

# NIGERIA MEDIA CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2020



**Training | Survey | Career Advice | Database | Awards**

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Published by Media Career Development Network  
14 Fadare Street, end of Kayode street,  
Off Ijaye Road,  
Ogba, Lagos.

**Email:** [info@mediacareerng.org](mailto:info@mediacareerng.org)

**Website:** [www.mediacareerng.org](http://www.mediacareerng.org)

**Phone:** +2348023000621, +2348050498530

**Twitter:** @mediacareergr

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# INTRODUCTION

**H**olding webinars, online meetings, virtual programmes were not part of the plans of media support organizations for 2020. Last year however turned out to be a period of largely remote trainings and other virtual engagements due to the Coronavirus pandemic protocols that did not allow for physical meetings, travels and other guidelines until when the restrictions were relaxed.

Despite the disruption of the scheduled programmes, journalists and other media professionals in the country still benefitted from lots of capacity development initiatives of media NGOs, Institutions, corporate organizations and individuals.

The Nigeria Media Capacity Development Report 2020 which is the first edition of what will be an annual publication documents various programmes and activities held last year in the country that enhanced the capacity of media organizations and individuals.

The programmes included trainings on various areas of coverage by the media, grants, skills developments, mentoring, awards, publications and others

This report also contains feedback from participants and beneficiaries of the various programmes and projects on what they learnt and suggestions for improvement.

We have a special report on opportunities for student journalists and writers and a directory of all media support organisations and institutions in the country.

In sourcing the content of this report, we reached out to media support organisations and institutions and shared a Google form Survey online. We got insightful feedback for all those involved in supporting the media with capacity development programmes and individuals seeking opportunities they can benefit from.

We did our best to source all necessary information but some were not available. We commend the various organisations whose programmes are included in this report and others we couldn't for their immense support for the media in the country.

At a time when many media organisations are finding it difficult to meet their basic obligations to their staff, media support organisations in the country have risen up to

the task of providing necessary training and funding for journalists to perform their duties as efficiently as possible.

We urge journalists and media organisations to make the best use of the support available for them to guarantee more support in the years ahead.

We thank all those who provided us with the necessary information and resources for this publication which is in fulfilment of our commitment to support journalists and other media professionals to accomplish their career goals.

I specially acknowledge the input of Development Journalist and Fact Checker, Zainab Sanni of News Verifier Africa, Mayowa Adeniran, MAP Media, Taofeekat Adebola Ajayi, Ajibade Morakinyo, Raphael Adenaike and the Media Career Development team of Dayo Emmanuel and Oyinlola Awonuga for the various roles they played in the compilation of this report.

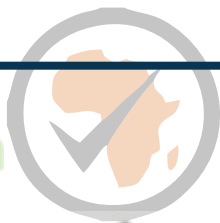
We welcome feedback and suggestions for the 2021 edition.



*Lekan Otufodunrin*  
Executive Director



Cable  
Newspaper  
Journalism  
Foundation



Africa  
Check

IPCA  
INTERNATIONAL PRESS CENTRE

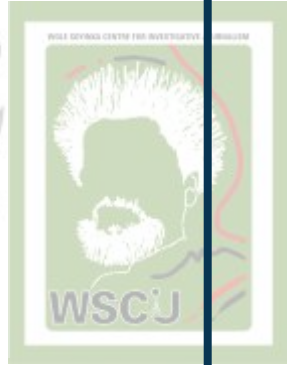
RCDIJ

Ripples Centre for Data and  
Investigative Journalism

Light Ray



PAGED  
INITIATIVE



ptcij

PREMIUM TIMES CENTRE FOR  
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM



PAN-ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITY



Media  
Rights  
Agenda

TECH  
Mirror Magazine

# 2020

## Media NGOs/Institutions PROGRAMMES



NIGERIAN WOMEN  
in PUBLIC RELATIONS



ASSOCIATION OF  
COMMUNICATION SCHOLARS  
& PROFESSIONALS OF NIGERIA



African Women in the Media

DEVCOMS  
Network

Dataphyte

JOURNALISM  
CLINIC

i-79 Media Consults



MEDIA  
CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT  
NETWORK  
• Training • Mentoring • Coaching

actionaid

CODE for  
AFRICA

DAILY TRUST  
FOUNDATION



EDITORS

ICIR

INTERNATIONAL  
CENTRE FOR  
INVESTIGATIVE  
REPORTING

In year 2020, the Daily Trust Foundation, with funding from MacArthur Foundation, US, had the following training activities:

**1. Copy Editing:** This training was targeted at line editors, sub-editors and proof-readers at Daily Trust and eight other media houses in Abuja. The objective was to take these gate-keepers through the basic challenges in digital copy editing. The curriculum was derived from a baseline research conducted by the Foundation on the common reading errors in online and print newspapers today. Participants were taken through (i) principles of copy editing (ii) common grammatical errors in news writing/reporting today (iii) punctuation marks and their grammatical functions (iv) headline casting (v) common errors in the use of idiomatic expression & phrasal verbs (vi) news judgement: common sense and legal issues (vii) correcting dangling modifiers (viii) practical copy editing.

**2. Investigating COVID-19:** This training was conducted virtually. It covered issues like: (i) What medical doctors expect journalists

to report about COVID-19 (ii) What to look out for in reporting herbal cures for COVID-19 (iii) how to humanize COVID-19 stories (iv) analyses of examples of reports from the United Kingdom (v) using data to report COVID-19 (vii) 50 story ideas on COVID-19 (viii) how to write an investigative story pitch.

For 2021, we are organizing **Master Classes** on several beats to expose journalists to concepts, legal frameworks, principles and issues in specialized reporting. Also, they will be exposed to 'how to do interpretative reporting.' The three-day Master Classes for each specialization would cover the followings:

1. Agriculture

2. Natural Resources and their Governance
3. Nigerian Financial Sector
4. The Manufacturing Sector
5. Information and Communication Technology
6. Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
7. Annual Budget Analysis
8. Documentary Production.

Each of the training would have data and digital reporting components.

All these trainings are funded by the MacArthur Foundation, US.





**Cable  
Newspaper  
Journalism  
Foundation**

Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation implemented three main projects in 2020 which includes the following:

- (1) Using visuals to tell stories of impact (Oct 7-8)
- (2) Conflict reporting and FactCheck (Nov 26-27)
- (3) News writing and investigative journalism for campus journalists under our Campus Civic Media Campaign project supported by OSIWA.

The first two supported by MacArthur Foundation were for working journalists, while the last one was for undergraduates of Mass Communication from seven universities (<https://www.thecable.ng/cable-foundation-trains-campus-journalists-on-investigative-reporting>)

## Cable Foundation trains campus journalists on investigative reporting

**C**able Newspaper Journalism Foundation (CNJF) organised a training for campus journalists on news writing and investigative reporting, between December 7 and December 8.

The workshop, which took place in Lagos, had in attendance students from eight higher institutions across the country.

They are the University of Lagos, University of Ilorin, Lead City University, Lagos State University, and University of Ibadan, Crescent University, Obafemi Awolowo University, and Nigerian Institute of Journalism.

The training was implemented under the Campus Civic Media Campaign (CCMC) of the CNJF, with support from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). Abiose Adams, senior programme officer, CNJF, said the objective of the workshop is to enable students hone their reporting skills.

“We wanted them to be participants in the democratic process using journalism as a tool,” she said.

“The Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation specialises in capacity

building of journalists so we felt that by building their skills, exporting them to the field, mentoring them and giving them story assignments, they would perfect their craft.”

On the first day of the training, Olukorede Yishau, associate editor of The Nation, anchored a session which centred on elements of systematic, in-depth research and reporting.

He advised participants to cultivate the habit of reading, writing good pitches and monitoring happenings in the country.

Juliana Francis, crime editor of New Telegraph, took the second session which focused on ethical and legal issues in investigative reporting.

She emphasised that investigative journalism cannot be forced on a reporter, rather it must be a calling.

The second day of the training featured Olukayode Thomas, investigative journalist/sports specialist, who spoke on identifying and uncovering corruption as a journalist.

He addressed the dangers encountered in the profession and

urged journalists to remember that “journalism is not emotion, but facts.”

Femi Atoyebi, head of investigations of the project, said the participants will be paired with mentors after the training.

He also encouraged them to write pitches for investigative stories, which would be considered for grants.

Simon Kolawole, executive director of CNJF, urged the campus journalists to pursue their passions in life and position themselves to make a difference in the society.

Anjola Otubu, a participant from the University of Lagos said the training has enabled her to embrace investigative journalism as a career path.

“I learned how to write a pitch which was very important. I learnt about ethics of journalism. I gained a deeper understanding of everything I already know,” she said.

On her part, Badekan Olabisi, a participant from the Nigerian Institute of Journalism, said the sessions were “excellent” and changed her perception of investigative reporting.





The programmes implemented in 2020 and those planned for 2021 are as follows:

**2020 programmes**

DevComs studio promotional support to up-and-coming musical artistes and production -- Ongoing Capacity development for journalists, social media influencers and MDAs across 8 states.

Advocacy visits to media organizations across 5 states (Abia, Anambra, Rivers, Plateau and Taraba) for institutional support and buy-in for (TCI) projects in Nigeria.

Albarka FM's, Bauchi State support towards promotion and dissemination of COVID-19 messages and related information.

**COVID-19 lockdown webinars series**

Why access to contraception is critical in COVID-19 response, (24<sup>th</sup> of April 2020)

COVID-19 reporting the science, the hysteria and risk of emerging infectious diseases

COVID-19 maintaining demand for family planning services experiences from the field (29<sup>th</sup> may 2020)

A national COVID-19 nutrition campaign (June 9<sup>th</sup> 2020)

Re-engaging student: The urgency or cost-effective strategies (June 20<sup>th</sup> 2020)

**2021**

Health Reporting Training Series  
Thematic Training on Health and

Medical Science reporting (Nutrition, COVID-19, Tuberculosis, Family Planning)

Mentoring on Family Planning in the context of SDGs for journalists and groups Level across 13 States.

Field Reporting and Investigative Journalism in Science and Public Health

Health Promotion/Health Education Material Development – Audio, Video, Print, Online/Social Media

**Mentoring Programme**

Science Journalism Writing and Mentoring project [www.africasti.com.ng](http://www.africasti.com.ng)

Beyond He Said, Science Journalism Mentoring and Leadership (SciJoMeL) Project

Immersion Journalism Programme Capacity Building on Social Media Content Development and Dissemination

Studio Production on Short format Video and Audio Content.

DevComs Radio Production and Airing





*Despite the impact of COVID 19 and its related disruptions in year 2020, the International Press Centre, IPC, Lagos, remained at the front-line in building and enhancing the capacity of journalists and media practitioners to play crucial roles in reporting of development and related issues of corona virus pandemic in Nigeria. It implemented the following programmes.*



*Executive Director, IPC, Lanre Arogundadde facilitating training session*

**I. Running of NDR news portal and posting of at least four model stories/news reports per week:**

IPC throughout the year ran the NDR news portal [www.ndr.org.ng](http://www.ndr.org.ng), managed as a project under the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) through which it published model stories and disseminating professional, public interest driven and inclusive reporting of the electoral process.

**ii. Conduct of Media monitoring of Newspapers, including round table engagement with journalists:**

IPC undertook a media-monitoring project, which entailed a day-to-day survey, assessment and information gathering on

media performance in the coverage of the democratic and electoral issues. The survey involved the monitoring of twelve (12) print/online newspapers, namely, the Punch, the Guardian, Daily Sun, Vanguard, ThisDay, Nigerian Tribune, the Nation, Leadership, Daily Trust, Blue Print (online version), the Cable (published online only) and the Premium Times (published online only). Also monitored was the INEC's twitter handle (<https://twitter.com/inecnigeria>) and INEC's website <https://www.inecnigeria.org/>

**iii. Facilitation of media and communication training workshop for ACA's:** This activity entailed the facilitation of a three-day workshop

on Media and Strategic Communication for Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs), by the International Press Centre (IPC) Lagos-Nigeria, through a consultancy from the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), under a project being implemented with the funding support of the MacArthur Foundation.

The consultancy entailed the development of training modules and the provision of human resources to conduct and facilitate a three-day workshop on 'Media and Strategic Communication for Anti-Corruption Agencies' for about 18 participants drawn from the public communications, corporate affairs and external

communication departments of six Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs).

The ACAs personnel that attended the workshop was drawn from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC), Technical Unit on Governance & Anti-Corruption Reforms (TUGAR) and Office of the Auditor General of the Federation (OAGoF). The workshop was held between Tuesday, February 25, 2020 and Thursday, February 27, 2020 at Sawalino Hotel and Suites keffi, Nassarawa State.

**iv. IPC / ACSPN virtual meetings.** These include:

· *IPC and ACSPN Webinar on "Combating Covid-19 Infodemic" for journalists.*

Date: Friday April 24th, 2020,

This webinar, which had over 100 participants from media and communications background was held as a partnership initiative with the Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria (ACSPN) under its online Empowerment series and IPC's capacity building programme for journalists, pursuant to the objectives of Component 4b: Support to Media of the - EU-SDGN.

· *IPC and ACSPN Webinar on "Humanizing COVID-19 reporting".*

Date: Friday May 1, 2020.

The webinar was also held as a partnership initiative under ACSPN's Online Empowerment series and IPC's capacity building programme for journalists, pursuant to the objectives of Component 4b: Support to Media of the European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria

- EU-SDGN. Over 60 journalists participants attended the webinar.

· *IPC and ACSPN Webinar on "The imperativeness of safety consciousness and conflict sensitivity in media coverage and reporting".*

Date: Monday September 7, 2020.

The webinar was held under the existing partnership initiative of ACSPN's Online Empowerment series and IPC's capacity building programme for journalists, pursuant to the objectives of Component 4b EU-SDGN. About 80 journalists attended the sessions.

**v. IPC/NUJ Virtual capacity engagement on EDO and Ondo elections**

· IPC held virtual media training for Ondo and Edo State journalists on 'professional, factual, conflict sensitive and safety-conscious reporting' of Elections.

The webinar, engaged and built the capacity of select journalists and media stakeholders in Ondo and Edo State respectively.

The webinar, which held in collaboration with the leadership of the NUJ councils in the two States was aimed at deepening the role of the media (conventional and new/social) in promoting professional and ethical reportage of electoral processes, including issues of inclusivity, accountable democratic practices, factual and conflict-sensitive reporting of the process leading to the governorship elections, the elections proper and emerging post elections issues, among others.

**vi. Yiaga Africa- ECES/EU-SDGN virtual roundtable/town hall meeting on electoral reforms**

In pursuant to the general objectives of the EU-SDGN project, the International Press

Centre (IPC) and the Institute for Media and Society (IMS), assisted in mobilizing the media to participate in a virtual roundtable/town hall meeting organized by Yiaga Africa and the European Centre for Electoral Support (ECES) under the EU-SDGN project.

The event, attended by about 90 journalists across Nigeria, held on Thursday June 24, 2020, with the theme, 'Media as Catalysts of Best Democratic Practices: Yiaga Africa-ECES/EU-SDGN Town hall meeting on electoral reforms in focus'.

**vii. Media roundtable engagement and LIVE TV show on Edo and Ondo elections in collaboration with IMS**

IPC was active in engaging journalists and media stakeholders ahead of the Edo and Edo elections via roundtable sessions and LIVE TV discussion programmes in Edo and Ondo state, in collaboration with the Institute for Media and Society (IMS).

The opportunity was used to further enhance the capacity of journalists in the two states on the need for professional, conflict sensitive and inclusive elections using the Nigeria media code of election coverage. IPC was guest at TV appearances in Edo and Ondo on issues of professional, inclusive, conflict sensitive and voter sensitization.

50 journalists participated in the Ondo roundtable.

**viii. Two FOI Capacity building workshops for journalists on using FOI**

IPC held a two-day Media training workshop on using FOI for investigative reports of campaign finance and Covid-19 accountability issues. The workshop organized in partnership with Media Rights Agenda (MRA)



is funded under the EU-SDGN Project.

The thrust of the workshop, was to sharpen the investigative skills of participants to be committed in reportage that will enable various stakeholders to use the Freedom of Information Act as a tool to facilitate transparent, free, fair and credible elections and monitor COVID 19 funds.

The first workshop, which was attended by twenty-eight male and female investigative reporters, political reporters, state house correspondents and editors drawn from the public and private print, broadcast and online media in Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Ondo, Ekiti, Osun and Edo States held on Wednesday August 5 and Thursday August 6, 2020 at Pearlworth Hotel and Suites, Ikeja, Lagos

The second workshop, which attracted twenty-five male and female investigative reporters, political reporters, state house correspondents and editors drawn from the public and private print, broadcast, and online media from parts of the north held on Tuesday September 22 and Wednesday

September 23, 2020 at Grand Pela Hotel, FCT, Abuja.

**ix. Media roundtable with GOSIEC and stakeholders on Gombe LG elections.**

Towards Deepening Grassroots Governance, [the European Centre for Electoral Support](#) (ECES), collaborated with IPC, and other partners to build the capacity of the Gombe State independent Electoral Commission (GOSIEC), the Media and CSOs groups on the State's December 19, 2020 Council Polls.

The sessions of capacity training for the key stakeholders, comprising of the Chairman and principal officers of GOSIEC, political correspondents and related media professionals, Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), women groups, and civil Society organizations, was to foster synergy and promote integrity in the conduct of the local government elections. IPC session focused on Conflict sensitive and inclusive communications as well as the use of the Media Code of elections Coverage by journalists and related electoral stakeholders.

