



RULE OF LAW AND EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE
also known as **PARTNERS** WEST AFRICA NIGERIA

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2019



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“The criminal justice system is too important and crucial in the fabric of a democratic state to have agencies that are inefficient and are not being held accountable.”

- Kemi Okenyodo

HIGHLIGHT:

RESTORING HOPE

Extremism in Nigeria is at an all-time high, with highly affected regions in northeastern Nigeria. While the government is doing its best to combat these acts of violent extremism there have been collateral damages and children have been affected the most

According to UNICEF, over 10.5 million children in Nigeria and over 2.8 million of them in the northeast have been displaced. These children have had their dreams of a formal education halted because of the extremism.

The number of innocent children forced into the streets to beg for alms from strangers to feed themselves everyday increases, because their parents have been either killed in various attacks or displaced by the insurgency and have no source of livelihood.

Children who are not appropriately guided are vulnerable and turn to crime as a source of livelihood, which can lead to them being recruited by extremists, thereby creating an endless cycle of pain and destruction. By engaging with children of ages 4-12 who are out of school and left with no means to get a formal education, PWAN aims to improve their quality of life and learning, giving them a chance to fulfil their dreams and make something of themselves.

These children deserve a chance at life, as such PWAN with support from Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) started the ***‘Engaging Children to counter violent extremism in Nigeria’*** project to Counter Violent Extremism (CVE) in areas affected by insurgency and extremism to manage the situation.

The goal of this project is to create a safe space that parents can trust that their children go out and learn without fear of them being killed or abducted while getting an education.

Through this project, PWAN is fighting for the right of a child to get an education. Two communities were selected as pilot states to benefit from this, namely Kikan and Dong communities in Adamawa State, these communities were affected by the

Boko Haram conflict and the farmer herder clashes, schools were destroyed and families were displaced leaving a large population of out of school children in both communities. Community leaders and the parents of the children in these communities were approached with the idea, and they were open to it. They proffered a solution to the challenge of having no venue for learning by provided a centre to help with the commencement of the project. With further help and support from the community, PWAN was able to turn empty spaces in the environment into a conducive learning environment, with standard furniture, electricity and learning materials to help them learn efficiently.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”– Nelson Mandela

The project has progressed well over time with collaborations from the Mbula Foundation and Mavis Computel, who developed the Talking Books for teaching the children.

PWAN was able to train six (6) facilitators and two (2) coordinators that were in charge of teaching the children to be enrolled. The facilitators and coordinators were selected from these two communities, Kikan and Dong, to help foster a sense of togetherness, seeing as the children would be more receptive to learning from people in their own community. After the training, the facilitators were updated on the current curriculum and Mavis Talking Books to make teaching easier.

With the support of Mavis Computel, PWAN conducted a baseline assessment of the 120 children in both communities to further understand the learning ability and knowledge of each student and what class to put them in as they started school. The children were placed in classes according to the prior knowledge they had from going to school before the crisis began. It was discovered that some of these children have never been to school before the commencement of this intervention.



Figure 2. PWAN Programme Manager on an assessment visit to Kikan Community.

Learning commenced in May 2019, and the joy on the faces of the kids was unmistakable. The children were taught through art, numeracy and literacy education in an informal and fun manner to create an engaging learning experience. The children were fed meals while in school to provide them with the nutrients needed to enhance learning.

We are happy to have helped over 100 students return to school. Our goal is to assist more children in however way we can, as they deserve a chance at education and life but have no way to achieve it.

A documentary showing the progress and work done with the community was put together and is available on YouTube¹.

¹ <https://youtu.be/r7DcWul8i-8>

From the Executive Director

A review of the year 2019 would be incomplete without highlighting the most significant event which took place- the 2019 general elections. There are various schools of thought on the results obtained across the country, conduct of the elections by election management bodies, and management of public safety and security while Nigerians went to the polls. However, for us at the Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative also known as Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), what was more significant was the effects of politics and electioneering on governance in 2019.

PWAN in 2019, sought to improve the quality of life of Nigerians, by encouraging citizens' participation in the promotion of accountability and transparency in security governance. This we were able to achieve by increasing focus on:

Improved public safety and security- A critical part of achieving this is in the promotion of sustainable criminal justice and security sector reform. PWAN in 2019, engaged with criminal justice actors in Bauchi, Jigawa, Oyo and Plateau states towards adoption of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Law (ACJA/L), and criminal justice actors in FCT, Lagos and Ondo towards its effective implementation. The ACJA/L revolutionizes the procedure for handling criminal matters in the country with a view of promoting human rights, and speedy dispensation of justice. PWAN also encouraged reduction in pre-trial detention populations through the provision of free legal aid in the FCT, and Kano states, and participation in prison decongestion exercises in Ondo state.

Gender equality- Our guiding document this year was the National Action Plan on United Nations Security Resolution 1325, specifically on the participation, representation and protection of women. PWAN solidified its reputation for women-led and women driven programming by seeking to promote gender responsiveness, participation in decision making and representation within the security and political spheres. We sought to achieve this by conducting research on the current level of gender mainstreaming across both sectors, in a bid to advocate for improved gender consideration.

