



CYPF
CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

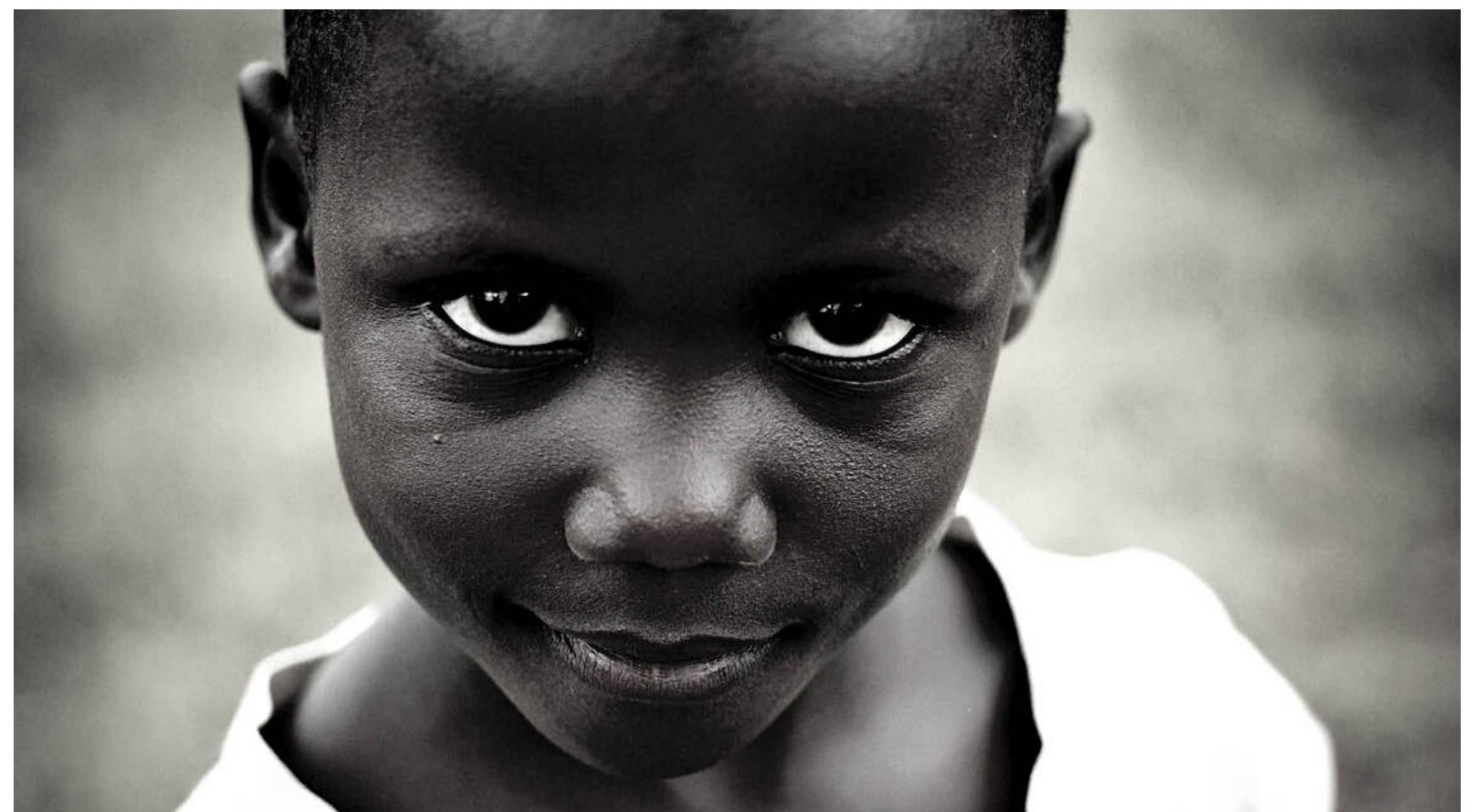
