ONE IN IBIRRA KINGDOM, KOGI CENTRAL.

MILE STONE 7: THREE MEMBERS OF KWEC APPOINTED INTO THE GOVERNMENT OF KOGI STATE

MILESTONE 8: PROJECT VEHICLE (A FORD EDGE) PURCHASED





# PROJECT REVIEW AND SETTING THE AGENDA/BLUEPRINT FOR REALIZATION OF TANGIBLE OUTCOME OF INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING POST-2019 ELECTIONS - PRESENTED BY MR. KELECHI EMEH (CAFOD COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE)

## CWSI PERSPECTIVE ON GENDER PROGRAMMING IN KOGI STATE



CAFOD

## Objectives of Session

- To harmonize the Gender programme of CWSI towards 2019
- To define clear strategies of implementing the gender programme
- To ensure prudent management of resources – time, money and personnel
- To actualize the defined outcomes of the project.

## The Journey So Far

1. Awareness Creation On Human/ Women Rights
2. Training On Gender Equality
3. Setting Up Of Community Based Violence Against Women Groups
4. Gender Based Violence Reporting
5. Linking GBV Reporting To National Human Rights Commission
6. Mainstreaming Gender In The Church – Gender Audit Of Catholic Secretariat Of Nigeria.

CAFOD

## Towards 2019 – Where We Want To

- ¶ Local church institutions identified and capacity built to enhance their ability to undertake social and economic programmes that directly benefit disadvantaged girls and women - ???
- ¶ Percentage of empowered women holding offices in Kogi State increased from 7% to 30%.
  - a) House of assembly; 0 – 5
  - b) Local decision makers;
  - c) Political party leaders
  - d) Social leaders
- ¶ Strengthen institutional capacity of women focused organisations to increase access to advocate for women inclusion into leadership positions at state level.



CAFOD



### By 2018

- ☞ Target women groups gain social, traditional and political leadership positions
- ☞ Target women representatives gain skills on effective representation.
- ☞ 20 or more women supported to advance annually in political, traditional, social & economic spaces
- ☞ Women groups in CAFOD targeted communities speak with one voice on gender issues.
- ☞ Women in Kogi State recognized as stakeholders in development
- ☞ Increased number of women groups/ organisations support the vision and mission of KWEC.
- ☞ Understudy and publish material on how women empowerment occurred in Anambra and Imo State; or any other state.

CAFOD

### BY 2017

- ☞ Reflect and design an integrated programme combining the Gender and Governance components.
- ☞ 60 Women gain skills on DELTA “Development Education Leadership Teams in Action”
- ☞ Research on woman and leadership carried out in CAFOD targeted communities
- ☞ Passage of Gender and Equal Opportunities bill into Law in Kogi State

CAFOD

### BY 2017

- CWSI staff gains capacity on effective “Gender programming and women development”
- Minimum of 30% female participation recorded in CAFOD supported programmes
- Women groups in CAFOD targeted communities facilitated to be organized, registered and coordinated.

CAFOD

### GROUP DISCUSSION

#### HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THESE PROPOSED CHANGES???

- STRENGTHENING OF KWEC.
- Maintaining of CWSI funding sources.
- Working more with other Organisations in Kogi State.

CAFOD

**NOTE: The road map targets women's space in governance and decision making to increase from 7% to 30% after the 2019 general election.**



**MILESTONE 9:**  
**MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF CAFOD-CWSI PARTNERSHIP AND PROJECTS BY**  
**MR. FERGUS CONMEE, HEAD OF REGION-AFRICA.**



Mr. Fergus Conmee and The Etimahi of Igalamela Chiefdom His Royal Highness, Amos Etu in a Group photography with some Igala Chiefs during the visit of Mr. Conmee

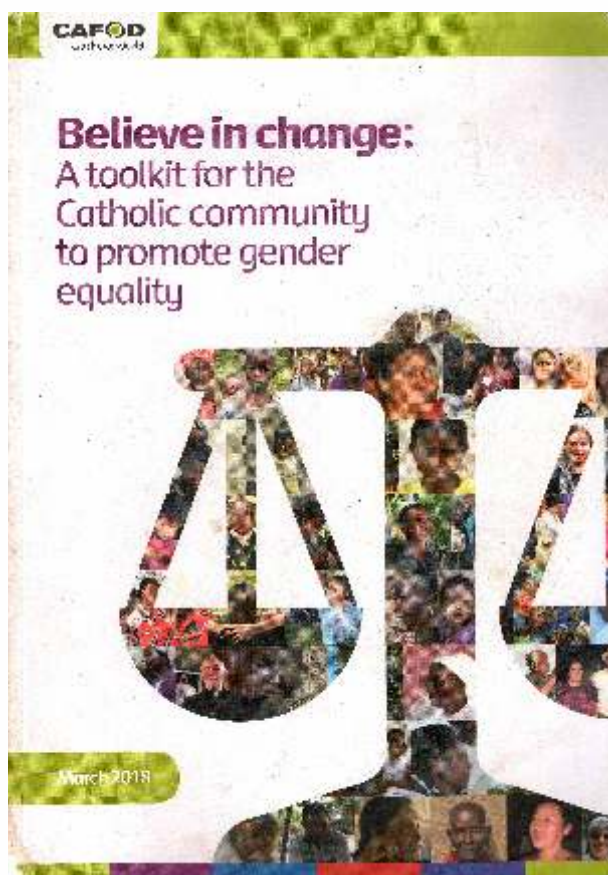


Mr. Fergus Conmee and Mr. Kelechi Emeh (CAFOD Representative-Nigeria) sharing a happy moment during Mr. Conmee's visit





Mr. Fergus Conmee and The Etimahi of Igalamela Chiefdom His Royal Highness, Amos Etu in a Group photography with some Igala women during the visit of Mr. Conmee



CWSI women's political empowerment was featured on page 112 of the CAFOD "Believe in Change toolkit for the Catholic community to promote gender equality. March, 2018 after the visit of Mr. Fergus Conmee.





Mr Kelechi Emeh explaining a point at the M&E briefing in CWSI's Office during Mr. Conmee's visit



Mr. Conmee at CWSI's office in Abuja FCT, Nigeria



## SEVENTH PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD FUNDING SUPPORT:

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Increased participation of KWEC/ female political aspirants in political processes to clinch increased women's inclusion in governance by the year 2019.

**PROJECT NAME:** Gender mainstreaming in social accountability (GEMISA) Phase 3

**PROJECT DURATION:** October 2017 to September 2018

**PROJECT AIM:**

- To further and better strengthen women's political participation and increase women's representation in decision-making.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

From discrimination and violence to a lack of support and resources, women face countless challenges in participating in civil and political life. Strengthening women's rights and addressing barriers to political participation are critical to achieving gender equality and fostering political involvement. The GEMISA project has raised awareness about the political and cultural hurdles women face in entering electoral politics and has motivated Kogi women, especially those who are members of KWEC, to recognize the importance of women entering politics and addressing social issues from a women's perspective. No nation can progress unless its

vulnerable sections, particularly women, are included in the process of governance. As Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the First Prime Minister of free India, stated, "You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women."

The GEMISA project is based on the principles of gender equality and good governance. Governance involves the processes of decision-making and implementing those decisions. Good governance ensures that the benefits of progress and prosperity are evenly distributed among different sections of the population, particularly ensuring that vulnerable sections are not left out of development.

Good governance is founded on principles such as participation, consensus orientation, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, inclusivity, and compliance with the rule of law. It also ensures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are considered, and the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making. Good governance responds to the present and future needs of society. These principles are propagated by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission.



It can never be in the interest of good governance to ignore or relegate one part of the gender equation in terms of representation in governance and decision-making. The gender development index measures the extent to which a country promotes equality in achievements between men and women. Countries with high gender development indices tend to fare better in overall development, while countries with low gender development indices, indicating a wide disparity in achievement between men and women, remain at the bottom of the development ladder. Similarly, the gender empowerment index measures the extent to which women are represented in social, economic, and political spheres of life. Countries with high gender empowerment indices, indicating high rates of representation of women in economic and political domains, often fare better in overall development and human living indicators.

Given the low representation of women in Kogi State since its creation in 1993, issues pertaining to women are often sidelined. It is crucial for women to form their own citizen groups and articulate their demands, which is what KWECC aims to achieve. Ensuring adequate representation for women is essential for a balanced perspective on issues of democracy and development. By organizing women and enabling them to voice their concerns, GEMISA plays a strategically important role in building a progressive, gender-just society.

One of the major challenges facing Nigeria, and Kogi State in particular, is the continued exclusion of highly competent and effective segments of the population, specifically women, who are unable to contribute to

national development due to gender restrictions. Women have been most adversely affected by this discrimination, and true integrated development cannot be achieved unless the situation changes. Nobel Laureate and renowned international economist Amartya Sen once said, "Development if not engendered is endangered." Increased women's participation and leadership lead to a nation that is more responsive, inclusive, egalitarian, and democratic. Women's perspectives help expand the scope of development and improve prospects for durable peace. Women's participation in political processes and representation in decision-making is crucial not only for the empowerment of women but also for the progress of the nation as a whole. Women will be able to influence matters that affect not only their lives but also those of their families, communities, and the larger society. As Gertrude Mongella said, "This is not a struggle for women alone but for humanity."

CWSI recognizes that the GEMISA project has succeeded in motivating women to take action and initiate changes in their communities. As a result, two women have been appointed to traditional councils in the Kogi East Senatorial District, and four women have been appointed to supervisory councilor positions in the state. Additionally, four other women hold top executive positions as commissioners and heads of ministries. There is hope for more gender-inclusive governance in Kogi State, and this can be achieved by sustaining the momentum of the GEMISA project. The GEMISA 2016 project was therefore to increase the momentum of political consciousness among Kogi women to change the paradigm.



## SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT:

- Increased women's participation and leadership in political parties
- KWEK's voices amplified for passage of Kogi state gender and equal opportunity bill into law.
- Increased support of Traditional community Leaders and Community Development Associations for gender equality and women empowerment.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:

- Members of KWEK (two each representing the three Senatorial Districts) carried out 3 Advocacy visits to three Legislators of Kogi State House of Assembly (The Hon. Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader) to lobby them to support the passage of the Gender Bill
- KWEK officials representing the three Senatorial Districts aimed at the passage of the Bill within the project year attended 2 Legislative sessions (First and second reading) of the Kogi State Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill
- Members of KWEK (two each) representing the three senatorial Districts carried out 34 Advocacy Visits to the Executive Arm of Government. (The Executive Governor, Chief of Staff and the Hon. Commissioner and Attorney General

of Kogi State towards Executive Assent of the Bill.

- KWEK officials in each of the three Senatorial Districts led a 1-day Town Hall meeting for 50 community stakeholders comprising, Traditional Leaders, Leaders of Community Development Associations, representatives of Law enforcement Agencies, Leaders of women groups, influential Persons and grass-root Political Party Chieftains to mobilize support for women political aspirants towards the 2019 election.
- KWEK carried out Advocacy visit to 6 Traditional Leaders in furtherance of inclusion of women in civil democracy and appointment of more women into customary traditional decision-making councils.
- KWEK Carried out one Advocacy visit each to 6 influential Political Party Chieftains in the constituencies of women Political aspirants to lobby for support and political progression of women aspirants.
- Once a month Radio Programme on Grace F.M Lokoja and TAO F.M Okene was simultaneously broadcasted for 12 months.
- 2-day central capacity building for 30 Women, (comprising 20 pilot women political aspirants and 10 women stakeholders) on Public speaking skills, network and alliance building, electioneering and campaign skills



- KWECC carried out awareness and energizing outreaches in 6 hard to reach communities where KWECC formation are weak and wavering. (2 communities in each senatorial Districts) i.e., **Gboloko** in Bassa LGA, **Zango** in Adavi LGA, **Muslim Women**  
**Community of Maigeri Palace, Lokoja, Kabba axis, Ajaokuta axis, and Ankpa- Olamaboro axis.**
- 6 by-monthly mentoring sessions was held in KWECC Headquarters Lokoja for identified Pilot women Political aspirants.



