



THE NIGERIAN WOMEN
TRUST FUND

2021

January-December

NWTF ANNUAL REPORT

NIGERIAN WOMEN TRUST FUND

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ARDF	African Women Development Fund
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
E.V.A.W.G	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls'
IWD	International Women's Day
NSCDC	Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps
NCWS	National Council of Women's Societies
NPF	Nigerian Police Force
NYSC	National Youth Serve Corps
REPS	Representatives
SAN	Senior Advocate of Nigeria
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls'
YFLs	Young Female Leaders
FMWA & SD	Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Management Board and I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate all our staff members who have worked tirelessly, passionately, and doggedly to build the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) into such an efficient and effective organization in this first quarter.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial and technical support of our partners including, though not limited to European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES), Women in Politics Forum (WIPF), Actionaid Nigeria, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Women's Research and Documentation Centre (WORDOC), the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Women Radio 91.7FM, Democratic Action Group (DAG), Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, all Professional Women Bodies, Women Associations and several others.

We sincerely appreciate supports from UN Women, European Union (EU), Ford Foundation, Macarthur Foundation, African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Nigeria, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Stakeholders Democracy Network (SDN), Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) and other prospective International Development Partners

A big thank you also goes to all our participants and supporters. They all made the first quarter of 2020 a successful year for NWTF. I hope this report gives a judicious account of the work we had put in, in the first quarter of the year under review. Together with you, we shall continue to work together to create an open and vibrant society that responds to the needs of all Nigerian women and girls.

For Management:

Ms. Mufuliat Fijabi

Chief Executive Officer

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CEO'S MESSAGE

This annual report focuses on some of the activities and programs that we carried out in the year under review. Key features of our work during the year include Capacity Building for CBOs/FBOs and NGOs in the six project focal states (Adamawa, Anambra, Kaduna, Oyo, Plateau and Rivers) This series of training created avenue for CBOs/FBOs and NGOs in the state to build their capacity on organization effectiveness which culminated to the them identifying 100 rural/community women in the states to be trained on Leadership Skills.

2021 is another critical moment in Nigeria's nascent democracy. It marked the beginning of advocacy for both constitutional and electoral reforms. NWTF made its presence felt by offering structured engagement in all our areas of focus. Our goal for both reforms was to make a case for a balanced and fair representation of women in public.

The level of solidarity and support garnered from the EVAWG 1 close out trainings in project Trainings in (Adamawa, Nasarawa, Cross River, and the FCT) from 25th May – 17 June 2021 launched us to the second phase of the project in Ekiti, Ebonyi, Kebbi and Rivers where selected young women demonstrated the willingness to reject stereotypical beliefs that women do not support one another or work as a group to achieve defined goals. The three (3) days mentorship workshop training was held to help women in each of the four states as 50 participants were selected in each state making a total of 200 participants. Following the training, a 6-month inter-generational mentoring process is being undertaken, i.e. it's still ongoing where participants were matched with a mentor to discuss towards empowering young feminists leaders in raising their voices against Violence against Women and girls and organizing priorities and strategies.

NWTF's deepest desire is to have young-female in leadership positions in the country. And also reduce the occurrence of violence against women in Nigeria which is one factor that contributes to absence of leadership and the voice of young women in demanding women and girls' rights despite their population advantage and developmental contributions.

In the pages that follow, we have detailed the issues that frame our work, the approaches we are taking, the partners with whom we have worked, and the results that are being achieved. NWTF is encouraged by recent gains and hopes to continue with greater resolve now and before the year ends in the pursuit of the ideals of inclusion, equity, and well-being of women in Nigeria. We will seek new and enhance existing partnerships for resource mobilization, technical support, and networking to ensure that the principles of equality, and quality, participation by women in all spheres of life are maintained.

The totality of persons reached through physical platforms was recorded at over 5000 (85% female and 15% male) persons with a virtual reach of over 2 Million online users.



Mufuliat Fijabi

ABOUT NWTF

The Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) was established in 2011 through an unusual government and civil society collaboration to mobilize and institutionalize technical and financial resources to support women towards closing the gender gap in governance. These resources are to support female leadership and participation, address the growing concerns about the gender imbalance in elective and appointive positions, and drive strategies to increase the representation of women in governance at all levels. NWTF exists to upgrade the current narrative of Nigeria falling short of the National Gender Policy benchmark of 35% minimum gender representation and other global and regional benchmarks to which the country is a signatory.

