



OUR NEWSLETTER

FIRST-QUARTER (JANUARY- MARCH 2021)

Uplifting our Team for Increased Efficiency

Our custom is to always conduct in-house training for our staff and volunteers at the beginning of every calendar year. The training is targeted toward building staff and volunteers capacity, re-communicating CYPF's goals, and helping team members make dedicated efforts to be efficient and effective with their duties.

The training focused on CYPF's mission and vision, its thematic areas, and a review of the staff handbook to set out clear expectations and rights for employees while also stating the organization's legal obligations. Lastly, they were reminded of the importance of volunteering and educated on managing the organization's finances and grants.

The training was insightful, motivated employees, and made them feel valued and part of a team.

Great Interventions Begin with an Idea

To strengthen interventions in core areas such as Advocacy, Counselling, Monitoring and Leadership program, community, and Impact program, we came up with several activities to further enhance the protection of children and youth within communities in FCT. These interventions will be tailored around the identification and analysis of basic issues and needs of communities.

We also made the following resolutions

- Strengthen advocacy on identified areas, advocate for women's rights and address other related issues concerning women.
- Create awareness on personal hygiene for children in schools and communities
- To support the fight against child labour, select a community, survey the number of out-of-school students involved in child labour, and set a target of students to be reached in the community based on the findings. Also, carry out a skills acquisition for the beneficiaries' parents to ensure project sustainability.
- Engage communities to enhance the protection of the rights of children.
- Convene a peace and conflict resolution program for youths ahead of the 2023 elections.

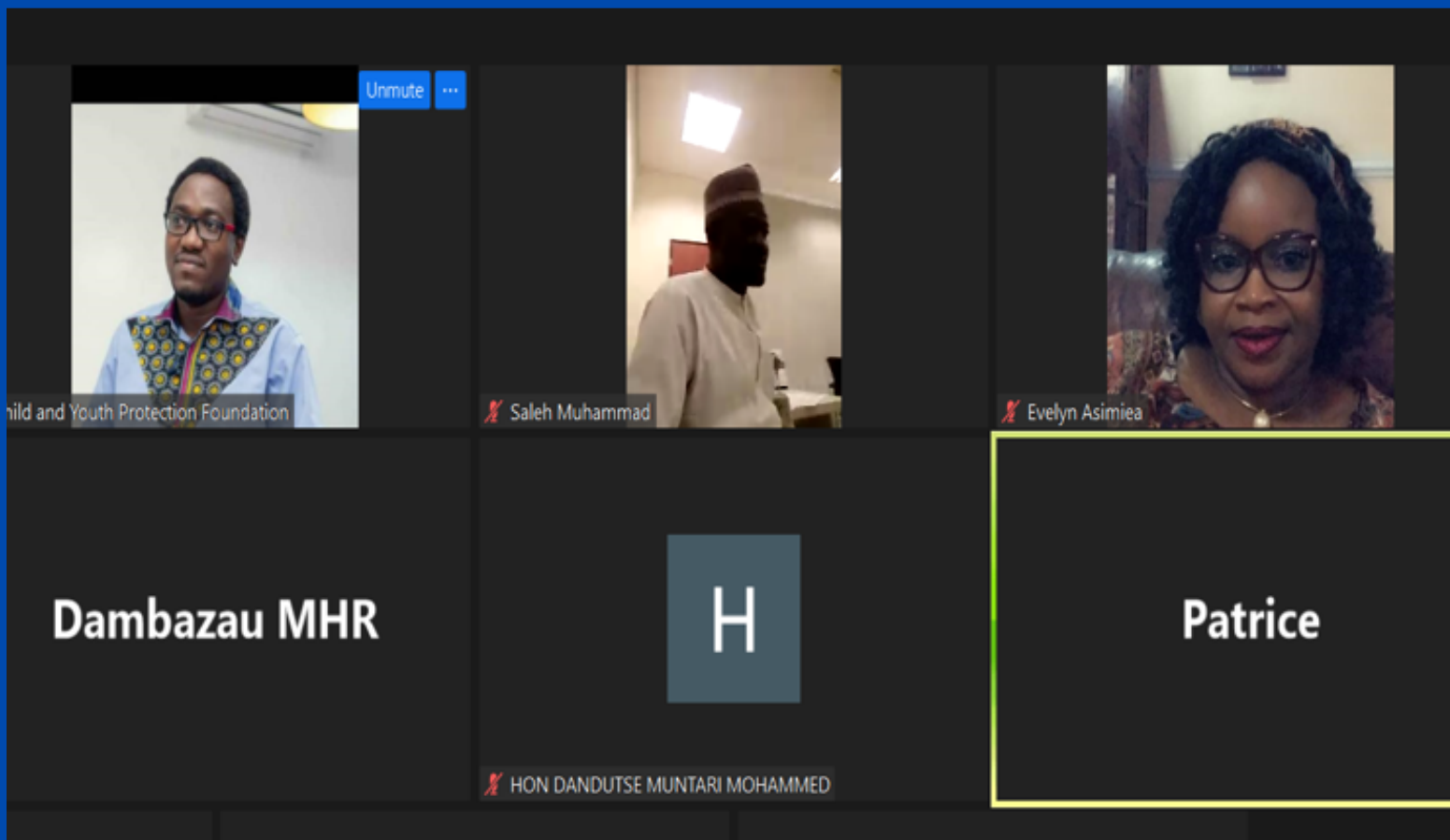
Kindly contact us at cypf@gmail.com to learn more or support any of these interventions.