Advocacy for improved service delivery of government institutions- Our focus this year was on the tier government said to be closest to the people, the Local Government. PWAN sought to educate Nigerians on the services which local governments are to provide in a bid to promote citizen led accountability, and assess the current level of effectiveness of services delivered. This includes the provision of

Informed dialogue on governance related thematic issues- Our thematic convenings and accountability briefs serve as a means of promoting informed discourse on topical issues. In 2019, we focused on security issues such as the farmer-herder clashes, and #ReformSARS debate, as well as the prevalence of drug abuse, and sexual gender-based violence in Kano state, among other topics.

As we transition into a new decade, PWAN seeks to develop more creative avenues for engagement and interactions with Nigerians through increased use of technology, and strategic communications. The importance of the office of the citizen was highlighted strongly in 2019; PWAN will continue to take steps to uphold it in the years to come.

ABOUT PWAN

Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative (ROLEI), known as Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to enhancing citizens' participation and improving security governance in Nigeria and West Africa broadly. PWAN operates through two programme areas, namely: Rule of Law and Citizen Security.

MISSION

Our mission is to enhance citizens participation and improving governance and security in Nigeria and West Africa.

VISION

We envision the growth of robust good governance and accountable institutions in Nigeria and West Africa.

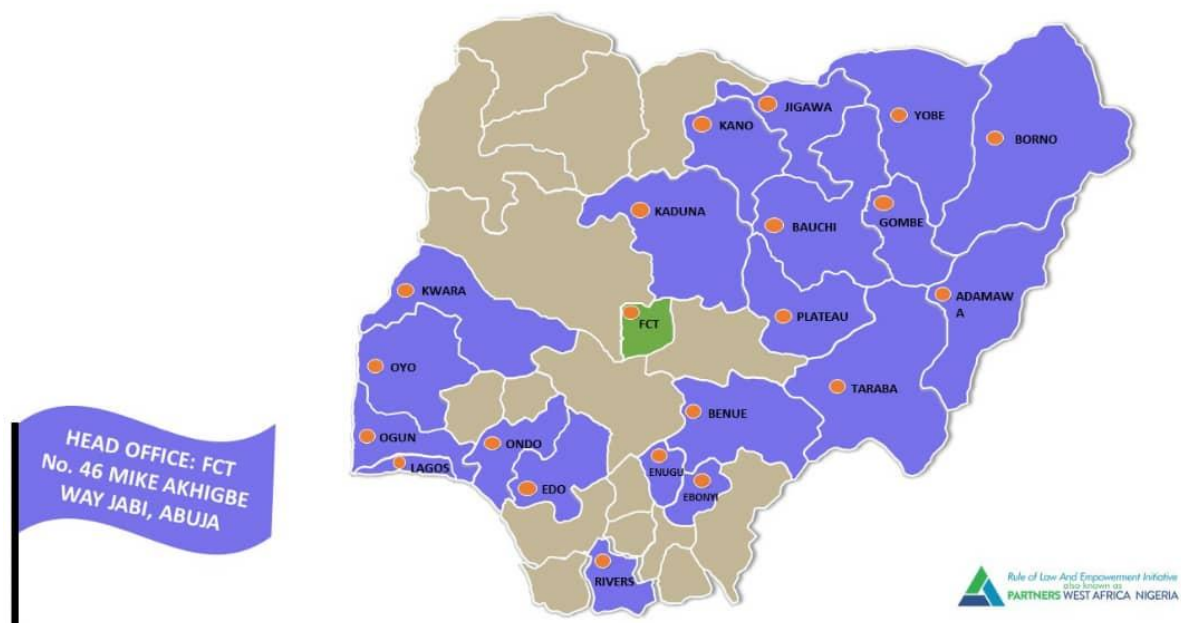
CORE VALUES

PWAN operates on the following principles:

- To exemplify integrity, inclusiveness, impact, and professionalism.
- To be a continuous knowledge generation and learning platform.
- To provide timely, relevant and accessible education and training.

This report presents our work in 2019, including but not limited to our successes, impacts, challenges, concerns, and financial undertakings.

STATES OF PWAN INTERVENTIONS FROM 2016 - 2020



2019 IN REVIEW

2019 was a year of growth for PWAN. We were able to extend our reach to more locations in the country, impacting lives wherever we went.

Despite the tough political climate of 2019 which was an election year, that resulted in change of government in some states where we work, we were able to create new relationships, strengthen existing ones and continue the implementation of our interventions.

In collaboration with the government, community leaders, civil society organisations and other stakeholders, we organized town hall meetings, awareness, sensitization walks and radio talks in various states majorly focused on educating citizens on the objectives of our projects and how it is beneficial to everyone participating.

Enabled by our funders we had three (3) new projects which we carried out in six (6) states, while still performing our duties in seven (7) other projects that commenced in previous years.

As PWAN continued to expand, we saw an increase in the number of staff and the creation of new units in the organisation, namely the Public Defenders Unit and the Communication Unit.

Providing legal aid was one of our highlights in 2019, PWAN was part of various prison decongestion programmes aimed at helping people who had been incarcerated for long periods of time without proper trial. Through our work, we were able to unite released detainees with their families.

