

NEWS- LETTER

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 2

CWSI Q3 Newsletter 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

Recent Events	3
Project Updates	8
Upcoming International Days Celebration	17
Get Involed	18



Editorial

Welcome to our 3rd Quarter Newsletter!

We are excited to share our latest updates with you.

In this edition, we highlight ongoing projects, recent events, and notable achievements. As we move forward, we reaffirm our commitment to empowering women, girls, and other vulnerable groups, while advocating for the protection of their human rights.

Thank you for your continued support!

Grace Eseohe Okosun
Admin/Communication Officer,
Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI)



RECENT EVENTS

CAFOD -Partners Financial Management Workshop

In August 2024, CWSI participated in a financial management workshop organized by CAFOD Nigeria at the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, Durumi, Abuja. The workshop featured impactful sessions, providing hands-on experience in financial management and accounting systems. Participants engaged in a simulated case study to assess faulty financial and operational systems of local partners, identify financial loopholes, and offer recommendations for establishing transparent and robust financial management and accounting systems. Attendees from CWSI testified that the training exposed them to numerous best practices in financial management and accounting systems.



Advisory Board Meeting

In August 2024, CWSI hosted an Advisory Board Meeting at the Catholic Secretariat in Durumi, Abuja. During the meeting, CWSI inaugurated new members of the Advisory Board to strengthen the organization capacity in achieving its strategic goal. The newly inaugurated advisory board members were meticulously selected based on their expertise and experience, each ready to contribute to the organization's growth and advancement.

Below is a citation of the newly inaugurated Advisory Board Members:

Odoh, Fidelia Nkiruka, Esq. (nee Ezugwu): Legal Practice and Human Rights Advocacy Sector.

Engr. Frank Ofoegbu: Engineering, Healthcare, and Philanthropy Sector

Amb. Maurice Ekpang: Humanitarian Sector.

Sister Rosemary Ukata, HHCJ: Social Work and Development Sector.

Mrs. Eberechukwu Chinazom Ugwunweze: Information Technology and Women's Empowerment Sector.

Charles Nwanelo Anaelo: Humanitarian and Migration Expert.



Leadership Workshop in Uganda



In September 2024, a workshop organized by the World Women's Observatory (WWO) of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO) took place in Entebbe, Uganda, under the title "African Network Against Violence and Discrimination Against Women: Sharing Good Practices and Results." This event brought together 65 women (both religious and lay) representing organizations and congregations from Cameroon, Eswatini, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

The meeting was marked by a diversity of proposals and solutions shared, along with commitments from participants to implement these good practices within their organizations. During the workshop,

our Executive Director, Sr. Ngozi Frances Uti, participated in the panel discussion where she spoke on women's leadership, reflecting on various leadership styles and highlighting examples of women leaders who have transformed their communities through inspiring and exemplary leadership. This opportunity provided invaluable insights to help strengthen our ongoing efforts to address violence and discrimination against women and girls.





SCALE Legacy Summit

In September 2024, CWSI attended the SCALE Legacy Summit in Abuja, Nigeria, titled "SCALE Legacy Summit: Celebrating Our Impact, Opening New Doors." CWSI was a grantee of the Nigeria Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (SCALE) project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Palladium in collaboration with Nigerian organizations. Under SCALE, CWSI implemented the "Community Action to End Child, Early, and Forced Marriages (CAECEFM)" in Cross River and Jigawa States, Nigeria. The project concluded in April 2024, recording significant achievements, including the adoption of customary laws abolishing child early and

forced marriages in eleven communities out of the twelve project communities. Additionally, the project trained 82 girls in vocational skills and distributed startup kits to beneficiaries of the training. [Click link to our mid-year newsletter for more information.](#)

CWSI is grateful to USAID and Palladium for their substantial support and will leverage the lessons learned from the SCALE project to inform our future programming aimed at ending child early and forced marriages.

Capacity Building Workshops for Staff of CWSI

In September, 2024 CWSI organized capacity building workshops to strengthen the various departments within CWSI, in areas such as Monitoring and Evaluation, Effective Organizational Communication, Community Mobilization, Intergenerational Dialogue, and Resource Mobilization.

These sessions covered pertinent topics, introduced new knowledge, and fostered fruitful ideation among Members of staff. The impact of these sessions is evident in the new knowledge gained, which staff are eager to leverage for the growth of the organization. The workshops were successful, and staff members expressed gratitude to management for organizing them.

