



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) celebrated 25 years of advancing the socio-economic empowerment of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups across Nigeria. Guided by our mission to dismantle barriers and harmful practices that undermine human rights and dignity, we implemented transformative projects addressing key issues such as disability inclusion, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination against women and girls, women's leadership in governance, and economic resilience through livelihood support.

In 2024, we implemented six projects, directly impacting over 21, 000 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

We also organized various activities aligned with our vision in collaboration with strategic partners, including funders, government agencies, and grassroots organizations. Together, these efforts have demonstrated measurable progress in empowering women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

This report provides an overview of our activities and programs in 2024, highlighting their achievements, and testimonials from beneficiaries.

2. ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) is a mission/initiative of the Religious Congregation of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCJ). HHCJ is a Religious Congregation of Women Founded in Calabar Nigeria in 1931 by Mother Mary Charles Magdalene Walker of the Religious Sisters of Charity (RSC). Mother Mary Charles Walker's apostate centred on empowering Women and the girl-child: educating them on their dignity and fundamental human rights as human beings. The desire to continue the apostate propelled the formation of Centre for Women Studies and Intervention.

CWSI was registered with the corporate Affairs Commission in 1999 (CAC NO: 12,045). CWSI has consultative statues with the Economic and Social Council ECOSOC and in affiliation with the department of Global Communications) at the United Nations. Through its advocacy, Capacity building, awareness raising and sensitization, research and documentation, partnership and paralegal engagements, CWSI advocates for good governance, economic, political and socio-cultural rights.

VISION:

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

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

CWSI STRATEGIC GOAL:

CWSI Strategic goal is the holistic empowerment of Women for social Rebirth and the promotion of gender equality/equity

OUR THEMATIC AREA OF DEVELOPMENT WORK:

- **Governance and Human Rights:** CWSI contributes to the inclusion of women in the governance and leadership process in Nigeria by mainstreaming gender in decision making and sustain advocacy for the implementation of gender sensitive laws and policies.
- **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.
- **Research and Documentation:** CWSI aims at becoming 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
- **Environment and Sanitation:** CWSI aims at implementing an environmental protection framework and creating community and institutional awareness on mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- **Economic Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation:** CWSI promotes and empowers women to be financially independent in order to combat poverty and advance sustainable development of their opportunities.

3. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN 2024

I. Activity Title: CWSI Staff Retreat



Group photograph of members of staff after the two-days staff retreat (January 2024)

Description

On January 16-17, 2024, CWSI held a two-day staff retreat at the Catholic Secretariat, Durumi, Abuja. The retreat was designed to strengthen team bonds, realign staff with the organization's mission, and foster organizational growth. It offered a break from daily routines, encouraging constructive dialogue, a review of 2023 activities, and collaborative planning for 2024.

Outcome:

- A renewed sense of enthusiasm and commitment for the year amongst staff.
- Objective setting by various departments to align with organizational goals.
- Enhanced staff understanding and appreciation of teamwork.
- Identification of gaps and challenges faced by staff in previous years, with actionable solutions proposed.
- Sharing of lessons learned from projects implemented in 2023 and discussion of new strategies to maximize project impact.

II. Activity Title:

CORE GROUP CONSULTATIVE MEETING: WOMEN RELIGIOUS AS COLLABORATORS WITH THE CATHOLIC WOMEN ORGANIZATION IN ENDING VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NIGERIA.



Group Photographs of Women Religious after the consultative meeting (January, 2024)

Description:

In response to the continued persistence of violence and discrimination against women and girls, CWSI, supported by the Conrad N Hilton Foundation, organized a consultative meeting on [insert date]. The meeting convened twelve women religious leaders from across Nigeria’s geopolitical zones. The participants discussed actionable strategies to collaborate with the Catholic Women Organization (CWO) to combat gender-based violence and discrimination. The event aimed to empower these leaders to drive change and use their collective influence to advocate for the elimination of harmful practices.