Theory of change: If gender equality and good governance are to be achieved in Nigeria, men and women must enjoy unrestricted access to spaces of power, where they can realize their leadership potential and contribute to the democratizing efforts of the nation.

- **Vision:** A Nigeria where women and men engage equally in governance leading to National Development
- **Mission:** To serve as the facilitators of equitable citizenship and sustainable participation for women in governance in Nigeria.
- **Goal:** To institutionalize access to resources for women towards a balanced representation in leadership and governance in Nigeria
- **Values:** The fundamental values of the organization articulate the ideals NWTF aspires to hold itself accountable for and provides guidelines on the accepted culture and public image in carrying out its mission: Integrity, Transparency and accountability, Respect for diversity, Justice, and Equality.

Objectives:

- Transparently provide women with resources for leadership and governance.
- Sustain activism and leadership through mentorship of young women on the Nigerian women agenda
- Engage in research, use of data for advocacy and networking opportunities to further expand women's spaces
- Mobilize resources for the implementation of the Fund's objectives, collaborate with and provide support to like-minded organizations
- Enhance institutional effectiveness for transformation and sustainability.

OBJECTIVE ONE: TRANSPARENTLY PROVIDE WOMEN WITH RESOURCES FOR LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Our Objective One is achieved through the activities of the following projects – the U.S Embassy/ARDF Grant – A Woman’s Place and OSIWA Grant – Towards an Inclusive Governance In Nigeria.

1.1 U.S EMBASSY/ARDF GRANT – A WOMAN’S PLACE

This project seeks to strengthen the capacity of women for quality representation in decision-making processes and secure an inclusive political party environment for getting more women elected across the board, in all spheres of decision-making processes.

- ***Capacity Building of CBOs/FBOs and NGOs in the six project focal states***

The Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) having identified, selected, and assessed a total of one hundred and twenty (120) organizations in the six states (Adamawa, Anambra, Kaduna, Oyo, Plateau and Rivers) of project implementation for capacity building engagements. From March 24 – 19 April 2021 NWTF successfully trained One hundred and twenty (120) organizations with the aim of equipping and strengthening the capacity of CBOs and FBOs on organizational management and mobilization for increased women’s participation and political advocacy in the build-up to 2023 general elections, to build the capacity of CBOs and FBOs for optimal delivery of its mandate and ensuring organizational sustainability and to build and sustain the confidence of women-led activities in the mobilization of rural women in the project focal states.

The knowledge acquired from the training was thereafter used to do a step-down training to other members of the organizations that were represented. The workshops equipped the participants on organizational management and mobilization for increased women’s participation and political advocacy in the build-up to the 2023 General Elections. The capacity-building workshop availed the groups and networks to effectively learn about organizational strategic planning, proposal writing, resource mobilization, community mobilization, gender concepts, and gender mainstreaming and communication; advocacy, and networking.



Participants from the workshop in Adamawa State



Participants from the workshop in Plateau state



Participants from the workshop in Rivers State



Participants from the workshop in Anambra State



Participant from the workshop in Oyo

- ***Facebook Conference: The Ongoing Continuous Voter Registration Process: Implication for Women's Political Participation***

On 5 June 2021, the Nigerian government officially put an indefinite ban on Twitter, restricting it from operating in Nigeria. This initially affected NWTF's quarterly Twitter chat and conferences however, the NWTF quickly thought about another strategic and innovative means of conducting the conversations around women's political participation and governance issues using the Facebook Social Media Platform.

The Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF), as part of its contribution towards encouraging citizens; especially women to participate in the ongoing CVR Process organized a Facebook conference to encourage young women to take advantage of the online platform to register for their permanent voter's card. The Facebook conference was structured in a manner that gave room for citizens; especially young women to discuss and make contributions on how we can improve the participation of women.

The objectives of the Facebook conference were:

- To generate discussions around the ongoing voter registration process and the implications of women not registering.
- To encourage and provide practical solutions to young women to find reasons they should take advantage of the online registration platform.
- To share facts and infographics on the status of registration using the INEC data.

