

**THE 2016 ANNUAL ACTIVITY  
REPORT OF GENDER AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL RISK  
REDUCTION INITIATIVE (GERI)**



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## **Abbreviations**

CLTS- Community Led Total Sanitation

CSOs- Civil Society Organisations

CSR- Corporate Social Responsibility

ECCAI- Environment and Climate Change Amelioration Initiative

GEF SGP- Global Environmental Facility, Small Grants Programme

IBB- Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida

LGA- Local Government Area

NAWIA- Nigeria Association of Women in Agriculture

NGOs- Non-Governmental Organisations

ODF- Open Defecation Free

RUSHPIN- Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion in Nigeria

SDGs-Sustainable Development Goals

TATE- Total Access To Energy

TEPNG/Total E&P- Total Exploration and Production Nigeria

UNICEF- United Children Education Fund

UNDP-United Nations Development Programme

WASH- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

## **ABOUT GERI**

### **Who we are**

Gender and Environmental Risk Reduction Initiative, GERI was founded in 2009 and is registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) of Nigeria as a non-political, non-profit making and non-governmental organization. In the recent past decades, man has been faced with a rapidly deteriorating environment that daily draws a very disturbing attention. The world today is faced by global warming and climate change, flooding, deforestation, land misuse leading to gully erosion, solid waste disposal problems, excessive gaming, marine and atmospheric pollution. The importance of environment to the development of individuals, communities and nations is enormous. It provides the resource for physical, economic and social development with attendant gender dimensions. Increasing evidence reveals that there is a strong linkage between the natural environment and livelihoods of people especially the poor men and women and other vulnerable groups. Currently, this issue of global environmental change has drawn more attention than in the past. Informed by the depth of environmental problems and deplorable livelihood conditions of men and women, GERI is set out to help build resilience and facilitate the reduction of risk resulting from environmental change and associated problems on livelihoods of especially women, youths and children in Nigeria and Africa.

### **Where we are**

GERI operates from the main office in Benue State located at No. 2, Suites 9 & 10, Ugbokolo Street, High Level, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria,

With contact offices in Abuja and Nasarawa State

**Abuja Contact Office:** Suites D1 & D2, Third Floor, Awmar Plaza, By Gudu Market Junction, Apo, Abuja,

**Nasarawa Contact Office:** No. 3, First Floor, Danma 'Aje Shopping Complex, Beside Access Bank, Jos Road, Lafia, Nasarawa State.

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**Website:** [www.gerinitiative.org](http://www.gerinitiative.org)

## **The GERI Team**

Elizabeth Jeyol - Executive Director

Otene Ogwuche - Programme Manager

Tine Agernor - Senior Programmes Officer

Abudar Nguhemen Gift - Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Terver Atighir - Finance and Accounts Officer

## **The GERI Board of Directors**

Grace Atim- Acting Chair

Elizabeth Jeyol- Secretary

Dr James Aper- Member

Dr Umaru Gerdarh- Member

Theresa Ezemba Iyala- Member

Sabo Kente- Member

Dr Oyije Lilian Abah- Member

## **From the Executive Director**

GERI is poised to drive innovations in the development sector - that impact change for individuals, communities and nations. We are continuously striving to create a future founded on the core values that fully reflect our image as an organization. Since our inception, GERI has created platforms for change in communities across Benue State and beyond.

Our achievements in this past year, attained in collaboration with our partners, bear witness to the pertinence of our ideals and the success of our strategic models. Having spent 2016 achieving tremendous outcomes, it is our pleasure to take stock once again.

In 2016, we embarked on several projects with extensive consultations with our partners and key stakeholders, to ensure GERI remains committed to values – and we recorded successes in Agriculture, Environment, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Income generating activities for various communities in and around Benue.

And I truly commend the entire GERI team for a wonderful year, with the hope that going forward, we will stay focused on our objectives, as well as key elements that have been essential to our success: our partnerships and other collaborations.

Once again, thank you for a memorable year.

**Elizabeth Jeyiol**

**Executive Director, GERI**

## PROJECT/ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2016 was a busy year for the organization, with several projects ongoing at different times. The projects covered areas ranging from Agriculture, Environment, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Income generating activities for various communities in and around Benue.

