



(CAC/IT/NO 91131)
GRASSROOTS
RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

Year - 2024



31st December 2024

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 2024:	8
5. Key Reflections & Focus	8
6. Patners	8

1. Forwards:

GRA's Board Chair (Ladi Clark Musa)

The reality of 2024 has sharpened into a stark challenge, underscoring that global **humanitarian needs** are more acute and complex than ever, driven by escalating conflicts, climate chaos, and systemic injustice. Despite this sobering landscape, the past year has powerfully demonstrated the **unyielding tenacity of our team** and the profound strength of our partnerships. Every mile walked, every life-saving conversation, and every intervention has advanced our mission to deliver immediate aid and foster long-term transformation. Our combined efforts are the clearest proof of the value of cooperation and the significant difference we can make when we work together. The accomplishments highlighted in this report are far more than statistics; they represent **critical turning points** that remind us of our collective ability to influence the discourse around **gender equality and justice**—issues that are deeply exacerbated in crisis. As we look ahead, the obstacles we encounter remain substantial, with vast funding shortfalls jeopardizing essential services, but our **resolve to surmount them is even greater**. . My sincere gratitude goes to our team members who work tirelessly behind the scenes and on the dangerous front lines, to our partners who stand with us no matter the challenge, and most of all, to **you, our supporters**, whose unwavering commitment and faith in our mission stokes our enthusiasm and propels us forward to meet the defining crises of this era. (BC).



GRA's Executive Director (Timothy Ali Yohanna)



The year 2024 stands as a testament to our organization's **strategic resilience and unwavering dedication** to those we serve. Our journey began with a sharp focus on internal strength and security, highlighted by the **WACSI training on Digital Resilience** in February, which was vital for safeguarding confidential survivor information and ensuring secure operations. This technical foresight immediately supported our core work with **Survivors Networks**, where the launch of the **Cap Making sub-grant** successfully linked trauma recovery directly to **economic empowerment and dignity**, a holistic approach reinforced by the communal healing fostered during the **International Women's Day campaign** and the deeply symbolic **Tree Planting initiative**. To ensure lasting impact, we deliberately empowered local leaders through **Strategic Network Strengthening Workshops** and broadened our reach with the multi-state campaign for **World Menstrual Hygiene Day**. Our commitment to evidence-based programming was reflected in the extensive fieldwork for the **PLRCAP and WLOs research** and the upskilling in digital security for CSOs in Katsina State. The year closed with crucial alliance-building efforts and intensive staff training on the **CRSV Context**, culminating in a powerful **16 Days of Activism** campaign that successfully permeated all levels of society with an urgent, unified message to end **gender-based violence**. Every achievement in 2024 is a credit to the courage of our beneficiaries and the tireless dedication of our staff and partners. (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 2024 Under Reviews:

First Quarter Q1 (January – March) 2024

Strengthening Digital Resilience in the Face of Evolving Threats

In an era where technology plays an ever-increasing role in our work, we recognize the critical need for digital security. In February 2024, our team members, Mission Bahago and Timothy Ali Yohanna, participated in a specialized **WACSI training in Abuja**. This intensive, five-day workshop was dedicated to "Strengthening Digital Resilience of Civil Society in West Africa." The training equipped them with cutting-edge knowledge on data protection, secure communication protocols, and risk mitigation strategies.



Sowing the Seed of Recovery: Survivors Networks



Our German-funded project, in partnership with MF, continued to provide a vital support system for conflict survivors. In February, our monthly survivors' network meetings in Adamawa and Borno provided a safe space for healing and mutual support, led by Amira Ahmed, Friday Bitrus, Fatima Muhammad, and Deborah Shadrach. Building on this, we launched a new sub-grant initiative in March: **Cap Making**. From March 21st-22nd in Borno and March 28th in Adamawa, we empowered survivors with a new skill, transforming a traditional craft into a source of income. This project is more than just a vocational training;

it's about restoring dignity, building confidence, and fostering economic independence.

Celebrating Strength and Dignity: International Women's Day

In a powerful and multi-faceted campaign funded by the France Embassy in Nigeria, we celebrated International Women's Day throughout March. The initiative included a comprehensive **Sensitization and Media Engagement (SME)** campaign from March 1st-10th, led by Friday, Deborah, and Abel, which reached a wide audience and amplified messages of gender equality. This was complemented by a series of **Intergenerational Panel Discussions (IPD)** in Yobe, Adamawa, and Borno, bringing together survivors, community leaders, and media to bridge generational divides and share wisdom. Simultaneously, our **Cultural Dancing Therapy (CDT)** sessions provided a unique and powerful form of healing, allowing women to reclaim their stories and celebrate their resilience through movement and community. The combination of these activities created a holistic and deeply impactful tribute to the strength and spirit of women in the region.



