



empowering women for excellence initiative (EWEI) 2012 annual report



welcome



Distinguished Partners,

Happy 2013! I am so pleased to be able to continue this tradition and present you our 2012 Annual Report. I must start first with gratitude to God for sparing our lives in 2012 and helping us achieve all we have been able to achieve during the year.

2012 was a particularly challenging year with the drastic change in administrative structure at EWEI in addition to the various challenges faced on the ground in the course of delivering our interventions. From security challenges to the scarcity of resources, we beat the odds and have been able to wax stronger; marking 4 years of existence as an organisation dedicated to delivering multi-sectoral interventions for the enlightenment and empowerment of girls and women.

Without your help, input, resources, advice, co-operation and encouragement, we would not be where we are today and we want to say a big thank you. We must not at this point fail to say a big thank you as well to our dedicated staff and volunteers for their dedication to duty and belief in the vision.

This annual report details all narratives on what EWEI was up and about doing in 2012. We highly welcome your feedback and input to help us do better in 2013. We also use this opportunity to ask for your continued support in 2013.

In 2012 the following projects were fully operational:

- Educational Subsidy Programme (ESP) - 6 beneficiaries
- Empowerment Seminars 3 editions: 17 beneficiaries
- Civic Education and Participation for Women Project (CEPWOP): 49 beneficiaries
- Know and Say No: 14 beneficiaries
- EWEI NEWS: 1,000 beneficiaries

EWEI also commemorated the following days as part of the above named projects :

- ✓ World Cancer Day 4 February
- ✓ International Women's Day in conjunction with Generations For Peace 8 March
- ✓ World Environment Day 5 June
- ✓ International Day of the Girl Child 11 October
- ✓ International Day of the Rural Woman 15 October
- ✓ Universal Children's Day 20 November
- ✓ International Day for the Elimination of Gender Based Violence 25 November

In summary 1,101 girls and women directly benefitted from EWEI's activities and projects. Of particular note were the successes marked in the ESP, CEPWOP and Know and Say No projects. And of course the exceptional performance of our ESP girls by mobilising their friends and classmates for the World Environment Day and their insightful thoughts on the International Day of the Girl Child.

We continued our capacity building partnerships with the Centre for Public Private Cooperation , Generations For Peace and the Gender Working Group (GWG). At GWG we also continued our engagement with stakeholders on engendering government policies and processes through research and advocacy- the very heart and soul of our vision. Our Non Exclusive Local Partnership agreement with Generations For Peace continued to wax stronger; with Generations For Peace Delegates and Pioneers delivering a 12 month cycle of programmes targeting girls and women from different schools and communities in Kaduna State.

Please contact us for details on how to support our work and connect with us on our social media platforms like Facebook : EWEI Empowerment through Enlightenment and Twitter :@EWEI1. Like us, Share our page with friends and family , make comments and Re-tweet please!

The Annual General Meeting in December 2012 marked the last major activity for EWEI in the year 2012 and it was an extremely engaging and fruitful exercise. We are all geared up for 2013; let's make it even better.

Thank you very much.

Safiya Ibn Garba (Chap)

Founder and Programme Director



EWEI's ESP Girls lead the lead on World Environment Day 2012!

JANUARY 2012

➤ EWEI's EDUCATIONAL SUBSIDY PROGRAMME CONTINUES WITH RESUMPTION OF STUDENTS AND EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR ON THE 28TH OF JANUARY AT ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT, KADUNA, NIGERIA

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative organized the quarterly Empowerment Seminar for her Educational Subsidy Program beneficiaries on the 28th of January 2012 at ABANTU for Development, Y.A Ahmed House, Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna.

The seminar started at 11.30 due to the environmental sanitation exercise. Presentations at the event included Effective Communication and Benefits of Volunteering in Community Development by EWEI's Mavis Orjime and Christy Arams of DACA respectively. Participants were given two assignments at the end of the participatory sessions to join a club of their own choice in school and design a little project on paper through their clubs that they felt could be measurable and they could execute with the help of their teachers.

Project designs would be presented in the next seminar with the feedback and eventual execution by the students. EWEI could offer assistance, both technical and financial although cost is expected to be minimal. Participants at the seminar included EWEI ESP beneficiaries, some chaperons, Resource Person and EWEI staff.

The Seminar came to a close at 2:15pm. A total number of 13 persons participated in the seminar that included 6 ESP beneficiaries, one chaperon/teacher, one resource person, 2 EWEI staff and 3 EWEI Volunteers. ESP beneficiaries receive support from EWEI for schools fees, exam fees, school materials and capacity building and mentoring. Upon resumption in January, ESP beneficiaries will have some of their academic expenses subsidized by EWEI.

➤ GENERATIONS FOR PEACE COMMENCES 2012 CYCLE OF PROGRAMMES IN KADUNA, NIGERIA

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) continued to consolidate on the Non-Exclusive Local Partnership with Generations For Peace. Throughout 2012, Generations For Peace will be implemented a cycle of programmes in Kaduna Nigeria. The programmes consisted of Sports Programmes for Children and Youth and Empowerment Seminars for girls and women.

These programmes specifically targeted girls and women providing them with peace building education, income generation, leadership and life skills. The Generations For Peace cycle of programmes are benefitted over 342 girls and women in 2012.

The programmes were entirely organised and delivered by Generations For Peace Pioneers and Delegates.

FEBRUARY 2012

➤ EWEI MARKS WORLD CANCER DAY 4th FEBRUARY 2012

The 4th of February 2012 was World Cancer Day and EWEI commemorated the day by sharing the story of a courageous woman Mrs. Mercy Kwaghza. Mrs. Kwagha's story is truly inspiring and a lesson on how early detection is key to fighting the cancer scourge. With the 2012 theme "Together it is possible," we joined our voices with others around the world to advocate for increased political commitment for the prevention and control of cancer as well as improved health systems at national and local levels to deliver cure and care for cancer patients.

