



(CAC/IT/NO 91131)
GRASSROOTS
RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

Year - 2018



31st - December 2018

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1. Forwards:

GRA's Board Secretary (Haruna Mohammed)



As the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Grassroot Researchers Associations (GRA), it is my honor to address you in this annual report for the year 2019. In a world facing complex challenges, it is heartening to witness the unwavering commitment of our organization to make a meaningful difference in the lives of marginalized communities. We understand that lasting change requires sustained dedication and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by those we seek to empower. It is this understanding that drives our collaboration with organizations such as the Adelphi Research Institute, the Centre of Civilians in Conflict, Action Aid Nigeria, Action Aid United Kingdom, and the Global Coalitions to Protect Education from Attacks. By engaging in these partnerships, we have demonstrated our commitment to a holistic approach that considers diverse perspectives and

expert insights. Our vision for a more equitable and just society is underpinned by the belief that change begins at the grassroots. Through rigorous research, community engagement, and advocacy, GRA continues to carve a path towards sustainable development and inclusive progress. The resilience and determination displayed by the communities we serve are a constant source of inspiration and reaffirm our conviction in the importance of our work. Thank you for being an integral part of the Grassroot Researchers Associations family. (BS)

GRA's Executive Director (Timothy Ali Yohanna)

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present to you the Annual Report for the year 2019, highlighting the remarkable achievements of the Grassroot Researchers Associations (GRA). GRA's journey in 2019 was marked by impactful collaborations and groundbreaking research initiatives that aimed to address some of the most pressing challenges faced by marginalized communities. Our efforts were guided by a steadfast belief in the power of locally grounded networks to drive meaningful transformation. Among our milestones, the collaboration with Germany's Adelphi Research Institute took us on a critical field mission in the Lake-Chad region, conducting a comprehensive Risk Assessment to delve into climate change's role. Together with the Centre of Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), GRA conducted groundbreaking research in Northeast Nigeria, unraveling complexities around civilian protection efforts. Through partnerships with Action Aid Nigeria and



Action Aid United Kingdom, we engaged with women survivors of trafficking in Maiduguri, amplifying their voices for empowerment. Our partnership with the Global Coalitions to Protect Education from Attacks (GCPEA) showcased GRA's dedication to education, documenting impacts on Nigerian women and girls' education and advocating for safer learning environments. Moreover, our research spotlighted the challenges faced by disabled individuals in North-Eastern Nigeria, urging systemic change toward inclusivity and equality. I extend my deepest gratitude to our supporters, partners, and members for their unwavering belief in our mission. It is your support that fuels our efforts and amplifies our impact. Together, we are laying the groundwork for a future where every individual's rights are respected, and every voice is heard. Thank you for joining us on this journey towards a more equitable and just world. (ED)

2. About Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA):



The Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA) is a non-profit, nonpartisan rights-based organisation that was established in 2016 and registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria as a local content hub for the purpose of supporting grassroots initiatives and actions based on research that advance community development, justice, and victim support. The vision has become the reference point for facilitating grassroots development as an active grassroots mobiliser towards improving the total quality of human life and social justice in Nigeria. Accountability, local content, result-oriented tactics, innovation, and enthusiasm are our steadfast commitments as key values.

Our programmes span the areas of governance, social economic development, and conflict, security, and justice. Mission: To be an active grassroots mobiliser towards improving the quality of human life and social justice Vision: To become the reference point for facilitating grassroots development, justice and victims support.

The organisation has registered as civil societies and works with many stakeholders with a functioning head office in Abuja, Nigeria as well as regional offices in the North-East and North Central regions. We operate with independent governance structures which include a 7-member women-led board of trustees, a 9-member advisory board, 18 operational staff members who are permanent employees, 42 volunteers, and more than 300 community mobilizers.

Our organization's strengths lie in our emphasis on promoting local content, utilizing local language, networks, and volunteers, maintaining a local presence, and prioritizing digital security. Areas of improvement include staff capacity and turnover, financial procedures and policies, contextual understanding of issues, and staff management. We are exploring opportunities to increase our online presence, leverage local content, and establish relationships with local institutions, networks, and state actors. We acknowledge the challenges posed by limited access to local communities due to insecurity caused by both state and non-state actors.

We engage with various stakeholders, including funders, civil societies, victims, institutions and communities, local government, and the state. Our engagements encompass identifying, promoting, advocating, monitoring, supporting, sensitizing, and documenting. Our organization focuses on four main themes: climate change, conflict, security and justice, local governance, and socioeconomic development.