Second Quarter Q2 (April – June) 2024

Growing Hope: Tree Planting as a Symbol of Renewal

In April, our ongoing German-funded project, in partnership with MF, took a deeply symbolic turn. On April 25th, in both Adamawa and Borno states, we launched a **Tree Planting initiative**. This "sub-grant idea" brought together survivors' leaders, survivors, and community leaders, guided by Deborah, Fatima, and Friday. More than just an environmental project, this was a powerful act of collective healing. Each sapling planted represented a life rebuilt, a future taking root, and a shared commitment to a renewed community. The trees serve as living monuments to the resilience of those who have overcome conflict, a tangible symbol of growth and enduring strength.



Building a Stronger Network for Lasting Impact



To ensure the sustainability of our projects, we held two crucial **Strategic Network Strengthening Workshops** as part of the GFA-Project. On May 17th in Borno and May 24th in Adamawa, we brought together survivors to reinforce their leadership skills and enhance their capacity to manage their own support networks. With the guidance of Timothy Ali Yohanna, these workshops empowered survivors to take ownership of their healing journeys and build

robust, peer-led support systems. The sessions strengthened bonds and equipped participants with the tools needed to maintain their networks long after our project's formal conclusion.

World Menstrual Hygiene Day: Breaking the Silence

In partnership with the France Embassy in Nigeria, we launched a multi-state campaign to mark **World Menstrual Hygiene Day** on May 28th. Our teams fanned out across Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina to deliver a powerful message of health, dignity, and empowerment. From **Community Campaigns** in Dandaye (Sokoto) and Tudun Wada (Zamfara) to **School Campaigns** at Sarkin Kudu Government Girls College (Zamfara) and Hassu Iro Inko Girls College (Katsina), we reached hundreds of women and girls. Through radio programs on Vision FM in Katsina and Zamfara Radio Station, we broke the silence surrounding menstrual health.



Third Quarter Q3 (July – September) 2024

Capturing Impact: Research on PLRCAP and WLOs



From July 17th to August 3rd, our research team, including John Emmanuel, Friday Bitrus, Deborah Shadrach, Rachael Liba, and Japhet Emmanuel, dedicated their efforts to a crucial data collection phase for the **PLRCAP and Women-Led Organizations (WLOs) research**. This extensive fieldwork was designed to measure the tangible impact of our empowerment projects on WLOs in the North-East. By meticulously gathering data, we are not only documenting our successes but also generating valuable insights to refine our strategies and ensure our future initiatives are as effective as possible.

Mapping Our Future: SNRA ToT Training

In August, our team enhanced its technical capabilities with a specialized **SNRA ToT Training** on KMZ/Maps. On August 14th, Suleiman, Ahmed Talba, and Abel Madalla were trained on advanced mapping and data visualization techniques. This skill is critical for accurately documenting our project locations, monitoring our impact, and creating compelling visuals to share our story with a wider audience. This investment in technology strengthens our ability to track progress and plan future interventions with greater precision.



Strengthening Digital Security in Katsina State



Following up on our digital resilience work in Q1, we extended our expertise to other regions. On August 15th and 16th, funded by the **WACSI/MOTT Foundation**, Timothy Ali Yohanna led a training on "**Enhancing Digital Security and Resilience for Civil Society Organizations in Katsina State.**" The workshop empowered 22 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with practical strategies to protect their data, secure their communications, and build a stronger digital defense. This collaboration with the GRA Katsina team demonstrates our dedication to building a network of

resilient organizations across the country, ensuring that civil society can continue its vital work without fear of digital compromise.

Fourth Quarter Q4 (October – December) 2024

Forging Stronger Alliances: Partner and CSO Mapping



In the final quarter of 2024, we focused on strengthening our network. From October 16th to 17th, we co-hosted a **Partners/CSO Mapping Workshop with BSF** in Maiduguri. This collaborative event brought together our team with BSF and other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to identify key players, map out strategic areas of operation, and lay the groundwork for future partnerships. By fostering a more coordinated network, we can eliminate redundant efforts and ensure our collective impact is maximized for the communities we serve.