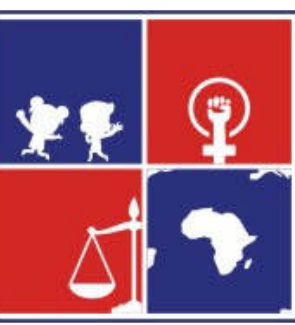
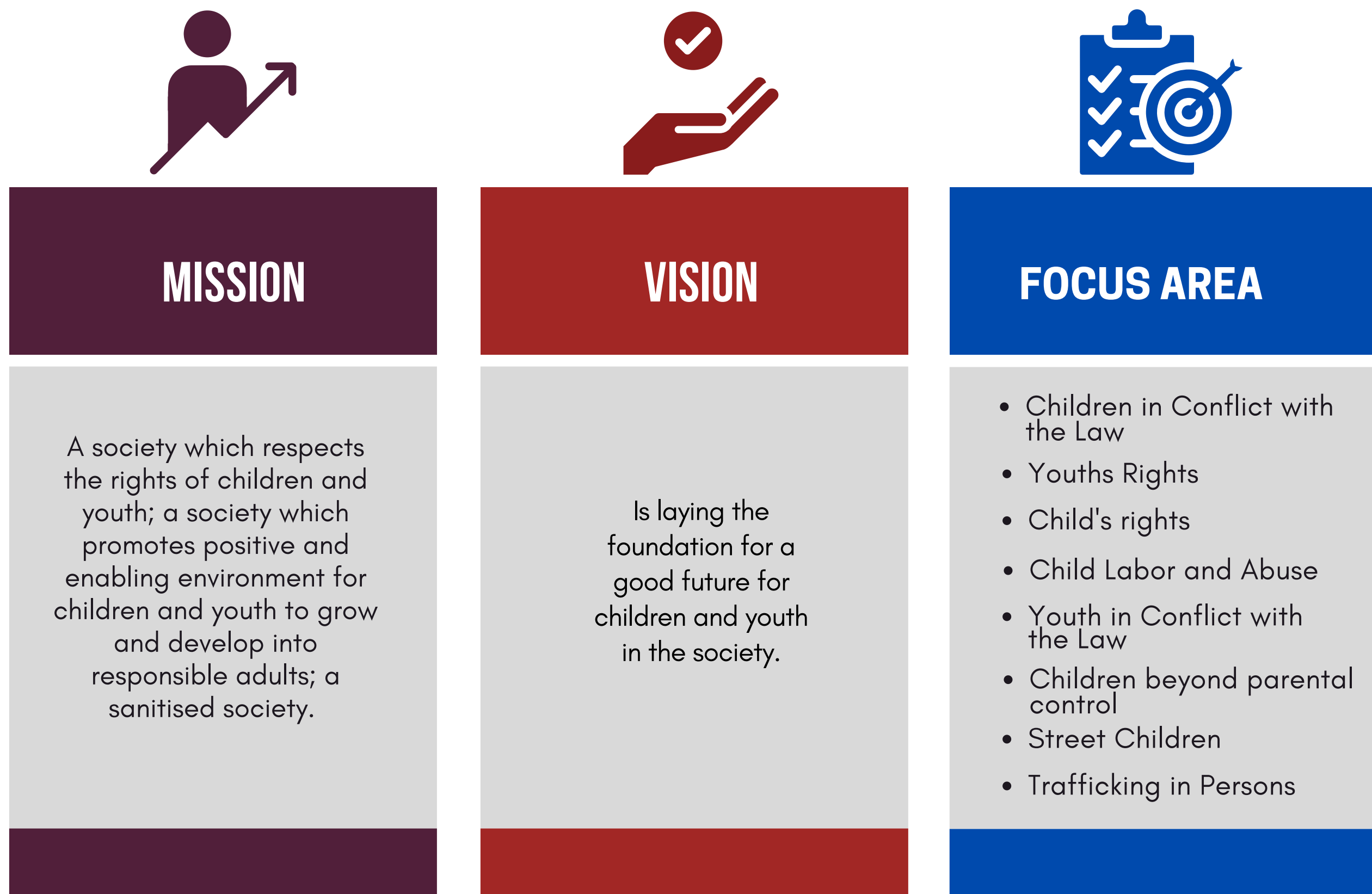


