

**EMPOWERING WOMEN
FOR EXCELLENCE
INITIATIVE
(EWEI)**



2011 ANNUAL REPORT

WELCOME

Greetings! It seems just like yesterday we passed the landmark 2 years of EWEI and here we are again- 3 years and counting.

EWEI continues to work and intervene where our help matters. We are happy to state that our activities since inception have benefitted over 15,931 girls, women and youth in the time span of April 2008 – December 2011. This has been achieved through our main activities and special projects.

In the past one year, EWEI's Educational Subsidy Programme (ESP) continued to benefit 6 girls in public secondary schools in Kaduna State, EWEI's Know and Say No project benefitted 13 Social Welfare workers from Kaduna North Local Government and our active participation in the 2011 Nigerian National elections through the Nigeria Elections Situation Room ensured we played a progressive role in promoting good governance and accountability.

EWEI's ESP beneficiaries are also benefitting from leadership training and skills acquisition through our Empowerment Seminars which take place quarterly. In addition, EWEI's Civic Education and Participation for Women Project (CEPWOP) has continued to the third stage in the cascade process from initial capacity building to step down activities and town hall meetings promoting participatory governance at the grassroots level and giving voice to women and excluded groups in the political space. CEPWOP beneficiaries have reached 2,378 as at December 2011. We still continue our search for EEP (Economic Empowerment Partnership) beneficiaries and look for opportunities to connect people with income generating skills.

Our Non-exclusive Local Partnership with Generations For Peace has received a large boost with more delegates and pioneers trained and participating in Generations For Peace programmes and the commencement of monthly programmes in 3 schools in Kaduna, Nigeria. "Let Her Play" has been able to reach over 4,191 children, youth, leaders of youth and stakeholders as well as 25 organizations in and beyond Kaduna, North West Nigeria. In addition, the Let Her Play Cascade process has been able to reach over 519 children and youth, 30 stakeholders and 74 trained by second generation delegates (who have now become pioneers) and 98 children and youth with 36 adults advocated to and involved by third generation delegates.

Other programmes include commemorating the 2011 International Peace Day as well as refresher sessions and monthly sports programmes by pioneers reaching 314 children and 33 stakeholders.

Starting in 2012, EWEI and Generations For Peace will be able to reach more girls and women through the new monthly Empowerment Seminars that will combine skills acquisition with peace building education. We have also welcomed several new mentors and ambassadors to EWEI ; women who seek to use their expertise and experience to inspire and motivate girls and women to greater heights. You will be able to read more about them in the next edition of EWEI NEWS which is our quarterly Newsletter. We continue to seek your support towards making EWEI NEWS more regular and widespread. EWEI Online continues to provide online resources and information and will go through a major overhaul in 2012. All full reports of our activities can be downloaded on the wiki: www.ewei.wetpaint.com.

Our partners have been invaluable to the successes mentioned above and we wish to specially thank Prince Schools, Generations For Peace, State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI), ABANTU for Development, LEADS Nigeria, Signature Global Services, Sebat Global Link Ventures and Open Meadows Foundation NY for their support in 2011. We also appreciate the varied individual contributions and efforts of our Board of Trustees, individual donors, supporters, staff and volunteers. We use this opportunity to ask for support from new partners in making a difference in our communities and nation. We assure all stakeholders of our effective and timely interventions and services as we look positively into 2012.



Thank you.

S. Ibn Garba (Chap.)
Founder and Programme Director

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE (EWEI)

"EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ENLIGHTENMENT"

MISSION: PROVIDE MULTI-SECTORAL INTERVENTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

VISION: TO ACHIEVE EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ENLIGHTENMENT.

Overview

EWEI was founded in April 2008 with a mission to provide multi-sectoral interventions towards the empowerment of girls and women and improving their lives through capacity building and advocacy.

We believe that sustainable development is only achievable through investment in human capital resources and providing girls and women the opportunities and resources they can use to improve their welfare, professionalism and well being.

Socio-cultural norms and practices limit the accessibility to capacity building opportunities as well as numerous other opportunities that abound for women both locally and internationally which can address the various issues that have long kept them and their communities under-developed and poverty stricken.

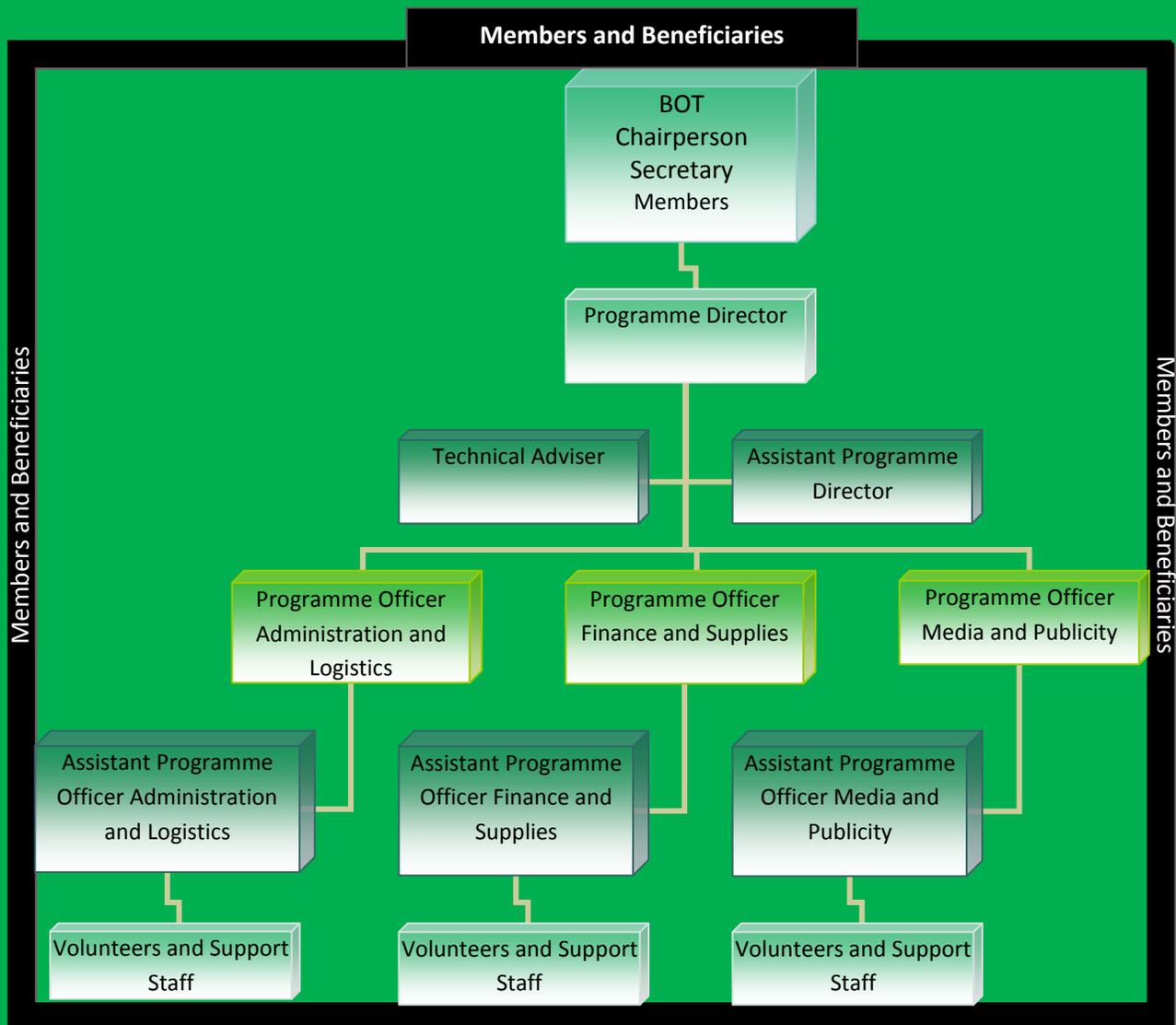
Needlessly countless children and women die of preventable causes like malaria, HIV/AIDS, lack of proper child and maternal care. These and many more problems can be addressed through increased education and enlightenment in addition to evidence based advocacy and effective monitoring of government policies and programmes.

Encouraging girls and women to harness their abilities and take more active roles in decision making and policy formation will further ensure that their voices are heard and are taken seriously.

EWEI seeks to bring capacity and enlightenment to girls and women through the use of the internet, seminars, newsletters and various other interventions.

EWEI was officially registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria (CAC/IT/28137) on the 6th of June, 2008 and has been actively working to achieve her aims and objectives.

EWEI is also registered with the Kaduna State Government through the Ministry of NGOs, Youth and Sports, Education and Women Affairs.



EWEI ORGANISATIONAL CHART

EWEI is governed by a structured hierarchy of operations with a 5 person Board of Trustees (BOT) who are seasoned professionals in their respective fields and strong supporters and advocates for girls and women's empowerment. EWEI's BOT consists of 3 women and 2 men.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Enlighten Girls/Women on health, reproductive, political, economic and social issues and topics.
- Encourage Girl-child Education.
- Inspire Girls/Women to aspire to be the best they can be - Aim for Excellence.
- Advocate for and encourage higher enrolment, retention and completion rates for Girls/Women in Science and Information technology education.
- Encourage civic participation of Girls/Women and contribute to both the political and legislative process through capacity building, civic education and advocacy.
- Work towards the accomplishment of Millennium Development Goals 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- Make simplified information accessible to Girls/Women at no cost.
- Participate in and advocate for progressive budgeting practices, gender mainstreaming in government policies and programmes and promote and monitor good governance initiatives.
- Advocating for legislation for Women's rights and the rights of the Girl child
- Using creative means like sports to build self-esteem, leadership skills and confidence in Girls, Women and Youth in general.
- Promote and provide interventions in peace building and conflict resolution.

MAIN ACTIVITIES:

- ❖ **Empowerment Seminars** : Enlightenment on health issues, Professionalism, Girl-Child Education, MDG awareness, Economic and Civic education and participation etc.
- ❖ **Quarterly Newsletters** : Free resources on health, politics, economic empowerment, security, food and nutrition etc.
- ❖ **Website**: Designed to encourage IT literacy among girls and women. Online resources and access to e-newsletters. www.ewei.wetpaint.com.
- ❖ **Delegate/Mentor/Volunteer Program**: Mentors, Delegates and Volunteers providing a support base and system for EWEI activities and beneficiaries across the nation.
- ❖ **Advocacy and Participation**: Work in collaboration with other stakeholders advocating for pro-poor and gender sensitive legislation and implementation of existing laws and policies for enforcement of women's rights.
- ❖ **Other Special and Step down Programs**: Customized interventions designed to address specific issues and collaborative efforts with partner organizations.

EWEI SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Empowerment Seminars: EWEI's exceptional Empowerment Seminars are designed to enlighten girls and women on topical issues. So far such seminars have benefitted 107 girls and 15 adults from 2008 to December 2011. EWEI empowerment seminars have also held quarterly since 2011 for beneficiaries of ESP helping to pass on leadership, communication, life and income generating skills to beneficiaries.

Getting Involved: A step down of the British Council/World Bank Institute's Debate to Action, Getting Involved is a programme that seeks to raise awareness about the Millennium Development Goals and the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) among youth, equip them on how to effectively share this information with others in their communities, and to determine their own roles within these frameworks. This knowledge not only empowers young people to be change agents within their communities, but also contributes to transparency and accountability, which in turns supports good governance. By December 2011, EWEI had reached over 1,372 youth and adults through the Getting Involved project which included seminars, newsletters, a Train the Trainers seminar, and distribution of Global Fund insecticide treated mosquito nets.

Let Her Play: In Partnership with Generations for Peace, Amman, Jordan, EWEI has been implementing the Let Her Play Campaign since 2009 which was designed with a primary focus of increasing the participation of girls and women in sport in northern Nigeria and help bridge the gender, ethnic, religious and political divides in our local communities. "Let Her Play" in its first stage reached over 4,191 children, youth, leaders of youth and stakeholders as well as 25 organizations in and beyond Kaduna, North West Nigeria. In addition, the Let Her Play Cascade process has been able to reach over 519 children and youth, 30 stakeholders and 74 trained by second generation delegates and 98 children and youth with 36 adults advocated to and involved by third generation delegates as at December 2011.

Other programmes include commemorating the 2011 International Peace Day as well as refresher sessions and monthly sports programmes by pioneers reaching 314 children and 33 youth, leaders of youth and stakeholders.

Educational Subsidy Programme (ESP) : Currently a small fund, EWEI's ESP is designed to encourage girl child education at all levels by helping to subsidize the cost of books, uniforms and exam fees for girls from indigent families. Six girls in public secondary schools in Kaduna state currently benefit from the ESP as at 2012.

EWEI NEWS: Free quarterly colorful newsletters that provide resources on political, educational, health, financial and other issues.

Topical and colourful, EWEI NEWS also contains articles in the local social language of where it is most widely distributed. As at December 2011, 7,000 copies have been distributed, free, since commencement of the project

in 2008. This project also occasionally features articles and contributions from EWEI mentors, delegates and beneficiaries. An online version is also available by clicking the link on our site or going direct to the newsletter site: www.eweinews.wetpaint.com.

EWEI Online: the EWEI wiki and website were launched to give many more beneficiaries access to EWEI's activities and resources and encourage I.T. Literacy among women. www.ewei.wetpaint.com.

