

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES BY HOPE ALIVE FOR POSSIBILITIES INITIATIVE (HAPI) IN THE YEAR 2022

According to the number of activities undertaken and successes recorded during the period, Hope alive for possibilities initiative (HAPI) did well in the year 2022.

Without a doubt, HAPI has been at the forefront of ensuring PWDs' rights in Nigeria are protected. The organizations programmes demonstrate a proactive organization that thinks outside the box on issues that bother and concern persons with disabilities, as well as its tenacious fight for an inclusive society that does not discriminate or stigmatize persons with disabilities.

During the year 2022, HAPI implemented a number of projects and programs that had a significant impact on HAPI's strategic plan achievement. HAPI has continued to implement programs that are unique, transformative and in line with the needs of the disability community.

To achieve this, the organization through various forums organized capacity building training, consultative meetings, sensitization programs as well as paying advocacy visits to line Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government. Amongst the programs held were a week-long activity in commemoration of the International day of Persons with disability, a weeklong training to build the capacity of HAPI Staff, Commencement of the survey study on Accessible Airports for PWDs in Nigeria with support from Disability Rights Fund(DRF), Promoting political and leadership participation of PWDs in Benue State with support from Catholic dioceses of Gboko, media engagement on radio and television and other programs in collaboration with other CSOs and other key stakeholders .

At various forums, the organization lend its voice on issues around inclusion, SRHR, Disability and gender-based violence, Political participation and leadership representation, Transparency, anti-corruption, Inclusive climatic change responses, Budget appropriation and implementation, good governance, Discrimination against PWDs and the full implementation of National Disability Act 2018.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Commemoration of International Disability Day

- The event held at Benue center for enterprise development and innovation Makurdi (BENCEDI)
- Partnership established with the office of Benue state first lady her Excellency, Dr Eunice Ortom to push for the domestication of the discrimination against persons with disability (prohibition) act 2018
- The capacity of the media executives built on the content of Disability Act and synergy created to promote reporting of disability issues and legal framework.
- The capacity of MDAs and the National Assembly officials built on the content of National Disability Act.
- Synergy was created between CSOs, DPOs on their roles for the full implementation of Disability Act

- Contact established with the office of Benue state rehabilitation board to offer inclusive rehabilitation services and free legal support to PWDs who are victims of GBV and sexual abuse

DISABILITY RIGHT FUND PROJECTS

With Support from the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), Hope alive for possibilities initiative (HAPI), organized and carried out the following projects and programmes successfully in 2022:

- Accessible Airport for Persons with Disabilities meeting Between Hope alive for possibilities initiative (HAPI) and Coalition Partners; The center for citizens with disability (CCD) and Spinal Cord Injured Association of Nigeria (SCIAN) held at CCD office Headquarters at Opebi, Ikeja, Lagos.
- Safeguarding workshop on accessible airports for PWDs in Nigeria.
- Zoom training of field researchers to carry out the survey on accessible airport for PWDs.
- Validation of an assessment on accessible airports for persons with disabilities in Nigeria, held on the 15th February ,2022 at Custonian hotel, FCT Abuja.
- Sensitization of airlines operators in Nigeria on access to airport for persons with disabilities held at Elomaz hotel, Lagos state Nigeria.
- Advocacy visit to ministries and key stakeholders for guidelines to compel relevant institution to conform with national disability act, CRPD, SDG11 and Nigeria government commitments at global disability summit 2018.
- Designed jingles, airing of jingles and radio talk show beat FM 97.9 and the nation radio station.
- Sensitization of airport officials and PWDs in Akwa-ibom state on access to airport for PWDs and national disability act 2018 and N CRPD held at Eemjem hotel Uyo.

CATHOLIC DIOCESES OF GBOKO, NIGERIA PROJECTS

In same vein, HAPI with support from Catholic dioceses of Gboko Nigeria, in the year 2022 implemented a project on Enhancing political participation among women, elderly, and youths with disabilities in Benue State Below are the highlighted activities and milestone within the project year:

- Advocacy visit to the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC)
- An advocacy visits to the Benue State Office for Disability Affairs (BESODA)
- Advocacy visits to All Progressive Congress
- Advocacy visit to the Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC)

- Conducted research on pre-election assessment of Benue state Independent electoral commission provisions for PWDs participation at the 2023 Nigeria general elections.
- Sensitization of front-line political parties on political participation of persons with disabilities in Benue State.
- Media Talk show on Radio Joy FM 96.5 Otukpo, Benue state.
- Consultative meeting on provision of legal support services to PWDs in Benue state.
- Sensitization of PWDs on continuous voter registration and leadership representation.
- Commemoration of the international day for persons with disabilities in Benue State.

