



(CAC/IT/NO 91131)
GRASSROOTS
RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

Year - 2021



December 2021

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1. Forwards:

GRA's Board Chair (Ladi Clark Musa)



This year has been marked by a series of transformative activities that underscore GRA's unwavering dedication to advancing gender equality and addressing gender-based violence (GBV). The year 2021 will forever stand as a testament to our unwavering commitment to advancing gender equality and confronting gender-based violence (GBV), even in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Our activities have not only weathered the storm but have also adapted to the evolving needs of the communities we serve. Our journey in 2021 has not been without its difficulties, but it has also been marked by remarkable achievements and heartwarming collaborations. As we move forward, we must remember that the work of gender equality and the fight against GBV are more critical than ever. I extend my deepest gratitude to all those who have stood by us during these testing times—the team, our

partners, supporters, and beneficiaries. Your unwavering dedication has been the cornerstone of our progress, and together, we can overcome any challenge that lies ahead. (BC)

GRA's Executive Director (Timothy Ali Yohanna)

I am honored to present to you the annual report of Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA) for the year 2021. As we reflect on the journey we have undertaken in a year marked by unprecedented challenges, I am humbled by the resilience, dedication, and unity that have defined our efforts. Our engagement on the Women, Peace, and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and European Union - Global Spotlight initiatives has been particularly instrumental in fostering positive change within our communities. From the WPHF - SGBV Activist Training and Baseline Scoping Studies to our consistent involvement in the EU Consortium Project, our advocacy efforts have taken us to strategic stakeholders in BAY States, where we have tirelessly championed the cause of gender equity and justice. Our commitment to justice and support for survivors of GBV have been manifest in the WPHF Project's Case Monitoring, Reporting, Referrals, and Documentation in (CHS). Through this, we have strengthened our capacity to provide holistic support to survivors, ensuring their voices are heard and their rights protected. The significance of community engagement cannot be underestimated, and our involvement in WPHF - Community Engagement and Advocacy Visits to Traditional Leaders stands as a testament to our commitment to grassroots transformation, we have cultivated allies in the pursuit of gender equality, fostering an environment that nurtures progress. The Survivor's Kinshasa Declaration, a landmark achievement under the Global Survivor Fund (GSF), further showcases GRA's determination to empower survivors and elevate their voices. With each initiative, we move closer to a world where gender equality is not just an aspiration, but a lived reality for all. (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 2021 Under Reviews:

First Quarter Q1 (January – March) - 2021

WPHF - SGBV Activist Training



Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA) successfully implemented a project in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States, aimed at empowering survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) to become community-based activists combating SGBV. The project selected and trained 60 individuals in advocacy, social mobilization, human rights, and leadership skills. Participants were chosen from six Local Government Areas (LGAs) and 12 wards across the three states. Through the training, participants gained confidence and skills to engage with local policymakers and service providers in their communities. They were equipped with tools to hold perpetrators accountable for their

actions and advocate for the rights of women and girls. Social mobilization training enabled participants to raise awareness about SGBV and the importance of social accountability mechanisms in their communities. The project achieved significant success, with participants demonstrating increased abilities to engage stakeholders and advocate for women's and girls' rights. The project's impact on the lives of direct beneficiaries and its potential to drive lasting change in the fight against SGBV in the three states were widely recognized and praised.

WPHF - Baseline and Scoping Studies

In the effort to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States, Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA) conducted comprehensive baseline and scoping studies. The studies focused on six local government areas (LGAs): MMC and Konduga in Borno, Yola North and Numan in Adamawa, and Potiskum and Damaturu in Yobe. The objective was to identify existing social mobilization groups and social accountability mechanisms that could be strengthened to effectively address SGBV and VAWG. Key informant interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with stakeholders from various government ministries, including Women Affairs and Social Development, Justice, Health, as well as organizations such as FIDA, SEMA, NEMA, NHRC, FOMWAN, WOWICAN, NPF, CSOs, and women's networks/groups.



