

Women Information Network (WINET) 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



...inspired to uplift women, youths and PWDs for a fruitful life in the society.

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ACRONYMS

AAN – ActionAid Nigeria

CBOs – Community Based Organizations

CIRDDOC –Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre

CSO – Civil Society Organization

DEDASRI – Divine Era Development and Social Rights Initiative

ED –Executive Director

GAC – Global Affairs Canada

FGM/C –Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

LWROs – Local Women’s Rights Organizations

PWDs – Persons with Disabilities

SIRP –Society for the Improvement of Rural People

SSG- Secretary to the State Government

SGBV – Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SRHR – Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights

WACOL – Women Aid Collective

WINET – Women Information Network

WVL-N -Women’s Voice and Leadership Nigeria

WWD –Women with Disabilities

INCORPORATED TRUSTEES

Hon. Justice Cordelia Chukwurah (Rtd)

Nn’emeka Maduegbuna (Mr.)

Nkem Menkiti (Miss)

Winifred I. Nzegwu (Barr.)

Miriam Menkiti (Mrs.)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hon. Justice Cordelia Chukwurah (Rtd.) - Chairperson

Lady Chioma Benjamin-Puja

Nkem Menkiti

Uju Onyemelukwe

Miriam Menkiti - Secretary

Executive Director

Miriam Menkiti

WINET TEAM

Ijeoma Obinna-Onwuka - Programme Manager

Chinelo Dim - Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning/Gender Desk Senior Officer

Bridget Obiageli Chiedu - Finance Manager

Joy Okeke - Human Resource /Communication Officer

Alfred Ajayi - Volunteer

Nnadozie Oshigbo - Volunteer

Vivian Eze – Volunteer

BOARD CHAIRPERSON



**Hon. Justice Cordelia Chukwurah
(Rtd.)**

Our activities in 2024 impacted positively on women, girls, persons with disabilities, youths and men in our project Communities in Enugu and neighboring States. We reached out to our target beneficiaries and stakeholders using peer education, dialogues, media advocacy, town hall meetings and Radio interactive programmes. Our activities are shared in this Annual Report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MIRIAM MENKITI



As part of efforts to end child marriage, three hundred and thirty-eight (338) school girls in Enugu State were sustained in school thorough our scholarship scheme, supported by Mundo Cooperante.

We disseminated information through the media on ending Sexual and Gender Based Violence, while through peer education circle, women in three project Communities in Enugu State mobilized, organized and took joint action for their well-being. This project was supported by ActionAid Nigeria in partnership with Global Affairs Canada.

We participated in activities by networks/coalitions that we belong to. We present here our 2024 annual report. Read on!

WHO WE ARE

Women Information Network (WINET) is a women's rights, women led, media focused, non-governmental and non-profit organization, working to promote and protect the rights of women, girls and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). WINET is registered with Corporate Affairs Commission Nigeria in 2002 with registration number RC:14892 and belongs to many networks. It is also registered with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development Abuja and Enugu State Ministry of Children, Gender Affairs and Social Development. WINET is an organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2020.

Vision: An informed society where women know, exercise and enjoy their rights, while performing their duties and obligations.

Mission: To uplift Nigerians especially women, young people and persons with disabilities by providing them with information and support to enable them live fruitful lives.

ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

- A society where women, girls and persons with disabilities know, exercise and enjoy their rights.
- A society free from sexual and gender based violence as well as discrimination against women, girls and Persons with disabilities.
- A society that promotes gender equality by providing empowerment for women, girls and persons with Disabilities.

CORE VALUES

- Respect for Human Rights
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Transparency and Accountability
- Non-Partisanship and Non-Sectarian

WHAT WE DO

WINET carries out activities to promote and protect the rights of women and girls as well as Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). We provide them with information on the procedure for enforcement of their rights and create awareness to prevent and end sexual and gender based violence and other harmful practices including girl-child/Forced marriage and Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation. We disseminate information to promote the sexual reproductive health and rights of women and girls

and empower them with information that will enable them to make informed decisions.

Program Areas

- Ending Sexual & Gender Based Violence (SGBV) through Prevention
- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
- Human Rights & Civic Education
- Democracy, Good Governance & Election Observation
- Campaigns to End Harmful Cultural Practices
- Training and Research
- HIV & AIDS Prevention
- Safe Motherhood
- Climate Change Adaptation

Aims and Objectives include to:

- Inform, educate and create awareness on women's rights
- Campaign for ending sexual and gender-based violence against women, girls and people with disabilities.
- Promote women's political rights agenda and reforms to eliminate institutional discrimination against women and girls.
- Engage in media advocacy campaigns and other such activities considered necessary for the advancement of women, girls, young people and persons with disabilities.
- Organize trainings, workshops and meetings on topical issues of concern to women, girls, persons with disabilities and youths.
- Disseminate information on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights of Women, Persons with disabilities and Young people
- Promote Safe Motherhood
- Engage in activities to promote Democracy, Good Governance & Election Observation
- Engage in research and publication of the outcomes.