- ***Facebook Conference: Count Down to Anambra Elections: Mobilising Women for Effective Participation***

In furtherance to ensuring that negative perceptions on women's political participation are countered, the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF), ahead of the upcoming Anambra State Governorship Elections organized a Facebook conference to encourage women to participate in the elections as well as on how to take practical steps to mobilize women for the upcoming elections. The Facebook engagement sought to generate discussions on how women in Anambra State can mobilize women within their communities and the larger society to ensure that they support women as well as commit to ensuring that they support candidates with 'good' developmental agenda that puts the issues of women on the front burner. The Facebook conference was structured in a manner that gave room for citizens; especially young women to discuss and make contributions on how we can improve the participation of women.

The objectives of the Facebook conference were:

- To generate discussions around the ongoing preparation for the upcoming Anambra Elections and the importance of women's participation in the electoral process of the state.
- To encourage and provide practical insights on how to effectively mobilize women for the upcoming election:
- To counter some negative comments making the rounds in Anambra State on Women's Political participation

Current statistics have shown that women's participation in the Anambra elections has reduced from 5 candidates (13.5%) in 2017 to just 2 candidates (11.8%) in 2021. This is despite Anambra State being the

only state in the Southeast that has a good number of women at the National Assembly – Anambra State produced two female senators out of the three slots available to the state during the 2019 elections.



The Facebook conference “Count Down to Anambra Elections: Mobilising Women for Effective Participation” therefore sought to provide practical solutions on how to mobilize women in the upcoming governorship elections in Anambra State for effective participation. The Facebook engagement subsequently generated discussions on how women in Anambra State can mobilize women to ensure that they support women.

The Facebook conference was discussed on Thursday, September 16, 2021, from 11 am – 12 noon and it lasted for one (1) hour. The guests for this episode were as follows:

1. Hon. Amaka Obidigbo – Former Member, Anambra State House of Assembly - APGA
2. Doosuur Ngiyev – Aspirant HoR, Benue State - PDP
3. Rabi Musa Adamu – Manchi – Special Adviser, Kaduna State Governor on Legal Matters - APC

At the end of the day, 10,401 people were reached via the Facebook conference, while those who engaged actively in the discussion online were 1,769 persons within the age range of 18 – 50. In terms of sex

disaggregation of the engagements online, the statistics show that 32.4% of the participants were female while 67.6% were men.

- ***The Ongoing Continuous Voter Registration Process: Implication for Women's Political Participation***

Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) is an exercise meant for the registration of citizens who turned 18 years of age after the last registration exercise; or those who for one reason or another could not register in the previous exercises. The 2010 Electoral Act (as amended) mandates the Independent Electoral Commission to carry out CVR nationwide and to make available to every political party within 60 days after each year, the names of the addresses of each person registered during that year.

In pursuance of this requirement, the Commission developed the modality for the conduct of the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise nationwide. INEC commenced the Continuous Voter Registration exercise on 28 June 2021 at the INEC Local Government offices nationwide and remains continuous all year round.

In respect to this, INEC launched a new portal for the continuous voter registration process. The newly launched portal enabled Nigerians to commence the registration process online by filling the forms, other documents, then make an appointment on the web portal for a date and time to visit an INEC State or Local Government Area (LGA) office to give their fingerprints and complete the registration process.

Justification

Women represent a critical mass of voters and electoral stakeholder groups that cannot be ignored, though this number is evident in the 2019 General Elections as the low participation of women in elective positions appears to have grown from bad to worse. This Facebook conference is “The Ongoing Continuous Voter Registration Process: Implication for Women's Political Participation.” The Facebook conference will seek to unveil and consequently provide practical solutions and encouragement to women and young women to find reasons why they should make themselves available for the continuous voter's registration process. It will also seek to provide key things that women and citizens at large need to know

about the exercise. Finally, it hopes to offer a fresh perspective for anyone interested in the ongoing voter registration process.

When: “The Ongoing Continuous Voter Registration Process: Implication for Women’s Political Participation” will be discussed on Thursday, July 8, 2021, from 11 am – 12 noon and is expected to last for one (1) hour.

Moderation:

NWTF will engage with the guests on Facebook with the questions, while the guests kindly react by responding and sharing their replies and using the designated hashtags.

