



A Paradigm Shift In The World Of Granting: Celebrating Our Results

Introduction

In 2019, ActionAid Nigeria launched the Women's Voice & Leadership – Nigeria project, five-year Global Affairs Canada development assistance with a goal of contributing towards the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls. The project was designed to improve the management and sustainability of women's rights organizations, enhance delivery of their programming and advocacy to advance gender equality and increase the effectiveness of sub-national, national, and regional women's rights platforms, networks, and alliances to affect policy, legal and social change in Nigeria.

A key approach towards achieving the above was through capacity building and the provision of various streams of funding through which women's rights organizations signed on as project partners would implement interventions in line with the agendas they set. These streams of funding were part of the uniqueness of the project, a special funding arrangement for local women rights organizations, their networks and movements as they provided funding 'unusual' bringing a paradigm shift in funding within the women's rights ecosystem.

The special funds were categorized into three: the multi-year granting to selected local women's rights organizations; the strategic innovation fund; and the strategic opportunity fund:

Multi-Year Granting to Selected Women's Rights Organizations:

This was long term funding aimed at supporting the core mandates of LWROs and CBOs at state and community levels. The provision of predictable funding for the five-year period allowed these organizations to continue implementation of on-going interventions, start new/novel interventions, or used for institutional work. These interventions were around service provision, advocacy and policy dialogue, feminist research, and supported organizations' operating costs.

Partnership Type	Location	Distribution	Geographic Coverage
Networks/Movements (10)	Federal Capital Territory	36 states	Nigeria
Organisations (18)	Bauchi, Cross River, Enugu, Kebbi, Kwara, Lagos States	3 partners per state	6 states from 6 Geopolitical Zones of Nigeria
CBOs (72)	Bauchi South, Central, North Calabar North, Central, South Enugu North, East, West Kebbi Central, North, South Kwara North, Central, Kwara Lagos Central, East, West	12 partners per state; 4 per senatorial zone	3 Senatorial Zones of each project state

The Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF): The SIF was designed to support new innovations and initiatives from LWROs, networks, movements beyond the 100 organizations that were being provided with the multi-year granting. The purpose of this grant was to discover and support novel ideas and interventions that would contribute to the project's overall goal. The SIF provided three important value additions for the project:

- The SIF targeted innovative ideas from LWROs, networks/movements which could serve as a catalyst for new ways of doing things within the women's rights movement in Nigeria.

- The SIF also provided broader reach for the project as it wasn't limited to project states or recipients of the multi-year grant. It also supported actions at any level or any women's rights actor, as long as it was innovative and aligned with the WVL project's goal.

This grant was provided to organizations through a competitive call for proposals mechanism, where organizations provided a brief concept note outlining their request. For the purposes of awarding the SIF Grant, a grant selection committee was set up. The committee was responsible for defining the parameters of specific calls; developing criteria for concept selection; as well as reviewing and selecting grantees.

LIST OF STRATEGIC INNOVATION FUND (SIF) GRANT			
S/N	ACRONYM	FULL NAME OF ORGANIZATION	STATE
1	TLI	Teens Lead Initiative	Oyo State.
2	YLWAC	Yes, To Life For Women And Children	Abuja FCT Nigeria
3	TSSA	Total Stage2screen Academy	Jos, Plateau
4	NANA	NANA Women And Girls Empowerment Initiative	Kebbi State.
5	WOFILS	Women Foundation For Improved Living Standard (WOFILS)	Anambra State
6	MHR	Media And Health Rights (MHR)	FCT Abuja
9	TN	Teenage Network	FCT, Abuja
10	SERI	Stand To End Rape Initiative	Lagos
11	FIRC	Female Inmates And Returned Citizens (FIRC)	FCT Abuja
12	ACI	Agape Care Initiative	FCT Abuja.
13		Community Advocate For Rural Development	Bauchi
14	DAF	Differently Abled Foundation	Ondo State.
15	FGEI	Female Gender Empowerment Initiative	Kaduna state.