Economic Empowerment Partnerships (EEP): Training programmes and economic empowerment partnerships targeted at low income or out of school girls and women. Beneficiaries of this programme are empowered through capacity building and micro credit facilities to setup or build upon existing economically viable businesses or projects.

Know and Say No : This project is primarily concerned with raising awareness about gender based violence as well as strengthening institutional capacities to address the pandemic of gender based violence. Know and Say No provides a platform for effective actions towards the protection of minority rights and a voice for vulnerable groups. By December 2011, 13 beneficiaries ;Social Welfare workers from Kaduna North Local Government have participated in Know and Say No activities.

CEPWOP: EWEI's Civic Education and Participation for Women Project was designed as a means to address the under-representation of women and excluded groups in the political space, giving a voice to citizens concerns and encouraging participatory governance. CEPWOP activities include lectures, panel discussions, town hall meetings, interactive discussions and pressure group activities by participants with politicians, Government Officials, legal practitioners and other resource persons. Other activities include the design and distribution of IEC materials, information dissemination using Nu-media. CEPWOP activities have benefitted 2,378 Nigerian citizens as at December 2011. CEPWOP activities have been supported by Open Meadows Foundation NY, USA since December 2011.

Capacity Building and Partnerships: EWEI has formed solid partnerships, collaborations and capacity building relationships to help consolidate and improve our work and interventions. Some of these partnerships have been forged with: Generations For Peace (Local Partner Organization), Kaduna State Government, UNICEF, NDI (National Democratic Institute for International Affairs), British Council/World Bank Institute, Open Meadows Foundation NY, SAVI/DFID, LENNAR, CPCC/OBI (Open Budget Index), PMNCH (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child health), CSOLO (Civil Society Office Liaison Office)-NASS, CSACEFA and many others.

Our strong partnerships and memberships include Gender Working Group (GWG) with which we collaborated in commemorating the International Women's Day in March 2011 that featured an exhibition, seminar and skill acquisition sessions with 211 participants attending and 16 artists/craftswomen/groups exhibiting crafts and products.

In addition, the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) continues to provide capacity building partnership opportunities at the national level, Generations For Peace (Amman Jordan) Non-exclusive Local Partnership institutionalized collaboration and our various collaborations and features in the print and electronic media have all contributed to the sustenance and growth of EWEI.

Other Partners include Sebat Global Link Ventures, Signature Global Services, Prince Schools Narayi High Cost Kaduna Nigeria, our BOT, private and philanthropic organizations and individuals.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT:

EWEI's projects are supported through partnerships and support from well meaning individuals and organizations. We require such support to enable us successfully deliver on our promises to empower and enlighten girls and women. We ask that you support this initiative and play your part in making a difference in the lives of girls and women in our nation. Please contact us for information on how to partner with us and support our work. Send us an email to enquire how to become a member and/or support our work. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP

You can become a member of EWEI by filling out a membership form, recommendation by two referees and a payment of a one-off token administrative fee of N200.00k (Two hundred Naira) only.

15,931 girls, women and youth have benefitted directly from EWEI's work and partnerships since 2008. Membership is open to all . Please contact us by email to enquire about becoming a member or volunteering opportunities.

3 YEARS OF EWEI:

A MONTH BY MONTH REVIEW OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN THE LAST THREE YEARS

MAY 2008

➤ **CHARITY AND ADVOCACY VISIT TO DU MERCI CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY**

On May 21, 2008 EWEI paid a visit to an orphanage, Du Merci Children Development Ministry Kaduna. EWEI Program Director, Safiya Ibn Garba in her address during the visit said the organization is not only making efforts towards empowering women for excellence, but also towards reaching out to the needy and less privileged in society through charitable organizations such as Du Merci Children Development Ministry. Some of the items that were donated include a bag of rice, carton of spaghetti, detergent, packs of beverage, pampers, washing soap, cheese balls, perfumed jelly, sugar, salt, fruit drinks, milk, etc.

JULY 2008

➤ **COURTESY VISIT TO HONOURABLE YUSUF SHEHU MAKARFI, COMMISSIONER OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS AND STUDENT AFFAIRS, KADUNA STATE**

EWEI paid a courtesy call on the Honourable Commissioner for Non-Governmental Organizations and Student Affairs Alh. Yusuf Shehu Makarfi on July 1, 2008 at the State House Kawo, Kaduna at 10.30 am. The EWEI team was warmly received by the Honourable Commissioner and the Special Adviser to His Excellency Arc. Namadi Sambo on NGOs and Student Affairs; Mr. Lekwot.

➤ **EWEI NEWS June/July 2008 Edition:** 3,000 copies of our free bi-monthly colourful newsletter which contain political, educational, health, financial and other articles for girls/women's benefit were printed and distributed in 5 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The states are Kaduna, Plateau, Niger, Kano and Rivers states. It was also circulated in Amman, Jordan. The colourful newsletter contains topical articles written in easily understood language. An **online version** is also available by clicking the link on our site or going direct to the newsletter site: www.eweinews.wetpaint.com.

➤ **EWEI Online:** the EWEI wiki and website were launched to give many more access to EWEI's activities and resources and encourage I.T. literacy among women. www.wei.wetpaint.com

➤ **EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR HELD AT PRINCE SCHOOLS, NARAYI HIGH COST, KADUNA ON JULY 4, 2008 AT 10.00AM**

EWEI held her maiden Empowerment Seminar at Prince Schools, Narayi, High Cost, Kaduna on July 4, 2008. The Seminar started at 10.00am with registration of participants and an opening address was delivered at 10.30am by the Program Director, Safiya Ibn Garba. The seminar featured talks by Dr. Solomon Tarfa (HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention), Mrs. Mercy Tarfa (represented by Engr. Ambrose Olalehin- Making Early Wise Choices), Engr. Daisi Oke (Excelling in Your Chosen Career), and Mrs. Vicki Gani (represented by Safiya Ibn Garba – Your Role in Government). There was an attendance of 82 female students aged between 8 – 20; 7 teachers, 3 facilitators and 8 special guests and invitees. The session was well covered by the press.

SEPTEMBER 2008:

➤ **EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR AT BEIJING INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, 12 SALIM CRESCENT, OFF MALLE STREET, KAWO NEW EXTENSION, KADUNA AND DEBATE TO ACTION STEP DOWN EXTENSION SEGMENT ORGANISED BY EWEI**

EWEI held an Empowerment Seminar at Beijing International School, 12 Salim Crescent off Malle Street, Kawo New Extension, Kaduna on the September 17, 2008. The seminar featured four segments: **Making**

Early Wise Choices, facilitated by EWEI Program Director, Safiya Ibn Garba, **HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention**, facilitated by Ms. Alaba Aluko, a HIV Counsellor with International Centre for AIDS Treatment and Care Program (ICAP) and deployed to Barau Dikko Specialist Hospital Kaduna who is HIV Positive herself. The participants were sensitized about HIV/AIDS and prevention.

Excelling in Your chosen Career, facilitated by Engr. Samson Olayinka Olajide, Chief Executive Officer, Sonite Communications; and **Your Role in Governance**, which spotlighted awareness on the Millennium Development Goals; this session was jointly facilitated by EWEI, Nasrul-Lahi-l-Faith Society of Nigeria (NASFAT), Living Faith Foundation (LFF) and Nigerian Airforce Youth Awareness Forum (NAYAF). Each organization spoke about one of the MDGs. This segment was part of the Debate to Action Step Down Extension Program. There was an attendance of 17 Students aged between 8-14 years, 17 adults from diverse professions as well as several members of the press.

AUGUST - DECEMBER 2008: Capacity Building and Collaborations

- Debate to Action which is a British Council/World Bank Institute capacity building programme on MDG and PRSP awareness (Kaduna, 25th-28th August, 2008) and implemented the step down programme as well as the DTA Kaduna Cluster One programme at Tafawa Balewa Inn, Kaduna
- North-West Zonal Consultative forum by National Assembly/UNDP on Inclusive Budgetting held in Kaduna, (9th-10th September, 2008) at Assa Pyramid Hotel.
- National Democratic Institute's Seminar on Effective Advocacy in the National Assembly (Kaduna, 10th September, 2008), Assa Pyramid Hotel.
- National Democratic Institute's Analysis of the Implementation of the 2008 Budget & Anticipating the 2009 Budget Process Calabar, 4th - 6th December, 2008)
- Generations for Peace Camp 08 (Amman, Jordan, 25th November- 5th December, 2008)
- **Public Sector Partnership:** EWEI was officially registered by the Federal Government of Nigeria (CAC registration and licensed as a Non Governmental Organization). It is also registered with the Kaduna State Government, Ministry of Non-Governmental Organizations and Student Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Women Affairs, KADSACA and Ministry of Education.

JANUARY - MAY 2009: CAPACITY BUILDING AND COLLABORATIONS:

- A three-day day retreat organized by the House of Representatives Committee on Rules and Business in collaboration with the Policy Analysis and Research Project (PARP) and National Democratic Institute for International Studies (NDI) on Standardization of Standing Orders of the National and State Houses of Assembly, from January 14 - 16, 2009 at the Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja
- Launching of the 2008 Open Budget Index organized by the Centre for Public Private Cooperation in collaboration with, and funding support from The Centre on Budget and Policy priorities, Integrated Social Development Centre (ISODEC), Implementation Committee UNDP Support programme to the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (ICUSPN) at Reiz Continental Hotel Abuja on the 10th of February, 2009 at 9.00am
- A one day dialogue with CSOs on the National Health Bill as organized by the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the House of Representatives Committee on Health on the 18th of February, 2009 at Protea Hotel Asokoro, Abuja at 9.00am
- A collaborative effort with Unicef "C" Field Office Kaduna at the Zonal Meeting to unveil the new country plan to Unicef Focal persons from State Ministries of Education, Colleges of Education and Girl Education projects from 8 northern States and the FCT in Katsina on February 23 - 25, 2009.
- National meeting to set up agenda for Nigerian Girl's Education Initiative at Hamdala Hotel, Kaduna on 17th-20th May, 2009.

AUGUST 2009

- **EWEI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT CODE TRAINING AND SEMINARS RABAH CLOSE, OFF RABAH ROAD, KADUNA ON THE 23RD OF AUGUST, 2009.**
The organization's AGM took place at Code Training and Seminars, Rabah Close, off Rabah Road, Kaduna on the August 23, 2009. In attendance were management, staff and volunteers of EWEI. The agenda included a

review of the past year at EWEI as well as looking at the road ahead. Presentations included EWEI: ONE YEAR, LET HER PLAY CAMPAIGN, EWEI calendar and The Revised Work Plan for 2009.

➤ **EWEI AT THE 2ND ZONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON INCLUSIVE BUDGETING, NORTH WEST ZONE HELD AT SOKOTO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, AUGUST 26 - 27, 2009**

The National Assembly organized the 2nd Zonal Consultative meeting on Inclusive Budgeting for Nigeria, North-West Zone at the Sokoto State House of Assembly between August 26 and 27, 2009. EWEI was represented at the meeting by Media and Publicity Program Officer, Ohis S. Amu.

SEPTEMBER 2009

➤ **DONATION OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT TO THE CIVIL SOCIETY LIAISON OFFICE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

As a means for effectiveness and better co-ordination in the Civil Society Liaison Office at the National Assembly (NASS), EWEI donated a 4 in 1 DeskJet 5610 printer to the CSOLO to enhance the administrative functions of the unit. The printer was presented by the Programme Director EWEI, Safiya Ibn Garba and was received by the Head of the CSOLO; Tope Ogunleye who on behalf of the Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly thanked EWEI for the donation and promised it would be put to good use in the office. A letter of appreciation to that effect was also sent to EWEI.

NOVEMBER 2009

➤ **EWEI AT THE CSOLO ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AND WORKSHOP ON INCLUSION OF CSOS IN THE CONSTITUTION AND LEGISLATIVE REFORM EFFORTS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT THE SENATE NEW WING RM 301, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX, ABUJA, NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

EWEI attended and participated in the CSOLO Advosiry Committee meeting and workshop on inclusion of CSOs in the Constitution and Legislative reforms efforts in the NASS on the 18th of November, 2009. The forum brought together CSOs involved with the current dialogue on the amendment of the Constitution, and the 44 member Senate Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution. The Deputy Senate President called the meeting to order while the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) kicked off the meeting with a brief introduction of the CSOs present.

The Secretary of the Advisory Committee Mimidoo Achakpa, Executive Director, Womens' Right to Education Programme (WREP) made a presentation of the representations from the earlier meeting of CSOs on the constitutional and legislative reforms.

The meeting highlighted the progress made at the CSOLO and was presented by The Head of the organization, Tope Ogunleye. The update called for more engagement and synergy between CSOs and CSOLO, more awareness and enlightenment about the office and other issues.

The workshop held in two parts: the first brought together CSOs active in legislative advocacy issues at the National Assembly, with Clerks of select Committees in the National Assembly to discuss the best strategies to bridge the gap between CSOs and the Committees of the National Assembly. This session helped to smoothen the engagement between CSOs and the Committees towards more effective advocacy efforts.

On behalf of the committee, the deputy senate president appreciated the efforts of Civil Society and assured those present that the NASS has always worked with Civil Society and is still willing to continually engage Civil Society in the process of constitutional and electoral reforms. He stressed that the Senate remains committed to the time frame set for itself to conclude work on the reforms particularly so that it could reflect in the 2011 elections. He said the time frame set was the first quarter of 2010.