*Honourable David Ogwu, former Local Government Chairman of Ibaji Local Government Area having a mentoring session with female political aspirants in KWECC's Office Lokoja, Kogi State capital.*



## OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT:

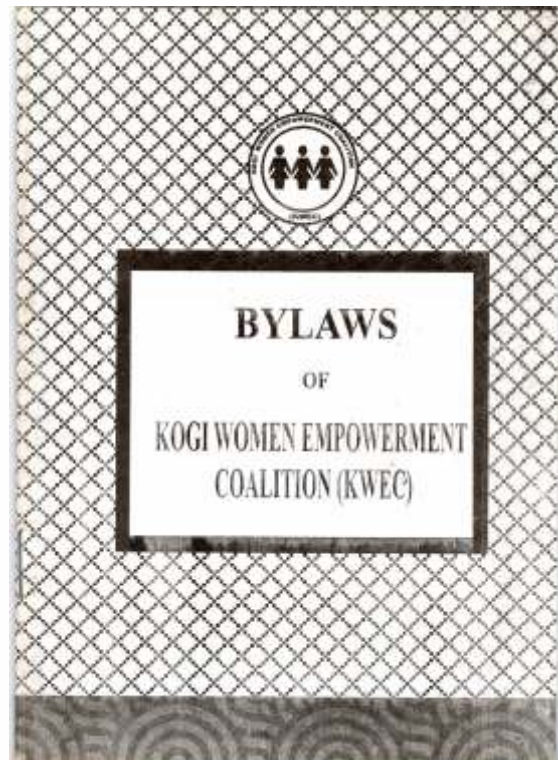
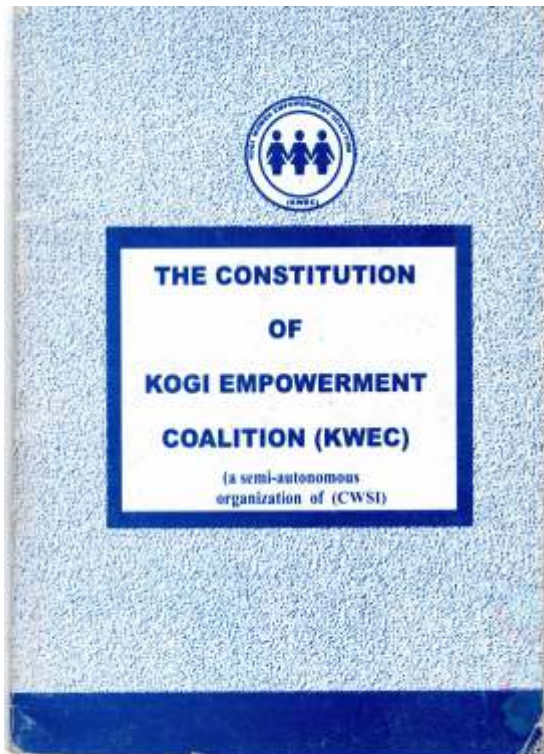
- Increased community awareness on Gender Equality and communities' involvement towards ownership of the project
- Increased partnership of KWECC with community stakeholders i.e., community stakeholders, Community-Based Associations (CBA's), and caregivers.
- Increased voices of women to take action in their communities to change the status quo of gender inequality through advocacy skills, grass – root mobilization, teamwork and Radio and Television Communication skills
- Increased capacity in organizational management and group dynamics.
- Increased capacity of KWECC members to

engage duty bearers, and influential citizens and to demand their individual and collective rights.

- Registration of KWECC with the state government as a Community Based Organization (CBO)
- Increased participation of women in political processes (10 women picking nomination forms to contest in the primary election for the 2019 elections)
- Submission of the Gender and Equal Opportunity bill to the Kogi State House of Assembly.
- KWECC enacts a constitution and a by-law

### MILESTONE 10:

**KWECC ENACTED A CONSTITUTION AND A BY-LAW WITH THE TECHNICAL SUPPORT OF CWSI (PICTURE OF FRONT COVER OF BOTH HERE)**





## EIGHT PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD FUNDING SUPPORT

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Intensification of the struggle for women's political rights and creation of further visibility and relevance for women political aspirants to contest and clinch a target of 30% female space in the 2019 election.

**PROJECT NAME:** Gender Mainstreaming in Social Accountability. (GEMISA 2018. Phase 4).

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Three senatorial Districts (East, West, and Central) Kogi State

**PROJECT DURATION:** September 2018 to August 2019

**PROJECT AIM:**

- This project aimed to empower Kogi women to further and better organize and develop their capacities to participate in political processes and claim their spaces to have increased number of women (a target of 30%) in governance and decision making in Kogi State.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The essence of the Project is the truism that from discrimination and violence to lack of support and resources, women face countless challenges to participation in civil and political life.

Therefore, strengthening women's rights and addressing barriers to political participation are critical to addressing gender equality and political participation as no Nation can make progress unless its vulnerable sections, particularly women are included in the processes of governance.

CWSI's intervention was therefore to empower women to deconstruct the obstacles that prevent their full participation and inclusion in decision-making and to overcome negative stereotypes about women's leadership roles and potential and to alter wrong perceptions about women's alleged inferiority. This project was the next level of breaking the bounds and expanding the horizon of female political aspirants. It is geared towards increasing women's participation in political processes and female Gender inclusion in governance in Kogi State (civil and customary).

**SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT:**

- Increased participation of women in democratic processes, governance, and decision making
- An increased number of women's groups and organizations support the



vision and mission of KWECC.

- Increased empowerment and capacity of KWECC to engage state actors towards gender mainstreaming and to accelerate passage of Kogi state Gender and equal opportunity bill.
- Improved attitudinal change in the paradigm of male gender superiority to new perceptions of gender equality and inter-gender cooperation.

#### PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:

- 1-day Senatorial districts conference for prayer and women voter mobilization by KWECC was held in the 3 senatorial districts.
- KWECC Carried out quarterly Advocacy visits to influential Political Party Chieftains in the constituencies of women Political aspirants to lobby for support and political progression of women aspirants.
- One-day women's political summit was held in the 3 senatorial districts on the 2019 elections.
- Two-day organizational refresher capacity building was held for coordinators of KWECC on "improving administrative competencies and group dynamics for organizational peak performance"
- 1-day Supportive interface of KWECC with women groups, CSO, and the media was held (30 Persons were in attending)
- 24 Media outreaches for popularization and achievement of KWECC's mission and vision was implemented
- KWECC senatorial district office for

political, social and economic activities established

- 1-day Annual general meeting of KWECC held.
- One day "He for She" seminar was exclusively held in the 3 senatorial districts for community men
- 1 day Step down of DELTA training by KWECC and CWSI in the 3 senatorial districts
- 3 Advocacy visits were carried out to the executive arm of government to canvass for the passage of gender bill

#### OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT:

- The unity and collaboration level of KWECC and other project beneficiaries improved as a result of the intra-religious and inter-denominational prayer that was held in each of the three senatorial districts resulting in increased voter mobilization of women in the three senatorial Districts.
- Political Party Chieftains of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the All-Progressives Congress (APC), and leaders of other Political Parties expressed their support for women in their Parties who were set to contest in the 2019 election.
- The competencies of female Political Aspirants in group dynamics improved.
- There was improved collaboration between Members of Civil Society Organizations and KWECC towards the inclusion of an increased number of women in governance post-2019 election.
- Grass-root Development Associations



as well as an increased number of influential men in the three Senatorial Districts declared their support for women political aspirants and played the role of caregivers.

- KWEC members demonstrated improved Knowledge of Development Education and Leadership Teams in

Action. (DELTA)

- Advocacy Subjects in the Executive arm of Government declared to support female political aspirants towards equitable gender-inclusive governance in Kogi State.



Presentation of the gender and equal opportunity bill to speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly by Hon. Mrs Gloria Ategbe and Late Mrs Deborah Kadiri (KWEC Representatives)



## NINTH PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD SUPPORT

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Acceleration of women's partnership, alliances, and networking toward increased women's representation in governance and decision-making.

**PROJECT NAME:** Gender Mainstreaming in Social Accountability. (GEMISA 2019/2020. Phase 5).

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Three senatorial Districts (East, West, and Central) Kogi State

**PROJECT DURATION:** 01/03/2020 to 31/12/2020

### PROJECT AIM:

- To empower Kogi women to organize further and better and develop their capacities to participate in political processes and claim their rightful spaces.
- To have an increased number (30%) of women in governance and decision-making in Kogi State post-2019 general election.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The effective implementation and enforcement of women's rights remains not only a CAFOD/CWSI concern but a global top priority therefore it was imperative to continue to advocate for Gender equality, build women's partnerships, alliances, and networking for

the achievement of political empowerment, democratic pluralism and gender inclusiveness for the realization of sustainable development, good governance and Justice for all. This is why this issue needed to be addressed. As enunciated in the Beijing Conference of 1995, "Without the active participation of women and incorporation of women's political participation at all levels of decision making, the goal of equity, development, and peace cannot be achieved"- **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, page 109-**

### SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT:

- Increased empowerment and capacity of KWEC to engage state actors towards gender mainstreaming and to accelerate passage of Kogi state Gender and equal opportunity bill
- Increased capacity of women to engender cooperation and facilitate theme-specific intervention for community development using DELTA model
- Increased number of women (30%) occupying leadership positions in



governance and decision-making post-2019 election

### PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:

Monthly radio programme carried out in the 3 senatorial Districts of Kogi State.

- Presentation of Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Bill by CWSI and other Civil Society Organizations in Kogi State to the Kogi State House of Assembly.
- One-day refresher training on Development Education leadership Teams in Action (DELTA).
- 20 Radio programmes on Radio Kogi, Lokoja and Ochaja, TAO FM Okene and GRACE FM Lokoja. Broadcast was generally on women issues and women empowerment to identify available gaps that needs to be addressed.
- One day meeting held with 30 members of the KWEK Executives to intimate them on the passage of the VAPP Law and the exit of CWSI
- 2-day exit strategic plan for 40 KWEK members which was held to reposition KWEK members to plan their activities on the exit of CWSI after the end of the project's life cycle.
- Advocacy was carried out in two phases before the passage of the VAPP law and after the passage of the law. The former was carried out Monthly to stakeholders (Governor, deputy Governor, Speaker, Clerk of the house etc.) While the later was for policy implementers after the passage of the Gender bill which intimated them on the contents of the

bill and which enabled them plan actions that will be in line with the contents law.

- One-day refresher training on Development Education and Leadership Teams in Action (DELTA) for participants to enable them identify and track issues appropriately as it affects women in their respective locations
- Monthly meeting and Formation of 9 cloister groups of 5 members each within the 3 senatorial districts and with an anchor person.
- Analysis of Delta Code organized for 45 women to authenticate generated code twice a year implemented.
- Publishing of 200 copies of DELTA guideline Publication and 500 copies of delta factsheet
- Post - election training on trauma implemented
- One day report back on Development Education and Leadership Teams in Action (DELTA) Training Workshop for 30 participants implemented
- Publication and documentation of training guide implemented.
- One day report back session and retraining on CODE formation implemented.
- Presentation of VAPP Bill implemented
- Two-day project exitexits and sustainability training for KWEK officials implemented.

### OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT:

- 21 women elected into the twenty-One Local Government Councils in



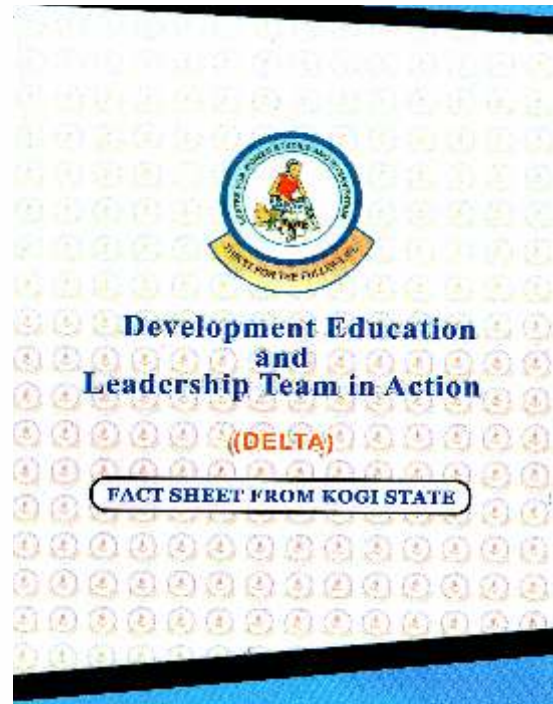
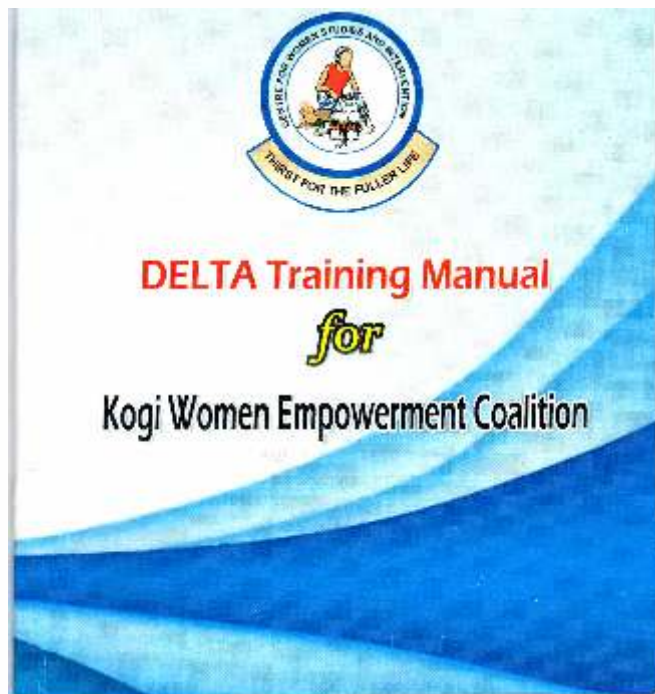
### Kogi state as Vice Chairmen

- 45 women elected into the Local Government Legislative Councils as Councilors. 21 of the Councilors held the position of **“Leader” in each of the 21** Legislative Councils in Kogi State.
- Active participation of KWECC members in Project implementation; the members of KWECC who volunteered to speak on radio demonstrated improved confidence and capacity to address the issues of the project. They articulated the intervention issues effectively reaching duty bearers and the public in English Language and in their local dialects. Their enlightenment outreaches is one of the factors that facilitated the unprecedented and ground breaking outcome of the 66 women elected into the Local Government Councils in Kogi state.
- Increased capacity of KWECC to lead community dialogue and mobilization.
- Trauma counselling services implemented for women politicians who suffered psycho-emotional and physical violence during the 2019 election.
- Thirty KWECC members trained on project sustainability
- CWSI upscaled the knowledge of 15 project beneficiaries on DELTA skill with increased ability to use Delta in solving community social problems.
- KWECC cloister group held 12 monthly meeting for sharing of actions carried on using the DELTA guideline
- 2 Delta Code analysis organized for women
- 200 copies of DELTA guideline published to provide a road map for delta engagement
- 500 copies of delta factsheet printed and shared replication of best practices



**Barr. Winifred Haruna**  
(Gender Desk Officer, CWSI as she then was) speaking to KWECC members on taking action for inclusive development





*Her Highness Chief Mary Etu, of Igalamela Chieftom, one of the beaded female chiefs in Igala kingdom, being recorded for Radio broadcast on Radio Kogi Ochaja, Kogi East. She was speaking and advocating for more women to be elevated to the status of chiefs and be included in traditional decision making.*





*Hon. Mrs. Gloria Ategbe, a member of KWEC speaking on live Radio broadcast at Radio Kogi Lokoja, sensitizing the public on the importance of inclusion of women in governance and decision making.*



KWEC Members in a group photography



**MILESTONE 11:**

**66 WOMEN ELECTED INTO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL OF THE 21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS OF KOGI STATE . THIS WAS A GROUND-BREAKING ACHIEVEMENT. IT WAS THE HEIGHT OF FULFILMENT AND THE SUCCESS POINT OF THE G&G PROJECTS.**



Local Government Council Executives i.e., Vice Chairpersons elected in the 2019 election. They are as follows:

*Amina Lawal (Okehi LGA); Ann Audu (Dekina); Antonia Asibi (Ibaji) Bilikisu Enyuse (Okene); Bimpe Alfred (Kabba-Bunu); Blessing Aishat Ekele (Olamaboro); Comfort Efe (Lokoja); Elejo Faruna (Omala); Eunice Balogun (Yagba West). Gloria Duniya (Bassa); Hassana Jezhi (Kogi); Kate Obapitan (Ogori Magongo); Magdaleen Salamatu (Ajaokuta); Mariam Hamzat (Adavi); Martha Moses (Ankpa); Mercy Obajemo (Mopamoro); Paulina Ojotule (Ofu); Talatu Shaibu (Igalamela-Odolu); Toyin Yunisa (Yagba East); Rachel Otitolaye (Ijumu) and Zuwerat Aminu (Idah).*



## TENTH PROJECT IMPLEMENTED WITH CAFOD FUNDING SUPPORT

### RICE MILL ESTABLISHED AS PART OF THE G&G PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S ECONOMIC STATUS.

CAFOD provided funding Support for CWSI to establish a rice mill in Ugwoda village situated on the boarder of Ibaji local government area of Kogi state. Ibaji land is a rural agrarian community in Kogi State comprising 67 villages clustered around the bank of the Benue Niger-river. Many women of Ibaji communities are members of Kogi Women Empowerment Coalition. (KWEC) and are mainly small-scale local rice farmers. The women of Ibaji have enormous and strategic advantage in rice farming which should translate into economic wellbeing but are paradoxically burdened by poverty. CWSI's finding is that the inability of Ibaji women to overcome the vicious cycle of low agricultural turn-over is because they do not have high quality post-harvest processing equipment to mill their rice produce which will leverage them to realize the full benefits of their faming and investment. It was CWSI's conclusion that Improvement in processing technology will enhance their economic status in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goal 1(No poverty) and goal 5 (gender equality and



empowering women and girls including economic growth and development.) This conclusion was based on the finding that in rice production, processing and consumption linkage, post-harvest handling and processing



is the fulcrum point between production and consumption level; therefore, improvement in post-harvest technology result in quality table rice production and enhances the women farmers' product to attain an acceptable and competitive marketing standard in the consumer market. This ultimately produces an outcome of better lives in food security and poverty reduction for the 67 villages of Ibaji land with indirect benefits in the other parts of Kogi state.

It was empirically projected that over 1000 women are into rice farming in Ibaji wet land and so, the installation of a milling machine will be the final stage of conversion of paddy rice to a table rice. The rice mill was to improve the lives of the beneficiaries who due to lack of modern milling equipments were milling their rice produce traditionally by use of mortar and pestle with ardent tedium and high potential for grain damage. Furthermore, the traditional method involves rigorous or energy sapping, stooping and bending with much drudgery and strains. In some instances, winnowing causes respiratory diseases and some other inconveniences to the women.

In view of the above, the project was proposed for the benefit of the teeming Ibaji women rice farmers who are majorly responsible for locally processed rice but are generally incapable of purchasing a modern processing machine for post-harvest operations which had adverse effect on the final quality of their rice production due to avoidable contamination with sand, stones and other extraneous matters during post-harvest operations. The women rice farmers had a lot of short comings that have inhibited their progress hence they were struggling

with sustaining an economically viable business venture.

In addition to the above analysis which necessitated the establishment of the Rice mill, the following was the situation which justified the establishment of the rice mill.

- Accessibility to milling hubs was very difficult and expensive which makes marketability for their product poor and quite tasking.
- Good storage facility for rice paddy and milled rice is not at their disposal hence high level of loss during rainy season. Processing of the paddy to a marketable finished product is not effective.
- About 30% to 40% loss is incurred during parboiling of the paddy, thus reducing the quantity of rice produced and the income that would have been generated.
- Parboiling and drying process also affects the colour and quality of rice produced making it difficult to sell.
- Organic and inorganic substances are visibly present in the milled rice.
- 10% TO 20% of paddy is lost to the distant location of the milling hubs as they are conveyed in canoes along the River Niger. Following a result chain of rice movement from the farm to the mill, it was observed that women were facing the risk of losing their product which arises as a result of movement through water ways to the milling center. At the mill, poor processing method used ranging from par-boiling, drying and milling



does not give local farmers the opportunity for competitive products in the open market leading to about 15% loss per farmer production.

- Inappropriate weight measuring or scaling system is another hinderance to market price.

### **SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT:**

- Women rice farmers of Ibaji communities are able to adopt modern technologies in their agricultural processing for improved and increased production.
- Increased women income generated from rice farming in Ibaji land.
- Reduction of poverty
- Women are able to collaborate with other national and international agencies that have programmes for women agricultural projects.
- Increased Ibaji women's participation in the economic management of their production as a basic step towards minimizing and eventually overcoming gender imbalance.
- Improvement of rural agricultural development, adding value to surplus production, food security and nutrition.
- Formation of women co-operative societies.
- Generation of employment in Ibaji community
- Increased support of grass-root women for women in politics.
- Increased support and participation in the activities of Kogi women empowerment Coalition. (KWEC)

The direct beneficiaries are Ibaji and Idah women rice farmers while the indirect beneficiaries are the men, boys and girls.

### **COMMISSIONING OF THE RICE MILL**

The Rice Mill was commissioned on July 10, 2019 by the Superior General of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (as she then was), Mother Leonie-Martha O'karaga, HHCJ. The commissioning was attended by the representative of the Catholic Bishop of Idah Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Adaji, the Executive Director of CWSI, Sr. Ngozi Frances Uti HHCJ, CAFOD Nigeria Country Representative, Mr. Kelechi Emeh,, Attah Igala, representative of His Royal Majesty, Attah Igala, Late Michael Ameh Oboni, representatives of Elenwoke Development Company Limited ( the Company which constructed the Rice Mill House), Mr. Obioha Elonwoke, representatives of KWEC, representatives of the Justice Development and Peace (JDPC) Idah,. Also present at the commissioning were some staff of CWSI, important dignitaries of Igala kingdom and women from Idah and Ibaji Local Government Areas.

At the Commissioning, the Rice Mill Equipment vendor, Mr. Tony Muoneke with the engaged staff of the mill, carried out test runs on the installed machines. The first milled rice was produced in the presence of all the guests.