How - Follow @NigerianWomenTrustFund and @SheImpact on Facebook. - Join the conversation from 11 am – 12 noon, using the following hashtags:

#AWomansPlaceNG.

#CVRandWomen

N/B: NWTF is nonpartisan

@womenfundng #AWomansPlaceNG

- ***Leadership Skills For Rural/Community Women***

The capacity-building engagements in the focal states were conducted between 12 July to 19 August 2021 starting with Plateau and followed by Kaduna, Oyo, Rivers, and Anambra States respectively. No lesser than five hundred (500) community women participated and benefitted in the capacity-building workshop in all the five focal states. After Adamawa State, Plateau, and Kaduna States were the next states in which NWTF conducted the capacity building between 12 – 14 July 2021, followed by Oyo and Rivers States which held between 28 – 29 July 2021. Anambra State was the last state in the line of capacity development of rural/community women. The capacity-building workshop was conducted between 18 – 19 August 2021. In total, five hundred and forty-five (545) participants benefitted from the capacity-building program for rural women in the focal states of Plateau (107), Kaduna (108), Oyo (108), Rivers (107), and Anambra (115) states.

In organizing these capacity-building workshops, the NWTF was deliberate in its inclusion and diversity efforts. Based on the assessment that was conducted during the first year of the project, we recognized the diversity that some of the states portrayed and therefore worked along that angle in the selection of rural women. The organizations and groups that were trained were asked to mobilize the women representing various communities and locations cut across the three (3) senatorial zones of all the project states. Improving upon the training conducted in Adamawa, NWTF also coordinated with the women mobilized to appreciate the need to step down the knowledge gained to other members of their communities who were not opportune to be at the training. The training, therefore, focused on empowering community women with leadership skills to increase their capacity to engage more on governance issues and support the participation of women in upcoming elections.

It also aimed to strengthen the capacities of rural/community women, their associations at all levels, and their professional organizations, as well as enhance the quality of policy advocacy and dialogue. This presented an opportunity for women at the grassroots to access these capacity-building resources and benefit equally from development opportunities especially in the build-up to the 2023 elections.



Some of the participants at the training in Adamawa



Cross-section of participants in Anambra State



Cross-sections of participant and group photograph at Plateau State

EU-SDGN #OurVoteCountsNG – Supporting marginalised Nigerians in the Election Process

- ***Confidence Building, Learning and Sharing with Women Network***

In winding down the EU-SDGN project, NWTf held a Confidence Building, Learning and Sharing Meeting with the Women’s Network in Osun, Imo and the FCT.

The meeting aimed at evaluating the activities of the women’s network engaged for the training and mobilization of voters in the last elections as well as to serve as an avenue to learn and share from the other members of the network. It also served as a means to learn from the INEC Gender desk officers on the emerging technologies and plans that INEC has made in preparation for the Continuous Voter’s Registration Exercise in the build-up to the 2023 General Elections in Nigeria which in turn will contribute to strengthening the electoral process for marginalized groups.

The meeting focused on providing futuristic strategies for stakeholders to conduct voter education programs in the build-up to the 2023 general elections as well as other off-cycle elections.

1.2 OSIWA GRANT – TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA

This project aims at increasing the inclusion of women in government leadership positions in Nigeria. Over the years, women have been marginalized in every sphere of life; social, cultural, economic and most importantly, political. It is very evident in politics because it is in politics and governance that policies and decision are made and this affects every other part of life tremendously. Since 1999, the representation of women in both Senate and House of Reps has been abysmally low. Critically observing the 9th Assembly and state Houses of Assembly across the country, it is clear that women suffered severely in politics.

The 2019 General Elections witnessed a high level of discrimination against women especially during the political parties ‘primaries. The various challenges faced by women during the elections itself is also a cause for concern as the final percentage at the end of the elections reveals another drop from 5.65% to 4.17% in 2015 and 2019 respectively. The systematic drop in the number of women in leadership in Nigeria’s democratic process is alarming and requires all actions to bring it to a halt.

- ***Strategic Litigation Process***

Developing a legal advisory including a strategy for approaching the court where this legal strategy of the women’s movement will be a modest but crucial success for democratic consolidation. Against this background, the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) in line with its mandate of closing the gender gaps at all levels of governance and in collaboration with other key stakeholders and support from the Board launched a Strategic Litigation Initiative.