We cater to children, women, people with disabilities, victims of SGBV, and at-risk youth in the field of socioeconomic development. In the area of conflict, security, and justice, our target audience includes SGBV and human rights abuse victims, children and people with disabilities, missing persons, offenders, and vulnerable individuals, both state and non-state actors. For climate change, we target rural and community farmers, herders, fishermen, traders, policymakers at community, local government, and state levels, as well as informal/traditional institutions. In terms of governance, our target audience includes citizens at the local government and state governance levels.

Our organization structures its strategy around knowledge products, capacity building, impact and needs assessment, datafication and systems, dialogue and sensitization, and local content documenting and storytelling. These strategies involve developing knowledge products on local content, building the capacity of local actors, assessing the needs of our target audience and local actors/communities, creating systems to track our interventions and processes, promoting dialogue and sensitization through technology, IEC materials, and town hall meetings, as well as documenting and sharing human stories, issues, challenges, and local actors' needs to enhance the quality of human life.

Our organizational structure comprises of a nine-member advisory board and seven governing councils, or board of trustees, 70% of which are led by women. The directors of operations, programmes, institutional support, and strategies collaborate closely with the executive director, who oversees managing the organization's people and financial resources. This helps decision-making inside the organization.

3. Year 2020 Under Reviews:

First Quarter Q1 (January – March) - 2018

Capacity Building On Resource Mobilizations



Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) organized a Capacity Building session for the staff at the head office in Abuja on **Monday 5th March – Wednesday 7th March 2018** on Grant Proposal writing, communication strategies and digital security. This is the first capacity building training of the organization which is meant to be consistent being a growing organization with vast areas of interest. Details of the training activities include: Two main objective of the training were to improve staff knowledge and skills in research and proposal writing to meet up with competitive selections processes of donors and to educate staff on the implications of digital threats and bring to their awareness the security implications and risks involved in documenting abuses in conflict situations. Another key aspect of the training was to enhance productivity in communication strategies within the context of developmental sectors across the North-Eastern States. The need for training is core and critical to the organization, more so because GRA largely depends on grants to achieve its objectives and run its interventions which are obtained mainly through proposal applications. The First Trainer, Mr. Orahii Samuel, explained the steps from the preliminaries of creating topics, parts of a Proposal, Proposal budget through submission. He further explained Implementation, Management, Monitoring, Evaluation and Documenting Proposal Success.

Training on Research Methodology

The Second trainer, Mr. Timothy Ali Yohanna, featured on Research Methodology, classifying research into two (2) main classes: qualitative research which is with reason and clear description of when? How? Where? Why? and quantitative research which is basically concerned with the numerical value. He explained extensively the types that fall under the qualitative method which basically is the method employed by GRA. Critical aspects considered were observation, interviews, Focus Group Discussions and salient issues of ethical considerations such as consent and confidentiality were emphasised. On the Role of Strategic Communication to CSOs and the Security Implications was also dealt with. Generally, the training had significant impact and is regarded a huge success for GRA. This is evident from responses, participation and comments of staff both during and after the training. It has improved the writing skills of staff who is now more equipped with knowledge and skills in relevant aspects of programs and security.



Lecture on Nigerian Party Competition in a Time of Transition & Terror



On Friday, June 8 2018, the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) organized a roundtable lecture on the Nigerian Party Competition during a Time of Transition and Terror. The research was conducted by Professor Carl LeVan and presented at Barcelona Hotel, 23 Blantyre cres, Wuse II, Abuja. Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) was represented by two staff to understand the context of Transition and Terror. The Roundtable lecture was moderated by Prof. Ebere Onwudiwe, Principal, O-Analytics Research and Development Initiative and led by A. Carl LeVan, PhD; Associate Professor, American University – Washington, DC. Dr. LeVan who is a Fellow of CDD and previously worked in

the U.S. Congress and as an adviser to Nigeria's National Assembly. The meeting was focused on the economy, anti-corruption, and "electoral integrity." It was revealed that insecurity played a smaller role in shaping voter preferences than expected in the 2015 election and it also stated that the need to focus on issue-based campaigns and address hate messages cannot be overemphasized