Breast cancer is the leading cancer killer among women aged 20–59 years in high-income countries while cervical cancer is the second most common type of cancer among women with virtually all cases linked to genital infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV). Almost 80% of cases today and an even higher proportion of deaths from cervical cancer occur in low-income countries where access to cervical cancer screening and treatment virtually does not exist.

Mrs. Kwagha's story will be featured in the 1st 2012 edition of EWEI NEWS.

The January - March 2012 Edition of EWEI NEWS will be distributed to more than 1,000 girls and women. The feature is part of EWEI's efforts to raise awareness about cancer and promoting cancer prevention through early detection.

➤ EWEI AT CENTRE FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE COOPERATION (CPPC) DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP ON THE ANALYSIS OF 2006-2009 NEITI AUDIT REPORT HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012 AT REIZ INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, ABUJA AT 8:00AM.

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative attended a one day dissemination workshop on “ The Analysis of 2006-2009 NEITI Audit report” at Reiz Intercontinental Hotel, Abuja on February 7, 2012.

The opening session was for introductions, opening remarks with goodwill messages taken from Acting Country representative, PACT Nigeria and the Programmes Coordinator, CPPC.

The first session was an overview of the Nigeria Extractive Industries (NEI) which was facilitated by The Director of Communications, NEITI – Mr. Orji Ogbonaiya. Dr Abiodun Folawewo took the next presentation on The Analysis of the NEITI 2006-2009 Oil & Gas Audit Report, after which a lot of comments were made on the discrepancies in the report tendered by NNPC & the Oil companies.

After lunch, there was a syndicate group titled: “Nigeria Extractive Industries (NEI): Mapping out the Way Forward for Stakeholders.”

Participants were divided into two groups with group one focusing on NEITI, OAGF, FIRS, DPR. National Oil Companies (IOCs) & NNPC.

Group two was for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). A communiqué was presented at the end of the workshop based on the recommendations made by the participants.

EWEI was represented at the workshop by her Program Officer, Administration & Logistics, Mavis Orjime.

➤ **FOLLOW UP REPORT ON THE KNOW AND SAY NO CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY FOR SOCIAL WELFARE WORKERS OF KADUNA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON 13TH FEBRUARY 2012**

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 No provides a platform for effective actions towards the protection of minority rights and a voice for vulnerable groups.

EWEI's efforts in 2011 were focused on building the capacity of Government institutions by giving social and health workers tools and resources to better handle cases of gender based violence as well as to encourage the use of technological tools for grass development helping these officials perform their job function more effectively.

Safiya Ibn Garba, Programme Director, EWEI was the first facilitator and she gave facts and figures of gender based violence, the role of a social worker, conflict and peace building and technological tools for development. The second facilitator was Katherine Ishu a legal practitioner, EWEI Ambassador and delegate talked about the legal recourse for victims of gender based violence. Mavis Orjime Programme officer EWEI spoke on women's rights at the grassroots.

A follow up visit was made on the 13th of February, 2012 by Programme Officer Media and Publicity Ohis Amu to the office of the Head of Department of Social Welfare Kaduna North Local Government, Mrs Adaju Mamza Jesse. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the impact of the Know and Say No Activity and if any of the social welfare workers had undertaken any new project or actions as a result of the activity.

Mrs Adaju said that the capacity building training was an eye opener to them and it has made their job more interesting. EWEI, in continuing the Know and Say No intervention will:

- Send an official letter to the Social Welfare Department in Kaduna North Local Government encouraging them to use the knowledge they acquired during the Know and Say No activity to initiate new projects that EWEI might possibly support or partner with them to implement.
- Arrange or facilitate a meeting between Ms. Katherine Ishu and the social welfare workers to understand their areas of need and make referrals where necessary.
- Carry out a monthly follow up visit.

➤ **EWEI's CIVIC EDUCATION PARTICIPATION FOR WOMEN PROJECT (CEPWOP) STEPDOWN BY CEPWOP DELEGATE MRS THERESA BINIYAT HELD AT TUM COMMUNITY HALL, KAURA L.G.A KADUNA STATE ON 18TH FEBRUARY 2012 BY 10:00AM**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative's CEPWOP Delegate, Mrs. Theresa Biniyat stepped down CEPWOP at the community level on the 18th February, 2012 at Tum community hall, Tum, Kaura Local Government, Kaduna.

The program started with a welcome address by Chief George Laah, he welcomed EWEI staff and Mrs. Biniyat and appreciated the CEPWOP initiative saying civic education is important for women so they understand their roles in governance better and encouraged the participants to participate fully. He also apologized for poor turn out as he said the women earlier penned down to participate had an urgent program to attend.

Mrs. Theresa Biniyat welcomed all present and appreciated their presence and the Chief for giving out the hall free of charge to be used for the program.

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) Program Officer, Administration and Logistics Mavis Orjime, introduced CEPWOP to participants including the aims and objectives as well as the CEPWOP journey so far with statistics since its inception.

Mrs. Biniyat took the next presentation titled "Women as Agents of Change". She said as agents of change, information is important, and courage and boldness are needed to effect change positively. She gave statistics of women that have contested elections in Kaduna State from 1999-2003; *EWEI Resources*. After the presentation, there was an interactive session where women aired their views on the role electorates can play in holding their representatives accountable, and what challenges women face in being involved in electoral processes. The women said one major challenge was as a result of their cultural values which do not allow women to ask questions of their political representatives. Neither are women encouraged to go into politics as women who go into politics are considered as loose and of improper behavior.