The Nigerian Women Trust Fund in Seeking judicial advice from the led counsel, Femi Falana (SAN) and his chambers have started drafting a process to be filed in court to demand explanation of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in relation to gender. And have also gone ahead to send an open letter to the Nigerian Senate President challenging the appointment of thirty seven (37) members and a chairperson for the National Population Commission which was not gender inclusive and is not representative of the promise of the president during his campaign, geared towards bridging the gaps in both elective and appointive positions.

Before the transfer of Justice O.E. Abang was the first Judge to presided over the matter. Unfortunately, no sooner than his transfer was the judicial nationwide strike and which obstructed the judicial process for a while.

Upon the suspension of the judicial nationwide strike in July 2021 the judicial process continued and presided over by a new Judge, Justice D.U Okorowo on the on the 7th of July 2021 for mention.

Sequel to the mentioned matter, the judicial process experienced series of adjournment before its proper hearing which held in 29th September,2021. However, the matter could not proceed due to the Judge unavailability to proceed with the matter on the said date. Thus, the matter was adjourned to 24th of November for its proper hearing then adjourned for 24th January 2021.

The judicial process is set to achieve an interpretation of the laws as stipulated in the Nigeria 1999 constitution as amended to clarify some sections particularly section 42 on women’s inclusion in leadership and decision-making positions in the Nigeria democratic governance process.



OBJECTIVE TWO: SUSTAIN ACTIVISM AND LEADERSHIP THROUGH MENTORSHIP OF YOUNG WOMEN ON THE NIGERIAN WOMEN AGENDA

Our Objective Two is achieved through the activities of the following projects – the U.S Embassy/ARDF Grant – A Woman’s Place and Ford Foundation Grant - Ending Violence Against Women Project.

2.1. U.S EMBASSY/ARDF GRANT – A WOMAN’S PLACE

- *Twitter Conference: Remarkable Women in Politics; Lessons for Young Women*

The theme for International Women’s Day (8 March) 2021 is, “Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in a Covid-19 World; #ChooseToChallenge. The theme is aligned with the tremendous efforts of women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It also aligns with the priority theme of the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equity and the empowerment of all women.

The Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF), as part of the 2021 IWD celebrations and NWTF's 10th anniversary organized a Twitter conference to generate discussions around women's leadership. The Twitter conference had four panelists using the following hashtag to amplify the tweet #AWomansPlaceNG, #IWD2021 and #WomenFundAt10

1. Mordi (@kikimordi): Gender Activist, Lead of Document Women, and an Investigative Journalist.
2. Chelsea Agbasiere (@Bossqueen_Esq): Lawyer, Presenter, UN Women Young Leader, and CEO Real Hope Foundation.
3. Adebanke Ilori Oyeniya (@IloriAgain): She is an advocate for Gender Equity, a Lawyer, and a Washington Fellow.
4. Blessing Abani-Elem (@abani_blessing): Emerging young leader, gender advocate, community developer, communication personnel, and business development analyst.

The objectives of the tweet conference were:

- To unveil, encourage and provide practical solutions to young women to find reasons they should make themselves available for leadership roles.
- To offer advice to organizations that seek to improve the career success of young women leaders; to mobilize stakeholders to demand more access and opportunity for women to gain leadership positions across all sectors.
- To offer a fresh perspective for anyone interested in the topic of women leadership and careers.

In line with the theme of International Women's Day 2021, the tweet conference with the theme: "Remarkable Women in Leadership: Lessons for Young Women." sought to unveil and consequently provide practical solutions and encouragement to young women to find reasons why they should make themselves available for leadership roles. It also sought to offer advice to organizations that seek to improve the career success of young women leaders as well as be a call-to-action to various stakeholders to demand more access and opportunity for women to gain leadership positions across all sectors. Finally, the tweet chat offered fresh perspectives for anyone interested in the topic of women's leadership and careers.



Figure 1 Participants at the International Women's Day Rally

Ford Foundation

- ***Follow up Meeting with EAWG mentors and mentees***

Having received the first tranche of funds from the Ford Foundation under the Ford Build Grant, building on the gains of the previous Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EAWG) project, NWTF conducted a follow-up meeting with mentees from the past project states of Adamawa, Nasarawa, Cross-rivers States, and the Federal Capital Territory to get insights on how they are faring, the impacts they have been making in the states, challenges, prospects, and networking opportunities.