**x. Stakeholders' forum on Journalists' Safety and Press Freedom Limitations in Nigeria.**

The forum was held on Wednesday December 9, 2020 in Lagos in continuation of IPC's commitment to deepening engagement and consultations with media and relevant stakeholders on approaches for guaranteeing safety and improved welfare of Nigerian Journalists.

The forum, supported by the Open Society Foundations (OSF), was attended by about 40 journalists from the print, broadcast, online media, media professional bodies, media related groups, media professionals from the academia as well as the civil society.

Present were the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Vice President, Zone E, Mr. AlHassan Yahya, representing the President of the NUJ, Mr. Chris Isiguzo; the Social/Publicity Secretary of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, Mr. Ken Ugbechie, representing the President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors; the President of the Guild of Corporate Online Publishers (GOCOP), Mr. Dotun Oladipo; the chairman of Lagos NUJ, Mr. Leye Ajayi and the Executive Director of the Institute of Media and Society, Dr. Akin Akingbulu, among others.



*Participants at a training session*



# Dataphyte

In its first year of operation, Dataphyte implanted the following programmes:

Wow! Amidst #COVID19 lockdown, 5 trainings + 1 award + 5 grants + 6 special publications + 200 stories + 1 state open data portal + 10 full time staff + 75 Campus Journalists; all in the first 12 months of @Dataphyte.

## 2020 Capacity Building for journalist on the use of open data for storytelling

- In the period under review, over 140 media persons from different organizations and agencies across the country were trained on data journalism and data mining. The 140 media persons trained comprise over 55 journalists, 10 government officials, and over 75 campus journalists. The key modules of the training include; the essentials of data journalism, data as a media sustainability option and the use of open contracting and open treasury data for investigative reporting and advocacy in Nigeria. At least three of these training were done in collaboration with other civil society organisations including [PPDC](#), [TechHer](#), [Daily Trust](#), [PTCIJ](#), [FOSTER](#) and [ICIR](#).
- On the 26th of June 2020, over 15 journalists were trained during a one-day intensive webinar organised in partnership with the Public and Private Development Centre (PPDC). The training tagged “Use of Public Data to



Founder, Joshua Olufemi at a training

investigate COVID-19 Spending”. The training was aimed at enhancing the active participation of citizens to demand accountability through monitoring and reporting on public finance expenditure.

It became imperative to organize the training as preliminary findings had already shown disturbing items in government spendings and possible misappropriation and corruption in the management of the COVID-19 intervention funds in the country. At the training, Charles Mbah facilitated the session “the systematic use of data analytical tools for reporting. The session built the capacity of participants to apply skills of investigative and data journalism in enhancing their contract monitoring and for spotting red flags in contracting documents.

- One key training was

organised in the fourth quarter of the year. The online workshop was focused on training journalists on how to understand the 2018 NNPC audited financial statements. On the 20th of August 2020, over 20 journalists were trained during a one-day intensive webinar organised in partnership with the Facility for Oil Sector Transparency and Reforms in Nigeria (FOSTER). The training tagged “Understanding the 2018 NNPC Audit Reports”. The training was aimed at enhancing the active participation of citizens to demand accountability through monitoring and data-driven reporting on public finance expenditure. The session also highlighted various story idea perspectives from the 2018 NNPC audit report.

- On 6th and 7th of October, the organisation trained staff of one organisation (Daily Trust)

to improve the capacity of the data journalism desk to increase data-driven reporting and ensure that time tracking of government budgeting, revenue and policies are entrenched in the day-to-day newsroom culture.

economy, a reporter without the skills to first analyze these concepts might find themselves in the deep end. All staff of the organization participated as facilitators in at least one session.

Part of the activities in setting up the data journalism desk involved training key radio presenters and programme leads at Splash FM 105.5FM Ibadan on data journalism for broadcasting. The ten participants at the training were introduced to key modules, including Data sourcing and availability in Nigeria, Developing newsroom data bank; Introduction to Spreadsheets for Journalists; Storifying Tables, Charts and graphs; Venn diagram of accountability journalism as behaviour change communication; introduction to data journalism for broadcast media.

- October 15th marked the launch date for Dataphyte's maiden Campus Journalism initiative. The outfit organization welcomed 75 ambassadors selected from 35 tertiary institutions across the country. Following the induction, was an intensive data journalism training on the 15th and 16th of October 2020. The training became necessary to fill the gap in knowledge and implementation of data journalism in the Nigerian journalism schools. More so, with the adoption of open data policy in Nigeria, the need for effective data journalism becomes apparent. And with the increasing volume of data in different sectors of the

**“**  
**The key modules of the training include; the essentials of data journalism, data as a media sustainability option and the use of open contracting and open treasury data for investigative reporting and advocacy in Nigeria.**  
**”**

Likewise, on 27th-28th of November, Dataphyte training birthed the first data journalism desk in a Nigerian broadcast newsroom, Splash FM 105.5FM in Ibadan, Oyo state.

- In December, Dataphyte trained key staff of CLEEN Foundation on Use of Big Data for Advocacy and Accountability. The training exposed the staff to Principles of Big Data, Story Mapping, Big data visualisation using Tableau among others.

## Human Rights Journalists Network

**H**uman Rights Journalists Network is a community of Nigerian Human Rights journalists spread over the country with the aim and mission to build collaboration and advance human rights in Nigeria.

As a means of achieving this mission, we intend to also build the capacity of journalists in the network on human rights laws, advocacy, and issues so they can be better equipped to address and report human rights issues in the country.

We work with Human rights organizations, journalists from across the country, and globally to

seek areas of partnership and collaboration.

Since the inception of the group last year, we have organized different virtual capacity development training for the community. These include:

Solution Journalism by Chibuike Alagboso, Nigeria Health Watch  
 Human Rights in the COVID-19 era, the rights of the journalist and citizens by Nelson Olanipekun, Team Lead, Citizens Gavel  
 Women in Journalism by Betty Abah, CEEHOPE

Mainstreaming human rights issues in journalism in Nigeria by Amnesty

International Nigeria  
 Watching, Investigating, and Reporting Human Rights In Nigeria by Dr. Babatunde Olugboji Deputy Program Director, Human Rights Watch.

Understanding Digital Rights for Human Rights Journalists by Mr. 'Gbenga Sesan, Executive Director Paradigm Initiative.

And Understanding and Reporting Sexual Reproductive Rights by Ms. Olayide Akanni, Executive Director, Journalists Against AIDS.

We hope to keep empowering media professionals covering the Human Rights issues in Nigeria.



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against the nominee for corruption that was exposed by the ICIR. The project will last till 2022. Donor: National Endowment for Democracy NED

### **Strengthening the Campaign of SWOFON for Increased Government Intervention**

The Centre provides technical support to the campaign of Smallholder Women Farmers in Nigeria (SWOFON) in the focal states of Anambra, Niger, Jigawa, Nasarawa, Oyo, Lagos and the FCT in their bid to access farm inputs, women friendly equipment, stimulus packages, palliatives and other resources during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond that are vital to boost their productivity and livelihood sustainability.

Journalists were selected and funded to write reports on the impact of COVID-19 on the farming by the women.

In 2021, the project will focus on the double down campaign of the women farmers to their emergency demands seeking government attention to avert impending food crises nationwide.

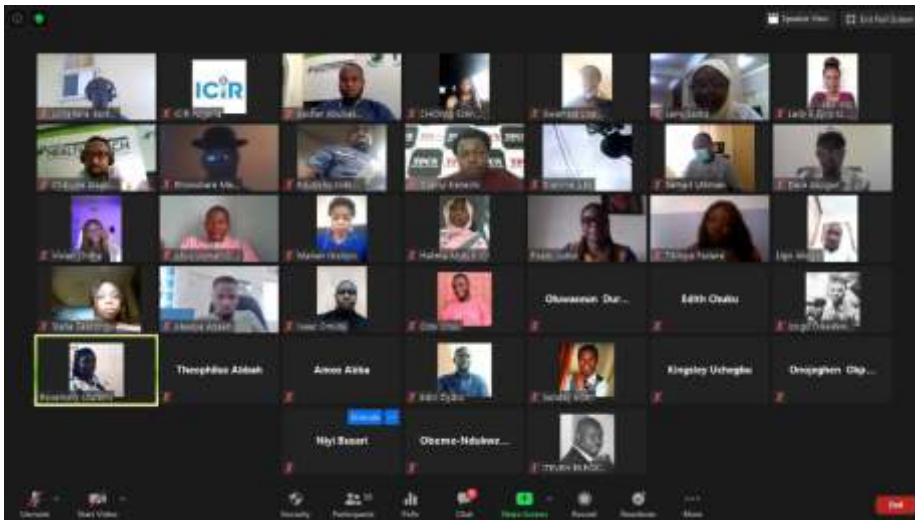
Donor: International Budget Partnership IBP

### **COVID-19 Media Response Intervention Grant**

The project assisted 20 vulnerable small, local and community based organisation in the print and online media to continue to operate during the period of the pandemic. The selection of the media houses was spread across the six geo-political zones.

Through this support the organisations were able to stay afloat and provide for major operational cost that reduced the financial burden on them and rekindled the zeal of their staff for the job.

Donor: Open Society Initiative for West Africa - OSIWA



ICIR implemented the following projects in 2020

### **Open Contract Reporting OCR**

The project is designed to build the capacity of over one hundred (100) journalists on investigative and data driven journalism across the six geo-political zones to report on budget and procurement processes in a bid to expose corruption.

This project continues in the coming year with investigative contents. Through this project, we have improved the skills of journalists and promoted the culture and practice of investigative reporting across newsrooms in all the geo-political zones of the country and exposed corruption at the highest level of government quarters.

Donor: MacArthur Foundation

### **Voices for change - Human Rights Accountability and Justice Project**

The project tends to build the capacity of civil society organisations and the media as human rights defenders to collaborate and report on human rights abuses like police brutality, forced disappearances, extra judicial killings, human trafficking

and gender based violence.

Among other impact on the project, we were able to secure the release of over 10 prison inmates who were awaiting trial based on the collaborative effort of the media and CSO.

In the coming year the new project titled “FakeExpose” will focus on reporting state sponsored or other sources of fake-news centred on COVID-19 pandemic.

Donor: Institute for War and Peace Reporting IWPR

### **To foster a culture of investigative and data driven journalism to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance in Nigeria.**

The project supports the Centre to produce investigative and data contents that holds government and its officials and other corporate organisations accountable to the people.

In the past years on this project, we have had several measurable impacts and one of the most celebrated impact is the report that upturned the appointment of corrupt persons into the board of the anti-corruption agency (ICPC) and their prosecution. A 12-year jail term was secured by the ICPC





In 2020, Media Rights Agenda (MRA), in conjunction with the International Press Centre (IPC) held two workshops on Using FOI for Investigative Reports of Campaign Finance and COVID-19 Accountability Issues in Lagos and Abuja for radio, television, newspaper and online journalists. The workshops brought together journalists from all over the country whose capacities were built in the workshops.

For the year 2021, MRA also plans to train journalists from across the nation to understand Open Contracting Data Standards and how it can be used with the FOI Act to monitor public procurement.

It has also been offering journalists free legal and litigation service either when their rights to report are breached or if they make FOI requests and are denied. Right now, it is offering free legal and litigation services to journalists who have been attacked and would want it to take up the matter for him/her in court, at no cost to the journalist. This, it is doing because it holds on to the United Nations resolution that journalists need to be able to report freely without any hindrance or attack. Journalists and media houses are therefore encouraged to seize on this opportunity if the need ever arises.

Specifically, under a project supported by Open Society for West Africa (OSIWA) MRA rendered free legal services to dozens of journalists from across Nigeria who made FOI requests to public institutions and whose requests were denied. The

journalists did not have to pay for any aspect of the litigation process. All the journalists did was to make the FOI request for information and when denied, signify to MRA that he/she wants MRA to take it up for him/her.

In line with its work of protecting media freedom and in response to safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, MRA will in 2021 render free legal services to journalists who are attacked in the course of performing their duties. Again, a journalist who is assaulted in the course of his/her work only needs to walk into the offices of MRA and signify his/her intention to take the matter up legally and MRA takes it up from there without charging the journalist a cent.

MRA has collated and documented cases of attacks against journalists and has escalated some in various ways including at local and international levels. This year, MRA, in collaboration with IPC, petitioned the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) over the attacks by the Ebonyi State Governor, Dave Umahi against two journalists: Chijioke Agwu, a reporter with the “Daily Sun” newspaper and Peter Okutu, a correspondent of the “Vanguard” newspaper.

In 2021, MRA will not only continue to collate and document incidents of attacks against journalists but also take other actions that it finds appropriate including challenging the attacks in court, petitioning local and international bodies and calling on them to take specific actions.

MRA is a leading advocacy group in Nigeria. It led the over 12 years civil society coalition, (the Freedom of Information (FOI) Coalition) efforts that led to the passage of the FOI Act and has remained the foremost non-governmental organization working to enhance the effective implementation of the law. It has

also championed the regional efforts to get all African nations to pass access to information laws.

MRA has a number of publications to its credit, most of which serve as useful and valuable resources for students and researchers all over the world. Its flagship publication is the monthly Media Rights Monitor newsletter which reports on media developments from around the world. MRA continues to publish Media Rights Monitor which it began publishing since 1997 and contains various sections including local developments in the media, developments in foreign lands, attacks on freedom of expression. The newsletter also features a section for fellowships, awards and competition from which many Nigerian journalists have won local and international competitions, awards and fellowships.

The Media Rights Monitor newsletter continues to be published and disseminated today in electronic format giving MRA the opportunity to reach even wider audiences beyond the shores of Nigeria. MRA will continue to publish the Media Rights Monitor newsletter in 2021 and beyond and will continue to bring opportunities in the way of Nigerian journalists and others from all over the world.

An email request from a journalist to [press@mediarightsagenda.org](mailto:press@mediarightsagenda.org) puts him/her or any interested person on the mailing list of MRA to receive its newsletter and other important information it shares regularly and which it will continue to share in the year 2021.

In the coming year 2021, MRA will carry out programming and project works researching, publishing, litigating, advocating, training and building capacities of various sectors in the area of safety of journalists, FOI and Open Contracting, as well as digital rights and will expand its work in these areas as opportunity avails MRA.

# PAGED Initiative

**P**AGED (Participatory Communication for Gender Development) Initiative implemented the project Reporting for Gender Inclusive Development [RGID]; RGID is a media capacity building and advocacy project conceived to sensitize a variety of audiences on different gender dynamics and issues in Nigeria while building the capacity of media practitioners to tell human interest stories with a gender focus.

RGID includes a travelling cinema, capacity building of media personnel and mentorship program.

Reporting for Gender Inclusive Development project implemented several workshops on gender sensitive reporting for the journalist. The workshop improved the quality of reports by the journalist with over 160 reports from the project from numerous mobile cinema screening at Internally Displaced Persons camps and communities in Nigeria. The reports showed an immense improvement with regards to gender and human-interest angles reports which gave way to several interventions with regards to the plights of Internally Displaced Persons and low-income communities. A two-day workshop was held in Maiduguri for RGID journalist on the use of Microsoft word in writing and editing of reports for journalist, the use of technology to disrupt journalism and investigative journalism for public interest.

**COVID-19 MEDIA RESPONSE PROJECT [2020-2021]** COVID-19 Media Response project is a media capacity building and



advocacy project aimed at sensitizing a wide variety of audience on COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria. The project will run for one year and is aimed at using media practitioners to tell human interest stories from northern Nigeria. The project aims to provide grants to media practitioners, through this project we hope to achieve human interest reports about the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects on low-income communities and Internally Displaced Persons. The project activity includes a two-day capacity building workshop of media professionals.

**MEDIA FOR WOMEN [2020]** Watch women win is a yearly event in celebration of International women's day, this year the theme was Media for Women. A one-day interactive session was held in Abuja with media professionals from different platforms to discuss the various challenges and barriers women face in the workplace. A short interview was screened for journalists and the recurrent challenges they could relate to were exclusion of women in covering certain stories; sexual harassment;

lack of built-in crèches; lack of security in covering certain events; disregard of certain managerial post. Some of the suggestions made during the session were the need for media organizations to provide the following, mentorship programs for younger journalists; use of technology to upgrade media outlets; safe ways to report sexual harassment; built-in crèches and regular trainings and workshops for journalists to upgrade their knowledge.

**MEDIA CLUSTER MEETING [2020]** PAGED Initiative held a media cluster meeting with journalists to showcase a series of short documentary made in collaboration with Centre for Information Technology [CITAD] on communities in Bwari and Gwagwalada in the Federal Capital Territory. The meeting was to foster the need for collaboration with media organizations to write human interest reports to create awareness and advocate for certain developments in communities hence the need to build a cluster group of journalists to work towards a common goal.