Equipping Our Team: WWOW Workshop

On October 17th, our team embarked on a five-day mission in Maiduguri. In partnership with WWOW, we participated in a specialized **WWOW October Mission Maiduguri**, focusing on the **CRSV Context and Backup Tool**. This intensive workshop provided our staff with advanced knowledge and tools to effectively document and respond to cases of conflict-related sexual violence. This training is crucial for ensuring our support for survivors is not only compassionate but also adheres to the highest standards of safety and data integrity.



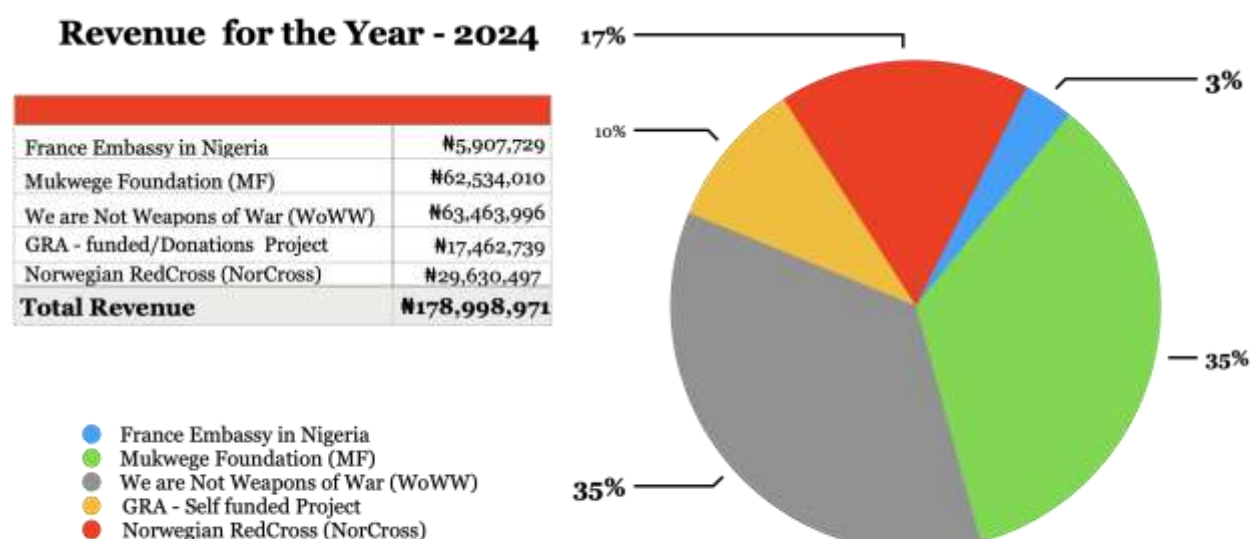
16 Days of Activism: A Powerful Stand Against GBV



The quarter culminated in a powerful series of campaigns for the **16 Days of Activism**, funded by the France Embassy. We launched a multi-pronged effort to raise awareness and advocate for an end to **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**. This included **Community Awareness Campaigns (CAC)** on November 26th in Sokoto State, rallying village and ward heads against GBV. Our **School Awareness Campaigns (SAC)** on November 29th, in partnership with AHWOCEI at GDSS Capital in Adamawa, empowered students to be agents of

change for a safer future. We amplified our reach through **Radio Awareness Campaigns**—partnering with AHWOCEI on Usaku FM in Adamawa and CCEPI on Dr. Fish FM in Plateau—to deliver a clear message on ending GBV to thousands. Finally, the campaign engaged with religious leaders on December 3rd in Plateau State through **Religious Awareness Campaigns (RAC)**, recognizing their vital role in shaping community norms and values.

4. Financial Year 2024:



	<i>For The Period Ended 31st December 2024</i>	Year 2024	Year 2023
4	CASH & CASH EQUIVALENT		
	CURRENT ACCOUNT :	Naira (N)	Naira (N)
	Cash at Hand	58,024,527	3,437,030
5	GRANTS & DONATIONS RECEIVED	177,998,971	40,084,879
	European Union (EU)	-	2,993,640
	French Cultural Center (FCC)	3,140,125	1,053,963
	Global Survivor Funds (GSF)	-	13,220,190
	GRA- Self funded	17,462,739	2,882,543
	(drPC) Project	-	4,540,000
	GRA – Donations from Individual/groups	-	12,152,037
	European Union (EU)	-	3,242,506