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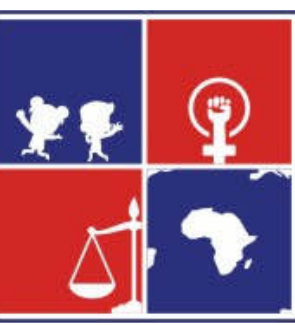
WHO WE ARE



Child and Youth Protection Foundation (CYPF) is an autonomous not-for-profit, non-governmental, non-political, non-religious organization established in June 2008 by a concerned citizen of Nigeria. The organization strives to build a nation positively affecting the environment and attitude of children and youth.

We work with the government, religious organizations, schools, communities, and individuals to create an enabling environment and opportunity for the proper development of the Nigerian child and youth. We achieve this through advocacy, research, counseling, capacity building, awareness creation, educational support, community impact program, and mentoring/ leadership for children and youth.

Since 2008 when CYPF began operations, our interventions have expanded significantly. Some of our programs include Education Support Scheme (ESS), Personal Education Support Scheme (PESS), Girl Education Support (GES), Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program (RRP), Sensitization, Advocacy and Awareness Creation (SAAC), Development for Productivity and Positive Change (DPPC), Community Impact Programme (CIP), National Birth Certificate Registration (NBCR), Personal Hygiene Advancing Development for Girls (PAD4G), Project ME, Family Engagement and Strengthening Program, ICT for Girls and Boys 4 Change Campaign.



Our Activities



Laws and Policies



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 Civil Society Organizations (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 Federal Capital Territory (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 covered 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.



Reviewing the Compilation of Legal Framework for the Elimination of Child Labour and Child Protection

The fundamental dignity of all children in Nigeria is acknowledged in Nigerian law, due to the necessity of protecting their well-being and development. Therefore, it is the state's responsibility to enact legislation to ensure their protection and safety, allowing them to develop to their greatest potential. Hence, we facilitated the compilation of laws that enhance children's protection in Nigeria, and subsequently, the International Labor Organization (ILO) convened a review meeting of the document.

Consequently, participants recommended the following

- The adjustment of the document's title to "Compilation of Legal Frameworks for the elimination of Child Labour and the Protection of Children in Nigeria".
- The addition of footnotes to clarify technical jargon.
- The incorporation of the laws and their relevant provisions.
- The modification of the document contents to a tabular format outlining the four pillars of child rights and specifying the relevant laws within those pillars.

According to the Senior Program Officer of CYPF, the document's essence is to have a compendium of legal frameworks simplified for easy referencing by stakeholders, employers, workers, and the general public.



Validation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on the Elimination of Child Labor

Earlier last year, CYPF attended a five-day session to evaluate and review the National Action Plan (NAP) of 2013 – 2017. During this meeting, the participants analyzed the gaps in implementation and reporting to NAP, developed a new vision, mission and goal, evaluated/validated the old NAP, and assessed the new NAP's first draft.

So, this year we proceeded to validate and officially launch the NAP to commemorate the international year for the elimination of child labour in Nigeria. The facilitator went through the document, and participants spotted areas that needed to be corrected or adjusted. After the review, the Action Plan was validated and launched the following day.

Three-Day Technical Review Meeting and Finalization of Legal Frameworks for the Elimination of Child Labour and Child Protection

The Technical Review Meeting commenced with a welcome address by the ILO's National Program Coordinator and CYPF's Senior Coordinator while the goodwill message was presented by the representative of the Honourable Minister for Labour and Employment.

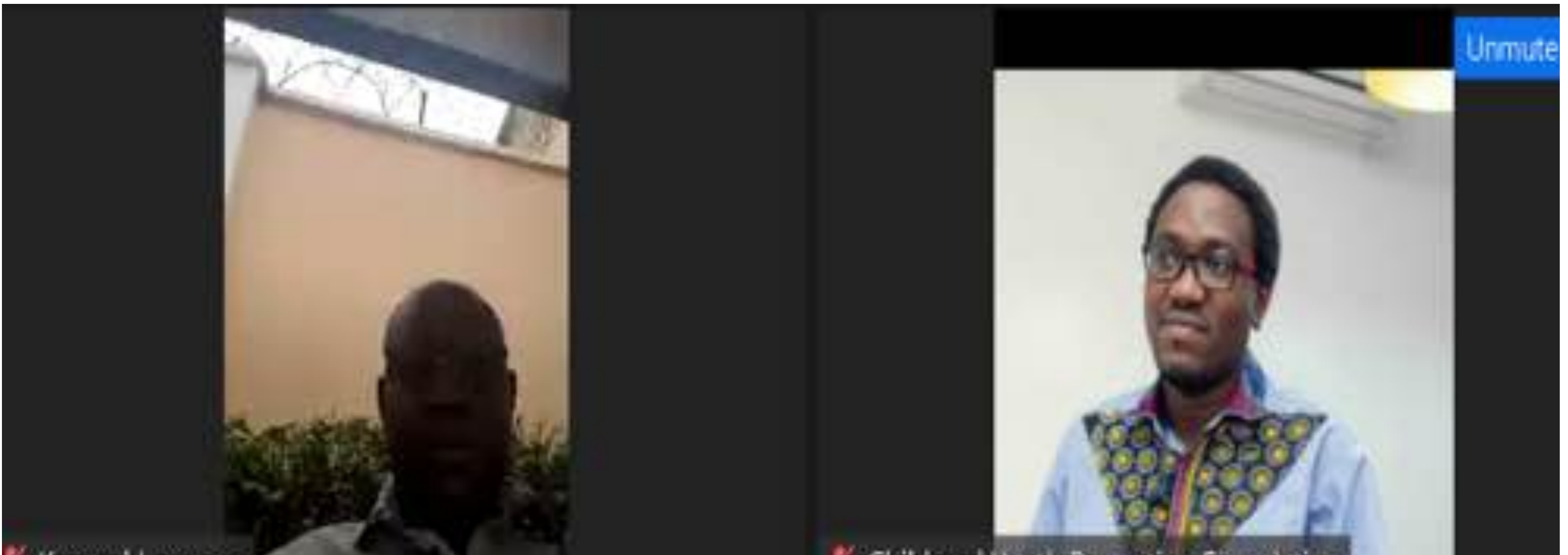
CYPF's Senior Coordinator gave an overview of the work that was achieved at the last meeting - the production of a Compendium of laws guiding Child Labour and Child Protection in Nigeria and the Simplified Handbook on Child Labour Laws. He further gave direction for the objective of the three-day meeting which is to holistically review, amend and add [where necessary] to these two documents and bring them to a ready-for-print status.