The Strategic Opportunity Fund (SOF):

The purpose of this grant was to allow for LWROs to be agile in responding to women and girls' rights issues. It was set up as a rapid response fund that would be quick to access by organizations/movements/networks in the promotion and protection of women and girls' rights. This grant was designed to enable LWROs and their networks to better respond to rights violations as well as to seize unanticipated opportunities to create change in the lives of women and girls in the project states and national. This grant positioned the LWROs to be nimble in responding to women and girls' rights issues in project locations.

LIST OF STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY FUND (SOF) GRANT			
S/N	ACRONYM	FULL NAME OF ORGANIZATION	STATE
1		100 Women Lobby Group	ABUJA.
2	WARDC	Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC)	Lagos
3	CCAE	Centre for Creative Arts Education	Lagos
4	CF	Cedarseed Foundation	FCT
5	CPI	Challenged Parenthood Initiative	LOKOJA,
6	KTMDI	Kungiyar Tallafin Mata Development Initiative (KTMDI)	KEBBI
7	WACOL	Women Aid Collective	Enugu
8	ASHH Foundation	Attah Sisters Helping Hand Foundation (ASHH)	Bauchi
9	WRAHP	Women's Rights and Health Project	Lagos
10	DF	Dinidari Foundation	ABUJA, NIGERIA
11	NCF	Neighborhood Carewell (NCF)	Cross River
12	DNF	Dorothy Njemanze Foundation	Abuja.
13	ADF	ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FOUNDATION	Anambra state
14	CEWHIN	Centre for Women's Health and Information (CEWHIN)	Lagos State.
15	EH	ElectHer	Lagos
16	EVA	Education as a Vaccine (EVA)	Abuja.
17	GAT	Gender Awareness Trust (GAT)	Kaduna State.
18	WOLDI	WOMEN, LAW AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE [WOLDI]	FCT, Abuja
19	PDA	Participatory Development Alternatives (PDA)	
20	OWACDO	Okaha Women and Children Development Organization (OWACDO)	Benue State
21	HDI	Hopes and Dreams Initiative	FCT, Abuja
22	WPF	Women in Politics Forum	FCT, ABUJA
23	GLOHWOC	Global Hope for Women and Children Foundation (GLOHWOC)	Ilorin, Kwara
24	OCDI	Olive Community Development Initiatives (OCDI)	KWARA STATE
25	CWEENS	Christian Women for Excellence and Empowerment in Nigeria Society	FCT Abuja
26	DAF	DATALEAD AFRICA FOUNDATION	ABUJA,
27	FIDA Nigeria	International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA Nigeria)	FCT, Abuja
28	GADA	GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION (GADA)	Calabar, Cross River
29	GRADE	GRASSROOT PEOPLE AND GENDER DEVELOPMENT CENTER (GRADE)	Lagos

30	NAWOJ	NIGERIA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS	FCT
31	NCWS	NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN'S SOCIETIES NIGERIA IMO STATE	IMO
32	PCIC	PARENT-CHILD INTERVENTION CENTRE (PCIC)	Ebonyi State.
33	SAFEPATH	SAFEPATH ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS (SAFEPATH-NIGERIA)	ANAMBRA STATE
34	SWOFOFON	SMALLSCALE WOMEN FARMERS ORGANIZATION IN NIGERIA (SWOFOFON)	ABUJA
35	WARDC	Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre	Abeokuta
36	FTF	FAB TREASURE FOUNDATIO	FCT Abuja
37	MHF	Mountains of Hope Foundation	Pleatue State
38	NFF	NEXUSFARE FOUNDATION	Kaduna State
39	NABWW	NIGERIA ASSOCIATION OF THE BLIND WOMEN WING	FCT Abuja.
40	SSI	SAFE SPACE INITIATIVE	FCT, Abuja
41	SIDEC	Social and Integral Development Centre (SIDEC)	Anambra State
42	WHF	WEB OF HEARTS FOUNDATION	Lagos
43	VGCVPF	VOICE OF THE GIRL CHILD AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE FOUNDATION	FCT, Abuja.
44	AGEF	ADDA GIRL EDUCATION FOUNDATION	FCT, Abuja.