	French Cultural Center (FCC)	2,767,604	-
	We are Not Weapons of War (WoWW)	63,463,996	-
	Mukwege Foundations (MF)	62,534,010	-
	Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross)	29,630,497	-
		178,998,971	40,084,879
6	Direct Program Cost		
	Accommodations	-	369,000
	Transport & Travelling	940,867	2,477,100
	Stipend/Per-diem	-	2,635,743
	Printing & Stationery	130,911	553,500
	Consultancy Fee	247,500	2,258,700
	Communication/Internet Allowance	213,300	748,700
	Hiring of Halls	-	620,000
	Mobilisation & Advocacy	-	485,000
	Lunch for participants	-	723,000
	Volunteer Stipend	60,000	-
	Tea Break for participants	-	1,542,500
	Project Expenses	57,528,734	1,177,179
	Training	92,649	632,000
	Program Expenses	19,886,302	5,691,700
		79,100,262	19,914,122
7	Administrative Expenses		
	Salaries and Allowance	23,085,329	14,031,413
	Office Rent	922,750	4,540,006
	Office Consumable	-	633,429
	General Fuel Cost	-	4,000
	Office Equipment Maintenance	-	48,500
	Internet Allowance	402,100	232,100
	Electricity Bill	1,931,925	604,702
	Logistics	200,000	681,000
	Audit and Accountancy Fee	-	602,614
	Legal Fees	3,100	823,255
	Pension	-	126,260
	Entertainment	64,700	-
	Depreciation	2,579,656	939,306
	Local Taxes and levies	-	167,257
	Management Expenses	400,000	101,000
	Administrative Expenses	1,375,000	550,199
		30,964,560	24,085,041
8	FINANCE CHARGES		
	Bank Charges	122,807	91,102

5. Key Reflections & Focus



In our pursuit of advancing gender equality and safeguarding human rights, the year **2024** was marked by significant strides and strategic initiatives. We remained steadfast in our commitment to upholding the principles of the **Women's Rights Approach, Survivor-Centered Approach, and Women-Led Approach**. These approaches not only guided our actions but led to remarkable achievements that resonate with our mission and vision in the complex humanitarian landscape.

1. Women's Rights Approach: Evidence, Access, and Advocacy

Our adherence to the Women's Rights Approach has driven our efforts to empower women and champion their rights at every level. The rigorous fieldwork for the **PLRCAP and Women-Led Organizations (WLOs) research** in Q3 was essential for generating valuable evidence to design interventions that uphold women's rights in the North-East. We also significantly expanded access to vital information through our multi-state campaigns. The large-scale outreach for **World Menstrual Hygiene Day** across Sokoto, Zamfara, and Katsina, and the multi-pronged campaigns during the **16 Days of Activism** (funded by the France Embassy), amplified crucial messages on **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)** and **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** prevention. By respecting local culture and employing diverse communication channels (including radio, schools, and religious institutions), we ensured our interventions resonated deeply and drove sustainable change.

2. Survivor-Cantered Approach: Holistic Healing and Voice Amplification

The Survivor-Cantered Approach was central to our activities, ensuring that survivors of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (CR-SGBV) are at the heart of our initiatives. Our German-funded project provided continuous support through **Survivors Networks** and launched the **Cap Making sub-grant** in Q1, an initiative that successfully linked trauma recovery with **economic independence and dignity**. Furthermore, the year saw a continued commitment to amplifying survivor voices on the global stage, with a survivor activist's participation in the **PSVI International Conference in the UK**. This contribution powerfully showcased survivor perspectives in shaping the global discourse on justice. On the ground, healing was fostered through unique initiatives like the **Cultural Dancing Therapy (CDT)** sessions and the symbolic **Tree Planting Initiative**, linking recovery to communal renewal.

3. Women-Led Approach: Leadership, Security, and Sustainability

Our commitment to the Women-Led Approach is reflected in both our organizational structure and our capacity-building programs. Our **Women Lead Board**, comprising 70% women and 30% men, continues to exemplify our dedication to gender parity in leadership. Crucially, our programming focused on building resilient local leadership: We facilitated **Strategic Network Strengthening Workshops** in Q2 to empower women leaders to manage their own peer-led support systems, ensuring the **long-term sustainability** of community-led change. Additionally, our **Digital Resilience training** and the **Partners/CSO Mapping Workshop** focused on securing and coordinating the network of women-led organizations, reinforcing their ability to drive change effectively and securely in a challenging environment.

Ladi Clark Musa



Board Chairperson

31st/12/2024

Timothy Ali Yohanna

Executive Director

31st/12/2024

6. Partners:

