



(CAC/IT/NO 91131)
GRASSROOTS
RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

Year - 2017



31st December 2017

Table of Contents

Content

Table of Contents	2
1. Forwards:	3
2. About GRA:	4
3. The year under Review (2020):	4
• <i>Quater One Q1 – January – March</i>	<i>5</i>
• <i>Quarter Two Q2 – April – June</i>	<i>6</i>
• <i>Quarter Three Q3 – July – September</i>	<i>6</i>
• <i>Quater Four Q4 – October – December :</i>	<i>7</i>
4. Financial Year 2017:	8
5. Key Reflections & Focus	8
6. Patners	8

1. Forwards:

GRA's Board Secretary (Haruna Mohammed)

This report serves as a testament to the dedication and resilience of our organization, as well as the collective efforts of our team, partners, and supporters. The year 2017 marked a significant chapter in our journey. As a board, we continue to uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, and strategic governance that are fundamental to our mission. Our role is not only to guide the organization but also to foster an environment that encourages innovation, inclusivity, and collaboration. Our decisions are shaped by our shared values and the desire to create lasting impact. The work we do resonates far beyond board meetings and reports, as it directly influences the lives of individuals and communities we serve. It is a privilege to be part of an organization that stands for positive change and social justice. As we continue on this journey, let us remain united in our commitment to the GRA's mission. Our collective efforts have the power to uplift, empower, and inspire, and I am confident that the path ahead holds great potential for transformative progress. I extend my gratitude to each member of the board, our staff, and the extended GRA community for your continued dedication and support. Together, we shape a brighter future for those we serve.

Haruna Mohammed (BS)



GRA's Executive Director (Timothy Ali Yohanna)



In 2017, we took substantial steps to realize our vision, thanks to the dedication of our volunteers who embraced the organization's mission wholeheartedly. We proudly welcomed 23 volunteers who shared our passion and commitment, amplifying our efforts to bring about positive change at the grassroots level. Their unwavering support embodies the core values that GRA stands for. A pivotal achievement was the successful registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in October 2016. This milestone formalized GRA's status as a local non-governmental organization dedicated to grassroots research and human rights advocacy. This recognition underscored our commitment to upholding the principles of transparency, accountability, and effectiveness as we work towards our goals. Additionally, a significant decision was made to establish a regional office in Maiduguri, strategically located to coordinate our efforts across the North-Eastern states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe. This expansion further solidified our commitment to reaching the communities that need our support the most. As we reflect on the achievements of 2017, we are humbled by the progress we have made in a short span of time. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has played a role in our journey thus far. Your support, belief, and collaboration inspire us to reach new heights and bring about enduring change.

Timothy Ali Yohanna, (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 2017 Under Reviews:

First Quarter Q1 (January – March) - 2017

Development of Human Resources Manual & Policies



In February 2017, Grassroots Researchers Associations employed the services of an expert in the area of Human Resources to guide the management team in developing a Human Resources Manual for the organization's day to day operations. The Consultant sat down with the executive Director and other key staff and proposed the content and the outline of the policies. As a newly established Human Right Organization, emphasis was given to the quality and standard procedures of the day to day activities of the organization so that it would meet up with donors' requirements globally. Several meetings

were held with staff, volunteers and stakeholders to ensure the manual addresses all the key needs. As a rights-base organization, we made provision for Policy changes and channels of communications that would give objective feedback. We took into consideration the necessary needs for changing the policies from time to time and to reflect changes in the working place. We strongly considered employment trends, economic conditions and donor requirements and proposed a clause for gender diversity.

GRA Recruitment of Mobilisers/Volunteers

GRA is a nonprofit and non-political rights-based organization registered in 2016 with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria as a local content hub aimed at facilitating evidence-based grassroots initiatives and actions that promote development, justice and victims support in the communities. Our mission is to be an active grassroots mobilizer towards improving the total quality of human life and social justice in Nigeria. Our programmes are spread across Climate Change, Conflict, Security and Justice, Social Economic Development and Governance. In an effort to stabilize the regional office and to strengthen the efforts of the organization, we reached out to stakeholders in all the three core North-Eastern States Adamawa, Borno and Yobe to invite applicants for volunteer positions. We were able to select 23 volunteers who agreed to support the vision of the organization. Their primary role to identify cases of Human Rights abuses at the community level and report them. Such cases would be directed to the relevant organization who might end up taking drastic actions.



GRA - Regional & National Location



After the successful registration with the Corporate affairs Commission (CAC) in October 2016 as a local non-governmental organization focusing on grassroots research and human rights issues, the Board of Directors of the organization had their meeting on 4th January 2020 to design strategies and agree on office locations. The regional office was located in Maiduguri to coordinate the North-Eastern States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. On the other part, a head office is stationed in Abuja to coordinate the administrative activities. Within the first quarter, both the regional and head office kicked off their activities in some communities in Borno State, more especially in Maiduguri Metropolitan Council (MMC), Konduga and Gwoza LGA. In the same quarter, GRA worked in Damaturu and Geidam of Yobe State.

Second Quarter Q2 (April - June) 2017

Organisational Websites Development



Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) use the services of website developers (eBen System) to build a websites for the organization in-line with the organizational vision and mandate. The website consultants will work together with GRA to design a structure of a website with a title www.grassrootsresearchers.org and develop a graphical interface that would represent GRA effectively. We agreed strongly as a Human Rights Organization to consider using secure means of hosting the website. The content Management System (CMS) would be updated with security measures to ensure secured backup in case of cyber-attacks

and data recovery. The website's features would include: About us, What we do, Projects, Publications, Gallery and Career opportunity. The general idea is to use the medium to communicate the activities of the Grassroots Researchers Associations to stakeholders

Stakeholders Mapping & Partnership

Building on the grassroots experience over the years, GRA leverages on the activities of both local and international organizations working in North-East Nigeria. Before the Organization was created In October 2016, GRA worked with Human Right Watch (HRW) on a research mission about the Chibok Girls titled: "Those Terrible Weeks in Their Camp. Boko Haram Violence against Women and Girls in Northeast Nigeria. After the Organization was registered, we also worked on a research mission about Nigerian Officials Abusing Displaced Women and Girls in Internally Displaced Camps. The Government response to the finding was so amazing that stringent measures were put in place to protect women and girls in the IDP camps. In the area of children, Grassroots Researchers Associations worked with United Nation Watch-list on Children and Armed Conflict on a research topic titled: "Who Will Care for Us? Grave Violations against Children in North-eastern Nigeria". The findings of the research was so appealing that it came with a series of recommendations to local actors, I international NGOs and government institutions.



Recruitment of Interns



In collaboration with Reach, Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA) conducted a Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in the North-Eastern region of Nigeria in June. The aim of this activity was to identify and address the genuine needs of the population in the implementing states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe. The needs assessment served to evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing programs and initiatives in meeting the specific requirements of the local communities. It helped identify the challenges faced by the population, propose appropriate solutions, and determine areas that required additional support. By collaborating, GRA and Reach sought to enhance the quality of their services and initiatives, ultimately

contributing to the betterment of the communities they serve.

Third Quarter Q3 (July - September) 2017

Seminar on Strategies to Address Contemporary Slavery:

In Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) attended a seminar on 4th July 2017 at No 1 Sankuru Close, Off Rima Street, IBB Way, Maitama, Abuja. The event was organized by MacArthur Foundation about modern slavery. Some of the key points discussed includes Early Child Marriage, Child Trafficking and Child Labour that is very much prevalent in the nation. Some of the approaches explored to discuss the topic was a documentary on child marriage that was projected to the audience for better understanding. The event was interesting and relevant to the context because some victims of early child marriage shared their experience and how they were able to come out of it. At the end of the event all the participants understood the content with deep perspectives about modern slavery.