Photo gallery:



PROJECT UPDATES

Action to Promote Disability Inclusion in the Campaign to End Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls in the FCT



Group photo of participants after the capacity building workshop for Persons With Disabilities in Gwagwalada Central.

CWSI is implementing the project titled "Action to Promote Disability Inclusion in the Campaign to End Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls" in the Zuba community and Gwagwalada Central of Gwagwalada Area Council, FCT, Abuja. This project aims to promote inclusivity by raising awareness on mainstreaming disability inclusion in ending violence and discrimination against women and Girls. Additionally, the project seeks to enhance the economic resilience of women and girls with disabilities by providing vocational skills training for improved livelihoods. The target group for this project includes women and girls with disabilities who have experienced violence and discrimination. Funded by the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), several activities aligned with the project's goals have been successfully conducted and the achievements are captured below.

Key Achievements:

- In July 2024, an inception meeting was held to secure community buy-in from the project locations. This meeting was attended by project stakeholders, including community leaders, organizations for people with disabilities (OPDs), mental health initiatives, and other key stakeholders. At the conclusion of the meeting, project stakeholders pledged their support and commitment to the initiative, which is crucial for achieving the project's goals.
- In September, CWSI organized capacity-building workshops for project beneficiaries on essential topics covering disability rights and how to report violence and discrimination against persons with disabilities. This training equipped participants with vital knowledge regarding their rights as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), how to identify violence against persons with disabilities, and the appropriate channels for reporting incidents of violence and discrimination.
- Ten project beneficiaries, consisting of women and girls with disabilities, are currently participating in vocational skills training programs at accessible training centers within their localities.



A round table view of participants during the workshop

Empowering Women and Youth Smallholder Farmers in the Groundnut Market System Development in the FCT



Group photo of participants after the Resource, Re-use and Recovery in groundnut value chain workshop in Paiko community, Gwagwalada.

Our intervention in the Federal Capital Territory, aimed at empowering women and youth smallholder farmers in the groundnut market system with funding support from the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development, has achieved significant results in building the capacity of these farmers in securing market opportunities for their groundnut products. From May to June 2024, we carried out activities that included an inception meeting, distribution of agricultural produce and implements, and training on best agronomic practices. [Click link to our mid-year newsletter for more information.](#) From July to September, activities focused on creating and identifying market opportunities for beneficiaries in the groundnut value chain.

Key Achievements:

- A workshop on Processing and value addition in the groundnut market value chain taught beneficiaries how to create market opportunities by processing raw groundnuts into high-value products such as peanut butter and groundnut oil. The participants expressed enthusiasm for practicing their newfound skills at home and generating income from it. "I learned a lot from this training. There is so much we can do with the groundnut seeds that we harvest, which can serve as a source of income for us. I thank CWSI and CAFOD for coming to our community," a participant remarked after the training.

- A training session on Resource, Re-use, and Recovery in the Groundnut Value Chain was conducted. While the Processing and Value Chain Addition training focused on transforming raw groundnuts into marketable products, the Resource, Re-use, and Recovery training emphasized repurposing groundnut waste into income-generating products.
- CWSI has registered beneficiaries into six cooperative groups to sustain the project's impact. Registering the beneficiaries into cooperatives is a sustainability strategy aimed at economically strengthening the project's impact, even after the project exits the locations.



A section of participants during the Processing and Value addition in the groundnut value chain workshop in Paiko community, Gwagwalada.



Group photo of participants after the Resource, Re-use and Recovery in the groundnut value chain workshop in Bamishi community, Kuje.

Women Religious as Collaborators with the Catholic Women Organization (CWO) to End Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls in Nigeria



Group photo of participants after the project inception meeting in Jos.

CWSI, with funding support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, is strengthening the capacity of Women Religious and the Catholic Women Organization (CWO) to eliminate violence and discrimination against women and girls in Nigeria. In addition to enhancing the capacity of these organizations, the project will identify gaps in efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls in Nigeria through research.