Outcome:

The consultative meeting resulted in the development of concrete action plans and strategies to address violence and discrimination against women and girls. Participants also formulated plans to engage with the Catholic Women Organization (CWO) to leverage their strategic position in advocating for these changes. The discussions were impactful in aligning faith-based organizations with broader advocacy goals.

III. Activity Title:

CORE GROUP CONSULTATIVE MEETING PHASE II WOMEN RELIGIOUS AS COLLABORATORS WITH THE CATHOLIC WOMEN ORGANIZATION IN ENDING VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NIGERIA



A roundtable view of the participants at the phase 2 of the consultative meeting

Description:

Building on the success of Phase I, CWSI organized Phase II of the Core Group Consultative Meeting on [insert date]. This phase broadened the collaboration to include executives from Women Religious, the Catholic Women Organization (CWO), Zumutamata Group, and the Confraternity of Christian Mothers (CCM). The meeting focused on addressing the complexities of violence and discrimination against women and girls within the church and broader Nigerian society. Key objectives included identifying challenges in eliminating gender-based violence and discrimination and developing strategic action plans for collective intervention.

Outcome:

The meeting resulted in the creation of tailored action plans and strategies for effective collaboration between Women Religious and CWO. These plans will guide efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls both within the church and in Nigerian society at large.

IV. Activity Title:

CORE GROUP MEETING PHASE III



Group photographs of Participants at the Phase III of the consultative meeting (June, 2024)

Description:

On June 3, 2024, CWSI, with funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, organized a one-day core group meeting at the Catholic Secretariat, Durumi, Abuja. The meeting, attended by 28 participants from diverse groups such as Catholic Women Organization, (CWO) Zumuta Mata, Confraternity of Christian Mothers (CCM), Women Wing of Catholic Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN) and Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), aimed to develop strategies to end violence and discrimination against women and girls.

Participants reviewed reports of incidents and interventions aimed at addressing violence and discrimination against women and girls, analyzed the effectiveness of current measures, and proposed new strategies to tackle emerging challenges around ending violence and discrimination.

Outcome:

- Participants developed tailored strategies to address reproductive coercion and forced abortion within their respective communities.
- Enhanced collaboration among the diverse organizations that attended the meeting to combat violence and discrimination against women and girls.
- Strengthened awareness of lesser-known forms of violence, fostering proactive advocacy and intervention at both the community and national levels

V. Activity Title:

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 2024



Description:

On March 7, 2024, the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI), with support from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), hosted an event at Fraser Suites, Abuja, to commemorate International Women's Day. Themed 'Celebrating Women Making Impact on Society,' the event brought together 119 participants, including representatives from CSOs, INGOs, government ministries, faith-based organizations, youth-led groups, and secondary school students. The event aimed to recognize women making significant contributions to society through empowering women and girls, breaking barriers, and contributing to Nigeria's socio-economic development.

A panel discussion focused on 'Challenges and the Way Forward in Improving Investment in Women and Girls in Nigeria.' Another highlight was a joint press release by CWSI and CAFOD urging the Nigerian government to prioritize investments in women, girls, and women-led initiatives. CWSI and CAFOD also honored six exceptional Nigerian women for their impactful contributions to the nation's socio-political and economic growth.

Outcome:

- Six Nigerian women honored for their exceptional contributions.
- Increased advocacy for investment in women-led initiatives through a widely-publicized press release.
- Media coverage from outlets such as Aso TV, Vanguard News, NTA, and Enugu Reporters enhanced the visibility of the event

VI. Activity Title:

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 2024 (CSW'68)



Group photo of participants together with the Executive Director and Youth Representative of CWSI

Description

On March 21, 2024, CWSI's youth representatives at Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, organized a hybrid parallel event in commemoration of the 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The event was held at Salvation Army, 221 E. 52nd St., New York, NY, under the theme 'Empowering Women: Uniting Social Policies for Financial Equality and Sustainable Development in Pursuit of Agenda 2030.'