We carried out projects in more states than previous years, reaching remote villages in northeastern Nigeria, providing aid where needed. We established a new office in Borno State to help broaden our reach and offer help when needed to the surrounding communities.

The efforts made in 2019 have brought our organisation closer to its goal of enhancing citizens' participation and improving security governance in Nigeria.

By the Numbers

In the last one year, PWAN has implemented several projects and carried out several activities resulting in interactions with thousands of citizens. Below are some of the numbers from some notable projects.

Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in the Judicial Sector

Release of Findings July 2019, Abuja	39
Release of Findings July 2019, Ondo	48
Release of Findings July 2019, Lagos	28
Release of Findings December 2019, Abuja	42
Release of Findings December 2019, Ondo	37
Release of Findings December 2019, Lagos	26
Total number of persons directly engaged through the project	220

Engaging Children to Counter Terrorism (OSIWA)

Capacity Building on Early Detection of Radicalisation	98
Training for Learning Centre Facilitators (Demsu LGA)	14
Engaging Children to Counter Extreme Violence (Selected Children for Dong Learning Centre)	20
Engaging Children to Counter Extreme Violence (Selected Children for Demsa Learning Centre)	20
Engaging Children to Counter Extreme Violence (Selected Children for Learning Centre Class 1)	18
Engaging Children to Counter Extreme Violence (Selected Children for Learning Centre Class 2)	18
Total number of persons directly engaged through the project	188

ACCESS NIGERIA

Oyo Townhall Awareness	112
Quarterly Consortium Coordination Meeting	7
Work Planning Meeting	7
5-Day Training on Effective Administration of Criminal Justice Plateau State	31
Citizens Rights Awareness on the Administration of Criminal Justice Law	171
Total number of persons directly engaged through the project	328

Fostering Relationship Between Women and Police Gender Desk Officers Through Dialogue

Fostering Relationship between Women and Police Gender Desk Officer through Dialogue Phase 1 (Maiduguri)	38
Fostering Relationship between Women and Police Gender Desk Officer through Dialogue Phase 1 (Monguno)	40
Fostering Relationship between Women and Police Gender Desk Officer through Dialogue Phase II (Maiduguri)	40
Fostering Relationship between Women and Police Gender Desk Officer through Dialogue Phase II (Monguno)	40
Total number of persons directly engaged through the project	158

Women Peace and Security

Validation Workshop	36
Round Table Workshop on Protection of Women and Girls (Borno)	25
Focus Group Discussion (FCT)	25
Focus Group Discussion (Bauchi)	36
Methodology Workshop	23
Total number of persons directly engaged through the project	145

OVERVIEW OF OUR PROGRAMMING STRATEGY

In our mission to enhance citizen participation and improve security governance in Nigeria and West Africa broadly, PWAN has adopted a strategy of working with both local and international partners. Specifically, we are working with ministries, departments, and agencies within the Justice and Security sectors, as well as civil society organization (CSOs), to address challenges obstructing the delivery of justice and the security of citizens, while also encouraging citizens' involvement in discussing the issues that affect them.

To implement this strategy, PWAN counts on her competence in the following areas:

- Innovative and citizens' focused programming of informing and educating them on security and governance-related issues, while getting feedback through dialogue or the use of technology on issues affecting them.
- Women-led and women driven programme implementation strategy, by setting the pace for others to follow, to bridge gender inequality.
- Sector and thematic expertise of the organisation and its staff through the provision of relevant, timely and accessible education and training of stakeholders.
- Good reputation among CSOs, the government and donors.
- Good working relationship with criminal justice actors (Police, Minister of Justice, Judiciary and Prisons).

PROGRAMME AREAS

CITIZEN'S SECURITY

This programme area ensures that citizens are well informed and participate in decision making alongside the government, because it affects their everyday lives. It also aims at ensuring that inclusive and transparent governance is the underpinning of a democratic and prosperous society. PWAN have been able to achieve these through:

1. Inclusive dialogue and participation in governance activities

With support from National Endowment for Democracy (NED), PWAN is currently implementing the 'Beyond Voting: Increasing Women's Participation in the Political Process.' The aim of the project is to build a community of women that are more conscious and participatory in the political process.

PWAN, in its collaborative approach with the Women Advocate and Research Centre (WARDC) and Voice of Ogun Women (VOW), have created a social charter that sets prerequisites to ensure the meaningful and significant participation of women in governance and decision making. The social charter was presented and signed by gubernatorial candidates during the debate jointly organised by PWAN, WARDC and VOW in Ogun State.