Second Quarter Q2 (April - June) 2018

G7 Lake Chad Risk Assessment – Field Research



In June 2018, the **Adelphi Research Institute in Germany** engaged Grassroot Researchers Associations (GRA) as a locally grounded network on a field mission in the Lake-Chad region for a Risk Assessment to examine the role of climate change in the region. The project is focused on climate fragility risk assessment. The main objective of the field work is to understand the linked nature of climate and fragility, and plans to evaluate programs to respond positively to associated risks. The analysis of the project is based on locally grounded research and a strong participatory process involving key stakeholders from Chad, Niger and Nigeria that provided climate expertise

as local actors at the grassroots. The research was published and conducted by the adelphi Team: Nagarajan, Chitra; Benjamin Pohl, Lukas Rüttinger, Florence Sylvestre, Janani Vivekananda, Martin Wall and Susanne Wolfmaier. “This project, commissioned by the G7, is the first ever climate and fragility assessment of a specific region. It is the product of an intensive two-year period of research across Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. The assessment draws on long-term hydrological data from the Lake Chad basin and brand new analysis of 20 years of satellite observations.

Field Research with Centre of Civilian and Conflict (CIVIC)

May 2018, GRA worked with the **Centre of Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)** on a research mission in Northeast Nigeria titled: "Protecting and Harming Civilians: Perceptions of the Civilian Joint Task Force in Northeast Nigeria". The Research was conducted by Chitra Nagarajan. GRA organized and assisted in finding interviewees to better understand the civilian perspectives, held some meetings and community speak-up dialogue with men, women and youths as part of mobilization for the research survey and conducted individual interviews and FGDs with vulnerable stakeholders, especially women, girls and youths to elicit their perceptions of the CJTF in North East. ^[1]“As the violence in northeast Nigeria continues into its ninth year, communities have been mobilizing to augment Nigerian military responses



NEPAD Sensitisation/Workshop on Violence Free Election



On 6th June 2018, our Research Assistant, Constance Enebechi represented GRA on June 6th 2018 at NEPAD Sensitization/workshop on Violence Free Election that took place at African First Ladies Mission Hall for Peace. A highlight of day one activities was presented by Mrs. Okafor HJC, Ass Director NEPAD/APRM Nigeria. Others spoke on internal party democracy and compulsory need of specialized training for reporters especially electoral reporters to reduce violence before, during and after elections. Some of the key points noted included violence against women in elections. The panelist discussed the theme titled: providing health services while building back a better health system. The list of the panelists

include: Dr. N. Azodo (FMOH), Dr. J. Oladejo (NCDC), Dr. Shuaibu (NPHCDA), M. Ntugasha (IRC), Pharm Z. Shariff (FMOH). The primary agenda was to bring government at multiple levels, development and humanitarian actors, partners and other stakeholders in the health sector together to discuss ways to achieve a more effective connection and collaboration between humanitarian and developmental programming and effective coordination mechanisms using the sustainable development goals (SDG) targets for universal Health Coverage (UHC) as a collective outcome.

Third Quarter Q3 (July - September) 2018

USAID/MEL Field Based Monitoring/ASKIA Train the Trainer Course



Between 4th -7th September 2018, Devtech funded by United State Agency Development (USIAD) organized a Field Based Monitoring Train the Trainers on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning at Embassy Hall, The Envoy Hotel, 305 Diplomatic Drive, Central Business District, Abuja. Grassroots Researchers Association in collaboration with the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect, ANPPCAN participated in a four-day Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, Field Based Monitoring Train the Trainer activity organized by DEVTECH for USAID. The purpose of Field-Based Monitoring training was to train

monitors who will support USAID's Technical Offices and Implementing Partners to tell their stories. USAID would not reach some of their implementation sites and activities due to security constraints and therefore needed Field Monitors who would work as independent eyes of the Mission. The objective approach given by FBMs would help USAID make a sound decision. The Trainers included Dr. Chidimma Anyanwu - USAID/Nigeria Program Office M&E Specialist (MEL Activity Contracting Officer's Representative), Mrs. Traci L. Dixon (Chief of Party- MEL Activity), Miss. Patricia Ulioghogha (FBM Coordination Officer- MEL Activity), Mr. Joshua Okafor (Senior GIS Specialist- MEL Activity), Mr. Toyosi Adebambo (Acting Senior MEL Specialist for Systems and Operations Manager), Mr. Samuel Gyang (Senior MEL Specialist for Analysis- MEL Activity) and Mrs. Rosemary Okafor (MEL Specialist (PDG)- MEL Activity).

