



(CAC/IT/NO 91131)
GRASSROOTS
RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

Year - 2023



31st December 2023

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1. Forwards:

GRA's Board Chair (Ladi Clark Musa)



As Chair of the Board of Directors, it is with great pleasure that I present the Grassroots Researchers Association's (GRA) 2023 Annual Report, a year distinguished by significant growth, strategic expansion into the North Central Region with our new presence in Plateau State, and impactful initiatives that have further established GRA as a leading force in social research and community development across Nigeria; our partnership with the UNDP-Nigerian Jubilee Fellows Program has infused fresh talent and perspectives, while the introduction of our Non-Resident Fellows program has broadened our intellectual capacity, enabling us to address complex issues with greater depth.

Reflecting on these achievements, we remain deeply committed to driving meaningful change through rigorous, community-centered research, and on behalf of the Board, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, partners, and supporters whose contributions have been invaluable; looking ahead, we are energized by the opportunities to expand our impact and contribute to Nigeria's sustainable development, inviting you to join us in this ongoing journey towards a more equitable and prosperous future for all Nigerians.

GRA's Executive Director (Timothy Ali Yohanna)

The year 2023 was marked by significant impact and strategic growth for Grassroot Researchers Association (GRA) as we deepened our commitment to fostering sustainable development across Nigeria. We proudly expanded our reach into the North Central region, while our vital peacebuilding initiatives in the Northeast empowered hundreds of survivors of gender-based violence and facilitated crucial dialogue within conflict-affected communities. Our innovative 'Green Communities' project earned national recognition for its locally-led approach to environmental sustainability. Furthermore, our rigorous research provided critical insights into healthcare access in rural areas, directly informing policy discussions. Through our 'Bridge to Learning' program, we extended educational opportunities to over 10,000 out-of-school children, laying the foundation for a brighter future. These impactful achievements were made possible through the unwavering dedication of our exceptional team and the invaluable support of our esteemed partners. As we look forward, GRA is energized to build upon this momentum, deepen our engagement, and continue driving meaningful, community-led change towards a more equitable and sustainable Nigeria. We extend our sincere gratitude for your continued partnership and trust in our mission.



2. About Grassroots Researchers Associations (GRA):



Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA), established in 2016 and registered in Nigeria, is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering local initiatives through research that fosters community

development, justice, and victim support. Our vision is to be a leading grassroots mobilizer, enhancing the quality of life and social justice across Nigeria, guided by our core values of accountability, local content, result-oriented tactics, innovation, and enthusiasm. Our work spans critical areas: governance, socioeconomic development, and conflict, security, and justice. Our mission is to actively mobilize grassroots efforts to improve human well-being and social justice, striving to be the reference point for facilitating grassroots development, justice, and support for victims. With a functioning head office in Abuja and regional offices in the North-East and North Central, we operate with independent governance structures, including a women-led board of trustees and an advisory board, supported by dedicated staff, volunteers, and community mobilizers.

GRA's strength lies in our commitment to local content, utilizing local languages, networks, and volunteers, maintaining a strong local presence, and prioritizing digital security. We continuously seek to improve our staff capacity, financial procedures, contextual understanding, and staff management. We are actively expanding our online presence, leveraging local resources, and building strong relationships with local institutions and state actors, while acknowledging the challenges of insecurity in accessing some communities. We engage diverse stakeholders – funders, civil society, victims, institutions, communities, and government – through identification, promotion, advocacy, monitoring, support, sensitization, and documentation. Our thematic focus includes climate change, conflict, security and justice, local governance, and socioeconomic development, targeting vulnerable populations such as children, women, people with disabilities, SGBV victims, and at-risk youth.

Our strategic approach centers on creating impactful knowledge products, delivering effective capacity building, conducting thorough impact and needs assessments, utilizing data-driven systems, fostering dialogue and sensitization through various channels, and powerfully documenting and sharing local stories to enhance human lives. Our governance structure includes a nine-member advisory board and a seven-member, majority women-led board of trustees. The directors of operations, programs, institutional support, and strategies work collaboratively under the leadership of the Executive Director, ensuring effective management of our human and financial resources and informed decision-making across the organization.

Year 2023 Annual Report:

First Quarter Q1 (January – March) 2023

Successful Conclusion of the WPHF Project:



The first quarter of 2023 marked the successful completion of our WPHF Project (2020-2022), a significant undertaking aimed at empowering women and girls and combating gender-based violence in vulnerable communities. Rigorous endline and RDS surveys were meticulously conducted to ascertain the project's positive and sustainable impact on listeners reached through awareness campaigns, service providers trained to offer crucial support, and the wider community benefiting from a strengthened protective environment. We also proudly documented these successes through a compelling success

story documentary across the BAY states, vividly illustrating the tangible and lasting difference made in the lives of beneficiaries and the community at large, providing valuable insights into effective GBV prevention and response mechanisms.