Key Achievements:

- Inception meetings were held in the Jos Ecclesiastical Province, specifically in the Jos and Pankshin Dioceses, as well as in the Calabar Ecclesiastical Province, particularly in the Port Harcourt and Ikot-Ekpene Dioceses. These inception meetings introduced the project goals and objectives to stakeholders and secured community buy-in from both project locations.
- In September 2024, CWSI organized a capacity-building workshop on effective advocacy strategies, national and international human rights, and women in leadership. This workshop convened assistant presidents of the Catholic Women Organization, Catholic Sister Advisers, and representatives from other faith-based organizations, including the Federation of Muslim Women Associations of Nigeria (FOMWAN)

Inform Parents and Children Together on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Project in Cross River and Benue States



Group photo of trained advocates of the project, posing with their certificates in Ikyogen, Cross River State

CWSI has made significant strides in addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including intimate partner violence, sexual assault, rape, and early pregnancy within refugee settlements. The project is being implemented in five refugee settlements in Cross River and Benue states—Adagom I, Adagom 3, Ukende, Obanliku, and Adikpo—aiming to mitigate the pressing issues affecting women and girls in these communities. See the Midyear Newsletter to read about previous achievements.

Key Achievements:

- CWSI conducted a two-day human rights training for 48 participants from four refugee settlements in Cross River State and one in Benue State, ensuring inclusivity for persons with disabilities.
- CWSI distributed welfare packs and financial support to some refugees as a relief response to the ongoing economic challenges in the country.
- Three counseling sessions were organized for refugees in three settlements in Cross River State (Adagom I, Adagom 3, and Ukende), benefiting 122 individuals. These sessions were instrumental in addressing mental health challenges faced by refugees during this stressful time, as people's mental well-being is declining due to the current economic hardship in Nigeria.

- In collaboration with trained advocates, CWSI initiated a six-month Girl Child Mentoring Course for young girls who, based on the baseline assessment, are victims of SGBV. This program, which is currently mentoring 200 girls across five target settlements, has created a forum for dialogue among CWSI, the participants' parents, and community stakeholders. Parents have reported a drastic reduction in incidents of SGBV within the community
- A door-to-door human rights education campaign for the elderly and persons with disabilities was conducted by the trained advocates. This initiative reached 84 participants across the five settlements. The #DoorToDoorHumanRightsEducation campaign has significantly increased awareness of SGBV in the project communities.



Group photograph of participants of the Girl Child mentorship Course



A section of trained advocates of the project brainstorming with the project officer, Sr. Chinyere Obinna



Group photograph with CWSI regional and leaders of the girl child mentoring course during the advocacy visit to the community leaders in Adagom 3 Ogoja LGA

Communities Mobilizing to Stop Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking (GBV-HT)



Group photograph with Bekwarra participants during the 1-day Awareness session for law enforcement agents and social justice activists on the prevention of GBV and human trafficking

With support from Development and Peace-Caritas Canada, CWSI is implementing a project aimed at mitigating gender-based violence (GBV) and human trafficking (HT) in Cross River State, Nigeria. This project operates in three distinct Local Government Areas: Bekwarra, Yala, and Ogoja, with a focused objective of facilitating the amendment of customary laws to prevent GBV and HT. To read more about our previous achievements, explore our 2023 newsletter: <https://cwsing.org/cwsi-2024-newsletter/>

Key Achievements:

- CWSI organized an event to popularize the newly enacted customary laws, aimed at promoting acceptance and ensuring the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and human trafficking (HT). The attendees expressed their happiness during the public reading of the customary law, welcoming it with gratitude toward CWSI and Development and Peace Canada for implementing the project, which is facilitating social change in the Ekajuk, Ukelle, and Bekwarra kingdoms.
- The Action Group of the project, in collaboration with CWSI, conducted a one-day awareness session for 40 law enforcement agents and social justice activists on the prevention of GBV and HT in each LGA. Through this initiative, 128 key stakeholders, including judicial officers, law enforcement agents, community leaders, and others

were engaged in brainstorming better preventive measures for GBV and HT within the community.

- Additionally, a three-day training was organized to equip 21 community task force members from the project areas with knowledge on respect for human rights and the skills necessary for ensuring compliance with the new customary laws. Participants reported that CWSI's programs and the activities of the Action Group have led to a change in gender perceptions, fostering the understanding that all individuals, regardless of gender, are born equal in dignity and rights.



Community outreach with Christian Women Organization Bekwarra branch on the new customary law



Cross section of participants from Ogoja during the 1-day Awareness session for law enforcement agents and social justice activists on the prevention of GBV and human trafficking



Group photograph of the law enforcement officers in Yala during the 1-day Awareness session for law enforcement agents and social justice activists on the prevention of GBV and human trafficking

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DAYS CELEBRATION


CWSI recognizes all international days; however, we commemorate those that align with our mission and vision or fall within our thematic areas. Explore our newsletter for an overview of our thematic areas: <https://cwsing.org/cwsi-2024-newsletter/>.