The group was divided into three teams – Team 1 -reviewed the first two Pillars of the Legal Framework Compendium which bordered on issues of Child Survival and Child Protection while Team 2- reviewed issues bordering on Child development and participation and Team 3 reviewed the Simplified Handbook. The first two days were majorly used by the different teams to review and merge these documents while the third day was used as a plenary to discuss all issues emanating from the review. These issues include:

- Ascertaining the veracity of some of the legal provisions
- Redefining issues and their proper placements
- Proper arrangement of the document
- Expunging some provisions that did not speak to the issues of Child Labour or Child Protection
- Expunging supposedly punitive fines where it appears that such fines will provoke ridicule instead of a deterrent
- Inclusion of a trafficking provision from the Immigration Act
- Examining words to avoid ambiguities

At the Plenary, there were discussions on the appropriateness of some Laws and their applicability in Nigeria as they stand. It was also agreed that there will be a need to pass these documents through the third face of scrutiny before it goes to print. Consequently, CYPF suggested that a few participants could come together and work virtually on that phase. ILO's National Program Coordinator also suggested that the third phase committee can meet in Abuja to have a final look and that the simplified version could use some graphics to add color to the document. She also mentioned that it would be proper to recognize the organizations that worked on these documents through acknowledgment and a foreword from the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The three-day meeting came to a close with a vote of thanks from the Ministry of Labour and Employment.





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



VAWG/SGBV

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 responding to GBV reports 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 they recognized as early marriage, female genital mutilation, infanticide, forced marriage, child marriage, child labour, multiple births.

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

In the end, they recommended that the SDS have a counselling room where victims can make reports, convene elaborate training for SDS staff, create a victim's survivors fund, and revise the FCT referral mechanism.

Meeting of Relevant Stakeholders in the FCTs Response to SGBV/HP/SRHR

The meeting organized by the Social Development Secretariat (SDS) aimed to bridge the gap among all stakeholders (Civil Society Organizations, Non-governmental Organizations and Government Agencies) in getting justice for Sexual Gender-Based Violence survivors and data collection. The Director-General, SDS noted that it was the responsibility of all stakeholders in the FCT to facilitate the achievement of this and appealed for strong collaboration.



Among critical recommendations were CSOs and individuals within the justice system should look at alternative options from the criminal justices system. The creation of an effective policy system for SGBV/GBV. The need to focus on reproductive health at the family level, especially as the government is overwhelmed and might not employ counsellors in all schools.

As a participant, the meeting was interactive, and we discovered activities and services other stakeholders provide in this area to improve collaboration and cohesion.

Building the Capacity of Research Officers Dealing with Human Trafficking



To bridge the gap in responding to SGBV and getting justice for the survivors of SGBV, Action Against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Nigeria (ATIPSOM) convened a two-day capacity workshop for the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Nigerian Police Force (NPF), and the Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse & Labour (NACTAL) Research Officers on research development and reporting statistical analysis and specialized research software and monitoring and evaluation.

After an in-depth discussion on the relevant topics, the participants were taken through the online data collection technique with a practical approach via google mail. They also downloaded the R software package version 3.6.3 and began working with package codes by inputting codes to gain statistics and monitor and evaluate activities. During breakout sessions, participants noted reasons the female gender is more trafficked than the male, which they identified as vulnerability, sexual exploitation, and influence of peer groups and parents (forced labour).