Pan - Africanism & Democratic Struggles - Late Prof. Abubakar



On 7th July 2017, Grassroot Researchers Associations (GRA) was represented by two staff at a seminar at the NUC Auditorium in Abuja organized by the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) on a memorial lecture on the theme “Pan-Africanism and Democratic Struggles to celebrates the delectable personality of Late Prof. Abubabakar Momoh. So many tributes were given by different personality in many fields. A solidary trust fund was also launched on behalf of the personality and strategies were set in place to launch the idea.

Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) Core Values

Result Oriented The endpoint of all our activities, engagement and participation shall be defined by the need for a well-defined result **Passion** Basic to our work is passion, we believe that capacity can be built, but the zeal to solve the problem and add value to the life of our beneficiary is a standard for us. **Local Content** In the heart of all we do is to emphasis and promote local content, either from the point of good, need or challenge, we see the use of local content as a tool for promoting good, in the form of Justice, Good Governance, and Human Development **Innovation** We believe that there is always a better way to get things done, to that effect, we will always strive for what works, beyond the box. **Accountability** For all time, accountability is a system and value that guides all our engagement, in dealing with our stakeholders, accountability is a guiding principle for us.



Fourth Quarter Q4 - (October – December) 2017

Northern Regional Conference on Security, Justice & Development:



Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) attended a Northern regional Conference on November 15th 2017 at Tahir Guest Palace in Kano State Nigeria. The Conference was organized by PRAWA – a non-governmental organization with a vision of “Humane and secure society that corrects and empowers to prevent crime, violence and torture”. The main mission is to promote institutional reforms in formal and informal sector for access to justice, rehabilitation and social development. Those in attendance included: His royal highness Emir of Kano (Mallam Sanusi Lamido II), Prof. Babagana Umar Zulum, (Commissioner of RRR, Borno State), representative of head of Prison and Police in Kano State Nigeria. Other prominent members include Civil Societies representatives from Northern Nigeria such as the Chairperson of

International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA). Key matters discussed included the need to evaluate the security situation, justice and development challenges of Northern Nigeria including the devastating impact of the insurgency. The conference also provided the opportunity for stakeholders to assess the ongoing interventions and identify existing gaps in the security, justice and.

CDD Project Partners Inceptions & Capacity Building Meeting

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) organized a 7-days workshop between 27th November 2017 – December 1st 2018 and called partners from Niger, Cameroon and Nigeria for project Partners Inception and Capacity Building meeting at Southern Sun Hotel, Ikoyi Lagos State. The program is organized and anchored by the Director of CDD (Idayat Hassan), Catherine Angai of OSIWA, Juliet Ugwu and Jasper Ukachukwu of the Centre of Democracy and Development (CDD). The agenda of the workshop was geared towards Strengthening Capacity and Oversight in the use of Human Rights Principles. The panel discussion was directed to the local partners from the Lake-chad Countries to make presentations on Country Overviews. **Ms. Toh Edwin**, a Managing Director of the Centre for public Interest Law from Cameroon spoke about the State of Security in Cameroon and Human Rights. Her emphasis was on existing interventions by both State and Non-state actors. The second session of the Panel discussion was addressed by **Mallam Mustapha Kyari** from Niger Republic, a deputy Director of Alternative Espaces Citoyens. He gave an oversight of Human Rights Issues and a country overview.



Training on Digital Safety, Privacy and Information Management (FLD)



Front line Defender (FLD), an international foundation for the protection of Human Rights Defenders in Dublin Ireland, organized a training on digital safety, privacy and information management at Denis Hotel Abuja for the durations for 5 days between 3rd – 6th December 2017. The participants came from different parts of Nigeria. The training was conducted by a Front Line Defenders Consultant with special skill on digital safety.