Scoping Research Support on Trafficking in Nigeria (Action Aids - UK)

Action Aid Nigeria in collaboration with Actin Aids United Kingdom embarked on a 5-days short mission trip to Maiduguri between 23rd to 27th July 2018 to meet women survivors of trafficking in Nigeria. The partnership mission was basically a program-base scooping study to identify the gaps, needs and strategies of designing a program on the needs of women survivor of conflict and trafficking in Nigeria. Grassroots Researchers Associations was represented by the head of the organization to explore the collection and analysis of the links on drivers of migration/trafficking through research support. The lead researcher Mandana Hendessi (UK – Action Aids) worked on extensive methodology and approaches to examine women experiences while returned to Nigeria, how they were treated by community members and state authorities, what kind of services they received and the feasibility of support for former sex trafficked women to resettle back into their communities and live fulfilling lives. The scooping mission comprises literatures review, consultation meetings with NGOs and data collection at the grassroots.



IHRDA Workshop in Partnership with NEPIL in Uganda



The pro bono chambers established by Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA) played a vital role in monitoring cases of human rights violations and providing legal counsel and support. Through continuous surveillance, various instances of human rights abuses and the socioeconomic factors contributing to these threats were identified. The pro bono chambers worked diligently to offer legal aid and support to survivors, enabling them to pursue legal action against perpetrators

of human rights abuses. Additionally, the ongoing monitoring and surveillance of human rights violations raised awareness of the situation and the need for advocacy to improve the enforcement of human rights laws and regulations. GRA, through its pro bono chambers, engaged in advocacy efforts to draw the attention of relevant authorities.

Fourth Quarter Q4 - (October – December) 2018

Workshop and Scooping Visit to Nigeria by Mukwege Foundation (MF)



In December 2019 between 12th – 13th, Ms. Malini Seetha Laxminarayan and Ms. Apolline Antonella Véronique Pierson representing Mukwege Foundation visited Abuja city of Nigeria to attend a workshop with victims of sexual survivors. The workshop was organized by Grassroot Researchers Associations (GRA) and Allamin Foundation. The primary goal of the workshop was three-fold: (1) to understand the current situation of victims of conflict-related sexual violence in Nigeria, (2) to gain an understanding of the needs of victims of conflict-related sexual violence regarding their empowerment, collective memory, and capacity building, (3) and to establish a plan of action for the women to strengthen the network and implement a project that meets their identified needs together with other survivors in their areas. 6 survivors from the North-East attended the meeting

and discussed the possibility of creating the network. Ideas and points were integrated to form three solid objectives of the network which include (1) Solidarity among survivors in Nigeria (2) Empowering survivors (3) Listening to survivors voices for awareness and policy change.

Field Research with the Global Coalitions to Project Education from Attack:

In October 2018, Grassroots Researchers Associations worked with a Project Consultant of the **Global Coalitions to Protect Education from Attacks (GCPEA)** on a research project about the impact of attacks on education for Nigerian women and girls titled: "I will Never Go Back to School" which documented the impact of attacks on education for Nigerian women and girls. GRA played a significant role of mobilizing the victims at the grassroots and participated in the field work. We organized Focused Group Discussion (FGDs) and Key informant interviews (KIIs) with women and girls to assess the impact of attacks on education. We collaborated with community structures, men, women and youth groups for input on the research product.



We engaged stakeholders in mapping out schools attacked by Boko Haram in the communities. The report was published by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attacks (GCPEA) which was formed in 2010 by the organization working in the field of education in emergencies and conflict affected contexts

Launching of Research Work on PLWD:



In In September 2018, Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) carried out research on the challenges of person living with disability and discovered that physically-challenged people in North-Eastern Nigeria face discrimination in many ways. They are denied housing, education, employment, and access to public facilities, willful marriage to physically able persons, access to public transportation, medical services due to inability to pay bills, participation in pilgrimage trips to holy lands, access to participation in school competitions, the right to rent apartments for residential and commercial purposes, the right to political representation, the right to equal