Within this period, the project recorded significant impact on the right holders. This is evident on the level of response, acceptance and commitments from the right holders. They include the following:

- Secured commitment from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Benue State Independent Electoral Commission, Benue State Office for Disability Affairs and Interparty Advisory Council (IPAC), on ensuring PWDs participation in elections and politics on an equal basis in Benue State.
- The Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) mobilized 17 Political Parties Chairmen which were sensitized by HAPI and secured commitments to ensure PWDs participation at their various party activities and programs at the different levels. They also pledged to create inclusive structures, policy frameworks to accommodate PWDs and encourage their full participation.
- INEC to create strategic plan in 2023 to provide electoral operation system to support the delivery of free, fair, credible and 'inclusive' elections for PWDs.
- Inter party advisory council to have a special membership registration for PWDs to factor in all facilities that will enable PWDs participates fully.
- Knowledge of right holders enhanced on the challenges of PWDs participation in politics and areas to address to promote inclusion.
- IPAC and BESIEC to be intentional and deliberate in its provisions as there is diversity in disability and providing an equal playing ground.
- PWDs in Benue State have indicated interest to register and contest in future elections.
- HAPI and the Inter Party Advisory Council IPAC has agreed to have an MOU to accommodate PWDs in all Political Parties in Benue State.

BENUE FOCAL GROUP DISCUSSION ON COMPLIANCE OF NATIONAL DISABILITY ACT

The struggles of over 25million Nigerians with Disabilities just started taking another dimension after the passage of the Discrimination against persons with Disabilities Act 2018 by President Mohammed Buhari on the 17th of January 2018; it is 3 years down the line and the Act still lacks implementation power thus Hope alive for possibilities initiative (HAPI) under her project on Level of Compliance to National Disability Act by Public Institutions in Benue is carrying out an assessment to evaluate the level of compliance to National Disability Act in Nigeria, the outcome/report of this study will aid HAPI to engage policy makers, stakeholders from line MDAs and other State and non-State actors for them to improve their level of compliance to the policy provisions in the National Disability Act.

The Objective of the project was:

- To understand the extent at which line MDAs/Public institutions are complying with the provisions in the National Disability Act 2018 as it relates to PWDs Accessibility, Inclusion and Welfare.
- To identify some of the challenges impeding the level of compliance to the Act
- To understand the current social context of PWDs in Benue and the federal capital territory

SENSITIZATION TRAINING ON SRHR FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITY (WGWD)

- The training was held at Steam-fast event center Makurdi, Benue state
- Sensitization of women and girls with disability on sexual reproductive health and rights
- Capacity of religious leaders built on disability issues and SRHR
- Contact was established with federal ministry of health to expand access to SRH for WGWD
- Commitments made by FMH to review SRH policy to capture aeras identified to be missing
- FMH identified a need for more intentional and active involvement of relevant key stakeholders in policy making for better ownership and sustainability of SRH interventions
- WGWD identified that SRH is very critical to achieving sustainable development goals particularly those targeting poverty, health security, education, and reduced inequalities
- WGWD equipped with necessary responses, interventions, and advocacy skills to combat disability and gender-based violence in their communities

SKILLS ACQUISITION BOOTCAMP

- The event was held at Catholic diocese of Gboko institute for human development and resource center
- Young women and girls with disability (WGWD) trained on different kinds of entrepreneurial skills
- WGWD trained on in-demand employability skills
- Startup kits given to 15 WGWD to establish business
- Integrated and mainstreamed WGWD in to digital marketing training

Within this period the project recorded significant success stories, this is evident on the impact felt by community members, increase independence, level of acceptance, reduced discrimination, and secured employments.

- 15 WGWD are now business owners, PWDs now earn income and financial independence is achieved most significantly economic status of the communities is improved
- WGWD employed by both private and public sectors
- Reduced poverty among WGWD
- Reduced cases of abuse and increase self-esteem of WGWD

External meetings and programs

STAKEHOLDERS ROUNDTABLE ON ELECTORAL TECHNOLOGY HELD ON 30TH JULY 2022 AT TRANSCORP HILTON ABUJA HOSTED BY YIAGA AFRICA SUPPORTED BY EUROPEAN UNION EU-SDGN.