Other comments were as follows;

- "Women generally have an 'I don't care' attitude. We do not care if our representatives represent us well. We just wait for the time of elections to collect wrappers and money and vote for the highest bidder".
- Lack of understanding. We are not very aware that we can actually play a role as women or be agents of change.
- God-fatherism is much in politics and it is difficult to have a godfather as a woman.
- Women are poor and do not have the resources men have, hence feel discouraged to go into politics.
- Women who want to join are always discouraged by the men. I wanted to join politics but all the politicians I met told me it is a dirty game and irresponsible for me as a married woman to join.

In response to the remarks, Mavis encouraged women to always aim for what they want to achieve. They should also know that politics can be clean if we start holding our representatives accountable and refuse to sell our consciences for our children's future. Mrs Biniyat also said they needed courage to overcome the challenges if they wanted to make a difference. Mavis and Mrs. Biniyat spoke on how the electorate can engage their representatives effectively. Refreshments were served and the women all appreciated the seminar.

They also thanked Open Meadows Foundation for supporting the project. They also requested that CEPWOP should be taken to other rural areas so as to create more awareness. They promised to pass on the message to their fellow women. The program came to a close by 2:00pm with the District Head apologizing for low turnout of women as opposed to number planned for. A total number of 18 people attended the program including CEPWOP Delegate, Mrs. T. Biniyat and EWEI staff Mavis Orjime.

MARCH 2012

➤ EWEI NEWS IS BACK! OVER 1,000 COPIES DISTRIBUTED IN KADUNA, ZARIA AND FCT ABUJA

EWEI NEWS our free quarterly colorful newsletters that provide resources on topical issues is back! This edition featured stories on a cancer survivor, gender based violence, nutrition and sport. Over 1,000 copies of EWEI NEWS were distributed in Kaduna State and FCT Abuja. Topical and colourful, An online edition of the January -March 2012 edition can also be viewed and downloaded at the newsletter wiki : www.eweinews.wetpaint.com.

➤ **EWEI CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY BY CONNECTING GIRLS AND INSPIRING FUTURES**

The year 2012 marked 101 years of International Women's Day Celebration since the day was honoured for the first time in 1911 following Clara Zetkin's proposal for an International Conference of Working Women held in Copenhagen in 1910, that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day - a *Women's Day* - to press for their demands.

In 2011, EWEI and the Gender Working Group 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 theme of this year's IWD celebration is **Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures**. If every International Women's Day event held in 2012 includes girls in some way, then thousands of minds will be inspired globally.

EWEI commemorated the IWD in 2012 by supporting Generations For Peace Sport-based Games and Play programs that are held monthly as a tool for empowering girls in Kaduna state. Case studies of how our programmes are helping girls develop greater self-esteem, confidence and develop life skills like leadership tolerance and responsibility were highlighted during these years' celebrations.

Our interventions are not only "connecting girls and inspiring futures" but ensuring that girls are empowered with the capacity they need to actualise their great dreams.

We commemorated the day as follows:

- ❖ 6th March 2012 Feature on FRCN on Women's World Radio Programme 90.9 at 7.00pm WAT
- ❖ 8th March 2012 Feature on Capital TV on Kaduna Today 10.00am WAT
- ❖ 9th March 2012 - Generations For Peace Sport Programme for Children and Youth as part of the Let her Play Campaign at Government Girls Secondary School, Senior Section, Independence Way, Kaduna, Nigeria at 10.00am
- ❖ 10th March 2012 Feature on Teens and Tweens DITV Kaduna at 10.00am WAT

APRIL 2012

➤ **REPORT ON MEDIUM TERM SECTOR STRATEGY TRAINING ORGANISED BY STATE ACCOUNTABILITY VOICE INITIATIVE(SAVI) AT SAMINAKA RESORT, SAMINAKA, KADUNA, NIGERIA.**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative as part of the the Gender Working Group (GWG), Kaduna, attended a 3 day sensitization workshop on the MTSS process for 2nd – 5th April, 2012 at Saminaka Holiday Resort, Saminaka, Kaduna, Nigeria.

In the opening address, Mrs Rebecca Sako welcomed all participants and expressed the desire that after the training, participants will be able to engage effectively in the MTSS process.

Dr Uzochukwu Amakom, the resource person took participants through what the MTSS is, the Public Expenditure Management Frameworks in Nigeria, A snapshot of the Kaduna State MTSS guide and the preparation of Medium Term Sector Strategies. Civil Societe organisations were also taken through the strategy for Engagement with Houses of Assembly and the medium Term Budget Framework in the two days.

Group work/activities and mock tests and presentations were done by all members to ensure active participation.

An action plan for Civil Society Engagement was drawn out by participants by the end of the training and sent to Resource person who will use to draw out a resource material for members.

MAY 2012

➤ **REPORT ON 3 DAY SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON BUDGET TRACKING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS IN KADUNA STATE HELD IN SAMINAKA ON 8TH -10TH May, 2012.**

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative participated in a three day workshop for civil society actors on budget tracking, monitoring and evaluation at Saminaka Holiday Resort, Kaduna State on 8th -10 May, 2012, at 9:00am daily. The aim of the training workshop was to assist civil society actors on understanding the budget process in Nigeria and hence be able to track and analyse public budgets. The workshop also enlightened participants on how to effectively engage stakeholders in the MTSS process, thereby influencing and driving the budgets of the state towards good developmental policies.

The workshop involved presentations by participants and group work sessions in which a copy of the state budget was used to teach methods of analysing the document. EWEI was represented at the workshop by Mavis Orjime, Program Officer, Administration and Logistics.

