



(CAC/IT/NO 91131)
GRASSROOTS
RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report *Year - 2020*



31st - December 2020

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1. Forwards:

GRA's Board Chair (Ladi Clark Musa)



In a year marked by uncertainty, our steadfast dedication to our cause remained unshaken. The hurdles posed by the global pandemic only fueled our determination to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve. Our tireless team, alongside our invaluable partners and supporters, demonstrated resilience and innovation in the face of adversity. The commitment to women's rights, climate change, conflict, security & justice, local governance, and socio-economic development is a guiding force that runs deep within GRA. Our work is not just about projects and initiatives—it's about empowering voices that have long been marginalized, supporting survivors on their path to healing and independence, and fostering a safer digital space for all. The achievements of the past year, which are eloquently highlighted by the Executive Director, are testaments to the dedication and collaborative spirit that

define our organization. These achievements underscore the power of collective action and the positive change that can arise from unity and determination. Looking ahead, the road to gender equality and justice remains long, but it is a journey we embark upon with hope and vigor. Our work is a continuous commitment to creating a world that celebrates diversity, upholds human rights, and dismantles systemic inequalities. To our team, partners, supporters, and beneficiaries, I extend my heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering support. Your dedication fuels our resolve and underscores the significance of our mission. It is your belief in our cause that propels us forward, no matter the challenges that lie ahead. (BC)

GRA's Executive Director (Timothy Ali Yohanna)

It is with deep gratitude and a sense of accomplishment that I introduce the annual report of GRA for the year 2020—a year that tested our resilience and underscored the importance of our mission. As we look back on the challenges and triumphs of this extraordinary year, I am reminded of the unwavering commitment and determination that define our organization. The year 2020 brought unprecedented challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, disrupting lives and communities worldwide. In the face of this adversity, GRA rose to the occasion, adapting and innovating to ensure our commitment to gender equality and justice remained steadfast. Among the key achievements, the establishment of the Pro-bono Legal Clinic was a significant milestone. Even in the midst of a pandemic, we recognized the urgency of providing legal support to those in need. This initiative not only exemplifies our dedication but also serves as a lifeline to individuals seeking justice. The Building Survivor's Network (BSN) emerged as a powerful testament to the resilience of survivors. Through BSN, we not only created a support network but also facilitated opportunities for skill acquisition, allowing survivors to regain control over their lives and futures. As we celebrate these milestones, let us remember that our journey is far from over. Our commitment to social justice remains unwavering. With every initiative we undertake, we are contributing to a more equitable and inclusive 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 mobilizer 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) - 2020

Leadership Evaluation & Advocacy Workshop – BSN Project



In partnership with Human Rights Watch (HRW) and with funding from the Dr. Mukwenge Foundation, Grassroot Researchers Association successfully organised a 3-day leadership evaluation and advocacy workshop. This significant event, held on 29th January 2020, was an integral part of the Building a Survivor Network (BSN) project. Attendees included six BSN leaders and two focal persons from Adamawa and Borno states, who actively participated in the workshop facilitated by Ms. Aniette Ewang, the esteemed Nigerian Researcher of Human Rights Watch (HRW). Supporting the training

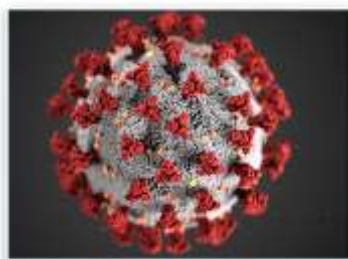
was Mr. Timothy Ali Yohanna, the Executive Director of GRA. During the engaging workshop, participants had the opportunity to reflect upon and share their valuable insights and experiences. Key areas of focus included building confidence, embracing democratic leadership styles, and fostering a strong sense of teamwork. Ms. Ewang, an expert in the field, guided the survivors through various strategies for effective advocacy, emphasising the utilisation of advocacy tools and addressing other engaging topics.

Survivor's Virtual Monthly Meetings – BSN Project

In the first quarter of the year, Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA) implemented an impactful initiative in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States: the establishment of monthly online meetings. These virtual gatherings served as a vital platform for survivors to connect, share their experiences, and engage in meaningful discussions regarding their activities. Participants also benefited from regular updates provided by GRA and partner organisations operating in the region. The online meetings proved to be highly successful, garnering appreciation from survivors who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with others and receive support during challenging times. These gatherings played a significant role in fostering a sense of community and providing a much-needed lifeline for survivors who may have otherwise felt isolated and alone. The success of this initiative underscores the resilience and adaptability of organisations like GRA in navigating difficult circumstances.



