



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

2023 Annual Report

A Year of Accomplishments.



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FORWARD



Upon reflecting on the remarkable year that has passed at Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN), it becomes evident that life is indeed about change. PWAN has witnessed a remarkable transformation as a result of our commitment to adapt to a dynamic environment. One of the most notable developments at PWAN this year is the recognized value of our technical outreach within the security governance sector.

Through our efforts, we have successfully contributed to enhancing the capabilities of various stakeholders, including government agencies and civil society organizations.

This achievement is a testament to our dedication to delivering impactful solutions and ensuring the security and well-being of our region. Our team at PWAN has become stronger than ever, with their skills and expertise being showcased in various project achievements. By investing in the professional development and well-being of our employees, we have been able to cultivate a dedicated and highly skilled team that drives positive change.

However, it is important to note that the operational context in Nigeria and the broader development space is undergoing fundamental transitions. Different strategic priorities and approaches are being reflected in government policies and external stakeholders. It is crucial for PWAN to respond proactively to these shifts.

Our plan is to build on the lessons we have learned throughout our journey and respond proactively. We can achieve that by either demonstrating replicable project achievements, which serve as examples for others to learn from, or by realigning our programmatic needs to meet the evolving demands of the context.

As we move forward, I am confident that PWAN will continue to thrive and adapt, remaining at the forefront of positive change in Nigeria and beyond. Together, we can overcome any challenges and contribute to the growth and development of our region.

'kemi Okenyodo
Executive Director,
Partners West Africa Nigeria (PWAN)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr Hussaini Abdu
Chairman of the Board



**Hon Justice Olufunlola
Adekeye JSC. (rtd) CFR**
Vice Chairperson of the Board



'Kemi Okenyodo
Secretary of the Board/
Executive Director



Habib Isa Dutse
Member of Board



Kehinde Togun
Member of Board

PWAN TEAM



'Kemi Okenyodo
Executive Director



Sia Foday Iscandari
Director of Programs



Hadiza Usman
Programs Manager



Adebimpe Adebajo
Head of Finance



Fadila Isa Jaiyesimi
Head, Human Resource
and Administration



Mary Okpe
Knowledge Management
and Communications
Manager.



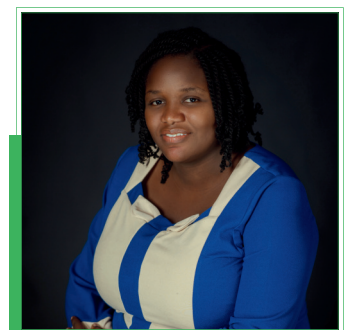
Dorcas Acha
Grant Officer



Nkem Okereke
Programs Officer



Ijeoma Igwe
Programs Officer



Rebecca Balami
Programs Officer



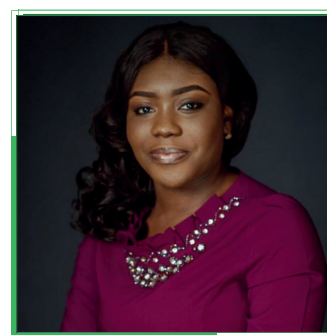
Aisha Isa Yusuf
Program Officer



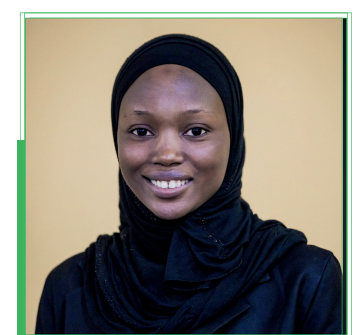
Kpeta Toyo
Program Officer



Theresa Awulor
Administrative Assistant



Ogechukwu .H. Mohanye
Communications
Assistant



Aisha Abubakar
Program Officer

PWAN TEAM



Nana-Hauwa Isa
Program Officer



Comfort Usman Kariko
Program Assistant



Olekwu Okpeje Obe
Program Assistant



Doris Udekwu
Administrative Assistant



Tobiloba Adekunle
Program Assistant



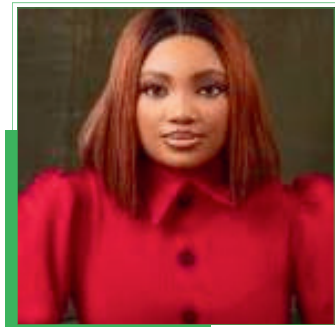
Victory Lazarus
Administrative Trainee



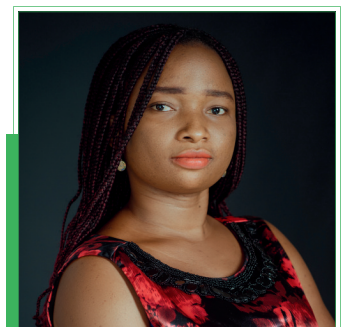
Oseni Daniel Benjamin
Administrative Assistant