The follow-up meeting took place in the four-project initial focal states (Adamawa, Nasarawa, Cross River, and the FCT) from 25th May – 17 June 2021. The meeting is aimed at harnessing the gains and challenges of the mentorship program and ensure sustainability measures are in place for future interventions and also to proffer technical support and solidify the mentorship phase.

- ***Three (3) days capacity Building Workshop***

The Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) organized a three-day capacity building workshop for selected young women on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Nigeria under the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' (EAWG II) project supported by Ford Foundation. The workshop which took place in four different states in Nigeria avail the opportunity for two- hundred (200) young female feminist to learn on pushing against the boundaries of VAWG by utilizing their strengths and leadership qualities especially in spaces of governance and politics in Nigeria. The workshop was also focused on empowering selected feminists on rights-based approaches and other practical frameworks that

effectively integrate women’s human rights and dignity into gender equality processes in Nigeria through mentorship.

The three-day workshop started with each participant filling a pre-test form and ended with the participants filling a post-test and post-evaluation form. The workshop was concluded with a mentor-mentee meeting session, where mentorship action plans on key elements and issues around violence against women and girls, potential barriers, risks, and mitigation strategy were jointly designed by mentors and mentees. The workshop will be preceded by a six-months mentorship process in the four states.



Cross Section of participants and the CEO of Nigerian Women Trust Fund during the three (3) days mentorship workshop in Rivers

OBJECTIVE THREE:
ENGAGE IN RESEARCH, USE OF DATA FOR ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER EXPAND WOMEN’S SPACES

Our Objective Three is achieved through the activities of the Osiwa Grant – Women in Governance Project.

3.1. ARDF GRANT – A WOMAN’S PLACE

- *Advocacy Visits to Traditional Leaders and Relevant Gatekeepers*

As part of the deliverable to counter negative narratives and perceptions that hinder women’s political participation, The Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) identified some key stakeholders in the focal states of project implementation. The NWTF paid an advocacy visit to National leaders and Gatekeepers in Rivers State and Oyo State on 27th and 29th July 2021 respectively. The advocacy visit aimed to change perceptions, attitudes, and social norms that are biased toward women’s political participation.

The advocacy visits focused on issues around the inclusion of women in leadership and governance structures in Nigeria, with the view of changing the narrative towards ensuring a more enabling environment and inclusion of women in decision-making processes across all spheres in Nigeria.

NWTF team during the visits emphasized the perception of women in governance as being casualized, to improve this narrative, the team urged gatekeepers to take actions towards their commitments in increasing their political will for women’s representation in not only the governance of the nation but in cabinet and state affairs as well with a demand for national responsibility and to encourage women to take up the call for service to the nation.

Most of the Traditional Leaders who were visited said they were now persuaded of the value of women’s participation and saw how their communities are missing out on the potential contributions of women if they are excluded from leadership roles. They recognized how these can be harnessed to enhance community development, and how the increased status of women in the cabinet can help with cabinet affairs.

They spoke of the need to “sensitize” the members of their cabinets during their next meeting, they noted that this will also help them secure the support of the wider community. The paramount rulers visited also assured NWTF that they will plan with the members of their cabinet for a gradual process for increasing women’s involvement in leadership so as not to make the process too confrontational. some of the

leaders visited promised change within a one-year time frame to enable them to consult and check on the implications of the change for the safeguarding of traditional culture.

The visit gained the views and commitments of national leaders and gatekeepers in the States. It was effective as gatekeepers affirmed the need for more women in elective and appointive positions. They pledged to support the process using various platforms to ensure inclusion and pursue inclusiveness of women in governance across the local, state, and national levels.

The National leaders and gatekeepers appreciated the visits and tasked NWTF to intensify long term mentoring that will assist in building women's confidence to take on leadership roles beginning at the grassroots levels, engaging community women in Civic and voter education, and capacity building for women, especially young women for knowledge increase of key national and local policy issues.

Our result suggests that advocacy can be a useful tool to bring together different forces by allowing the expression of voices and ensuring accountability of different actors including gatekeepers. In the context of poor inclusion of women in politics, leadership, and governance outcomes, interest from policymakers and politicians, combined with advocacy from key gatekeepers, can improve women's participation in Nigeria.