Assessment scorecard: Performance Monitoring Form

PC Marking Key

1. Political Officer Information

SD.1 Name:

SD.2 Location:

2. Where Information was gotten

SD.3 Social Media:
Twitter
Face Book
Instagram

SD.4 Social Research:
Online Post
News Papers

SD.5 Participatory process:
Key Informant Interview
Focus Group Discussions
Review of official records

3. Development Focus Areas

Indicator	Score out of 100	Change after 3 months	Score out of 100
3.1 Gender Inclusiveness			
3.2 Education			
3.3 Health			

3.1: Gender Inclusiveness Indicators - Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality

Indicators	Score out of 100	Change after 3 months	Score out of 100
Ministers			
Commissioners			
Special Advisers/Secretaries			
Heads of Core Agencies/Departments			
Chairmen/Managers of Local Govt			
Heads of Academic Institutions			
Speakers/Member of Rep/State Assembly			
Committee Chair			

Figure 4. Developed Score Card

The social charter was used as a baseline to create a scorecard that is mainly focused on women and development issues. The scorecard is currently being administered in four (4) states, namely: Taraba, Ebonyi, Gombe, and Ogun state with one (1) observer in each state to monitor its progress.

PWAN carried out awareness campaigns aimed at advocating for participation and the representation of more women in politics. The states of intervention



Figure 5. Cross Section of Participants at Ogun Awareness

were Ogun and Gombe. A total of 115 women were reached during the awareness which was held in the two states. The awareness contributed to an increase in the number of women that participated in the 2019 elections. For instance, the 2015 elections, only one (1) woman contested for the presidential seat while in 2019 six (6) women were on the ballot paper. It has also risen the consciousness of women, making them realise that they play an

important role in politics. For instance, in Ogun State, with support from PWAN, women took to the streets to demand higher representation in political appointments made by the Governor. Although there was no real increase in the number of female commissioners appointed, there was a considerable change in the number of women appointed as Special Advisers. In Kwara State, we saw for the first time, women (9) having more appointments as commissioners than their male counterparts, who were seven (7) in number.

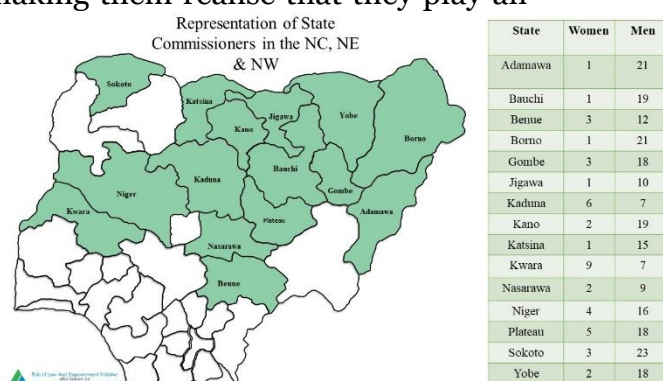


Figure 6. Representation of Commissioners in the NC, NE & NW

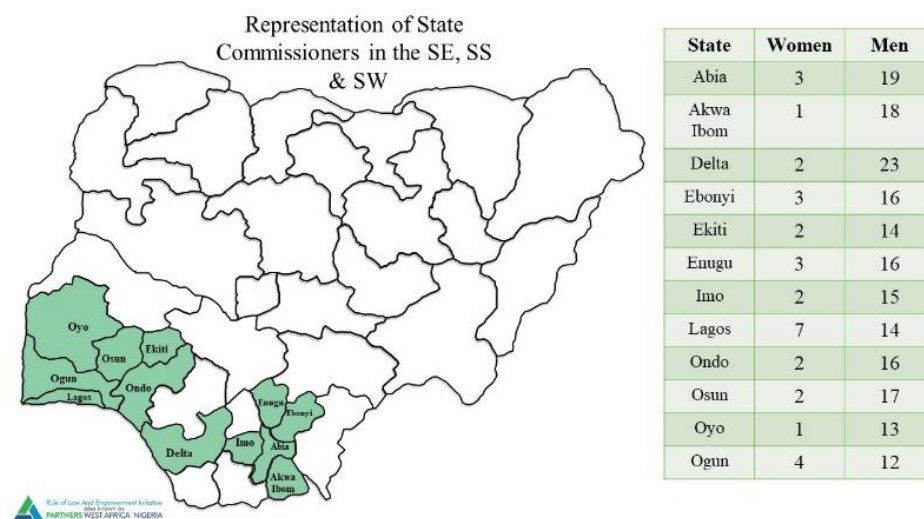


Figure 7. Representation of Commissioners in the SE, SS & SW

2. Countering Violent Extremism

Children in northeastern communities have dropped out of school due to insurgency, and can no longer continue their educational pursuits. As a result

of this, in line with PWAN's strategic objective of contributing to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), it commenced the implementation of the project on ***'Engaging children to counter violent extremism in Nigeria'*** in collaboration with Mbula Foundation, which is aimed at Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) in areas affected by the insurgency.

The project seeks to improve the lives of children between the ages of 4 and 12 in Kikan and Dong communities of Numan and Demsa LGAs in Adamawa State through art, numeracy and literacy education, by engaging them in fun ways to ease learning. A total of 120 children, 60 in each community, have benefited directly from this project. The best-performing pupils from both communities will be given scholarships to attend formal secondary schools.

The communities provided existing spaces for use as venues for the learning centres. However, the spaces lacked furniture, forcing the students to sit on the floor.

Based on this, as part of PWAN's corporate social responsibility, the decision was made to provide desks and chairs for the children in the learning centres.