DECEMBER 2009

➤ **EWEI AT THE NORTH WEST ZONAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1999 CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

The Senate Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution conducted Zonal Public Hearings nationwide in ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Constitution and the global basic principle of participation, inclusiveness and transparency in developing a more acceptable and effective Constitution. The North West Zonal Public Hearing was scheduled to hold on the 14th and 15th of December, 2009 at the Sani Abacha Indoor Stadium, Kofar Mata, Kano at 9.00am daily. EWEI was represented at the meeting by Mavis Orjime, Program Officer F& S.

JANUARY 2010

➤ **EWEI AT THE CITIZENS FORUM ON KADUNA STATE YEAR 2010 BUDGET**

A Citizens Forum on the Kaduna State 2010 budget was held on January 14, 2010 at Asaa Pyramid Hotel Kaduna at 10.00am. The forum was attended by members of the Civil Society, Media and a representative of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). The forum provided an avenue for discussions on the Kaduna State 2010 budget and find ways to positively affect the process of its passage highlighting areas of great concern to citizens. EWEI was in attendance at the meeting to further consolidate on efforts to promote and participate in Inclusive Budgeting in Nigeria.

MARCH 2010

➤ **EWEI ORIENTATION DISCOURSE**

EWEI held her first orientation discourse for 2010 on the March 1, 2010 for new volunteers with the organization. This event was an opportunity to learn more about EWEI and familiarize volunteers with EWEI assignments, and other workings. Orientation discourses are usually held in small groups consisting of a batch of volunteers and an interactive session with the Programme Director, EWEI.

➤ **EWEI COMMENCES SEARCH FOR ESP BENEFICIARIES**

EWEI has commenced the search and screening for possible beneficiaries of her Educational Subsidy Programme, ESP, which is designed to encourage girl child education at all levels. It helps subsidize the cost of books, uniforms and exam fees for girls from indigent families. Prospective beneficiaries are selected after a survey process at selected public schools to ascertain girls who are excelling academically. Currently on a pilot run, prospective ESP beneficiaries are being sourced from 4 public schools in Kaduna North Local Government Area in Kaduna State Nigeria.

➤ **CAPACITY BUILDING FOR EWEI STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

EWEI staff and volunteers took part in an IT capacity building seminar on the 2nd of March, 2010 to improve on their basic IT skills and learn more about administrative management through documentation and report writing. This was the first in the series of IT Capacity building seminars for the year 2010, courtesy of EWEI's membership of CSACEFA, Kaduna. The seminar was facilitated by Lifeline Education Resource Development Centre, Tafawa Balewa Way Kaduna, Nigeria and had 5 EWEI staff and volunteers in attendance amongst other participants.

➤ **EWEI AT A WORKSHOP ON BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN ADVOCACY AND POLICY**

EWEI participated in a workshop on bridging the gap between advocacy and policy at Excel Hotel Abuja on the 24th of March 2010 organized by Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre in collaboration with the Civil Society Liaison Office of the National Assembly and Coalitions for Change (C4C). In a welcome address, Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director PLAC and Chair CSOLO Advisory Committee, gave a brief on the purpose of the gathering and introduced the Chair, House Committee on Rules and Business Hon. Ita Enang who also graced the meeting. Safiya Ibn Garba on behalf of Mimidoo Achakpa, Secretary CSOLO Advisory Committee, gave the statement of purpose. Hon. Enang made several comments. His address, as well as summaries of all presentations at the workshop, is available for viewing on www.ewei.wetpaint.

APRIL 2010:

- **EWEI AT KADUNA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD WORKSHOP IN COLLABORATION WITH UNICEF KADUNA "C" FIELD OFFICE**

EWEI participated in and made a presentation at the zonal consultative meeting with basic education programme related NGOs/CSOs in 8 states and the FCT on strategies for evidence based advocacy for increased enrollment, retention and completion of pupils in schools. The forum took place at Arewa House from April 13 – 16, 2010 and was organized by Kaduna State Universal Basic Education Board in collaboration with UNICEF Kaduna "C" Field Office.

The forum marked the first time in the zone that Government departments and agencies and CSOs came together to work towards collaborative efforts at achieving the EFA goals and MDGs 2 & 3. Such Agencies included the State Universal Education Boards, State Ministries of Education and Agency for Mass Literacy.

MAY 2010:

- **EWEI'S EDUCATIONAL SUBSIDY PROGRAMME KICKS OFF**

EWEI's ESP fully commenced with the signing of agreements between the beneficiaries and EWEI. The ESP is part of EWEI's efforts at working towards the MDGs and EFA goals. 7 girls from 4 public schools are benefitting from the 2010 ESP award and support commences with the signing of the ESP agreement.

JUNE 2010: 2 YEARS OF EWEI LANDMARKS

- EWEI recorded several landmarks in the month of June:
 - Making history by being the first organization to send both first and second generation Generations for Peace delegates to the 6th International Camp in Amman, Jordan
 - Marking two years of existence
 - Consolidating on Local Partnership by representing Generations for Peace at the 33rd Rotaract District 2450 Conference from June 23 - 27, 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon.

JULY 2010

- **EWEI AS GUEST SPEAKER AND PRINCE SCHOOLS NARAYI HIGH COST SPEECH AND PRIZE GIVING DAY ON THE 31ST OF JULY 2010**

EWEI Programme Director, Safiya Ibn Garba was the Guest Speaker at the Annual Speech and Prize Giving Day on the 31st of July 2010 at Prince Schools. The event provided EWEI an opportunity to continue the engagement with partners and inspire the continuation of the good work of the staff and management of Prince Schools. The event had over 200 students in attendance, parents, special guests and staff. Prizes were awarded in various categories.

AUGUST 2010 :

- **EWEI RECEIVES EMpower TEAM ON THE 3RD OF AUGUST, 2010**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative received a two person team from EMpower on the 3rd of August, 2010 at EWEI Headquarters. EMpower connects the emerging markets community with local organizations providing tools and resources to enable at-risk young people to lead healthy and productive lives.

SEPTEMBER 2010

- **EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE STAND UP TAKE ACTION 2010 COMPETITION**

When world leaders gather at the United Nations for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Review Summit in September, the voices of their citizens will follow them, telling them, loudly and clearly: "We will no longer stay seated or silent in the face of poverty and the broken promises to end it!"

Timeline:

- **22nd August 2010 Competition Opens 12th September 2010 Closing Date for submission of all entries**
 - **19th September 2010 Announcement and Presentation of Prizes and Reading of the STAND UP TAKE ACTION Pledge**
- **EWEI MARKS WORLD LITERACY DAY ON THE 15th SEPTEMBER 2010 AS PART OF THE GENDER WORKING GROUP AND CSACEFA**
- EWEI, a member of the Kaduna State Gender Working Group (GWG) and Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA) marked the World Literacy Day on the 15th of September 2010 at the Meeting Hall in the Kaduna State Ministry of Education. This event brought together participants from Civil Society, the Media, Line Ministries, Community leaders and religious leaders. It provided a platform for interaction and dissemination of information about all the partner organizations as well as an opportunity for policy makers and civil society to exchange ideas on achieving educational development goals. The World Literacy Day is a day set aside by the United Nations to mark literacy awareness and educational programs to promote literacy. This year in Kaduna State, Civil Society collaborated with relevant stakeholders to mark the International Literacy Day. This collaboration is between the Kaduna State Gender Working Group (GWG), State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI), Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (CSACEFA), Education Sector Support Programme in Nigeria (ESSPIN), Partnerships for Transforming Health Systems (PATHS2) and The Kaduna State Agency for Mass Literacy.
- **EWEI TAKES STAND UP TAKE ACTION TO A PLACE OF WORSHIP ON THE 19TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2010**
- EWEI observed the 2010 SUTA at The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Mercy Hall, Kaduna, Nigeria. In collaboration with Prime Initiatives, EWEI took the STAND UP campaign to over 250 youth and adults with the message: "Make our money work for us". The event also featured the presentation of gifts to the winners in the EWEI STAND UP 2010 competition. **Prize winners:** 1st prize 16 year old Raphael Agadama of Wilson College, Kaduna and 2nd prize 18 year old Emmanuel Edumamu of Kaduna Capital School.

OCTOBER 2010

- **EWEI CONTINUES PARTNERSHIP WITH GENERATIONS FOR PEACE AT 7TH GENERATIONS FOR PEACE CAMP IN SOCHI RUSSIA FROM 1- 10TH OF OCTOBER, 2010**
- HRH Prince Feisal Al-Hussein, Founder and Chairman of Generations For Peace, officially opened the inaugural European camp on the 1st of October 2010 in the Russian city of Sochi, host of the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.
- Generations For Peace Sochi Camp 2010 brought together 57 leaders of youth from 11 European and Central Asian countries that have been involved in various forms of conflict. The delegates undertook an intensive ten day peace through sport training programme involving academic conflict transformation techniques and practical sports coaching.
- EWEI Programme Director and Generations For Peace Pioneer worked as an Assistant Facilitator at the camp further helping to solidify the Partnership with Generations For Peace.

NOVEMBER 2010

- **EWEI AT A 2 DAY PARALEGAL TRAINING ORGANIZED BY LEGAL AWARENESS FOR NIGERIAN WOMEN (LEADS – NIGERIA) IN COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL RIGHTS. ON 3RD-4TH NOVEMBER, 2010 AT GENDER CONNECTING HALL, MURTALA SQUARE, KADUNA.**

The paralegal training organized by LEADS Nigeria was declared open on the 1st day, 3rd November, 2010 at 9:30am with opening remarks by Mrs Hanatu Ahuwan, who outlined the objectives of the workshop as follows:

- ✓ To understand women's rights and how it can be protected in grassroots communities
- ✓ To understand gender roles and dynamics
- ✓ To understand the usefulness of law and human rights to everyday life.
- ✓ To bring law closer to women.

The facilitator explained the need for CSOs, to have basic understanding about legal processes especially when it comes to women, so as to serve as intermediaries and also help in ensuring women's rights hence the training. The two day training engaged participants on who a paralegal is, their functions, the Nigerian Legal system, women's rights, women and sexual offences, arrest and Bail, Landlord and tenant issues. At the end of the program, participants were introduced to the paralegal tool kit and each participant was given a copy for their organizations. Referral forms were also given for organizations should they have a case pertaining to Women right issues, so as to have them referred to LEADS. The wrap up of the program was at 4:30pm on the 4th November, 2010 with participants charged to ensure they put the training to use.

➤ **EWEI LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR FOR HER ESP BENEFICIARIES ON THE 6TH NOVEMBER, 2010 AT ABANTU HALL, AHMADU BELLO WAY, KADUNA AT 10:00AM**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative organized a Leadership and Empowerment Seminar for her ESP beneficiaries on the 6th of November, 2010 at Abantu Hall, Ahmadu Bello way, Kaduna. The primary objective of the program was to provide an avenue for interaction between E.W.E.I and her ESP beneficiaries, and to lead the young girls through a process of self discovery, to take stock of their visions and dreams for future as well as develop their current skills, talents and inclinations. The program started at 10:00am with welcome address by the program Director, Safiya Ibn Garba who expressed her delight in meeting with the girls and explained the expected outcome of the program which would help the girls;

- Develop leadership skills
- Be more informed about career choices.
- Make definite goals towards self improvement.

An overview of ESP was discussed and participants shared their experiences and the benefits of the program to them and their families. The P.D then engaged them in an activity for Goal setting. Career Talk was facilitated by Barr. Katherine Ishu who advocated the need for setting career goals and how to ensure one makes the best of their chosen careers. The girls also played a value game where they learnt more about the importance of integrity. The program Director presented writing materials donated by Ms Judy Kent from Canada, to the ESP beneficiaries. A total number of 14 people participated in the program, including 6 ESP beneficiaries, 1 resource person, 1 CEPWOP delegate, 3 E.W.E.I staff and 3 chaperons.

➤ **EWEI TEAMS UP WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FROM KADUNA AND JIGAWA STATES TO CHART A COURSE FOR BETTER ENGAGEMENT WITH STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY AND STRATEGIES FOR INTERVENTIONS ON FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN 2011 WITH SUPPORT FROM STATE ACCOUNTABILITY AND VOICE INITIATIVE (SAVI) ON THE 7-10TH NOVEMBER 2010. AT 9A.M DAILY AT ROYAL TROPICANA HOTEL, KANO.**

EWEI attended and participated in a 2 day workshop for civil society organizations on understanding legislative roles and processes for effective engagement. State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI) is one of the suites of programmes of DFID established to help Nigeria effectively and efficiently manage its own resources. SAVI works primarily on long-route accountability, facilitating and brokering alignments of Agents and Actors around a common issue through strengthening their voices in their engagement with the State in policy making. The workshop was to better equip civil society to engage the State Assembly in the conduct of their legislative roles for efficient responsiveness, accountability and transparency. The workshop brought together civil society organizations in Kaduna and Jigawa and provided a platform for lively discussion, information sharing and strategizing for better engagement.

DECEMBER 2010

➤ **EWEI's CIVIC EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION FOR WOMEN PROJECT (CEPWOP) STAGE ONE AT ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT, AHMADU BELLO WAY, KADUNA ON THE 30TH NOVEMBER 2010.**

Empowering women for Excellence initiative kicked off the stage 1 of the Civic Education and Participation for Women Project on the 30th of November 2010, at ABANTU for development, Y.A Ahmed house, Ahmadu Bello way, Kaduna.

The program started at 9:30am, with a welcome address and statement of purpose by the Program Director of E.W.E.I, Safiya Ibn Garba. Members present then introduced themselves and their organizations. Participants were given pre- test questionnaires to test their level of civic education and participation.