PROJECTS IN 2024

The Programme Areas and Priority Actions include:

- The Rights of Women and Girls
- Gender, Sexual and Gender Based Violence

- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The Rights of Youths and Young persons

FOCUS 1: THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN, GIRLS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SUPPORT FOR 338 FEMALE STUDENTS' EDUCATION IN ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA FUNDED BY MUNDO COOPERANTE OF SPAIN SEPTEMBER 2023 – May 2024

Under the 5th edition of the project “The Right to be a Girl” - Projects working to end Girl-Child marriage, titled Support for Female Students Education and Scholarship for Girls Education in Enugu State Nigeria, three hundred and thirty-eight (338) indigent female students benefitted. They include one hundred and six (106) female students of Comprehensive Secondary School Akpasha, and twenty-two (22) female students of Community Secondary School, Iva-Valley. Students of three additional secondary schools benefitted from the scholarship for 3rd term only; they are sixty-nine (69) female students of Community Secondary School Ejuona Obukpa, thirty-seven (37) female students of Community Secondary school Obele-Agu Umana and one hundred and four (104) students of Community Secondary School Obollo-Eke. One student with disability of Community Secondary School, Ejuona Obukpa benefitted because there are few students with Disabilities in the schools.

The project is to support young girls' retention in school, so that they will not be vulnerable to girl-child marriage. Their school fees were paid and they were provided with school bags, notebooks, Mathematical sets and other writing materials.



104 Scholarship beneficiaries of Community Secondary School, Obollo-Eke, Udenu Local Government Area

Photo credit WINET



37 female students of Community Secondary School Obeleagu-Umana Ezeagu Local Government Area, Enugu State at the scholarship award ceremony on 10th May 2024



69 benefitting female students of Community Secondary School Ejuona Obukpa, Nsukka Local Government Area, Enugu State at the award ceremony on 8th May, 2024

Photo credit WINET



A student appreciates WINET & Mundo Cooperante of Spain for the scholarship and supply of books
Photo credit WINET

FOCUS 2: SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)

SUSTAINED ENLIGHTENMENT CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS AND SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV) IN ENUGU STATE SUPPORTED BY ACTIONAID NIGERIA UNDER WOMEN'S VOICE AND LEADERSHIP NIGERIA (WVL-N) PROJECT, FUNDED BY GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA

The project, which started in 2019 and in its 5th year in 2024, focused on preventing SGBV in Enugu State. The sustainability close-out activities included town hall meetings to get the support of men in continuing the peer education after the project exit. The women peer facilitators from three project communities of Ugwuaji, Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu and Umuatugbuoma in Enugu State used the ActionAid Training manual to train their members to understand some cultural, personal situation or conditions that adversely affect their lives and communities. The Traditional Rulers of Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu Community, HRH Igwe Ignatius Ugwu and the Onowu of Ugwuaji Community, Dennis Ani pledged their community's support for the Women Peer Education Programme.

The 2024 International Women's Day was celebrated with women in Umuatugbuoma Community.



Ugwuaji Community Women Peer Learning group

Photo credit: WINET



Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu Community women peer learning groups

Photo credit: WINET



Umuatugbuoma Community women peer learning groups



2024 International Women's Day Celebration on 8th March at Umuatugbuoma Community

RESULTS/SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE WVL-N PEER EDUCATION PROJECT

Here are results of the Peer learning in Enugu State, led by WINET in partnership with ActionAid Nigeria, as part of the Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria (WVL-N) project funded by Global Affairs Canada. 2024 marked 5 years of WINET partnership with ActionAid Nigeria.

WINET/ActionAid Nigeria Peer Education Programme brought positive changes to the lives of over one hundred and twenty women participants in Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu, Ugwuaji and Umuatugbuoma Communities in Enugu State, Nigeria. Using the ActionAid Nigeria Women Peer Education Manual, the facilitators empowered members of their associations with knowledge and skills necessary for self-development and enhanced ability to mobilize and organize for collective action. They were trained to tackle issues that retard development in their Communities. The Peer learning responded to obvious capacity gaps and needs of women to lead and make their voices heard.