The event featured panel discussions and a Q&A session, focusing on:

- Global Perspectives on Women's Empowerment and Financial Equality
- Policy Frameworks and Advocacy for Sustainable Development

The panel discussions emphasized the need to:

- Invest in women-led enterprises to drive economic growth.
- Restructure aid delivery to target grassroots initiatives.
- Promote financial literacy among young girls to enhance economic resilience.

CWSI's Executive Director, Sister Ngozi Frances Uti, attended in person and delivered the closing remarks, appreciating the contributions of both online and in-person participants.

Outcome:

- Raised awareness on the importance of financial equality and women's empowerment at the global level.
- In-depth discussions on policy frameworks to support sustainable development in line with Agenda 2030.
- Increased engagement with youth and participants on the role of women in driving economic resilience and sustainable development.
- Enhanced visibility of CWSI's advocacy for financial equality and women's empowerment in international spaces.

VII. ACTIVITY TITLE: BOARD MEETING

a. ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



A round table view of members of the board (August, 2024)

Description:

In August 2024, the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) convened an Advisory Board Meeting at the Catholic Secretariat in Durumi, Abuja. During the meeting, CWSI inaugurated new members of the Advisory Board to further strengthen the organization's capacity to achieve its

strategic goals. The newly inaugurated members bring a wealth of expertise and experience to support the organization’s continued growth and success.

The members inaugurated during this meeting are:

- ❖ Odoh, Fidelia Nkiruka, Esq.: Legal Practice and Human Rights Advocacy Sector
- ❖ Engr. Frank Ofoegbu: Engineering, Healthcare, and Philanthropy Sector
- ❖ Amb. Maurice Ekpang: Humanitarian Sector
- ❖ Sister Rosemary Ukata, HHCI: Social Work and Development Sector
- ❖ Mrs. Eberechukwu Chinazom Ugwuweze: Information Technology and Women’s Empowerment Sector
- ❖ Charles Nwanelo Anaelo: Humanitarian and Migration Expert

b. Board Of Trustees Meeting

Description:

In December 2024, CWSI convened a Board of Trustees Meeting. The discussions centered on repositioning the organization to better align with its long-term goals. Additionally, preparations for the development of CWSI’s Strategic Plan, scheduled for January 2025, were thoroughly discussed, setting the stage for the organization’s next phase of growth and impact.

VIII. Activity Title: CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR STAFF



A section of staff during the capacity building workshop

Description

The Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI), with funding support from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), organized a capacity-building workshop for members of staff. The workshop focused on four critical areas: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Effective Organizational Communication, Community Mobilization, and Resource Mobilization. The workshop was held between September 26 and October 8, 2024 and the sessions were facilitated by subject matter experts. The training aimed to strengthen the organization's operational efficiency and enhance project management capacities to improve overall program delivery

Outcomes:

- Enhanced staff knowledge and skills in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Organizational Communication, Community Mobilization, and Resource Mobilization.
- Improved capacity to design, implement, and monitor projects effectively.
- Strengthened organizational operations, enabling better coordination and impact of CWSI's programs.
- Creation of actionable strategies to apply the newly acquired skills in daily operations and long-term projects.

IX. Activity Title: 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



Group photo of CAFOD and CWSI Staff with some participants at the event (December, 2025)

Description:

Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI), in collaboration with the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD), commemorated the 2024 16 Days of Activism under the theme “Ending Violence against Women and Girls in the Context of Climate Change.”

The event was held on December 9, 2024, at St. Aloysius Secondary School in Abuja.

The objective of the activism was to raise awareness about the adverse effects of climate change and its intersection with violence against women and girls, as well as to promote a culture of environmental preservation among students. The event had 193 participants, with students constituting 95% of the attendees.