Promoting Staff Wellness and Resilience for Effective Response to SGBV Programming Project

SOAR Initiative and NEEM Foundation organized a one-day project initiation meeting on promoting staff wellness and resilience for effective response to sexual and gender-based violence programming projects. The executive director of the project noted that the program would run for 12 months with monthly meetings and training in addressing wellness and resilience of staff through:

- Promoting learning about Self-Care, Wellness, and Resilience for Staff of SGBV Prevention and response organizations
- Embedding these principles in organizational culture.
- Generating evidence and learning about staff wellness programming as part of GBV prevention and response programming, and others.

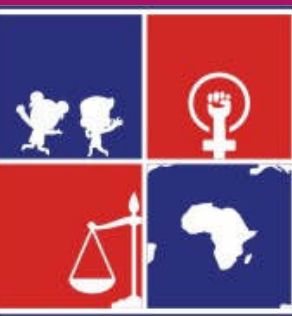
We look forward to participating in this program, prioritizing our health and wellness, and enhancing our knowledge in appropriately and effectively preventing and responding to SGBV.



Awareness Creation on Ending Gender-Based Violence in Aleita Community

To commemorate the International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development, CYPF in collaboration with the Women Wing of Christian Association of Nigeria (WOWICAN) had an awareness creation on ending Gender-Based Violence in Aleita community where we had nothing less than 50 women from the community as participants.

The National President of WOWICAN gave an opening speech on the awareness program and advised mothers on listening to their daughters and being aware of little changes in their children's characters or moods to effectively protect them. She also encouraged mothers to see that other mothers are informed in Alieta community. The Senior Coordinator also spoke to the women about the importance of being vigilant and protecting their children against violence.



Children and Young Women



Inspiring Girls at Junior Model School through Career Day

The Model Girls Junior Secondary School (JSS) initiated the Career day for JSS3 students to make informed choices in their education as they prepare to move to Senior School. They were encouraged and advised to choose the right path based on their ability, passion, and interest.

Four speakers were engaged, with three from CYPF. They were made to understand the core subjects needed to enrol in tertiary institutions to study law, accounting, and other courses. The speakers talked extensively on what it takes to study their choice of profession, the advantages, opportunities in the field, and different areas they can venture into based on their career choice.

They were also encouraged to identify their interests, understand their values, and know their talents to guide them appropriately. We are hopeful that we sparked their passion for learning and inspired them to choose fulfilling career paths.



Addressing the Role of G&Cs in Combatting Cultism, Drug Abuse, and Violence in Secondary Schools

A one-day seminar was held for counsellors in FCT Senior Secondary Schools by the Guidance and Counselling Division. The program that CYPF facilitated resulted from the vices occurring in various schools triggered by cultism and violence under the watch of Guidance and Counsellors. Hence, it becomes critical to educate Guidance and Counsellors and equip them to appropriately handle and manage such issues.

The seminar focused on the dangers of cultism, drug abuse, and violence among students. It also focused on sexual harassment of students, mental map of school surroundings, and the role Counsellors have to play in addressing cultism and drug abuse in schools.

Engaging Young Women on Leadership, Peace-building and Advocacy

The workshop convened by the West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP) was titled Training of Trainers Workshop for Young Women on Leadership, Peace-building, and Advocacy Training for Young Women. The workshop, which lasted for three days, targeted young women from ages 19 to 35 from various states. The training focused on peace-building to prevent violent outbreaks of conflicts and sustainable transformation of violent conflicts into peaceful action.



During the training, participants were encouraged to have a mentor to help bring out their best and guide them in choosing a career path. They were also advised to note every early warning sign to help prevent conflict or rape. Specifically, the training focused on avoiding conflict, understanding the importance of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2250) and their relevance in our society and for young women. Other topics discussed include implementing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Nigeria, situational analysis of ongoing conflict\ covid-19 pandemic, advocacy and peace-building, and developing community peace-building initiatives for gender equality and sustainable peace.

Participants were also made to understand the barriers to women and girls' meaningful participation in political decision-making and peace processes. Finally, they were given guidelines on developing a smart action plan and issued certificates.

The program was enlightening for young women who learned new skills, enhanced their knowledge, and changed attitudes, especially on early warning signs and security.