➤ **REPORT ON QUARTERLY EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR FOR ESP BENEFICIARIES ORGANISED BY EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE HELD ON 19TH MAY 2012 AT EWEI OFFICE, KADUNA, NIGERIA.**

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative organized the quarterly Empowerment Seminar for her Educational Subsidy Program beneficiaries on 19th May, 2012 at EWEI office at 9:00am.

The program started with a welcome address by the Program Officer, Administration and Logistics, Mavis Orjime, who appreciated all for coming.

She then gave a review of the ESP journey so far and apologized to the beneficiaries for the lateness in paying this term's school fees.

The objectives of the ESP project were revisited and Mavis reiterated that it was the organization's desire to see impact made before the first set of beneficiaries left the school. In order to enhance sustainable and effective mentoring, the resource person, Mrs. Christy Arams would be the mentor and resource person for the project, till the first set of beneficiaries graduate.

The Resource Person, Charity Arams then facilitated a presentation on life skills titled '**Values**'.

To make it participatory, each participant defined values as she understood and one definition was agreed on by the house. She stated that defining or stating one's values was essential for success in whatever one did. She also explained the importance of values and the factors that affect them.

After the presentation, the girls were given an exercise to write on an important decision they wanted to make in their life. Their write ups will be assessed and discussed in the next seminar. In the last seminar, the girls had been given assignments to design a project they wanted to implement in their school or communities. Each beneficiary presented the work done so far and it was discussed in details. Ideas and suggestions were given to them on how best to design the

projects. At the end of the discussion, one project was approved to be carried out by all the beneficiaries. This project is to be a sanitation project and launching of “hand washing” in their respective schools. The girls are to engage with their teachers and school management on how they can launch a project that promotes health and sanitation.

The “World Environment Day”, 5th June was chosen as the day for launching the projects in the different schools. On that day, the girls will make presentations on their assembly grounds on the importance of hygiene and washing of hands. They will also coordinate other students to voluntarily clean their school environment. EWEI will help in mentoring and engaging the school managements. The organization will provide antiseptics, soap, and hand washing bowls.

The ESP beneficiaries will pioneer the projects. Only two schools will however be engaged namely GGSS Senior Doka and GGSS Independence way Senior as beneficiaries from other schools were not present and each of the above schools have 2 beneficiaries each.

9 persons were present at the seminar including beneficiaries, 1 resource person, 2 EWEI staff and 2 volunteers.



➤ **EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE (EWEI) JOINS HER EDUCATIONAL SUBSIDY PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES TO CELEBRATE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) AS EWEI MARKS FOUR YEARS 5TH/6TH JUNE 2012**

World Environment Day is an annual event that is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. Different activities take place all year round but the climax is every 5th June involving everyone all over the world.

World Environment Day celebrations began in 1972 and have grown to become one of the vehicles through which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and encourages attention and action.

Through World Environment Day, the UN Environment Program is able to personalize environmental issues and enable everyone to realize not only their responsibility but also their power to become agents of change in support of sustainable and equitable development.

World Environment Day is a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future organizations. It is a call for action: the possibilities are endless. You can always do something to make our environment and nation brighter.

This year, EWEI commemorated WED with her Educational Subsidy Programme (ESP) beneficiaries taking ACTION in their schools. On the 5th of June, 2012 the Hand Washing and Sanitation Campaign took place in two public schools: Government Girls Secondary School Doka Senior and Government Girls Secondary School Independence Way Senior both in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Two beneficiaries from each school led their fellow students in a voluntary exercise of washing the school toilets. The girls then took their school mates through the process of hand washing by first highlighting the benefits and then demonstrating how to wash hands properly. Students and staff are taking part in the hand washing exercise.

A total number of 9 toilets were washed in GGSS Independence Way Senior while 8 toilets were cleaned in GGSS Doka. 15 classrooms were also thoroughly cleaned at GGSS Independence way.

EWEI continues to support proactive projects undertaken by her ESP beneficiaries in addition to several other projects including Empowerment Seminars, Getting Involved, Let Her Play, EWEI NEWS, EWEI Online, Economic Empowerment Partnerships, Know and Say No and the Civic Education and Participation for Women Project (CEPWOP).

In 4 years, EWEI projects have directly benefitted over 16,500 girls, women and youth in and outside Kaduna, Nigeria. 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.

JULY 2012

➤ **EWEI AT CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY SAVI FOR GENDER WORKING GROUP ON 16th – 18th JULY, 2012 AT BAFRA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS, KADUNA.**

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative attended and participated in a workshop under the Gender Working Group (GWG) organized by State Accountability Voice Initiative (SAVI) on 16 - 18 July, 2012 at Bafra International Hotel, Kaduna.

The objective of the workshop was to revisit the Partnership vision, mission and objectives and also conduct a partnership assessment so as to strengthen capacity of the partnership to engage in monitoring and advocacy in Gender and Social Inclusion and also map out strategies to take off the Social Inclusion Platform.

The workshop was facilitated by Gender Expert, Mrs Titilato Fakuyo, who helped the group to review their perspective on gender thereby reviewing the AP's vision and mission.

In the capacity assessment, gaps were identified in the partnership and hence a resolution to go back and form a leadership structure to propel the partnership and also find ways of strengthening the gaps. EWEI has played a strong role in the GWG partnership since 2010 and held various leadership positions within the partnership, contributing her quota to collective Civil Society action for improved governance and addressing gender issues in Kaduna state, Nigeria.