**MILESTONE 12:**  
RICE MILL SITUATE AT UGWODA, IDAH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, (LGA) OF KOGI STATE WAS ESTABLISHED FOR IBAJI WOMEN FARMERS AS DIRECT BENEFICIARIES AND



## OTHER RICE FARMERS IN IDAH AND IBAJI LGA AS INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES.

### CHALLENGES OF THE RICE MILL AT THE END OF PROJECTS LIFE CYCLE

The rice mill encountered some challenges which have affected rice milling activities. The effect of climate change is profound on the topography of Ibaji land where the rice mill is situated. There has been several flooding incidences during the raining seasons to the extent that access roads to the rice mill was cut off making access to the mill difficult for project beneficiaries. In addition to this challenge, the milling machines were also emerged in the flood with the result that some parts of the machinery are in poor condition. As a result of this situation the rice

mill has not been optimally functional.

To mitigate the challenges, CAFOD and CWSI are at the point of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with a sister organization. The Justice, Development, and Peace Commission (JDPC) of the Catholic Diocese of Idah, Kogi State, is set to take over and manage the rice mill under terms and conditions to be agreed upon by CAFOD, CWSI, and JDPC of Idah Diocese. Upon the signing of the MOU, JDPC will be empowered to make decisions in the best interest of sustaining, improving, and furthering the objectives for which the rice mill was established. This transition is timely, as CAFOD and CWSI have redirected their development aid efforts to new geographical locations in Nigeria.







His Royal Majesty, Michael Ameh Oboni II, Attah Igala (as he then was) standing with the Achadu Attah, standing second from right, during first advocacy Visit by CWSI Staff and delegates of KWEC, Kogi East to solicit for inclusion of women in traditional governance and decision making in Igala Kingdom.



His Royal Majesty, Alhaji Ado Ibrahim (Ohinoyi of Ibirra as then was) in a group photography in his palace, during advocacy Visit to him by Sister Chinyere Obinna (CWSI Staff) and delegates of KWEC, Kogi Central to solicit for inclusion of women in traditional governance and decision making in Ibirra Kingdom.





Participants at Inclusion of women in decision making at sensitization meeting in Okene, Kogi Central



Group Photography of KWEK Members after a one-day Political summit in Kabba, Kogi West





A one day Palley between KWEK Members and the people's Representative at Lokoja Kogi State Capital



CAFOD Facilitated the funding support of Caritas Canada for CWSI to organize activities in support of inclusion of women in governance. One of which is the one day consultative forum at Idah, Kogi East.





Group Photography after one day women political summit at Okene, Kogi Central



Rev. Sr. Barr. Chinyere Obinna speaking to participants on Inclusion of women in decision making at an inter-gender meeting in Okene, Kogi Central





Rev. Sr. Margaret Amaakeven HHCI, with Kogi women at a 2-Day Capacity Building Workshop in Lokoja, Kogi State



Mrs. Sandra Mimi mentoring women political aspirants in Abakaliki in Ebony State, expanding KWECC's women experience and influence to other states of Nigeria



# PART 3

## STRATEGIC WOMEN ADVANCEMENT IN GOVERNANCE PROJECTS



## ELEVENTH PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD SUPPORT

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Capacity building on governance and effective administration for women elected into the local government councils.

**PROJECT NAME:** STRATEGIC WOMEN ADVANCEMENT IN GOVERNANCE (SWAG)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Three Senatorial Districts (East, West and Central) Kogi State

**PROJECT DURATION:** January 2021 to December 2022

**PROJECT AIM:**

- To strengthen the capacities of elected women leaders in the 21 local government Areas of Kogi State. i.e., Vice Chairpersons and the 45 Councilors to better deliver on the mandate of their offices.
- To also build the confidence of other women to participate in politics and electoral processes.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** The people of Kogi State demonstrated the zeal to promote women participation in political leadership as envisioned by the National Gender Policy of 2007. At the end of the 2019 general election, a total of 66 women were elected into the Local Government Councils as vice Chairmen

and councilors into the Local Government Legislative Chambers. 21 of the women were elected as Vice Chairman in each Local Government Area while 45 were elected as Councilors of which 21 held the exalted position of Leaders of the Legislative Councils. This was the first time in the History of the state that women were holding Executive and Legislative leadership positions in the third tier of government. There was need to leverage on the opportunity to set the stage for the involvement of more women in the 2023 elections. This required enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the workings of the political system for all stakeholders –local government chairmen and their vice chairpersons, members of the local councils, men, women, youths, traditional and religious leaders.

The GEMISA projects ended in November 2020 with a programme of exit; capacity building / plan for 40 KWEA leaders to reposition them for sustainability.

The **STRATEGIC WOMEN ADVANCEMENT IN GOVERNANCE (SWAG)** was the NEXT LEVEL intervention of the building blocks designed to right the wrong of unjust exclusion of women from governance and decision



making. The project was important and essential because it was borne out of the landmark result of the GEMISA project whereof 66 women after 21 years of return to democracy from military rule have been elected into the third tier of government in Kogi State. Thus, the project being a follow up to the election/appointment of the women. The project was also geared toward bringing men, women, the youths and more importantly political party members to build on the stage that has been set to provide the needed space for women to contribute to decision making. To achieve this, CWSI needed to consolidate the gains achieved at the LGAs in order to prepare them to enter the governance arena not only better equipped but also bold to capitalize on their new exalted status to widen the space for women representation at all levels of governance and decision making.

The Project was also designed to create awareness and sensitize citizens; particularly women on the need to participate actively in politics and governance by registering as members of political parties, contesting in elections and engaging actively with the entire electoral and governance processes. It sought to build political consciousness in women and mobilize public awareness on the need to support women participation in Governance.

#### **SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT:**

- Enhanced capacities of women in governance and women in politics to articulate their political aspirations, actualize, sustain and widen the space

of women representation in governance.

- Increased multi-stakeholder support for women in politics and governance to participate in political processes in an enabling environment devoid of violence against women.
- Improved monitoring and evaluation of the Project.

#### **PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:**

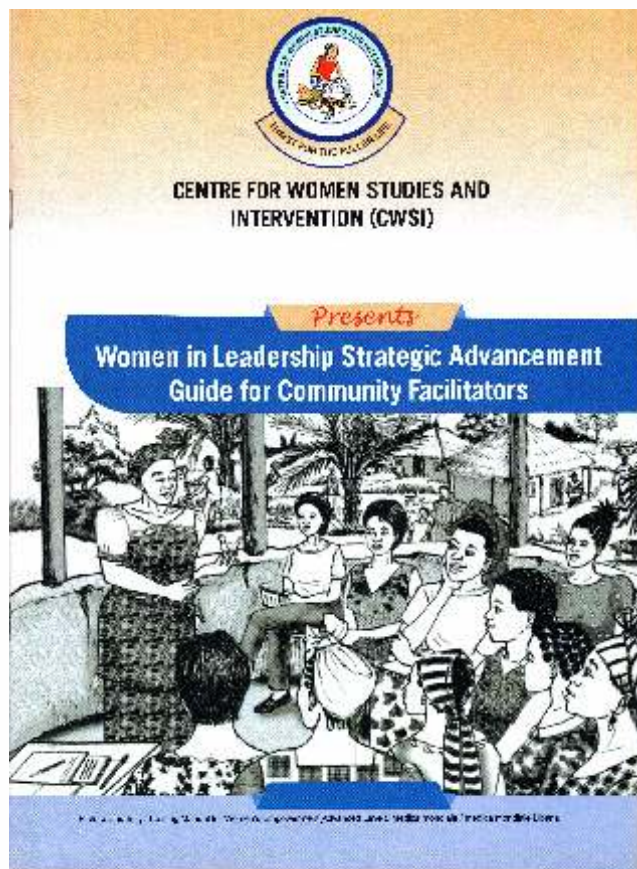
- Project mapping in the three senatorial Districts to identify active women in politics who were the beneficiaries of the project.
- 2-day Capacity building workshop implemented for 30 women Leaders each in the three senatorial Districts comprising newly elected women in local government Councils and influential grass-root women political leaders on understanding political power, the art of politicking, public speaking skills, constituency mobilization, advocacy skills, networking and alliance building, access to justice and policy analysis.
- 2-day interface workshop held in each of the three senatorial Districts for 30 newly elected local government chairmen, vice chair persons and women in local government parliament on effective representation, good governance, team work, group dynamics and gender equality.
- 2-day In-house strategic summit for 60 women to be held in Lokoja, Kogi



State Capital for women in governance, politics, media, KWEC leaders and other influential women supporters drawn from the three senatorial Districts to leverage critical mass grass-root support for realization and sustainability of women political objectives.

- 1 day town hall inter-gender consultative and sensitization meeting held for 60 participants in each of the three senatorial Districts comprising political party ward chairman, women leaders in political parties, Community Development Associations (CDAs) leaders, youths and influential indigenes to build stakeholder support for prevention of political violence against women and sustaining/expanding the space for inclusion of women in governance and decision making.
- 1 day sensitization and dialogue meeting held for 40 (25 male and 15 female) youth participants in the three senatorial districts to curb youth political and electoral violence against women in politics.
- Monthly Radio programme broadcasted throughout the one-year life span of the project.
- Quarterly advocacy visits were carried out to the Executive and Legislative arm of government and Political party leaders to canvass support for further and better inclusion of women in governance and decision making.
- Quarterly monitoring and evaluation of SWAG project.
- Publication of Women in Leadership

strategic Advancement Guide for community Facilitators.



#### OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT:

- A significant increase from 20 to 65% of women indicated interest to participate in politics
- 70% of women showed interest to participate in politics if it is free of violence and intimidation.
- 10% increase in the number of women indicated interest to join political parties
- Increased number of women participated in party primary electoral processes as contestants.



- As a result of the first Phase of the SWAG Project, more women were emboldened to contest in the primary election. Out of the number of women aspirants, three succeeded in winning their bid to contest for the Kogi State House of Assembly in 2023. The names of the frontline women contestants in the primary election are as follows:
  - a. Hon. Joy Ogunche (Dekina LGA House of Assembly)
  - b. Yemisi Oshaloto (Yagba West, House of Assembly)
  - c. Towonifnni Mosiko (Kabba Bunu, House of Assembly)
  - d. Hon Eunice Achimugu (Igalamela Odolu House of Assembly)
  - e. Hajia Ramatu Shehu Atta (Adavi LGA Senate)
  - f. Mrs. Natasha Akpoti (Okehi LGA, Senate)
  - g. Mrs. Adedoyin (Ijumu LGA House of Representatives)
  - h. Mrs. Omotayo Ishaya (Ijumu LGA, State Constituency)

- I. Comfort Ojoma Nwuchola (Ibaji State Constituency)

**MILESTONE 13:**  
**THREE OUT OF THE ABOVE-NAMED WOMEN WON PARTY PRIMARIES TO CONTEST FOR THE KOGI STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. THEIR NAMES ARE:**

- Yemisi Oshaloto (Yagba West, House of Assembly)
- Mrs. Omotayo Ishaya (Ijumu LGA, State Constituency)
- Comfort Ojoma Nwuchola (Ibaji State Constituency)

This is unprecedented as no woman has ever won party primaries in the 22 years of Nigeria's return to Democracy after Military rule. There was a growing consciousness of gender equality in democracy and an increasing stakeholder support for women in politics in Kogi State. This project will accelerate the momentum of ensuring that the three women are elected to the Kogi State House of Assembly while other women in politics will work for the opportunity to clinch appointive positions in the governance of Kogi State.