Self-Funded Sustainability Projects Launched:

Demonstrating our unwavering commitment to long-term and locally-driven impact, GRA strategically self-funded four key Sustainability Projects in 2023, each designed to address critical social issues within our operational areas. The **Strengthening Social and Accountability for Ending SGBV Project**, focuses on fostering community-led change through awareness campaigns, advocacy initiatives, and the establishment of accountability mechanisms aimed at achieving zero tolerance for gender-based violence. The **Stabilization Survivors Network of CRSV** provides a vital support network for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, offering psychosocial support, economic empowerment opportunities, and facilitating their journey to healing and rebuilding their lives with dignity. The **Enhancing Youth Network for Effective Leadership** project is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of accountable and transparent leaders by equipping young people with essential leadership skills, promoting civic engagement, and fostering a culture of ethical governance. Finally, the **Empowering the Network of People Living with Disabilities** project champions inclusivity and actively works to remove barriers to accessibility, promote equal opportunities, and empower individuals living with disabilities to fully participate in all aspects of society.



EU Project Endline Survey Completed:

The crucial endline survey for the EU Project on Nigerian youth, community peacebuilding, and resilience was successfully conducted in February 2023. This rigorous monitoring and evaluation activity involved a comprehensive assessment of the project's outcomes and impact on the targeted beneficiaries and the wider community. Through detailed data collection and analysis, we were able to effectively measure the project's successes in empowering youth, strengthening community peacebuilding mechanisms, and enhancing resilience in the face of various crises, providing valuable data and insights to inform future initiatives and ensure the continued effectiveness of our interventions in the region.

Second Quarter Q2 (April – June) 2023

Understanding the Experiences of Cash and Voucher Recipients:

In a collaborative effort with Ground Truth Solutions (GTS) and Fact Foundations, GRA conducted crucial field research in Borno State to understand the perceptions and experiences of individuals receiving cash assistance and vouchers. This in-depth qualitative study specifically focused on the unique perspectives of women, aiming to gain nuanced insights into how this financial aid impacts their lives. Through interviews and careful analysis, our team gathered valuable feedback, with preliminary findings suggesting that cash and voucher programs can significantly empower women by providing them with greater autonomy and control over household finances and basic needs, fostering a sense of independence. Ground Truth will further analyze and publish the key conclusions of this research, highlighting the specific challenges and opportunities women in Borno State face in accessing and utilizing this vital support.



Commitments with Activists and Service Providers:



GRA took significant steps to ensure the long-term sustainability of our WPHF-supported projects in the BAY states by formalizing commitments with 12 dedicated activists and service providers who were previously trained under the initiative. Recognizing their crucial role in driving change at the grassroots level, GRA signed written agreements outlining their continued engagement in "Strengthening Social Mobilisation and Accountability towards Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)." Commencing in July 2023, this collaborative phase will actively involve community leaders and government stakeholders in raising widespread awareness about SGBV and VAWG across the BAY states. This partnership will also focus on strengthening SGBV case management by tracking, reporting, documenting, and referring cases for appropriate action, fostering a stronger community-led response to these critical issues.

Partnership with the Survivors Network:

GRA solidified its commitment to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in the North-Eastern States by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Survivors Network (SSN-CRSV). This partnership marks the official launch of the "Stabilising Survivors Network of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (SSN-CRSV)" project, a vital initiative designed to provide comprehensive support and services to survivors in conflict-affected areas. Over the coming months, this collaboration will focus on ensuring survivors have access to essential psychosocial support and counselling, strengthening community networks to create safe and supportive environments, facilitating access to critical medical care and legal aid, raising broader awareness about the devastating impact of sexual violence in armed conflict, and advocating for crucial policy changes. Rooted in a strong belief in the resilience of survivors, this project aims to empower them and provide meaningful opportunities for recovery and rebuilding their lives.

Third Quarter Q3 (July – September) 2023

International Engagement: Addressing CRSV at the UNGA:

In a significant step towards global advocacy, GRA participated in the GSF @ UNGA 78 event on September 22, 2023. This high-level side event, held during the 78th United Nations General Assembly, convened global leaders to explore innovative financing solutions for reparations related to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). GRA's presence at this prominent forum underscores our growing international influence and our deep commitment to addressing CRSV on a global scale. By contributing our vital grassroots perspectives and gaining invaluable insights into international best practices, GRA is further strengthening our ongoing work in the BAY states, ensuring our local initiatives are informed by and aligned with cutting-edge global strategies in the crucial field of CRSV reparations.