**P**remium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism implemented many projects and trainings in 2020 which includes the following:

#### **CAMPUS REPORTER**

Trainings - 2

Clinics - 4

#### **DUBAWANIGERIA**

Project - 6

**Trainings - 2:**

Dubawa NED Fellowship Training July 2020

Dubawa HBS Fellowship Training July 2020

#### **DUBAWAGHANA**

**Organised trainings - 2:**

FEBRUARY: 16 participants from top media outlets from five regions;

OCTOBER: 10 influential bloggers from across Ghana

**Participated trainings - 5:**

1. For reporters of Ghana News Agency;

2. For reporters and lecturers of the National Film and Television Institute organised by DW Akademie

3. For over 40 reporters in Ghana's Northern Zone (organised by CDD-Ghana)

4. Over 40 Reporters in Central Zone (organised by CDD-Ghana)

5. Over 40 reporters in Southern zone (Organised by CDD-Ghana)

Webinar - 1

Fellowships - 1

#### **ADVOCACY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

Trainings - 4

Tweet Meets - 2:

• World Health day (The role of Nurses and Midwives in curbing COVID-19)

Webinar - 3

• Negligence of PHCs

constraining the fight against COVID-19 in Nigeria

#### **NAREP**

Radio Engagements: 4

Social Media Campaign: 7 days

Policy Dialogues (Webinars) - 4:

• Women in Mining in Nigeria:

Driving Innovation to manage the mining sector in the Post-COVID 19 Era

• International Press Conference: Reflections on Governance in the Nigerian Downstream Oil Sector

• Public presentation of findings on the theme Discussing Financial Losses from Mismanagement of Funds within NDDC and its impact on the region

• Webinar on Women in Mining

Trainings - 2:

• Reporting the current realities informing governance of Nigeria's downstream oil sector

• NAREP Journalists' Training on Extractive sector and Climate Reporting

Policy brief publications - 3

• Research Study on the Quantum

Corruption and Impact of Financial Losses from

Mismanagement of Funds by the NDDC

• Beneficial Ownership of the NDDC

• Women In Mining

Monograph

Tree planting outreach with Agric team: 16 trees to commemorate international day of forests

Documentary: 4

#### **MEDIA FREEDOM**

Webinar: 3

• Exploring International and Regional Instruments for upholding Press Freedom

• Psychological effects of reporting in difficult times

Tweet Meets: 2

• The Economic Impact of COVID-19 on the Media Industry (World Press Freedom Day: Journalism without fear or favour)

• How the media can promote gender diversity and inclusion in storytelling (IWD2020)

Trainings: 1

• Newsroom Manager's Training

#### **MEDIA AND TERRORISM**

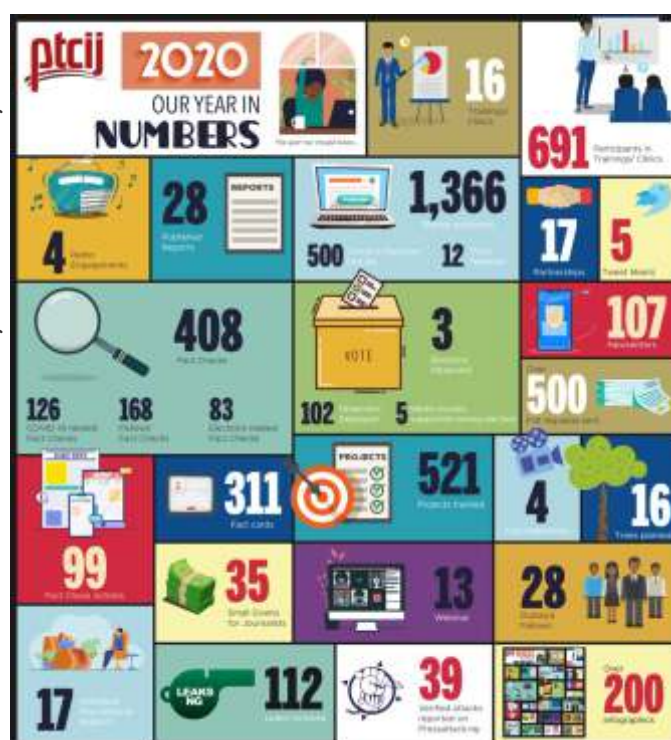
Webinar: 1

• Conflict patterns and the humanitarian challenges since the coronavirus pandemic in Nigeria's insurgency region

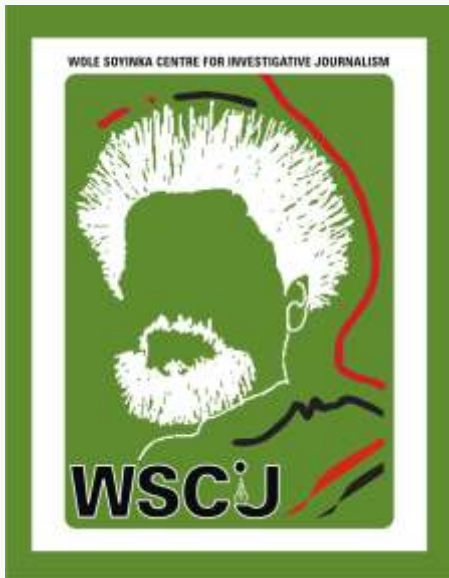
Partnerships: 2

• Humangle

• Academics







## WSCIJ through the lens of 2020

The year 2020 was tough, no doubt. Like other organisations, the doors of our office were shut for 5 months to curb the spread of the coronavirus. All the same, we intensified our efforts to serve humanity, promoting investigative reporting and supporting journalists, and invariably, their media houses, to do more nuanced reports on the pandemic, while also creating platforms for discussion on salient media and national issues.

\* In April, the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) with support from the MacArthur Foundation commenced the COVID-19 Reality Check project as a response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The project is examining government interventions and promises in relation to the realities on the ground in terms of social welfare, water and sanitation, food availability and accessibility, education, electric power supply, and more. Five sets of journalists comprising 50 journalists from 24 media organisations were trained and mentored on the ongoing project with 109 stories enabled so far.

\* A coalition of civil societies, including the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ), Enough is Enough (EiENigeria), International Press Centre (IPC), the International Centre for Investigative Reporting

(ICIR), and Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ) carried out a survey between April 27 and May 1 to assess the support available to journalists for their safety in reporting the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria. Findings from the survey showed the need for media owners to widen the scope of their support to reporters covering the pandemic to include insurance cover and provision of personal protective equipment to journalists. A fallout of the survey was the distribution of face masks and sanitisers to 19 media houses in Lagos and Abuja by the WSCIJ.

\* For three months, beginning from May to July, the WSCIJ team monitored 14 news publications in Nigeria on the quality and quantum of their reportage of four issues – education, electricity, girls and women, and health (including the reportage of COVID-19 issues). The publications included



*Winners of the Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting award*

Leadership Newspaper, ThisDay Newspaper, Guardian Newspaper, Independent Newspaper, Tribune Newspaper, Vanguard Newspaper, Punch Newspaper, Daily Trust, The Nation Newspaper, New Telegraph, BusinessDay, Daily Post, Premium Times and Sahara Reporters.

\* In July, –the annual Wole Soyinka Centre Media Lecture was held with the theme Data, media and national development. The usefulness of data for effective policymaking, meaningful resource allocation and efficient public service delivery was the highlight of the lecture that held virtually on Monday, 13 July 2020. 'Speakers at the event to mark Professor Wole Soyinka's 86th birthday pushed for Nigeria to have reliable, accurate and relevant data towards national development.

\* Two photo books on the challenges with basic education and electricity in Nigeria were released by the centre in July. The photo books titled, State of Schools and Living in Darkness, contain some of the most compelling pictures from reports published under the REMOP project during the first three years of WSCIJ's Regulators Monitoring Programme (REMOP), also implemented with support from the MacArthur Foundation. Lack of infrastructure, poor environment and sanitation, congestion and 'working children' are some themes covered in the 'State of Schools'. Its electricity version, 'Living in Darkness', covers safety hazards and infrastructural decay in the electricity sector among other issues. The photo books reiterate the need for an integrated development approach by all stakeholders in tackling the duo of challenges given the interconnection between electricity and basic education.

\* Also in July, two editions of 'Time-out with Journalists', WSCIJ's off-work aimed at

providing journalists with the atmosphere to relax, reflect and interact with themselves about critical issues in the journalism profession and the society at large, held. The two editions provided a platform to share experiences, opportunities and survival tips with and among journalists amid job disruptions and other challenges during COVID-19. 50 journalists were present.

\* The WSCIJ with support from its partner, Free Press Unlimited, carried out a survey between August and September to capture the successes, challenges and impact of the Report Women! Female Reporters Leadership Programme, toward improving the programme in future as more collaborators get on board. Findings from the survey revealed that the project, which has accrued over 1,200 direct and indirect beneficiaries, has achieved its goal exceptionally, having equipped fellows with knowledge and capability for leadership with evidence of increased visibility for the fellows as leaders in their newsrooms as well as changed news organisations' perception about female leadership and the representation of the voice of women as leaders in news reports among other successes.

\* In October, the WSCIJ played an active part at the 2020 edition of the African Investigative Journalism Conference, with its Executive Director/CEO, Motunrayo Alaka, and some past winners of its award programme, including Fisayo Soyombo, Adekunle Yusuf and Sharon Ijasan, taking up speaking roles at the largest gathering of investigative journalists on the continent. In fulfillment of its commitment towards facilitating international exposure for Soyinka Laureates the centre also sponsored its Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting (WSAIR) laureates providing access to a full

conference package (all sessions). Still in October, the WSCIJ commissioned three stories as a fallout of the N2 million grant awarded the 2019 runner-up of the Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Journalism for the television category, Sharon Ijasan, to develop a compendium on child labour and its underlying problems in Nigeria.

\* December was particularly a busy time at the centre. The WSCIJ held a virtual meeting on Friday, 4 December with reporters and mentors for a COVID-19 media and access to information project under its Free to Share initiative. The project implemented with support from Free Press Unlimited provides support to journalists and media houses in Nigeria to inform, educate, and debunk misinformation to members of the public about the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on livelihoods through the production of quality public interest content.

'Also, in December, the fifteenth edition of the centre's annual flagship programme, the Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting, took place, beginning with a two-day In-depth Media Conference themed, 'Masked not silenced', where it was asserted that the Nigerian media cannot be silenced, nor its independence diminished by oppression from government, economic challenges, or other trials.

\* In spite of the pandemic, we trained 266 journalists from 85 media houses through our various programmes, engaged 31 resource persons, and enabled over 110 stories through the COVID-19 Reality Check and Child Labour projects. We also rewarded 8 investigative reporters in the year.

While we thank you for allowing us contribute our bit to the health of the media in Nigeria in 2020, here is to greater reach and impact in 2021.





# Africa Check

The year 2020 presented a huge challenge for everyone of us with the outbreak of Covid-19 but most especially around misinformation and disinformation that has to do with the coronavirus. There were a lot of conspiracy theories, speculations, fabrications, around causes, prevention, and many unproven cures for the virus. In our fight against misinformation, we realized that the media remains the go-to for people to get information, and as such these media personalities needed the right skills to help them report factual information to the public. We know that social media is an active factor in the spread of misinformation, not ruling out the fact that a large number of the youth form the majority of Nigeria's population as well as social media users and there is a need to preach self-censorship to these population so that they understand the dangers of the spread of false information. Due to these reasons, Africa Check, the continent's first independent, non-partisan, fact-checking organisation organized a series of fact-checking and verification training for journalists, media trainers and journalism students across Nigeria.

In one of our training series, we conducted 14 virtual workshops with support from Google, where we trained a total of 509 media people including journalists, health correspondents, editors, broadcasters across different states and journalism students from various higher institutions in

Nigeria.

To ensure they get all-around knowledge we invited facilitators from the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) in these sessions.

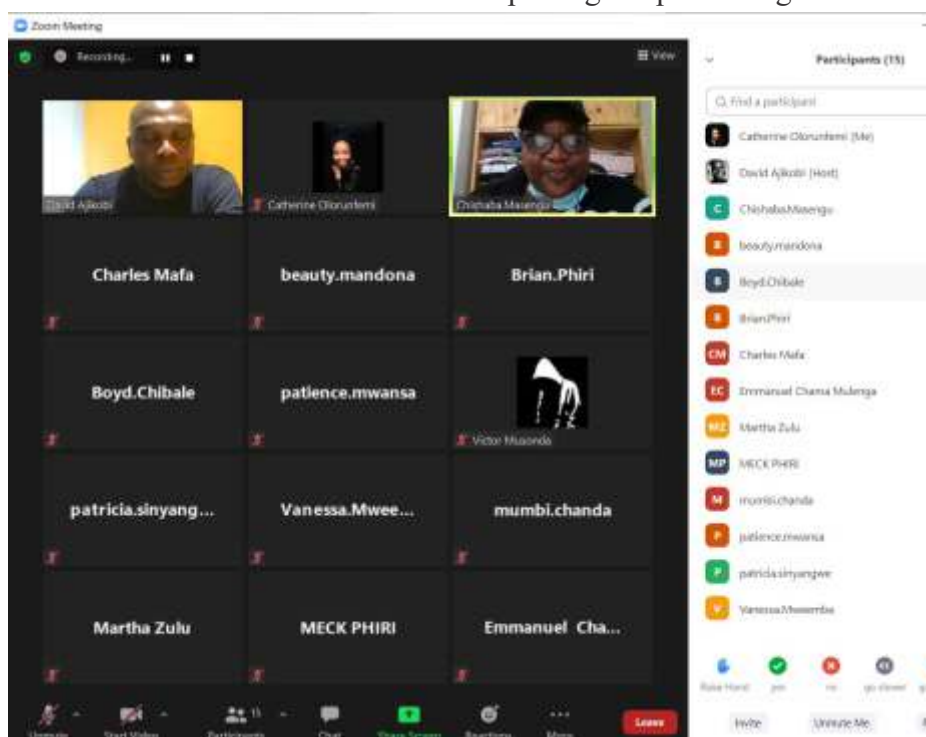
We also partnered with the NCDC on many occasions during the past year to train journalists, reporters particularly health reporters on how to fact-check and handle misinformation, especially around the pandemic.

Also, during the year, we trained a set of journalists on the BBC Media action team in Zambia on election-related fact-checking as they draw closer to the polls, we also trained them on health misinformation so that they can continue the fight against misinformation especially around health which is the most common form of misinformation in

Africa.

The feedback from these sessions was overwhelmingly positive and we are confident that the training objectives were met. After the workshops, participants now have a clear understanding of what fact-checking is, how false information spreads, the importance of reporting accurately can distinguish between facts and false information using the digital fact-checking skills acquired.

A large number of the trainees are now actively flagging specific forms of misinformation and now able to verify the origin of images and videos using the online verification tools, use credible sources to report accurately on COVID-19 related news and other health topics, and use credible information sources when reporting and publishing.





## ActionAid Nigeria's Work with the Media in 2020

### Brief History

**ecil Jackson-Cole** founded ActionAid in 1972 as a child sponsorship charity. He found 88 UK supporters to sponsor 88 children in India and Kenya. The focus was on providing children with an education.

**In Nigeria, as at today we are working in 23 states, implementing 15 projects.**

**Communicating Our Work -Pg 45. of our Country Strategy Paper (CSP)**

**SO, WHAT DID WE DO IN 2020? Despite the pandemic.**

### Media Partnerships

We took journalists to where the story was by facilitating their visit to vulnerable communities, especially those affected by natural (flood) and manmade disasters (conflict and insurgency).

Fundraising proposal development in partnership with selected media organisations.

Campaign partnership e.g. partnering with the media to reach our communities and Nigerians with information on COVID-19 awareness and prevention, anticorruption, and awareness on Gender Based Violence.

Media Endowment - funded investigative stories.

### Strengthening Media Relations

- Foster information Sharing through AAN Media Figures Contact Sheet

- Solidarity support - Global dates commemoration e.g National Media Roundtable held in commemoration of World Press Freedom Day.

- Nomination for awards – 5 journalists were nominated for the global pluralism award. One nominee was successful and has proceeded to the next phase.

### Humanitarian Response

- Provision of PPEs to 102 journalists and 20 media houses

- Financial support to 4 journalists.

**Funded and launched Research Report on Impact of COVID-19 on media operations & Survival.**

### MEDIA CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2020, 5 media trainings held reaching 152 journalists as stated below. 604 journalists have been trained between 2018 and 2020.

Advanced Conflict Sensitivity Training. – 30 journalists

Editors training on tracking and reporting spending on education in Nigeria – 28

Virtual tax justice training facilitated by International Tax Justice Academy for journalists based in project states – 12

Humanitarian Crisis Reporting Training – 39

Media Executives Roundtable on Tax and Gender Responsive Public Service - 43

### OTHERS

- AAN had 487 online media mentions compared to 313 recorded in 2019. These were mainly reports from ActionAid's event/activities that had media presence.

- 134 Broadcast Media Appearances

- 26 Press Releases Issued

### 2021 in view

- **Protection initiative for journalists.** – This is subject to availability of funds.

- **Expand on capacity building.** – We plan to train 100 journalists in the course of the year, and deepen engagements with female journalists.

- **Implement journalism specific projects.** – This was informed by the gaps highlighted by the research report on the impact of COVID-19 on media operations. Implementation is subject to funding.

- **Strengthen partnerships with media organisations in relation to** – content, fundraising and joint proposal development etc.

- **Institutional Strengthening for Journalists Against Poverty (JAP)** initiative to operate a stronger platform capable of attracting funds without ActionAid.



*Presentation of the Research Report on Impact of COVID-19 on media operations & Survival.*

In spite of the challenges brought to bear by the COVID-19 pandemic which ravaged the most of the year 2020, I-79 Media Consults was able to organise three virtual training series for campus journalists.