Testimonies from the women attest to this: Mrs. Helen Ude said “For the first time in our Community, Umuatugbuoma, members of the women peer learning group visited the Traditional Ruler, Igwe Okechukwu Nwobodo to request for the inclusion of women in the Igwe’s Cabinet”.

Mrs Ngozi Ugwu of Ugwuaji said “I learnt that being a woman is valuable as no woman is inferior to another woman or a man. I no longer hide at the back, I can speak boldly in meetings or at any gathering.” She continues, *“That is why I am standing here to testify to the impact of the peer education circle brought by WINET and ActionAid Nigeria”*.

Mrs. Bridget Ogbodo, fifty-nine year- old widow, and mother of four started a business of selling fufu to generate income. Bridget Ogbodo, of Umuatugbuoma Community expressed joy on learning the importance of generating one’s own income and exclaimed, “The Peer education brought by WINET to our Community is a blessing to me”.

According to Mrs. Onyekachi Uchendu-Nwunna, she learnt that women can own a business and make some money for themselves, improve their looks and feed their families better. She learnt that one can start a business with little amount of money so she started making soya milk. She said *“Thank you WINET and AAN”, I now own a business and earn income to support my family”*.

Madam Rita Ani said that in their Community Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu, “Our women have opened a communication channel with the Traditional Ruler, whereby we interact with him to share our concerns on issues affecting us”.

Following reports and incidences of abuse and assault on children and teenagers in the Ugwuanyiovu Market area in Amagu Akegbe –Ugwu at night, the Traditional Rulers council issued a proclamation banning teenagers and children from being in the market from 7.00pm to 6:00am. This is to check harassment of girls in the market.

Inclusion of Women in Leadership:

There is increased awareness among women on the issue of inclusion of women, in leadership & decision making in the Community and they are advocating for it with Traditional Leaders and men.

Working as a group:

Women in Ugwuaji, Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu & Umuatugbuoma have learnt to mobilize, organize and take collective actions on issues that affect their lives politically, culturally, socially and economically, while bringing changes to their Communities. They meet with the Traditional Ruler and men to present issues of concern to women and girls.



At a meeting with men at Amagu Akegbe-Ugwu

PREPARATION FOR CLOSE-OUT:

In March 2024, ActionAid Nigeria Team visited WINET on two-day Endline Partnership Appraisal Assessment Monitoring (PAM) after 5 years of support for the project.



ActionAid team with WINET staff and a Board Member

Reports of SGBV Cases to WINET

WINET has a data base of SGBV cases it received and referred/ transferred to WVL-N Partner Women Aid Collective (WACOL), TAMAR Sexual Assault Referral Centre and Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC) for further action.

ACTIONAID NIGERIA CLOSE-OUT FOR PHASE 1

As part of activities marking the close-out of the WVL-N project in Enugu State, WINET Programme Manager, Ijeoma Obinna-Onwuka and other Enugu State WVL-N Project partners led by ActionAid Director of Programmes, Okwudili Odo visited the Enugu State Governor, Peter Mbah, represented by the SSG, Prof. Chidiebere Onyia on the 6th of March 2024 to brief him on the projects carried out under WVL-N in Enugu State from 2019-2024.



ActionAid Nigeria team and WVL-N partners and Enugu State Government officials
Photo credit: WINET

CLOSE OUT OF WVL-N PHASE 1 PROJECT IN ENUGU: The Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria Project (WVL-N) closed out in Enugu State on the 9th July 2024. It was a remarkable event attended by the donor, Global Affairs Canada (GAC) team, the implementer ActionAid Nigeria, the Local Women's Right organizations (LWROs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) that implemented the project. The Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah represented by the Enugu State Commissioner for Children, Gender Affairs and Social Development Enugu State Mrs. Ngozi Enih, traditional rulers and other dignitaries were in attendance.



WINET Team at the Close out event LR: Chinelo Dim (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning/Gender Desk Officer), Bridget Chiedu (Finance Manger), Uju Onyemelukwe (Board member), Miriam Menkiti (ED WINET), Joy Okeke (Communication Officer) and Ijeoma Obinna-Onwuka(Program Manager).

Thanks to ActionAid Nigeria & Global Affairs Canada.



Global Affairs Canada Team, ActionAid Nigeria Team, LWROs and CBOs that implemented the WVL-N Project in Enugu State

Focus 4: ENGAGEMENT IN PARTNERSHIPS, COALITIONS AND NETWORKS

WINET is maintaining its partnerships with other organizations and membership of Coalitions and Networks to which it belongs. This is to ensure greater effectiveness in its work through engagements in its core area of business.

