

**IN TUNE WITH NATURE**  
**THE 2018 REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF**  
**GENDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK REDUCTION**  
**INITIATIVE (GERI)**



**Moto: Building Resilience for Sustainable Development**

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## **CONTENT**

Abbreviations

From the Executive Director

## **ABOUT GERI**

Who we are

Where we are

Organizational Structure

Organogram

The GERI Team

The GERI Board of Directors

## **PROJECT ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS**

Environment, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (E-WASH)

Peace Building and Conflict Resolution

Women and Youth Empowerment

## **Abbreviations**

CLTS- Community Led Total Sanitation

CSOs- Civil Society Organizations

CSR- Corporate Social Responsibility

ECCAI- Environment and Climate Change Amelioration Initiative

GEF SGP- Global Environmental Facility, Small Grants Programed

IBB- Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida

LGA- Local Government Area

NGOs- Non-Governmental Organisation

SDGs- Sustainable Development Goals

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

UNICEF- United Children Education Fund

WASH- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

## **ABOUT GERI**

### **Who we are**

Gender and Environmental Risk Reduction Initiative, GERI was founded in 2010 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.

### **Our Vision**

To create a future for Nigerians and Africans in which men and women's ability to adapt to a changing environment is enhanced.

To promote the core values and tenets of environmental sustainability and a healthy relationship between gender, environment and sustainable development in Nigeria and Africa.

**The GERI Team**

Elizabeth Jeyol- Executive Director

Otene Ogwuche- Programmes Manager

Sewuese Agbendeh- Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Terver Atighir- Finance and Administrative Officer

Chivir Ukange – Programme Officer

Raymond Terban – Programme Officer

**The GERI Board of Directors**

Grace Atim- Acting Chair

Elizabeth Jeyol- Secretary

Dr James Aper- Member

Dr Umaru Gerdarh- Member

Theresa EzembaIyala- Member

Sabo Kente- Member

Dr Oyije Lilian Abah- Member

## **From the Executive Director**

Thank you for making 2018 another remarkable year for GERI. This year marked a decade of service for the organization. Our dedicated staff have done an incredible job at expanding our outreach while strengthening our programs and services.

We have once again been able to increase the value of services delivered directly in the field with technical support from our funders.

A few program highlights include: Sensitization of school pupils on the importance of beating plastic pollution and combating issues of climate change by planting trees, Providing livelihood support to out-of-school, unemployed and unskilled youth on the project Connecting Women and Youth in Violent Extremist Prone Areas Through Skill Acquisition in Benue State where 268 beneficiaries were trained in different skill areas with startup capital provided for take-off, providing technical and water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) expertise at Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) Camp Abagena, Makurdi and IDP Camp Ugba, Logo,

Our ongoing goal to create an environment where men and women are able to adopt to a changing environment keep our overhead low while increasing our service in the field there by maximizing impact. Our Board of Directors have also helped play a commendable oversight role which has helped keep the organization on track.

Thank you for wholeheartedly being a part of Gender and Environmental Risk Reduction Initiative movement for a building a resilient and sustainable society. We are looking forward to much more in 2019!

Sincerely,

**Elizabeth Jeiyol**

## INTRODUCTION

The year 2018 was a remarkable year for GERI as an organization, in the year under review, GERI experienced many milestones and achievements that are set to put the organization on course for better years ahead. The organization continued to engage actively at all levels and play key roles in delivery development interventions within Benue and beyond. We also continued our implementation of the project Connecting Women and Youth in Violent Extremism, we also facilitated interventions in the area of Water Sanitation and Hygiene among persons displaced by the farmers/herders clash at the IDP camps in Agan, Makurdi LGA, Daudu, Guma LGA and Ugba in Logo LGA. These were in line with our objectives in the thematic areas of WASH and Peace Building and Conflict Management.

In order to strengthen organizational capacity and structures, GERI also carried out a strategic planning meeting to develop a strategic plan for the organization. This will further align the operations of the organization to meet up with the standards obtained anywhere in the world.

## ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS/PROJECT ENGAGEMENTS



• **ENVIRONMENT, WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (E-WASH)**  
**World Environment Day 2018:** World environment day is a day set aside to create awareness around the importance of the environment and the earth. This year the THEME was 'BEATING PLASTIC POLLUTION', GERI took the event to LGEA primary school in WURUKUM to

sensitize the teachers and pupils on the importance of proper waste disposal/ management and tree planting to combat issues of climate change, in order to save the earth and keep the environment clean. This event was carried out in partnership with ECCAI, GECOME, SEVHAGE literary and development initiative, GOHLEF and ASF. Regular monitoring visits have been carried out to assess the growth of the trees planted and also encourage the school management to ensure proper waste disposal management.

- **OUTCOME**

- 5 teachers and 70 pupils (39 females, 31 males) were sensitized on the importance of proper waste disposal/ management.
- 10 Trees were planted to combat issues of climate change, in order to save the earth and also keep the environment clean.



- GERI joined NEWSANto mark the World Water day at Holy Trinity college Makurdi .This year’s theme ”**Nature for Water**” is apt as it sets out to explore nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century which will be achieved by promoting a green infrastructure and harmonizing with grey infrastructure where

possible. It is imperative that government, individuals, organizations, organized private sector and all other critical stakeholders begin to explore ways of promoting nature-based solutions in addressing the challenges of water in Benue especially. The outcome was to nurture the young generation to take nature into consideration when carrying out activities in their immediate environment and also educate their peers, parents and community to tackle water issues and also a reminder to take water problems seriously and tackle them headlong. The school sensitization which had students from other secondary schools in Makurdi present was successful as participants agreed that more needs to be done for water to be available for people to use.50 students 27 male, 23 females were reached during this sensitization exercise The policy makers were not left out as GERI also published a press statement titled *‘Man! A Solution to water challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century’* as the team leadof BENGONET E WASH thematic group. The press statement was read widely on media channels and other CSOs in the WASH sector also adopted it which gave it a wide spread on the internet.

- **Emergency Response at IDP Camp Abagena, Makurdi Local Government:** GERI joined BENGONET to provide emergency WASH services at the Internally Displaced Persons’ Camp Abagena. This has contributed greatly to improving the sanitary condition of the camp. GERI has not only been providing WASH expertise at the camp but also technical support to ensure the smooth running of activities at the camp. Some of the major achievements of our team at the camp include:

maintaining a clean environment despite limited sanitation equipment, establishment of a football





team at the camp, actively involved in the medical team such as issuing of prescription sheets, family planning, issuing of drugs and diagnosing of patients, been able to interact and sensitize the IDPs on health and sanitation issues, pioneered the establishment of the school in the IDP camp which was later taken over by the Catholic Diocese of Makurdi, assisted SEMA in the distribution of items whenever we are called to do so, have been able to identify vulnerable people such as the elderly, disable and sick people, have been able identify the present number of births and deaths. Below are the statistics of identified groups

- No households: **5,061**
- Total population: **34,986**
- No of women: **12,041**
- No of pregnant women: **492**
- Nursing mothers: **616**
- No of men: **6,362**
- No of children: **16,583**
- No of male children: **8,773**
- No of female children: **7,810**
- Aged: **258**
- Disabled: **234.**

- **Coalition of WASH volunteers in partnership with UNICEF:** GERI as a member of Benue Coalition of WASH Volunteers operating with technical support from UNICEF have been providing WASH services at IDP Camp Ugba II. Activities carried out by our team include sensitization of IDPs on importance of good hygiene practices, monitoring and supervision of sanitary condition at the camp, which has ensured proper cleaning of rooms, courtyards, toilets and bathrooms and the general surrounding. **(Harmonise field reports from Raymond and John and update this section)**



- **Menstrual Hygiene Management DAY:** Menstrual hygiene day is a day set aside to create awareness around the importance of menstrual hygiene, This year, GERI took the event to the IDP camp in Gbajimba to sensitize young women and girls on the importance of proper hygiene management during and after menstruation and to also

break the taboos surrounding menstruation. This event was carried out in partnership with GECOME,