Figure 8. Helping children read and write at the learning centers

A parent had this to say when asked if she had noticed any improvement in her child "Yes! I am happy because there is so much improvement in Sedapwa (her daughter enrolled in the learning center). We all want more children to be enrolled because we are happy with the progress, because our community will be lifted"
-Justina Shedrack.

3. Preventing Violent Extremism

Through the Engaging Children to Counter Violent Extremism in Nigeria project, PWAN saw the need to organise a capacity building on early detection of radicalisation for women. This training utilised a hands-on approach, focusing on the experiences of women with conflicts in their localities.

This was aimed at training parents, mostly women, on how conflicts can affect their children in diverse ways, and what methods can be used when they notice radicalism early in their children and how to nip it in the bud.



Figure 9. Training on early detection of radicalization

This training held in Numan Local Government, but the participants were drawn from Kikan and Dong communities in Adamawa State. A total of 60 women were trained collectively. Alcohol and drug Abuse, unemployment, poverty, access to arms, laziness, peer group influence, and lack of parental control were identified as early warning signs of radicalization.

4. Influencing and understanding non-state security actors, within the public safety security dynamics

PWAN with support from North East Regional Initiative (NERI), carried out an intervention aimed at fostering trust and collaboration between the (Maiduguri and Monguno) community and the police by forging a relationship between women and Gender Officers in the Borno State Police Command.

In the North East region, not enough importance is given to gender-based violence because of the gap in communication between victims and Gender Officers. This intervention intended to bridge that gap by conducting a two-phase dialogue session between the Gender Officers and the women in the communities of Maiduguri and Monguno. For the first time, due to this



Figure 10. Participants at PWAN's Intervention in Maiduguri and Monguno

intervention, the women in these communities became aware of the existence of Gender Desk Offices to handle SGBV² cases.

The meeting was able to respond to gender-based violence in the community and create a safe space for victims to speak up. Since the discovery of the establishment of the Gender Desk, a total of 158 women participated in the dialogue in Maiduguri and Monguno and both phases were engaged along with Gender Officers.

5. Women Peace and Security

UN Women have supported PWAN in the implementation of the Women Peace and Security project, which was designed to achieve the broad goal of gender-inclusive and sustainable peace in Nigeria. Creating awareness for women to be involved and to participate freely without prejudice in peace negotiations, conflict resolution, and conflict prevention. Giving a new outlook on the role of women and peace in security.

PWAN created various gender-sensitive strategies to benefit women and girls and is implementing these strategies by working with security organisations/networks in Bauchi, Benue, and FCT. This is in line with contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals 16 (SDG16).

A gender assessment of three (3) security agencies, namely: Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and the Nigerian Army in some selected states were carried out by PWAN to evaluate the nature of gender representation, and access the level of progress in the integration of gender sensitivity and to highlight discriminatory policies and practices that hinder recruitment, performance and career advancement of women in the security institutions. The goal of this assessment was to compare practices and policies from 2007 to 2019 and it showed that security institutions in Nigeria suffer from gender inequality and is missing out on a key ingredient to inclusive, accountable and effective security provisioning. It also showed that there is poor awareness of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) and National Action Plan (NAP), its provisions and how critical it is to the promotion of the role of women in peace and security.



Figure 11. Participants at the Validation Workshop

PWAN also helped security outfits in both Borno and Yobe increase their capability to handle the protection of women and girls in crisis-torn areas.

A workshop to validate findings was held in December, and it was recommended that trainings and capacity building for security agencies to improve their level of awareness to escalate gender awareness advocacy and implement gender sensitive targeted recruitment strategy must be done. An online campaign was carried out

² Sexual Gender Based Violence

during the 16 days of activism to lend a voice to the end violence against women and girls, and World Human Rights Day.

Influencing and Understanding Non-State Security Actors within the Public Safety Security Dynamics

PWAN, as a member of the Nigerian Policing Programme (NPP) consortium, is contributing to improving service delivery of the Nigerian Police Force in the FCT, Kano and Borno State. PWAN has set up Community Safety Partnership in Borno and Kano State, and have provided capacity building on community policing in Borno State, and a CSO accountability mechanism set up in the FCT.



Figure 12. Campaign to stakeholders on improving the police accountability units

RULE OF LAW

This programme area aims to improve integrity and strengthen institutions, that play a role in safeguarding the society and its governance structures, through a cooperative advocacy approach with all key stakeholders. The aim is to create a more stable society, by ensuring that the civil society sector and justice system are effective, sustainable and accessible.

Accountability and Reform of the Criminal Justice System

Through the Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in the Judicial Sector project funded by The MacArthur Foundation, PWAN seeks to enhance integrity in the Nigerian Judicial system through court observation; and promoting the implementation of the ACJ Act/Law in FCT, Lagos and Ondo States. This has increased citizen's participation in judicial processes through daily observation of court processes, case monitoring, and user satisfaction survey.