COVID 19 Campaign & Advocacy!!



In response to the outbreak and rapid spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in Nigeria and globally in March 2020, the Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA) recognized the urgent need to conduct an awareness campaign in the BAY States (Borno, Adamawa, Yobe) to educate the community about the impact of the disease. To prioritise the safety of its network members, GRA organised virtual meetings to carry out their activities effectively. They launched campaigns promoting social distancing, providing essential tools, and disseminating crucial information to their members to ensure their well-being. The awareness campaign conducted by GRA focused on educating the community about the symptoms of the disease, preventive measures, and the significance of adhering to the guidelines outlined by the World

Health Organization (WHO) and the Nigerian Center for Disease Control (NCDC).

Second Quarter Q2 (April - June) 2020

Building Survivor's Network (BSN)



The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 had a profound effect on the already dire humanitarian situation in north-eastern Nigeria. The Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States, recognizing the challenges faced by survivors who relied on physical meetings, swiftly established online monthly meetings to ensure continued support and assistance. Commencing in the first quarter of the year, these online meetings served as a platform for survivors to share their experiences, receive updates on GRA's activities and other relevant organisations, and maintain connections with fellow survivors and stakeholders. The meetings addressed the specific challenges posed by the

pandemic, including the provision of personal protective equipment, dissemination of pandemic-related information, and other essential support. Despite the pandemic's obstacles, GRA remained steadfast in its commitment to promote human rights and support survivors, exemplifying its resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity.

Establishment of Pro-bono Legal Clinic

On June 11, 2020, Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA) made a momentous stride towards fulfilling its strategic commitment to development and capacity building in the North-East region of Nigeria. In line with this commitment, GRA launched its Pro-Bono Chambers, a pivotal initiative aimed at establishing a clearinghouse mechanism for human rights cases and subsequent legal proceedings. The establishment of the Pro-Bono Chambers seeks to bolster the protection of individuals' legal rights in the region and promote equitable access to justice. Previously, GRA had engaged volunteers to maximise its effectiveness in safeguarding, preventing violence, monitoring, and reporting instances of human rights abuses within the region. However, the introduction of the Pro-Bono Chambers represents a significant advancement, providing a more comprehensive framework for resolving cases of human rights violations. Through the Pro-Bono Chambers, GRA was able to offer legal aid and representation to individuals who have experienced human rights violations, encompassing extrajudicial killings, torture, enforced disappearances, sexual and gender-based violence, and various other forms of abuse.



Nigeria 2020 - Multi-sector Needs Assessment/Trainings:



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) 2020

REACH An Initiative of
IMPACT Initiatives,
ACTED & UNOSAT

Nigeria 2020 MSNA - Field Research

In the middle of July, Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA) established a fruitful partnership with REACH to conduct a survey in the implementing communities of the BAY States in North-Eastern Nigeria. The primary objective of this survey was to assess the impact of our programs and determine the needs of the communities we serve. To ensure accurate data collection, dedicated officers were deployed to the

local communities and provided with comprehensive training on effective data collection techniques. Under the guidance of the project coordinator, training sessions were conducted in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states, ensuring the collection of precise and error-free data. The survey conducted by GRA proved to be invaluable in identifying the challenges faced by the communities and understanding their specific needs. This valuable information was utilised to enhance the implementation of our ongoing programs, ensuring that we effectively addressed the communities' requirements. By aligning our interventions with the identified needs, we maximised our impact on the ground and brought about positive change. The survey shed light on issues such as gender-based violence and disputes within the communities, raising awareness and advocating for appropriate authorities to take action in addressing these pressing issues.

Talk-show - International Day of Justice

On July 17, 2022, in observance of the International Day of Justice, Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA) organised a radio discussion program to raise awareness about the prevalence of gender-based violence in the North-Eastern region of Nigeria. Considering the high illiteracy rates in the area, many cases of gender-based violence go unreported. The aim of the program was to educate the public on the consequences of such acts and encourage victims to report cases to the relevant authorities. During the radio discussion program, GRA engaged various stakeholders, including community leaders, legal practitioners, and members of the public, to shed light on the causes, consequences, and strategies for addressing gender-based violence. Participants were encouraged to share their experiences, thoughts, and suggestions on tackling gender-based violence in the region.