Ibrahim Nuhu Ibrahim
Finance Officer



Chidera Anih
Executive Assistant



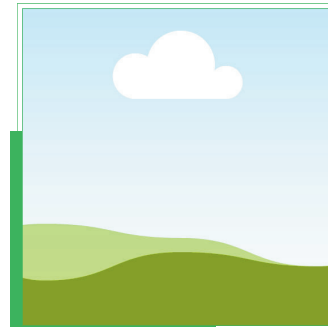
Maria Bamidele
Administrative Assistant



Zainab M. Waziri
Program Assistant



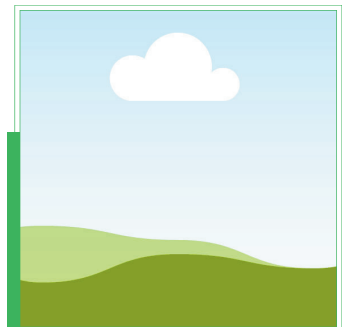
Aisha Datti Ameen
Program Assistant



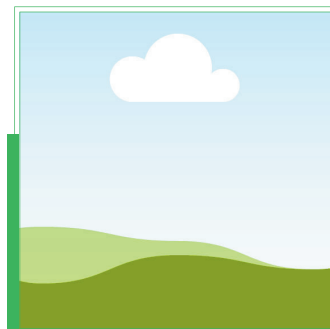
Taplong Lucy
Program Assistant



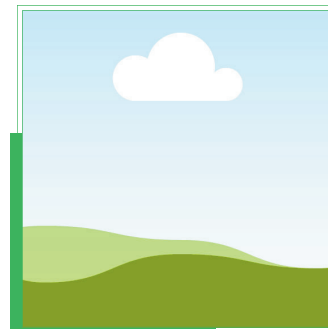
Khadijat Bawa
Finance Assistant



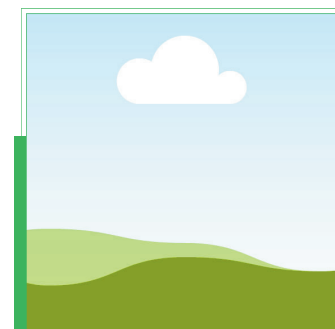
Alache Mercy
Administrative Assistant



Nicodemus Illya
Administrative Assistant



John Hussaini
Administrative Assistant



Umar Aliyu Waziri
Administrative Assistant

THE EVOLUTION OF PWAN

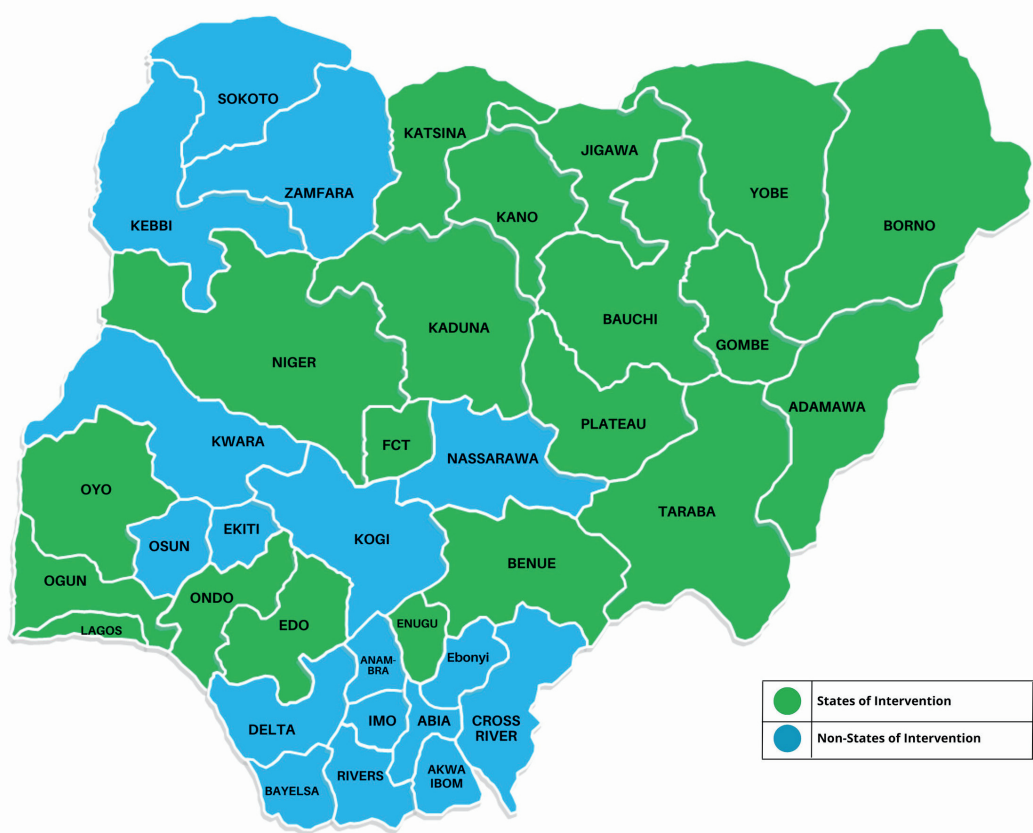
OUR HISTORY

In 2015, Kemi Okenyodo, founder of PWAN, aimed to achieve equal representation of women across all societal strata. She expresses a desire to challenge barriers preventing women from fulfilling their potential, particularly in security and governance, where women have low representation, and their voices are marginalized. As a result of her over 20 years of experience in the NGO sector, she has broken the barrier of male dominance in Nigeria's security and governance ecosystem. Consequently, she became one of Nigeria's loudest voices advocating reforms to the criminal justice system and the inclusion of women in government.

Since its conception eight years ago, PWAN has worked tirelessly to enhance citizens' participation in security governance in Nigeria and West Africa. With our Rule of Law and Citizens Security program areas, we have achieved many successes to date.

Through introducing a new program area called CSOS strengthening, we have expanded our reach and impact over the years. In this program area, we aim to improve the resilience of other civil society organizations. In addition to bilateral, multilateral, and foundation funding, we have secured funding from donor-driven mechanisms. Starting with only one employee in 2015, PWAN now has a total staff strength of 30 people. We have established state offices to oversee our widespread programs in Nigeria.

STATES WITH PWAN INTERVENTION FROM 2016 -2023



WHO WE ARE NOW

ABOUT US

PWAN is a passionate team of women who showcase an organizational model where young women are provided with safe and flexible working spaces to learn and develop skill sets to further their careers.

As a team, we collectively have over 30 years of experience in peacebuilding and development. Our leading conversations around key thematic areas of education, security, and governance continue to drive the need for collaborative efforts.

The strategic focus of the organization is on increasing the participation of youth, women, and vulnerable groups in security and governance dialogues; through our Citizens' Security, Rule of Law, and CSO Strengthening program areas, we undertake specific interventions around women and citizens' participation, equal access to opportunities, rights, knowledge, and skills to engage.