AUGUST 2012

➤ **EWEI AT THE TWO DAY WORKSHOP FOR GWG PARTNERSHIP BY SAVI ON 31ST JULY, 2012 AND 1ST AUGUST, 2012.**

The State Accountability and Voice Initiative (SAVI) organized a workshop for GWG on the 31st July, and 1st August, 2012 at SAVI office, Malali Kaduna.

The SAVI state team leader; Mrs. Rebecca Sako outlined the objectives of the workshop which was to basically identify gaps, skills and resources of the Partnership to know how to forge ahead and hence revisit the work plan to see if it is in line with objectives. The workshop also aimed to use the capacity needs assessment done by the partnership during the previous workshop to effectively draw out a work plan in line with SAVI's demonstration of a process on how to engage stakeholders.

SAVI staff guided members through a process of defining a vision and mission statement.

The new GWG mission reads: **To promote mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion in government policies and programs through research and analysis for effective evidence based advocacy** and vision: **A conducive environment where policies and programs in Kaduna state are gender sensitive and inclusive.**

With the vision and mission redefined, the aims and objectives of the partnership were also worked on. Members of the GWG partnership also identified the skills and resources that are available in their organizations. The group was encouraged to use the information in assigning responsibilities to members based on their strengths. EWEI was represented by Programme Officer Administration and Logistics Mavis Orjime.

➤ **EWEI CEPWOP TOWN HALL MEETING ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT TUM COMMUNITY HALL KAURA L.G.A. KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA.**

The Civic Education and Participation Women Project (CEPWOP) is a means of addressing the under-representation of women and excluded groups in political space, giving voice to citizens concerns and encouraging participatory governance. CEPWOP was initiated in November 2010 by Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI).

Since November 2012 over 2,325 had benefited from the project through training seminars, step down sessions, town hall meetings and distribution of information, education and communication materials. CEPWOP delegates have been trained by EWEI to step down their knowledge at the grassroots. These women leaders are actively taking the CEPWOP message back to their communities and promoting inclusive governance.

On 14 September 2012, CEPWOP delegate Ms. Theresa Biniyat organised a town hall meeting at Tum Community Hall in Kaura Local Government. The objective of the town hall meeting was to enable engagement between aspiring office holders, politicians in office, community leaders and women in the community. The theme of the meeting was "Women's Participation in Politics".

Facilitated by CEPWOP delegate and Founder Youth, Orphans and Widows Empowerment (YOWE) Theresa Biniyat, the town hall meeting focused on the need of women to be involved in politics and know their rights in the community. Presentations at the event included the welcome address by the district head George M Laah who stressed on the need to elect credible leaders in the next local government elections.

One of the aspirants Hon John Benedict Laah; contesting for the post of councillorship of Tum LGA gave reasons why he is contesting and promised to work with the women in the community to address their needs if elected. Joseph Major Baba, a Senior Legislative Aide at the Federal House of Representatives Abuja gave a speech on the need for women's participation in politics as this will bring development to the community. Joseph Major Baba promised to support 100 men and women who are ready to go back to school for a year. Mrs. Theresa Biniyat said she will ensure that the names of those interested are forwarded to EWEI for proper follow up.

In addition, Joy Anthony Programme Officer Media and Publicity, Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative gave a brief on CEPWOP and activities since the inception of the programme. She also voiced the need to vote leaders who will provide social amenities to the community and encouraged women to get involved in politics as the world needs women who will make a change and bring lasting peace to their communities.

The participants thanked EWEI for organizing the programme and expressed their joy at the opportunities that have emerged from the meeting. The Town Hall meeting was supported by Open Meadows Foundation NY, USA.

In attendance at the town hall meeting were 31 participants, 19 women of Tum community, 4 community leaders, 4 politicians, 2 youth leaders and 2 CEPWOP delegates. The town hall meeting was facilitated in English, Hausa and Tum languages. Some of the participants shared their thoughts about the CEPWOP town hall meeting :

Mary Gwazah, Participant: "A community that is peaceful depends on the women that are found there and development can be attained through the effort of community leaders and politicians."

Tabita Bala , Participant : From the first CEPWOP organized, I have learnt a lot and even in this program, I am looking forward to a time where the women of Tum will be heard and assisted in politics ."

George M Laah, District Head Tum Community: "Education is the best thing a woman can obtain to go into politics, so women should enroll in school and encourage their children to be educated."

Joseph Major Bala, Senior Legislative Aide Federal House of Representatives: "Politics is not a dirty game as people think, it is important as this improves the life of a community and makes it easier to ensure the provision of social amenities to the people."

➤ **ESP EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR ORGANISED BY EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE HELD AT ABANTU FOR DEVELOPMENT AHMADU BELLO WAY KADUNA ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 9:00AM**

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative (EWEI) organized the quarterly Empowerment Seminar for her Educational Subsidy Program beneficiaries on 22nd September, 2012 at ABANTU for Development at 9:00am.

The Seminar started with the opening prayer led by a student, Alifa, after which introductions were made by all present.

EWEI Program Officer, Administration and Logistics, Ms Mavis Orjime welcomed all participants giving an overview of the Educational Subsidy Program. She then reviewed the school projects carried out by the girls in the previous term and praised their efforts, saying EWEI is very proud of them. She also asked about the impact the hand washing campaign had made in their schools.

The girls confirmed that hand washing had improved and the school authorities have ensured the continuous washing of the school toilets after they took the initiative to wash them.

The Resource Person, Christy Arams then facilitated a presentation on life skills titled "Self Esteem". She stated that every human being is unique in their own way and led participants in coming up with an acceptable definition of what self esteem is. Assignments were given to the girls to be submitted in a week's time.

Joy Anthony, Programmer Officer Media and Publicity EWEI taught the girls practically the skill of making Ginger drink which is a first aid drink for sore throats and cold. A total number of 14 persons were present at the seminar including 5 ESP beneficiaries, 5 volunteers at WED campaign, 1 resource person, 2 EWEI staff and 1 volunteer.