Reverend Sister Ngozi Frances Uti HHCJ, the Executive Director of CWSI, standing in the middle, speaking at the Strategic Women Advancement in Governance (SWAG) programme, engaging and advocating to the male Local Government Executives to give their cooperation and support to women elected in the Local Government Councils in Kogi State.

#### MILESTONE 14:

THE VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS PROHIBITION LAW (VAPPA) WHICH IS MAINLY A LANDMARK LEGISLATION PROTECTING THE SOCIO-CULTURAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND BODILY INTEGRITY OF WOMEN WAS DOMESTICATED AND SIGNED INTO LAW IN KOGI STATE. CWSI COLLABORATED WITH OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS) TO ADVOCATE FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE LAW.



## TWELFTH PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY CWSI WITH CAFOD SUPPORT

**PROJECT SUBJECT:** Capacity utilization by Female Local Government Executives and female Leaders of Local Government Councils.

**PROJECT NAME:** Strategic Women Advancement in Governance (SWAG) phase 2.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Three senatorial Districts (East, West and Central) Kogi State

**PROJECT DURATION:** January 2022 to December 2023

**PROJECT AIM:** To strengthen the animation of women in Local Government Administration in order for them to utilize the capacity built in the SWAG phase 1 proposal. And for them be of effective service delivery.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The CAFOD & CWSI intervention named “**Gender Mainstreaming in Social Accountability (GEMISA)**” was a major contributory factor in the unprecedented election of 42 women into the 21 Local Government Councils of Kogi State in the year 2021. Also, 45 female councilors were elected into the Legislative Councils in the 21 local Government Councils. A few number of women also held exalted administrative

positions in the Executive and administrative Arms of the Kogi State Government. Following the election of the women, CAFOD supported CWSI to initiate and implement the **Strategic Women Advancement in Governance (SWAG) Project** in 2021. This project was to concretize the gains of the *first – in - Kogi state history affirmative* inclusion of women into civil leadership positions. The main objective of the SWAG 2021 Project was to strengthen the capacity of the newly elected women and the pool of women in politics to hold on to and increase the space women have gained in democratic governance. Thus, the implementation of the SWAG project improved the capacities of the elected women, i.e., it enhanced their skills, instincts, abilities, understanding of governance dynamics, nuances of administrative processes, and the strategies of harnessing requisite resources to thrive in the political atmosphere and to deliver effective representation in Local government administration.

During the campaign for primary election towards 2023 elections many of the female contestants used the skills acquired from the project to reposition themselves to political advantage. As a result, there was a noticeable increase in the number of women



participating in political processes. Be that as it may, there was a still need for further and better capacity utilization by the women.

**SWAG Phase 2, 2022.** up- scaled the SWAG project to the next level. SWAG Phase 2 aimed to continue as a building block towards sustainable actualization of the goal of including women in public life, governance and decision making. This was in consonance with the **Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”** and specifically, target 5.5- *“Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life”* An important aspect of this project was that it incorporates the **Violence against Persons prohibition Act (VAPPA)** which was domesticated in Kogi State. The Act was passed in 2015 by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In SWAG Phase 2, the VAPPA was a premise for advancement of women's right and their protection from gendered political violence which is one of the factors which discourages women from participating in political processes or seeking elective posts in democratic governance.

During the implementation of the SWAG phase 1, VAPPA helped our programme participants to be able to advocate more for gender equality and empowerment for women which resulted in increased expansion of political space for women to aspire and actualize their political aspirations within political party structures. Furthermore, more women had boldness to participate on radio programmes to enlighten the public on the rights of women to inclusive

democratic governance and decision making. Other positive changes are that, apart from increased number of women indicating interest and contesting in the primary elections more women participated in political processes during the Party primary elections while many others joined political parties. In addition to the above, increased number of women exhibited boldness, engaged political stake holders and duty bearers by advocating for change to reverse the undemocratic practice of exclusion of women from governance and their participation in decision making.

SWAG Phase 2 was designed to embolden capacity utilization by women in governance leadership positions and who were participants and beneficiaries in SWAG phase 1 while also involving members of Kogi Women Empowerment Coalition (KWECC) as a critical mass of collaboration and support for women in politics and local government administration.

#### **SPECIFIC OUTCOME/CHANGES PROJECT LOOKED TO BRING ABOUT:**

- Improved Capacity of KWECC, SWAG Cell Facilitators, women leaders in Local government administration and women in politics, to engage and mobilize constituents for sustainability and expansion of women's political space in Kogi State.
- 
- Increased public awareness on the Kogi state Violence against persons prohibition act (VAPPA) 2022
- 
- Institutional strengthening of CWSI.



**PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED:**

- 1-day Women in Politics (WIP) Summit for 60 women in politics and leadership drawn from the 3 senatorial districts to be held in Lokoja; to evaluate women's participation and progress in the 2022 party primary elections and to share experiences and strategize further and better advancement of women inclusive governance and to officially launch the Kogi State Violence against Persons Act 2022.
- 3 days capacity building workshop for 30 participants comprising SWAG Cell Facilitators and the leaders of KVEC drawn from the three senatorial Districts of Kogi State on the **Kogi State Violence against Persons Act (VAPP) 2022**, the effective utilization of the “**Women in Leadership Strategic Advancement Guide for Community Facilitators**” and effective application of the **Development Education and Leadership Teams in Action (DELTA) Codes** for increased awareness on VAPP to enhance protection of Women's socio-political rights in Kogi State.
- 1-day Town Hall dialogue on women political participation, lesson and accountability experience and sharing for 30 women Local government leaders, KVEC leaders, stakeholders and influential persons in the three senatorial districts towards expansion of women's political influence and garnering support for women in politics.
- 1 day Community Outreach for 30 influential participants in 4 LGAs (Okene, Omala, Kabba, Lokoja) led by members of KVEC and SWAG cell facilitators to create awareness on the **Violence Against Persons Act (VAPP)** of Kogi State through the application of the **DELTA** Codes.
- 3 Leadership forums led by Facilitators of the SWAG Cell for women in politics and leadership in the three senatorial districts for the advancement of the political aspirations of women.
- Quarterly Advocacy Visits led by members of KVEC and women in local government leadership in three Constituencies to elicit support for the increased advancement of women in governance.
- Monthly radio program on the progress and the advancement of women in political leadership and governance.
- Quarterly monitoring and evaluation of progress SWAG phase II project.
- Publication of Reports documenting CAFOD / CWSI good governance and gender Projects in Kogi State (200 copies of report).

**OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT:**

- During the townhall meetings, 46 female leaders, and female politicians shared their experiences and accounted for activities carried out in their capacity in local government administration. Despite the absence of funding and financial support from the state government, women in governance have played a pivotal role



by consistently spearheading sensitization and empowerment programs for women and youths. These initiatives aim to inspire and motivate more women to assert themselves and actively participate in decision-making processes, extending from the grassroots level to the State. The commitment and resilience demonstrated by these women have not only contributed to fostering a culture of self-empowerment but have also paved the way for increased female representation in key decision-making spaces within the community and at the state level.

- Improvement in the advocacy capacity of women, particularly those involved in local government governance. These women have effectively engaged with key government stakeholders to advocate for greater female representation within governance structures. Furthermore, they have successfully organized various empowerment programs, significantly contributing to the goal of encouraging more women to participate actively in governance and state politics.
- 86% of participants demonstrated improvement in their understanding of the modules and sessions facilitated by the project team. This positive shift in knowledge was evident in the participants' responses during the feedback session and their

group task presentations. The heightened comprehension exhibited by majority of the participants underscores the success of CWSI's efforts in delivering impactful and effective training sessions, empowering participants with the knowledge necessary for a more informed engagement and application with the Kogi State VAPP Law and DELTA Code.

- Proactive engagement of SWAG II action groups in organizing impactful community outreaches. During these events, members of the groups effectively showcased their understanding and application of the DELTA Codes to influential guests in politics and governance. Demonstrating a deep comprehension of the challenges faced by women in politics, the members guided the invited guests through the potential impact of the VAPP law when effectively utilized. Moreover, they presented actionable steps aimed at increasing the representation of women in governance. This accomplishment highlights the project's success in not only equipping action groups with knowledge but also empowering them to disseminate information and advocate for positive change within their communities.
- Positive reception observed among invited guests during community outreaches. Notably, these influential



participants expressed a strong endorsement of inclusive governance and demonstrated a readiness to extend mentorship and form alliances with women aspiring to enter politics. This underscores the project's success in creating a supportive network within the LGAs, where influential figures are willing to contribute their expertise and support towards the goal of increasing and improving women's participation in politics. The establishment of these mentorship and alliance opportunities represents a tangible step towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for aspiring women in governance.

- Active engagement during the radio sensitization programs, with 25

listeners actively participating by calling in during live airing. This dynamic interaction allowed contributors to share their perspectives on the topics of discussion. Additionally, the program attracted influential female leaders from CSOs, FIDA Nigeria, as well as local and state government positions. Their valuable contributions played a pivotal role in amplifying awareness regarding inclusive governance and the enforcement of the Kogi State VAPP Law. This demonstrates our project's efficacy in not only facilitating community involvement but also in garnering support from influential figures, thereby contributing significantly to the cause of inclusive governance and legal enforcement in Kogi State.



Mr. Henry Chinweuba, a facilitator at the SWAG Phase 2 programme speaking to women on capacity utilization for increased relevance in Local Government Administration.



# ANALYSIS OF THE G&G PROJECTS

## BASELINE INFORMATION ON FACTS:

**The data below is the substantiated position of women representation in governance and decision making in Kogi State at the start of the G&G projects in 2012:**

Kogi state is a classic instance of near total exclusion of women from democratic and traditional governance and decision making. Women were 51% of the adult population in the state. Exclusion of women from inclusive development was institutionalized. CWSI carried out a study which showed that the gender disparity is so wide that since Nigeria's return to democratic rule in 1999, there has been no female representation in

the State House of Assembly. The Legislative Assembly is composed of 25 members. A ratio of 0 female representation to 25 male representation translates to 100% exclusive male representatives. Also, in the entire government of Kogi State comprising elective position and appointive portfolio, men constitute 93%. The residue of 7% which women occupy is by the magnanimity of the Executive Governor of the State who appointed a few women into public office. Actually, it is a gesture of "tokenism". The graphic representation of women in the governance of Kogi State in 2011 was as follows;

FIGURE 1:

### ❖ DATA ON WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING IN KOGI STATE 2011.

Governor	Senate	House of Reps	State house of Assembly
0	0	0	0



FIGURE 2:

❖ **GENDER DISAGGREGATED DATA FROM MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT KOGI STATE AS AT JULY 2013**

S/NO	SUBJECT	FEMALES	MALES	TOTAL
1	State House of Assembly	0	25	25
2	Perm. Sec. State Civil Service	2	32	34
3	Senior Special Advisers to the Governor	5	79	84
4	Special Advisers	6	52	58

❖ *Source: See Kogi State Ministry for women affairs and social Development, Gender disaggregated data 2014.*

In the above data, women occupy only 15 portfolios out of a total of 201 positions while men occupy a whopping 187 positions. This translates into women holding a mere 7% of the positions while men occupy 93%. That is weighty evidence of gender imbalance in access to power and decision making. Furthermore, at the end of the 2013 local

government election the under listed persons were sworn in as the Chief Executives of Local Government Area councils of the state. The gender disaggregated data below is another clear evidence of exclusion of women from governance and decision making.

