PROJECT ALERT
ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

SECOND QUARTER

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Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation, and it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development and peace

– KOFI ANNAN (FORMER UN SECRETARY GENERAL)

Break the cycle of violence. Keeping it quiet is participating.
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STAKEHOLDER CONVENING MEETING ON PRIVATE SECTOR-LED GBV FUND



Cross section of participants at event

Project Alert was represented at a stakeholder convening organised by WISCAR. The meeting commenced with a welcome address from Mrs Oyagbola Amina, Founder and chairperson of WISCAR, acknowledging the attendees' commitment to addressing gender-based violence (GBV). Mrs Amina highlighted the pervasive nature of GBV, emphasising its impact on education, healthcare, and overall well-being.

Mrs. Beatrice Eyong, UN Women Representative to Nigeria & ECOWAS, stressed the need for zero tolerance towards GBV, framing it not only as a social imperative but also an economic one due to its adverse effects on workplace absenteeism and business risks. The Private Sector Led Gender Based Violence Fund (PSLGBVF) was introduced as a critical initiative to strengthen the organisation's capacity to address GBV through inward fundraising.

The goal is to achieve a minimum of $5 million over five years, with $2.5 million targeted by January 2024. Funding sources include grants, sponsorships, social investments from the private sector, high-net-worth individuals, and donor contributions. UN Women will be the fund manager, monitored by a steering committee.

The fund's focus includes scaling the Spotlight Project across four pillars: policy advocacy, addressing data gaps, providing access to quality services, and supporting long-term recovery efforts such as education and mentoring. Key objectives involve strengthening the capacity of private sector companies to advocate for pending legislation, aligning services with policies, reducing costs related to sexual harassment allegations, and improving data collection capabilities. Survivors of GBV are expected to benefit from enhanced access to essential services, economic empowerment opportunities, capacity building, training, and mentorship. The main focus areas include increasing women's access to skills and jobs.

A high-level steering committee was assigned to outline and approve the strategic

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plan, monitor and evaluate fund progress, and implement innovative solutions to address GBV. The inauguration of the steering committee marked the end of the meeting, with closing remarks expressing appreciation for attendees and hopes for positive collaboration and partnerships.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON SECURITY PROTECTION MANAGEMENT AND PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION ORGANIZED BY PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE

Partnership for Justice (PJ) hosted a four-day capacity-building training for human rights defenders on Security Protection Management and Peaceful Conflict Resolution, which Project Alert was part of. The training program was designed to enhance the capacity of human rights defenders and organisations to identify security and protection risks, develop effective security plans and implement measures to mitigate risks.



Cross section of participants at event

The training delved into the intricacies of Human rights and the legal framework that protects them. These individuals and groups face harassment in their goal to provide enlightenment and observations and enforce human rights values in society. However, there are no laws (legally binding) protecting HRDs in Nigeria.

Taking us through the four-day training, Mr Sam Maina, programme coordinator at Protection International Africa, extensively discussed security, safety, and protection, using practical examples, conducting a risk assessment, having an organisational security plan, and ensuring personal security. At the end of the training, we learned to determine the level of risk involved and how to manage these risks before delving into action so as not to create further losses to address societal problems.

PROJECT ALERT'S: West Africa Civic Space Resource Hub (CSR-Hub)







Between April and May 2023, Project Alert on Violence Against Women was a beneficiary of the first Cohort of the Civic Space Resource Hub (CSR-Hub), which aims to enhance the capabilities of civil society organisations (CSOs) working to counter restrictions on civic space in Nigeria.

The CSR Hub is a partnership between the Ford Foundation and the West African Civil Society Institute. It provides various support services to CSOs, including training, coaching, and technical assistance.

The goal of the workshops was to bolster the institutional and operational resilience of beneficiary organisations across four strategic pillars:

Civic Space Protection and Regulatory Compliance: This pillar focuses on helping CSOs understand and comply with relevant laws and regulations and develop strategies for protecting their right to operate in civic space.

Leadership and Organizational Governance: This pillar focuses on helping CSOs strengthen their leadership and governance structures and develop more effective management practices.

Resource Mobilization and Financial Resilience: This pillar focuses on helping CSOs develop sustainable fundraising strategies and manage their finances effectively.

Digital Security and Protection: This pillar focuses on helping CSOs protect their digital assets and data and mitigate the risks of cyberattacks.

A team of experienced trainers and coaches delivered the workshops, including a mix of theoretical and practical sessions. The participants also had the opportunity to network with other CSOs and share their experiences.
Project Alert is grateful to the CSR Hub for the opportunity to participate in the workshops. The workshops have helped us strengthen our institutional and operational resilience and better equipped us to counter civic space restrictions in Nigeria.

AWDF ADVOCACY VISIT



Project Alert on Violence Against Women, with support from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) under the KASA project, commenced advocacy visits to relevant stakeholders in Akwa-Ibom and Cross River states. This included visits to:



- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education; Lady Rose N. Bassey
- Solicitor General/Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice; Mfon Edemekong Esq.
- Principal, Adiahaobong Secondary School; Theresa Essien Ibanga
- Principal, Cardinal Ekandem Seminary: Fr. E. Ukpe
- Director, Center for Gender Studies, University of Uyo; Dr. Uyai E. Akpanobong
- Principal, St. Columbanus Secondary School; Rev. Fr. Emem Umoren and the
- Deputy Registrar/Student Affairs, Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic; Elelei Edet Asuquo.
- The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education
- The Principal Hope Waddell Institute, Calabar (one of the selected schools for intervention)
- The Solicitor General/Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice
- The Director of School Services, SUBEB

During the visits, the report of the study on sexual violence in academic institutions carried out in 2022 was presented to the officials.

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