OCTOBER 2012

➤ **EWEI CELEBRATES THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD WITH GIRLS VOICING OUT**

The International Day of the Girl Child promotes girls' rights and highlights gender inequalities that remain between girls and boys. It is a UN observance that is annually held on October 11. In December 2011, the United Nations declared that the International Day of the Girl Child be observed every October 11 to raise awareness about the challenges that millions of girls face every day. By establishing the International Day of the Girl Child, the UN affirms its commitment to end gender stereotypes, discrimination, violence, and economic disparities that disproportionately affect girls. The theme for the first ever observance of this day is "Ending Child Marriage."

On this day, many community and political leaders talk to the public about the importance of girl's rights to equal education and their fundamental freedoms. It is also an opportunity for the girls themselves to express their views and be heard. Various events are held to showcase the work that people are doing to empower girls through active support and engagement with parents, families, and the wider community.

Quick Facts

Health

- A baby girl is breastfed six to eight weeks less than a baby boy. Nearly one million child deaths could be prevented each year if girls were exclusively breastfed during their first six months of life.1
- Half of all stunting happens in utero as a result of an undernourished mother. 2
- In India, 47% of all adolescent girls are underweight.3
- Children and Marriage
- Nearly half of all girls in developing countries become mothers before they are 18 years old.4
- 50,000 girls die annually during childbirth, making it the number one killer of girls between age 15-19.4
- 1 out of every 3 girls is married by the age of 18. 4

Education

- 36 million primary school aged girls are not enrolled in school.5
- On average, girls receive only six years of formal education in their lives.5
- Every year of secondary school a girl attends elevates her future income by 10-20%.6
- A child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past age five.6
- Improved education of girls alone was responsible for a 43% total reduction in undernutrition across 63 countries between 1971 and 1995.7
- When given equal access to resources and education, women can bring down the number of hungry people worldwide by 16%.8

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative (EWEI) commemorated the day in 2012 with a video montage of girls age 15 - 17 years speaking out on what they believe their rights are. This montage featured girls from different communities in Kaduna State, some of whom benefit directly from EWEI programmes.

Included in the video were students of Government Girls Secondary School (GGSS) Independence Way Kaduna Junior and Senior sections, students of GGSS Doka and Prince School Narayi. Please follow this link to watch Voice Out.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jShxkVkrHek&feature=plcp>.

Voice Out **Quotes**

Chinwedu Echebiri, 15Yrs, GGSS Doka, SS3Art1

* As a girl child I have the right not to be forced into marriage but to make my choice, girls at my age should not be allowed to go into marriage. We should not be forced to marry men who are old enough to be their fathers.

Caroline B Ojih, 16 Yrs, GGSS Indep. Way. Senior, SS3Art1

* As a girl child I have the right to be given equal opportunity as the boys to attain the same level of education for example in Nigeria one of the great Ministers Mrs. Dora Akinyili was once a girl child but due to the fact that her rights were respected she became an icon.

Deborah Joshua, 17Yrs, GGSS Indep. Way. Senior, SS3Sci1

* As a girl child I have the right to be taught sex education and sexuality of a woman.

Happiness F Edosa, 16Yrs, GGSS Indep. Way. Senior, SS3Art1

* As a girl child I have the right to express myself wherever I am either at home or in the school.

Laritshimwa G Polycarp, 17Yrs, GGSS Indep.Way. Senior, SS3Art1

* As a girl child I have the right to freedom of speech, religion and thought. I believe as a girl child I have the right to practice any religion I want; I have the right to decide what is right and wrong.

Bilkisu A Gwabin, 17 Yrs, GGSS Indep.Way. Senior, SS3Sci2

* As a girl child I have a right to speak out, to give out my views and opinions, such views and opinions should be taken into consideration and actions.

➤ **EWEI FIELD VISIT TO FARMS NARAYI KADUNA IN COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE RURAL WOMEN HELD ON THE 15TH OCTOBER 2012.**

Empowering Women for Excellence Initiative organized a one day field visit for women from Sabo community on fish farming, rearing and cultivation. The field trip to Goddy Farms Narayi, Kaduna benefitted 5 women from the community .

The farm director Mr Godwin Manku taught the women how to rear fish to generate income, explaining to the beneficiaries how they can easily start up a fish farm with a very small earthen pond stocked up with a hundred fingerlings and feed them with tiny fish for 4 months, after which they can be harvested for sale.

Joy Anthony, EWEI's Programme Officer Media and Publicity explained to the beneficiaries that this year's theme is "**The Empowerment of Rural Women and Their role in Poverty and Hunger Eradication, Development and Current Challenges.**",

"Women need to be empowered through farm farming so that they can improve food security and eradicate rural poverty." said Anthony.

Mavis Orjime, EWEI's Programme Officer Administration and Logistics also stressed the need for women to go into farming and generate income for the family.

Mr. Manku, Goddy Farms Director promised to be of help to any of the women who want to start up a fish farm especially in the early preparation of the pond and stocking of the fingerlings. This was followed by a question and answer session.

The major objective of the field visit was to expose the beneficiaries to both the technical and practical aspects of fish farming. Building their capacity in this area would give them the skills to rear fish that could help them generate income and use for household consumption. This will also facilitate their participation in the rural economy of their communities and provide additional support for the upkeep of their households.

5 Women from Sabo community, 1 staff of Youth, Orphans and Widow Empowerment as well as 2 EWEI Staff attended the Program.