The first presentation was facilitated by the Program Director and the topic was " Ensuring Credible Elections: The Power of Your Vote. After the lecture, participants were engaged in group work and made presentations on The Role of the Electorate in Good Governance.

The second lecture was titled Effective Community Advocacy: Tools and Methods by Abdiel Kude, Executive Director, Prime Initiatives. The third presentation was by Mavis Orjime titled "Using Minimal Resources for Maximum Impact." The Program Director then presented an overview of the CEPWOP implementation at the grassroots and work plan template.

After lunch, the participants had individual work sessions where they designed and presented work plans for the formation of Community based CEPWOP groups in target communities. The program came to an end at 4:30pm after a post test questionnaire to determine the impact of CEPWOP on the participants.

A total number of 11 people attended the program including, 7 participants, 1 resource person and 3 E.W.E.I staff.

➤ **EWEI AT VOTER EDUCATION WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH AT TEEJAH PALACE HOTEL, ZARIA ON THE 1ST- 5TH OF DECEMBER, 2010 ORGANISED BY KADUNA SIECOM WITH SUPPORT FROM UNDP**

EWEI attended and participated in a workshop on Voter Education for Women and Youth from the 1st- 5th of December 2010 at TI Palace Hotel, Zaria, Kaduna. The workshop was organized by Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission with support from UNDP. The workshop highlighted featured presentations and group work on issues like Voter education, Human rights, Benefits of credible elections with many sessions providing for an opportunity on discourse towards the 2011 elections and beyond. EWEI was represented at the workshop by Babatunde Ajiga.

➤ **EWEI's 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THE 15TH OF DECEMBER AT 1.00PM AT ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative held her 2010 Annual General Meeting at ABANTU for Development, Y.A. Ahmed House, Kaduna, Nigeria at 1.00pm.

The meeting is an annual event to provide a forum for partners, beneficiaries and the general public to learn more about EWEI's activities in the past year as well as brainstorm on the way forward in the coming year. It allows for sharing on lessons learned, taking stock and also to celebrate achievements.

At the end of the meeting partners, supporters and beneficiaries were brought up to date with EWEI's activities in the past year, not well understood issues were clarified, staff and volunteers were appreciated for their hardwork in 2010 and suggestions and advice was given for better service delivery in 2011.

In attendance were 13 partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders including a representative from Women with Disabilities Self reliance Centre, Kaduna North Local Government, the media and development partners like UNICEF sent goodwill messages.

EWEI on 

Due to popular demand EWEI is now on FACEBOOK!! Connect with us, become a fan, invite your friends, comment on our activities and help promote EWEI on face book.

Memberships

- Global Campaign for Education(GCE)
- Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) a World Health Organization Initiative
- Good governance Coalition (LENNAR) from the Debate to Action Kaduna Cluster One
- UNICEF's Nigeria's Girl Education Initiative(NGEI)
- Civil Society Organization Liaison Office (CSOLO) in the National Assembly
- NNNGO (Nigerian Network of NGOs)
- CSACEFA (Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for all).
- Member and current team leader; Kaduna State Gender Working Group on Education. Supported by SAVI (State Accountability and Voice Initiative) Kaduna

STEP-DOWN PROGRAMMES

World Bank Institute/British Council's Debate to Action > Getting Involved: EWEI's step down programme of the Debate to Action

- Getting Involved seminar Prince College 18th September 2008: In attendance were 64 Students with age range of 3 EWEI Staff and 1 Teacher.
- Redeemed Christian Church of God 12th October, 2008: In attendance were 21 Participants and 3 Supervising adults
- Train the trainers 18th October, 2008: 8 teachers trained expected to cascade to 726 students
- EWEI NEWS Nov/Dec 2008 edition over 1,000 copies distributed and readers in over 5 states of the federation will be able to get information on DTA and the MDGs.
- Global Fund for malaria insecticide treated mosquito nets distributed, December, 2008: EWEI procured 20 mosquito nets from the Global Fund for malaria in conjunction with Living Faith Foundation for distribution and as a means to raise awareness on the Millennium Development Goals. 20 nets were distributed to 20 families with children under 5. At least 20 people were effectively reached with the MDG message.
- Getting involved Train the Trainers Wrap-up Ceremony at Prince Schools, No 18-20 Giwa Road, Narayi High cost Kaduna on the 17th of February, 2010 The Ceremony was held in the staff room of the school and was graced by the Principal, Mr.G.Whiskey, Vice Principal and other teachers. Also in attendance were volunteers from EWEI and the Programme Director, EWEI.Four teachers distinguished themselves in the Train the Trainers project and all four teachers came from that particular Prince school which testified to the School management's unflinching support for developmental issues and willingness to collaborate with EWEI.

The four teachers, Alheri Yayock, Prince Onyeana, Maliki Umore and Tarah Usman were presented with certificates and refreshments. The Program Director EWEI, promised the organization's technical support at any time it was needed, and encouraged that MDG and PRSP be inculcated into the school curriculum. Below is an excerpt from her address:

"From evaluation of the project in January, 2009, 10 lessons benefitting 164 students were taken with discussions focusing on MDGs, PRSP and practicals including visits to refuse dumps for clearing. Four individuals distinguished themselves out of the 8 teachers at the training which shows a 50% success rate in terms of implementation..."

Generations For Peace> Let Her Play: After participation at the Generations For Peace Camp in December 2008, EWEI implemented 11 projects under the Generations for Peace, "**Let Her Play**" campaign which was designed to step up the inclusion of girls in sports, pass on Generations for Peace values like respect, tolerance and teamwork, build bridges and bring children and young people from the from the different sides of the ethnic, social and religious divides in communities in conflict.

- Generations For Peace Advocacy visit to the Honourable Commissioner for Non-Governmental Organizations and Student Affairs Alh. Yusuf Makarfi, December 17, 2008.
- Generations For Peace Let Her Play at Capital TV, Kaduna State Media Corporation, Chechnya Market, Kaduna, January 7, 2009. Generations for Peace featured in a Television programme "Kaduna Today". The programme is a news and current affairs discussion programme which is aimed at the grassroots and communities. The programme is aired on weekdays from 8.00-9.00 am and is beamed on 154 UHF. The programme has the capacity of reaching at least 4,000,000 people (Kaduna state has a population of 6,066,562).
- Generations For Peace Working With Children Training Seminar for volunteer coaches and volunteers, at Collab restaurant, no.X9 Fatima Guest House, Katsina Road, Kaduna January 13 and 14, 2009. In attendance were 7 coaches, 5 volunteers and 4 EWEI staff who are all going to be part of the Let Her Play sports sessions.
- Generations For Peace Sports Session for Children and Youth held at Prince Schools, Senior Section No.18-20, Giwa Road, Narayi High Cost, Kaduna January 28, 2009. A total number of seventy six (76) students

participated, aged between 10-19 years, including 24 girls and 52 boys. The games played by the students were football, table tennis and volley ball. 15 coaches and volunteers were present.

- Generations For Peace Sports Session for Children and Youth held at Prince Schools, Nursery and Primary Section No.18- 20, Giwa Road, Narayi High Cost, Kaduna January 2009, 30. The students engaged in five different sporting activities including volleyball, football, table tennis, bowling and golf. A total number of sixty two students participated, out of which 37 were female and 25 boys. On hand to assist the pupils were 15 coaches and volunteers.
- Generations For Peace Sports Session for Children and Youth held at Uncle Bado Secondary School 29, New Dawaki Road, off Sultan road, Ungwar Sarki G.R.A Kaduna. The total number of students that participated in the sports sessions were two hundred and twenty seven (227), consisting of one hundred and twenty eight (128) boys and ninety (99) girls with age range of 10-18. About 300 more students watched the activity. Six (6) coaches, four (4) volunteers and five (5) EWEI volunteers all worked with the children as trainers and 6 (six) members of the press from Gaskiya Ta Fi Kwabo Newspapers (Hausa), New Nigerian Newspapers, Daily trust Newspapers, New Democrat Newspapers, News page Newspapers(English), Capital TV (Electronic).
- Generations For Peace Sports Session for children and Youth held at Du-Merci Children Development Ministry Rabah Road on February 14. Du-Merci Children development ministry is a home and shelter for children who have been abandoned, abused, as well as of HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy to mention a few. The programme was supported by Prince Schools, 18-20 Giwa Road, Narayi, High Cost Kaduna. The children were engaged in peace building sports activities which included football, basketball, table tennis, kids golf, kids bowling and kids football. A total of 18 children (8 girls and 10 boys) participated in the sports sessions.
- Generations For Peace Sports Session for Children and Youth held at Grays International School, Doka village, Airport Road Kaduna, March 28, 2009. Grays International School is located in Doka village, over 20km away from Kaduna metropolis. A total of 438 students participated in the project of these, 170 of them girls and 268 boys. The students were engaged in six sports: volleyball, basketball, football, table tennis, athletics and softball.
- Generations For Peace Advocacy Project in partnership with EWEI. EWEI NEWS June/July 2009 special edition. Over 3,000 copies printed and distributed in 8 states of Nigeria and the Federal Capital territory, raising awareness about Generations for Peace and peace building.
- Generations For Peace Advocacy and Partnership Event for the Media held September 17, 2009 at FSP Multi-purpose Hall, Kaduna.
- Generations For Peace Sporting Session for Children and Youth tagged Co-ed Football Match held on the 19th September 19, 2009 at Police College, Independence Way, Kaduna.
- Generations For Peace Train the Trainers Kaduna '09 camp held from September 21 – 26, 2009 Federal Training Centre, Kaduna.
- Generations For Peace Sports Session for Children and Youth held on October 21, 2009 tagged **One Day Mega- Sports Camp** at Police College, Independence Way, Kaduna.
- Facilitator and Coach Generations For Peace Camp, Amman, Jordan, December 7 - 16, 2009
- Facilitator, Generations For Peace Camp Amman, Jordan, June 1 – 10, 2010. At this camp, EWEI also produced a landmark for Generations For Peace by having two second generation delegates attending, making presentations and sharing experiences.
- Consolidating on Local Partnership by representing Generations For Peace at the 33rd Rotaract District 2450 Conference, June 23 - 27, 2010 in Beirut, Lebanon.
- Assistant Facilitator, Generations For Peace Camp Sochi, Russia, October 1 – 10, 2010.

JANUARY 2011

- **EWEI CEPWOP DELEGATE ASABE VICTOR YOHANNA STEPS DOWN TO STAGE TWO OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION FOR WOMEN PROJECT (CEPWOP) IN COLLABORATION WITH AMINCI AWARENESS AND EMPOWERMENT WOMEN CLUB KADUNA AT KANINKON HALL UNGWAR ROMI, KADUNA, NIGERIA ON THE 8TH OF JANUARY, 2011**

Asabe Victor Yohanna a 2010 CEPWOP delegate organized her step down project in collaboration with the Aminci Awareness and Empowerment Women Club on the 8th of January 2011 at 10.00am. Aminci Awareness and Empowerment Women Club was founded in 2007 and has a membership strength of 45. Recently the club graduated 10 seamstresses who they supported throughout their training. The activity was an advocacy and sensitization project with the objective of encouraging and promoting women's participation in the political process. It was also organized to encourage women to come and register and vote during the upcoming voter's registration exercise and elections. There was a very impressive turnout of participants at the event. With 54 participants in attendance, presentations were made in the local social language of the area; Hausa.

- **EWEI AT A TWO DAY WORKSHOP FOR KADUNA CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS ON BUDGET PROCESS ON THE ORGANISED BY SAVI AND SPARC ON THE 13TH-14TH JANUARY, 2011 AT ASO HOTEL, MUHAMMADU BUHARI WAY, KADUNA AT 9.00AM DAILY**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative attended and participated in a two day workshop for civil society on budget process held at Aso Hotel Muhamadu Buhari Way, Kaduna on the 13th-14th of January 2011 at 9.00am daily. The aim of the workshop was to enlighten civil society on all the stages of the budget process and ways to effectively engage the state house of assembly to positively influence the annual budget of the state to drive development efforts and initiatives in the state. The two day workshop involved various presentations on the budget process, what effective strategies civil society could use to positively influence the budget and very hearty deliberations and questions from the civil society partners on various aspects of the budget process as well as ways of better engaging with the state house of assembly.

FEBRUARY 2011

- **EWEI CEPWOP DELEGATE TALATU BABA STEPS DOWN TO STAGE TWO OF THE CIVIC EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION FOR WOMEN PROJECT (CEPWOP) AT BAPTIST CHURCH, AGYEITYAP, GONINGORA, KADUNA ON THE 19TH OF FEBRUARY, 2011.**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative CEPWOP delegate, Mrs Talatu Baba, organized a step down of the CEPWOP project to stage two at First Baptist Church, Agyeityap on the 19th of February 2011 by 10 am. The programme which had over 23 women present with 3 men and 4 children, was co-facilitated by Mrs. Theresa Binyat who was the first speaker. She explained to participants what civic education is and the importance of being involved in democratic governance. The second speaker was another CEPWOP delegate, women leader and head of Aminci Awareness and Empowerment Club, Mrs Asabe Victor who emphasized the importance of women in nation building. She urged the women to always bear in mind that as women that they have the power to effect a change in their community and the nation at large. Mavis Orjime (EWEI) who supervised the programme spoke on the power of the "vote" and how one vote can make a difference. She urged them to always be involved in governance by voting credible leaders and also encourage other women who are vying for elective post by voting for them.