EU Consortium Project - Advocacy Visit to Strategic Stakeholders in BAY States



As part of the EU Consortium project, a series of joint advocacy visits were conducted by GRA to critical stakeholders and gatekeepers across the project's focal states and LGAs. These visits aimed to garner recognition and acceptance of the EU project. Relevant government ministries, such as the Ministry of Youths and Sports and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, expressed their support across all target states and LGAs. Referral pathways and strategic stakeholders were identified and mapped out across the targeted LGAs to create synergy and maximize service delivery to project beneficiaries. Criteria for the formation of clusters and selection of

membership were developed to ensure seamless engagement of the right stakeholders. Contextual analysis of security dynamics in Borno and Yobe states informed the development of safety and security protocols, enhancing the safety of operations and effective duty of care. Project office spaces were also established across all implementation states to facilitate smooth project implementation.

Second Quarter Q2 (April - June) 2021

EU Consortium Project: Monthly Cluster Club Meetings (MCCM)



In the EU Consortium project, the newly recruited project team members have been onboarded and equipped with the necessary skills and tools to contribute to the project's successful implementation. Onboarding activities, orientation sessions, and the procurement of required equipment have strengthened their capabilities. The formation of clusters and registration of project beneficiaries, developed in the previous quarter, guided the enrollment and formation of clusters. A total of 270 beneficiaries have been enrolled across the implementation states. Stakeholder buy-in has been secured at all levels, facilitating engagement and active participation in cluster meetings. The clusters have been

supported to establish structure by democratically electing coordinators and outlining codes of conduct. Mapping of key stakeholders has also been facilitated to enhance effective and impactful engagement.

WPHF Project: Case Monitoring, Reporting, Referrals, and Documentation in (CHS)

In July, the Gender Response and Advocacy (GRA) team identified six new cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) through referrals within the project's implementation area. Four cases were reported from Bulama village in Nayinawa Ward, Damaturu LGA, while two cases were reported from Balewa A ward in Potiskum LGA. The GRA team responded swiftly, providing transportation for the victims to receive prompt medical care. The team created a safe and confidential space for SGBV victims to report their experiences and receive support. They connected the victims with relevant service providers for counseling and legal assistance. The GRA team's approach plays a crucial role in addressing SGBV, supporting survivors, and challenging harmful social norms.



WPHF - Community Engagement and Advocacy Visits to Traditional Leaders



In Yobe State, community engagement events were held from April 21 to April 27, 2021. Advocacy visits were conducted to introduce the organization and the project's goals to traditional leaders in the implementing communities. Traditional rulers were asked for their cooperation and support throughout the project's implementation. Similar visits and engagement events were conducted in Yola on April 28 and May 18, 2021, where traditional leaders expressed their support and encouraged continued awareness-raising about SGBV and VAWG in their communities. Empowering women to speak up and seek help was emphasized, acknowledging the societal barriers they face.

Third Quarter Q3 (July - September) 2021

EU: Mental Health & Trauma Resilience Healing Training (MCCM)

In August 2021, a consultant was engaged to provide mental health and trauma resilience training to 270 children in the BAY states. The training took place on specific dates in Adamawa, Yobe, and Borno State. The objective of the training was to educate participants on mental health and trauma resilience while fostering a sense of connection and support among them. The trainer covered various forms of mental illnesses, their causes, types of stress, and different stressors. The training aimed to equip the children with knowledge and skills to understand and cope with mental health challenges.



WPHF: Training of SGBV Activists on Leadership, Social Accountability & Advocacy



Monthly training was conducted in September 2021 with women's organizations FOMWAN and WOWICAN. The goal was to strengthen these social mobilization groups, enhance their engagement with the SGBV network, and develop women-focused leadership. The State Coordinator led the training, which included group exercises discussing the effects of different types of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Topics covered included the consequences of rape, sexual assault, physical abuse, early/forced marriage, denial of resources, and emotional/psychological assault. Pre- and post-tests were conducted to assess attitudes and understanding of women's and girls' rights.

EU: Digital, Safety, Privacy & Information Management Training (MCCM)

On September 29, 2021, a training session was conducted in Yola, Adamawa State, with 71 participants. The training focused on digital safety, privacy, and information management, addressing risks associated with internet and social media usage. Topics covered included digital security, computer and phone security, identifying and reporting digital security incidents. The training also featured the unveiling of the project logo and a debate session. Pre- and post-tests were conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the training in enhancing participants' knowledge.