Finally, we focus not only on short- to medium-term improvements but are deeply committed to longer-term change. This is demonstrated through our ongoing support to train and mentor young women in the political space. This is to increase their attainment of leadership roles in government gradually. In these positions, women can more effectively influence necessary institutional and legislative changes which will positively impact future generations of women.

VISION

Robust good governance & accountable institutions in Nigeria and West Africa.

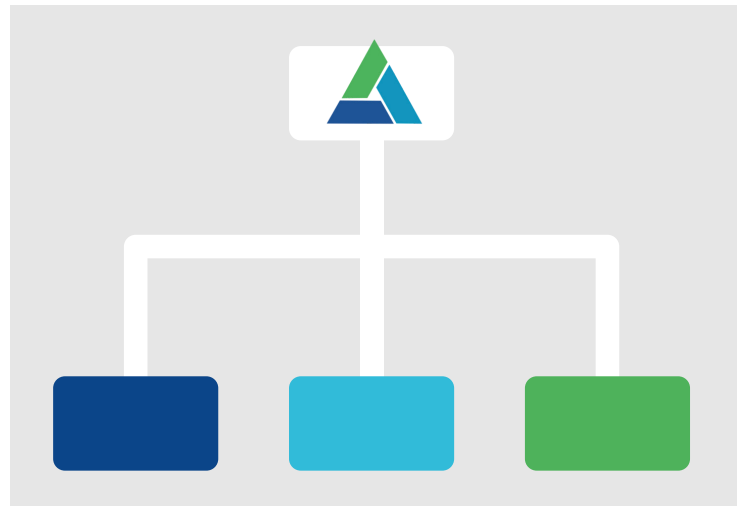
MISSION

Enhances citizens' participation and improves security governance in Nigeria and West Africa.

VALUES

Integrity, Trust, Inclusion, Humility, Accountable collaboration, Courage of Conviction, and Innovation.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



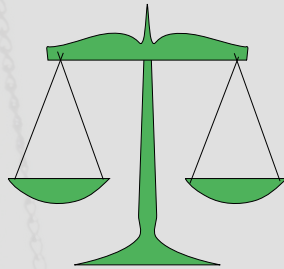
WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

The organization employs an approach that embodies continuous improvement - internally to promote a center of excellence building the capacity of young women from internship to senior level positions and externally to produce value-driven and context-specific output. The organization is modelled to address key issues within security and governance:

- **Citizen Security:** Nigeria is confronted with security challenges and social inequalities which are exacerbated and persistent in marginalized communities where there is a high level of distrust for the government. Through its citizen security program area, PWAN works to improve relations between the government and the citizens. These efforts involve activities to enhance the capacity of women to engage in politics and governance and provide a collaborative platform and cooperation between security agencies and oversight bodies.
- **Rule of Law:** The Nigerian Legal/Judicial institutions are faced with various challenges impeding the Successful promotion of the Rule of Law and effective dispensation of justice with corruption and inadequate capacity overshadowing constitutionalism and constitutional democracy. To address this, PWAN through its Rule of Law program area works to improve transparency and accountability through court observation, provision of technical support that hastens the dispensation of justice, and training/capacity buildings of criminal Justice Actors.
- **CSO Strengthening:** PWAN works with Civil Society organizations to strengthen their capacity and ensure they become resilient and can function and thrive within the closing civic space. The organization has published a memorandum on the NGO regulatory bill and participated in conversations about the CAMA Act. To further improve CSOs' accountability, PWAN is currently implementing a project that seeks to ensure that CSOs are more deliberate and conscious in addressing sexual harassment and inappropriate conduct.

PWAN has remained a source of information and a learning platform for young women who are encouraged to pursue their goals despite the constraints that come with being a woman.

RULE OF LAW PROGRAM AREA



In 2023, PWAN embarked on an ambitious mission to address the challenges of the rule of law. By utilizing a cooperative advocacy approach, PWAN worked actively with various stakeholders to ensure a more equitable and stable society.

Through the Rule of Law program area which focuses on promoting integrity and strengthening institutions to improve the effectiveness of civil society and the justice system in general, PWAN has been able to develop a society where individuals are confident that they can rely on the institutions that have been made sustainable and accessible to protect and serve them.

In northeast Nigeria, PWAN with support from several funders successfully established several facilities that provided free legal services. These facilities were strategically located in communities where legal assistance was most needed. Through dedicated staff and volunteers, PWAN provided legal advice, representation, and counseling to individuals who otherwise may not have had the means to seek justice.

Furthermore, PWAN also implemented several programs by deploying pro bono lawyers to police stations across different states by providing legal representation to individuals who have been arrested or detained, and ensuring that their rights are protected, and that justice is served.

By working closely with the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and adhering to Force Order 20, PWAN aimed to promote both law and order, while also upholding the fundamental human rights enshrined in the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of different states.

PWAN has been able to achieve several successful interventions, measures, and strategies as a result of its efforts to enhance the effectiveness of civil society and the legal sector, as well as to enhance the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and the civil society sector.

INTERVENTIONS, MEASURES, AND **STRUCTURE**

PROMOTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PROTECTION FOR MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS IN NIGER AND KADUNA STATE:

SUPPORTED BY: FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (FCDO)

Fatima Mohammed is a beneficiary whose testimonies illustrate the importance of engaging with the community, promoting access to justice, and protecting the marginalized populations in Niger state. Fatima is a 14-year-old girl who found herself in a difficult situation when she was brought to Tudunwada police station on allegation of Prostitution.

Fortunately for her, a PWAN duty solicitor lawyer assigned to the police station brought the issue to PWAN team attention, which responded quickly and helped the girl. Following much persuasion and reassurance, we discovered her parents' house and how she left home for a particular man. She said she ended her relationship after he abused her with drugs and used her as a sexual slave, which was mainly sexual. Sadly, the girl left him and is now living in a brothel as a prostitute, trying to survive by prostituting for 500 naira daily. We requested the DPO to provide us with a police escort to carry her home, which he provided.