Legal Clinic - Updates on Documented Cases:



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 and policymakers to the issue of human rights violations in the North-East region of Nigeria. These advocacy endeavours aimed to enhance the implementation of human rights laws and regulations, ultimately ensuring better protection for vulnerable communities in the region.

Fourth Quarter Q4 - (October – December) 2020

Women Peace & Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) – Project



Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA), in partnership with UN Women Nigeria, is implementing a 2-year project supported by the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the EU-backed Spotlight Initiative. The project focuses on combating violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Adamawa, Yobe, and Borno States. The primary goal is to strengthen networks and women-focused groups to promote social accountability mechanisms and tools that mobilise local support effectively. By addressing issues such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), harmful practices, gender equality, and women's empowerment, the project aims to assist civil society organisations in utilising social accountability to enhance their advocacy and influence in preventing and responding to VAWG. The initiative also seeks to foster partnerships with government agencies, the private sector, the media, and other stakeholders to create a social movement of women and girls as advocates and change agents at different levels. The funding provided by WPHF and the Spotlight Initiative will be utilised to implement various activities, including capacity building for civil society organisations, community mobilisation, awareness campaigns, and the establishment of referral pathways for survivors of SGBV/VAWG. Overall, the project will contribute to ending SGBV/VAWG and promoting women's empowerment in the region.

Skill Acquisition Training through BSN

The Building Survivor Network (BSN) meeting organised by GRA marks a significant milestone in empowering survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and other vulnerable groups in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States. The meeting aimed to provide training and support to participants, enabling them to become self-sufficient and financially independent. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held simultaneously in the three states, with additional subgroups and cluster groups joining virtually via video conferencing. Trainers conducted hands-on training and demonstrations, equipping participants with the necessary skills to produce in-demand products such as soap and dresses for the local markets. This training not only provided new skills but also allowed participants to practise and refine their craft, instilling confidence in their ability to create high-quality products for sale. The trainers also shared information on accessing raw materials and markets, enabling participants to continue producing and selling items. This initiative provides a sustainable income-generating opportunity, empowering participants to support themselves and their families.



Digital Security Trainings in BAY states



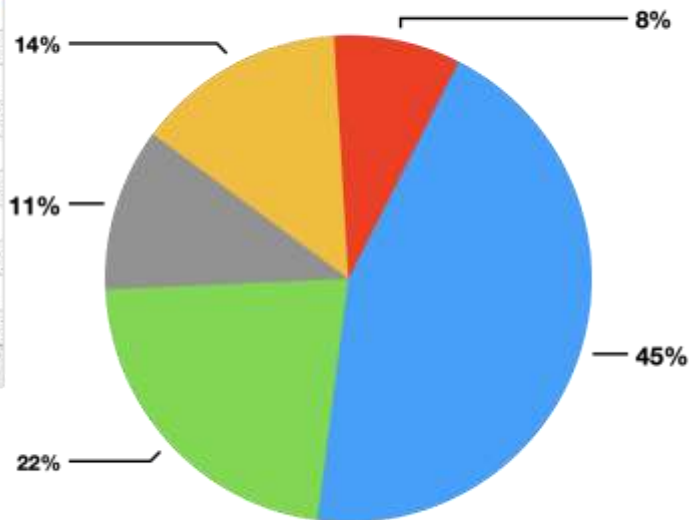
In response to the increasing need for digital security measures, GRA organized a comprehensive training session in collaboration with its network members in Adamawa, Borno, and Abuja. The training aimed to educate participants about the latest developments in digital threats, misinformation, and digital privacy. Mr. Timothy Yohanna, the Executive Director of GRA, facilitated the training, utilizing his expertise in digital security. Participants were introduced to various concepts and strategies for protecting their online identities and safeguarding personal data. The training covered a range of digital security tools and techniques and provided hands-on exercises and group discussions. Participants expressed their appreciation for the knowledge and skills gained, eager to apply them in their personal and professional lives. The training equipped participants to navigate digital security challenges and protect themselves against potential online threats.