See [www.thisdaylive.com/articles/wada-swears-in-elected-councilchairman/146914/](http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/wada-swears-in-elected-councilchairman/146914/)

FIGURE 3:

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAIRMANSHIP GENDER DISAGGREGATED DATA AS AT 2016**

S/NO	NAME	L.G.A	GENDER
1	Salihu Adaviriku	Adavi	Male
2	Aloysius Okino	Ajaokuta	Male
3	Isah Abdul	Ankpa	Male



4	Usman Maigida	Bassa	Male
5	Mohammed Ali	Dekina	Male
6	David Ogwu	Ibaji	Male
7	Musa Abdulmatalib	Idah	Male
8	Funsho Daniyan	Mopamuro	Male
9	Ibrahim Labaran	Kogi	Male
10	Aliyu Usman	Lokoja	Male
11	Funsho Ibrahim	Yagba East	Male
12	Faruk Adejoh	Olamaboro	Male
13	Olafimihan Akerejola	Ogori Magogo	Male
14	Ahmed Ogembe	Okene	Male
15	Alhassan Yusuf	Okohi	Male
16	Labaran Ohigebe	Omala	Male
17	A. Zakari	Ofu	Male
18	Edward Makunjula	Kabba Binu	Male
19	Remi Oguntola	Ijumu	Male

In the above figure 3, 19 local government chairmen were sworn in by the former Executive Governor of the state (Captain Idris Ichalla Wada) No female chairman is on the list in a state where females constitute 51% of the population. The vice Chair was also occupied exclusively by men. This is incontrovertibly a glaring situation of gender inequality in access to power and decision

making. In the same period, the situation of gender imbalance was replicated in the appointment of commissioners in the state. The then State Governor appointed and sworn in 20 commissioners only four (4) was females, sixteen (16) were males. This translates to women occupying only one fifth of the appointive commissioner's positions. See the table below.



FIGURE 4.

**DATA ON APPONITED COMMISSIONERS HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICES IN KOGI STATE 2015**

S / NO	NAME OF COMMISSIONERS	GENDER
1	Hon. Abdulrahaman Wuya	Male
2	Hon. Ali Aju	Male
3	Dr. Idris Omede	Male
4	Mr. Stephen Mayaki	Male
5	Barr. Umoru Mohammed	Male
6	Zakari Alfa	Male
7	Engr. Olatunji Osanisi	Male
8	Abdul Mumuni Usman	Male
9	Hon. Zachaeus Atte	Male
10	Barr. Kayode Olowomoran	Male
11	Hon. AbubakarAinoko	Male
12	Zainab Suleiman Okino	Female
13	Dr. Agnes Okai	Female
14	Fidelis Eguche	Male
15	Stephen TayoAremu	Male
16	Joe Abraham	Male
17	Yabagi Bologi	Male
18	Barr. Ndamodu Ali	Male
19	Mrs. Grace Elibiyo	Female
20		



# DATA ON BOARD MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS AND PARASTATALS

There are 26 government agencies, commissions and parastatals in Kogi State. 98% of the positions of the boards are held by men while women hold only 2%. The cumulative compositions of the boards are exclusively male. This is conclusive evidence of gross gender inequality.

The cumulative evidence presented above shows beyond doubt that, there is ample evidence to back up the analysis that there is gross gender disparity in Kogi State governance and access to power and decision making that call for unrelenting intervention to address the issue.

## RESULTS OF 2015 PRIMARY ELECTION IN KOGI STATE CLEARLY SHOW GENDER INEQUALITY IN INTERNAL PARTY DEMOCRACY RESULTING TO MARGINALIZATION OF FEMALE POLITICAL ASPIRANTS

The evidence in Tabular form below clearly shows that women aspiring to take part in decision making and public life are usually systematically excluded at the party level which puts a stop to the furtherance of their political ambition. At the Kogi state election held in 2015, all the women identified below who contested on various party platforms were all but one excluded at the political party primary election.

FIGURE 5:

S/N	NAMES OF CONTESTANTS	POLITICAL PARTY	POSTION CONTESTED FOR	RESULT
1.	Dr. Mrs. Dorcas Onuminya	People's Democratic Party	House of Reps Kogi East	Not elected
1.	Hon, Joy Oguche	People's Democratic Party	State house of Assembly Kogi East	Not elected
1.	Miss Byamine Bello	All Progressive Alliance	State house of Assembly Kogi Central	Elected



1.	Mrs. Gloria Adewale	People's Democratic Party	State house of Assembly Kogi Central	Not elected
1.	Mrs. Nansha Michael	People's Democratic Party	State house of Assembly Kogi West	Not elected
1.	Sherifat Okosi Folashade	All progressive alliance	State house of Assembly Kogi West	Not elected
1.	OjoneOjonuba	People's Democratic Party	State house of Assembly Kogi East	Not elected
1.	Nana AishatAkor	All Progressive Congress	State house of Assembly Kogi East	Not elected

This has been the pattern of exclusion of female candidates for elections in Kogi state even in elections prior to 2016. The evidence speaks for itself that unfavorable political party structures that are orchestrated by party flag bearers in elections is a major challenge that inhibits women's participation in decision making. It is therefore clear that, though the challenges that have stunted women's political participation are mostly informed by numerous economic, social and cultural constraints the most formidable factor responsible for women exclusion is at the political party level. This is the point where women are tactically marginalized and prevented from accessing power.

This explains why all the women who contested in the primary elections on the platform of all political parties lost to their male counterparts. It is at the political party level that party meetings are deliberately held at nocturnal and unsociable hours. As a result of the prevailing gender division of labour in

Nigeria, women are most often than not unable to attend these meetings where very crucial decisions of who gets what, when and how are taken. It is at the party level that women are excluded from holding important positions in the party. The party structure de-emphasizes the formation of women's caucuses in order not to give women autonomy within the party, rather they are made subject to it. This constraint has been deliberately imposed on women by the establishment of "Women's Wing", a nominal position of no consequence. The proposed Programme will motivate women to push for an enabling environment that will give relevance to women in political parties and also develop the competences of women to effectively speak out and take action against gender inequality.



## EVIDENCE OF EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING FROM 2015 TO 2018

In the 2015 election, all the 25 seats in the State House of Assembly were also occupied by men as no women was elected in all the political parties and in all constituencies of the state. This means that currently the Gender composition of Kogi State House of Assembly is 100% male. In fact at all levels of decision-making in the state, women do not have a say, even where matters or issues concerning them is being decided. This status quo is clearly unjust and unacceptable. This issue needs addressing and the situation need to change.

Furthermore, **there were twenty-one (21) Local Government Administrators in the 21 Local Government Areas of Kogi State**

**appointed by the State Governor Yahaya Bello, all of them are male.** Also, there were only three female commissioners among 20 Commissioners.

The cumulative evidence presented above showed beyond doubt that, there was ample evidence and data to back up the analysis that there was gross gender disparity in Kogi state governance and decision making which called for unrelenting intervention to address the issue.

### ENDLINE INFORMATION FACTS

DATA ON WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING AT THE END OF THE PROJECTS IN 2024

### LIST OF WOMEN WHO EMERGED AS VICE CHAIRPERSONS IN ALL THE 21 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS.

S /NO	NAME	L.G.A	GENDER
1	Amina Lawal	Okehi	Female
2	Ann Audu	Dekina	Female
3	Antonia Asibi	Ibaji	Female



4	Bilikisu Enyuse	Okene	Female
5	Binpe Alfred	Kabba-Bunu	Female
6	Blessing Aishat Ekele	Olamaboro	Female
7	Comfort Ife	Lokoja	Female
8	Elejo Faruna	Omala	Female
9	Eunice Balogun	Yagba West	Female
10	Gloria Duniya	Bassa	Female
11	Hassana Jezhi	Kogi	Female
12	Kate Obapitan	Ogori-Magogo	Female
13	Magdalen Salamat	Ajaokuta	Female
14	Mariam Hamzat	Adavi	Female
15	Martha Moses	Ankpa	Female
16	Mercy Obajemo	Mopamoro	Female
17	Paulina Ojotule	Ofu	Female
18	Talatul Shuaibu	Igalamela-Odolu	Female
19	Toyin Yinusa	Yagba East	Female
20	Rachel Otitolaye	Ijumu	Female
21	Zuwerat Aminu	Idah	Female



## LIST OF FEMALE COUNCILLORS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS OF KOGI STATE FROM 2019 TO 2023

S /NO	NAME	WARD	GENDER
1	Memunat Ali	Ozugbe	Female
2	Ahaiza Sani	Dekina	Female
3	Yinagba D Vincent	Ozongulo/Kpanche	Female
4	Sule Khaduat Aina	Abodu/Patesi	Female
5	Martha Charity	Ojoku I	Female
6	Ibrahim Salamatu	Omgbo	Female
7	Joy Alih	Ofarachi I	Female
8	Muhammed Barikisu	Ebiya South	Female
9	Abdulmalik Fatima	Ege/Iruvochinimi	Female
10	Obadofin Ayobami Jacob	Aiyegunle	Female
11	Yakubu Ozioyiza Miriam	Okunuhi/Ozuri/Onieka	Female
12	Ajovununan Ohunene	Oruvucheba	Female
13	Edomoh Blessing	Onyedega	Female
14	Ajogun Kelvin	Ekwuloko	Female
15	Fedegwu Rose	Unale	Female
16	Ayishetu Yusuf	Sabongari	Female
17	Muhammed Y Galadima	Eggan	Female
18	Abraham Eleojo Lydia	Ujeh	Female



19	Rosemary Michael	Ojikpadala	Female
20	Abejide Marytha Omowumi	Ileteju II	Female
21	Joel Seral	Agbajogun	Female
22	Oloruntomi Gbagba	Okebukun	Female
23	Yahaya Khadizat	Chikara North	Female
24	Adam Rukayat Lami	Lokoja C	Female
25	Bala Blessing Ogwu	Lokoja A	Female
26	Yakubu Rabiyat	Kotonkarfe	Female
27	Towonifini Bosede Mosiko	Kiri	Female
28	Aliyu Barisu Ohunene	Abuga/Ozuja	Female
29	Obaro Bendikta Blessing	Obatgbem	Female
30	Ezekiel Eunice	Aiyeromi	Female
31	Alao Halimat	Ikuehi	Female
32	Aliyu Nana Hawa	Obangede/Uhuodo	Female
33	Abu Halimat Itopa	Oboroke Eba	Female
34	Alih Hajara Ometere	Oboro/Omavi/Ohuepe	Female
35	Balogun Rodiya Oyiza	Onyukoko	Female
36	Ohida Sabdat	Orietesu	Female
37	Kolawole Lucy Bamidele	Egbe I	Female
38	Patience Ogbaro Miukal	Oshobane	Female
39	Sule Abibetu	Akpacha	Female
40	Yusuf Ganiat Dupe	Ife Olukotun I	Female
41	Oshabole Feyitola Janet	Makutu I	Female



42	Fagbemi Olu Janet	Odoara/Omi/Ogga	Female
43	Folorunsho Grace Muiyiwa	Penyan	Female
44	Amos Omowumi	Ejiba	Female
45	Danladi Uwa	Aji	Female

## ENDLINE SUMMARY ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING AT THE END OF THE G&G PROJECT.

CWSI harvested the following outcome on the number of women leaders in the public space during the project life cycle:

- ❖ Nigeria has three tiers of government. The Federal, State, and Local government which is at the grassroots. Sixty-six women were elected into the twenty-one Local Government Councils of Kogi State. Twenty-one of the women held Executive positions as Vice Chairman. There were forty-five women elected Honourable Councilors out of which twenty held the exalted positions of Leaders of the respective Local Government legislative councils.
- ❖ One woman (Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan) was elected into the Senate as the first ever female senator from Kogi State.
- ❖ Two women (Hon. Comfort Nwochiola and Hon. Omotayo Adeleye Ishaya) were elected as representatives of their constituencies into the Kogi State House of Assembly.
- ❖ Three women held high-ranking executive positions as Head of Kogi State civil service, Secretary to the State government, and Commissioner for Women's affairs.
- ❖ 110 women are currently holding leadership positions, and participating in decision making as beaded chiefs and members of various traditional ruling councils in Igala, and Ibira kingdoms in Kogi state. (This was hitherto a position that was exclusively for male members of the tribal kingdoms ethnic groups).
- ❖ One woman held the position held the position of Aide-de-camp to the Executive Governor of Kogi State. (This was also a position reserved for traditionally held by men)
- ❖ Kogi State domesticated the Violence



Against Persons (Prohibition) 2023 which provided for the rights and protection of women and girls from socio-cultural, economic and political forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls (VAW-G)

## THE MATHEMATICS OF FEMALE REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING IN KOGI STATE, 2013 TO 2023

### 2014 Gender Disaggregated Representation

- Women: 7%
- Men: 93

### 2023 Gender Disaggregated Representation

- Senate: Women to Men = 1:2 (Women = 1/3, Men = 2/3)
- State House of Assembly: Women to Men = 2:23 (Women = 2/25, Men = 23/25)
- Local Government Executive Council: Women to Men = 50:50 (Women = 50%, Men = 50%)
- Local Government Legislative Council: Women to Men = 18:82 (Women = 18%, Men = 82%)

### Calculation of overall representation in governance and decision making in Kogi State in 2023

To find the overall representation ratio of women in 2023, we average the representation rates across different political positions. Assuming each position holds

equal weight.