With this initiative, Fatima's parents were informed about her whereabouts and the circumstances surrounding her arrest. The PWAN team ensured that she underwent several therapy sessions and tests to determine her health status. They also provided her with the necessary guidance and accommodation at a rehabilitation center.

Currently, Fatima is in the best possible hands as she undergoes rehabilitation. With the support of the PWAN team and their commitment to promoting access to justice and protecting marginalized populations in Niger state, she is receiving the care she needs to overcome her challenges and lead a brighter future.



With support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), PWAN, was able to implement the project, 'Promoting community engagement, access to justice and protection for marginalized populations' in response to the CSSF 'call' specific to increasing access to justice, promoting the meaningful participation of women and other excluded groups and responding to increasing levels of sexual and gender-based violence in northwest Nigeria.

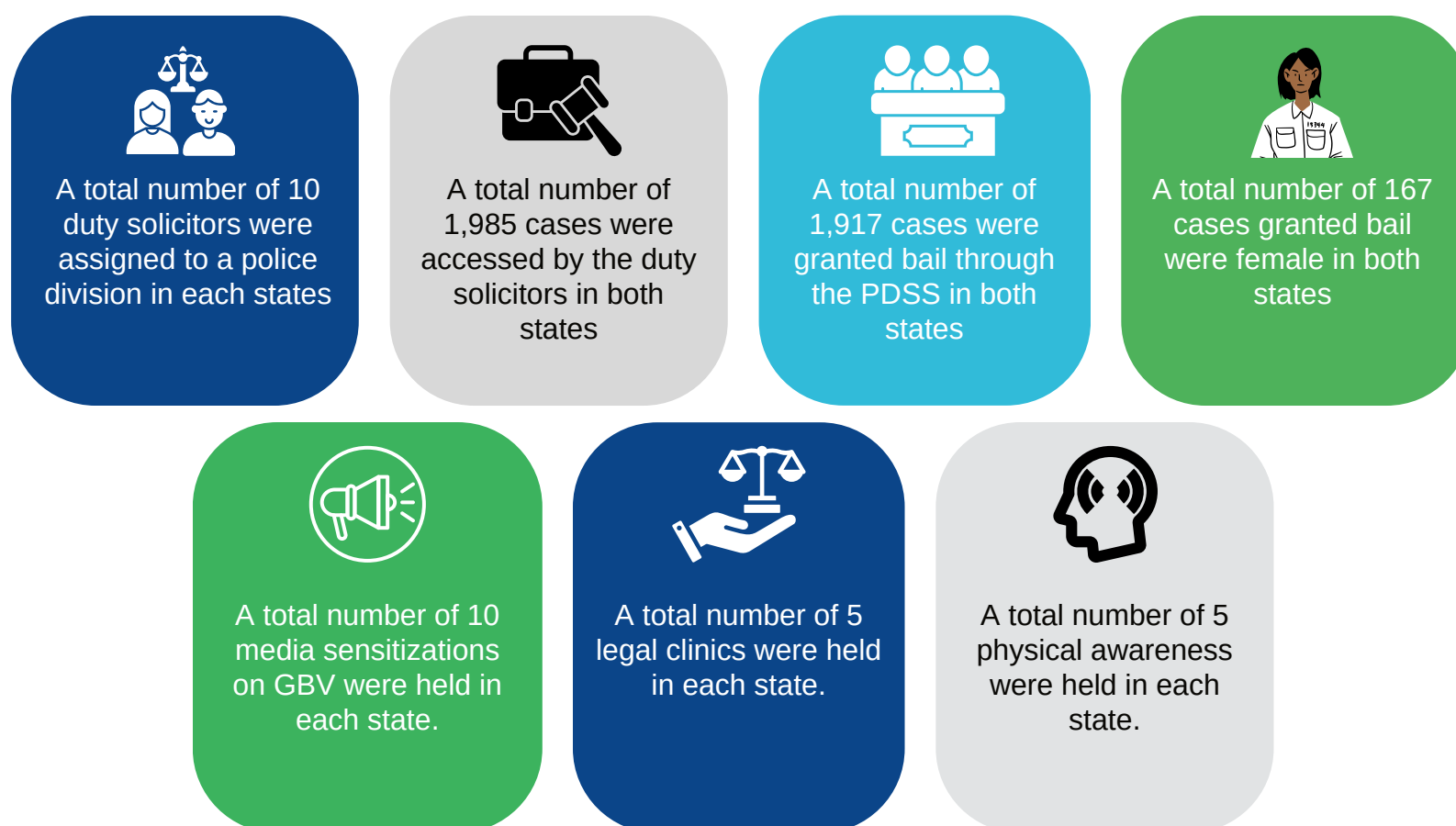
The project aimed to advance engagement mechanisms and support structures which are inclusive and gender-sensitive, expanding outreach of access to justice services in Northwest Nigeria to provide better safety and protection for women and other marginalized populations and improve community policing relations. The project was implemented in Niger and Kaduna states.

Through this intervention, PWAN successfully established facilities for access to free legal services, primarily through (a) the provision of legal education, advice, and representation to indigent residents of Kaduna and Niger states (b) through the deployment of 20 pro bono lawyers at police stations in within the states, were the lawyers also provide free legal services to detainees at the police stations in promotion of both Force Order 20 of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and also human rights as contained in the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of both states.

Some of these lawyers were invited from the MOT mechanism where they provide legal support to the indigent population in police custody and correctional centres in collaboration with the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC) in the states, Legal Aid Council, NHRC, FIDA, and NBA as this will harmonize and strengthen legal aid provisions for sustainability.

To achieve this, PWAN during an advocacy visit to the Commissioners of Police in both states received their approval and was granted access to 5 police stations in each state, where the duty solicitors would offer legal services to the detainees and pro bono lawyers will represent detainees and indigents in court.