4. Financial Year 2020:

Revenue for the Year - 2020

Building Survivors Network - MF	N1,553,000
Centre for Democracy & Development	N775,000
Mukwege Foundation / SEMA	N377,789
COVID - 19 SSRD Project	N485,000
DPT - project GRA	N294,000
virtual.org Project	N1,125,600
Wilgazen Project	N930,532
IT- Initiative Project	N1,142,680
PS- Initiative Project	N420,000
WPHF - Spotlight Project	N344,000
Total Revenue	N7,447,601

- Building Survivors Network - MF
- Centre for Democracy & Development
- Mukwege Foundation / SEMA
- COVID - 19 SSRD Project
- DPT - project GRA



GRASSROOTS RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION			
	<i>for the year ended 31st December</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>
	Revenue:		
*	Building a Survivor Network (BSN) project	1,553,000	7,792,769
*	Executive Director's contribution		690,551
*	Loans and advances		950,000
*	Centre for Democracy & Development	775,000	1,000,000
*	SEMA Internet Initiative Funds (SIIF)	377,789	-
*	Strengthening Survivors' Resilience Covid-19 (SSRD)	485,000	-
*	Reach Project	386,000	-
*	D& Physical Training (GRA)	294,000	-
*	Vigual Project	1,125,600	-
*	Wilgazen Project	930,532	-
*	IT- Initiative Project (GRA)	1,142,680	-
*	PS- Initiatives Project (GRA)	420,000	-
*	WPHF - Project	344,000	-
		7,833,601	10,433,320
	Expenditure:		
*	Community Mobilisers/Advocacy Visits	127,700	502,300

*	Audit and Accountancy fees	60,000	90,000
*	Bank Charges	15,931	15,736
*	Communication	1,055,850	237,100
*	Capacity Building Training	200,400	390,500
*	Consultancy Dec-18 Dr, Friday James	952,000	90,000
*	Sevising Of Generator	-	52,000
*	flue Oil 7 Lubricant	12,000	26,000
*	Report writing	200,000	-
*	repairs of riginal office roof	20,300	-
*	Depreciation provision	301,510	251,660
*	Electricity	9,000	12,000
*	Flip Charts Stand and Flex Banner	-	78,500
*	Hospitality , Entertainment	543,000	1,120,000
*	Office Expenses & Projector/Screen	52,080	114,700
*	Printing & Stationery,Name Tag and Tag Holders	330,400	180,615
*	Rent & Rates	1,873,333	1,028,720
*	Miscellaneous - Photographer	-	15,000
*	maintenane of office equipment	316,000	-
*	Transport to beneficiary	-	586,000
*	Registration &Subscription	1,210,120	23,800
*	Transport & Travelling,(Car Hire)	661,300	808,240
*	Publicity, P.A System,	100,000	90,000
*	Welfare, Survivors Feeding	241,000	992,160
*	Wages salaries & allowancies	2,728,000	2,198,240
*	Vanue	161,000	198,000
*	Phones for Survivors Coordinators	-	405,000
*	Pre-operational Expense written off	-	570,000
*	Per-diem	90,000	90,000
		11,260,924 (4,679,256)	10,166,271 (1,281,933)

5. Key Reflections & Focus

Key Reflections - Annual Report 2020

Women's Rights Approach:

Our partnership with Human Rights Watch (HRW) and the Dr. Mukwege Foundation bore fruit in the form of a transformative 3-day leadership evaluation and advocacy workshop. This event, held in January 2020, underscored our unwavering dedication to empowering survivors and advancing women's rights. By providing survivors with a platform to evaluate their leadership roles, we reaffirmed our commitment to amplifying their voices and perspectives.

Survivor-Centered Approach:

The survivor-centered ethos guided our initiatives throughout the year. The establishment of monthly online meetings in the first quarter created a virtual haven for survivors from Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States. These virtual gatherings fostered connections, enabled survivors to share experiences, and facilitated meaningful discussions on their activities. Additionally, the establishment of pro bono chambers played a pivotal role in monitoring human rights violations and offering legal support. Furthermore, the Building Survivor Network (BSN) meeting marked a milestone in empowering survivors in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States. This initiative aimed not only to provide training but also to nurture self-sufficiency and financial independence among participants.

Digitization Approach:

In response to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, our commitment to the Digitization Approach took center stage. The establishment of an awareness campaign in the BAY States to educate the community about the pandemic's impact demonstrated our adaptability. Through digital channels, we reached out, educated, and engaged communities, highlighting the importance of collective action during these trying times.

Community Approach:

Our dedication to capacity building was evident in various initiatives. The Multi-Sector Needs Assessment conducted in collaboration with Reach underscored our commitment to addressing genuine community needs. Additionally, the comprehensive training sessions on digital threats and privacy, conducted in partnership with network members, showcased our dedication to empowering individuals with relevant skills and knowledge.

6. Partners:



Ladi Clark Musa

Board Chairperson
31st/12/2020

Timothy Ali Yohanna

Executive Director
31st/12/2020