#### 1. Senate Representation

- Women:  $1/3 = 33.33\%$
- Men:  $2/3 = 66.67\%$

#### 2. State House of Assembly Representation

- Women =  $2/25 = 8\%$
- Men:  $23/25 = 92\%$

#### 3. Local Government Executive Council (Chairmanship)

- Women: 50%
- Men: 50%

#### 4. Local Government Legislative Council (Councillorship)

- Women: 18%
- Men: 82%

### Average representation of women in 2023

Average women representation =

### Comparison between 2014 and 2023

- 2014: 7% women representation
- 2023: 27.33% women representation

### Change in representation of women in governance and decision making in Kogi State

Change =  $27.33\% - 7\% = 20.33\%$

### Conclusion

- Women representation in governance and decision making in Kogi State at the closure of the G&G project in 2024 was 27.33% approximated to **28%**
- Women's representation in governance and decision making increased by approximately **23.33%** from 2014 to 2023



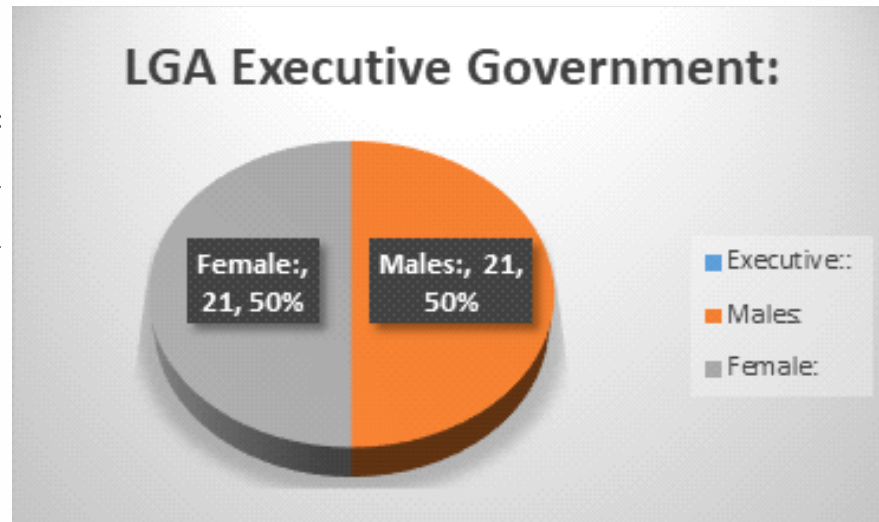
## PIE CHART REPRESENTATION OF THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN CIVIL GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING AT THE END OF THE G&G PROJECTS.

### 1. Female Representative in the government of Kogi state 2012- 2023

Local Government:

Executive: Males: 21

Female: 21



### 1. Legislative:

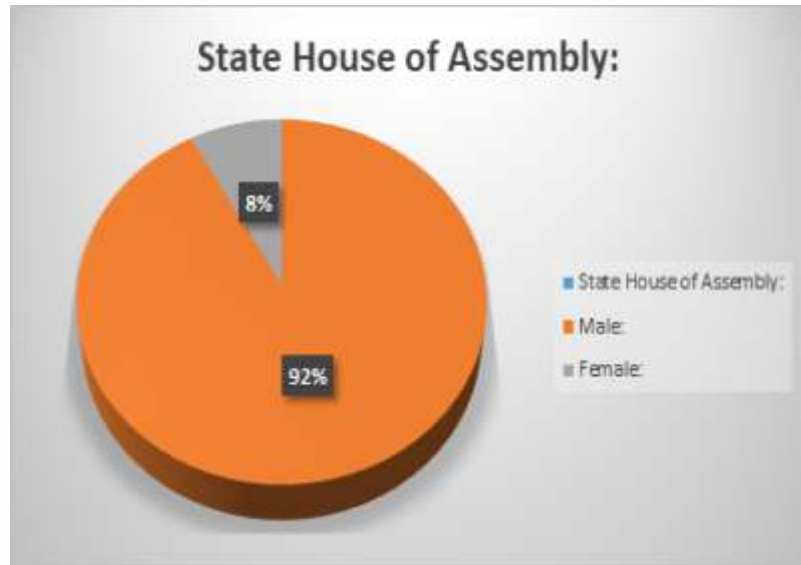
Male: 191

Female: 45

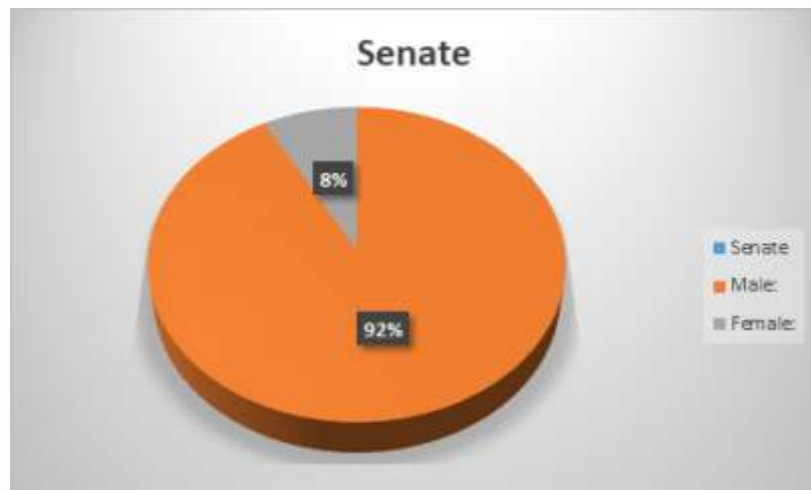




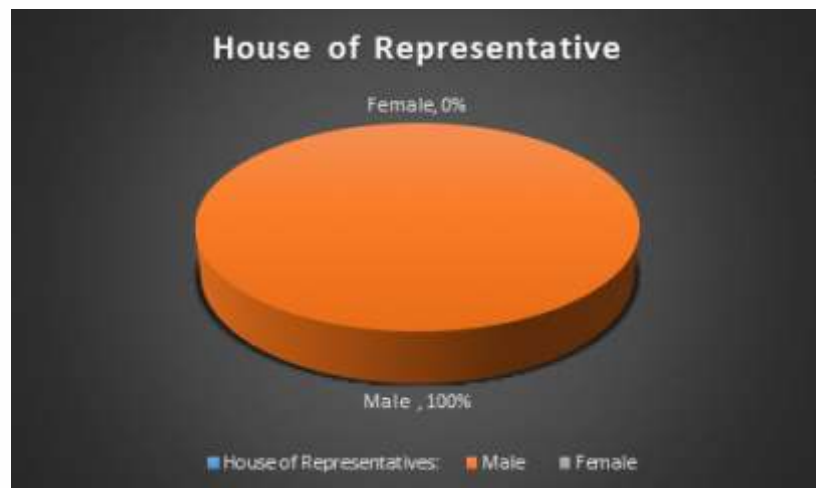
3.State house of Assembly:  
Male: 23  
Female: 2



4.Senate:  
Male: 3  
Female: 1

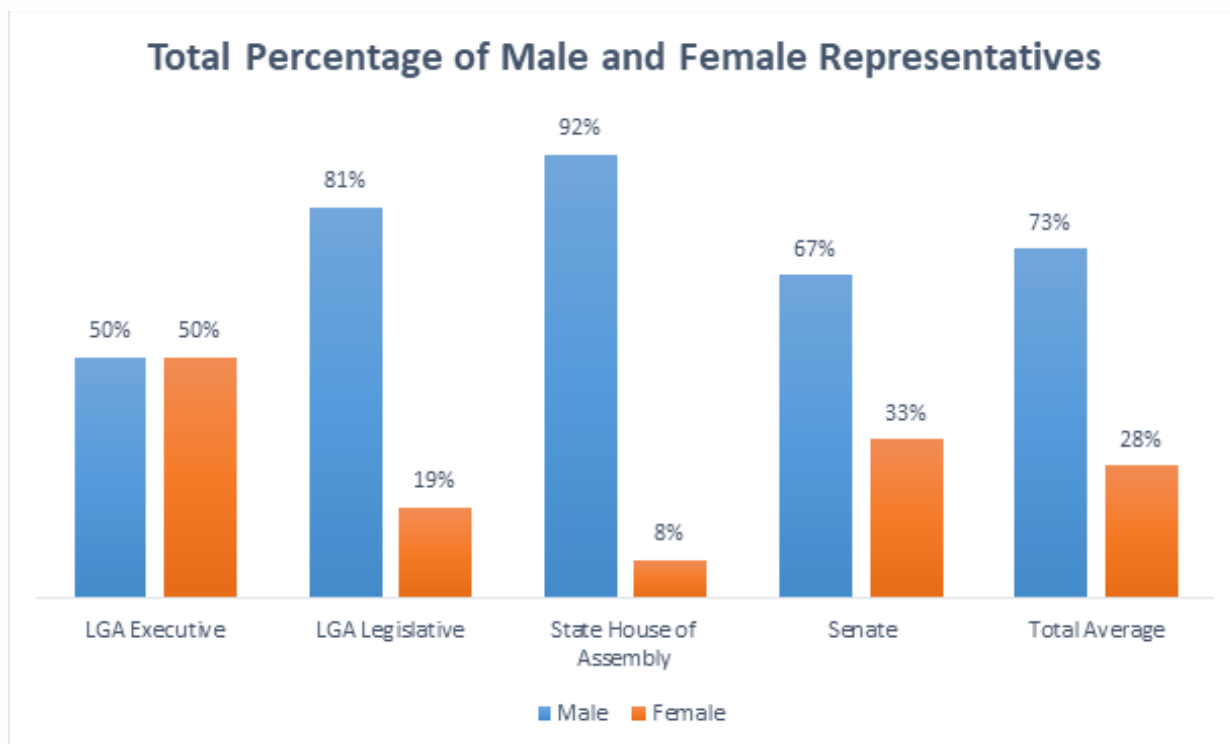


5.House of Representatives:  
Female 0%  
Male 100%





Position	Male	Female
Executive	21	21
Legislative	191	45
State House of Assembly	23	2
Senate	3	1
Total	238	69
Position	Male	Female
Executive	50%	50%
Legislative	81%	19%
State House of Assembly	92%	8%
Senate	67%	33%
Total Average	73%	28%





**DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAFOD FUNDED G&G PROJECT, WOMEN WERE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN KOGI STATE ELECTED INTO PARLIAMENT, ONE INTO THE SENATE, TWO INTO THE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND FORTY FIVE INTO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.**



**SENATOR (BARR.) NATASHA HADIZA AKPOTI UDUAGHAN**  
*KOGI CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT*  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA





**HON. COMFORT NWOCHIOLA**

First Female Deputy Speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly  
Representing Ibaji Constituency, Kogi East



**HON. OMOTAYO ADELEYE ISHAYA**

Member, Kogi State House of Assembly  
Representing Ijumu Constituency, Kogi West



**HON. TOWONOFINNI MOSIKO**

Council Leader  
Kabba/Bunu Legislative Council



**INCREASED NUMBER OF WOMEN WERE ARE APPOINTED INTO HIGH-PROFILE PUBLIC POSITIONS INCLUDING SPECIAL ADVISERS IN THE EXECUTIVE ARM OF GOVERNMENT IN KOGI STATE AND MANY MORE CONTESTED IN THE 2023 ELECTION.**



**HON. HAJIYA FATIMA KABIR BUBA**  
Kogi State Commissioner for Women Affairs



**Dr. Folashade Arike Ayode**  
Secretary to the Government of Kogi State



**DSP. IWANGA IFEOMA AKAYA**  
Aide-de-camp (ADC) to the Governor of Kogi State



**HON. HABEEBAT DEEN**  
Contested as PDP Gubernatorial Running Mate  
in Kogi State Election, 2023



## DATA ON THE NUMBER OF WOMEN INCLUDED IN TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT OF IGALA KINGDOM AND IBIRRA KINGDOM AT THE END OF THE G&G PROJECT IN 2024.

In Igala kingdom, 110 women (One hundred and Ten women) have been beaded Chiefs and are participating in decision-making in the various “chiefdoms” that make up the Igala Kingdom. This is an unprecedented number of women in traditional governance as in the nine hundred years of Igala history the customary governance of Igala kingdom has been exclusively male since the reign of the first ruler of Igala kingdom, **EBULEJONU** who was female and the daughter of **ABUTU EJE** the apical father of Igala people.

The project evidentially recorded one beaded female chief in Ibirra kingdom during the Life span of the G&G project.

NOTE: Project activities for inclusion of women in traditional decision-making councils was restricted to Igala Kingdom and Ibirra Kingdom even though there are other kingdoms in Kogi State, i.e., Okun, oworo, Bassan Nge, Bassa komo, and others.

The unprecedented number of women holding various positions in governance and decision-making in Kogi state is one of CWSI's most laudable and cherished stories of successful contributions to advancing the rights and status of women.



## Three beaded Female Chiefs who participated in the G&G project



**Hon. Chief Mrs. Joan Abi Obaje JP**  
Acai Omi Akele Attah Igala (Adebu) of Igala Kingdom  
*Secretary Igala Female Chiefs' Association*



**Chief Mrs. Mary Etu**  
Igalamela, Igala Kingdom



**A Female Chief of Ibirra Kingdom**



**At the end of G&G Project the number of Beaded Female Chiefs in Igala Kingdom who are participating in Traditional Governance and decision-making in their respective communities stands at one Hundred and Ten (110)**



Group photograph of some Igala Female Chiefs at Idah



Group photograph of some Igala Female Chiefs who attended CWSI's Programme on inclusion of women in governance and decision-making in Lokoja Kogi, State Capital



## STATISTICS OF TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE LIFE SPAN OF THE G&G PROJECT.

Total number of planned overhead activities implemented during Project Life span – 80

Total number of sub activities carried out in the life span were as follows:

- Advocacy – 138
- Capacity building programme sessions for project beneficiaries – 41
- Community engagements / sensitization – 63
- Radio Broadcast – 100
- Publications (including this Factsheet) – 9

### PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY:

To sustain the results outcomes of the CAFOD-CWSI G&G projects and to ensure continuum of CAFOD-CWSI's Inclusive Governance projects women inclusive governance in Kogi State. CWSI made a formal request to change the activity titled "3 leadership forums led by Facilitators of, the SWAG Cell for 30 women in Politics and leadership in the three Senatorial Districts of Kogi State" to a new activity titled "Town hall meeting for 150 (30 participants per LGA) KWECC participants in 5 Local Government Areas of Kogi State". Upon Approval, CWSI conducted townhall meetings for KWECC members on 22nd -26th January 2024. The objective of the meetings was to conduct an election of State Executives of KWECC and to determine the opportunities for project sustainability at project closure. The meetings which had 169 members of KWECC in attendance was conducted in Omala, Olamaboro, Lokoja, Ogorimagogo and Okene.

CWSI's project team during the town hall meeting organized in Lokoja Local Government Area conducted an At the end of the election for new KWECC State Executives. This was targeted at repositioning KWECC to become efficient and strengthen coordination as a women's group in the State. Four Delegates, the following women were sent to represent the 3 senatorial districts of the State.

These are the newly elected as Executives: of KWECC.

1. President- Hajiya Rukayat Larai Ahmad
2. Vice-President- Ojogbane Acheneje
3. Secretary- Faruk Umar Halimat
4. Treasurer- Hon. Gloria Adewale
5. Assistant Secretary- Mrs. Haruna Theresa
6. Financial Secretary- Mrs. Faith Omeneke Ogaji
7. PRO 1- Mrs. Halimat Shuaib
8. PRO 2- Mrs. Olabisi Yusuf
9. Internal Auditor: Mrs. Adaji Helen Ekele

### PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

The KWECC coordinators at the Local Government levels worked with the project team and have stated the women's group sustainability plan as follows:

- Bi-annual advocacy visits to community and local government stakeholders including Local Government Chairpersons and Council speakers to boost visibility and continue advocacy for more women in decision-making and governance.
- Quarterly visits to the communities in



where KWEK members are located to encourage and educate them on supporting female leadership and representation in politics and governance.

- Regular Town hall meetings with men, women, and youths to drive awareness of female participation in decision-making and governance, laws safeguarding women and children from violence.
- Organizing bi-annual Market rallies to sensitize women on the rights of women, forms of Violence against women and getting help as survivors.
- Encourage beneficiaries to document and share success stories resulting

from women succeeding in running campaigns and winning elective positions of governance.

- Maintain regular communication with stakeholders involved in the project, including beneficiaries, women groups and partnering CSOs in the state.
- High level engagement of state actors and government officials in the attainment of inclusive governance which is void of political violence, thuggery and intimidation.
- The Rice mill is to be handed over to JDPC of the Catholic Diocese of Idah to manage.

## ENDLINE PICTURES

**AT THE END OF THE G&G PROJECTS THE FOLLOWING ARE PICTURES OF SOME KWEK MEMBERS AS THEY ARE IN THE THREE SENATORIAL DISTRICTS OF KOGI STATE**



Current President of KWEK Hajiya Rukayat Larai Ahmad given acceptance speech after Her election at project closure





KWECE Executives at project closure



KWECE Members, Omala Local Government Area





Some Members of KWEC in Olamabolo Local Government Area



Some Members of KWEC in Ogori-Magongo Local Government Area





Some Members of KWECC in Group photograph with CWSI Gender Officer(Barr. Precious Owubiti) at project closure



## KWEC deligates at Lokoja for KWEC election at project closure





Current President of KWEC, Hajiya Rukayat Larai Ahmad attending a Radio broadcast at project closure



Cross-section of Kogi Women in inclusive development forum



## CONCLUSION:

### LESSONS LEARNED

- It is difficult to deconstruct long-held patriarchal practices, cultural beliefs and stereotypes about women, however a well- designed development project which incorporate a strategy of multi-stakeholder approach is effective to bring about paradigm shift and change in perception.
- Development projects targeted at change in cultural practices underpinning marginalization of women in decision making is a definite challenge. Change cannot come about by a short-term project. Our experience with the G&G project shows that such challenging socio-cultural problems needs a long-term project and series of creative programming to occasion tangible transformation.
- Women are reliable and dedicated and reliable project actors. Where women are direct beneficiaries of a project, involving them in project planning and implementation gives them opportunity to become bold advocates and the impetus of speaking out, speaking up, organizing, challenging, and criticizing. Ultimately, the project delivers successful outcome.
- In project design and implementation, it is important to have a

Knowledgeable project supervisor who has the capacity to properly guide the project implementation team and who is innovative to direct programmatic changes in response to the trend of situations, challenges, successes and backlashes arising in the course of project implementation. This was our realistic experience in the implementation of the G&G project. The dedication, rich and enriching experience, innovative guide and staunch support and animation provided by CAFOD Nigeria Country representative momentarily impacted on the outcome of the project.

- A holistic project which combines the strategy of media outreaches, advocacy, capacity building, sensitization and participation is a very effective pathway to achieving bumper outcome harvest.
- Proper reporting and documentation during project implementation help to keep track of project progress, challenges and planning of project direction and/or redirection
- Capacity building measures aimed at empowering women must include leadership training and awareness building on self-esteem.
- Women need their own space within which to exchange experiences, be listened to and brainstorm with other women with a view to identifying



realistic solution for their priority problems.

- Organizing activities at village or grass-root levels not only give women visibility but also promotes community attitudinal change on women marginalization.
- Involving men in efforts to promote inclusion of women in decision making is an effective strategy to obtain planned project outcome.
- Gender training and awareness building of all project actors is

critically important to ensuring that gender will become a cross cutting issue to be understood by all components.

- Project management must give high priority to constant monitoring of indicators and project sustainability.
- Well couched creative themes for programmes enhance beneficiaries understanding, mortivation and participation in a project.

**At the end of G&G Project CAFOD-CWSI surpassed the target of women holding 30% of civil and traditional governance space. Also the percentage of women included in governance and decision making increased from 7% at projects baseline to 24% at projects closure and Over 1000 women have benefitted from the rice mill**



## EPILOGUE

On what CAFOD is doing to change gender injustice, it has been succinctly expressed that “CAFOD is committed to identifying and challenging the systems, structures and social norms that discriminate against women, girls and excluded groups to bring about empowerment and transformative change, including gender justice. Our vision is a world where diverse women and girls are safe and respected, and where women and men share equally in shaping their societies. We recognise that sustainable and effective development is only possible when exclusion is addressed, justice is realised and everyone is empowered to reach their full potential. Both women and men need to be part of the solution. Alongside our partner organisations on the ground, and in collaboration with Caritas and other sector networks and allies, we work towards women’s empowerment and gender justice in many ways, including:

- Transforming unequal power relations between men and women: We do this by promoting women's voices, decision-making power and access to leadership roles in their communities through civic engagement and local governance for example. We look to support women-led local organisations where possible, recognising their unique contributions to this agenda”.

CWSI’s mission perfectly aligns with CAFOD’s social justice work on gender inclusion. Women have a right to equal participation and representation in governance and decision making. Once in leadership role they can make a difference that benefits a whole society. This was the premise upon which CAFOD and CWSI jointly implemented the G&G project in Kogi State.

For the projects in Kogi state, whatever has a beginning has an end. The project has been advantageous to all people of Kogi State and Nigeria as a whole. It is a small step in Kogi State but a giant step for the development of humankind.





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