- **EWEI AT THE ANALYSIS OF THE KADUNA STATE 2011 BUDGET BY CITIZENS FORUM ON PARTICIPATORY BUDGETTING AT ASAA PYRAMID HOTEL, LAFIA ROAD, KADUNA 19TH OF FEBRUARY, 2011 AT 9.00AM**

The program was kicked off by Mohammed Tola who welcomed all participants and called on their contributions in analyzing the budget. The first paper presentation was by a director from The Kaduna State Ministry of Health who discussed the administrative aspects of the budget. The second speaker was Mr Emmanuel Bonet who analyzed the health sector and made recommendations. Dr.ZKA Bonat made the third presentation with analysis on the State Governor's proposed budget. Mr Dan Ishaya in his presentation compared the 2010 budget and the 2011 budget. It was seen from the proposed budget that Kaduna State will have underperformed in the capital budget especially as it is not doing enough in terms of revenue generation. It was agreed at the end of the program that a communiqué will be drafted based on the deliberations and analysis made and members will be sent copies via email. EWEI was represented at the event by Mavis Orjime and Safiya Ibn Garba.

MARCH 2011

➤ **EWEI AT THE SITUATION ROOM ORGANISED BY POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM THE OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR WEST AFRICA (OSIWA) ON THE 3RD OF MARCH, 2011 AT IMMACULATE SUITES, ABUJA**

The Situation Room is intended to be a forum for exchange of ideas between Nigerian civil society groups working on the 2011 election issues. The inaugural meeting which held on Thursday March 3, 2011 at the Immaculate Suites Wuse II, Abuja, between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. It has been observed that there are several electoral issues that require combined civil society effort to effectively address. These include:

- Conduct of political parties;
- INEC's preparations and civil society liaison with INEC;
- Conduct of law enforcement agents;
- Conduct of the Judiciary and preparations for electoral dispute resolution;
- International advocacy

Discussions centered on the above mentioned issues and what action the situation room would take to address them. EWEI was appointed a member of the steering committee of The Situation Room to represent women and youth from the North-West in addition to other civil society organizations.

➤ **EWEI AND THE GENDER WORKING GROUP COMMEMORATE THE 2011 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY ON THE 8TH OF MARCH 2011 AT KAYS FUN CENTRE, POLICE COLLEGE, KADUNA FROM 10.00AM TO 6.00PM**

This year, EWEI and the GWG marked the IWD by organizing an exhibition and seminar for indigenous women artists/craftswomen aimed at providing them with exposure, display their craft, help them meet and share experiences with other artists/craftswomen, celebrate their achievements and highlight and address the various issues that affect girls and women in our communities.

The sub-theme for this year's IWD is Equal Access to education, training, science and technology: Pathway to decent work for women."

Activities kicked off several days prior to March 8th with appearances by EWEI and GWG on Capital TV on various programmes aimed at raising awareness towards the day. These programmes were Weekend Treat, Breakfast Show on the 5th of March 2011 at 7.00 and 8.00am respectively and Kaduna a Yau on the 7th of March, 2011 at 2.00pm.

At the Exhibition and Seminar on 8th of March, activities included a keynote address, goodwill messages from development partners like UNICEF, SAVI, Traditional heads and Government officials amongst others, interactive session on women and education, skills acquisition workshops on hat making and computer appreciation and a raffle draw. The event was anchored by Abdiel Kude, Director of Global Community Prime Initiative and Diana Agabi State Programme Officer, ABANTU for Development.

A total of 16 artists/craftswomen/groups exhibited crafts and products at the exhibition out of the 25 that initially indicated interest in the event. The groups that exhibited are in bold out of the initial 25.

Mrs. Comfort Debonnaire, Youth Orphans and Widows Empowerment (YOWE), Mrs. Kemi Adene, Mrs. Alice Teru, ABANTU for Development, Aminci Awareness and Empowerment Club, Rejoice Humanitarian NGO, J. Shallom Hat Making, Women with Faith, Haj. Salamatu Ahmed, Federation of Muslim Women Associations of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Kungiyar Mata Masu Tasuwa, Divine Venture Fashion Design, Nagarta Women Associattion (NAWAS), Women in Tourism, National Museum and Monuments, Kaduna, Women with Disability Self-Reliance Centre, Gracee Creation, Royal Headwear, Globuk Art Foundation, Phildeb Outfit, Mrs. Uchechi Asekhome, Ebadan Angela, Serena Bokubo and Zamani Sage Team.

The rest of the exhibitors attended the event as participants. Several of the exhibitors talked about how their skills and crafts have helped them support their families and give them opportunities to earn extra income. Items exhibited include: Beads and earrings, Hats, Perfumes, Liquid soaps and shampoo, Bags, Decorative items, Paintings, Tie and Dye, Kampala, Vaseline, Calabashes, Seasonings, Sponges, Shoes, Household Items, Pictures and many other beautiful arts and crafts.

Others at the event included representatives from UNICEF, SIECOM, SAVI, SPARC,ESSPIN, French Embassy, students from Government Girls Secondary School Doka, Zamani College, lecturers and students from Kaduna Polytechnic and other higher institutions, other development partners and civil society organizations, the media, women groups, government institutions, youth, art lovers and others.

Media representatives came from both the print and electronic media like The Sun, Desert Herald, Kaduna State Media Corporation Radio and Capital TV, DITV, Galaxy TV, FRCN, Leadership, Daily Trust, DW Radio, BBC, NANS, Newstar, The Market,

Hon. Dr. Mrs Hannatu Binyat, Acting Chairman of the Kaduna State Independent Electoral Commission and Chief Executive Officer of PADEC gave the keynote address focusing on the need for women to build their capacity to enable them fully take part in issues of governance.

Hon. Mrs Binyat concluded with a call: "Let us lead with good practice. Let us show what can be achieved when co-operatives enable women all over the world to reap the benefits of equal access to education, training, science and technology."

211 participants registered for the event with 89 of them taking part in the hat making skills acquisition class and 38 taking part in the computer appreciation class. Participants were treated to lunch and skills acquisition classes in the course of the day. The event started at 10.00am and ended by 6.00pm.

➤ **EWEI HOLDS FIRST EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR FOR 2011 ON 12TH OF MARCH AT 10.00AM AT ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT, AHMADU BELLO WAY, KADUNA, NIGERIA**

EWEI held the first of the 2011 empowerment seminars on the 12th of March 2011 at ABANTU for Development, Y.A. Ahmed House, Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna at 10.00am.

The meeting was attended by 6 ESP beneficiaries, age range 15-17, 3 adolescent girls from YOWE (Youth, Orphans and Widow Empowerment) aged 13-17 and 4 participants from Women with disability self reliance centre Kaduna age range 15- 29. Two of the participants were visually impaired and one hearing impaired. A total of 13 girls benefited from the event.

With 4 chaperons to help facilitate the process including the co-coordinator of women with disability self reliance centre, Riskat Muhammad, 2 staff from KASSES and NASEPHA (who helped facilitate the seminar in sign language for the hearing impaired), one from YOWE and four EWEI staff, the girls took part in various activities. From a review of their goal setting exercise which started at the last empowerment seminar, they went into a word game session where they sought out words in a word search while learning the meanings of the words, a down to earth discussion on challenges of adolescence, the statue game, a short session on optical illusions to help them develop interest in the sciences and a map of Nigeria jigsaw game.

All of the activities were to help improve their observation and public skills, teamwork and help girls develop interest in sciences. The participants were treated to light refreshment and one of the participants; Bilkisu was also rewarded for punctuality with a little gift.

➤ **EWEI AT A TWO DAY RETREAT FOR THE GENDER WORKING GROUP AT SAMINAKA HOLIDAY RESORT SAMINAKA FROM 14TH- 16TH MARCH 2011**

EWEI participated in a two day retreat for the members of the Gender Working Group at Saminaka Holiday Resort, Saminaka from the 14th- 16th of March, 2011. The retreat afforded the partnership to reflect on past work and plan for further activities and engagements. Several sessions and presentations took place and lessons learned from the workshop included the need for more visible reflection processes, better information management and sharing, more commitment from partnership members and the need to be more strategic in designing and delivering activities and interventions.

➤ **EWEI AT A ONE DAY TRAINING FOR CSOS AS SECURITY OBSERVERS FOR THE 2011 GENERAL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 15th, 2011, AT ASAA PYRAMID HOTELS, KADUNA.**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative participated in a one day training for CSOs as observers on the policing/security of the forthcoming 2011 general elections. The training was organized by Justice for All on the 15th of March 2011 at Asaa Pyramid Hotels, Kaduna.

In his welcome address, Mallam Mohammed Auwa welcomed all participants and outlined the aims of the program. He said the aim of training CSOs was to form a partnership between CSOs and J4A to assess institutions of Government as CSOs are generally considered the voice of the community.

The first facilitator was Mr. Tony Ojukwu, Esq, the legal advice consultant of National Human Rights Commission. His presentation was titled "The Role and Functions of Security Forces in elections." The second paper was a review of the security performance in 2003 and 2007 elections presented by Mr. Innocent Chukwuma, Ambassador for Peace and Executive Director, CLEEN Foundation. Recommendations were made on how to improve in the next elections. After lunch break, the INEC Guidelines on Election Observation was presented to participants. The Police service commission guidelines for elections were also discussed. The training came to an end at 4:50pm. EWEI was represented at the seminar by Mavis Orjime.

- **EWEI CEPWOP DELEGATE TINA SIMON STEPS DOWN ON THE 19TH OF MARCH 2011 AT ST.PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH UNGWAN ROMI AT 1.00PM**

EWEI CEPWOP delegate, Mrs. Tina Simon who is also the president of Kaduna State Tailor's Association carried out her step down activity to stage of the CEPWOP Project.

The event started with prayers and a welcome address by Rev.Canon Cletus Magaji who welcome all the participants and wished all productive deliberations.

Tina Simon spoke briefly on the purpose of the gathering and welcomed participants and special guests. Pastor Philip Mordecai gave a short exhortation from a biblical perspective on Advocacy.

He was followed by Evangelist Deborah Michael who spoke very powerfully on the need for a change and charged women to be more responsive to their civic duties. Tina Simon translated all presentations to Hausa as well as an additional brief presentation on the need for women to participate in politics and encourage other women to go into politics. EWEI Programme Director also talked briefly on the need for women to be more involved in governance and encouraged participants to come out and vote during the upcoming 2011 elections. Participants during the feedback segment thanked EWEI and Tina Simon for initiating such a movement and expressed delight at the efforts being made to promote good governance. The event ended at quarter past 3 pm with pictures and refreshments.

In attendance were 32 women including women leaders of church groups, pastor's wives and members of the success group. In addition 2 pastors and 2 EWEI staff attended the event bringing the total participants to 36.
- **EWEI AT THE 2011 ELECTIONS SITUATION ROOM'S CSOs INTERACTIVE DIALOUGE WITH INEC CHAIRMAN PROF. ATTAHIRU JEGA AT IMMACULATE SUITES, ABUJA ON THE 21ST OF MARCH 2011 ORGANISED BY POLICY AND ADVOCACY LEGAL CENTRE (PLAC)**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) participated in an interactive session with INEC Chair Prof. Attahiru Jega on the 21st of March, 2011 at Immaculate Suites, Abuja at 10.00am – 1.00pm. Clement Nwankwo Executive Director PLAC, started proceedings by appreciating everyone present particularly the INEC Chairman Prof. Jega, development partners like OSIWA, UNDP and DFID and Civil Society Organizations from across the country.

Brief messages came from UNDP and OSIWA where they expressed their delight at such a platform that would bring INEC and CSOs together for the first time to talk about upcoming elections and to give CSOs a chance to ask questions and get clarity direct from the Commission's top management.

Mashood Erubami, Chairman, TMG, who chaired the occasion, asked the INEC Chair to give his opening remarks. In his remarks, Prof. Jega said he was delighted at the opportunity to meet with Civil Society and gave an update on the Commission's preparedness for the 2011 elections.
- **EWEI AT GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKSHOP FROM 23RD - 25TH MARCH 2011 AT TEEJAY HOTEL ZARIA, KADUNA**

EWEI participated in a Gender and Social Inclusion workshop as part of the Gender Working Group from 23rd - 25th March 2011 at Teejay Hotel, Zaria, Kaduna.

The workshop featured presentations and group work on gender and inclusion concepts, Frameworks to gender and social inclusion analysis, checklists for analysis of policy documents and women empowerment frameworks.

The workshop was very useful and educational for all participants and helped everyone begin to see opportunities for wider application of gender and social inclusion concepts in individual and partnership work. The two day workshop also saw advocacy partners from the different groups design work plans to apply acquired knowledge.
- **EWEI AS PART OF THE GENDER WORKING GROUP'S PRESENTATION AT MEDIUM TERM SECTOR STRATEGY (MTSS) WORKSHOP AT DAN FODIA HAL PYRAMID HOTEL KADUNA ON THE 30TH OF MARCH 2011**

The Gender Working Group participated and made a presentation at the Medium Term Strategy Workshop at Danfodio Hall Assaa Pyramid Hotel Kaduna on the 30th of March 2011.

The workshop was attended by representatives from various Government agencies and parastatals like the Ministry of Education, Economic Planning, Agriculture and Water Resources, KADSACA, SUBEB, Health and Development partners like SAVI, SPACR, ESSPIN, PATHS, and ENR.