### Agriculture, Environment, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (AE-WASH)

#### (I) Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Project



In the year under review, GERI accessed funding from Concern Universal (now known as United Purpose) to trigger 48 Communities of Nenzev Council Ward in Logo Local Government Area of Benue State to Open Defecation Free (ODF) status through the CLTS approach under the Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion In Nigeria Programme. Using the recommended tools GERI

successfully triggered all 48 communities to ODF within record time of 7 months; this is despite the challenge of security issues occasioned by Herders and farmers clashes in the community of intervention. In the most recent assessment by the Local Task Group on Sanitation (STGS), State Task Group on Sanitation (STGS) as well the National Task Group on Sanitation (NTGS), the community recorded a 100% ODF compliance and has become a model example for other communities in the local government area.

GERI also accessed funding from UNICEF under the Sanitation, Water and Hygiene in Nigeria II (SHAWN) Programme to trigger 37 Communities of Ikyurav Tiev II Ward in Katsina Ala LGA to ODF in the same year under review.



## (2) Total Access to (Solar) Energy-TATE, Awango by Total Entrepreneurship Programme

GERI furthered her partnership with Total Exploration and Production Nigeria (TEPNG) to implement activities under the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) TATE Awango Entrepreneurship programme in Benue, Nasarawa and Niger States.



The “Awango Entrepreneurship Programme” is a component of Total E&P's “Total Access To Solar (TATS)” project and had a two-fold objective. First, the initiative aimed at providing especially rural dwellers with clean, durable and affordable solar lighting devices of the AWANGO brand. Interestingly also, some models of the AWANGO solar devices have in-built “phone-charging” features to enable rural dwellers power their phone batteries without using the fossil fuel-powered generating sets which pollute and degrade the environment. This served to alleviate the energy deficit and the attendant health, economic and social troubles suffered by especially off-grid rural dwellers.

The partnership for Benue was in its second and final year, in the second phase, the Nasarawa partnership was in its first year while the partnership for Niger was at its inception stage. In Benue and Nasarawa States, GERI continued to provide entrepreneurs with mentoring and solar lamp restocking support while monitoring and evaluation entrepreneurs' progress in line with the project's objectives. GERI also implemented a wide range of project and product visibility activities including the production and airing of jingles on radio stations and the design, printing and sharing of product fliers. Further, the organization carried out open market outreaches and road shows across the project locations respectively. Prior to project commencement proper in each state, GERI



implemented the community entry and advocacy/awareness creation components. The Niger partnership was suspended at this stage. However in Benue and Nasarawa States, GERI further identified and profiled target beneficiaries and coordinated orientation and re-training workshops for new and existing beneficiaries respectively. A close out

evaluation of the project in both states revealed a considerable improvement in the economic statuses of the beneficiaries, their dependents and invariably, their communities. 40 beneficiaries each in Benue and Nasarawa States benefited from the project.



### **(3) Addressing Climate Change and Land Degradation Risks on Livelihood Activities in Daudu Rural Community, Guma Local Government Area of Benue State**



GERI accessed funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through the Small Grants Programme (SGP) to implement a wide range of activities that sought to address climate change and land degradation while enhancing rural livelihoods through alternative approaches. A total of 120 direct beneficiaries comprising 70 female and 50 males participated in

practical and hands-on trainings on compost manure making, innovative and sustainable farming and forestry practices and production of animal feeds. In addition, the 70 female beneficiaries participated in vocational skills training in soap and bead making. With the direct beneficiaries retraining other community members on environmental best practices and alternative livelihoods, it is expected that the critical mass of rural capacities built will translate to reduced reliance on and efficient use of environmental resources for livelihoods in the community thereby enhancing the sustainability of natural resources. Progressive monitoring and evaluation by GERI revealed that both direct and indirect beneficiaries have considerably internalized and are applying knowledge and skills gained on the project to their livelihood activities with positive results. These outcomes are among others, increased farm yield leading to increased income, making of compost manure leading to reduced or zero spending chemical fertilisers and reduced reliance on natural resources for livelihoods due to use of alternative income generating activities.



To enhance project sustainability and government buy-in, GERI paid advocacy visits to select government Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Arms, a key outcome which was the assigning of a project desk officer by the Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Benue State.