Yiaya Africa organized a stakeholder's roundtable on electoral technology held on 30th July 2022 at Transcorp Hilton Abuja hosted by Yiaga Africa supported by European union Eu-Sdgn.

Executive Director, Ms. Aver Akighir was in attendance with the programmes manager Jovkyundan Mercy for the stakeholders roundtable on electoral technology held in Abuja hosted by Yiaga Africa with support from EU.

Executive Director, Yiaga Africa, Samson Itodo welcomes everyone on the roundtable and the focus is on Electoral reform, the role technology plays in Nigeria elections. He went on to say that technology is great for elections, it enhances the participation of citizens in the electoral process, if technology has improved on our elections what are the lessons learnt. The recent Anambra election is the challenges of these machines are not address, it will affect the integrity of the election.

Samson went on to say that at the end of the round table, the use of technology will be appreciated, the technology should be PWDs friendly so they can participate freely in an election. The meeting is design to explore ways to other election stakeholders.

INTER SECTORAL MEETING ON SOCIAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) HELD AT REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL ABUJA, ON 4TH MARCH 2022 AND ATTENDED BY HAPI

As Nigeria move towards second decade of Agenda 2030 under the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs), The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria called for an Inter- Sectoral meeting on Social Dimension of SDGs with the Theme: *Strengthening Stakeholders' Engagement and Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Social Dimension of SDGs*. This meeting was held on the 4th March 2022 at Reiz Hotel Abuja. The meeting had in attendance, Ministries, Department and Agencies, the likes of Ministry of Women Affairs, Water Resource, NAPTIP, FIRS, Justice, Health, Environment, Bureau of Statistics, CSOs, NGOs, HAPI and we had participants who joined online representing various States where they are implementing different Goals of the SDGs and of course the media.

Presentations were made, and the following recommendations were made;

Recommendations

- Prioritize women on social protection looking at the statistics.
- Multiple vulnerability is not captured in the data; efforts should be made to capture them.
- Emphasis should be focused on girls, they are involved in Gender Base Violence, as women are more vulnerable; example is what happened during Covid-19 where we have high report of gender base violence against women and girls.
- Emphasis on social protection on health for women, as women in rural areas can't afford good health care.
- There is need for the Government to Re-orientate social protection for women; they are diverse and complex e.g, Rural and Urban women, Women with disabilities and non-disability

PRESENTATION OF THE SECURITY PLAYBOOK OF DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM IN NIGERIA & HARMS FROM ABROAD: IMPACT OF GLOBAL SECURITY MEASURES ON CIVIC SPACE IN NIGERIA

HAPI were present at the presentation of the Security Playbook of Digital Authoritarianism in Nigeria & Harms from Abroad: Impact of Global Security Measures on Civic Space in Nigeria organized by the Spaces for Change.

The purpose of the program was to share the findings of its report on Digital Authoritarianism in Nigeria to the public as well as, issue a press briefing on its findings and recommendations to the critical stakeholders in the Nigerian Space. The program brought together Media professionals, as well CSOs who were involved in the research cutting across different thematic areas to include; Persons with disabilities, Justice and Civil rights; Gender and Women as well as Youth networks amongst others.

The press briefing was led by Mr. Oluseyi Olufemi from the Interactive Initiative for Social Impact (DATAPHYTE) where he made the press statement on the action group on free civic space's (AGFCS) report to raise alarm over the use and misuse of the security rhetoric to restrict civic freedoms in Nigeria as he called on urgent measures to safeguard civic space in Nigeria.

In his statement, he mentioned that the two reports presented the findings of a three-part study which examined how the military and non-military measures, mostly copied from abroad and deployed to combat numerous security threats in the country, including terrorism in the north-east region, create opportunities for the use and abuse of counterterrorism (CT) and security laws to curtail civic freedoms and gradually becoming the dominant driver of closing civic space in Nigeria.

The action statement was signed by the following organizations to include; Interactive Initiative for Social Impact (DATAPHYTE), The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERS), Spaces for Change (S4C), Justice Rights Initiative (JRI), Vision Spring Initiatives (VSI), Hope Alive for Possibilities Initiative (HAPI), World Impact Development Foundation (WIDEF), Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC), Building Blocks for Peace Foundation (BBFORPEACE), SB Morgen Intelligence (SBM Intelligence), and Youths Right and Environmental Advocacy Centre (YEAC). These organizations also acted as panelist who led the conversation on Government activities targeted at closing the civic space in Nigeria.