In the speech of the Permanent Secretary presented by the representative of the Honourable Commissioner and Permanent Secretary of The Ministry of Economic Planning, he stated that he hoped this workshop would set the pace for the 2012 budgeting process. He said, "..... the fact that this meeting was taking place in the first quarter of the year shows that we hope to be better prepared to face challenges which may arise

while discussing those faced last year we hope to be able to make out solutions for a better process this year.”

He appreciates DFID through SPARC for their continued support in ensuring better systems and structures for better service delivery. Shinning a spotlight on the Eleven Point Agenda (EPA), he noted that it gives priority to the following areas.

- Peace and security
- FMC
- Improved welfare packages for civil servants
- Infrastructural development especially road construction
- Tertiary Education
- Water Expansion

The implications of the MTSS and KDSP and State Vision 2020 are not dire as the state already had these as its priorities from beginning therefore the policy directive is centered towards achieving the set goals and objectives designed in the state plans. There is also currently a review of the MDAs that have adopted the MTSS process to see what has been done and how much the process has worked. He wished all good and successful discussions.

APRIL 2011

➤ **EWEI AND THE 2011 ELECTIONS**

Throughout the month of April, EWEI actively took part in election observation through EWEI's involvement in the Nigeria Elections Situation Room. From the co-ordination of Polling Unit observation from the Situation Room in Abuja to the on the ground observation and reporting, EWEI took part in a ground breaking effort convened by the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) where various Civil Society Organisations and networks brought their resources together to bring real time and relevant information and analysis on the Nigeria 2011 elections.

EWEI also observed the elections under the Justice for All auspices with particular focus on the Conduct of Security agencies during the process. Several reports and papers have been produced as a result of these activities.

MAY 2011

➤ **EWEI PD FEATURES ON DESMIMS INDEPENDENT TELEVISION'S TALK YOUR MIND ON THE 13TH OF MAY 2011**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative's Programme Director Safiya Ibn Garba featured on "Talk Your Mind" a DITV current affairs programme on the subject "Women and the 2011 Elections." With host Segun Victor, EWEI PD talked about how women fared in the 2011 elections- from their involvement in political parties, their aspirations for political offices, their role as electorate and the challenges they faced being a part of the 2011 elections. She also expatiated on how the various events before and during the elections affected women and other vulnerable groups. She used the opportunity to call on elected officials to deliver good governance and ensure a better quality of life for all as she encouraged the electorate not to rest on their oars but to continue to engage elected and government officials demanding accountability in civil ways to ensure better service delivery post 2011 elections. She also talked about the efforts of the various CSOs of the Gender Working Group pre and post elections to promote civic education. DITV broadcasts to over half of Kaduna State's 6 million plus residents. The programme was broadcast on the 17th of May 2011 at 10.00pm.

JUNE 2011

➤ **EWEI AT THE POST ELECTION MEETING ON THE 2011 NIGERIA GENERAL ELECTIONS: EXPERIENCE SHARING, LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD HELD AT SHERATON HOTEL ABUJA, WEDNESDAY JUNE 1ST 2011**

EWEI attended and participated the post election meeting on the 2011 Nigeria elections to share experiences, lessons learned and chart a course for the way forward with other stakeholders. The meeting brought together all of the stakeholders and actors in the 2011 Nigeria general elections to share experiences on their roles during the preparation and conduct of the elections. Participants at the meeting included representatives from INEC, NP, Office of the NSA, Civil Society and Development Partners. The report also details losses from the post election crisis in two states and suggestions to and responses from INEC on several issues raised.

JULY 2011

➤ EWEI QUARTERLY EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR HELD ON THE 30TH OF JULY 2011 AT ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT KADUNA, NIGERIA

An empowerment seminar was held on the 30th of July 2011 at ABANTU for Development from 11.00am. This edition was the second in 2011 (being the second quarter) and featured a review session of the Educational Subsidy Programme, a Bring Back the Book segment and basic computing segment. The meeting which started late due to the newly re-introduced monthly environmental sanitation exercise kicked off at 11.00am with a review of the ESP with five beneficiaries present, three guardians and one teacher. The first session was facilitated by EWEI Programme Director Safiya Ibn Garba, She gave a brief narrative about the progress of the ESP and how the project has progressed since it took off. She talked about the challenges EWEI has faced in its implementation and also extended the sympathies of EWEI at the death of the father of one of the beneficiaries, Jemilat Abdulkareem. She noted that such events made the ESP so much more needful in the lives of the beneficiaries to ensure that their educational ambitions are not cut short. She mentioned the communication gap in resumption dates, the unwillingness of the girls to submit their reports as at when due, their attitude to the EWEI facilitator and the need for ESP beneficiaries to take EWEI projects more seriously. Some responses on issues raised included:

- Some messages sent through the girls do not get to the parents/guardians
- Communication for meetings should be early
- One of the guardians offered to give us currently information about secondary schools due to her vantage position within the ministry of education
- Problem with results is widespread and sometime the girls themselves withhold their results-this is because the students are not satisfied
- Programmes like debates and competitions should be organized to help the girls communication skills
- The guardians wanted EWEI not to be in doubt of how the ESP was appreciated and how much it benefitted the girls
- Teachers present also expressed their pleasure at the ESP and promised to be involved in monitoring the students and suggested certain areas of concentration for EWEI to consider for intervention.

After thrashing the issues on the ESP, beneficiaries were told they would be having an impromptu test which was taken later in the programme. The second segment was facilitated by Ms. Elizabeth Anche, a broadcaster, producer and presenter at the Kaduna State Media Corporation. She steered the Bring Back the Book (BBTB) segment where participants were taught about communication, reading and pronunciation. This segment was a highly interactive session where participants got to express their views on different topics as well as a practical reading session. The basic computing segment was facilitated by Mr. Ade Balogun an IT consultant who took the participants through the basics of computing, identifying computer parts and accessories and what each part was used for. Afterwards, the 5 ESP beneficiaries took the test while the YOWE participant spent some time on the computer using a typing tutor. Two snack breaks were provided in the course of the programme and the meeting was brought to a close at 4.00pm with a vote of thanks by the Programme Director. In total, 6 girls (5 ESP beneficiaries and 1 from Youth and Widows Empowerment YOWE), 2 facilitators, 2 teachers, 3 guardians, 4 EWEI staff and 1 ABANTU staff attended the empowerment seminar.

AUGUST 2011

➤ EWEI AT MTSS COMMITTEE MEETING AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ON THE 2ND OF AUGUST 2011

The Gender Working Group attended an MTSS Committee meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture on the 2nd of August 2011. The meeting was the first for GWG as part of the CSO Ad-Hoc Committee on Agriculture MTSS. In attendance were heads of departments and ministry officials, civil society members of the agric MTSS Ad-hoc committee and SAVI. In her opening remarks the Permanent Secretary talked about their successes from the past year's efforts at MTSS and how interesting the experience was. She also talked about the disappointment at the non-implementation of the MTSS after the call circular detailed the budget ceilings. She was however delighted that CSOs would now be involved in the process and wished all fruitful deliberations. The draft copy of the Performance review was circulated and various departmental heads were asked to study and make input/corrections.

Reports on training highlighted the MTSS Workshop held on the of 28th- 30th of June 2011 at ASSA Pyramid hotel (where GWG was represented by Hauwa and Hannatu) where some ministry officia's capacity was built on the MTSS process, review the current fiscal situation, be informed of timelines for the various processes and discuss and agree on strategies for public engagement. Comments that came in addition to the recommendations included:

- a. A need to prioritize and be realistic in drawing up the MTSS this time
- b. Training is essential to the success of the process and is badly needed (Evident from the questions that came from participants during the meeting)
- c. To the request of the CSOs that a copy of the Co-operative policy and KSDP be given to them, it was made known that the co-operative policy is under review but the current copy would be made available also for input from CSO and attempts would be made to get the KSDP for photocopying by the CSOs
- d. The KSDP final copy will be launched and presented on the 20th of December 2011.

The Chairman of the Agric MTSS committee, Dr. Audi stated the ministry's delight at working with CSOs in the process and promised to extend invitations to the CSOs whenever meetings would be held. Closing remarks included appreciation from the chairman followed by closing prayers.

➤ **EWEI AT A TWO DAY WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NASS) COMMITTEES AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs) ORGANISED BY POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID) ON THE 10TH AND 11TH OF AUGUST 2011 AT HAWTHORN SUITES, ABUJA**

EWEI attended and participated in a workshop on Improving Collaboration between NASS committees and CSOs which was organized by the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) with support from the British Department for International Development (DFID).

In the statement of purpose, Ijeoma Ugwueze of PLAC noted that the NASS is an important platform for achieving the much needed change in Nigeria's governance and as a law making body the NASS role in facilitating change is significant in Nigeria's democracy. Civil Society Groups are also key stakeholders in the legislative process and work in specific areas. To make meaning of their work CSOs will need to ensure that their work feeds into the policy process as well as legislature. Thus cooperation between CSOs and NASS becomes an imperative.

In his opening remarks, Executive Director PLAC, Clement Nwankwo also highlighted the importance of Civil Society involvement in the legislative process and how a result of that involvement is the enactment of the Freedom of Information Act.

He paid tribute to His Excellency Jerry Ugokwe who was a member of the House of Representatives from 1999 to 2003 and was the initiator of the Freedom of Information Bill and introduced the most bills in the House of Representatives at that time, he was then appointed an ambassador in further service to his nation. Jerry Ugokwe also raised the motion that former military rulers should not get remuneration as past presidents especially since they already get paid as retired military officers and very particularly for the fact that they were not duly elected into office. He also introduced the cult and secret society bill after receiving several submissions in his constituency office about the negative impact of such groups and his proposing such a bill was accompanied with risks. Chief Odun of DFID delivered a goodwill message where he stated DFID's goals including their commitment to improve the voices of the general citizenry. He added that good collaboration results in good legislative process.

His Excellency Jerry Ugokwe's two presentations were titled: Bridging the Gap between Advocacy and policy and Bridging the Citizens and Activities of the National Assembly.

Some responses to presentations made include:

1. CS has to be proactive in aiding the implementation of the FOI Act and if necessary take up noncompliance by going to court, there should also be more seminars on the FOI Act itself to help build CS capacity on its provisions

2. Mid-term election is a constitutional issue that can only be introduced/addressed constitutionally. Constitutional amendment is needed to address messy election/tenure situations and introduce order into the process

3. CS needs to collaborate more to utilize the strength in their numbers.

Chief Chris Asoluka former consultant to NASS and NDI and former House of Representative member made two presentations. One was Committee Process and Perspective of the Role of CSOs in Legislative Development and the second was Committees and Democratizing Citizens Access to the Law Making Process. He illustrated stakeholders involved in legislative process and used the illustration of the concentric power circles to show every stakeholder's place and influence. He also talked about the differences between committee and public hearings. How committee hearings are called to obtain technical advice and used for fact finding while public hearings are called for all who care to come and contribute to discussions on a particular issue.

Dr. Shuaibu Dawakan of the Policy Analysis and Research Project (PARP) made two presentations at the workshop. One was CSO involvement and Participation in the Work of Committees and the second was CSO Involvement in Creating Citizens Awareness of the Legislative Process.

He stated that oversight functions are improved through the participation of CSOs in committee duties through ways like agenda setting. For CSOs to effectively engage in the legislative process, they could use a number of ways:

- a. Bill Sponsorship: Constitutionally only a NASS member can raise a motion for the passing of a bill and so CSOs can produce a bill and hand over to a member. CSOs can provide information and shape the direction of the bill.
- b. Participation in public hearings: CSOs can release information that may not even have been captured in the memo/scope of the hearing
- c. Participation in investigative hearings and committee hearings

On Day two participants also included the media and it was observed that citizens largely believe that the legislature does not do much work outside the plenary sessions and it was important that more avenues be used to educate the citizenry on all the activities of the legislators e.g. the ongoing committee hearing on the BPE, inauguration of ECOWAS Parliament etc. Some of EWEI's submissions to the workshop included:

- a. There is a need to involve other agencies apart from private media organizations particularly state owned machineries e.g. the National Orientation Agency charged with mass mobilization to use such channels to bridge the information gap between the citizens and legislature as such, CSOs, Committees and all stakeholders should advocate accordingly
- b. It should be emphasized that legislators take part in progressive practices like stakeholders analysis to help broaden their thinking and shape their activities
- c. A multi-directional approach should be taken to engage in budgeting processes as it is instructive for CSOs to advocate to the executive (through strategic and sector plans e.g. MTSS) and directly to the legislators e.g. participatory budgeting mechanisms.

In response, the facilitators reiterated the collective responsibility on bridging the gap between the citizens and legislature, how committees like the committee(s) on information and national orientation within the NASS can take proactive steps to help raise awareness about NASS activities, how the fiscal responsibility Act is helping to legalize mid-term plans and strategies and how participatory budgeting through advocating to the legislators themselves can help shape the constituency projects to address the needs of the people. They also reemphasized the need for committees not to depend on the executive to do their work but work proactively. After robust deliberations, a communiqué was drawn up and circulated.