### **(4) EarthHour**

As part of efforts to draw attention to the issues of climate change and the environment, GERI supported her staff working along with other partner organisations to mark the global Earth Hour Day on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The event held at Pauline Makka Women Development Centre Hall, Makurdi and featured a talk on environment, social power and climate change, the earth hour videos and other activities geared towards shaping the . At the end of the presentations the participants in attendance made personal and collective commitments to take action to mitigate the impact of

climate change on our environment. These actions include, yearly tree planting, waste reduction through recycling or using only recycled materials, switching to energy saving electricity bulbs in the homes and offices among other unique actions. Over 61 persons were reached during the activity.

**(5) Menstrual Hygiene Day (MHD) Outreach at Anglican Secondary School, Makurdi** World over, Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) has received recent attention in development discourse after years of apparent relegation to the background. This recent attention is premised on the growing realisation that the years of inadequate attention paid to MHM have had adverse direct and indirect consequences on girls' health, self-esteem school attendance and general performance. It has emerged that a considerable number of girls are constrained by socio-economic, cultural, knowledge and school environmental factors which make them unable to properly manage menstruation. Thus, it was in a concerted action to address the stated challenges that GERI, under the auspices of BENGONET E-WASH Thematic Group partnered other member organisations to



reach out to students from different schools who converged on Anglican Secondary School, Makurdi to mark the 2016 Menstrual Hygiene Day.

The event afforded girls the opportunity to gain new knowledge and seek solutions to challenges in MHM through a two-way interaction; between the girls on the one hand and between the girls

and the Medical Expert, Dr Chisa of the Benue State University Teaching Hospital Makurdi, on the other hand. Discussions centered on the safety of alternative management practices relative to the cost of conventional options. Realizing girls' financial constraint in MHM, GERI contributed to providing the students with sanitary pads. A planned follow-on activity towards sustainability is the training of the girls on the making of sanitary re-usable pads. The 2016 Menstrual Hygiene Day event was attended by the Benue State Commissioners for Education- Prof. Dennis Ityavyar and Women Affairs- Barr. Mwese Mnyim all in representative capacity. Partner civil society organisations also attended. A major feedback from the activity was the imperative for school management authorities to provide places in schools where girls are afforded safe and easy convenience to wear new as well as change soiled sanitary pads when menstruating.

## **(6) GERI PARTNERS BENGONET E-WASH TO HOST STAKEHOLDERS FORUM IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 2016 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED)**

In the year under review, GERI partnered the Benue Non-Governmental Organizations Network – BENGONET’s Environment, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (E-WASH) Thematic Group to hold a stakeholders forum to mark the 2016 World Environment Day (WED). The Forum drew content from the year’s theme: “Go Wild for Life,” holding panel discussions which emphasized the need to promote the survival of wild life as way of protecting the environment.

Panel discussions dissected the policy regulating wildlife management and exploitation in Benue State; the extent of policy implementation as well as factors of illegal trade in wildlife in Benue State.

It was the consensus that if not urgently curtailed, wildlife will soon be extinct due result of uncontrolled pervasive poaching and exploitation. He enumerated some of the reasons why people indulge in these illegal activities to include; economic, medical and ritual purposes etc.

After exhaustive discussion from different stakeholders, the forum identified various problems that have led to the current state of wildlife in Benue State. They include the following: Inadequate policy guiding wildlife management in the Benue State; Inconsistent policy of the government; Insensitive laws; Weakness in enforcement of the available laws



by law enforcement agencies; Organized crimes that have led to habitat loss (e.g. Destruction of Sambisa Forest due to Boko Haram insurgency); illegal exploitation etc.

### **Second Panel Discussion**

During the second panel discussion, the forum came up with a resolution of what must be done to halt over-exploitation and conserve our natural resources. These resolutions were;

- Government should review relevant laws and policies to reflect current realities especially natural resources threatened with extinction
- Awareness creation-town hall meetings, news jingles in English (elites) and local languages (rural communities), by Government, worship centers, NGOs, private sector, Individuals, communities, professionals etc