Below are the international days we will be commemorating in the last quarter of the year:

- A. 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (November 25th - December 10th)
- B. International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3rd)
- C. Human Rights Day (December 10th, 2024)
- D. International Migrants Day (December 18th)

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
**ELIMINATION
OF VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN**

NOVEMBER 25



GET INVOLVED

The women and Girls, including the communities we serve have experienced profound positive changes. They have shared their success stories with us and we are glad of these changes and happiness we have brought to them. You too, can impact their lives in even greater ways by donating to make a difference in the life of women and girls including Persons with Disabilities.

By donating, you can be a beacon of hope for vulnerable women and girls, helping them overcome challenges and achieve their dreams. Your generosity can spark a ripple effect of empowerment, transforming lives and uplifting entire communities. Join us in this vital mission—donate today and become part of their success stories!.

SCAN ME



SUPPORT CWSI BY DONATING

CONTACT US


For Support and more information about the Centre, kindly contact Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) :

 **+234 803 670 0282, +234 706 755 5376**

 **cwsinig@yahoo.com, cwisnig@hotmail.com**


 **centre for women studies and intervention**


 **cwsinig 123**

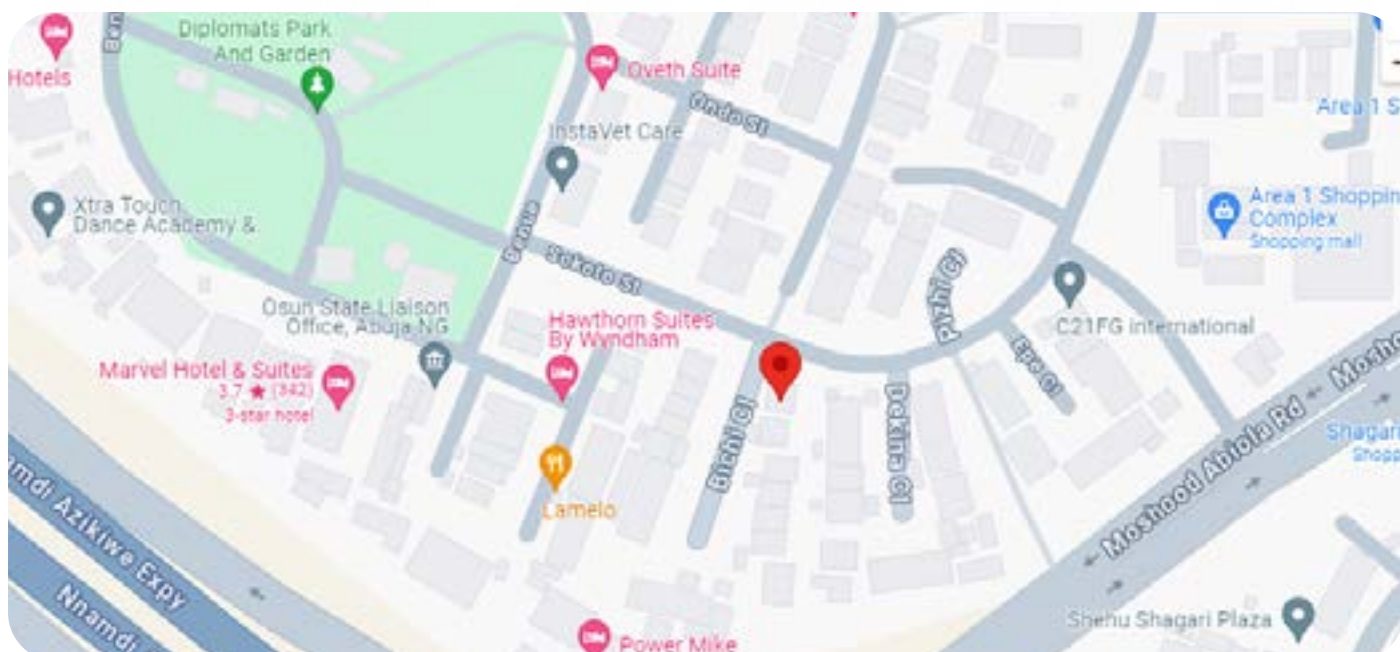
 **cwsi-nigeria**

 **cwsi nigeria**


 **www.cwsing.org**

 **centre for women studies and intervention**

 Flat 2, Block 3, Bichi Close, off Sokoto Street, Area 1 Section 1, P.O Box 4686, Garki, FCT, Abuja. Nigeria.





 www.cwsing.org