With this initiative, so far, the project recorded the following outcomes from July - December 2023:



In conclusion, this project has resulted in several positive changes, including the police becoming friendlier and more receptive to the PDSS lawyers. Additionally, the police officers have made it easier for the PDSS to secure the bail of a suspect, particularly if the suspect meets the bail conditions and the offense is bailable. Cell congestion has been significantly reduced due to the efforts of the PDSS, and most of the detainees are either charged to court or their case is transferred to either the CID or their bail is secured. Furthermore, the police officers have made it easier for the PDSS to access case files and the case record book. The PDSS also have access to the police cell and have the ability to interview suspects.

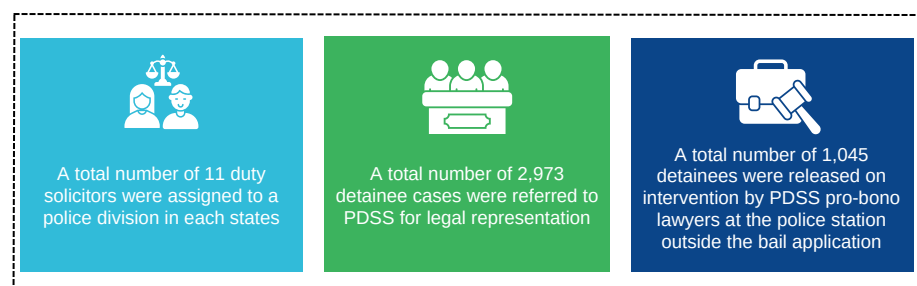
ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SECTOR

SUPPORTED BY: MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

PWAN, having successfully completed the previous project titled "Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in the Judicial Sector," embarked on the implementation of the "Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in the Criminal Justice Sector" project in 2022. This initiative falls under the MacArthur Foundation's "On Nigeria 2.0 Project" and aims to build upon the accomplishments of the first project while further supporting the anti-corruption efforts of the Government of Nigeria (GoN).

Under this project, PWAN has been actively engaging in various activities which has played a crucial role in the transformative changes occurring in Nigeria's justice system. PWAN's efforts have not only built upon the achievements gained through the earlier project but also contributed to the ongoing progress. Some of the notable strategic achievements and activities implemented under this project include:

PWAN leveraged on Force Order 20 to reduce pre-trial detainees and trials within trials, PWAN deployed 12 lawyers each across the focal state (Jigawa, Kano, Bauchi and in the FCT) to offer legal services to unrepresented suspects as well as participate in suspect statements and serve as witnesses during interrogation. With this initiative, PWAN was able to carry out the following outcomes:



This activity has produced reports that provide insights into the nature of court proceedings and issues that can guide the policy direction of the justice system. PWAN also conducted a one-day training of 23 court observers and 2 supervisors comprising 9 males and 14 females in the FCT and Ondo States on the 10th of February 2022. The training was delivered through a hybrid approach with the observers from Ondo State joining virtually. The observers were subsequently assigned to their various courts.

PWAN conducted a one-day training for 45 support staff of the judiciary in Ondo state which was held on the 1st of February 2023 on laws, court rules and processes. The training was not only based on their roles and responsibilities as provided for by the Administration of the Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) Ondo State 2015, but also on other complementary laws of the state and practice directions. Participants from the court registrars, commissioners of oath, court clerks, bailiffs, court secretaries and other administrative staff of the court were present. Also, the Chief Judge of the state Hon. Justice A O Odusola was ably represented by Hon. Justice A A Fasanmi.

When PWAN conducted a needs assessment across states where the ACJL has been approved, Taraba state emerged as the state that has never been trained on the ACJL. In order to build capacity for criminal justice actors in Taraba state, PWAN organized a three-day capacity building workshop on the provisions of the ACJL 2021. Participants were trained on the provisions of the Law in relation to their various roles and responsibilities in order to enhance the effective implementation of the Law. At the training, participants included representatives of the Judiciary, the Ministry of Justice, the Nigerian Police Force, the Niger State House of Assembly, the Nigerian Bar Association, the Nigerian Correctional Services, and the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA). As part of its efforts to ensure the effectiveness of the assented ACJL in Taraba state, PWAN held a physical sensitization with about 120 citizens on the provisions of the 2021 Law with emphasis on the sections regarding arrests, bail, and searches. Citizens were also given an opportunity to know their rights as stipulated in the law through legal clinics.

Following a clause-by-clause review conducted by PWAN in August 2021 in Ondo state, PWAN developed an initiative in 2023 to train 50 police officers and 25 officers of the NSCDC on the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL), the Police Act, and other complementary state laws. Besides strengthening their capabilities in terms of their roles and responsibilities, this training also aimed to refresh their knowledge of the provisions of human rights contained in the ACJL of Ondo State 2015, the Police Act 2020, and other state laws. In attendance was the CP Ondo state command ably represented by SP Odunayo Funmilayo, the Police Public Relations Officer, while the NSCDC state commandant was ably represented by CSC Olakanse.

In the following year, after PWAN inaugurated the Administration of Criminal Justice Monitoring Committee (ACJMC) in Gombe State on June 20th, 2022, and after several sensitizations held for citizens, the level of citizen engagement increased. As a result of this, PWAN conducted a public sensitization Programme on the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) in Gombe State to raise citizen awareness of the 2020 Law provisions. The activity was conducted through a radio jingle and a physical meeting emphasizing the sections on arrest, bail, and search.

Through these efforts, PWAN has been instrumental in promoting transparency and accountability within the criminal justice system in Nigeria, ultimately contributing to the strengthening of the rule of law in the country.

CITIZENS SECURITY PROGRAM AREA



Nigeria is plagued with violent extremism, insurgency, kidnappings for ransom, attacks on oil infrastructure, sectarian violence, farmer-herder clashes and organized crime.