"From this field trip I have learnt not to stay idle, with a little sum of money I can start up a fish farm. I have also learnt that starting a fish farm is less expensive than poultry; this can help me both in feeding my family and for my livelihood. **Glory S Jacob**

"People always complain of lack of jobs in Nigeria, but with fish farming one can be self-employed and also employ others, this will also increase the rate of employment in our communities and nation at large." **Patience Yohanna**

"Women in our communities mostly go into crop farming neglecting fish farming because they don't have any idea about it, with my knowledge I can now start up my own fish farm and also teach others." **Martina Patrick**

NOVEMBER 2012

➤ EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE (EWEI) MARKS UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY ON THE 20TH NOVEMBER, 2012.

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative EWEI, commemorated the Universal Children's Day on the 20th November 2012 with the three year theme set by the UN titled "World Day of Prayer and Action for Children."

By resolution 836(IX) of 14 December 1954, the UN General Assembly recommended that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day, to be observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. The Day was to be observed also as a day of activity devoted to promoting the ideals and objectives of the Charter and the welfare of the children of the world. The date 20 November, marks the day on which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989.

EWEI marked the day by having both adults and children lend their voices to what positive parenting is in a Voix Pox. Teachers, parents and children participated and all tried to distinguish where the line lies between discipline and punishment and the role that parents and teachers play in the life of a child.

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative Staff, Mavis Orjime and Joy Anthony also featured on a DITV program, "Teens and Tweens" where they talked extensively on how positive parenting helps in shaping a child. They also advised all adults to take responsibility in making sure that the society produces responsible citizens by investing good discipline in children.

- **COMMEMORATION OF ELIMINATION OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON THE 26TH NOVEMBER, 2012 AT FIDA OFFICE, KEFFI ROAD BY LAGOS STREET, KADUNA AS PART OF EWEI's KNOW AND SAY NO PROJECT**

Exchange Forum For Social Welfare Workers and Legal Personnel

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative facilitated a forum for Kaduna North Local Government social welfare workers and female legal practitioners to build the capacity of social welfare workers on gender issues and how to handle gender based violence in their duties on 26th November, 2012 at FIDA Office, Kaduna. This forum is a part of a continuing project, Know and Say No which 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. The forum was a follow up to a capacity building workshop held by in November 2011.

The program started with a welcome address by EWEI Program Officer, Administration and Logistics, Mavis Orjime who gave a preview of EWEI mission and vision and an overview of the Know and Say No project. She also stated that the forum was created with respect to the social workers request for a legal practitioner to give them advice on certain issues that they had encountered in the work place that border on gender violence and also connect them with FIDA who offer voluntary counseling and legal advice for gender based violence victims.

EWEI Mentor, Barrister Catherine Ishu read out and simplified the Articles contained in the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The in-house Lawyer of FIDA, Barr Mrs Mary Okum explained the objectives of FIDA and why it is important for all hands to be on deck in fighting gender based violence. She also explained the different forms of violence that women undergo every day.

A session followed where social welfare workers shared some of their experiences and particular cases that they had encountered which they could not handle. The legal practitioners advised appropriately.

EWEI brochures and FIDA posters were shared to the participants. The social welfare workers thanked EWEI and FIDA for the forum and said what they had learnt from the forum would go a long way in improving their work.

A total number of 14 persons participated in the forum including 9 Social welfare workers from Kaduna North Local Government , 1 FIDA personnel, 2 EWEI staff, 1 EWEI Mentor and 1 EWEI Volunteer.

- **EWEI AT 2 DAY END OF THE YEAR AP REFLECTION ORGANIZED BY SAVI ON 12th - 13th DECEMBER, 2012 AT SAMINAKA AGRO-ALLIED RESORT, SAMINAKA , KADUNA.**

Empowering Women For Excellence Initiative attended and participated in a workshop under the Gender Working Group (GWG) organized by State Accountability Voice Initiative (SAVI) on 12-13 December , 2012 at Saminaka Agro Allied Resort, Saminaka, Kaduna.

The objective of the workshop was to review every Advocacy Partnership's (AP) activities for 2012 and develop a work plan for 2013. This would help each AP reflect on the successes and achievements and apply lessons learned in planning for 2013.

The workshop was facilitated by Mrs. Ramatu Aliyu, Mr. Kilanko and Mrs. Rebecca Sako-John who helped the group to reflect on their perspective on gender which led to the review of the AP's vision and mission and the drafting of the 2013 work plan.

In the telling your story session, GWG gave a rundown of gender mainstreaming and how it has helped partnership with the government in the state on education. The plan for 2013 by GWG includes partnership with the media and State House of Assembly.

➤ **REPORT ON EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 21 DECEMBER 2012 AT EWEI HEADQUARTERS, KADUNA, NIGERIA**

After a warm welcome by the Programme Director, Safiya Ibn Garba the Sec. BOT Mr. Tunde Ajiga thanked everyone for their support in 2012, highlighting the fact that all that has been achieved would not have been without the support and goodwill of partners and called for more support in 2013.

EWEI programme Director in her review of 2012 said that 2012 was a challenging year. With the drastic change in structure and high expectations, 2012 also however brought about a lot of success stories.

In a brief on active projects in 2012, she said over 1,101 girls and women directly benefitted from the Know and Say No, CEPWOP, EWEI NEWS and ESP projects in 2012.

The Programme Director said several commemorative days were marked and some as part of the above named projects. Days that were marked included the International Day of the Girl Child, International Day of the Rural Woman and the Universal Children's Day. Other days marked included the Day for the Elimination of Gender Based Violence, World Cancer and International Women's day.

EWEI's Partnership with the State Accountability and Voice Initiative, Gender Working Group and Generations For Peace saw continuous and productive collaboration.