AFRICA POLLING INSTITUTE (API) CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR DISABILITY-BASED CSOS

HAPI team participated in a Research Capacity Building Workshop for Disability-Based CSOs organized by Africa Polling Institute (API) with support from Ford Foundation. HAPI was represented by Ms. Jovkyundan Mercy.

The purpose of the training was to build the capacity of disability-based organizations on various research techniques, drafting proposals and sharing their stories using effective communication.

The training captured 12 modules to research to include Research Conceptualization for Advocacy, Terminologies in the disability space, developing literature review, designing a research methodology, developing research protocols, Data Collection, Disability data collection approaches and tools, Data processing and analysis, report writing, infographics/illustration as a tool for advocacy, communication dissemination of research findings and developing a disability inclusive proposal. At the end of the program participants were presented with a certificate.

A DAY SOUTH WEST ZONAL TOWN HALL MEETING ON ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The National Commission for Persons with Disabilities with support from the Law and Anti-Corruption Program (RoLAC) and the Sight Savers Nigeria organized a one-day zonal town hall meeting on access to employment for Persons with disabilities. The purpose of the program was to factor out ways to improve the lives of PWDs with key focus on employment as a necessity for a better life for Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria. The program brought together DPOs/OPDs across the southwestern States, as well as CSOs actively engaged in the development of PWDs, the Media amongst others. The theme of the program was on employment for a better life for Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria.

2-DAY CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR STAKEHOLDERS ON DEVELOPING A STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR INTEGRATED SERVICE PROVISION AND STRENGTHENED REFERRAL PATHWAYS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

HAPI was represented at a 2-day consultative workshop organized by the Centre for Women Health and Information (CEWHIN) held at Denis Hotel Abuja.

The purpose of the event was to gather valid recommendations that meet the different needs of individual cluster and as the right-holders to enhance the robustness and inclusiveness of the already existing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in the state. Participants at the workshop included representatives from the, FCT office for Disabilities Affairs, Department of Social Science, University of Abuja, CSOs, PWDs amongst others.

WORKSHOP FOR STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS ON ENHANCE SKILLS FOR HOLDING DUTY BEARERS ACCOUNTABLE ON VAWG/SGBV/SRHR RESPONSE IN BENUE STATE

The Centre for Women's Health and Information in collaboration with Hope Alive for Possibilities Initiative (HAPI) organized a 4-day event which took place in Gboko.

The purpose of the event was to sensitize and enhance skills of PWDs to hold duty bearers accountable on VAWG/SGBV/SRHR response in Benue State.

EU-ACT CSO PARTNER ORGANISATIONS FUND-RAISING TRAINING

HAPI team Ms. Mercy Jovkyundan and Ms. Chika Idemili represented HAPI at the EU-ACT CSO Partner organization fund raising training. The aim of the program organized by the Agents for Citizens Driven Transformation (ACT) was to build the capacity of CSOs on the EU-ACT grant template, to enable them apply for the EU-ACT challenge Fund or Development Fund.

Selected CSOs were trained on developing an attractive proposal in line with the EU-ACT Template, areas covered included, developing a project summary, identifying overall objectives, expected output, outcome and impact of the project. The program entailed practical sessions were participants' crafted activities to clearly address the project goals and objectives, indicators of achievement, identifying target beneficiaries and also budgeting.

Online, Radio/Television broadcast.

HAPI activities reportage increased in year 2022 due to spontaneous broadcast of all the activities in the year. The consistent broadcast on radio, television, Facebook, twitter, Instagram and other social media platform has kept the general public updated and enlightened on the development in the organization and her activities.

Despite the success; it is recommended that HAPI should also increase;

- Increases the contents frequency, quantity and quality (50%+) to increase the number of return increased users/visitors on the website
- Creating and posting/publishing/tweeting more engaging contents on the website and all HAPI's social media platform
- Building on the achievement recorded on Search Engine Optimization (SEO) this year which has led to massive rise in both local and global ranking. Aiming to be ranked among top 50,000 site globally and top 500 locally.
- Aiming to be ranked among top 10 NGO websites in Nigeria and 10,000 on a global scale.
- Increasing the percentage of global reach; that is, reaching more internet users outside Nigeria. This will assist in the overall ranking as well