As a result of our work, PWAN has been able to foster an enabling environment government and citizens' relationships. It has created and implemented projects to improve security governance in Nigeria and West Africa. As a result of the organization, citizens are well informed, and they participate in government decisions that affect their lives.

By facilitating important conversations between security sector stakeholders, this program area ensures inclusive and transparent governance as a foundation for a democratic and prosperous society, ensuring credible elections by building capacity for state and non-state actors, and developing creative ways to prevent and combat violent extremism.

As a result of a cooperative advocacy approach with all stakeholders, PWAN works to create a more stable society by addressing security issues and inequalities prevalent in marginalized groups. Nigeria has many security and social inequalities challenges. Both factors contribute to the exacerbation and persistence of these issues.

Furthermore, this initiative recognizes the critical role that women play in decision-making processes and seeks to enhance their participation and representation at all levels of governance. By promoting gender equality, PWAN aims to create a more equitable and inclusive society.

INTERVENTIONS, MEASURES, AND **STRUCTURE**

ESTABLISHMENT OF MIXED OBSERVER TEAMS (MOT) AND WOMEN LED ORGANIZATIONS (CSO'S/CBO'S) AS AN ENGAGEMENT MODEL.

SUPPORTED BY: FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (FCDO)

As an organization dedicated to combating human rights violations against marginalized populations, we recognized the urgent need for a specialized group of individuals to collaborate and address the challenges faced in Niger and Kaduna states. Similarly to the Rule of Law component of the project supported by FCDO, we established two distinct teams: Mixed Observer Teams (MOT) and Women-led Organizations (WLO's).

These teams were tasked with conducting thorough observations and analysis of the identified issues. The formation of these teams was a strategic decision aimed at harnessing the unique skills and expertise of individuals from various backgrounds and disciplines. By bringing together individuals with diverse expertise, we ensure that our efforts are comprehensive and multi-faceted. The formation of these teams was a strategic decision aimed at harnessing the unique skills and expertise of individuals from various backgrounds and disciplines.



The MOT and WLO's play a crucial role in preventing, responding, and prosecuting instances of gender-based violence (GBV), all Women Security Concerns, and engaging with the communities within Niger and Kaduna states. By actively involving these communities, we strive to create a safe environment for all individuals, particularly women and marginalized populations



Through this intervention, about 6 MOTs and 10 Women led Organizations (WLO's) were established in both states with representatives from the management of formal security agencies (The Nigeria Police Force (NPF), The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), The Nigerian Army, The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)) at the Federal level and at the state level were from informal security institutions, relevant state government agencies, women-led civil society organizations, women-based organisations, religious and traditional organisations, and other community women members.

PWAN engaged with the MOT's and WLO's and ensured they were properly trained in mediation, justice, and security activities such as to enable their effectiveness to achieve its mandate, GBV interventions, to effectively deliver on prevention and response to GBV issues in both states.

The case of Mrs. Rose Ibekwe serves as a powerful example of the significance of establishing strategic frameworks to address human rights violations against marginalized communities. Mrs. Rose was referred to PWAN's Mixed Observers' Team due to the physical awareness campaign. She is a businesswoman who jointly purchased the house she currently resides with her husband. He became increasingly abusive and mistreated her over the years, telling her that she was bad luck to him. She eventually divorced him, and he threatened to evict her and her children from the property. As a result, he filed a lawsuit to regain possession of the property, but the case was dismissed with the assistance of the PDSS lawyers. PWAN, in conjunction with the Traditional Leaders of the community, ensured that the proceeds of the sale were distributed equally despite the husband selling the property. With the proceeds from the sale, Mrs. Rose is currently building her own home, and she is currently in the process of constructing the lintel level of the home.



Also in Niger state, there was a case of a crippled woman who was impregnated by her boyfriend and later abandoned by her boyfriend and family. MOT intervened and the lady was given justice. Following MOT's intervention, the case was amicably settled and the couple is now married, which was her wish in order to avoid stigmatization from her family and community.



Similarly, in Bosso LGA of Niger state, the MOTs handled a case involving three sisters (the Odili sisters), who were abandoned by their parents and were unable to support themselves because they were abandoned by their parents. As a result of our PWAN MOTS, we were able to provide foster care for them in addition to helping them secure admission into schools in order for them to be able to further their education.

During a stakeholders coordination meeting held in Kaduna state on the intervention, one of the stakeholders, a representative from the magistrate court, Chief Magistrate Hasfat Abdullahi opines that -

"It is truly commendable that PWAN offers pro bono legal services. Although they were the first organization to implement the law that has been entrenched in our system for a long time, they have succeeded in reducing overcrowding at Kaduna State Correctional Centre in just six months".

At PWAN, we believe that by engaging with community members, these teams have raised awareness about sexuality and gender-based violence, promoted gender equality, and advocated for women's and marginalized groups' safety. They work to create lasting change in Niger and Kaduna states, working closely with local communities, to address the broader context in which these violations occur. Their efforts go beyond individual cases. As a result of PWAN's support, they have become active agents of change, fostering a culture of respect, equality, and nonviolence.

ENHANCING GENDER-RESPONSIVE SECURITY OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE PROJECT IN NIGERIA (PHASE II)

SUPPORTED BY: UN WOMEN

Nigeria's security situation is an ongoing challenge that both the internal and external efforts have been dedicated to addressing. Maintaining stability is a top priority for the nation, with a specific emphasis on improving the security and justice sectors. Additionally, there has been a concerted drive to incorporate gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) approaches into development practice.

Recognizing the critical role of women in achieving sustainable change and improving state-society relations, their role in achieving these goals is increasingly being recognized. Gender equality has profound implications for development outcomes. However, with Nigeria ranking within the bottom 10 economies in terms of gender equality, it is evident that there is still much work to be done. The limited agency, exercise of voice, and economic empowerment challenges faced by women in the country further highlight the importance of prioritizing gender equality.