SEPTEMBER 2011

➤ **EWEI JOINS THE GENDER WORKING GROUP AND STATE AGENCY FOR MASS LITERACY TO COMMEMORATE THE WORLD LITERACY DAY ON THE 7TH OF SEPTEMBER 2011**

The 2011 International Literacy day celebration was a collaborative effort by the Gender Working Group and the Agency for Mass Literacy. The aim was to bring various stakeholders together to raise awareness about the agency, its functions and accomplishments, provide a means for experience sharing by officials of the agency and also for CS to contribute their views and ideas to help accomplish educational development goals. The theme for the 2011 International Literacy Day was "Literacy and Peace, with special consideration to gender equality. The event was held on the 7th of September 2011. However the literacy Day celebration is globally celebrated on the 8th of September every year. The event commenced with a brain storming session with participants on their expectations for the day. Key to the expectations was the desire of participants for the agency to have more Adult literacy programs in their communities to promote accessibility, more enrollment and completion especially for women. Other expectations included: what the state is doing to support those who are not literate with Basic English and numeric programs, and the need for more English literacy classes and programs.

The ceremony was anchored by Ms Elizabeth Anche. Invited dignitaries at the ceremony included the District Head of Doka – Baba Tijani, the Director of Higher Education representing the Commissioner of Education – Mr. Achai, the Team Leader of SAVI Kaduna – Ms Rebecca Sako-John, Team Leader Sparc Kaduna – Mr. Mark walker, Representative from Ministry of Poverty Alleviation – Mallam Aminu Zailani – Director of Admin and Finance/overseer, representatives from State Universal Basic Education. 60 participants attended the event.

Recommendations:

- The Agency for Mass literacy in collaboration with GWG, CSACEFA and UNICEF to aggressively advocate for the passage of the Child Rights Bill
- The Agency for Mass Literacy should review its curriculum to include peace education and basic elementary gender studies with special interest on women's rights. The promotion of peace will impact positively on achieving their mandate
- Mainstream gender into all basic literacy programs. Engendered education policies empower women's income with the likelihood of their children attending school,
- Traditional rulers and Religious leaders should spearhead advocacy and mobilization of communities' members on the importance of literacy and peace in communities and national development.
- Community Based Organization should target heads of household to encourage them to allow illiterate female of their household to enroll in literacy classes
- Government to increase funding, teacher training, retraining, curriculum review and increased supervision while those in the North engage communities to contribute to the development of literacy and education in general especially the educated among them.
- Integrate Basic Education Curriculum into the Quranic schools to target the Almajiris.

➤ **EWEI AT DITV TEENS AND TWEENS PROGRAMME FEATURED ON THE 10TH OF SEPTEMBER 2011**

EWEI Programme Director, Safiya Ibn Garba featured on a DITV Programme; Teens and Tweens to talk about the challenges of adolescence and the importance of Literacy.

The programme highlighted the various issues teenagers and young people faced in the society like the physiological, psychological and environmental challenges and how better parents, schools and other stakeholders can address those issues.

Presented by Segun and James, the programme also featured discussions on the Literacy Day which is commemorated on the 8th of September every year to raise awareness about the importance of Literacy and provide avenues for discussions on how to improve literacy and achieve educational development goals.

EWEI PD called on all to play their part to help to address issues like teenage pregnancy, youth restiveness and appealed to the media to use their resources and coverage to support programmes like Literacy by Radio. She also called on the government to commit more resources to mass literacy which would also help to promote peace in the society and encouraged the use of counselors to help teenagers and young adults through the challenging growing up years. The programme was broadcast on DITV at 10.00am on Saturday, 10th September 2011.

➤ **EWEI AT WORKSHOP ON OPERATIONALISING A WORK PLAN FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (NASS) COMMITTEES ORGANISED BY POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE BRITISH DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE 14TH AND 15TH OF SEPTEMBER 2011 AT HAWTHORN SUITES, ABUJA.**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) attended and participated in a workshop on Operationalising a work plan for NASS committees organized by PLAC and DFID on the 14th and 15th of September 2011 at Hawthorn Suites Abuja. In the statement of purpose, Omolara Akinyeye stated that in May 2011, PLAC and DFID organized a workshop in Minna to begin developing a work plan manual for the committees of the NASS.

As a follow up to this process, this workshop is a step down training over a two day period for two different sets of staff of the NASS to help committees better organize their work and become more productive. It was reiterated that Information Technology is vital to the work of committees including carrying out of oversight, planning and appropriate staffing and Clement Nwankwo, Executive Director PLAC, while welcoming participants to the workshop, gave a brief background of participants and resource persons. He noted that such platforms were important to help improve the work plan manual development process to ensure a participatory mechanism and the production of a rich and comprehensive document.

➤ **GENERATIONS FOR PEACE INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY HELD ON THE 21ST OF SEPTEMBER 2011 AT AHMADU BELLO STADIUM KADUNA, NIGERIA**

Generations For Peace held a one day Advocacy event for members of the media, civil society, religious, women, youth groups and government officials from four Local Government Areas in Kaduna State. The event was also to mark the international peace day which is celebrated every year to raise awareness about peace and its significance, as well as to inspire individuals and empower communities to celebrate victories of tolerance, understanding and reconciliation that have been won throughout the year. It is marked every year on September 21, and is a day when individuals, communities, nations and governments highlight efforts to end conflict and promote peace. Established by a U.N. resolution in 1982, "Peace Day" has grown to include millions of people around the world who participate in all kinds of events, large and small. The event was held at Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna, Nigeria.

The one day Advocacy Event (ADE) seminar consisted of a full day of training using Generations for Peace educational modules (Sport and Peace, Advocacy and Partnerships and Working with Children) and practical peace building through sport sessions which were facilitated by Generations for Peace Pioneer and delegates from the 1st to the 3rd Generation. The peace building through sports session practically demonstrated using sport for peace building with participants having lots of fun while learning to build peace. 23 youth and leaders of youth and officials from Kaduna North, South, Zangon Kataf and Soba Local Government Areas, Sports Writers Association of Nigeria, Women Groups, Faith based organizations, Persons with disabilities groups, Media, Community and Urban based Civil Society Organizations attended the event effectively becoming Generations for Peace Advocates back in their communities and organizations.

The event also featured the symbolic lighting of peace candles to commemorate the International Peace Day. The symbolic lighting of Peace candles is to commemorate all young victims of conflicts around the world and bring light to our wishes and desires for a more peaceful world.

Some of the organizations that participated at the event included the National Sports Commission, National Association of Women Journalists Kaduna branch, Women with disability and self reliance centre, Women groups, National Youth Council and Media organizations.

➤ **EWEI AT A ONE DAY WORKSHOP ON STRATEGISING ON EXPEDITIOUS PASSAGE OF REFORM BILLS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP ORGANISED BY THE POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE (PLAC) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID) ON 26 SEPTEMBER, 2011 AT HAWTHORN SUITES, ABUJA.**

EWEI attended and participated in a workshop organized by the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) in collaboration with the Department for International Development(DFID) on strategising for the expeditious passage of reform bills in the National Assembly on 26 September, 2011. The workshop was attended by the Deputy Clerk of National Assembly, The Deputy Clerk of the Senate; the Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives, The Director of Legal Services in the National Assembly Senate; Committee Staff in the Senate and House of Representatives; academics and civil society organizations including Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative were all in attendance at the workshop. Some observations from the workshop were as follows:

- There are a lot of bills pending at the National Assembly that have to be passed expeditiously.

- There are still many priority areas that require either laws made by the National Assembly or corrections made on existing laws in order to introduce new ways of doing things to transform the polity and the society in general.
- Some of the contributing factors to the large number of pending bills in the National Assembly include the narrow content of bills, poor drafting and institutional duplicity.
- Inadequate or late legislative scrutiny is also responsible for the large number of pending bills, and there are certain issues that do not require being addressed by legislative framework but simply through policy statements.
- Some issues have to be addressed constitutionally before member bills are enacted to regulate them.
- Training and re-training of committee staff on bill scrutiny, analysis and drafting is needful, so that their capacity will be sufficiently enhanced.
- That there should be a provision of comprehensive, administrative framework and workplan.
- It is necessary for the legislators to have confidence in the committee staff and make use of their expertise to facilitate the quick passage of bills.
- That the large turnover of legislators affect the quick passage of bills.
- Non implementation of recommendations from training programs
- Legislators do not engage to the fullest the vast human resources made available to them in form of aides;consultants e.t.c in addition to the various other resources available at the National Assembly to build their capacity and improve in their functions.
- Better collaboration should be encouraged between both chamber committees and such collaboration should be institutionalised.
- Non implementation of resolutions from training programmes

The Workshop recommended as follows:

- The gap that exists in parliamentary information, procedure and practice should be closed by constant training and re-training of committee members. More hands should be employed to learn from the old staff who are more experienced on the job and more internship opportunities provided.
- That the legislative job should be made more selfless and dedicated to service of the nation.
- There should be a synergy between the Senate and the House of Representatives. The 2 Houses must establish a relationship and information sharing as a strategy of making work easier and as a means of reducing and possibly eliminating the deep seated suspicion and stereotyping of the parliamentarians.
- The National Assembly prioritises resource allocation by increasing funding to the actual process of lawmaking.
- That legislators should develop themselves by reading widely in order to broaden their thinking and experiences with a view to helping them understand the issues they legislate on including best practices on such issues.
- Exchange visits and experience sharing between international legislative committees should be encouraged to improve the legislative process.
- Institutionalise regular meetings between Clerks of the committees of both Houses.

The process of legislation is cumbersome and time consuming so the two Chambers must identify and prioritize legislation on the basis of their importance to the smooth running of government and concentrate on them instead of spending much time on less important issues.

OCTOBER 2011

➤ EWEI AT FIRST EVER GENERATIONS FOR PEACE EVER CURRICULUM REFRESHER WORKSHOP IN BEIRUIT, LEBANON FROM THE 1ST TO 2ND OF OCTOBER 2011

From 1 to 2 October, Generations For Peace staged the first ever Curriculum Refresher Workshop in Lebanon. The Curriculum Refresher Workshop reunited 24 Lebanese Pioneers and Delegates, trained either directly at Generations For Peace camps in Amman between 2007 and 2010, or indirectly through local programmes in Lebanon since 2008.

The two-day workshop was tailored to meet these practitioners' most pressing needs, with bespoke content addressing facilitation skills, peace building, monitoring and evaluation, and sport activities with team games like softball and football.

The educational sessions were led by Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative Programme Director and Generations For Peace Pioneer and Facilitator Safiya Ibn Garba, supported by second generation Delegate Valerie Dalati, a postgraduate student of conflict resolution at the Lebanese American University. Safiya used case studies and curriculum content to lay the foundations, and

Valerie brought it to life with a fresh perspective on peace building centered around new exercises and adapted to fit the local context.

➤ **EWEI AT GENERATIONS FOR PEACE SOCHI CAMP 10TH - 20TH OCTOBER 2011**

Generations For Peace's eighth peace building camp was opened today in Sochi by the international NGO's Founder and Chairman, HRH Prince Feisal Al Hussein, who expressed his conviction that this latest group of inspirational young change makers will "play their part in forging a brighter future for this generation and the next." Generations For Peace Sochi Camp 2011 will build on the enormous successes of last year's camp on Russia's Black Sea coast. 53 delegates from Bosnia & Herzegovina, Georgia, Serbia and the Russian Federation, identified through Generations For Peace's rigorous selection process, will receive 10 days' intensive training in the use of sport for peace and development. The training curriculum will consist of ten highly-developed modules designed to equip delegates with the tools they need to implement sustainable peace through sport projects: Sport and Peace; Peace Building; Working with Children and Youth; Train the Trainers; Advocacy and Partnerships; Facilitator's Guide; and four sports-specific modules.

Speaking at a press conference, HRH Prince Feisal described the keen sense of anticipation running through the group:

"I really share the delegates' excitement about what lies ahead over the next ten days. I have been truly humbled and inspired by the delegates we have trained in the past, and the incredible impact they have gone on to achieve. These delegates may be just beginning their own journey with us, but I have no doubt that they too will become certified as Generations For Peace Pioneers, and feel that sense of pride and satisfaction that comes from serving their communities."

Also speaking at this morning's press conference was Mayor of Sochi, Anatoly Pakhomov. HRH Prince Feisal hailed their shared vision of using the power of sport for peace and development, and thanked Mayor Pakhomov for his leadership in driving that vision. Mayor Pakhomov commented: 'We are honoured and delighted to welcome Generations For Peace back to Sochi for the second time. Our preparations to host the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2014 have given Sochi a great opportunity to stimulate positive social change throughout the region, through the combined power of sport and volunteerism. Partnering with an international NGO like Generations For Peace, with its expert facilitators and highly-developed curriculum, means we can help spread that change in our City, our region, our nation, and beyond.' Generations For Peace Sochi Camp 2011 is the eighth training camp staged since the organisation's inception in 2007. Last year's camp in Sochi was the NGO's first camp in Europe and it represented a significant landmark in its mission to achieve a truly global impact. Over the next ten days, the organisation's leadership is confident that with the committed support of the city of Sochi and the Sochi 2014 Organising Committee, Generations For Peace will take another great leap forward in that mission.

EWEI's Programme Director who is also a Generations For Peace Pioneer and Facilitator attended the camp and facilitated several sessions during the camp. She was also a special guest judge at a Sochi private school children Olympic presentation event and spoke at a Sochi 2014 volunteers camp.

NOVEMBER 2011

➤ **EWEI's ONE DAY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICIALS IN KADUNA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS PART OF EWEI's KNOW AND SAY NO CAMPAIGN**

On 16th November 2011, EWEI focused efforts on building the capacity of Government institutions by giving social workers tools and resources to better handle cases of gender based violence as well as to encourage the use of technological tools for grassroots development helping these officials perform their job functions more effectively. The Know and Say No project is primarily concerned with raising awareness about gender based violence as well as strengthening institutional capacities to address the pandemic of gender based violence. Know and Say provides a platform for effective actions towards the protection of minority rights and a voice for vulnerable groups.