Outcomes:

- Increased awareness on the intersection of climate change and violence against women and girls
- Students pledged commitment to reduce violence against women and girls through friendly environmental practices
- Three trees were planted in the school’s environment as a testament of the concerted efforts of CWSI, CAFOD and Students of St. Aloysius secondary school commitment to promote environmental preservation

X. Activity Title: CWSI 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Members of the board with the Executive Director, Sr. Ngozi Frances Uti (December, 2024)

Description:

In December 2024, CWSI organized a special event at the Catholic Secretariat in Durumi, Abuja, to celebrate its 25th anniversary. CWSI marked 25 years of existence as a non-governmental organization on May 19, 2024. The celebration was preceded by a Thanksgiving Mass held at the St. Gabriel Chaplaincy, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria.

The event was attended by Catholic Priests and Bishops, sisters of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCJ), family, friends, well-wishers, civil society organizations, donors and partners, members of the Board of Trustees and Advisory Board, and project beneficiaries, among others. They gathered to celebrate CWSI's journey and achievements over the past 25 years.

4. PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2024

I. Project Title: COMMUNITY ACTION TO END CHILD EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGES

FUNDER: UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT (USAID)



CWSI Project staff with beneficiaries of the vocational skills training in Jigawa State (Febrary 2024)

Description

Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI), supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Nigeria Strengthening Civic Advocacy and Local Engagement (SCALE) initiative, implemented the Community Action to End Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) and Other Harmful Practices project across 4 local government areas in Cross River State (Obalinku, Obudu, Boki, and Bekwara) and 3 in Jigawa State (Kiyawa, Gwaram, and Dutse). The project aimed to reduce CEFM and related violence through awareness campaigns, advocacy, community sensitization, socio-economic support for vulnerable families, and life skills training for out-of-school girls, including survivors and those at risk.

Achievements:

- 278 survivors of CEFM and SGBV participated in group therapy and individual counseling sessions, in collaboration with counselors from the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and GPI Calabar.
- 274 adolescents and children in Cross River received training in human rights and child protection laws.
- 9 human rights clubs were established through the sensitization classes.

- Over 2,340 community members in Cross River (1,260) and Jigawa (1,080) were sensitized on human rights, the impact of CEFM and SGBV, and the importance of girl-child education.
- 82 girls were empowered with vocational and financial literacy skills to become self-reliant and reduce their vulnerability to CEFM.
- Enactment and popularization of community by-laws abolishing CEFM in Malamawa, Shuwarin Gwaram, Andaza, Sara Gwaram, and Gawaram communities of Jigawa State, as well as Katabang, Kanyang, Becheve, Okorshe, and Bisu communities of Cross River State.

II. Project Title: INFORM PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER ON SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (INPACT-ON-SGBV)

Funder: African Women Development Fund (AWDF)



Students of the Girl Child Mentorship Course pose for a group photo with the project officers in Cross River State

Description:

CWSI, with funding support from the Africa Women Development Fund (AWDF), is implementing the "Inform Parents and Children Together on SGBV (INPACT-ON-SGBV)" project. This three-year project (2023-2025) spans five refugee settlements in Cross River and Benue States (Adagom 1, Adagom 3, Ukende, Obanliku, and Adikpo), aiming to mitigate critical issues affecting women and girls in these communities, including intimate partner violence, sexual assault, rape, and early pregnancy.

Achievements:

- Launched a radio program on Cross-River Broadcasting Corporation to raise awareness about the INPACT-ON-SGBV project and facilitate community engagement and feedback.
- Conducted focus group discussions with traditional leaders in the project area.
- Held 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.

- Distributed welfare packs and financial support to refugees as a response to ongoing economic challenges.
- Organized three counseling sessions for refugees in Adagom 1, Adagom 3, and Ukende, benefiting 122 individuals.
- In collaboration with trained advocates, initiated a six-month Girl Child Mentoring Course for young girls who were victims of sexual assault/abuse. The program, which is currently mentoring 214 girls, has fostered dialogue among CWSI, the participants' parents, and community stakeholders. Parents have reported a significant reduction in SGBV incidents within the community.
- Conducted a door-to-door human rights education campaign for the elderly and persons with disabilities. 84 people participated in the campaign across the five settlements.