PWAN with support from UN women, aimed to enhance the capacity of security institutions to become more responsive and sensitive to gender issues by training security personnel on gender equality, women's empowerment, and the prevention of gender-based violence through the project 'Enhancing Gender-Responsive Security Operations and Community Dialogue Project', with the following specific objectives:

- (I) Support capacity building and institutional strengthening for enhanced gender responsiveness in security institutions.
- (II) Strengthen collaboration between women affected by conflict and community-based structures (CSPs, MOTs and WLOs) with security sector institutions and other stakeholders to address security concerns of women and girls in three target states in the Northeast (Borno, Yobe and Adamawa).



Through this project, PWAN aimed to enhance the capacity of security institutions to become more responsive and sensitive to gender issues by training security personnel on gender equality, women's empowerment, and the prevention of gender-based violence. Through these efforts, more awareness was created regarding the security concerns and needs of women and girls, including gender-based violence.

Approximately 120 women personnel from MDAs, security institutions, and criminal justice institutions gained improved knowledge on GBV, and other protection concerns of women and girls. Additionally, we received 30 security concerns of women and girls, including cases of GBV, drug abuse, child and forced marriage, reported, and resolved in target states.

Furthermore, we have held 15 public sensitization initiatives (including media engagements) conducted in target states to highlight the security concerns of women and girls and promote their rights.

Mrs. Rose was referred to PWAN, a Women's Rights Organization, by the Mixed Observers' Team because of their physical awareness campaign. She is a businesswoman who jointly purchased the house she currently resides with her husband. He became increasingly abusive and mistreated her over the years, telling her that she was bad luck to him. She eventually divorced him, and he threatened to evict her and her children from the property. As a result, he filed a lawsuit to regain possession of the property, but the case was dismissed with the assistance of the PDSS lawyers. PWAN, in conjunction with the Traditional Leaders of the community, ensured that the proceeds of the sale were distributed equally despite the husband selling the property. With the proceeds from the sale, Mrs. Rose is currently building her own home, and she is currently in the process of constructing the lintel level of the home.



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STRENGTHENING LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL PEACE ARCHITECTURES FOR PEACE BUILDING AND PREVENTION IN KADUNA AND KATSINA STATES

SUPPORTED BY: UN WOMEN

Nigeria has been plagued with conflicts in the last decade, with government-led solutions failing to devise holistic and inclusive approaches to the resolution of conflicts. While these conflicts continue to escalate and spread, government-led solutions have failed to devise holistic and inclusive approaches to the resolution of conflicts.

Although young men and women make up a greater percentage of the population of Nigeria, they are mostly the perpetrators of violence. The Nigerian government has made efforts to create policies that are targeted at young persons and women's participation in peace and security, the provisions are yet to be fully demonstrated. Consequently, the northwest region of Nigeria's peacebuilding mechanisms is largely male-dominated due to patriarchal norms and the absence of youth who take up arms against each other. This has slowed the process of growth and development.

Using a creative approach, PWAN developed an intervention to help the states of Kaduna and Katsina respond to inter- and intracommunal violent conflicts in a timely, coordinated, inclusive, gender-responsive, youth-inclusive, and collaborative fashion. As a result of this, PWAN successfully partnered with Kaduna State Peace Commission (KSPC) and Ministry of Human Services and Social Development (MHSSD) to validate the action plan at the state level. This collaboration aimed to review the action plan and identify any potential gaps, inconsistencies, or oversights. During the review, Mr. Busayo Emmanuel (Nigerian Defence Academy, Department of Defense and Security Studies) opines that

“For me, the expert review meeting was not just an opportunity to share my ideas and input regarding the State Action Plan. It was also a great opportunity to receive from the wealth of knowledge of the others in the room, particularly, those who have been working in peace and security for decades now. I think if all relevant inputs are given a chance, the security situation in Kaduna State will take a turn for the better”.



By involving stakeholders such as youth representatives, community leaders, civil society organizations, and government agencies, the review aimed to reflect the nuanced realities of the state and adopt the presented draft action plan as the working strategy for Youth peace and security. PWAN was able to archive this with the state action plan which is ready to support the youths in creating peaceful cohabitation and improving security in Kaduna State.

This intervention will not only ensure a robust, inclusive, and responsive approach to peacebuilding by building and leveraging partnerships within the target states but will ensure improved synergy among young men and women, peace actors and structures at the state and local levels. It will also strengthen prevention capacities, including the protection of women and girls from violence, and initiate a roadmap towards a gender-sensitive peace and security infrastructure for resilience and sustainable peace in Kaduna and Katsina States.



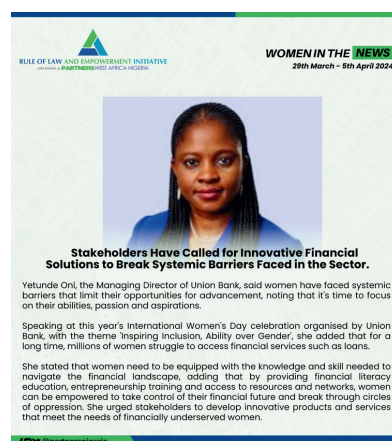
INNOVATIONS

In a society that often overlooks and underestimates women's contributions, PWAN sought to address this pressing issue through an innovative initiative titled “**Women In The News**”. Every Friday, PWAN publishes a news update that celebrates and highlights women's remarkable achievements, resilience, and impactful contributions.

PWAN recognized the need to highlight women's significant contributions to our society. We embarked on an ambitious initiative to create a platform that celebrated and highlighted women's remarkable achievements, resilience, and impactful contributions. Each Friday, PWAN published a news update that showcased women who have broken barriers and defied expectations in various fields. By showcasing women's diverse contributions, we challenged stereotypes and fostered a more inclusive society.