This project commenced in 2017 and is ongoing in FCT, Lagos and Ondo States. The project aims to monitor the effect of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Law (ACJA/L) in up to 65 courts at all levels in the country. With the data realised, PWAN held several presentations of findings on the court observation to criminal justice stakeholders, in the FCT, Lagos and Ondo States respectively. Infographics were developed on the progress of the MacArthur criminal justice cohorts, and a presentation of work done by the MacArthur-funded criminal justice cohorts to the MacArthur Foundation board.



Figure 13. Participants at Release of Finding, Lagos

Accountability and Reform of the Criminal Justice System (2)

The Kuje Pre-trial Detention Amelioration Programme (KP-DAP) is a project funded by the US Embassy Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL). This project is primarily aimed at significantly reducing the size of pre-trial detention population in Kuje prison and ensuring effective implementation of the pre-trial provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA). It is implemented in collaboration with Partners Global, Network of University Legal Aid Institutions (NULAI), and New-Rule LLC.

Under the Reform Kuje Project, an inter-agency collaboration and capacity building amongst stakeholders was organised, and two Kuje Pre-trial Detention Coordination Committee meetings (KPCC) were held in March and July.

Through these meetings, we were able to work with the criminal justice actors present to find solutions to the challenge of reducing pre-trial delays in the Kuje Correctional Centre.

PWAN engaged with select communities in FCT to create awareness on the ACJA and the project aimed at reducing pre-trial detention in the Kuje Correctional Service. In 2019, PWAN was able to engage with Kuje, Gwagwalada, Bwari and Lugbe communities. The community awareness was done with support from the traditional leaders and



Figure 14. Awareness on the ACJA in Lugbe, Abuja.

stakeholders. They brought to light issues that plagued their community, such as rape and drug abuse, which they discussed during the awareness. This created an avenue to introduce to ACJA and other laws such as the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) and counter-narratives on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). A total of 21 inmates have been released as a result of this intervention, 5 cases struck out, 11 detainees convicted and 22 families contacted.

Cooperative Advocacy and Stakeholders' Engagement

PWAN, based on the success of our previous interventions on the ACJA/L was consulted by the Rule of Law Anti-Corruption Programme (ROLAC) to administer a Practitioners' survey to criminal justice actors in FCT and Edo State.

PWAN has been able to administer questionnaires to stakeholders in the Judiciary, law enforcement/ investigating agencies, defence and prosecution counsel, prison officials and persons awaiting trial. Validation workshops to review the findings were held severally and a post-evaluation questionnaire distributed to the trained persons.

Coordination of Criminal Justice Actors

The Access Nigeria project is implemented by a consortium comprised of PWAN, Partners Global, CLEEN Foundation, Public-Private Development Centre (PPDC), BudgIT and New-Rule LLC with the aim to promote the use of and the Administration of Criminal Justice Act/Law (ACJL) in a select number of states. The ACJL was created to curb corruption in the Nigerian justice system while enforcing the rule of law.

Various training were conducted in June and October of 2019, in Plateau, Oyo and Bauchi State along with the establishment of the ACJL monitoring committee, these training along with awareness and advocacy visits helped to facilitate the effective implementation of the ACJL in these selected states. The training included participants such as Magistrates, Ministry of Justice Prosecutors, Police Prosecutors and Investigators, Prison Staff and Court Registrars/Clerks.

Members of the public were educated on the ACJL and their rights as contained in the law, through town hall meetings, rallies and radio appearances.



Figure 15. Awareness Road Walk in Ibadan, Oyo State

Drafting, Reviewing and Analysing Policies and Developing Recommendations to Policy Makers and other Stakeholders

In September, PWAN collaborated with Partners Global and New-Rule LLC to train Transparency and Accountability Practitioners (TAPs) under the Facilitating Accountability, Integrity and Resilience (FAIR) component on Skill Building Component (SBC).

There are lapses such as lack of accountability and transparency in the Nigerian system which facilitate corruption and create a lack of trust in the systems put in place by our leaders. This training aimed to educate practitioners on methods they can use to fix those lapses and foster responsibility in people working in places of power.



Figure 16. TAPs Training held in FCT

Interventions were implemented in Adamawa (Numan and Demsa LGAs) and FCT (Bwari and AMAC Area Councils). Trained observers in the FCT went into the field to assess the provision of education, health, and environmental services at the local government level and do a scorecard review. This review showed that the 48 Local Education Authority's (LEAs) and 38 Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs) had major deficiencies in facilities, equipment, accessibility, structural/infrastructures, water supply, staffing, e.t.c, and they are currently being addressed.

Legal Defence Assistance

PWAN, as part of its objective to provide free legal services to indigent persons, have established two arms saddled with the responsibility of carrying out these services, with offices in Kano and Abuja, respectively.

The Kano office also known as the Public Defenders' Office (PDO), is an arm of PWAN aimed at providing legal defence assistance for indigents and creating sustainable improvements to the criminal justice system in Kano. Through this office, there has been an increase in the availability of legal representation for less privileged persons resident in Kano State since 2017.

Awareness and sensitisation programmes have been organised by the Public Defenders Office-PWAN in Sheka and Bichi Community in Kumbotso Local Government, Kano State, to publicise the activities of the PDO which includes the provision of free legal services on criminal cases and victims of SGBV, mediation, and legal advice, where necessary, using town hall meetings and radio awareness.