III. PROJECT TITLE: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH SMALLHOLDER FARMERS IN THE GROUNDNUT MARKET SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT IN THE FCT

Funder: Catholic Agency for Overseas Development



The project officer hands over the cooperative society registration certificate to one of the executives in Paiko community, Gwagwalada

Description

CWSI, with funding support from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), is implementing a pilot project titled "Empowering Women and Youth Smallholder Farmers in the Groundnut Market System in the FCT." The project commenced in May 2024 and is aimed at improving the livelihoods and economic resilience of women and youth groundnut farmers in Paiko Community of Kuje Area Council and Bamishi Community in Gwagwalada Area Council.

The project's primary objectives are to empower groundnut farmers by providing essential agricultural produce and equipment, acquaint them with sustainable agricultural practices through comprehensive training programs, and create market linkages to enhance their economic resilience.

Achievements in 2024:

- Distribution of agricultural produce and equipment to 400 project beneficiaries in Bamishi community (Kuje Local Government Area) and Paiko community (Gwagwalada Local Government Area).
- Training of 400 beneficiaries on sustainable agronomic practices, focusing on optimizing groundnut yields.
- Training of 400 beneficiaries on processing and groundnut value chain addition, with an emphasis on creating market opportunities by repurposing groundnut into other income-generating products.
- Training of 400 beneficiaries on resource re-use and recovery in the groundnut value chain, specifically on transforming groundnut waste into other products.
- Creation and registration of 8 cooperatives for project beneficiaries to facilitate resource pooling and market linkages.
- Training of 400 beneficiaries on the principles guiding cooperatives.

IV. PROJECT TITLE: COMMUNITIES MOBILIZING TO STOP GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING (GBV-HT)

Funder: Development and Peace (Canada)



Law enforcement agents and social justice advocates during the awareness raising program on GBV-HT

Description: Centre For Women Studies and Intervention, received funding support from Development and Peace (Canada), the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) to

implement the “Communities Mobilizing to Stop Gender-Based Violence and Human Trafficking (GBV-HT)” in Cross River State. The Phase 1 of the project was implemented across three Local Government Areas (LGAs): Bekwarra, Yala, and Ogoja. Its primary focus is to raise awareness about GBV and HT while facilitating the amendment of customary laws to prevent these harmful practices.

Achievements:

- Public Awareness Event on Customary Laws:

CWSI organized an event to promote the newly enacted customary laws designed to prevent GBV and HT. The event featured a public reading of the law, where attendees, including community members from the Ekajuk, Ukelle, and Bekwarra kingdoms, expressed their gratitude toward CWSI and Development and Peace Canada for the project’s role in promoting social change. This event was a significant milestone in ensuring community acceptance of the laws.

- Training for Law Enforcement and Social Justice Activists:

The project’s Action Group facilitated a one-day awareness session for 40 law enforcement officers and social justice activists in each LGA. Through these sessions, 128 key stakeholders, including judicial officers, community leaders, and law enforcement agents, participated in discussions on improving preventive measures for GBV and HT. This initiative contributed to building a stronger network of individuals committed to combating these social issues.

- Training for Community Task Force Members:

CWSI organized a three-day training for 21 community task force members from the project’s focus areas. The training equipped participants with essential knowledge on human rights and the practical skills needed to ensure compliance with the new customary laws. The participants reported a significant shift in local gender perceptions, with an increased understanding that all individuals, irrespective of gender, are born equal in dignity and rights.

V. Project Title: ACTION TO PROMOTE DISABILITY INCLUSION IN THE CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE FCT”

Funder: Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)



Group photographs of project officers, Traditional Leaders and Service providers after the workshop on ‘Inclusive Service Delivery and Disability Rights’

Description

CWSI with funding support from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) 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. The project aims to raise awareness on disability rights and to mainstream disability inclusion into decision-making processes at all levels. It also seeks to reduce the vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities to violence through capacity-building initiatives.

Achievements

- A Capacity Building Workshop was organized for project beneficiaries, focusing on disability rights and equipping them with knowledge on identifying and reporting violence and discrimination against women and girls with disabilities.
- A Capacity Building Workshop was conducted for service providers, including traditional leaders, community vigilantes, and representatives from NAPTIP, NDLEA, the Ministry of Women Affairs, health workers, and others. The workshop centered on "Disability Rights and Inclusive Service Delivery."
- Ten project beneficiaries, who are women and girls with disabilities, have been registered for vocational skills training programs. These trainings are being conducted at accessible centers within their neighborhoods.

VI. Project Title:

WOMEN RELIGIOUS AS COLLABORATORS WITH THE CATHOLIC WOMEN ORGANIZATION (CWO) TO END VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN NIGERIA

Funder: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation



Group of photo of project offices and project stakeholders after the Inception meeting in Pankshin Diocese, Jos Eclesiastical province

Description:

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 Jos and Calabar ecclesiastical Province 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.

Achievements:

- 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)
- In October 2024, A step down training on effective advocacy strategies, national and international human rights and women in leadership was carried out in Panshin diocese of Jos Ecclesiastical province and Ikot-Ekpene diocese of Calabar Ecclesiastical province.

5. BENEFICIARIES IMPACT DATA

BENEFICIARY TYPE	NUMBERS REACHED (2024)
<p>Direct Beneficiary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and girls attending sensitization programs on gender-based violence, environmental preservation harmful cultural practices, management, and disability inclusion. • Survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) who receive psychosocial support, legal aid, or referrals. • Women and girls trained in vocational skills under economic empowerment programs. • Groundnut farmers benefiting from value chain addition training and market linkages. • Youths and women trained on leadership, political participation, and advocacy. • Persons with disabilities receiving awareness training and vocational skills support. • Secondary School Students trained on human rights protection 	<p>7, 245</p>
<p>Indirect Beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families of trained women who benefit from increased household income • Community members adopting positive practices after awareness programs on gender-based violence, disability inclusion, and harmful cultural norms. Local businesses that gain customers due to improved livelihoods • Perceptive change as a result of social media campaigns • Policymakers and institutions influenced by CWSI's advocacy efforts. 	<p>15, 700</p>

a. PROJECT TESTIMONIALS

➤ **Community Action to End Child, Early and Forced Marriages (CAECEFM PROJECT) - CROSS RIVER STATE.**

“Chief David Dibang, the Village Head of Katabang community in Boki, expressed profound gratitude for CWSI's intervention. He highlighted the transformative impact of the sensitization outreaches provided by CWSI, emphasizing the importance of creating community laws aligned with international standards to prevent child and forced marriages” ___ He Said

“His Royal Highness, Gabriel Adaba, Clan Head Busanfong and Uchua-Isu III of Bisu, commended CWSI's efforts in combating Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM) in his community. He stated, 'I have never been in support of child marriages. CWSI helped us codify our laws and create awareness, which has encouraged recognition and respect for the rights of women and girls.' He praised the partnership with law enforcement to ensure justice for victims of sexual abuse___He Said

"Ntaji Christiana Ogenye, before attending CWSI's vocational training supported by USAID/Palladium, struggled with managing her finances. After mastering hairdressing and gaining financial literacy skills, she opened her first bank account with First Bank. She shared, “Now, I can distinguish between needs and wants, and I feel empowered to control my financial future.”"

“Faith Abang's journey as a tailor changed significantly after participating in CWSI's financial literacy workshop. Learning to manage her earnings, she now saves in a bank account and dreams of becoming a fashion designer. Faith expressed gratitude for the skills she gained and hopes for further training to enhance her craft.”