The first in this training series tagged "The Dynamics of Journalism in the 21st Century" held on WhatsApp between Friday, April 17 and Sunday, April 19, was attended by about 400 campus journalists drawn from 32 campus press outfits across Nigeria's six geographical zones including the Federal Capital Territory and the Republic of Benin.

Facilitators at the training are two-time Amazon bestseller, Michael Jacob; media scholar, Jonathan Olajide and fact-checker with Dubawa, Nigeria's first verification and fact-checking platform, Ibrahim Alawode.

The second training - held between Friday 8th and Sunday 10th May 2020 - was facilitated by Seyi Gesinde, digital media editor/content marketing expert; Razaq Ayinla, head, south-west bureau, Business Day and Kabir Adejumo, freelance investigative journalist & director, Campus Press Hub.

The training covered Ethical Considerations in Online/Digital Journalism, Developmental Journalism in the Face of Nigeria's



Socio-Economic Challenges and Challenges of Investigative Journalism in the Present Day Nigeria.

To wrap up the year's programme, a third training

**"In the New Year, we will also make available, up-to-date information to journalists on media journalism opportunities that cover their areas of interests."**

was held on November 14, 2020, covering the art and concept of solutions journalism in contemporary Nigeria. This training - attended by 70 participants - was facilitated by Ifedayo Ogunyemi, a fact-checker and senior reporter with the Nigerian Tribune.

It is worthy of note that we provided detailed information of over 200 media and journalism opportunities

to journalists in Nigeria and beyond. These opportunities include those about training, grants, fellowships, workshops, academic programmes, conferences and awards.

In 2021, we plan to intensify our training programmes to cover more campus journalists - who intensified their reports after the trainings - as well as professional journalists. Information regarding these trainings will be provided in the coming weeks.

In the New Year, we will also make available, up-to-date information to journalists on media journalism opportunities that cover their areas of interests.

Special projects which will immensely benefit participating journalists are also in the works.

For more information, visit Website: <https://i79media.com/> Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/i79media/>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/I79Media>







# MEDIA CAREER DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

♦ Training ♦ Mentoring ♦ Coaching

**N**otwithstanding the disruption of our planned activities for the year due to the Coronavirus lockdown and other restrictions, Media Career Development Network was able to implement some programmes and sustain online publications during the year.

Our Executive Director, Lekan Otufodunrin also facilitated many trainings organized by other training organisations.

Some of the major programmes and activities include the following:

## Workshops/Webinars

### The Journalist as an Entrepreneur

Lagos State House of Assembly Correspondents Association/ New Year Programme

January 3, 2020

### \* Maximising media fellowships and awards in 2020

Media Career Development Network February 30, 2020, Lagos

### \* Media, panacea for sustainable business development in Africa

Africa Students Entrepreneurs Summit organized by Round News

June 29, 2020

### \* Building a media career and breaking new models in a digital age:

Zoom conference by Digital Literacy Advocacy Club and CITAD

June 2020

### \* Beyond the limits'

### Exploring Post-COVID-19 Survival Realities

### Overcoming the limitations of COVID-19 Realities

Organised by Initiative for Social Impact and Sustainable Development and Innate Communications

Enhancing career, vocational or entrepreneurial aspirations through freelance writing & strategic social media communications.

### WhatsApp training

### How to become a journalist, media professional

### Promoting Media Career in Ebonyi State.

Sponsored by Orrin Education Foundation

September

### \* How to DEVELOP and ENGAGE HUMAN and NON-HUMAN SOURCES for reports

@COVID-19 Reality Check Project Training by Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Reporting , October 2020

### \* Storytelling and career development

National Association of Insurance and Pension Correspondents November 2020

### \* Pitching your stories for relevance Basics of HIV Reporting

@JOURNALISTS AGAINST AIDS (JAAIDS) NIGERIA, TRAINING November 2020

### \* Keeping HIV in the News

### Basics of HIV Reporting

@ JOURNALISTS AGAINST AIDS (JAAIDS) NIGERIA, November 2020 Media Ethics and Practice in a constantly changing landscape

### @ USING VISUALS TO TELL STORIES

By Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation

### Inspiring Accountability through Solution Journalism

@ USING VISUALS TO TELL STORIES

By Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation

Generating Organic news story (content) in a competitive and challenging media environment in a post Digital Age.

@EDITORIAL TRAINING AND INDUCTION FOR STAFF OF MARKETING EDGE, NOVEMBER 2, 2020

### #MEDIAGIG2020

In partnership with TheCobuilders, in California, USA we organized the #MEDIAGIG2020 which featured four virtual workshops with the theme Deploying Technology for Impact and Profitability in the Nigeria media in July and August. About forty journalists participated in the sessions that covered The Current State of Media in Nigeria Benchmarking, Mental Awareness in Times of Great Change, Skills and Outlook for the New Media Age, Career and Project Development.

### Data Support of journalists

To enable journalists participate in webinars and other online programmes, we provided data support. About 20 journalists benefitted from the support and wrote reports about they learnt which were published on our website.

### Bayelsa Post-Election Training

With funding from the United States Consulate General, Lagos a training was organized for journalists in Bayelsa State in September.

The objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of journalists in the state and make government officials more accountable for their oath of office and promote good governance.

### Weekly Summary of opportunities

Apart from regular publications on our website, a weekly summary of major media programmes and activities that Nigerian journalists can benefit from is published every Monday with the tag # MEDIA PROGRAMMES THISWEEK



In 2020, LightRay Media Projects founded by Ejiro Umukoro focused on helping students across more than 10 universities in Nigeria to develop their Mental Resilience, Understanding Ethics of Journalism, The Power of Your Voice in Writing, Public Speaking, Storytelling, reportage and editorial; Longform Journalism vs Creative Writing – Two Sides of the Same Coin in an Evolving Media, Youth Relevance in the Media, Choosing the Right Career Path and Climb into the Media Ecosystem, Finding Your Creative Hustle, How to Report on Violence Against Protests when Protest Go Haywire, World Youth Skills Day at UN 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, including Gaining Trust for the Media in the Fake News Era. For each of these projects, mentees were asked to write their reports on the impact of these trainings as well as send in their story reports for publication consideration. So far over 12 stories have been submitted and published by and through LightRay Media, sunreporters.com and Media Career Development Network who gave a token to the best three well-written pieces on how much they have learnt from these sessions. In 2021, LightRay Media Projects will focus on building more partnerships across the media and literary



ecosystem, help more journalists become authors as an optional means of income generation, developing your own unique style of writing, how to be an outstanding speaker (most sought after and highly paid), creating powerful radio and podcast, the art of being an outstanding presenter, mentor and so much more. 2021 is the year of more literary focus, promotion of reading culture, publication of more books by Nigerian journos, presenters and other literary minds, with special focus on capturing younger adolescents to help them start early in pursuing a career in radio, TV, print, podcasting, and introduction into audio books with the book titled Distortion and Daughters Who Walk This Path. In particular, LightRay Media was created because there was a dearth in skills expertise, lack of mentoring, lack of support system for young journos whether at the university levels or when growing up. There is a serious gap when young people from

very early on do not understand that the creative industry, which includes advertising, journalism, broadcasting are actually intertwined and act as a whole. Mass communication as a body of study encompasses so much more. It is a great business platform, a great employer of labour, provides people a means to express themselves and an opportunity to thrive in a world where science has been so dominant that people just think anything that has to do with arts is merely entertainment, namely music and may be comedy, which by the way are thriving in their own sphere in Nigeria. We want a situation where the literary part of the arts, the journalistic and broadcast aspects of the arts also take their rightful place where every generation of young people can aspire to become a creative writer, journalist, broadcaster and know that they can succeed, thrive, excel, make money and create impact and be referenced as role models, mentors and people who are change makers.

present

**Youths Relevance**

in the

**Media World**

**Ejiro Umukoro**  
Investigative Journalist & Youth/Children Advocate

Date Sunday 27

Time 7-8pm

Venue Whatsapp platform

**THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE**  
In Writing and Public Speaking  
- How to Stand Out Among Your Peers

**EJIRO UMUKORO**  
Multi Award Winning Broadcaster & Journalist

...Igniting The Mind!

Sunday | October 11 | 7:00PM-8:00PM (WAT)

VENUE

Whatsapp

+234 803 592 6901



In 2020, the Techmirror Magazine hosted various developmental events including capacity building workshops.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the events were virtual. Some of the events held are listed below with brief on participation.

**May 23, 2020: Post-COVID19: Digital Literacy as a tool for Media Development**

Facilitator: Segun Adebowale (CEO Shegs Communication Limited and Immediate Past General Manager, Ovation Tv)

**PROGRAM BRIEF:** The Program took a look at the importance of Digital Literacy in reporting, Media evolution and development especially with the impact of COVID-19. It held on Whatsapp and Zoom with over 200 participants.

**JUNE 6, 2020: Building a Media Career and Breaking News Model In the Digital Age; The Pros and Cons**

Facilitator: Lekan Otufodunrin (Executive Director, Media Career Development Services Network)

**PROGRAM BRIEF:** The Program held as a TweetChat with many journalists participating and engaging on the theme of the event. The Tweetchat held via @realtechmarket and @lotunfodunrin

**JUNE 13, 2020: News Gathering Ethics of a Digital Journalist**

Facilitator: **Yekeen Akinwale** (Head of Newsroom, International

Digital age. The program which held via Zoom had over 30 participants who learned from the facilitator, shared their ideas and also gained more understanding on reporting in the Digital Age

**June 20, 2020: Building Viable Nigerian Youths and Economy; Role of ICT and Digital Literacy**

Facilitator: Kemi Areola (Special Assistant to Hon Minister of Youth and Sports Development on ICT and Corporate Relations)

Program Brief: The event took a look at how Digital Literacy can be used to promote Nigerian youths and economy especially leveraging on Social media. The event held via Zoom.

**Abimboye Micheal** (Senior Editor, OperaNews)

Theme: Becoming a journalist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Date: April 24

Edaetan Ojo: Executive Director, Media Rights Agenda

**Theme: Media literacy as a tool for media freedom**

**Program Brief:** The program which held on Twitter as a Tweekchat took a look at strengthening media rights in the Digital age through media literacy, the event had many top engagements from participants and had key question, answer segment.

Pan-African Social Media Summit  
Date: November 12 and 13

Facilitators: Hakeem Ajijola (Cyber Security Committee of Experts Chairman, African Union)

Centre for Investigative Reporting)

**Program Brief:** Event took a look at how Journalists can survive reporting especially in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Lekan Otufodunrin (Executive Director, Media Career Development Services Network)

Adebayo Shittu (Nigeria's Former Minister of Communications)

Yushau Shuaib (Chief Executive Officer, Image Merchants Promotions Limited)

Yz Yau (Executive Director, Centre for Information Technology and Development)

Kemi Areola (Special Assistant to the Minister of Youth and Sports Development on ICT and Corporate Relations)

Alibob Cinwon (Organizer, National Youth Dialogue)

Sam Adegbola (West African Coordinator, Pan-African Development Initiative)

Alabidun Abdulrahman Shuaib (Executive Director, Centre for Hunger and Poverty Alleviation and research)

Gidado Shuaib (Executive Director, YouthsDigest)

Vincent Adeoba (Author, I am Employable)

Theme: Developing Africa through the social media)

**PLANS FOR 2021**

With the year already begun, the Technmirror Magazine's Digital Literacy Advocacy Club have lined up the following programs between January 2021- March 2021 especially for media development

Date: January 22

Theme: Becoming a journalist on Campus in the Technology age

Date: February 12

Theme: 21<sup>st</sup> century Skills of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Journalist

Date: March 9

Theme: Identifying and fighting fake news as a Digital Journalist

Date: March 25

Theme: Media Rights, Media Development and African Journalism evolution

**Twitter: @realtechmarket, @realtechmirror**

**Instagram: techmirrormag**

**Website: techmirrormag.com.ng**



## JADESEMINARS

Journalism  
And  
Development  
Seminars Initiatives

**J**ournalism and Development Seminars Initiative, (JADESeminar), a Civil Society Organisation dedicated to the advancement of development was formally introduced in September 2020 by its Executive Director, Angela Agoawike.

JADESeminars brings together journalists and development experts, and uses the instruments of discourse, debates, seminars, mentoring, internships and publications to advance issues such as gender,

environment, democracy, human and democratic rights and as well, civic governance with a view to mainstreaming them into national discourse as intrinsic parts of national development.

Registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission, JADESeminars, a non-profit organization operates out of c/o Suit B9, Alphacell Plaza, Plot 12, Ebitu Ukiwe Street, Jabi, Abuja

### What we do

Made up of men and women who have distinguished themselves in the fields of journalism, diplomacy and law, JADESeminars activities include

An annual *JADES Forum*, that brings together development experts, academics, journalists, civil society groups and non-governmental organisations to x-ray a chosen issue of importance to the society.

JADES **Training** for journalists and

development with trainers chosen from a pool of trainers, made up of experienced journalism and development experts from the industry and academics.

In November, an online mentor session was held with focus on the Art of Impact Reporting.

JADES Research and Publications, which will focus on the media; journalism, development, environment and gender among others.

JADES documentaries: Production of short videos on development issues. These are disseminated via social media and as content for television stations

JADES Mentors programme and JADES Townhall dedicated to the discussion of policy issues and their impact on Nigerians.

## ‘How female journalists can be their own boss’

**A** Masterclass session for female journalists and media entrepreneurs has been held in Lagos by Illuminate Nigeria Development Network (INDN) with participants trained on how to be their own boss in their various media endeavours.

At the training, award-winning Entrepreneur, Radio Journalist and International multi-media trainer with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Ngunan Adamu and Executive Director of Illuminate INDN, Mrs Funke Treasure-Durodola shared various tips and ideas on becoming successful entrepreneurs.

In her presentation, Adamu highlighted five ways female journalists can get into entrepreneurship, which includes the following: Diversifying your income, Create a community, Diversify your team, Tell your own story so people care and pay attention, Quality original content, and Bonus Balance.

“If you can find an equilibrium across all the points and spend your time and resources more evenly, you will have

a better chance of long-term sustainability.

“To be a boss in the media, learn self-promotion, create your own opportunities and disconnect yourself from the business and see if you are still making money,” Adamu stated.

### Illuminate Nigeria Development Network (INDN)

According to her, most businesses in Nigeria fail because there is no structure to make them sustainable.

She advised participants to have and write their business plan themselves, research, and have necessary business structure.

Treasure explained that the workshop was informed by an urgent need to train female journalists on how to run successful media enterprise.

“If you know how to write, then you can make writing a service. You can help people write proposals, you can write biographies for people, you know there are so many things you can do.

“You can be an editor; you can edit scripts for people. There are many other things you can do and collect money for, not just saying I’m a good

editor but they are not paying me where I work.”

She also emphasized that there are many other things female journalists can do for outside their job that you can earn them additional revenue.

“I have seen so many people that don’t like the job they do but they are just there because they feel there is no alternative. They feel they cannot do anything elsewhere; they feel Nigeria is hard.

“Nobody came to this world with just one talent. God gave us different things that we can do, so if you look inwards and connect with your authentic self you will be able to move forward with your life.

“It is what God has given you that will put food on your table not, necessarily what you read in school but the gift inside of you,” Treasure counselled.

Among other advice, she implored participants to be sensitive, be careful who they share their vision with and think inwards.

“Be authentic with yourself, think big, you can do it if you have the right people around you,” the Executive Director stated.





# Institute For Media And Society

**T**he Institute for Media and Society is an independent, media non-governmental organization based in Lagos Nigeria.

Our mandates include: Building the capacity of the media; upskilling the institutions of civil society and governance for appropriate engagement of the media and utilization of other communication resources Our engagements will continue to contribute to strengthening democracy and development in Nigeria.

## SELECTED ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY IMS IN 2020

### **Training for Broadcasters on Dealing with Misinformation and Disinformation on COVID-19 in Nigeria. Wednesday, May 27, 2020 (Virtual):**

The activity sought to improve the capacity of broadcasters on dealing with issues of misinformation and disinformation on COVID-19 in Nigeria.

Over 35 journalists, scholars, advocates and with media stakeholders across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria were engaged

Participants highlighted issues of disinformation and misinformation in relation to COVI-19.

### **COMMUNITY JOURNALISM IN THE COVID -19 PERIOD: STRIDES, CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES Tuesday 30 June 2020 (Virtual):**

The activity sought to provide a forum for community media managers/ journalist, advocates and scholars to share perspectives on progress on the coverage of COVID -19 pandemic and

discuss strategies for overcoming challenges and improve efforts.

Over 30 journalists, scholars, advocates and other media stakeholders across six geo -political zones of Nigeria where engaged Perspectives, challenges, and strategies on how to improve media coverage of COVID - 19 pandemic highlighted by participants were documented as an advocacy information.

### **COVID -19 Media Monitoring May to October, 2020 (Virtual):**

The activity sought to monitor and disseminate widely issues and challenges within and affecting the media in the context of COVID -19 and engaging relevant stakeholders on such issues.

22 Editions of the online Newsletters: The Media and COVID -19 were produced and uploaded to IMS website for the attention of media stakeholders and the general public.

### **Webinar on: Engaging Journalists' Safety Issues in the COVID -19 Period Tuesday, August 25, 2020 (Virtual):**

The activity seeks to strengthen the capacity of journalists on safety issues in the context of COVID -19.

Over forty participants had their knowledge broadened on addressing safety issues in the context of COVID -19.