PWAN continues to prioritize women's empowerment and recognition through our weekly news update. Each Friday, we showcase women who have broken barriers and defied expectations in various fields. By highlighting women's diverse contributions, we aim to challenge stereotypes and cultivate a more inclusive society.

In addition to celebrating individual achievements, PWAN's news update also focuses on women's challenges and the ongoing fight for gender equality. By providing a platform for women's voices and experiences, we aim to raise awareness, spark conversations, and encourage action. By amplifying women's stories, we challenge oppressive practices and advocate for positive change.



WAY FORWARD

PWAN is committed to actively seeking opportunities to expand its interventions and deepen its involvement in the criminal justice sector. Our primary objective in this pursuit is to enhance the transparency and responsiveness of the sector to women, children, and other vulnerable or marginalized groups.

As we look ahead into 2024, we will continue to explore Police Reforms, with a specific focus on structures such as Mixed Observer Teams (MOTs) and Public Safety Security Reforms. These reforms hold significant implications for women, youth, and other marginalized communities in Nigeria. By examining the impact and opportunities generated by these reforms, we aim to identify ways in which we can further promote gender equality and inclusivity in the criminal justice system. Furthermore, we are committed to increasing the participation of women and youth in the political process and governance in Nigeria.

We believe that the inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives is essential to build a more equitable and just society. By actively seeking opportunities to engage and empower these marginalized groups, we aim to contribute to a more representative and inclusive political process.

Moving forward, we will actively seek avenues that empower women and youth to engage in political processes and governance in Nigeria. This will involve leveraging new opportunities that arise within the context of Nigeria, such as mentorship programs, capacity building initiatives, and policy advocacy efforts. By actively promoting their involvement, we aim to ensure that their voices are heard, and their perspectives are included in the decision-making process.

GALLERY



Photo from the NED Release of Findings held in Abuja, Nigeria.



Capacity building workshop for the Mixed Observers Team in Niger state.



A group photograph with the Emir of Lapia LGA, Niger State.



Photo from Capacity building for WLOs in Niger state.



Photo from the training of Police Officers in Plateau state.



Conclusion of the 3-day Capacity Building for Criminal Justice Law in Taraba state.



The Quarterly Interagency Meeting for the Reforming Pre-trial Detention Project in Nigeria



The Executive Director presenting the technology support to Hon. Justice Hussein Baba Yusuf



16 Days of Activism Media Awareness at Dandal FM in Borno State.

GALLERY



Contingency Planning and Experience Sharing Workshop in Abuja.



Photo of capacity building workshop for WLO in Kaduna state.



Capacity Building on Promoting Effective Participation In Governance in Kano State



Public Awareness on the Administration of ACJL in Taraba state.



Media Awareness on the Administration of ACJL in Taraba state.



Training of the Officers of the NPF and NSCD in Ondo state.



Capacity Building for the Mixed Observer Team Members in Kaduna state



Awareness and Sensitization lecture on SGBV in Borno state



Sensitization Exercise at Farm Center Market in Tarauni, Kano state

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FIVE-YEARS FINANCIAL SUMMARY NON-IFRS STATEMENT

	31-12-2022 N	31-12-2022 N	31-12-2021 N	31-12-2020 N	31-12-2019 N
Financial Position					
Non-Current Assets	167,760,299	116,998,339	18,168,889	19,143,846	19,207,390
Current Assets	560,588,239	251,945,933	308,044,853	208,736,341	147,283,456
	728,348,538	368,944,272	326,213,741	227,880,187	166,490,846
Current Liabilities	381,580,912	110,543,916	119,869,682	69,760,374	62,887,348
Accumulated Funds	346,767,626	258,400,356	206,344,059	158,119,813	103,603,498
	728,348,538	368,944,272	326,213,741	227,880,187	166,490,846

OUR FUNDERS



MacArthur
Foundation

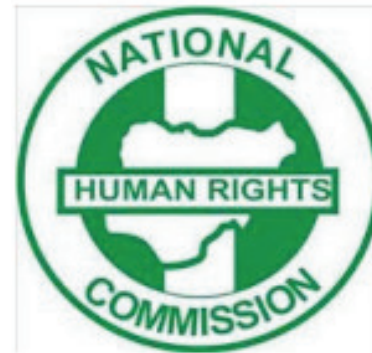


NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR
DEMOCRACY

SUPPORTING FREEDOM AROUND THE WORLD



OUR PARTNERS



**International Federation of
Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria**





As we approach the end of another year, we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout our journey in West Africa, particularly in Nigeria. It has been a remarkable year for us as we have witnessed significant growth and accomplishments.

As we reflect on the past 12 months, we are grateful for the trust and confidence you have placed in us. Your engagement and commitment to our shared goals have driven our progress and helped us achieve remarkable milestones. Together, we have accomplished great things, and we look forward to continuing our work together into the new year.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Our vision remains constant - to be a trusted partner, delivering innovative solutions and meeting the needs of our clients and stakeholders. We remain committed to delivering exceptional value and creating lasting impact in the communities we serve.

In conclusion, we extend our deepest appreciation for your support and partnership throughout the past year. We look forward to continuing this journey with you and working together to achieve even greater success in the years to come.

COOPERATE INFORMATION

RC NO -CAC/IT/NO86627

TIN - 19761763-0001

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Hussein Abdu - Chairman

Hon. Justice Olufuntola Adekeye JSC.

(Rtd) CFR - Vice - Chairperson

Habib Isa Dutse - Member

Kehinde Togun - Member

'Kemi Okenyodo - Secretary/Executive Director

AUDITORS

Bidemi Aiyesoro & Co

(Chartered Accountants)

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BANKERS

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Guaranty Trust Bank Plc

United Bank for Africa Plc

Infinity Trust Mortgage

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Borno Office: No 7, Nguru Close, off Polo Field, Maiduguri, Borno State.

Niger Office: No. 1 New F Layout, Bosso Minna, Niger state.

Kaduna Office: No. 17E, Humma Plaza, Independence Way, Kaduna State.