Engaging Parliamentarians to Support Gender Responsive Budgets

The executive arm of government is key to ensuring Nigeria has a budget that works for women and men, girls and boys, by providing gender-equitable distribution of resources and contributing to equal opportunities for all. To promote this, the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) Nigeria organized an online workshop facilitated by CYPF to train parliamentarians on “Gender Responsive Budget”. Participants included members of the House of Representatives and the Ministry of Women Affairs committee members.

The workshop's primary purpose was to increase awareness of the concept of gender-responsive budgeting, get the members' buy-in on it, and strengthen the partnership between Lawmakers and FIDA.

While the training was very insightful, one key observation included ensuring that the executive arm of government is adequately informed about the importance of gender-responsive budgeting. Furthermore, participants recommended that the Permanent Secretaries, Directors of the Ministries of Budgeting and Planning, Women Affairs, Finance, and Health be involved in institutionalizing gender-responsive budgeting. At the same time, they stressed the need to review the budget line items of the relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies





Monitoring the Implementation of the VAPP Act and Other Policies

The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act passed in 2015 is designed to tackle “all forms of violence against persons in private and public life” and provide “maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punishment of offenders.”. The law redefines and expands the definition of rape, focuses on globally acceptable deterrents in the form of punishments for offenders, and includes provisions for victims' financial compensation.

While this is commendable, it is vital to collect and analyze data/information since the law's passage and other similar and relevant legislation to assess whether the law protects victim safety prevents violence, promotes offender accountability, and detect errors in the implementation of laws.

In furtherance of this, CYPF supported the facilitation of a one-day capacity building of relevant stakeholders including CSOs and social welfare officers on elaborated guidelines and tools in the implementation of laws like the VAPP Act 2015 and other policies. The workshop's primary objective was to look at the VAPP Act and the level of implementation in the FCT.

The training focused on the guideline and tools in implementing laws, the rationale behind the VAPP act's passage, and a general overview of the Act's provisions. The training also focused on critical aspects of monitoring laws on violence against women.

Break-out groups were also formed to identify critical stakeholders responsible for monitoring the VAPP act in the FCT, their roles, the scope of monitoring (target, indicators, parameters), and challenges they may face. During the training, participants recommended that the VAPP Act 2015 be circulated among all stakeholders by National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and the Social Development Secretariat (SDS). They also noted that a team should be constituted of relevant agencies, including the SDS, NAPTIP, and DSS, to have the victims' best interest.

Developing Plans and Programs on VAWG/SGBV, HP and the Interlinkages with Women's Access to SRHR

The Social Development Secretariat (SDS) initiated a one-day training on how to do no harm, better integrate, develop plans and programs on Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Harmful Traditional Practices (HP), and the interlinkages with women's access to Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR). The program that CYPF facilitated saw participants from various Social Development Secretariat departments, including Social Welfare Department, Youth Department, and the Gender Department. The training was geared to ensure proper understanding of the referral pathway on reporting SGBV and increase knowledge on gender responding while also helping SDS staff know their mandate.



Key topics discussed during the presentations include victimology, stages of victimization, victims' rights, guiding principles of VAWG Programming, and appropriate and effective referral pathways. Groups from breakout sessions also identified and discussed the linkages between HP and VAWG in the FCT, which participants recognized as early marriage, female genital mutilation, infanticide, forced marriage, child marriage, child labour, multiple births.

Participants were also divided into groups to develop a 12-month action plan for peacebuilding. In addition, they identified referral challenges which they noted included their ignorance of referral mechanisms in FCT, cumbersome complaint process, inability to accept all cases, and the unavailability of referral forms.

In the end, they recommended that the SDS have a counseling room where victims can make reports, elaborate training is convened for SDS staff, a victim's survivors fund is created, and the FCT referral mechanism revisited.

To learn more



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