- Innovative alternative livelihoods focused on addressing destructive utilization patterns in Benue State especially use of the River Benue trough, its tributaries and streams, burnt bricks and charcoal production, mortar and pestle making etc
- Promotion of tree planting on degraded/derelict lands, homesteads, institution etc especially along the River Benue banks, streams and retention of existing trees/plants to facilitate recovery and sustenance of natural ecosystems.
- Examining and understanding the wildlife/plant utilization value chain with particular emphasis on causes, actors and roles/responsibilities.
- Involving traditional rulers and other community leaders/institutions to influence the desired attitudinal change towards environmental conservation in Benue State and Nigeria.
- NOA partner with environmental professionals to create environmentally sensitive and result based messaging to address ignorance and desired attitudinal change.
- Creation of environmental desk officers in all relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and the private sector whose actions have direct or indirect



effects on environmental resources to ensure environmental considerations are built into development plans/actions. Ministries of Agriculture, Works, Science and Technology, Bureau of Rural Development and cooperatives etc.



## Peace Building and Conflict Resolution

### (I) Connecting Women and Youth in Violent Extremist Prone Areas through Empowerment and Skills Acquisition in Benue State, Central Nigeria

GERI is implementing the livelihood-support component for **out-of-school, unemployed and unskilled youth** on the Women Environmental Programme (WEP) funded project in violent conflict affected Local Government Areas of Ado, **Agatu, Kwande and Logo** in Benue State. With the understanding that unemployed, unskilled out-of-school youth are prone to easy radicalization and recruitment into

militias to perpetuate violence, GERI will facilitate communities to identify, profile and select of target beneficiaries who will be trained on specified vocational skill areas of choice. The project beneficiaries' plan specifies that the trained beneficiaries will be supported with capital to establish registered enterprises after



which they are expected to retrain others to do same. In the year under review, GERI co-implemented and participated in project inception activities including training workshops and baseline survey. With Women Environmental Programme (WEP) as principal recipient, GERI and three other NGOs as sub-recipients, each organization on the 5-member consortium will implement activities under one each, of the five components which among others include disarmament and conflict management. The livelihood support initiative will target an initial 268 youth (67 per local government area). This is a three year project and is ongoing.

## II. International Day of Peace Celebration 2016

To mark the International Day of Peace 2016, a one day consultative forum was held with the community people of Wannune, in Tarka Local Government Area, Benue State. The meeting which held on 21st September 2016 at the Wannune Traditional Council Hall drew participants from the various stakeholder groups in the community including women, youth, traditional leaders and other opinion leaders. The



discussions centered on the theme Building Blocks for Peace. The people agreed that every member of the community is a building block for peace and hence, all members of the community are important. They shared their experiences and resilience in the face of crisis following recent attacks by herdsmen on some of their villages. They resolved together to continue to foster better ways of living in peace in their communities. GERI carried out this activity along with four other organizations – Elohim Development Foundation (EDF), Gender and Community Empowerment Initiative (GECOME), Angel Support Foundation (ASF), Mbachilin Development Foundation (MDF).

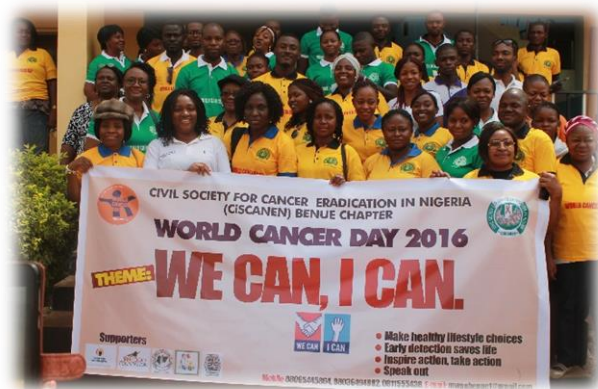
## Reproductive and Family Health

### (I) Awareness Creation on Cancer



GERI also joined other partners to mark different cancer awareness days in support of the need for Early Detection to save lives. World Cancer Day March along with Civil Society for Cancer Eradication in Nigeria (CiSCANEN) on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 while on October 5<sup>th</sup> we marked Wear It Pink Day for Cancer awareness was marked a GERI Offices with all staff wearing pink

or a touch of pink. Discussions were held on the cancer, impact of cancer and using various media to disseminate the message about early detection of cancer. As a collective or as individuals everyone can play a part in to reduce the global impact of cancer.



