

THE 2017 ACTIVITY REPORT OF GENDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK REDUCTION INITIATIVE (GERI)



Moto: Building Resilience for Sustainable Development

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Abbreviations

ASF- Angels Support Foundation

CAC-Corporate Affairs Commission

CiSCANEN- Civil Society for Cancer Eradication in Nigeria

CLTS- Community Led Total Sanitation

CSOs- Civil Society Organisations

CSR- Corporate Social Responsibility

ECCAI- Environment and Climate Change Amelioration Initiative

FJDP-Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace

GAJI- Gender Advocacy for Justice Initiative

GCERF- Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund

GECOME- Community Empowerment 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

NUJ- Nigerian Union of Journalists

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

WREP-Women's Right to Education Programme

From the Executive Director

2017 was another successful year for GERI, and as I think back on all we achieved as a team, I appreciate each and every person who truly makes GERI such a unique organization. I am filled with pride!

In this report, you will read how our programs and projects continue to successfully serve our aspirations for sustainable development – covering areas ranging from Agriculture, Environment, WASH, and income generating activities for various communities in Benue State.

This report is full of success stories which would not be possible without the amazing staff, volunteers, board members, supporters and community partners. I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your time, commitment, dedication and support over the past year.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Jeiyol

Executive Director, GERI

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,

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The GERI Team

Elizabeth Jeyol- Executive Director

Otene Ogwuche- Programme Manager

Tine Agernor- Senior Programmes Officer

Sewuese Agbendeh - 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

PROJECT/ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2017 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 Benue.

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

(I) Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Projects



In the year under review, GERI continued her interventions with funding and technical support 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. 72% have claimed ODF and WASHCOMS formed in the communities

(II) UNICEF WASH-in-Schools



This program was aimed at training the teachers on WASH issues, form Environmental Health Club (EHC) in trained schools and then facilitate the drafting of action plan for the promotion of hygiene and sanitation in the selected schools, reinforce the importance of monitoring hygiene behavioral changes in schools and support BENGONET to begin the supervision and monitoring of hygiene and sanitation promotion in and through schools in Katsina-Ala. GERI successfully facilitated trainings in five (5) Schools to be continued in other schools within Katsina Ala

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



We continued with the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), funded project through the Small Grants Programme (SGP) to implement a wide range of activities 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 fertilizers and reduced reliance on natural resources for livelihoods due to use of alternative income generating activities.



(3) Menstrual Hygiene Day (MHD) at Government Secondary School Ikpayongo Gwer LGA, we marked World Menstrual Hygiene Day as part of our activities in line with Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). In the year under review, we carried out a Menstrual Hygiene Management among Adolescent Girls in Schools on the Occasion of World Menstrual Hygiene Day 2017 in partnership with three other organisations at Government Secondary School Ikpayongo targeting 50 students





(4) COMMEMORATION OF 2017 GLOBAL HAND WASHING DAY (GHD):

To mark the 2017 Global Hand Washing Day, GERI in collaboration with WREP, GECOME and GAJ carried out a sensitization in four Nursery/Primary schools and High Level Market on the importance of effective hand washing with soap or ash and water. The outcome was successful as school Pupils, Teachers and Market women were

pleased as they were taught proper ways of hand washing, importance of handwashing, the critical times of handwashing and the dangers attached if hands are not properly washed. GERI with the desire to reach rural areas also stretched out to Katsina Ala in partnership with UNICEF to also mark the Global Hand Washing Day at the Atom Kpera Stadium with about 12 schools in attendance.

(5) COMMEMORATION OF 2017 WORLD TOILET DAY: In preparation to mark this event, GERI carried out a research on Attitude, Knowledge and Practice of Safe Excreta Management in three communities within Makurdi LGA and one Community: Imande Akpu picked for CLTS intervention as it was more prone to open defecation among the three. Advocacies were carried out to the community and the community triggered after wards with an action plan to end open defecation by 27th February 2018

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution

(1) 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

Facilitated and identified, 268 been trained skill areas of



the communities profiled and selected beneficiaries who are on specified vocational their choice. The

project 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 advocacies to various stake holders in Makurdi including the state Executive and at the Local Government level to facilitate acceptance and active participation from grass roots to the top. With Women Environmental Programme (WEP) as principal recipient, GERI and three other NGOs as sub-recipients, each organization on the 5-member consortium is implementing one activity each of the five components which among others include disarmament and conflict resolution. This is a three year project and is still ongoing.