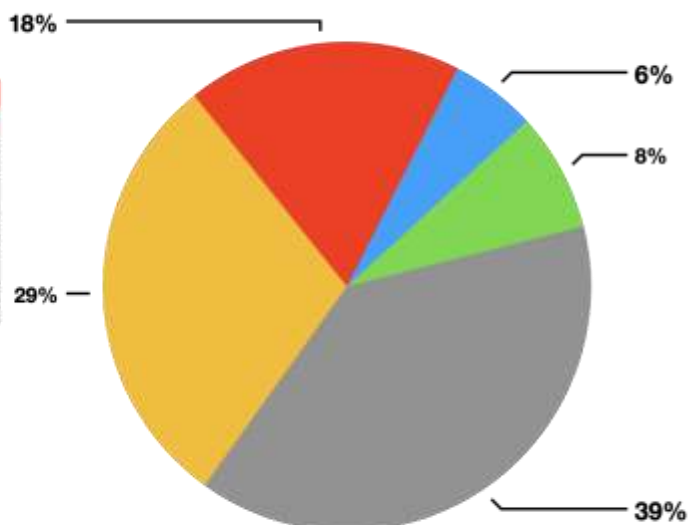
education and their right to dignity as human beings. Nearly half of the interviews we conducted, PWDs repeatedly stated that most people assumed they are lesser humans because of their disabilities and refer to them as “senseless beggars”. Our findings indicated that the support PWDs need from government agencies and development partners is either significantly lacking or grossly insufficient. Despite the presence of several non-governmental organizations intervening in North- Eastern Nigeria, they have not made the plight of PWDs a priority. There has been little effort by disability-rights NGOs and other institutions to work with PWDs to develop programs that effectively respond to their needs and concerns.

4. Financial Year 2018:

Revenue for the Year - 2018

Contributions & Donations	₦701,144
Board of Directors Donations	₦965,960
PLWD - Project Donations	₦4,783,499
Centre for Democracy & Development	₦3,611,840
Front Line Defenders (FLD)	₦2,245,400
Total Revenue	₦12,307,843

- Contributions & Donations
- Board of Directors Donations
- PLWD - Project Donations
- Centre for Democracy & Development
- Front Line Defenders (FLD)



GRASSROOTS RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS			
		2018	2017
Revenue:			
Contributions and Donations		-	3,558,263
Board of Directors Donations		701,144	2,000,000
Other Donations & Contributions		965,960	2,715,430
Fund Raising Activities & the Public		-	637,000
People with Disability (PWD) Project		4,783,499	-
Centre for Democracy & Development		3,611,840	-
Front Line Defenders		2,245,400	-
		<u>12,307,843</u>	<u>8,910,693</u>
Expenditure:			
Adevocacy Vissit		-	121,700
Audit and Accountancy fees		40,000	40,000
Bank Charges		49,094	1,967
Communication		239,100	45,350
Capacity Building Tranning		739,250	-
Consultancy Dec-18 Dr, Friday James		300,000	-
Drafting of Financial Procedures and Manuals		150,000	-
Dec-18Jasper Kachikwu		300,000	-
Dec-18 Abenizer Akazhen		100,000	-
Depreciation provision		292,100	50,700

Electricity	11,800	10,000
Hospitality & Entertainment	1,103,747	2,014,700
Office Expenses	576,995	32,200
Printing & Stationery	128,070	54,400
Rent & Rates	785,417	450,000
REGISTRATION/SUBSCRIPTION	5,000	
Transport & Travelling	3,925,442	4,181,226
WATER	1,500	-
Welfare	324,400	435,500
Wages salaries & allowances	4,878,800	1,584,000
Incorporation Expenses Written off	217,500	-
	<u>14,168,215</u>	<u>9,021,743</u>
Retained (deficit)	<u>(1,860,432)</u>	<u>(81,050)</u>

5. Key Reflections & Focus

Key Reflections - Annual Report 2018

Women's Rights Approach:

Our dedication to women's rights was exemplified by the Capacity Building session organized by Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) for staff members. This training focused on Grant Proposal writing, communication strategies, and digital security. By equipping our team with these skills, we reaffirmed our commitment to advancing women's rights through strategic planning and effective communication.

Climate-Centered Approach:

In partnership with the Adelphi Research Institute, GRA undertook a Risk Assessment project in the Lake-Chad region. This initiative, grounded in a Human Rights Approach, explored the links between climate change and fragility. Through locally grounded research and participatory processes, we shed light on the implications of climate change on human rights and fragility in the region.

Survivor-Centered Approach:

GRA's collaboration with the Centre of Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) highlighted our dedication to the Survivor-Centered Approach. By engaging in research titled "Protecting and Harming Civilians: Perceptions of the Civilian Joint Task Force in Northeast Nigeria," we aimed to amplify the voices of vulnerable stakeholders, particularly women, girls, and youths. Through community dialogues and individual interviews, we centered the perspectives of survivors in understanding the impact of the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF).

Capacity Building Approach:

In the realm of capacity building, our commitment to the Digitization Approach remained steadfast. The training on Research Methodology equipped our team with essential skills to conduct effective research in the digital age. This initiative reflected our responsiveness to changing technological landscapes.

6. Partners:



Haruna Mohammed

Board Secretary
31st/12/2018

Timothy Ali Yohanna

Executive Director
31st/12/2018