Collaboration between IMS and NBC strengthened to improve on capacity building for media practitioners, particularly broadcast journalists.

### **Webinar on: Broadcasting Policy Directions and Industry Responses in the Context of Covid -19 September 30, 2020 (Virtual):**

The activity seeks to strengthen the capacity of broadcasters in understanding/engaging with public policy directions and developing responses to challenges posed by COVID -19 in Nigeria.

Opportunity for interaction between broadcast media managers/stakeholders and the regulator (NBC) to engage discussions

on policy /regulation, initiatives and industry responses in the context of COVID-19.

### **IPC/IMS Media Stakeholders Roundtable on Professional, Inclusive and Conflict Sensitive Reporting of the Ondo State Governorship Election Wednesday, September 23, 2020 (Akure):**

The activity seeks to deepen the role of the media in promoting professional and ethical reportage of electoral processes, including conflict sensitivity in media coverage and reportage of the Ondo State Governorship Elections.

Media Stakeholders identified issues constituting challenges to media professionalism Media responsibilities towards improving best practices in the media coverage of the electoral process and wider democratic governance issues were identified, and documented for further engagement.

### **Engaging Electoral Reforms October 2020:**

The activity sought to strengthen/provide improved media access for participation of political parties, marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as: women, youths and people with disabilities.

Proposal was submitted to the National Assembly to engage electoral reforms for media access to political parties marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as: women, youths and people with disabilities.

### **Webinar on Focusing Journalism on Catalyzing Disability Inclusive Electoral Process in Nigeria November 17, 2020 (Virtual):**

The activity seeks to strengthen the focus of journalists on disability-inclusivity issues and build advocacy on participation of Persons with Disability (PWDs) in the electoral and democratic governance processes in Nigeria.

Project team was able to strengthen synergy with EU-SDGN project partners on disability inclusion.



**W**anaData, a pan-African network of women data scientists, journalists and technologists, achieved significant milestones in the civic tech and data industry in 2020 amid challenging circumstances during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Members of the network were recognised with multiple awards, and collaborated on numerous impactful projects across Africa.

#### WanaData work in 2020

The pandemic meant that WanaData meet-ups and training had to be fully online. It also presented an opportunity for us to launch 'Outbreak', a data-driven journalism project aimed at strengthening critical reporting around Covid-19-related issues across Africa — many of which affected women and minority groups.

Other projects included

MapMakoko, InfoNile's “Sucked Dry” series, and Twaweza, which focused on partnering with in-country organisations to mentor and train women to produce data-driven journalism on issues that directly affect them.

#### Outbreak: Africa's Data Journalism Alliance Against Covid-19

The pandemic brought to light vulnerabilities within African countries and economies — often impacting women, children and minority groups most. The WanaData community worked extensively on Covid-19-related stories, and in cooperation with Code for Africa and the Pulitzer Centre on Crisis Reporting, community members published a

selection of stories.

#### MapMakoko: Drone mapping in Nigeria


Through Code for Africa's MapMakoko project, 17 women were trained in drone mapping and data-driven reporting skills, which has led to the mapping of Makoko, a marginalised low-income neighbourhood in Lagos State, Nigeria. The impact of this project — funded by HOTOSM and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and supported by local NGO




Makoko Dream — was published in many reputable mainstream media outlets across the world including Agency France Press, Pulitzer Center, Yahoo News, CNN, BBC, Aljazeera English, Urbanet, Guardian Nigeria, Deccan Herald, Devex and Pulse Nigeria.

 *Country Director*  
**Nkechi Okwuone**

 [www.codeforafrica.org](http://www.codeforafrica.org)

 [hello@codeforafrica.org](mailto:hello@codeforafrica.org)

 [@code4africa](https://twitter.com/code4africa)



**R**ipples Centre for Data and Investigative Journalism (RCDIJ) is a non-profit organization founded in 2015 by Ripples Nigeria to support quality multimedia-based projects in investigative and data journalism, training, public advocacy, and other social projects in vital areas of public interest in Nigeria.

#### Workshop organized by RCDIJ in 2020

The centre in partnership with Open contract Reporting, Code for Africa, Bureau of Public Procurement, and JetSystem organised RCDIJ Data Journalism Masterclass 2020.



Journalists invited across Africa were trained on Data journalism, Procurement, and Public sector Tracking and monitoring in Abuja on November 26, 2020.





# NIGERIAN WOMEN in PUBLIC RELATIONS

In 2020, I took my passion for public relations to a couple of institutions in Nigeria. Together with my team @NGWomeninPR, we started the PR Student Campus Summit.

I have always believed that undergraduates across tertiary institutions in Nigeria need opportunities to interact with working professionals. It is one of the ways students can properly equip themselves with adequate knowledge to make informed decisions about their career choices.

Call it Career Day for Public Relations, and you will not be wrong.

During each Summit, we screen applicants and select the best 5 as our Student Ambassadors. The #NGWiPRStudentAmbassadors will support our public education objective and gain practical public relations experience alongside.

In 2021, we definitely want to do

more. We want to reach more institutions, more students who have eagerly indicated interest to have the Summit in their schools.

Many times, the event will be virtual and so the ASUU strike will not be a hindrance. We have established contacts with respective Student Union Governments

and Faculty Deans to help us deliver on our mandate to attract new talent to the profession.

We are looking out for institutional partners and sponsors who are focused on direct impact programs like these.

*Congratulations!!!*



...to our 5 amazing Student Ambassadors for the University of Lagos



Praise Idowu



Alao Kanyinsola



Oluwasanya Toni



Anu Adediran



Tofunmi George

#NGWiPRStudentAmbassadors

#Tolucoms #LinkedIn #SDG4  
Tolulope Olorundero  
NGWomeninPR 1stPublic  
Relations & Communications  
Consultant | Board & Business  
Advisor | Founder

After a year of beta-testing, dozens of clients, due to popular demand (and see-finish), I'm happy to introduce RuonaTips In-depth. Book a Personalised Hour for your Journalism, PR and Communications needs.

Are you top editorial staff and need to plan 2021 reporting ahead, for your newsroom?

Are you a journalist looking for exclusive story angles, greater knowledge of media ethics or hoping to achieve diversity in your sourcing?

Are you starting a new journalism initiative or media house and need top-notch editorial strategy in line with current global standards?

## RuonaTips In-depth



Are you an investigator wondering how to pitch and research your story to Emmy standards?

Are you a PR, Comms professional that wants to craft strategies that help your clients and briefs stand out?

Then let's talk: <https://forms.gle/H5TdvQxtbAbZNQtH8>

An hour costs EUR150 and can also be used by groups of no more than three people.

Please note you can only book a slot after payment via PayPal:

<https://www.paypal.me/ruonameyer>

Bank transfers (are available on request. Kindly note that each hour costs EUR150.

After payment, you fill out the order request. You will then be contacted for specific timings on your chosen date for a personalised session via Microsoft Teams, Google Chat or Zoom only.





**T**he Clinic through its founder, Mr Taiwo Obe organized various training sessions which were mainly virtual. They included the following:

Media executives in Nigeria held a session with President, Innovation Media Consulting Group, Juan Senor for insights and ideas on navigating the financial crisis facing media organisations worldwide.

<http://mediacareerng.org/2020/05/24/covid-19-way-out-of-financial-crisis-for-nigeria-media/>

The founder marked his 60th birthday with a zoom session on 60 exciting and rewarding jobs for young journalists. He gave young journo's a gift of knowledge, acquired in over 40 years of practice.

<https://mediacareerng.org/2020/07/16/60-jobs-for-journalists-become-masters-of-a-niche-obe/>

Obe facilitated the Nigeria Guild of Editors (NGE) Editor's virtual conference on November 29, 2020.

<https://mediacareerng.org/2020/12/01/how-editors-can-create-suitable-digital-content/>

With the support of Hakeem Bello, Media Adviser to Works Minister, the Clinic held a zoom session for journalists to mark his birthday.

For the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of veteran journalist, Mr Femi Kusa, former editor of The Guardian, fresh and aspiring journalists had a session during which they learnt from his wealth of experience.

## Network of Reproductive Health Journalists, Nigeria (NRHJN)

**D**edicating 10 years to media advocacy on issues of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights as well as raising consciousness to issues around Sexual and Gender Based Violence by bringing all of these to the front burner of national discourse have been very challenging but rewarding. Ipas, Nigeria under the Leadership of Dr. Ejike Oji Hauwa Shekarau and Emmanuel Ugojmade the beginning a good start and Ipas, Nigeria has continued to support the journey with trainings and exposures..

Members of the Network of Reproductive Health Journalists, Nigeria (NRHJN) spread across 26 States celebrated 10th anniversary with a Lecture titled, "Nigeria @ 60: Progress and Opportunities for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Protection" and it was delivered by the Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, Professor Ayodele Atsenuwa.

First Lady of Ekiti State, H.E Erelu Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi represented by Rita Ilevbare {Esq}, was the Guest Speaker who explicated on: "Covid-19, A Pandemic's Assault on Gender Based Violence and Reproductive Health Services"

Two other guests, Senior Magistrate Amina Garuba Ahmed, Chairperson Bauchi State VAPP Law Working Group and Dr. Imam Wada Bello, Secretary, Kano State Task Force on Covid-19 were on the panel to discuss their state's experiences.

Though the event was through zoom webinar but Lagos members came together to add a little pep with some members receiving awards presented by Dr. Tunde Akanni, Senior Lecturer, Lagos



State University and Lekan Otufodunrin, CEO, Media Carer Services.

Erelu Adeleye-Fayemi was recognised for her contributions as "Gender and Humanity Influencer" and the award was presented by CEO of Journalists Against AIDS (JAAIDS) Ms Olayide Akanniand received by Lagos State Programmes Manager, Options International/Evidence4Action, E4A, Ms Adenike Badiora

There was also induction of new members into the Network which was witnessed by BOT members: Drs. Ejike Oji(Chair), Hauwa Shekarauand, Abiola Akiyodeand other dignitaries and Partners.

## Africa Foundation for Young Media Professionals

**A** media career development session on Media Entrepreneurship: How to take a piece of the pie was held for 240 students of the January to March cohort of the Nigeria Broadcast Academy in Lagos. Virtual coaching was provided for about 50 students of media studies who reached out for help.



**2**020 turned out to be a very busy year for the Africa Women in the Media (AWiM) despite the pandemic. Some of the programmes held included the following.

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

**Project. 'Covid-19 for Journalists' podcast series**

AWiM launched a four-part podcast series featuring a range of guests and topics from journalists' safety to innovative reporting of COVID19, mental health of journalists, and fact-checking and verification.

**Labour Migration Reporting Programme and Awards**

In partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC), International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Organization

AWiM and Fojo Media Institute, as part of the Consortium for Human Rights and Media in Africa (CHARM), published a research on the barrier's women journalists in sub-Saharan Africa face.

The study, which surveyed 125 women journalists from 17 different African countries, found that barriers facing women journalists ranged from sexual harassment to gendered allocation of resources among others. It offers five key recommendations for media organisations and policy makers.



**Programme (June – August 2020)**

With the support of UNESCO, within the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) framework, we were able to launch our learning platform AWiMLearning, and develop what we called the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Programme. The programme had three key elements: six courses (which we dubbed #RCCE2020), each produced by six amazing trainers; research into the impact of COVID-19 on East African women journalists; and, we held a training and editathon with our three Wikimedia Nigeria, Uganda and Tanzania, as part of our Visibility

for Migration (IOM), under the Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP), we trained 200 women journalists on five courses, did research on the lived experiences of women journalists reporting Labour Migration in Africa.

We received over 75 applications for the awards, and eight winners walked away with \$500 each at a colourful virtual ceremony held on International Migrants Day. The winners are expected to use the grant to contribute to the labour migration discourse through their reporting over the coming year.

**Study on Barriers Faces by Women Journalists in Sub-Sahara Africa**

**AWiM2020 Women in Media Peace and Technology Virtual conference**

AWiM2020 Virtual Conference was held 23 Nov-4 Dec in partnership with the African Union. The fourth annual conference featured various presentations by media practitioners, researchers, policy makers and CSOs. It also featured the Pitch Zone awards where journalists pitched story ideas to five categories. Each winner won a \$2,000 reporting grant to produce the story they pitched.

**Her Media Diary Podcast**

Through the podcast series, Dr Yemisi Akinbobola interviews women in media to capture their lived experiences and career journey.





# INSTITUTIONS

## **LASUSOC: Grand Pacesetter In Communication Scholarship**

*By December 2020, the Lagos State University School of Communication (LASUSOC) has had no fewer than five doctoral theses of five of its PhD students approved. In this updated piece by Dr Tunde Akanni, a Senior Journalism Lecturer at LASUSOC, follow the inspiring, pacesetting strides of the school.*



*Former Saturday Editor, The Punch, Mrs Bisi Deji-Folutile (fourth from left) with lecturers of the School of Communication after the defense of her thesis*

On Tuesday September 1, 2020, two days before the announcement of LASU as the nation's second foremost university according to Times Higher Education Tertiary Education Ranking, the tone was set for another trans-generational landmark at the Lagos State University School of Communication, LASUSOC. That day, without any tone of compulsion, nearly all of us, as well as the very diligent Faculty Officer, Mr. Olugbenga Oduyomi, yielded to a 'conference call'. It was the first Virtual Conference of the Association for Communication Scholars and Practitioners of Nigeria, ACSPN.

For no fewer than four years, ACSPN enjoyed the privilege of being led by the versatile Communication expert and scholar based at LASUSOC, Prof Lai Oso. Oso's versatility, incidentally, has

been generously democratized. A Leicester University alumnus, he has two others, yours sincerely, and Agboola Odesanya behind him in his department. A multiple award winner, Dr Jide Jimoh and yours sincerely, again were awardees of the top flight Chevening and Social Science Research Council, SSRC. A dexterous reporter and editor with an enduring bond with the industry, Oso again has cultivated public intellectuals in the mould of the sitting Head of Journalism Dept, Dr Jide Jimoh, who doubles as editorial board member of The Guardian, constant with his regular media interventions as well as yours sincerely sitting on the board of the Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism, PTCIJ, publishers of Africa's foremost online newspaper, Premium Times. Oso's leadership of ACSPN may be tough to match in many respects: Not a year passed without a national

conference with heavy turnout from both the academia and the industry inclusive of the print and broadcast media as well as advertising and public relations. The association has equally been consistent with production of knowledge through its publications and occasional interactive sessions with leaders from the industry and the academia. That's the stuff with which LASUSOC was originally made. Twenty years ago when it was taking off, LASUSOC broke new grounds in communication scholarship which it sustains till date. How?

In December 2019, the National Universities Commission, NUC, formally presented a new curriculum for communication studies in Nigerian academic institutions. Until then, all universities in Nigeria, except LASU, had been running a single department of Mass

Communication. The new programme announced to the audience of representatives of all leading communication programmes in the country comprised Journalism and Media Studies, Information and Media Studies; Public Relations; Advertising and Broadcasting. From inception in 2001, LASUSOC had done this unbundling and shared its appeal with all who cared. Not too long after LASUSOC commenced business, this novel approach it pioneered in Nigeria became the bride of both aspiring communicators and even the established ones. Within its first ten years, LASUSOC attracted sabbatical scholars from far and near. One of the earliest, Prof Anthony Olorunnisola is currently Head of Broadcasting, Film and Video Studies and Vice Dean, College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University, State College, Penn State, United States. A distinguished Fulbright Scholar, Olorunnisola not only devoted his all to the teaching of both undergraduates and postgraduates, he also shipped down cartons of books for the enrichment of the LASUSOC library. He remains, till date, a major source of scholarly inspiration not only to LASU but also the Communication and Language Arts programme of the University of Ibadan, which beat LASU to a mere second place in the latest ranking.

Soon after Olorunnisola, LASUSOC became heavily star-studded. The faculty got enriched further by Prof Femi Sonaike, former editor of Daily Times who later veered into full time lectureship in the US thus breasting tapes of optimal accomplishment in both career tracks of practice and scholarship.

Yet another big masquerade was Prof Ralph Alabi Akinfeleye who retired recently from the Mass Communication Dept of the University of Lagos. As they say, only gold can attract another gold

easily. Ebullient Akinfeleye was rather too enthusiastic to join Prof Idowu Sobowale, his former colleague at the University of Lagos, who had emerged as the first dean of LASUSOC.

Sobowale further attracted renowned Prof Moemeka also based in the US for a sabbatical stay. LASUSOC thus became the toast of leading communication practitioners and scholars across Nigeria and even the West African subcontinent. In 2018 for instance, the annual Idowu Sobowale International Conference was hosted in Sierra Leone.

The fifth edition of the conference will be hosted from 29th March – 2nd April, 2021 at the school. The theme is MEDIA, PUBLIC OPINION AND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

Its therefore easy to guess what the quality of LASUSOC graduates may be, compared with those of other Nigerian universities. A good number of our graduates who sought postgraduate qualifications at the University of Lagos came top of their respective classes.

Back home, LASUSOC also cherishes its own graduates. Currently a Dubawa Research Fellow and member of the LASU Annual Research and Innovation Fair, Dr Raheemat Adeniran, holder of three LASUSOC degrees has also flown the flag of LASUSOC to far away Birmigham as an Erasmus Mundus Fellow at Birmigham University. A good number of others in the public and private sectors of the economy, locally and internationally have added no less values or reputation to LASUSOC, endearing it to the world and by extension, the umbrella institution, LASU. This much height was attained by LASUSOC for LASU before the entry of the most accomplished VC of LASU in the recent time, Prof Lanrewaju Adigun Fagbohun.