## PARTNERSHIPS, HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

### Partners and Networks

#### Donors/Funders

- Total Exploration and Production Nigeria (TEPNG)
- Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
- Concern Universal (now United Purpose)
- UNICEF

- Women Environmental Programme (WEP)
- Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria

#### ***Local/National Networking Partners***

- Benue State Environmental and Sanitation Authority (BENSESA)
- Benue Humanitarian Actors Forum
- Nigeria Working Group on Armed Violence (NWGAV)
- Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN)
- Benue Non-Governmental Organisation Network (BENGONET)
- Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNANGO)
- Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF)
- Women Environmental Programme (WEP)
- Women's Right to Education Programme (WREP)
- Gender and Community Empowerment Initiative (GECOME)
- Welfare Quarters Youth Association
- Gender Advocacy for Justice Initiative (GAJI)

#### ***International Networking Partners***

- Global Alliance Against Terrorism (GAAT)
- Gender and Climate Change Network

#### **Human Resource Development/Project Activity Meetings and Events Attended**

The following are capacity building training attended by staff, volunteers and interns in 2016

- i. Advocacy visit to Benue State Ministry of Women Affairs towards GEF project, 28<sup>th</sup> January
- ii. Workshop on Climate Smart Agriculture Organised by the Nigeria Association of Women in Agriculture (NAWIA) at Hallydays Hotel and Resort, Makurdi, Benue State, 3<sup>rd</sup> February
- iii. Review meeting with Total E&P towards TATE Awango Entrepreneurship Project, at Eko Towers, Lagos, 9<sup>th</sup> February
- iv. RUSHPIN Nenzev Ward Level Sensitization, 18<sup>th</sup> February
- v. RUSHPIN ODF Celebration Ugba, Logo LGA, Benue State, 24<sup>th</sup> February
- vi. FRAWG Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> March
- vii. Marking of World Earth Day, April
- viii. Sustainaware Regional Partners' Meeting at WoodAsh Lodge, Lusaka, Zambia, 30<sup>th</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June.
- ix. Marking on Menstrual Hygiene Day, 31<sup>st</sup> May

- x. UNICEF CLTS Training Workshop at Double K Resort, Otukpo, Benue State, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June
- xi. World Environment Day: One Day Stakeholders' Forum, Makurdi, Benue State, 16<sup>th</sup> June
- xii. GEF-SGP Project Inception Workshop, Transcorp Hotel, Calabar, Cross River State, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July
- xiii. RUSHPIN CLTS Implementation Review Meeting, Benue Hotels, Makurdi, 29<sup>th</sup> July
- xiv. One-day Sensitization on the Role of Women in Environmental Preservation and Conservation, organized by ECCAI at Ayeve Zugu International School, Naka, Gwer West LGA, Benue State, 18<sup>th</sup> August
- xv. RUSHPIN WASH Clinic, Nenzev Ward, Logo LGA, Benue State, 20<sup>th</sup> August
- xvi. UNICEF CLTS Ikyurav Tiev II Ward Level Sensitization, 6<sup>th</sup> October
- xvii. Global Handwashing Day organized by Concern Universal, Makurdi, 10<sup>th</sup> October
- xviii. International Day of the Girl Child at Royal Choice Inn, Makurdi, 11<sup>th</sup> October
- xix. International Rural Women Day, organized by NAWIA, IBB Square, Makurdi, 14<sup>th</sup> October
- xx. Breast Cancer Awareness Outreach in Konshisha, 20<sup>th</sup> October
- xxi. Training Workshop for enumerators towards WEP Consortium Project at Smile View Hotel, Makurdi.

### **Welfare-Staff, Volunteers and Interns**

In furtherance of GERI's support to the welfare of her partners both past and present, the GERI Team attended the wedding between her immediate past Programme Manager, Moses Teghtegh Adesue and his heartthrob, Miss Iior. The nuptial knots were tied at the Benue State Headquarters of the Deeper Life Bible Ministries in Makurdi where after guests were treated to a warm reception at the ETF Hall, Benue State University, Makurdi. On GERI's team were the Executive Director- Elizabeth Jeyol, Senior Programmes Officer- Tine Agernor and Volunteer-Tavershima Usaka. The Management and Staff of GERI wish the couple the best of marital life.

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## **GENDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK REDUCTION INITIATIVE**