ESLF, SEVHAGE literary and development Initiative. Awareness was created about menstruation and the misconception was broken. Women were also educated on good menstrual Hygiene practices and pads with other sanitary materials such as medicated soaps, detergents, pants and food items with water

were distributed. 120 young girls and women were reached during this activity

## WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

- **International Women’s Day 2018:** International Women’s Day celebrates the social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women across the globe. It’s been observed for over 100years and is now celebrated around the world on 8<sup>th</sup> March annually .It is usually marked with talks, performances, rallies, networking events and marches. GERI chose to mark this year’s event with displaced rural women at the IDP camp Abagena to drive attention to the rights and activism of rural women who make up over a quarter of the World population and majority of whom are in global agricultural labour force. Their efforts ensure that there is constant supply of food in both rural and urban settings and little or no attention is paid to them. Their efforts are not usually appreciated as most of them also champion activities in their own ways to promote the cause of women and their displacement rendered them ineffective as their major source of income is handicapped. GERI therefore embarked on the activity to celebrate the women, provide them with basic relief materials. About 90 women were celebrated for the impact they make in the society , and sensitized on the importance of hard work and empowerment



- International Youth Day 2018:** GERI marked this year’s international youth day at IDP camp Abagena with the theme “Safe Space for youths”. This was due to the reason that their present situation and circumstances appear hopeless and they seem to have been forgotten by the large society with their voices lost in the never ending search for an end to the crisis. GERI was therefore, at the camp to motivate them for a hopeful return back home. The interactive session was aimed at eliciting and sharing ideas on creating safe spaces for youths as the opposite affects the society at large. 80 youths (35 males, 45 females)



- Global hand washing day;** GERI marked this year’s global hand washing day at NKST primary school and Erdoo memorial secondary schools. With the theme ‘CLEAN HANDS RECIPE FOR HEALTH’. This was due to the reason that schools have a wider range of people to reach, and the spread of germs if curbed from schools, the homes and individuals will reap of the benefit. GERI was therefore, at the various schools to educate and motivate the students to wash their hands at critical times. 700 pupils were sensitized on the importance of proper hand washing with water and soap/ash. 350(200 females 150 males) and 40 teachers from Erdoo memorial secondary school and 350 from NKST Pri. Sch(140 males and 350 females).



**Peace Building and Conflict Resolution**

- GERI rounded up implementation of activities on her WEP funded project **Connecting Youth And Women In Violet Extremist Prone Areas Through Empowerment And Skills Acquisition In Benue State, Nigeria** through initiative two of the project **Providing Livelihood Support For Out-Of-School, Unemployed And Unskilled Youth.**The



project which was a three year project entered its final phase this year. , GERI carried out monitoring of trainings and impact assessment aimed at evaluating the trainees' capacity as they would be rounding up and ready for receiving their startup capital. As part of the project, continuous advocacies aimed at scaling up the project to more youth across the LGAs of intervention were also embarked upon.

The staff capacity building component of the project was also carried out by the funding partner WEP to further develop the capacity of project staff towards effective service delivery. In line with the objective of the project to end radicalization to violent extremism, a one day training was also carried out on preventing radicalization to violent extremism in the four LGAs of intervention viz: Logo, Kwande, Ado, and Agatu. The training was aimed at exposing the beneficiaries to the concepts of radicalization, violent extremism and the dangers of radicalization to violent extremism to self and the society at large. This training targeted the 268 beneficiaries and their commitment to contribute towards ending recruitment and radicalization to violent extremism was gotten.

In the period under review, 268 beneficiaries also completed their vocational trainings in various skills including tailoring, welding and fabrication, poultry management, aluminum and glass works, shoemaking, computer appreciation, knitting, hairdressing e.t.c. Monitoring utilization of startup capital was also carried out to check those who have bought items needed for startup from the startup capital that was paid into their individual bank accounts and out of the 268 beneficiaries, 142 have bought their items 76 male, 66 female. 122 have not bought their items 54 male, 68 female. 4 sent for items outside their home town 4 female, 1 male.