Shortly after Fagbohun's assumption of office for instance, Kehinde Bamigbetan his fellow ex-Ife, as University of Ife alumni

prefer to hail themselves, then Special Adviser to Governor Ambode volunteered to support LASU Radio. That station has since been performing creditably, selling LASU to the world, far and near. Undoubtedly, this station with the backing of the professional expertise and leadership provided by the longest serving and indefatigable Dean of LASUSOC, Prof Rotimi Olatunji, contributed immensely to the unprecedented ranking of LASU as the second best university in Nigeria. LASU Radio's ubiquitous and relentless presence online is unmistakably impressive. It is interesting to note that LASU achieved being repeatedly rated best State university also under Fagbohun who routinely declares LASUSOC as a most reliable and supportive programme.

LASUSOC, with its soaring prestige, has kept on attracting inimitable patronage from local and international civil society groups, academic institutions and industry leaders with collaboration offers on research and training. Some of these have been, not unexpectedly, accompanied by some 'turbulence. Pulitzer laureate Premium Times trained our students on a variety of new journalism skills, enriching their capacity. Earlier, Prof Oso was persuaded to lead the Nigerian leg of the Global Internet Policy Project, GIPP, by the Washington based Internews, among other global research undertakings.

At LASUSOC, the enduring and consensual culture is that whatever is worth doing is worth doing well with the constant projection that tomorrow can only be better. Soon, very soon, our competitors will no longer be ones within the shores of Nigeria.

***Tunde Akanni (PhD) is a Senior Journalism Lecturer at LASU and member of the International Advisory Board of Dubawa, Nigeria's first indigenous international fact-checking organisation.***





**PAN-ATLANTIC  
UNIVERSITY**

### **SMC Awards Four PhD Degrees at the 17th Convocation Ceremony of the Pan-Atlantic University**

**F**or the first time since the inception of the PhD programme, the School of Media and Communication, Pan Atlantic University (SMC) awards four doctorate degrees in one year to graduating students of the programme. The awards were presented at the 17th convocation ceremony of the Pan-Atlantic University (PAU), which took place on Thursday, December 3rd, 2020 at the main campus in Ibeju-Lekki.

Commenting on this achievement, the Dean of the School of Media and Communication, Dr. Mike Okolo, said that it is a thing of joy for the school to see the four students complete the programme amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his words, “We are very glad to have graduates who are going to actualize the mission of the University. The ultimate aim for the University is to make a change in society. So, having four PhD graduates, knowing their pedigree and what they do, we are very optimistic that they will meet that ultimate aim; and Media and Communication are one of the fastest ways to make an impact in society. Having a PhD means they can do a lot.”

The SMC PhD programme commenced in 2014 and has since produced six graduates from the programme.

The four recipients of the SMC PhD degree in Media and Communication for the year 2020: Ijeoma Onyeator, Bolaji Akinola,



**·Ijeoma Onyeator**



**·Frederick Mordi**

Frederick Mordi, and Kelechi Samuel.

### **SMC Trains Nigerian Journalists on Change Communication**

The 2nd run of the 10-day intensive Change Communication training for Nigerian Journalists came to an end on Friday, November 20, 2020.

The academy which was residential and fully sponsored, hosted 19 successful applicants from various media establishments in Nigeria, including Punch Newspapers, New Telegraph, News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Radio Nigeria, Business Day, and a host of others.

Activities during the 10 day training consisted of intensive classroom sessions by top faculty members of the School of Media and Communication (SMC) and

leading industry experts like Mr. Anthony Osae-Brown who is Bureau Chief, Bloomberg; Mr. Ikeddy Isiguzo who is Editor In Chief of Momentum Africa Media and Mr. Olatunji Ololade who is Associate Editor, The Nation's Newspaper.

At the end, participants were awarded certificates and qualified participants were provided the opportunity for post-training engagements through support grants for research in their given fields of interest.

The objective of the Solutions and Data Journalism Academy is to prepare participating journalists to be champions of development and solution providers in the task of Nigeria's nation building with the aim to become advocates and catalysts for change and development.





# UNILAG ALUMNI 'Communication School'

**W**ith the Head of Department of Mass Communication, University of Lagos, Dr Poju Tejumaiye poised to sustain the legacies of his predecessors and ensure that the department remains the best school of Communication in Africa, one of the main features of its Alumni WhatsApp Group which was effectively used in 2020 was its Masterclass during which accomplished members in various communication specializations presented papers on contemporary topics.

Key points from a few of the papers presented and discussed extensively during the Masterclass coordinated by the Mr Lekan Sote (1979), Columnist and Managing Director PUBLICA Limited are reproduced below:

**What it takes for a communication specialist to make a successful career as a university academic**

**Class 1982**

By Levi Obijiofor

Associate Professor of Journalism, School of Communication and Arts

The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Life as an academic is much more than teaching and marking assignments and examination papers. It is all-encompassing. You are expected to teach, to

conduct research, and to publish monographs and quality research papers in peer-reviewed international and national journals. You are also expected to achieve success in competitive research grants, and to provide services to your School/Department, Faculty, university, and the external community.

## **FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN SETTING UP A RADIO STATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE**

Olusesan Ekisesan

Class 1979

Publisher/CEO Kalahari Incorporated Minnesota, US & Lagos, Nigeria

The digital age has brought online new but challenging opportunities to further expand the capabilities of the medium and enhance its revenue generating potentials and further grow a system that can sustain careers and build empires. It is however not for the faint-hearted because running the system involves nerve-racking encounters and spirit-lifting moments, and it takes more than a little patience to ride it through. I have presented a much-simplified view of the enterprise because the rose-colored glasses will need to be removed and sometime bare-knuckle encounters are not uncommon in the way the interaction unfolds.



**The digital age has brought online new but challenging opportunities to further expand the capabilities of the medium and enhance its revenue generating potentials and further grow a system that can sustain careers and build empires.**

## **Managing an old newspaper brand: Daily Times Nigeria as case study**

**Class 1987**

Aliu Moyosore Akoshile

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, NatureNews and former Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Times

So far, we have adopted a rather confounding bootstrap strategy to kickstart the brand from its near comatose position. I believe strongly that there must be some intrinsic values in a brand name that has survived for nearly a century. But to sustain the brand oxygenation against the backdrop of the modest strides we have recorded, the issue of funding will necessarily be topical.

## **ESSENTIALS OF BRANDING FOR A CHURCH.**

Oyinda Soderu.

Class of 1993

Pastor, Fountain of Life Church and former Head, Media

When sharing your vision, it is advisable to avoid words like “best”, “leading”, “world class”, “number one”, “international” (if you are not). Keep it succinct and easy to understand. Celebrate when your visions are fulfilled, however, do not rest on your laurels. Keep reviewing your long-term goals, to assume you have 'arrived' is to set your brand up for mediocrity and

failure. What is trending today, may become obsolete very quickly. Values are the moral compass that provide direction through life and they help you focus on what matters most and dealing with a problem. Your corporate values must guide employee and congregational behavior.



## **DIGITAL DISRUPTIONS IN T R A D I T I O N A L JOURNALISM PRACTICE**

Lekan Otufodunrin

Class 1985

Executive Director, Media Career Development Network

With more than 30 years newsroom experience, I can confidently state that many newsrooms in the country are still managed with analogue mindset. The use of computers instead of typewriters like we did in my years in the department (1982-85) and Internet have not been maximally explored to enhance the quality of our process and content. Editors still insist on reporters being in office when some of the collaborative tools mentioned above can be utilized for many editorial management activities.

Reporters leave assignments earlier than they should or stay overnight because they still produce their papers with minimal use of new tools.

## **W R I T I N G ADVERTISING COPY FOR PRINT MEDIA**

LADI FAFUNSHO

Class 1999

Chief Operating Officer at IMS Advertising Limited

Since the payoff is usually the one part of an ad most will remember, because all your print ads will carry it, even if they are 50 different ones. This is why adequate attention must be paid to carving out a strong one.

In summary, for effective print copy, first pay attention to the market research. Then make certain the visual image and the headline are a couple, declaring, in a creative way, the selling idea.

Let the first line of the body copy continue the story of this selling idea. Then let the rest of the body copy identify the consumer need, while telling the reader the brand is the fit for that need, doing this in a

creative and compelling manner. Finally, write a strong payoff.

## **T V S P O R T S N E W S REPORTING: THE NIGERIAN PERSPECTIVE**

SOLOMON AJUZIUGU

Class 2002

Sport Producer and Reporter, TVC NEWS

Passion may be good in this beat, knowledge and resources are greater requirements. Many Nigerian broadcasters suffer from this. It would also appear that the local broadcasters are dominated by individuals without requisites journalism training to do this. A part of this specialization is sports commentaries. Whereas Nigeria has had world record or African record in sports radio

**Nobody can predict with a high degree of accuracy how 5G will impact our lives. However, we can already see it will impact our lives. Not only will it touch every area of life, it will revolutionize the mass media.**

commentaries, she has not been able to replicate this for TV. In any case the government radio broadcaster which holds this record of some of the best seem to have lost all of it and the personnel as well.

## **TRICKS TO REPORTING SPORTS**

Calvin Emeka Onwuka

Class 1992

Publisher [www.aclsports.com](http://www.aclsports.com)

When sitting down to interview an athlete, read up on them – extremely important. From reading up on them you are able to frame questions which you should take with you there all written down. Do NOT give the impression that you know a lot more than you know about their sport. Never. Avoid

accusatory questions: “why did you...”. You can try “what happened during this xyz episode/incident, because as I looked from outside, I could not understand it.”

I have found that in my many interview sessions I have had with athletes – mainly footballers for me – they have ended up giving me more time than they thought they would give me because eventually they had been so much at ease with me. There might have been other factors at play but I think the fact that I try to make them see that I am just curious and interested in their angles, they have been pretty relaxed.

## **What is 5G?**

TUNDE ODEDIRAN

Class 1988

Global Head of IT Asset Management at Mott MacDonald, USA

Nobody can predict with a high degree of accuracy how 5G will impact our lives. However, we can already see it will impact our lives. Not only will it touch every area of life, it will revolutionize the mass media. With this change will come

opportunities and challenges for practitioners.

Those who are prepared for change will end up as winners; but those who think 5G is a fluke are in for a surprise – they will end up in a strange world.

To people in the technologically-advanced countries, these changes may not be too revolutionary because home broadband already provide speeds near to 5G in some places, and some already stream content online or engage in immersive technology. The revolution will be more profound in the areas of the world that are still on mobile Internet, DSL and similarly slow connections. In such countries, disruption is certain.



## ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNICATION SCHOLARS & PROFESSIONALS OF NIGERIA

The Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria organized some training sessions and launched some publications in 2020. (See <https://www.acspn.com.ng/2020-annual-report/> for the 2020 annual report of the association)

The Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria (ACSPN) is committed to advancing the scholarly study and practice of communication by promoting and facilitating the pursuit of excellence in academic research and professional practice in Nigeria.

The major programme for the year was its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual and 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Conference. The report of the programme is reproduced below.

All the promises on the partnership, speakers, timing, presentations, and other activities at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual and 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Conference of the Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria (ACSPN) and Annual General Meeting, from September 2-3, 2020, were implemented as advertised, producing what a notable Nigerian communication and media scholar and professional in the diaspora, had declared, and which was truly a LOADED and pace-setting communication forum to be cherished for “long, long time”.

At the AGM, some new officers were unanimously elected to join the members of the executive who retained their seats. The new officers are:

**Prof. Umaru Pate**, Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Bayero University, Kano, as **President**,

**Prof Oluyinka Esan**, Visiting Professor, Department of Mass Communication, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, as **Deputy President** and **Diaspora Coordinator, Europe and the Continents**

**Dr Ifeyinwa Nsude**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, as **Vice-President, South East Zone**,

**Mrs Ify Obi**, Station Manager, Unizik FM, Nnamdi Azikiwe

University, Awka, as **Zonal Mobilization Officer, South East Zone**

**Dr Dare Ogunyombo**, Associate Director, Media, Brooks and Blake Nigeria Limited, Lagos, as **Linkages Officer**

**Prof Adebayo Fayoyin**, Regional Communications Advisor, UNFPA, East and Southern Africa Regional Office, Johannesburg, First ACSPN Diaspora Visiting Fellow & Visiting Professor of Mass Communication, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, as **Diaspora Co-ordinator, South and East Africa**, and **General Publications Editor**

**Dr Abiodun Solomon Oyeleye**, Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, as **Deputy General Publications Editor**

8. **Dr Titilayo Osuagwu**, Lecturer, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, University of

Port Harcourt, Rivers State, as **Welfare and Logistics Officer 2**

**Mr. Monday Ashibogwu**, Chief Executive Officer, The Republic Media Limited, Lagos, as **Information and Communication Technology Officer 1**

**Mr. Celestine Achi**, Chief Executive Officer & Founder, Digitalprwire, Lagos, **Information and Communication Technology Officer 2**

**Prof. Lai Oso**, School of Communication, Lagos State University, Lagos, **ex-Officio**

**Prof. Kate Omenugha**, Commissioner for Education, Anambra State, **ex-Officio**

There were participants from the Netherlands, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, United States of America, United Kingdom, Brazil, South Africa, Kenya, France, and Canada. The special Panel on “The Media, Artificial Intelligence, Nation States, and the Future”, moderated by the Nigeria Chair of IFAP and Chief Executive Officer, National Library of Nigeria, **Prof. Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina**, featured - **Mr. Alexandre Le Voci Sayad**, International Co-Chairman of the UNESCO-led initiative Global Alliance for Partnerships on Media and Information Literacy (GAPMIL), Brazil, **Ms. Emerald Adjei**, User Experience Researcher and Co-creator of Global Code Women's Chapter, Ghana; **Mr. Monday Ashibogwu**, Managing Director/CEO, The Republic Media Limited, Nigeria, and **Mr. Olusola Amusan**, Artificial Intelligence Evangelist/CEO Coven Works Inc, USA.

The Female Researcher's Panel on “The Woman's Identity, the Media, and Nationhood”, was moderated by Nigeria's first female professor of Mass Communication, and member, Board of Trustees,



ACSPN, **Prof. Stella Chinyere Okunna**, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria, and Diaspora Coordinator for Europe and the Continents, current Visiting Professor of Mass Communication, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, and new Deputy President, **Prof. Oluyinka Esan**. Panellists included **Ms. Faiz Abraham**, Executive Director, Institute for Advancement of Journalism, Johannesburg, **Ms. Edwinah Orowe**, Development Activist and Media Consultant, Kenya, **Dr. Roberta Comunian**, Kings College London, UK, and **Dr. Samantha Iwowo**, Lecturer, Scriptwriter and Director, University of Bournemouth, UK.

The Panel on “Flattening the Misinformation Curve in the Digital Age” moderated by the First ACSPN Diaspora Visiting Fellow, and Visiting Professor of Mass Communication, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, **Prof. Adebayo Fayoyin**, featured **Mr. Dapo Olorunyomi**, Publisher, Premium Times, **Mr. Wallace Gichunge**, Founder and Executive Director of Nairobi-based Centre for Media & Information Literacy, Kenya, **Ms. Moji Makanjuola**, Executive Director, International Society of Media in Public Health, Nigeria, and **Prof Emmanuel Ngwainmbi**, University of North Carolina, USA.

The panel on “Reshaping Identities and Citizenship in the Evolving Media Landscape in Africa”, and moderated by ACSPN's new President, and Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Bayero University, Kano, **Prof. Umaru Pate**. Discussants included **Dr. Charles Muiru Ngugi**, Associate Director, School of Media and Communication Studies, University of Nairobi, Kenya, **Mr. Noel Ihebuzor**, International Development & Policy Consultant, Abuja, and former UNICEF Chief

of Education in Nigeria, Somalia and Democratic Republic of Congo, **Dr. Hayes Mabwezara**, University of Glasgow, UK, and **Prof. Abigail Ogwezzy-Ndisika**, Former Head, Department of Mass Communication, University of Lagos.

The panel on “Protecting Fundamental Rights & Freedom of Expression: Lessons Learned from COVID-19”, was chaired by Professor of Mass Communication and Social Change, University of Jos who is currently on sabbatical at Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos, and Treasurer of ACSPN, **Prof Victor Ayedun-Aluma**. It had **Prof. Jonathan Rozen**, Senior Researcher, Africa Program, Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), **Mr. Bunmi Makinwa**, former UNFPA Africa Regional Director, **Mr. Akin Jimoh**, Executive Director, Development Communications Network, and **Prof Daniel Wale Awodiya**, Delaware State University, USA.

A second jointly chaired panel, had **Prof Oluyinka Esan**, and **Dr Anuli Agina**, Lecturer, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos, and focused on “Reimagining the future: Health, Wellbeing and People's Engagement”. Discussants included **Prof Sue Goldstein**, School of Public Health, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, **Mr. Jacob Enoch Eben**, Regional Communication Adviser, UNFPA West and Central Africa Region, Dakar, Senegal, **Ms. Rayana Rassool**, Regional Communication Adviser, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Nairobi, Kenya, and **Mr. Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar**, Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication, University of Maiduguri.