As part of information sharing the 2011 Annual Report was distributed to partners in January 2012 and likewise the 2012 Annual Report will be distributed in early 2013 to keep all partners up to date with all happenings.

Programme Officer Administration and Logistics Mavis Orjime then gave a synopsis of the challenges faced in 2012.

On the Educational Subsidy Programme (**ESP**), she mentioned that the first set of ESP beneficiaries in SS3 are doing well and their SSCE fees have been paid. Some of the challenges faced in 2012 were:

- Beneficiaries' understanding of the programme
- Communication barrier between beneficiaries and EWEI
- An instance where one of the beneficiaries *(name withheld) was not allowed to write her mock exams in the school as her parent's preference was that she should write her SSCE in a private school. This eventually led to the termination of the EWEI ESP contract with her on mutual agreement.
- Challenges of Khadijat Ado being allowed to attend the ESP Empowerment Seminars (which are part of the ESP package) as she is in boarding school. Khadijat suggested we talk to her vice principal of her school and Christiana Arams suggested a letter should be written to the school to inform the Principal. Other ideas were that we could request that a house mistress be attached to her any time we have a programme she can come with her and Diana Agabi, TA Administration and Programming suggested a teacher should be involved who will liaise between the principal and Khadijat.

- Another student did not write her mock examinations and because she didn't inform EWEI, the school insisted that she would only be allowed back to school only if EWEI intervened. This is evidence of how much impact EWEI is making through the ESP. Her uncle (present at the AGM) said the reason for her absence was to enable her sit for external SSCE which would clash with the mock examination. After a long discussion on the pros and cons of registering students in private schools for exams as opposed to the schools they already attend among all present, he was asked to always keep EWEI abreast of their plans. All noted that it would be a good idea to have representatives of the Ministry of Education at such meetings and agreed that we need to teach the children the right morals even as it concerned their education and there was no substitute to hard-work.

The uncle Mr. Abdulkareem asked about the next step for the ESP girls after their SSCE. EWEI PD responded by saying that the ESP was more than support for the girls in school through the subsidy of fees and other costs but was a wholesome project meant to affect every aspect of the girls lives positively. In response, the PD said the ESP is not all about paying the school fees, but building the capacity of the girls through social entrepreneurship and equipping them with soft skills for life. After their exams, EWEI hopes to engage them in volunteering during holidays where they will also get a chance to learn a lot and serve as role models to other girls. We will also be sharing the girls' stories with the world.

On the Civic Education and Participation for Women Project (**CEPWOP**), the PD explained that it is a programme aimed at addressing the under-representation of women in the political space. Mrs Biniyat a CEPWOP Delegate has been actively taking the message back to her community women since the start of the project.. The PD commended her on her exceptional work and said EWEI Looks forward to continuing supporting all CEPWOP Delegates

On the Economic Empowerment Partnerships (**EEP**) which is all about capacity building and social entrepreneurship to promote income generation for women, EWEI hopes to commence this project in 2013. More information will be made available in due course.

Know and Say No, the EWEI programme designed to address Gender Based Violence through capacity building, networking, facilitating access to resources and assistance and strengthening of structures and institutions saw great progress in 2012. There was extensive follow up of the Social welfare Workers of Kaduna North Local Government trained in 2011 and EWEI facilitated a programme for exchange between legal counsel from The International federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Kaduna Chapter and the Social Workers from Kaduna North Local Government.

On **EWEI NEWS**, EWEI's quarterly free newsletters that provide resources and information on various topical issues and distributed to girls and women there were challenges in producing more than one edition in 2012 due to scarcity of resources.

EWEI's online presence- the **EWEI wiki www.ewei.wetpaint.com** needs to be improved and the organisation is hoping to have a new website in 2013.

Q & A, Comments session

Segun: What are the criteria for ESP?

- Is it just about the girl child?
- Telling stories can inspire other girls
- Organise a workshop in school to change mindset and girls can tell their stories, we will partner more with EWEI on stories of girls.

Christiana Arams: On ESP Empowerment Seminar we need to do more and have girls involve and time extended. Some brain cracking activities content should be expanded. It is an opportunity to partner with EWEI it is a learning process and pledge the support of the girls.

Joseph Iorse: How does the organisation assess the girls academics? We should not just rely on school assessment. The organisation should assess them regularly.

Diana Agabi: For the ESP girls: "We should think of our dreams, aspirations, loosen up more."

Mrs.T. Biniyat: ESP Girls: "You need to be good Ambassadors of the organisation."

On CEPWOP She has bigger plans to step down in Tum Community. As regards the last programme at Tum Community, one of the invited guests won the election as the Ward Councillor and will be followed up with EWEI's support.

Joy: Thanked everyone for coming and is looking forward to working with the ESP girls in the office in 2013.

Ohis: Happy to see the result of the ESP and the part we played towards its success.

The meeting closed at 5:55pm after several closing remarks and thanks from EWEI Staff and Management.

Attendance:

- Safiya Ibn Garba- Programme Director
- Diana Agabi - Technical Adviser Administration and Programming
- Tunde Ajiga- Secretary BOT
- Mavis Orjime- POAL
- Joy Anthony- POMP
- Segun Victor- Media Partner
- Mrs. Theresa Biniyat- CEPWOP Delegate
- Christiana Arams- Resource Person
- Zainab Ado- Representative of parent
- Ismaila Abdulkareem- Guardian
- Kadijat Ado- ESP Beneficiary
- Jamila Abdulkareem- ESP Beneficiary
- Bilkiisu Gwabin- ESP Beneficiary
- Joseph Iorse- Volunteer
- Ohis Amu- Volunteer Staff

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.

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.

17,032 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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