“Eunice Mba, a survivor of Child, Early, and Forced Marriage (CEFM), transformed her life with CWSI's support. Through financial education and empowerment workshops, she started her bakery business and opened her first bank account. Eunice emphasized, 'CWSI not only provided financial literacy but also raised awareness of women's rights, empowering us to make choices and take control of our lives.”

➤ **INFORM PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER ON SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (INPACT-ON-SGBV) IN CROSS RIVER AND BENUE STATE**

“A psycho-social counselor significantly impacted our community by addressing the psychological effects of SGBV and offering essential support and guidance. Additionally, the financial help for a minor's medical needs related to early pregnancy was invaluable,” ___ noted by a community leader from Adikpo.

“Advocacy visits led to key support pledges from community leaders to reduce SGBV, including enacting gender-friendly laws and providing communal farming land, which greatly improved refugees' lives. 'These changes have provided new beginnings and safer environments’” ___ said a key stakeholder

“Direct support to affected individuals included distributing welfare packs and financial aid, offering tangible signs of hope. The welfare pack was a profound relief and symbol of support” ___ remarked said a beneficiary.

“The project's reach extended through a radio program on the Cross-River Broadcasting Corporation, increasing awareness and engagement. The radio show helped us communicate our message of hope and resilience to a broader audience” ___ explained a radio host.

1. COMMUNITIES MOBILIZING TO STOP GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING (GBV-HT) IN CROSS RIVER STATE

“Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Human Trafficking (HT) now play pivotal roles in the Project Action Group. Alongside traditional leaders and communities, they advocate for the elimination of these issues. Working with leaders has empowered us to drive real change in our communities, shaping laws and customs that protect us all.” ___ A Change Agent remarked,

“The project has fostered a strong partnership among traditional leaders, women leaders, and community members. This collaboration has led to effective work plans tailored to combat GBV and HT. The cooperation across all levels of our community has significantly enhanced our approach to tackling these deep-rooted issues.” ___ a community leader shared

“Training sessions for Action Group members have deepened their understanding of GBV, HT, and customary law nuances. These sessions have equipped them with the knowledge to advocate for legal reforms effectively. The training provided critical insights that have been instrumental in our advocacy efforts, enabling us to communicate our message more effectively.” ___ An Action Group member explained

5. AWARDS

- **CWSI EMERGED AS OPUS PRIZE LAUREATE**



On July 30, 2024, the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) was officially announced as one of the finalists for the Opus Prize award. The Opus Prize is an annual faith-based humanitarian award that honors unsung heroes worldwide who are addressing the most persistent social challenges. It is regarded as one of the largest global awards for social innovation rooted in faith.

On November 14, 2024, CWSI was represented by its Executive Director, Sr. Ngozi Frances Uti, HHCJ, and Former Executive Director, Sr. Rosemary Ukata, HHCJ, at the award ceremony held at Santa Clara

University's Mayer Theatre in California, USA. During the ceremony, CWSI was announced as the 2024 Opus Prize Laureate, an incredible honor and recognition of its impactful work.

[Click here to watch the Opus Prize award ceremony](#)

6. AKWOLEDGEMENT

The Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI) expresses profound gratitude to all those who have contributed to our successes in 2024.

We deeply appreciate the unwavering support and generosity of our donors and partners, whose trust in our vision has empowered us to advance our mission of socio-economic empowerment for women, girls, and other vulnerable persons in Nigeria.

Our heartfelt thanks also go to the members of our Board of Trustees and Advisory Board for their invaluable guidance and expertise in shaping the strategic direction of our organization.

To our dedicated staff and volunteers, we are grateful for your commitment, resilience, and tireless efforts to implement programs and achieve impactful outcomes.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to the communities we serve, whose trust, cooperation, and courage inspire us to continue striving for meaningful change. Together, we are building a future of dignity, equity, and empowerment for all.