Facilitating at the event were Safiya Ibn Garba EWEI Programme Director, Katherine Ishu Legal Practitioner and EWEI Mentor and Mavis Orjime, EWEI Programme Officer F & S.

Presentations and group activities included: Facts and Figures: Gender Based Violence, The Role of a Social Worker, Conflict and Peace Building and Technological Tools for Development.

Other presentations were Legal Recourse for Victims of Gender Based Violence and Women's Rights at the grassroots. The Key Outcomes of the workshop were to build organizational Capacity built on gender based violence, disseminate information on networking avenues and equip the social welfare workers to provide better services to minorities and vulnerable groups at the LGA level.

13 participants from the Social Welfare Department benefitted from the training. Some of their comments from the lessons learned and action plan segment include:

- We learnt what gender is, conflict resolution and women's rights at the grassroots, technology and we will put in into practice by educating and enlightening programmes for the community.
- We learnt about important ways of resolving conflict within our organization and homes.
- I learnt about the role I can play as a social worker in resolving issues that I may be confronted with- to settle disputes between individuals and communities.
- I have learnt that as a woman one can seek redress in court after she has been violated, through sex abuse or any form of violence that is meted upon her. I have also learnt that one should be technologically aware of the things that bring development in today's world.
- I have learnt that I must document every case that is being carried out in the office and I will like to go on the computer to learn more things that are related to my field.
- I have learnt that is important to educate girls on sex education and youth on drug abuse.
- I will give out lessons to grassroots women about the rights of women in our society

➤ **EWEI AT MINORITY RIGHTS GROUP (MRG) TRAINING ON MINORITY ISSUES AND PARTICIPATION IN THE UN FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES. HELD IN GENEVA SWITZERLAND FROM 23RD TO 27TH NOVEMBER,2011.**

In July 2011, EWEI P.O. (F & S)Mavis Orjime started an on line course with Minority Rights Group International under its global advocacy program. The aim of the course was to provide participants with the skills needed to enable their organizations and communities to more effectively secure the realization and protection of minority rights

Minority Rights Group International (MRG) is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) working to secure the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous people worldwide and to promote cooperation and understanding between communities through international advocacy, training, publishing and outreach.

The course ran through July to October 2011. At the end of the course, Mavis was one of the students selected to participate in the Minority Rights Group International Global Advocacy Programme's training on UN Mechanisms and also fully participate in the fourth session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues in Geneva Switzerland. The training took place from 23rd to 27th November, 2011 at Palais des Nations, from 10:00am to 6pm daily.

At the training, participants were introduced to the UN mechanisms, and capacity of participants were built on the role of civil societies, the Universal periodic Review (UPR), the Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Human Rights defenders mandate, treaty bodies, fundraising workshops, how to engage the media and how to write effective interventions for the forum on minority issues.

The Fourth session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues took place from 28th -30th November,2011. At the UN House. The theme of the 2011 session was "Guaranteeing the Rights of Minority women."

Governments and civil society groups were represented and given a chance to make presentations on the situation of minorities in their communities. Mavis Orjime presented a statement under the Global Advocacy Group from Africa for Humanity Knights Network titled Minority Women Rights and Effective Participation in Economic, Social and Cultural Life.

Mavis also participated in panel discussions on violence against minority women and their access to justice and "Empowering minority women to claim their rights: identifying effective practices."

Seven of the participants were from Africa who had passed the on line training and were sponsored by the MRG African office. There were two participants from Zimbabwe, one from Uganda, One from Cameroon, One from Rwanda, one from Botswana and one from Nigeria.

DECEMBER 2011

- **EWEI CEPWOP TOWN HALL MEETING ON THE 2ND OF DECEMBER 2011 AT C & S PARADISE CHURCH, UNGWAR ROMI, ROMI WARD, CHUKUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, KADUNA, NIGERIA SUPPORTED BY OPEN MEADOWS FOUNDATION, NY USA.**

As a means of addressing the under-representation of women and excluded groups in the political space, giving a voice to citizens concerns and encouraging participatory governance, EWEI designed the Civic Education and Participation for Women Project (CEPWOP). CEPWOP has had a successful run since 2010 through the hard work and efforts of CEPWOP delegates at the grassroots who have worked tirelessly to bring the message down to their communities. Partners in the success story of CEPWOP include the State Independent Electoral Commission (SIECOM) who have provided data and statistics as well as materials that have been used to facilitate CEPWOP activities. In addition, ABANTU for Development has been very supportive of EWEI and EWEI programmes and have helped in the successful implementation of CEPWOP. CEPWOP has benefitted at least 2,325 beneficiaries Nigerian Citizens since November 2010.

The town hall meeting provided a platform for engagement between aspiring politicians to local government council seats and women in the community as well as capacity building for members of the community on their role in governance. The Town Hall was facilitated by Ms. Elizabeth Anche, a broadcaster, producer and presenter at the Kaduna State Media Corporation. Presentations at the event included goodwill messages from Ms. Diana Agabi, State Program Manager of ABANTU for Development, Statement of Purpose from Safiya Ibn Garba EWEI Programme Director, pastors and chief host Tina Simon (It is well).

The Keynote address was given by Mal. Yusuf Gimi, Secretary, State Independent Electoral Commission (SIECOM) on "Women's Role in Governance."

In attendance at the town hall meeting were 41 participants, 12 special guests including representatives from ABANTU for Development, State Independent Electoral Commission, The Moment and New Nigerian Newspapers, Barnawa Micro-finance bank Global Community Prime Initiative as well as pastors and a government official and 4 EWEI staff. The town hall meeting was facilitated in both English and Hausa languages and supported by Open Meadows Foundation, NY USA.

- **EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE 2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT EWEI HEADQUARTERS, KADUNA NIGERIA ON THE 16TH OF DECEMBER 2011 AT 2.00PM**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) held her Annual General Meeting on the 16th of December 2011 at EWEI headquarters, Kaduna at 2.00pm. The AGM is an annual forum for EWEI to engage stakeholders in reflecting and evaluating the activities for the past year and chart a course for the year to come. This year, EWEI's AGM engaged volunteers who have helped to drive the processes and activities of the organization since inception.

The meeting started with a welcome address by Mavis Orjime Programme Officer, Finance and Supplies, EWEI which was followed by an overview of 2011 by Safiya Ibn Garba, Programme Director, EWEI. She said in 2011 alone, EWEI activities have benefitted over 2,428 girls, women and youth and over 17,728 since inception. Projects like the Civic Education and Participation for Women Project, Empowerment Seminars, Know and Say No and Generations For Peace Projects were carried out this year in addition to distribution of IEC Civic Education materials.

Highlights of 2011 activities included the commemoration of the 2011 International Women's Day in collaboration with the Gender Working Group, Monitoring and reporting on the 2011 elections, as well as the formal take of Know and Say No activities aimed at eliminating gender based violence through raising awareness and capacity building. In addition, the Civic Education and Participation for Women Project has recorded activities up to the third stage with a town hall meeting aimed at creating a platform for engagement between political aspirants for local government council seats and women in their communities. "There has been much more collaboration with Government partners this year and we hope to strengthen these efforts " she said.

"Our work wouldn't have been made possible without the contributions of our partners and supporters which have included various organizations and individuals as well as the commitment of our volunteers."

"We need a lot more support in order to do more."

Babatunde Ayo, Secretary, Board of Trustees had words of appreciation and encouragement from the Board of Trustees and asked all to continue their hard work as it wasn't going unnoticed.

Volunteers and their comments:

- ✓ Fanen appreciated the opportunity to learn and gain a lot of experience in development work. He asked about the progress of the ESP project and suggested better follow up in the project so we can have better success in the project.
- ✓ Faaizah has found the opportunity to serve the community wonderful and asked if EWEI activities are confined to Kaduna alone.
- ✓ James noted with delight the impact of EWEI's programmes on the ground.
- ✓ Ohis who started as a volunteer and has found the opportunity to serve very useful and educative. He is able to share such knowledge with others now. He prayed for God's continued guidance.
- ✓ Mavis has found EWEI a training ground that has given her opportunities that have been priceless. EWEI has helped to teach her professional and life lessons and she has benefitted much more than her contemporaries who haven't had the same opportunities. Having volunteered for close to three years in EWEI, she also appreciates the exposure that EWEI has given her both within and outside the country. She considers volunteering in EWEI instrumental to certain achievements in her life.
- ✓ Katherine appreciated EWEI for giving her the opportunity to give back to the community and share knowledge. She said her involvement with EWEI has helped her examine herself and to evaluate her conviction on matters she pursues. She wanted to know if projects like the ESP could be extended to girls in the rural areas.

Responses:

The ESP still supports 6 girls in public schools not just with subsidies on fees and some other expenses in school but also with leadership and life skills. As much as EWEI would like to extend the ESP to rural areas, EWEI is constrained by scarce resources to carry out her projects and programmes. Logistics for programmes sometimes cost quite a lot and to ensure that programmes have intended impact, resources have to be dedicated to follow up, monitoring and evaluating projects to fine tune such projects for better service delivery. EWEI is constrained by resources to have physical activities only in Kaduna for now, her only activity/project that is multi-state is EWEI NEWS; a quarterly newsletter which is distributed in 8 states of the federation and the capital territory. However newsletters have not been printed for over a year due to lack of financial resources. EWEI can carry out activities anywhere in Nigeria if all necessary resources are available. EWEI also participates in the CSOLO related activities at the National Assembly in Abuja, Nigeria.

Further suggestions for 2012:

- a. There should be effective follow up of beneficiaries of EWEI activities and capacity building seminars for example the Know and Say No activity for Social Welfare Workers in Kaduna North Local Government Area and if possible the organization should please support them where they are ready to do something with the knowledge gained.
- b. There should be enlightenment and awareness programmes to help EWEI recruit supporters to help them advocate to possible donors for EWEI's work.
- c. Fund raising programmes should be organized to help EWEI overcome funding challenges and such programmes should provide a platform for beneficiaries to come and share their experiences about what they have benefitted from EWEI to help prospective supporters see for themselves the kind of impact EWEI is making.
- d. It would be great if EWEI could organize skills acquisition and capacity building on entrepreneurship for rural women (even in the metropolis) in areas like agriculture, business, hygiene and sanitation etc.

EWEI Programme Director thanked all present for their feedback saying that their input was very helpful as EWEI was in the process of drawing up the 2012 Annual Work Plan. She promised that their contributions would be given due consideration and that all present would receive the 2011 Annual Report once it was ready to further raise awareness about EWEI programmes and encouraged all to visit the EWEI wiki (www.ewei.wetpaint.com) where all necessary and up-to-date information about EWEI and her activities can be found.

The AGM was attended by 10 participants including volunteers, facilitators, EWEI volunteer staff and media partners.

BETTER SERVICE DELIVERY
SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE IN COMMEMORATION
OF HER THREE YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative carried out a survey to commemorate her three year existence as an NGO that provides multi-sectoral interventions for the development and empowerment of women and girls through enlightenment, capacity building and advocacy.

PURPOSE : The survey was carried out to determine the level of impact on beneficiaries of programs carried out by EWEI in the course of her three year existence.

METHODOLOGY: Questionnaires were administered to respondents who filled them and returned to Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative.

RESPONDENTS : Sample size was taken of beneficiaries from different programs that have being carried out by empowering women for excellence initiative. This is because each program has different set of beneficiaries, hence choosing respondents from each program/ project ensured that all target beneficiaries were represented. A total number of 15 respondents filled the questionnaire in hard copy.

DATE : The survey was carried out from 17th to 20th June, 2011.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONSES

GENDER OF RESPONDENTS

BASE: All respondents

GENDER	NO	%tage
MALE	1	7
FEMALE	14	93
TOTAL	15	100

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FAMILIAR WITH EWEI?

FAMILIARITY WITH EWEI	%
ONE YEAR	40
TWO YEARS	7
THREE YEARS	13
OTHERS	40

EWEI PROGRAMS:

- CIVIC EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION FOR WOMEN PROJECT (CEPWOP): 3
- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PARTNERSHIPS: 0
- EDUCATIONAL SUBSIDY PROGRAM (ESP): 6
- EMPOWERMENT AND TOPICAL SEMINARS: 9
- EWEI NEWS: Quarterly Newsletters: 3
- EWEI Online: 1
- GETTING INVOLVED: 2
- KNOW AND SAY NO: 0
- SPORTS STEP DOWN PROGRAMMES: 3
- OTHERS: International Women's Day: 13

GENERAL IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES: Positive, more awareness on issues.

RATING OF EWEI PERFORMANCE IN THE LAST THREE YEARS:

- Accountability: Good
- Online Presence: Good
- Publicity: Good
- Representation of constituency: Good
- Spread of programmes: Moderately well

IMPROVEMENTS: Regular follow-up, consistency, more publicity for programs, Involve government, more grassroots programs, Partnering with stakeholders, newsletters.

OTHER PROJECTS: More workshops for girl child education, seminars for self development of students, skills acquisition projects for women.

COMMENTS: People are willing to partner by offering their skills..... Keep up the good work..... Happy three year anniversary.

KNOW AND SAY NO



CEPWOP ACTIVITIES



CAPACITY BUILDING AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION



EMPOWERMENT SEMINARS



CONSOLIDATING PARTNERSHIPS



CONSOLIDATING PARTNERSHIPS



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY





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