Empowering Community of Persons Living with Disabilities:

GRA strategically expanded its outreach and impact through a dedicated educational program broadcast on YBC Sahel FM Damaturu on September 27, 2023. This impactful initiative specifically engaged with Persons with Disabilities (PLWD) through an interactive call-in session held in commemoration of the International Day for the Deaf. By leveraging the power of radio, GRA effectively broadened its reach, ensuring that vital information, support, and a sense of community reached a wider audience, including those who may face significant barriers in accessing traditional forms of communication. This innovative radio takeover not only highlighted the specific challenges faced by the deaf community but also actively promoted greater understanding, empathy, and inclusion within the broader society, demonstrating GRA's commitment to utilizing diverse platforms to advocate for and support vulnerable populations across the region.



Partnership with UNDP Jubilee Fellows Program:

In a testament to our commitment to organizational growth and capacity building, Grassroots Researchers Association (GRA) proudly announced a significant partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the prestigious Nigerian Jubilee Fellows Program in September 2023. This exciting collaboration will facilitate the placement of seven talented and highly motivated young fellows within GRA for the upcoming year. These fellows will gain invaluable hands-on experience in the dynamic field of social research and development work, while simultaneously infusing the organization with fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and enhanced capacity to achieve its mission of driving impactful change within Nigerian communities. This strategic partnership underscores GRA's dedication to mentoring the next generation of development professionals and further strengthening its ability to deliver meaningful and sustainable impact.

Forth Quarter Q4 (October – December) 2023

Strengthening Survivor Leadership with Mukwege Foundation:

GRA facilitated a significant international exchange from October 25th to November 3rd, 2023, through Clarrise's visit from the esteemed Mukwege Foundation and a subsequent impactful Survivor's Workshop held in Abuja. This initiative brought together nine key leaders from our survivor network for an invaluable exchange of knowledge and experiences, bridging international expertise with critical local insights. The workshop, amplified by Clarrise's presence, focused on equipping these leaders with practical tools and enhanced advocacy skills to effectively support survivors and champion their rights. Through interactive sessions and targeted exercises, the program empowered participants to strategically influence policies and mobilize communities in the collective fight against sexual violence, demonstrating GRA's dedication to building local capacity through impactful international partnerships.

Enhancing Digital Security: Partnership with WACSI:



In a significant step towards strengthening organizational resilience, GRA was selected to participate in the prestigious WACSI Digital Security and Resilience Project in Nigeria. This vital initiative, generously supported by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) and the Mott Foundation, brings together civil society organizations from Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, and Cote d'Ivoire. The project's core objective is to fortify digital security practices and enhance overall resilience within the West African civil society sector, addressing critical concerns related to online safety,

data protection, and cybersecurity. GRA actively participated in the project's inception meeting on November 23, 2023, marking the beginning of a collaborative effort to build robust digital capacities and promote secure online practices within our organization and the broader civil society landscape.

Stakeholders Engagement Meetings During 16 Days of Activism:

In conjunction with the 16 Days of Activism, GRA convened a series of crucial Stakeholders Engagement Meetings in Yobe (November 30th), Borno (December 2nd), and Yola (December 7th). These meetings brought together a diverse and influential coalition of community stakeholders, including respected women leaders, community elders, prominent media representatives, influential religious authorities, and dedicated leaders from the survivor network. This carefully facilitated assemblage of voices created a dynamic platform for vital cross-sectoral dialogue and the fostering of active collaborative partnerships, aligning collective efforts towards the shared goal of addressing sexual violence at the grassroots level. Participants engaged in frank and open discussions that shed light on the complex realities of this issue, and the outcomes of these engagements are poised to catalyze meaningful change through both community-led initiatives and informed policy reforms.

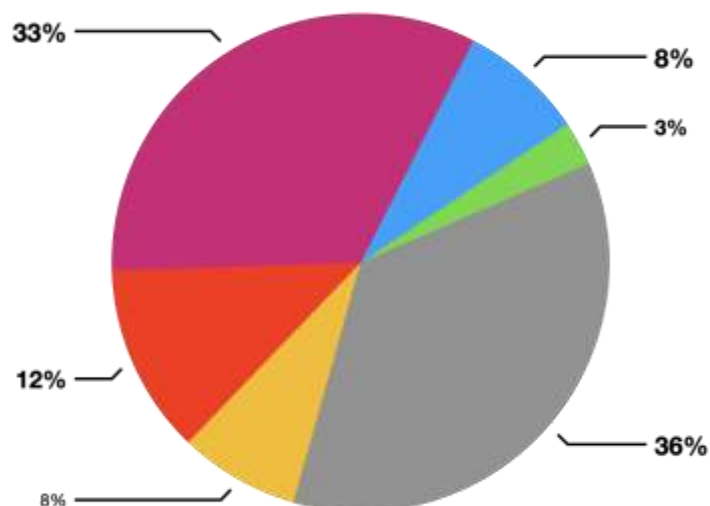


3. Financial Year 2023:

Revenue for the Year - 2023

European Union (EU)- Grant	₦2,993,640
French Cultural Centre	₦1,053,963
Global Survivors Funds (GSF)	₦13,220,190
GRA - Self funded Project	₦2,882,543
Development Research & Project	4,540,000
Denies Mukwege (MF)	₦12,152,037
Donation from Individual	₦3,242,506
Total Revenue	₦40,084,879