The Public Defenders Office – PWAN, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative, Democratic Action Group (DAG), Legal Aid Council and other stakeholders in the administration of justice came together to provide free legal aid and mediation services for indigenes in Kano, in the form of a Pro-Bono Week.

During the various Pro-Bono Weeks were held in Kawo, Giginyu and Dorayi communities in Kano State, a total of 97 cases were treated and others were sent to the Public Defender's Office for further legal action.



Figure 17. PDO Pro Bono Week, Kano

Figure 18. Review of policing response to sexual and gender-based violence

During the pro-bono weeks of legal aid and mediation, prison decongestions were carried out in Kano. During this decongestion, PWAN was able to work with various inmates, filing fundamental human rights forms, where necessary, to help facilitate their release.

The Public Defenders' Unit (PDU) located in the Abuja head office, specialises in carrying out legal defence assistance and creating sustainable improvements of the criminal justice system in Abuja and its environs.

Indigents have benefited from this programme, boasting quite many outstanding cases which were handled.

Accountability of Criminal Justice System (NPP)

Through the Nigerian Policing Programme, PWAN is contributing to sustainable criminal justice reform by providing training on the ACJL³ and VAPP⁴ and facilitating criminal justice coordination meetings to focus on public safety and security issues such as SGBV and drug abuse.

³ Administration of Criminal Justice Law

⁴ Violence against Persons Prohibition Act

NOTABLE SUCCESSES IN 2019

In our quest to improve the rule of law and security governance in Nigeria and West Africa broadly, PWAN has continuously called for citizens' participation in issues that affect them. Worthy of note are some of the successes recorded with our first four years in existence. With our small but ever-increasing and passionate team, our interventions within our two main programme areas namely, Rule of Law and Citizen Security, have established and placed our organisation as a dedicated enabler of positive change. Find below some of the successes recorded in 2019:

- PWAN, as part of its commitment to deepening engagement between stakeholders in its sector of interest, commenced the organisation of thematic convenings. The thematic convenings are organised around topics of interest that can create a body of knowledge and deepen understanding of stakeholders in their fields to ensure the optimal impact of interventions. Two thematic convenings were organised in 2019 namely 'Social Accountability in the Judicial Sector' and 'Gender Dimension of the Farmers-Herders Conflict with Prof Akinseye George (SAN) and Ms. Semiha Abdulmelik, Women Peace and Security Consultant, UN Women as keynote speakers for the convenings.
- Based on previous successes in other states, the Jigawa State Ministry of Justice requested the expertise of PWAN to train justice sector actors on the use and implementation of the ACJL. With support from the MacArthur Foundation, PWAN worked with the Attorney General, Jigawa State, and the Ministry of Justice, to conduct a successful training.
- In September 2019, in recognition of our successes, the Office of the Honourable Chief Judge (CJ) of Ondo State, Justice Olanrewaju Olutoyin Akeredolu invited PWAN to be a part of the decongestion of the Akure, Ondo and Okitipupa Correctional Centres. In attendance were the Correctional Services Prison Comptroller, Judges, Magistrate, Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Nigerian Bar Association, Legal Aid Council, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, amongst others.

The aim of the exercise was primarily to decongest the prison by attending to inmates who have been awaiting trial for long periods of time. The list of inmates awaiting trial contained up to 80 names, with their ages ranging from 12 to 60 years, their alleged offences consisted of conspiracy, stealing, rape, armed robbery, defilement, kidnapping, amongst others.

At the end of the exercise, six persons were released from the Okitipupa and six from the Akure Prison, respectively, four additional inmates from the Akure prison were released to the care of PWAN. PWAN supported, counselled and helped to reintegrate them back into society.

- The PWAN's Public Defenders Office (PDO) located in Kano State received up to 664 cases in 2019. It resolved 416 cases, leaving 168 cases pending. The PDO resolved these cases in record time with mediation, litigation, and legal advice where needed.

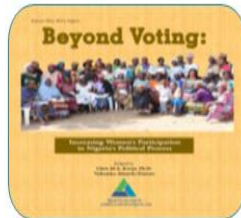
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- Based on the successes of previous interventions that were focused on promoting informed dialogue on security in the North East, a stronger presence in the region was imperative. In May 2019, PWAN established an office in Borno State to promote the ease of implementing P/CVE⁵ interventions.
 - The Board of Directors of PWAN, approved the implementation of the 4-year strategic plan from 2020 – 2024, aimed at establishing a direction in line with the organisation’s mission. The strategic plan is to help us assess both where we are presently and where we are going to be in the next four years.
 - PWAN developed a Court Observation mobile app that allows court users provide information on court proceedings. It also serves as a data collection tool for various interventions, including The Kuje Pre-trial Detention Amelioration Project and Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in the Judicial Sector Project. The mobile app is available for use across the country.