Fourth Quarter Q4 - (October – December) 2021

GSF: Survivor's Kinshasa Declaration



The Executive Director of Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA), Timothy Ali Yohanna, along with two other survivors, participated in a three-day workshop on survivors' hearing on reparations held from November 22 to 24, 2021. The event was initiated by the CSiW and six grassroots organizations in Africa, who were involved in the preparation of the Nairobi Declaration on Women's and Girls' Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Situations of Conflict (2007). The Global Survivors Funds (GSF) collaborated with these organizations and co-organized the high-level event named "It's

Time: Survivors Hearing on Reparations" in Kinshasa. The event provided a platform for survivors of sexual assault resulting from armed conflict to share their powerful testimonies, opinions, and reflections on reparations, participation, and co-creation of reparations. Survivors from 12 different African nations, including Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, Mali, South Sudan, Guinea, Chad, and Kenya, participated in the event. The Kinshasa Declaration on the Rights of Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence to Participate and Co-Create Gender-Based Reparations was drafted during the hearing, facilitating engagement between survivors, activists, experts, and other relevant stakeholders on these critical issues.

EU Project: Monthly Cluster Club Meeting (MCCM)

The December Monthly Cluster Club Gathering marked the final meeting of the first year of the project. The gathering provided an opportunity for reflection on previous trainings and discussions on applying the acquired knowledge to achieve the project's overall objectives. Additionally, the event fostered a safe environment for peer-to-peer learning, sharing, and self-care. It served as a platform for skill development, training, and the creation of a local activity plan for advocacy and awareness campaigns. The gathering took place on December 14th, 2021, in the states of Yobe and Borno, and on December 17th in the state of Adamawa. While the activity was intended for a total of 270 participants, 233 individuals were present, including 86 from Borno, 85 from Adamawa, and 72 from Yobe. The local partner in Nigeria, identified as CDD and GRA for this Agreement, participated in the event. The gathering allowed CDD, GRA, and other participants to exchange ideas, identify collaboration opportunities, and work together towards their shared goal of promoting the rights and well-being of survivors of SGBV.



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GSF: Training Workshop for Survivors participating in the Kinshasa Hearing Event



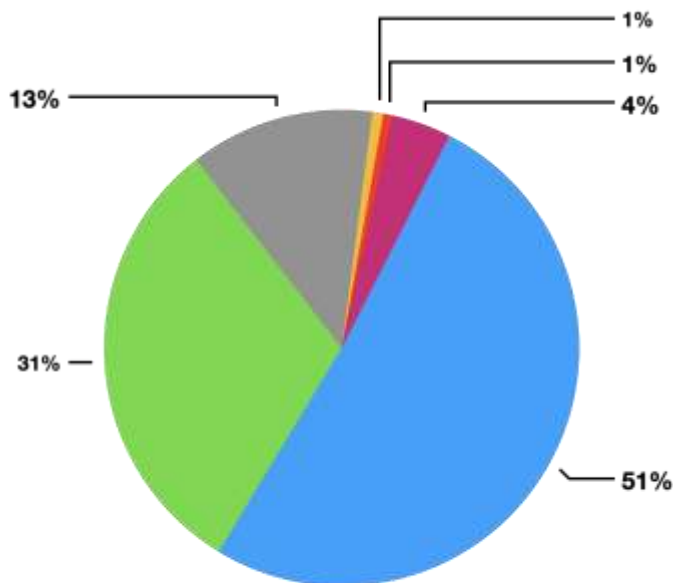
In November 2021, Global Survivors Funds (GSF) and Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) conducted a training program on public speaking and sharing experiences during presentations for survivors who were attending the Kinshasa hearings in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The training, facilitated by Maimouna Jallow, with assistance from Stephanie David (GSF), Timothy Ali Yohanna, and Johnson Ibrahim (GRA), focused on guiding survivors in delivering their messages effectively, using personal anecdotes, and engaging the audience. The training emphasized the importance of providing supporting information and employing engaging techniques to captivate the audience.