COVID-19 Top-Up Fund:

The COVID 19 pandemic took the world by surprise. Most worrisome is the rise in sexual and gender-based violence. To mitigate the impact of the pandemic on women and girls, Global Affairs Canada introduced this new short-term grant stream. This created an opportunity to further support existing and new partners with experience in the provision of protection interventions for women and girls.

The grant is a one-off fund channelled towards the provision of critical protection services for vulnerable women and girls within and Post Covid-19 Period in Nigeria. It is a small grant designed to support WROs to implement actions that will lead to women and girls living in reduced violence or fear of violence by supporting victims and survivors of gender-based violence to access protection services.

In total, 7 existing partners and 13 additional women's rights organisations were selected and granted for a 6 month period to implement protection services.

NAME OF COVID-19 TOP UP LWROS			
S/N	ACRONYM	FULL NAME OF ORGANIZATION	STATE
1	WRAHP	WOMEN'S RIGHT & HEALTH PROJECT	LAGOS
2	PROJECT ALERT	PROJECT ALERT	LAGOS
3	GLOHWOC	GLOBAL HOPE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOUNDATION	KWARA
4	CGE AFRICA	CENTER FOR GENDER ECONOMICS INITIATIVE	LAGOS
5	OWACDO	OKAHA WOMEN AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION	BENUE
6	BCROF	BARRISTER CHIKA RITA OKWUOSAH FOUNDATION (BCROF)	ANAMBRA
9	FIDA	INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS	AKS, RIVERS, EBONYI & ANAMBRA
10	WADHI,	WOMEN ARISE DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE (WADHI)	FCT
11	ASWHAN	ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS IN NIGERIA	FCT - to - Kebbi
12	DNF	DOROTHY NJEMANZE FOUNDATION	FCT
13	MOGCI	MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL INITIATIVE	RIVERS STATE
14	CWEENS	CHRISTIAN WOMEN FOR EXCELLENCE AND EMPOWERMENT IN NIGERIA SOCIETY	FCT
15	DINIDARI FOUNDATION	DINIDARI FOUNDATION	FCT

16	WACOL	WOMEN AID COLLECTIVE	ENUGU
17	SAHEI	SANITATION AND HYGIENE EDUCATION INITIATIVE	BORNO
18	BAF	BABA AZIMI FOUNDATION	JIGAWA
19	NCF	NEIGHBORHOOD CARE-WELL FOUNDATION	CROSS RIVER
20	ASHHF	ATTAH SISTERS HELPING HANDS FOUNDATION	BAUCHI

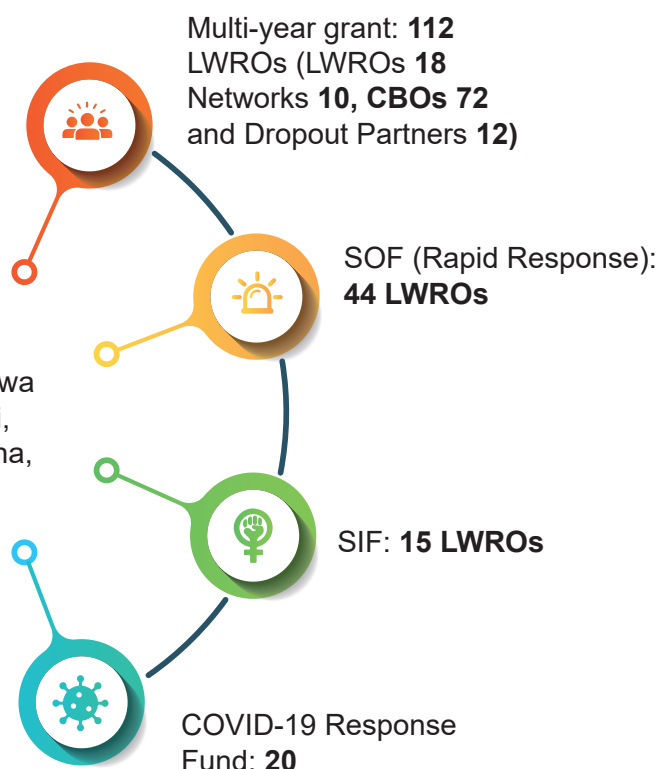
Within the years of project implementation, interventions implemented by expending these special funds have translated into impactful change in the lives of women and girls across the country and contributed towards the influencing of related and relevant policies.