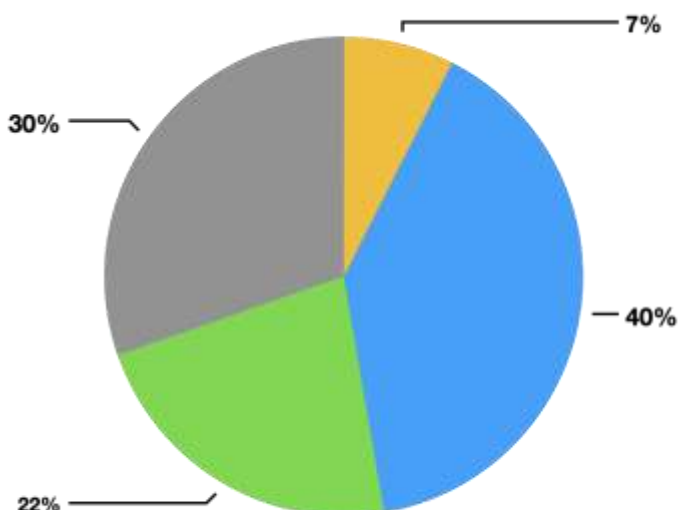
Some of the topics covered at the workshop included Risk Assessment to understand a context of risk, threat, vulnerability and capacity.

4. Financial Year 2017:

Revenue for the Year - 1997

IDP - Project Donation	₦3,558,263
Donation and Contributions	₦2,000,000
Board of Trustees Contributions	₦2,715,430
Funds from Public Activities	667,000
Total Revenue	₦8,940,693

- IDP - Project Donation
- Donation and Contributions
- Board of Trustees Contributions
- Funds from Public Activities



Source: From Audited financial Account of the Year – 2017

	<i>for the year ended 31st December</i>	2017	2016
	Revenue:		
	Internal Displace Persons (IDP) Donations	3,558,263	-
	Dotation's and Contributions	2,000,000	-
	Board member's contribution	2,715,430	-
	Funds Raising Activities from Public	667,000	-
	TOTAL	<u>8,940,693</u>	-
	Expenditure:		
	Adevocacy Vissit	121,700	-
	Audit and Accountancy fees	40,000	-
	Bank Charges	1,967	-
	Communication	45,350	-
	Depreciation provision	50,700	-
	Electricity	10,000	-
	Hospitality & Entertainment	2,014,700	-
	Office Expenses	32,200	-
	Printing & Stationery	54,400	-
	Rent & Rates	450,000	-
	Transport & Travelling	4,181,226	-
	Welfare	435,500	-
	Wages salaries & allowancies	1,584,000	-
		<u>9,021,743</u>	-
	Retained Surplus/ (deficit)	<u>(81,050)</u>	-
			-

5. Key Reflections & Focus

Key Reflections - Annual Report 2017

Consortium-Centered Approach

From the successful registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to the establishment of a regional office in Maiduguri, our organization has consistently upheld the Human Rights Approach. This commitment to formal recognition and strategic expansion reflects our dedication to promoting human rights, transparency, and accountability. These steps enabled us to extend our reach and impact through effective communication and information dissemination.

Capacity Building Approach:

The support and dedication of our 23 volunteers showcased our commitment to the Capacity Building Approach. By welcoming individuals who shared our passion and commitment, we nurtured a culture of continuous learning and growth. This approach was essential in harnessing the potential of our team to drive positive change. Their passion and support have amplified our efforts, advancing the cause of human rights, climate change and gender equality.

Localization Approach:

The establishment of a regional office in Maiduguri aligned perfectly with the Localization Approach. This strategic decision acknowledged the unique needs and contexts of the North-Eastern states and ensured that our efforts were locally grounded, responsive, and effective; we aimed to better coordinate our efforts and reach the communities most in need of support.

6. Partners:



Haruna Mohammed

Board Secretary
31st/12/2017

Timothy Ali Yohanna

Executive Director
31st/12/2017