### **OUTCOMES**

- 268(**134** male, 50% and **134** female, 50%) beneficiaries were trained in different skill areas ranging from tailoring, welding and fabrication, poultry management, aluminum and glass works, shoemaking, computer appreciation, knitting, hairdressing
- All 268 trained beneficiaries gained start-up capital in the sum of ₦50,000 each and out of these, 54.48% (146) have purchased tools/equipments, established their businesses and started generating income and improving their economic status. Those yet to use the WEP supported start-up capital and establish their own businesses constitute 45.52% (122). The reason advanced for their inability to comply with the project expectations was due to high cost of tools/equipment this notwithstanding, **95% (116) of 122 persons** used up their start-up capital on profit making ventures (Farming). This indicates that, 97.76% of beneficiaries earn at least ₦800 daily. This improved economic status reawakened beneficiaries strong desire to continue with their educational pursuit with 129 verbally committing to enroll back in school in 8 months time.

- Beneficiaries are not only generating income from skills learnt but are also mentoring an average of 5 persons in ten skills areas which include, baking and confectionery, hair dressing, phone repairs, computer appreciation, electrical, electronic repairs, barbing, tailoring, soap and shoe making. As at the time of last monitoring visit in Ado and Kwande, **12.5% (50)** persons, from the target figure of **400**, were recorded to be undergoing mentoring. This number could have been more, but for the fact that beneficiaries still needed time to mature in their chosen areas of trade, the enthusiasm shown by the community members had to be suppressed.
- Beneficiaries who showed commitment to the training regimen put in place by each trainer across the various skill areas have found themselves engaged in some form of work relationship with their trainers or different employers. In Agatu, 4 trainees under tailoring were retained by their trainer who previously operated only during the holidays or long strikes because of his tertiary school programme and were earning by pocketing 35% out of every dress sown. However, this arrangement lasted for only 2 months. The arrangement was short lived since the trainees were bent on establishing on their own. Operating at home now, each of the 4 trainees earns nothing less than ₦10,000 weekly. Their formal Trainer turned employer who is still mentoring them has ensured they maintain a standard fee threshold because of the quality of their work. Similarly in Agatu, 2 trainees who learnt electrical works have been engaged with Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) and are also carrying out on-side wiring jobs with a bungalow going for ₦35,000 - ₦40,000. Between them, they have completed 3 private house wiring since graduation.

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

Climate and sustainable Development Network (CSDevNET)

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's Right to Education Programme (WREP)

Gender and Community Empowerment Initiative (GECOME)

Welfare Quarters Youth Association, Makurdi

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

Global Alliance Against Terrorism (GAAT)



Gender and Climate Change Network

Women Environmental Programme (WEP)

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

The following are capacity building training attended by staff, volunteers and interns in 2018

- GCERF quarterly review meeting held at FJDP on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018
- International Women's day Celebration at Dream Centre organized by AHF 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018
- BENGONET General Meeting held at 1<sup>st</sup> Step Office on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018
- Menstrual Hygiene Management Training Held at EDF hall and organized by NEWSAN Benue State Chapter on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018
- Training workshop of Facilitators and ward Officers for sanitation marketing held in Otukpo and organized by UNICEF from 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May, 2018
- Training workshop of Facilitators and ward Officers for sanitation marketing held in Otukpo organized by UNICEF from 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018
- National Day of Mourning and Remembrance at Abagena IDP camp organised by Coalition of Benue NGOs on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2018
- Medical outreach at Abagena IDP camp organized by Medical Students Association in collaboration with Coalitin of Benue NGOs on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018
- WASHinSchools Training in KastinaAla organized by UNICEF from 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June, 2018
- Training of coalition of WASH volunteers on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2018
- International day of Refugees at IDP camp Adikpo organized by NINGONET on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2018
- WEP consortium capacity development organized by WEP at Smile view Hotel from 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018
- Press conference by coalition of CSOs on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018.