The first Keynote Address on “Promoting Inclusive Democracy through Access to Information and Knowledge Societies”, was by **Ms. Dorothy Gordon**, Chair of the

UNESCO Information for All Programme. On Day 2, **HRH Igwe Onuora Nwuneli**, Igwe Malume of Igbaku, Professor of Mass Communication, and member, Advisory Group, ACSPN, spoke on “Communication Technologies and Glocalised Identities”.

The opening formalities of the conference, will include goodwill messages by the ACSPN President **Prof. Lai Oso**, Founder, Ben TV, London, UK, **Mr Alistair Soyode**, Information for All Programme (IFAP) Chair, Nigeria and Chief Executive Officer of National Library of Nigeria, **Prof. Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina**, and Officer-in-Charge, UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office in Abuja, **Mr. Mamadou Lamine Sow**, represented by Mr Abubakar Salifou.

ACSPN Book Series 5 titled: *Media Freedom, National Interest and Governance*, edited by **Prof Lai Oso, Prof Rotimi Olatunji, Dr Dele Odunlami, and Dr Kola Adesina**, with Foreword by **Bruce Mutsvairo** - Professor of Journalism, Auburn University, Alabama, USA, and published by Canada University Press, Concord Ontario, Canada, was launched by **Prof. Idowu Sobowale**, Chairman, Board of Trustees, ACSPN.

A UNESCO publication on: *Steering AI and Advanced ICTs for Knowledge Societies: A Rights, Openness, Access and Multi-stakeholder Perspective (UNESCO Series on Internet Freedom)*, was launched by **Mr. Bhanu Neupane**, Programme Specialist, Communication and Information, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.

The conference with the theme: “Communicating Identities and Nationhood: Promoting Inclusive Democracy through Access to Information and Knowledge Societies.”, was in collaboration with UNESCO, Information for All

Programme (IFAP), and World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), and Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON), and had as **coordinating moderator, Dr Chido Onumah**, Vice-President, ACSPN North Central, who directed affairs from his current location in Canada. Other moderators for the plenary were **Mr Olushola Macaulay**, National Professional Officer,

Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO Regional Office, Abuja, while **Dr. Ruqayyah Aliyu**, Vice-President, ACSPN North West, and **Mr Idowu Lateef Olagunju**, Secretary General, UNESCO National Commission, Nigeria, gave remarks.

The General Rapporteurs, **Dr Joseph Wilson**, Associate Professor, and **Mr Abdulmutalib Abubakar**, Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication, University of Maiduguri, presented

the Conference Communique during the AGM.

Expect more conference-related communication.

We appreciate the ACSPN and UNESCO team that worked tirelessly to ensure a successful meeting.

ACSPN remains open to productive partnerships.

Please visit our website [www.acspn.com.ng](http://www.acspn.com.ng) for more on the association.



## Journalists International Forum For Migration (JIFORM)

Nigeria.

Abdur-Rahman Balogun, Head of Media, Public Relations and Protocol Unit, Nigerians in Diaspora

Commission (NIDCOM)

Miko Alazas, Communication Officer of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Gambia.

AbdulWaheed Odusile, Managing Editor, The Nation Newspaper and former National President, the

Nigeria Union of Journalists.

Shingirai Vambe, Journalist and the Publisher of The Post on Sunday, Zimbabwe

Other workshops held were;

**Migration; Post Covid-19 Era: The Role of Stakeholders**

**Summit on Migration: Remedies for Covid-19**

**2nd JIFORM International Migration Summit**

**Border Management, Media and Trade Facilitation.**

In furtherance of its desire to enhance the capacity of its over 300 members across the continents on migration and economic matters numbering, the media body organized four summit/workshops in 2020.

The events beamed from Nigeria combined both virtual and physical presentations targeted at increasing the knowledge of media practitioners/ stakeholders on migration concepts/reportage, migrant's management, management of Covid-19/enlightenment on containment strategies, migration governance and others in the below order:

**April 25, 2020. Venue: Lagos (Virtual)**

Speakers

Deputy Comptroller of Nigeria Immigration Service and the National Public Relations Officer of the agency, DCI Sunday James.

Professor Kanu Ikechukwu Anthony, Rector, Villanova Polytechnic, Imesi-Ile, Osun State,

**J**ournalists Against AIDS (JAAIDS) Nigeria, a Health Communication Non-governmental organization, working in the field of HIV, AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Sexual Reproductive Health/Rights issue organized a training on the Basics of Reporting HIV for young journalists in November ahead of the 2020 World AIDS Day.

The programme was in response to the need for the media to provide timely, accurate, and balanced health reporting and equip young

journalists with information and skills needed to examine the impact of COVID 19 on people living with HIV.

Some of the topics addressed at the training included: Living with HIV in the context of COVID 19; Reporting HIV and Appropriate Use of Language; Keeping HIV in the News: How can journalists do this more efficiently; Learnings from Reporting HIV Issues; Opportunities to Keep HIV in the News, Key Messages and Mo; and Pitching your stories for relevance.



## Journalists Against AIDS (JAAIDS)



## 16<sup>th</sup> Editors conference Communique

### Media, People and Covid-19: How to Create Sustainability in the Digital Era

Consequent upon the exigencies of the moment, the 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, held via Zoom, with a view to deliberate on ways and means of sustaining operations of players in the media industry, in the face of the global Covid-19 pandemic which has adversely impacted on their survival.

At the end of the one-day conference, with the theme: **Media, People and Covid-19: How to Create Sustainability in the Digital Era**, Editors explored new ways to create contents, with aesthetics and overall values, that would help sustain media as a business in the country.

The conference, chaired by Alhaji Kabiru Yusuf, a Fellow of the Guild and Chairman of Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust newspapers, resolved as follows:

Editors expressed the need for media professionals to rethink their roles from just assigning, reviewing, rewriting and processing of words to creating compelling, engaging and impactful contents, in line with the needs of their audiences. This has become necessary if they are to be relevant and remain in business in the age of digitalization and global Covid-19 pandemic.

Editors should begin to think as marketing officers and develop well-researched products that will respond to the yearnings of the people across all segments of the economy at all times.

That media business is about people at all levels, therefore practitioners should be less obsessed with government officials and focus on people-centred

reporting in order to generate the needed resources for the sustainability of media industry.

Media practitioners are advised to adopt creative use of new technologies to generate revenue, by employing programmers, data scientists, information and communications technology specialists, as part of the demands of the new normal.

Regular capacity building interventions are necessary to ensure that the knowledge and content provided are relevant and applicable to the needs of the reading public.

The conference emphasised that while there are several options for making money through digitalisation of media businesses, it is almost impossible to make a living without a large following. Therefore, efforts should be made to connect with the people, improve aspects of readers' lives and obsess more with the audience through creative contents.

While identifying huge potential in archiving photographs and offering of transcripts as reliable means of generating new streams of income, it canvassed for fresh air in the

media space through the use of creative headlines.

Recommendation was made for periodic engagement with media audiences and communities to find out about their habits and preferences in order to create engaging contents for the consumers.

It called for institution of reward system for their audiences, in return for loyalty and enduring relationship.

Editors remembered and observed a minute silence for members of the Guild who passed away in the last one year. These are: Malam Wada Maida, a former NGE President; Mrs. Ronke Fajemirokun of BCOS, Ibadan; Mr. Diji Akinhanmi, GM, OGBC, Abeokuta; Waheed Bakare, Editor, New Telegraph on Saturday; Malam Musa Ahmed Tijjani, Editor, Triumph Newspapers, Kano and Abba Ado Gwarzo, a retired NTA staff.

Editors expressed appreciation to its Partners for the support in ensuring the success of the first of its kind (virtual) conference of the Guild.



# Survey Report



To get the views of the journalists who benefited from the various capacity development programmes by media NGOs, institutions and others, a Google survey form was shared through Twitter covering the following indicators including the following:

Gender, Age, Sex, organisations that offered training, trainings offered, most impactful training and how trainings can be improved. The summary of the responses are as follows:

## Gender

Male-63.6%

Female- 31.6

Prefer not to say- 4.5%

## Age

43.5% of respondents are between ages 18-25,

34.8% are between ages 25-35,

21.7% are 35 and above

**From our survey of journalists across 22 media houses, we inferred that:**

- Media development organisations need to expand their training net to include a wider range of benefitting journalists and areas
- Journalists appreciate follow-up session to encourage implementation of skills acquired during

training

- Trainings for journalists are largely theoretical and there is a need to make it more practical

**Respondents received training in different areas of journalism from the following media development organisations:**

- Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism- 32%
- Media Development Career Network- 21%
- Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism- 14.3%
- Light Ray Media- 7%
- International Centre for Investigative Reporting- 10.7%
- Media Mentors Network, Civic Hive, Civic Media Lab- 3.57%

**Journalists who filled the survey participated in the following training:**

- Leveraging on technology to address social issues amidst COVID-19
- Online course on how journalists should cover the coronavirus pandemic.
- Online Health Misinformation workshop
- Gender and Conflict reporting training

- Natural Resource and Extractives Programme (NAREP)
- Data Journalism
- Open Contract Reporting (OCR) project training
- Fact-Checking
- Human Rights Reporting
- COVID-19 Reality Check training for reporters
- Solutions & Data Journalism Academy

**Journalists found the following trainings impactful:**

- Longform Journalism vs Creative Writing
- Leveraging on technology to address social issues amidst COVID-19
- Human rights and war related violations reporting training
- Fact-Checking Training
- COVID-19 Reality Check training
- Data/Accountability journalism

**How can organisations improve on implementing training programmes for journalists? Our survey respondents identified various ways and we have summarised them below:**



- Organisations should introduce a feedback mechanism for the participants to get clarifications after the training.
- Organisations that want to organise training programmes should get in touch with the Media Career Development Network to publish on their platform so that those who need those trainings will not miss out.
- Organisations can empower the journalists they train to conduct step down trainings. This would work in two ways as it would help journalist to remember what he has been taught and help other journalists to learn about the topic.
- Trainings should not be limited to urban areas alone and organisations should focus more on getting more journalists trained on accountability and transparency in government
- One of the ways through which organisations can improve is by ensuring that the training to be offered is

tailor-made to suit the current needs of the journalists. The needs of journalists ten years ago may not necessarily be their current needs

- Just like some organisations have begun, this training could be taking down to campuses, so to ensure that students learn the new trends in journalism and get acquainted with materials and tools.

- Organisations should consider creating impactful training contents and sharing them via social media channels
- Trainers need to incorporate more practical element in their materials
- Follow- up long term support and mentoring for trainees.



*Tech Mirror social media summit*



*Participants at a programme by Media Rights Agenda*



*Medrive training programme (Founder/Creative Director Wemimo Adewuni (third in front) with participants*



# ATTESTATIONS

Many journalists benefitted various programmes and opportunities provided by media Non-Governmental Organisations, institutions and support groups. Two journalists shared their experiences.

## ‘Numerous opportunities I benefitted in 2020’

*Ifredah Kelvin, Rivers State based journalist writes on the various opportunities she benefitted from despite the challenges many journalists had to contend with due to the Coronavirus crisis that affected the media like other sectors.*

Although, the beginning of the year 2020 seemed tough, but it ended well for me based on several opportunities that helped and grew my professional life.

It all started with the Accountability Lab Nigeria, where I learnt self-development and the best way to tell stories among others. I was supported with stipends for eight months and mentorship from different professionals. My mentor, Samuel Akani is indeed a great man who impacted me with knowledge. In March, I was among the 20 Journalists selected by HEDA Resource Agenda and was trained on investigative reporting.

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, it was not initially easy for me as a freelance journalist to get funding support, but eventually, my applications seeking support scaled through as I received funds from Rory Trust Peck, and I attended free online training organized by the same organization on Psychological First Aid: Mental Health Care Tips for Journalists. I also received data support from Media Career Development Network and it indeed aided my participation in so many online webinars on reporting amid COVID-19 organized by International Center for Journalists. In addition, I was selected and participated in intensive training on Fact-Checking organized by Dubawa. And, this has so far built my knowledge on fact-checking. I participated in so many other training and fellowship which include, gaining knowledge from

my mentor at the Wole Soyinka Center for Investigative Journalism on reporting COVID-19 issues in Rivers State. My mentor is superb, as I used the knowledge impacted to build my skill in Journalism.

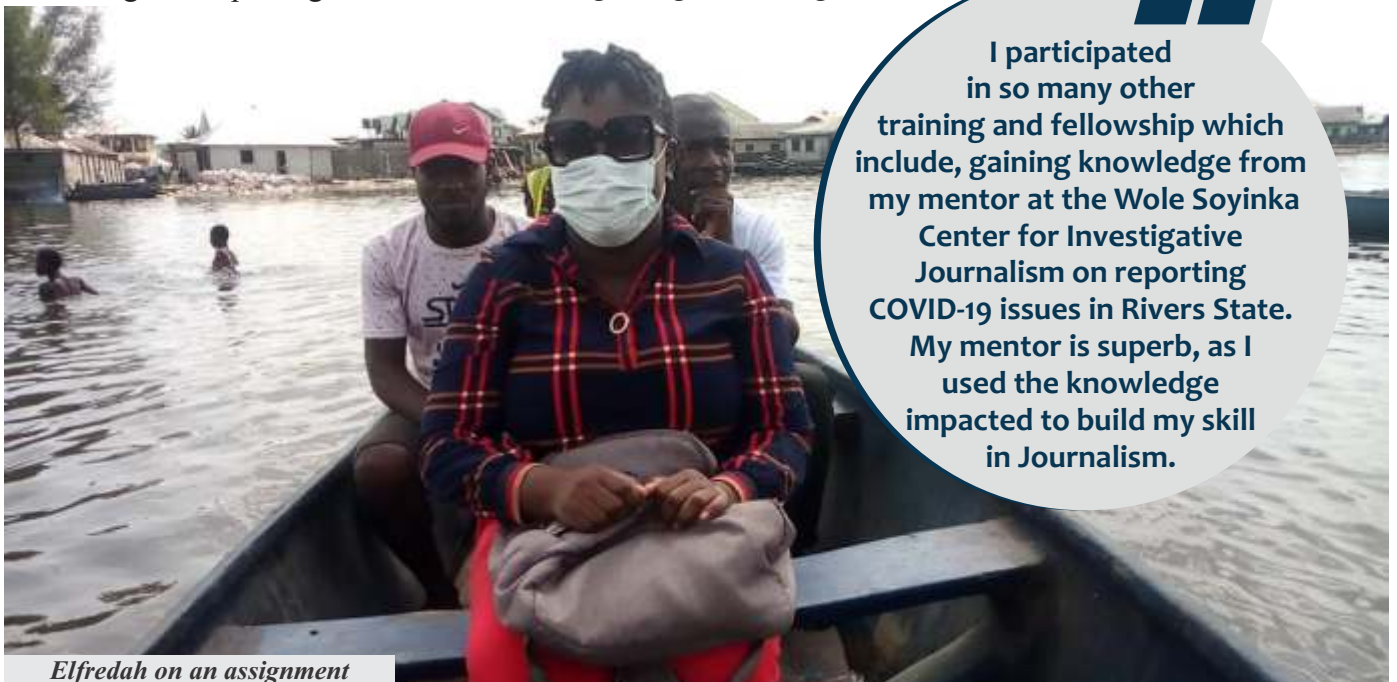
I also learnt how to report issues concerning the Nigerian Justice System, a fellowship sponsored by CIVIC Media.

I received grants to tell stories on COVID-19 and was also invited as a resource person for a media COVID-19 Response in Africa, all from PagedInitiative.

The opportunities to me in 2020 were numerous and I will say THANK YOU to all the organizations that supported my work, and to my new media outfit, Peoples Gazette for trusting me to be one of the reporters to tell the big stories that have been making an impact.



I participated in so many other training and fellowship which include, gaining knowledge from my mentor at the Wole Soyinka Center for Investigative Journalism on reporting COVID-19 issues in Rivers State. My mentor is superb, as I used the knowledge impacted to build my skill in Journalism.



*Ifredah on an assignment*



## 'Campus Reporter has helped me to realize my potentials'



improve on my subsequent exploits which has gone a long way in helping me improve better than I was before I joined the platform.

Within six months that I joined Campus Reporter, I have been able to write about four impactful feature stories and numerous news reports that have exposed the ills in our society and prompted the necessary authorities to swing into action.

The platform has also given me the opportunity to participate in a series of Journalism workshops, allowing me to network with erudite journalists and fellow young minds across the country.

It has also given me more insights and experience beyond campus journalism as it gives me the avenue to do 'real-life' journalism and the privilege to travel to various states within the country which has all increased my level of exposure and experience in the field of Journalism.

The greatest accomplishments that excite me most in 2020 are the ones I achieved through Campus Reporter being the avenue which has given me the opportunity to write wonderful stories I never imagined possible.

Looking back on what I have achieved through Campus Reporter has been a life time fulfillment for me.

**Nurudeen Akewushola**, 400level Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto.

For a cub journalist who was battling with self-doubt, joining Campus Reporter is a life-changing experience for me. Campus Reporter has helped me to realize my potentials, it has given me the platform to learn more about Journalism and to put the knowledge into practice.

Campus Reporter program organized by Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism aimed at building the capacities of young journalists in Nigerian tertiary institutions on how to engage in journalism ingrained in truthfulness, verification and source scrutiny.