- **National stakeholders briefing on inclusive Governance in Nigeria**

On 6th July 2021 NWTF with support from OSIWA held a national stakeholder briefing on inclusive Governance in Nigeria. The meeting was for the strategic litigation team to come together to deliberate

and strategize on the ongoing court hearing slated for 7th July 2021. The meeting availed all critical stakeholders of the strategic litigation team to come together physically and strategize and chart a way forward in delivering on the on going court hearing.

- ***Radio Sensitization Programme, Press briefing and Newspaper Article) for Towards an Inclusive Governance in Nigeria [TIGN] Implemented by Women Radio 91.7***

The role the media plays in spreading information, raising awareness, influencing, and changing public behavior on a cause cannot be overemphasized. Thus, its use as a core tool in this project and was geared towards informing and sensitizing the public on the need to give women a fair chance to participate in governance and decision-making processes across board.

30th March to 27th September 2021, several topics were discussed that cut across issues like legal advocacy, the role of market women, the right of women to achieve an inclusive governance and many more. The radio programme was in English. All to ensure a positive influence and behavioral change in women, men, stakeholders, local policy actors and the public.

Furthermore, the radio talks have been informative as topics are tailored to address issues as they arise due to the political context and happenings within the country. The project has collaborated with the academia, government agency, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and civil society organizations to sensitize the listening public on voter education, civic engagement, voter apathy and

women inclusion issues. The resource persons were strategically picked from the different sectors due to their vast knowledge and expertise on the topic of discourse.



Links to some of the Court hearing for 2021

<https://www.blueprint.ng/inclusive-governance-nigerian-womens-feud-with-fg/>

<https://www.independent.ng/35-affirmative-action-women-groups-sue-buhari-agf/>

<https://cityvoiceng.com/inclusive-governance-suit-between-nigerian-women-and-federal-government-adjourned-to-february-5/>

<https://penpushing.com.ng/women-group-drags-nigerian-government-to-court-over-alleged-arbitrary-violation-of-national-gender-policy/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CISuZZGFaJg/?igshid=a8zzzjcxwgee>

<https://blog.labbymedia.com/nigerian-women-groups-drag-president-buhari-to-court-over-gender-imbalance-in-governance/>

[Women sue Buhari, Malami for affirmative action | The Guardian Nigeria News - Nigeria and World News](https://www.guardiannews.com/world/women-sue-buhari-malami-for-affirmative-action)

<https://emergencydigest.com/2020/12/02/inclusive-governance-court-fg-women-case/>

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<https://ebonymediagist.com/2020/11/30/nigerian-women-csos-stakeholders-commence-strategic-litigation-towards-inclusive-governance/>

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OBJECTIVE FOUR: MOBILIZE RESOURCES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUND'S OBJECTIVES, COLLABORATE WITH AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS

Our Objective Four is achieved through the activities of the Ford Foundation Build Grant project

4.1. Ford Foundation Build Grant

- *Grant Making*

Nigerian Women Trust Fund with support from Ford foundation in the year under review sub granted to 20 other sister organisations raises which are Centre for Women & Adolescent Empowerment (CWAE), Attah Sisters Helping Hand Foundation, Centre for women and Adolescent Empowerment, Foundation for Community Empowerment Initiative, Forum for the Promotion of Gender Equity and Moral values (FOPGEMOV), Community Women's Right, WEBFALA Digital skill for all Initiative, Society for Women and Youth Affairs (SWAYA), Women & Youth Awareness Empowerment Network (WOYEN), AI-HIDAYAT Women Focus Movement, Gender Mobile Initiative, AWWDI/ CEDAR SEED Foundation, Her Voice.

Board Retreat

As part of project delivery under the Ford foundation project NWTF held a Board Retreat for Board member where deliberations on how to move the organization forward was the basis of the retreat.

Set up a media centre

NWTF purchased media equipment for for the documentary of women who are making gaint strikes. In the year under review NWTF was able to profile 9 women cut across politics and other sectors.

Upgrade/Training on Quick Books

In other to deliver effectively on the organization mandate in terms of finance and administration NWTF finance team had a two day training on the use of quick book to enable the team to be abreast with current innovations in finance.