⁵ Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

PUBLICATIONS



Transparency and Accountability
in the Justice Sector - March
2019



Beyond Voting: Increasing
Women's Participation in
Nigeria's Political Process -
April 2019



Policy Brief - Civil Society
Situation Room and
Nigeria's 2019 Elections;
Issues and Pathways - May
2019



Reform Kuje Newsletter
Volume One - May 2019



Presentation of Findings,
Court Observation and
Criminal Justice Actors Survey
(October 2018 - June 2019) -
August 2019



Abridged Version of the
ACJL Plateau State -
August 2019



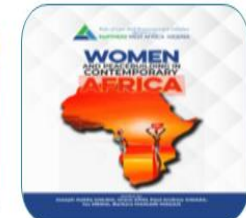
Policy Brief - Appointments,
Retirements and Promotions
in the Nigeria Police Force -
August 2019



Policy Brief - A Road Map for
the Sustainable Reform and
Restructure of the Federal
Special Anti-Robbery Squad
Towards Ensuring Effective
Service Delivery and
Accountability - September
2019



Reform Kuje Newsletter
Volume Two - September
2019



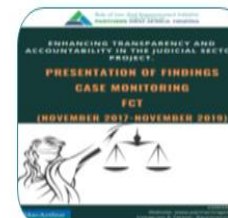
Women and Peace Building
in Contemporary Africa -
October 2019



Fact Sheet - Innovative Use
of Drugs in Kano State -
October 2019



Fact Sheet - Sexual and
Gender Based Violence in
Kano State - October 2019



Presentation of Findings:
Case Monitoring FCT
(November 2017-November
2019) - December 2019



Policy Brief - Social
Accountability in the Justice
Sector - December 2019

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Nigeria is still growing as such, there are challenges associated with this growth. The problems faced this year exemplify the challenges experienced in 2019. Some of these challenges included:

1. **Change in Government:** The 2019 elections brought about a change in government in almost every state in the country. While democracy must prevail, it posed some challenges to us. In the various states of intervention, the change in government caused a halt in the project progress, because of the absence of an existing relationship with the new governments. New applications and meetings had to be set up to create awareness and show the importance of ongoing projects.
2. **Insurgency:** The rate of insurgency in Nigeria is ever rising and it makes it harder to carry out various projects. The North East is plagued by the Boko Haram insurgents, the Middle Belt has also had several incidents of farmer-herder clashes, which have resulted in the loss of lives and properties. In the South East, we have the agitations by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the Odua People's Congress (OPC) in the South West. These security challenges have a ripple effect on a national scale with great socio-economic and political implications. As a result of the security situation in the northeastern part of Nigeria, the security and wellbeing of the project implementers had to be put into consideration to avoid any harm to life.
3. **Climate Change:** The adverse effects including Environmental disasters such as heavy rains, flash floods, and even erosions, affect the efficiency of our work. These adverse weather conditions make certain areas inaccessible, destroying the roads and sometimes halting flights. Closure of airports in some parts of the country, also posed a challenge as some of the states of intervention were affected, thereby making it almost impossible for us to access the states.

Communication with Government Agencies: Government agencies sometimes decline to cooperate on projects and withhold helpful data that could be used to carry out various projects within communities.

- 4.
5. **Uncooperative Communities:** uncooperative traditional leaders, community heads and youths in various communities, sometimes prevent access to their community unless a prior arrangement is met with. They sometimes make it difficult for projects to be executed in their communities, as their vested interest lies in what they can get materially from the organisation, not looking at the positive impact of the project in their communities.

The various challenges encountered go to show that there is still room for improvement in the various sectors. Rather than be discouraged, we see this as an opportunity to double our efforts, as we come closer to creating the Nigeria of our dreams.

Financial Report

RULE OF LAW AND EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE CORPORATE INFORMATION

GOVERNING BOARD:

1. Dr Hussaini Abdu - Chairperson
2. Justice Olufunlola Adekeye (RTD) - Vice Chairperson
3. Ms Julia Roig - Member
4. Ordinary Ahmad Isah - Member
5. Ms Aissatou Fall - Member
6. Ms 'Kemi Okenyodo - Member/ Secretary

OFFICE:

No 46 Mike Akhigbe Way, Jabi,
Abuja, Nigeria.

AUDITORS:

Bidemi Aiyesoro & Co
(Chartered Accountants)
7 Oshifila Street, Anifowoshe
Ikeja-Lagos.

BANKERS:

Diamond Bank Plc
Fidelity Bank Plc
Guaranty Trust Bank Plc
United Bank for Africa Plc
Infinity Trust Mortgage

RULE OF LAW AND EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	31-12-2019	31-12-2018	31-12-2017	31-12-2016
	N		N	N
Financial Position				
Non-Current Assets	20,373,991	19,207,390	9,850,240	1,322,700
Current Assets	262,979,681	147,283,456	103,819,453	19,667,340
	<u>283,353,672</u>	<u>166,490,846</u>	<u>113,669,693</u>	<u>20,990,040</u>
Current Liabilities	136,303,154	62,887,348	60,179,506	10,330,414
Accumulated Funds	147,050,518	103,603,498	53,490,187	10,659,625
	<u>283,353,672</u>	<u>166,490,846</u>	<u>113,669,693</u>	<u>20,990,040</u>

OUR PARTNERS



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LEGAL AID COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