Digital Generation; Our Generation

International day of the girl child is focused on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. Hence, this year's theme "Digital Generation, Our Generation" was focused on closing the digital divide under the theme and recognizing the profound transformation that has taken place as many countries turned towards high-tech education to ensure continuity of learning during the Covid-19 pandemic and what this means for girls, who due to the gender digital divide are more likely than boys to be missing out on learning opportunities.

In commemoration of this day, the National Coordinator discussed this issue on the Kapital FM radio station to which he was invited. The CYPF team members were also featured on the organization's radio station - 30 Minutes with CYPF".

The highlight of the session was how digital literacy for girls could be improved and achieved. As such, it was suggested that relevant stakeholders:

- Enhance safe and equal access to education and skills training
- Tackle the stereotypes and social expectations that hold girls back from technology subjects and careers.
- Promote role models and mentors for girls so that they can grow up knowing and believing that their gender should not be a barrier to anything they want to become.
- Close the technology access and usage gap.
- Create a safe internet space for girls against harassment and abuse as most internet cafes are dominated by males, and girls may not be comfortable going to such locations
- Educate and empower girls to be digital creators and not just consumers.



Assessing the Level of Understanding of GBV among Young Girls



One of our focuses during the 16 days of activism, was to enlighten the public on gender-based violence (GBV) and our target this year was young girls. So, we carried out an activity to assess and improve the level of understanding of GBV among them. So, we interviewed female students of JSS Piwoyi in Piwoyi Community from Junior secondary school one (JSS1) to Junior secondary school two (JSS2) asking questions that revolved around the meaning and examples of gender-based violence, their roles to play in ensuring that violence against women and girls is eliminated, steps taken by the school to ensure the protection of women and girls, and suggestions on creating safe spaces for girls among others. The responses gotten from the students shows the level of their awareness about GBV and the team was able to shed more light on these areas based on their responses.

After the exercise, we discovered there is a need to empower students, especially female students about their rights, violence, and how and where to report cases of abuse.



CYPF Team



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. 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, mentoring and leadership program, community, and Impact program, team members 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.

Consequently, we made the following resolutions

- Strengthen advocacy on identified areas, advocate for women's rights and address 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 based on the findings, set a target of students to be reached in the community. Also, carry out a skills acquisition for parents of the beneficiaries' to ensure project sustainability.
- Convene a peace and conflict resolution program for youths ahead of the 2023 elections.



Meeting of CYPF Staff and Volunteers

We had several meetings to ensure improvement and engage the organization's staff and volunteers.

The team members resolved to develop a schedule once school resumes with at least two staff/volunteers assigned to each school who will be expected to carry out interventions on leadership and choosing careers. The volunteers will also have discussions and dialogues with school teachers to address issues affecting the school children.

In addition, team members agreed to actively engage in capacity training in areas like administration, report/ article writing, proposal writing, social media/ website management, and online presentations. This will further be achieved by convening regular in-house training.

Team members were also tasked to form a CYPF Advance Team responsible for the office operation, programs, and development of concept notes and proposals. They will also be responsible for sourcing for projects, managing online presence, and accessing and accepting volunteers due for recommendations.

Introducing '30 Minutes with CYPF'

This year, we officially launched our online Mixlr radio station named "30 mins with CYPF". The station provides a platform for CYPF team members, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders to discuss and deliberate on issues concerning the protection of children and youth in Nigeria.

During the course of the year, we used the medium to discuss the elimination of violence against women and girls and commemorate the international day of the girl child which focused on the theme -Digital Generation; Our Generation.

Our most notable online program was the interactive session with safeguarding officers in Lela Blossom School, Abuja on the topic 'Effective Safeguarding in Schools'. During this session, the officers noted that they carry out family meetings with students to enable each child to know the appropriate parties to meet in respect of different issues and also train teachers and non-teaching staff on child protection. A notable quote from the session by one of the Safeguarding Officers was *"You don't prepare at the time of trouble, you prepare before hand"*

We are excited about this and we hope you're always tuned in with us.

Please if you or your organisation will like to be a part of the live broadcast, kindly send us a mail at info@cypfnigeria.com



30 Minutes with CYPF

Live Broadcast:

http://mixlr.com/cypf_radio





Conclusion

This year, our activities focused on improving laws and policies that protect women and girls against violence, improving the security and protection of children in schools, and empowering women in communities with the proper knowledge to ensure the protection of children. This year was not without its challenges, but we took a closer step in ensuring that our society promotes a positive and enabling environment for children and youth to develop.

Partners





CYPF

CHILD & YOUTH PROTECTION FOUNDATION

Laying a good foundation...