WINET/EU-ACT PARTNERSHIP

WINET was one of the CSOs that partnered with Agents for Citizens Driven Transformation (ACT), it was funded by the European Union and managed by the British Council. The Project focused on strengthening the system of CSOs, networks and coalitions to improve their internal, external and programmatic capabilities. It closed out on the 9th of April 2024.



WINET was given a Certificate of Recognition during close out of EU ACT programme in Enugu. WINET was represented by Program Manager Ijeoma Obinna-Onwuka and Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning /Gender Desk Officer, Chinelo Dim

Photo credit: WINET

NATIONAL COALITION OF CIVIL SOCIETY TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN NIGERIA BEGINS PROJECT TO END CHILD MARRIAGE IN THREE COMMUNITIES IN ENUGU STATE

The National Coalition of Civil Society organizations to End Child Marriage (ECM-CSO) in Nigeria organized a two-day workshop to foster the development, improvement and implementation of community Bye-laws to end child marriage in selected communities in the state. It was held in Enugu on 16th – 17th October, 2024. Coalition members, Women Information Network (WINET), Divine Era Development and Social Rights Initiative (DEDASRI) and Society for the Improvement of Rural People (SIRP) were in attendance. Two National members from Abuja Chapter, Oluchi Achi-Uzodinma Executive Director of Child Shield Initiative and Henry Panaam of Child and Youth Protection Foundation as well as stakeholders from project Communities of Akwuke, Ekpulato Mgbowo, and Umuatugbuoma participated in the training.

Participants in the workshop



Coalition members in Enugu State Chapter and National Members Left to Right, ED Child Shield Initiative Oluchi Achi Uzodinma; Program Manager WINET Ijeoma Obinna-Onwuka, ED SIRP, Dr. Chris Ugwu, ED WINET Miriam Menkiti, representative of Child & Youth Protection Foundation, Henry Pannan, and ED DESDARI, Ogechukwu Enwelum

TRAINING

WINET is one of the organizations that benefitted from a 3-day training for Child Protection Duty Bearers on harmonized child protection case management system in Enugu State. Organized by Enugu State Ministry of Children, Gender Affairs, and Social Development with support from UNICEF, the training was to strengthen child protection case management through capacity building for a unified, effective system; It was also to enhance child protection frameworks, ensuring that children in Enugu State receive timely and comprehensive support. Programme Manager, Ijeoma Obinna-Onwuka represented WINET.



Participants in the training

Vision Spring Initiatives (VSI), Women Information Network (WINET) and Nnenna



Anozie Foundation (NAF) collaborate on Ending Gender Based Violence in Enugu and Anambra States, using a legal clinic for women in Enugu and training of police officers from Enugu and Anambra State Commands. The three EDs Ngozi Juba-Nwosu, Miriam Menkiti & Barr. Nnenna Anozie planning activities

Focus 5: ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of WINET held several meetings in the year 2024 to review activities and ensure smooth operations and implementation of projects as well as assess progress.



Board Members from left: Lady Chioma Benjamin-Puja, Board Chairperson, Hon. Justice Cordelia Chukwurah (Rtd.), Executive Director/Board Secretary, Miriam Menkiti & Miss Uju Onyemelukwe



2024 FUNDS RAISING

FUNDER	NAIRA	EURO
ActionAid Nigeria Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria project funded by Global Affairs Canada	4,000,000	
Mundo Cooperante of Spain		11,250
TOTAL:	4,000,000	11,250

NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

- Transition Monitoring Group (TMG)
- Civil Society for HIV/AIDS Nigeria (CiSHAN) Enugu State
- Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women (LACVAW)
- Coalition of Eastern Non-Governmental Organization (CENGOS)
- Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage
- National Coalition of Civil Society to End Child Marriage in Nigeria (CSO-ECM)
- Affirmative Action Initiative for Women (NCAA)
- West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP)
- Centre for Eradication of Violence Against Women (CEVAW)
- Nigeria Community Radio Coalition (NCRC)

FUNDERS/PARTNERS IN 2024

- ActionAid Nigeria, under the Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria Project, funded by Global Affairs Canada
- Mundo Cooperante of Spain
- European Union Agents for Citizens –Driven Transformation(EU-ACT) managed by the British Council

For more information, contact:

Women Information Network (WINET)

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Social Media Handles:

<https://X.com/winetng>

<https://web.facebook.com/winetng>

<https://www.instagram.com/winetng/>