191 grants disbursed to 182 women rights organizations across 24 states and the FCT reaching 7,150,153 women and girls inclusive of persons with disability.

Breakdown of Project Grants Disbursement:

Cross River, Enugu, Imo, Lagos, Oyo, Anambra, Ebonyi, Ogun, Edo, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Ondo, Delta, Bauchi, Kwara, Kebbi, FCT, Plateau, Benue, Kogi, Borno, Kaduna, Gombe, Jigawa, Adamawa.



Funded organizations used grants provided to support either on-going or new programs as well as for core operating costs. Based on the analysis done prior to project inception, it was projected that women rights organizations would likely use the sub-grants to support programming actions around three broad areas in addition to supporting their operating costs as follows:

- Addressing gender-based violence/violence against women and girls, which included but wasn't limited to such actions as facilitating access to justice programs and services; creating awareness within communities and developing mechanism to address these issues; advocacy for legislations/policies and their implementation; support for women and girls organizing themselves to address these issues (including safe spaces).
- Women Economic Justice and Empowerment Programmes, included but not limited to actions such as supporting women's economic justice and empowerment, including through training, mentoring, and coaching; supporting innovative approaches to women-owned businesses; facilitating access to markets and credit, federating women businesses (cooperatives); economic/financial literacy; advocacy actions to government and institutions.
- Women political participation and leadership included but not limited to actions such as efforts to increase women's political participation at all levels, capacity building for women and young female political aspirants (including trainings, mentorship, and coaching programs); advocacy actions targeting political parties and election management bodies for increased spaces and participation of/for women; media engagement.

The above actions were neither prescriptive nor mandatory. Other priority actions based on state context were eligible for funding if they fell within the Beijing 12 Critical Platform of Actions on women and girls' rights.

Other broad areas of intervention were: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), Promoting Socio-Economic Inclusion of Elderly Women and Women & Girls Education.



A peak into some of the results from interventions implemented:

- ✓ 100 women-led organizations' system and programming abilities strengthened.
- ✓ 191 grants disbursed to 182 women-led organizations across 24 states and the FCT from 2019 till date.
- ✓ 182 women-led organisations have received funding from the WV-L-N projects from 3 funding streams, including the COVID-19 top up grant.
- ✓ 47 women's rights related legislations, policies and commitments influenced at State and National level.
- ✓ 190 women make history as members of traditional leadership councils in 5 project states.
- ✓ 9,036 women and girls, survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence directly reached with response services.
- ✓ N408,802,652 amount saved by 13,911 women through 532 community-based women groups saving and loan schemes.
- ✓ 1,532,323 women and girls reached through economic justice & empowerment initiatives.
- ✓ 29,696 women organizations and individuals provided with online information on gender equality, feminist interventions and women's rights advancement through the Feminist Hub.



2,283,989,106.74

Total money expended across 6 states and the FCT to partners on the WV-L project



References

- *ActionAid Nigeria, 2019 – 2024 Partners reports; Political Economy Analysis (Pea) Of Gender Equality and Women’s Rights Programme in Nigeria*
- *ActionAid Nigeria, 2019; WVL-Nigeria Project Implementation Plan*
- *WVL-N reports, 2019 –2024.*

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