4. Financial Year 2021:

Revenue for the Year - 2021

European Union (EU)- Grant	N42,224,108
WPHF UN/EU Spotlights	N25,453,660
USAID - PEA / Creative Associates	N10,361,600
Mukwege Foundation / SEMA	N613,708
GRA- self Funded /MNSA	480000
Donations from Individuals	N3,380,192
Total Revenue	N82,513,268

- European Union (EU)- Grant
- WPHF UN/EU Spotlights
- USAID - PEA / Creative Associates
- Mukwege Foundation / SEMA
- GRA- self Funded /MNSA
- Donations from Individuals



GRASSROOTS RESEACHERS ASSOCIATION			
<i>For The Period Ended 31st December 2021</i>			
Revenue	2021	2020	
European Union (EU)- Grant	42,224,108	-	
Spotlights Initiatives (WPHF) UN/EU	25,453,660	344,000	
USAID - PEA / Creative Associates	10,361,600	-	
Mukwege Foundation / SEMA	613,708	-	
GRA- Self Funded / MNSA	480,000	-	
Donations from Individuals	3,380,192	-	
Building Survivor Network (BSN)	-	1,553,000	
Centre for Democracy & Development	-	775,000	
SEMA (SIF)	-	377,789	
Covid-19 (SSRD)	-	485,000	
Reach Project	-	386,000	
D& Physical Training (GRA)	-	294,000	
Vigal Project	-	1,125,600	

Wigazen Project	-	930,532
IT-Initiative Project (GRA)	-	1,142,680
PS-Initiative Project (GRA)	-	420,000
	82,513,268	7,833,601
Expenses		
<u>Direct Program Cost</u>	-	-
Accommodations	6,323,363	
Transport & Travelling	7,816,742	
Stipend/Per-diem	4,178,092	90,000
Printing & Stationery	1,985,554	330,400
Consultancy Fee	4,573,680	1,152,000
Communication/Internet Allowance	2,217,450	1,055,850
Travels and Transport	2,720,806	661,300
Monitoring and Evaluations	951,245	
Seminar and Workshop	1,346,403	
Hiring of Halls	4,387,314	161,000
Mobilisation & Advocacy	807,109	127,700
Lunch for participants	1,897,937	241,000
Tea Break for participants	1,695,567	
	40,901,262	3,819,250
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>		
Salaries and Allowance	17,431,584	2,728,000
Office Rent	368,700	1,873,333
Audit and Accountancy fee		60,000
Office Consumable	969,914	
General Fuel Cost	9,400	12,000
Office Equipment Maintenance	101,627	316,000
Office Building Maintenance	-	20,300
Electricity Bill	38,100	9,000
Staff Capacity Building	542,450	200,400
Media and Publicity	10,000	100,000
General Maintenance	724,804	52,080
Hospitality, Entertainment	-	543,000
Registration & Subscription	-	1,210,120
Computer Consumable	74,000	
Compliance Service	94,500	
Depreciation	884,306	301,510
	21,249,384	7,425,743
<u>Finance Charges</u>		
Bank Charges	264,184	15,931
Retained Surplus/Deficit	XXXXXXX	XXXXXXX

5. Key Reflections & Focus

Funding Challenges:

Key Reflections - Annual Report 2021

Women's Rights Approach:

Our dedication to upholding women's rights was evident through strategic collaborations that aimed to empower and elevate women's voices. The partnership between Global Survivors Funds (GSF) and Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA) resulted in a groundbreaking training program. This initiative provided survivors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with valuable skills in public speaking and sharing experiences during presentations.

Survivor-Centered Approach:

The Survivor-Centered Approach remained at the forefront of our efforts in 2021. Our partnership with women's organizations FOMWAN and WOWICAN exemplified this commitment. Through a targeted training program, survivors were provided with a platform to strengthen their social mobilization groups. This initiative not only enhanced survivors' engagement with the SGBV network but also allowed them to play an active role in shaping women-focused leadership within their communities.

Consortium Centers Approach:

The Consortium Centers Approach underscored our belief in the power of collaboration and partnerships. Through advocacy visits, we engaged with traditional leaders in the communities where our projects were implemented. These visits were pivotal in introducing our organization's goals and securing the cooperation and support of traditional rulers. By involving key stakeholders, we ensured that our efforts were aligned with local context and traditions, enhancing the sustainability of our initiatives.

Women-Led Approach:

Our commitment to the Women-Led Approach was manifested through our unwavering focus on women's leadership. The mental health and trauma resilience training provided to 270 children in the BAY states demonstrated our dedication to nurturing the next generation. By equipping young minds with essential skills to address trauma, we contributed to a future where women-led leadership is supported by a foundation of resilience and well-being.

6. Partners:



Ladi Clark Musa

Board Chairperson
31st/12/2021

Timothy Ali Yohanna

Executive Director
31st/12/2021