4.2. MACARTHUR GRANT – Improving Electoral Integrity and Accountability project (IEIA Project)

The Improving Electoral Integrity and Accountability (IEIA) project is funded by MacArthur through WRAPA the project is aimed at improving electoral integrity and accountability in Nigeria through

expanded and sustained anti-corruption and affirmative action campaigns that remove the barriers limiting inclusion and access for women and other marginalised populations both in public and social life. The project is also aimed at institutionalizing anti-corruption and accountability demand through citizens' engagement in Nigeria's democratic process.

This project saw NWTF work with three cluster members; ElectHer, 100 women Lobby Group and Women in Politics Forum (WiPF) all working towards achieving the overall goal of the project

- ***Social Media Engagements***

NWTF developed infographics and conducted twitter chats and webinars targeted at various stakeholders to mobilize them to combat corruption, demand accountability and gender equality in leadership and governance especially during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing and less physical meetings. This led to increase visits and followership on our social media platforms. During the course of project implementation, NWTF had a total of 4,967.36 Followers, 9,786,569 Impacts and 3,148,767 Reach via social media. NWTF's social media campaigns engaged a wide audience with our twitter chat and infographics that encouraged the public to combat corruption in politics as well as other facets of life. The engagement created social incentives for action against corruption. Furthermore, webinars brought together key stakeholders to discuss the upcoming challenges associated with the public health emergency such as the lack of women's representation in both the National and State Task Forces, the need for accountability in the distribution of resources, loss of economic activities, increase in gender based violence and the gendered impact of the pandemic.

The infographics were used to stimulate and sustain interactions on social media around women's issues and how the pandemic was affecting women in a myriad of ways. NWTF's have trended at No.3 and No.2 in most cases in Nigeria according to the Twitter trend list analysis. The social media engagement also provided support for collaboration among civil society organizations, media, and other relevant stakeholders to amplify the voices speaking out against corruption.

OBJECTIVE FIVE: ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS FOR TRANSFORMATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

1.1. INTERNSHIP/NYSC/VOLUNTEERING

NWTF in the first quarter have two (2) program and legal Intern and an NYSC member serving/learning under the Admin & Finance department.

5.2 PUBLICATIONS

In line with our thematic mandate of disseminating contents towards closing the gender gaps across all levels of governance, NWTF produced the following:

- i. Mentorship Manual for young women in the ending violence against women project.
- ii. Mentorship guide for mentors and mentees in the E.V.A.W.G. project.
- iii. Analysis of the root causes of Violence Against Women and Girls in Nigeria

The essence of the publications is to strengthen the capacity of women and young women politicians in Nigeria and challenge structural barriers that limit female politicians.

1.3. BOARD MEETINGS

Within the year 2021, NWTF has held its 28th Board meeting and its 29th Board meeting in joint session with the Advisory Board. Currently, there are five members each on Both the NWTF Advisory Board and Board of Directors.

Advisory Board

- Erelu Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Chair (Co-Founder, African Women's Development Fund)
- Iyom Josephine Anenih, President, Women Foundation of Nigeria
- UNWomen Nigeria Country Representative
- Prof. Chidi Odinkalu, Senior Team Manager, Africa Program, Open Society Justice Initiative
- Federal Ministry of Women Affairs

Board Of Directors

- Olufunke Baruwa – Co-Chair
- Director Women And Gender, Fmwa&Sd – Co-Chair
- Dr. Abiola Akiyode – Afolabi
- Saudatu Mahdi, Mfr
- Dr. Otive Igbuzor

1.4. NEW STAFFING

NWTF in the first quarter employed two staff .

- Grant Manager
- A Finance Officer

1.5. MONITORING & EVALUATION

From January to December 2021 under review, the Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF) undertook the following projects: “Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)” in four (4) states; Ekiti, Ebonyi, Kebbi and Rivers with support from Ford Foundation, the African Regional Democratic Fund (ARDF) project – The Woman’s Place funded by US Embassy to Nigeria, Towards Inclusive Governance in Nigeria (TGIN) Project funded by OSIWA, Improving Electoral Integrity and Accountability project (IEIA Project) funded by MacArthur through WRAPA

In the year under review, the total number of persons reached through physical platforms was recorded at over 5000 (85% female and 15% male) persons with a virtual reach of over 2 Million online users.

APPENDIXES