- European Union (EU)- Grant
- French Cultural Centre
- Global Survivors Funds (GSF)
- GRA - Self funded Project
- Development Research & Project
- Denies Mukwege (MF)



<i>For The Period Ended 31st December 2023</i>	Naira (N)	Naira (N)
Revenue Received	Year 2023	Year 2022
European Union (EU)	2,993,640	37,788,062
Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)	-	38,681,022
Political Economy Analysis (PEA)	-	23,310,600
Global Network of Survivors SEMA	-	287,337
French Cultural Center (France Embassy)	1,053,963	-
Global Survivors Funds (GSF)	13,220,190	11,475,967
GRA- Self funded Projects	2,882,543	2,242,000
Development Research and Projects Centre	4,540,000	-
Denis M Alexander (MF)	6,385,814	-
Denis Mukwege (MF)	5,766,223	-
Donation from Individuals	3,242,506	-
	40,084,879	113,784,989
Direct Program Cost		
Accommodations	369,000	6,356,455
Transport & Travelling	2,477,100	8,120,056
Stipend/Per-diem	2,635,743	3,646,186
Printing & Stationery	553,500	1,591,610
Consultancy Fee	2,258,700	11,786,399
Communication/Internet Allowance	748,700	468,000
Travels and Transport	-	5,034,648
Monitoring and Evaluations	-	648,943

	Seminar and Workshop	-	3,824,465
	Hiring of Halls	620,000	5,795,475
	Mobilization & Advocacy	485,000	9,762,710
	Lunch for participants	723,000	1,377,250
	T-Shirt and Face Cap Production		1,618,350
	Volunteer Stipend		2,402,833
	Field Agent Stipend		8,656,349
	Tea Break for participants	1,542,500	33,250
	Project Expenses	1,177,179	-
	Training	632,000	-
	Program Expenses	5,691,700	-
		19,914,122	71,122,980
7	Administrative Expenses		
	Salaries and Allowance	15,710,916	30,961,333
	Office Rent	4,540,006	2,361,050
	Office Consumable	633,429	1,230,358
	General Fuel Cost	4,000	-
	Office Equipment Maintenance	48,500	383,400
	Internet Allowance	232,100	20,000
	Electricity Bill	604,702	274,595
	Seminars and Conference	-	272,000
	Staff Capacity Building	-	50,800
	Media and Publicity	-	2,958,735
	General Maintenance	-	677,444
	Logistics	681,000	-
	Audit and Accountancy Fee	602,614	-
	Legal Fees	823,255	50,000
	Data Manaement Service		3,040,000
	Pension	126,260	-
	T-Shirt and Face cap production	-	-
	Volunteer Stipend	-	-
	Field Agent Stipend	-	-
	Medical expenses	-	944,700
	Recruiutment expenses	-	438,900
	Entertainment	-	337,380
	Depreciation	939,306	939,306
	Local Taxes and levies	167,257	-
	Management Expeses	101,000	-
	Administrative Expenses	550,199	-
		25,764,544	44,940,001
	Finance Charges		
	Bank Charges	91,102	374,602

4. Key Reflections & Focus

Addressing Funding Realities with Resilience:

Like many non-profits, GRA navigated a challenging funding environment this past year. However, our commitment to those we serve remained unwavering. We proactively adapted our strategies, exploring diverse funding avenues to sustain our impactful programs and ensure continued support for vulnerable communities.

Championing Local Leadership:

We strongly believe that sustainable change is rooted in local ownership. GRA actively prioritizes building the capacity of local organizations and community leaders, empowering them to effectively address the unique needs of their own communities and ensuring our interventions are relevant and lasting.

Our Unwavering Focus: CRSV Survivors and Their Children:

Our core mission centers on providing critical and comprehensive support to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and their children. Their well-being, healing, and empowerment remain the driving force behind our work, shaping our programs and our unwavering commitment.

Ladi Clark Musa



Board Chairperson

31st/12/2023

Timothy Ali Yohanna

Executive Director

31st/12/2023

5. Partners:



BORNO STATE
GOVERNMENT

dr. Denis
Mukwege
Foundation



EUROPEAN UNION



AMBASSADE
DE FRANCE
AU NIGÉRIA

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*



WE ARE
NOT WEAPONS
OF WAR



 **Norwegian
Red Cross**