II. International Day of Peace Celebration 2017

To mark the International Day of Peace 2017, GERI organised a symposium at the NUJ House to discuss security issues which ranged from Boko Haram insurgency to Herdsmen attack, communal crises and agitation for sovereign State of Biafra and the way forward. The activity had security personnels, Writers and Development workers in attendance with all charged with the responsibility of preaching peace in all they do



GERI carried out this activity along with four other organizations – SEVHAGE Literary and Development Initiative, Gender and Community Empowerment Initiative (GECOME), Women’s Right to Education Programme (WREP).

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 4th February 2017 while on October 5th we marked Wear It Pink Day for Cancer awareness in collaboration with Eunice spring Life Foundation and Nigerian Medical Women Association with all staff wearing pink or a



of

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.

Emergency Response and Risk Reduction

- i. GERI in this regard provided technical support during the flood outbreak that rendered about 4,000 people homeless. This was done through registrations in and out of the camp, impact assessment and technical support provided at the camp by our staff and volunteers for ease of work. GERI in her quest to maintain good sanitary conditions in the environment also conducted a WASH activity at the IDP camp. A clean up was carried out by the Team which was led by the Executive Director after which a sensitization and construction of tip tap was done and sanitary materials donated to aid good sanitation practice at the camp.



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 2017

- i. Monitoring and Evaluation Training at GAJI office, Makurdi, Benue State, 23rd-24th January 2017
- ii. Advocacy visit to stakeholders for WEP consortium project in Makurdi and the four LGAs involved 30th January-10th February, 2017
- iii. Marking of International Women's Day, 8th March 2017
- iv. World water Day Celebration, 8th April, 2017
- v. Masters WASHCOM Training workshop in Otukpo, April 2017
- vi. Menstrual Hygiene Day Celebration at Ikpayongo May 2017
- vii. Women 2030 step down training of CSO's on gender and sustainable development goals at PCI 29th- 30th May 2017
- viii. Situation Room for Local Government Elections and Monitoring 3rd June 2017
- ix. One day validation workshop on assessment of state policies, programmes and laws at smile View Hotel Makurdi, 12th June, 2017
- x. Women peace and security: A transformative agenda for sustainable development, 12th July, 2017

- xi. Universal service provision fund stakeholder's engagement forum North central programme at Smile View Hotel, 9th- 10th August, 2017
- xii. Delivering Effective WASH Training (DEWT) in Warri, 18th-19th August, 2017
- xiii. Advocacy and NGO engagement at Smile View Hotel Makurdi, 17th August 2017
- xiv. Impact Evaluation and Support of Flood Victims in Makurdi, 31st August-, 2017
- xv. Training Workshop for CSOs on Gender Programming for SDGs and Gender Budget Monitoring at Eagle Suites Hotel Makurdi, 6th-7th September, 2017
- xvi. WASH Intervention and donation of Sanitation Materials to IDPs at International Market Makurdi 12th September, 2017
- xvii. Marking International World Peace Day at NUJ House Makurdi 23rd September, 2017
- xviii. Training of CSOs and Cooperative societies on how to apply for funding from Australian Aid at Pauline Makka Center 25th September, 2017
- xix. Formation on coalition on climate change between labour and civil society organized by NLC, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 28th September, 2017
- xx. In house Capacity building on Human resource management at GERI Office , 29th September, 2017
- xxi. Focus Group Discussion for USAID West Africa Reacting to Early Warning and Response Data (REWARD) Project, Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) field mission in Middle belt Nigeria, 25th September, 2017
- xxii. Press dialogued, de-escalation, women's leadership "no be fight organized by NGwomen4peace at FJDP Conference Hall , 1st October, 2017
- xxiii. Meeting for Nigerian Participants on Climate Change organized by FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG 18th October, 2017
- xxiv. Global Hand Washing Day 17th and 18th October, 2017
- xxv. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Training organized by CRUDAN at Chateau de Victoria Hotel Makurdi, 30th October-4th November 2017
- xxvi. Development of Benue State Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan at Eagle Suites Makurdi. December 2017.
- xxvii. GCERF project quarterly review meetings at FJDPC 2017

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