The mentorship I got from the platform allows me to know my mistake, learn from it and use it to

## MY 2020 RECORD

**Ajala Samuel Akindele - @nucjpresident**

*Fellowships -selected for*

@greensofa\_betd || @YALIRLCWA || @WorldLiteracy

@AIJC\_Conference || Mini Grant - @PeaceFirstOrg

*Started*

@devafricanow, ran 3 projects & 3 programs

*Published over 100 news stories and special report on*

@PremiumTimesng || @CampReporterNG

*Election Observation with*

@ptcij - for Ondo and Edo state || Travelled to 10 states in Nigeria

*Award: Finalist for*

@YouthsDigest || @Nigeriatechx || @TheOperaNewsNG || Webinars: 30+



# Media opportunities for students journalists in Nigeria

By Ajala Samuel Akindele

Catherine Pulsifer once said “Opportunities are presented to us each and every day, but do we see them. To see an opportunity we must be open to all thoughts.”

As a student journalist there are diverse opportunities in the media and civic space that you can leverage on for your personal and career development. With over three years of experience as a campus journalist, I can tell that I have accessed a lot of platforms that have contributed immensely to my growth. Aside from learning and enhancing my career, these platforms have made me contribute to the quest of holding the government accountable and nation building.

Should I talk about working with Premium Times and Premium Times Center of Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ) as an election observer, campus reporter, intern, project tracker and freelance journalist. Also participating in projects and fellowship programmes from YALI RLC, African Center for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL), World Literacy Foundation Ambassador, African Investigative Journalist Conference (AIJC), Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue, PTCIJ, Dataphyte and other platforms has given me the opportunity to be opened and exposed to the real life demands of the civic and media space in the area of mentorship, internship and capacity building trainings.

Aside this one can also have their news stories, features, special reports and investigative pieces published on print and online platforms. Personally, I have my articles published on Premium Times, The Nation Newspaper,

Campus reporter, News Digest, Tribune Nigeria and other platforms.

Below are the platforms you can check out for opportunities in the media and civic space. I would advise you to follow them on social media for day-to-day updates.

[PTCIJ](#) - PTCIJ is a non-governmental organization, founded in 2014, to promote a truly independent media landscape that advances fundamental human rights, good governance and accountability in West Africa through investigative journalism, open data and civic technology. As a student journalist you can have your works published on Campus Reporter and you can work with the platform on the following projects -

“**Aside from learning and enhancing my career, these platforms have made me contribute to the quest of holding the government accountable and nation building.**”

Campus Reporter, Election observation, Dubawa, Udemé and other projects.

[Dataphyte](#) - Dataphyte Nigeria Limited, publishers of Dataphyte is a media research and data analytics organisation with the mission to deploy data tools and technology for socio-economic development of Nigeria. Dataphyte is the for-profit, research and development program of The Interactive Initiative for Social Impact ([The Interactive](#)). The platform has a project tagged Dataphyte's Campus Journalist Ambassador which allows selected persons to have opportunities to learn tips and tools that will make them a leader in the data journalism space. It also enables student journalists to gain free access to

publish and showcase their data journalism content on Dataphyte.

[AFRICMIL](#): AFRICMIL is a non-government organisation that focuses on media, information, research, advocacy and training. It aims to promote media and information literacy as a key component in the enhancement of democracy and good governance and the promotion of accountability and orderly society. They organize capacity building projects for student journalists and youths in areas of concern.

[ICIR](#): The International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR) is an independent, nonprofit news agency that seeks to promote transparency and accountability through robust and objective investigative reporting. The ICIR's mission is to promote good governance and entrench democratic values by reporting, exposing, and combating corruption. They also engage student journalists in reporting, election observation and capacity building training.

[Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation](#): Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation (CNJF) is a nonprofit organization focused on promoting active citizenry, transparency, and accountability in Nigeria through investigative journalism, mobilization, and advocacy. The platform runs a project that nurtures a new generation of development-oriented and investigative journalists.

You can check [Opportunity Desk](#), [IJNet](#), [I-79 media consult](#), [YouthhubAfrica](#), [GIJN Africa](#) and other platforms for more opportunities for student journalists.

*Ajala is President, National Union of Campus Journalists.*





# AWARDS

**M**ajor media awards to honour journalists in the country for outstanding reports and other content held in 2020 with virtual options for participants and guests.

The awards held included the Nigeria Media Merit Award (NMMA), Diamond Award for Media Excellence (dame) and Wole Soyinka for Investigative Reporting.

Others were PwC Media Excellence Awards and Migration Reporter Competition during which journalists and the media organisations were awarded different categories and prizes.

According to Professor Abigail Ogwezzy-Ndisika, chair of the Wole Soyinka Award 2020 judges' board, the finalists showed uncommon profundity, ethical journalistic courage, individual creativity and public benefit in their reports. She however, observed that many of the online entries were

verbose; photo entries were visually and professionally weak; and most of the cartoons lacked wit and humour.

Justifying the need for media awards, Lanre Idowu, Supervising Trustee of DAME said "It is essential to separate the wheat from the shaft by honouring our committed and enterprising media professionals."

"We believe, by so doing, we are renewing faith in our society, encouraging hope for a greater tomorrow and keeping alive the dream for a better practice.

"In the face of the menace of fakery in news dissemination and technological liberalisation of access which makes everyone a reporter, editor and publisher, it is critical to continue to stress the vital role journalists play in serving the public with news that they can trust," Idowu stated.

While commending the winning entries for the award, Chairman, NMMA panel of assessors, Prof

Ralph Akinfeleye, said there were no winners in seven categories because the entrants did not meet the 70 per cent cut-off point.

The categories are the Coca-Cola Prize for Brand Marketing Reporter of the Year; Chevron Nigeria Prize for Oil and Gas Reporter of the Year; Aviation Reporter of the Year; First Bank Prize for Business Publication of the Year; George-Bako Prize for Radio Reporter of the Year; TV Production of the Year and TV Drama of the Year.

According to Akinfeleye, the entries for investigative reporting lacked depth and were fewer than last year's, noting that "some of the write-ups are left footed, both structurally and conceptually.

"Media owners should invest and provide adequate funding for investigative reporting because it is time consuming and of a high-risk venture."

He also noted that many of the entries for Female Reporter of the Year lacked focus, with some entries even tangential to the subject matter.

He praised the entries for Columnist of the Year, for which no winner was declared, saying they were "highly commendable", "relevant", "informative as well as educative".

"Topical and contemporary issues were treated with robust local examples," he said.

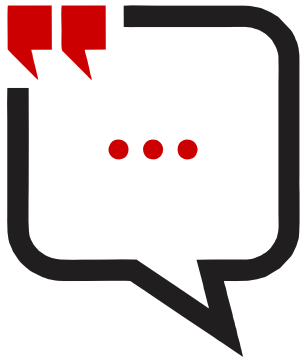


*The Nation Newspaper award winners*

# FUNDERS







## QUOTES FROM INTERVIEWS ON CAPACITY/CAREER DEVELOPMENT

### *How to enhance capacity / career development*

In 2020, some top media professionals were interviewed on their career journeys during which they shared their thoughts on capacity/career development. Key quotes from the interviews published in [www.mediacareerng.com](http://www.mediacareerng.com) are reproduced here.

#### Carefully study the job description and required skill set - Soyinka

*What are the basic requirements to be employed in international media organizations based on your experience?*

I would say education, skills and experience. The requirements are not much different from what is obtainable in other newsrooms, locally. It is just that you need to carefully study the job description and required skill set and be sure that you have them before bothering to apply for the role. I must also say that colleagues need to understand that the era where it was sufficient to have just one skill as a journalist is over. Today's journalist is expected to have multi-media skills.

*What is your advice for journalists seeking to enhance their career and taking advantage of global opportunities?*

Acquire multi-media skills and if possible, learn a second international language apart from English. Then actively seek out such international opportunities. Go online and search for them.

In some cases, you may need to register your profile on some platforms so that whenever opportunities are matching your skills and experience, you get an automated invitation to apply for such roles. For instance, I know you can do that on the Jobs board of The Conversation Africa website and you can do that on the BBC Careers website.

*Adejuwon Soyinka, a 2019 Emmy Awards nominee, is Regional Editor (West Africa) [The Conversation Africa](http://TheConversationAfrica.com). Before his present appointment, he was Editor/Head, [BBC Pidgin Service](http://BBCPidginService.com) at BBC World Service, Senior Special Assistant (Media) to the Ogun State Governor, Deputy General Editor, TELL and Editor, [www.tell.ng](http://www.tell.ng) at Tell Magazine.*

#### Uphold ethical standards - Akoshile

*What is your advice for media professionals who want to excel and remain relevant in the industry?*

The hallmark of media excellence is absolute professionalism. It's as simple as that. A journalist that wants to be relevant will continue to uphold ethical standards in discharging the weighty burden of public trust that journalism entails. Once firmly established, the reporter's integrity encourages the readers to vouch for the credibility of the news, even if the news report was unpalatable.

*Mr. Aliu Akoshile, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, NatureNews and former Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Times.*

## You must be disciplined - Yishau

*What is your advice for journalists who want to write books and earn additional income?*

Writing a book requires discipline. Journalists are always talking about time and claiming they do not have time. But, if you want to author a book and I am not talking about compiling articles written over a period of years, you just have to create the time. Without this, you can't write a book.

You must be discipline to decide what time you would be able to write. It could be early morning before going for assignments or to your beat; it could be at night after getting home, or it could be weekend. As a matter of fact, it could even be during your free period in the office.

Anytime I am working on a new project, I write early in the morning. When I am set for the office, I will either copy it on a memory stick or send to my e-mail and when I have a free few minutes, I write and when I need to attend to my official duty, I save what I have done.

Abroad, journalists are given leave of absence by their employers to write books on issues relating to their areas of specialisation. I hope we will get there someday in Nigeria, but until then, you have to create the time. At the worst, you can write during your annual leave, which we all are entitled to.

[Olukorede S. Yishau](#) is an award-winning journalist, novelist and short-story writer. His first novel, [In the Name of Our Father](#), has been a subject of thesis by students in Nigerian universities. It was published by Parrésia Publishers Limited in 2018 and described by two-time Booker finalist Chigozie Obioma as a 'work of deceptive simplicity'. His collection of short stories 'Vaults of Secrets' is his sophomore.

His poems were published in an anthology of poetry *ACTIVISTS POETS*. His essays and short stories have appeared in different publications. The Associate Editor of *The Nation Newspaper*

## Learn the tools for data journalism – Olufemi

*What should the average Nigerian journalist do to enhance his or her data-reporting skills?*

First is to have the passion and be ready to put in the work. The work mainly is learning the tools, tricks that are used in data journalism. This extends to familiarising yourself with the computer applications and research methods used by data journalists and then going the last mile to practice them. It is advisable to start with a small task and gradually move to the big ones.

I must emphasize that becoming a data journalist starts with learning the use of a spreadsheet usually called Microsoft Excel. I can say categorically that 80 per cent of the data journalism done in Nigeria and almost globally can be achieved with spreadsheet (MS Excel). This application can do data collection, cleaning (even though this depends on how dirty the data is), analysis and visualization.

When you have a perfect handle on Excel, you can then begin to advance to learning databases e.g. SQL as well as advanced data analysis tools such as Microsoft Power BI, Tableau, Qlik, Flourish, R programming, JavaScript and Python.

Also, Dataphyte is offering training and technical support to anyone who is interested in becoming a data journalist or who is a practising data journalist. First, we go the extra mile to provide data to any journalists who need them for storytelling. Second, we connect them to funding opportunities for fieldwork when that is required. We recently provisioned story grants to six journalists interested in using procurement and treasury data for investigating COVID-19 spending. This is in partnership with the Public and Private Development Centre which is actually the organisation giving the grants while we provided data and training support.

Third, we provide editorial mentorship to help journalists realise their data reports. Also, we offer our data journalism platform, [dataphyte.com](#), to any journalist to showcase their data journalism story. We are launching our data journalism bootcamps soon and we will be starting with student journalists across tertiary institutions in the country.

*Joshua Olufemi, founder of Dataphyte and former Director of Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism (PTCIJ) is a media management executive with experience in investigative journalism, open data advocacy, civic innovation, and media development in Nigeria.*





## Define your purpose, be intentional - **Mussa**

*What major steps have you taken to enhance your capacity on the job to be able to switch to different aspects of media work?*

Defining my purpose and being intentional about what I want to achieve as a journalist set the foundation for me. I always evaluate my career development plans and set goals in line with my purpose of being a journalist.

These evaluations help me see where there are gaps, where I need further training or coaching etc. and I take the necessary steps to improve.

*She started off as a radio journalist thirteen years ago. By dint of intentional career development planning and mastery of relevant skills, Comfort (Commy) Mussa has become multiple award-winning multimedia journalist through her work with local and international media organisations in Cameroon.*



## Study emerging trends and prepare for them - **Alade**

*How can journalists better maximise online opportunities?*

The opportunities are limitless and we need to embrace them. But understanding purpose is key and willingness to adapt to changes. There are many opportunities but how prepared/relevant are you?

I will always advise journalists to study emerging trends and prepare themselves for them. International organisations and publications are releasing reports relevant to the digital world, check how to domesticate them where you are. Create a niche or get an area you are interested in and become the boss but today, I see everybody running after general news; sadly, they ended up as 'copy and paste' journalists.

*Alade Abiodun was former Online Editor of Daily Trust Newspaper.*



## Get the right person to recommend you - **Adebayo**

*Nieman Fellowship application is very rigorous. What was your experience with the application process and advice for future applicants?*

I began filling my application two months before I submitted and took my time to phrase and reflect on what I wanted to spend my time at Harvard on. I also looked out for journalists that I knew would have the time to talk about my strengths and why I am the right person to benefit from the fellowship.

It's crucial to put in those who know you professionally and have worked with you before and not be carried away trying to get recommendations from editors who don't know you well enough to say something significant about your skills. I'll say know the topic you want to pursue, it should be something you have prior experience covering or reporting. It should be an area you have knowledge and information about because that will inform how well you will defend it during the interview.

I know we sometimes leave applications to the last minute, but for a Nieman Fellowship, start your application early, and keep tweaking your study plan till you're happy enough to submit it.

*Senior Producer for Cable News Network (CNN) Africa, Bukola Adebayo, who was selected for the 2020-21 class of Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University*



## Take advantage of the Internet - Opara-Fatoye

### *What professional steps did you take to get to your present career position?*

To be honest, it is a very long journey. I got a glimpse of how my career should go when I was attached to The Guardian Newspaper in Lagos during my 300-level industrial training- I just knew this was what I wanted. So, during my youth service in Jigawa state, I got a taste of working in the broadcast media- radio – I really loved but still decided to do print and after school, I got my first job as a fresh graduate with Leadership Newspapers in Abuja.

It was a tough journey, what I was experiencing especially as it had to do with career development and finance did not match my progress book, so I had to re-strategize. I took advantage of the internet- Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook to seek for new ways I could improve my career and opportunities that will help me. I dedicated my time every day to do this.

Then, grace and luck found me because I was persistent and did not give up. I got my first break in 2013, when I was invited by the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa, FARA, to report on the proceedings of the 6th Africa Agricultural Science Week conference in Accra, Ghana. I also won a grant to undertake an investigative story on traditional medicine from the Africa Academy of Sciences and in 2014.

I won the International Development Research Centre, Canada (IDRC) -Research Africa Science Journalism Award. I have interned with Research Africa in Cape Town, South Africa and also worked with Research London covering science and higher education news. In this time, I undertook a research project that examines Nigeria's research funding landscape and how funding announcements are communicated to researchers in the country in comparison to Tanzania. I visited Tanzania and had the first-hand opportunity to meet scientists and journalists and then I proceeded to join the South African Research and Innovation Management Association to participate in the Science Communication postdoctoral breakaway workshop in Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Studies, STIAS, in Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

This birthed my advocacy programs on Science Communication in Africa and I have been invited by universities and institutions in Nigeria like the Centre of Excellence in Reproductive Health Innovation, CERHI, a World Bank-supported program at the University of Benin, Nigeria, the almighty Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities – this was one speaking engagement that was so dear to me, because I had the privileged opportunity to speak to all the vice-chancellors of Nigerian universities that attended the conference at Kwara State University, Illorin. I was glad that I was able to create a niche and opportunity for myself with sheer hard work, discipline and persistence. I did not stop, I kept on looking for an opportunity to grow my career when the position of the regional deputy editor for SciDev.Net came up, I delved into it and here I am

*Jackie Opara-Fatoye is the Regional Deputy Editor – Sub-Saharan Africa [English] of SciDev.Net reputed to be the world's leading free source of news, views and analysis about science and technology in the developing world.*





## Constantly update your knowledge - **Otusanya**

*Based on your experience so far, what is your advice for aspiring broadcast journalists?*

Zeal is paramount in one's quest to become a Broadcast Journalist, money shouldn't top the list. It's been known from time immemorial that Journalism is not about money. Be sure you have the interest before venturing into it.

As an individual progresses on the job, know what is expected and required of you. Never assume you know it all. Ask questions, from anybody and everybody. A Newscaster, for example, has to be in sync with happenings around, verify stories received from reporters; Errors are not avoidable. Make the internet your friend. And when in doubt, leave out.

A program anchor should never be eager to break stories on air without proper findings and verification. Ask about name pronunciations: Persons (François Hollande, for example, I have colleagues who got under fire for this). Countries and Cities (Sao Tome and Principe), the list is endless.

Seek knowledge in your field, always. Where affordable and available, get professional trainings, otherwise, read, read, read. Know the world evolving around you. Self-development.

For a Newscaster, who is required to translate from English a grasp of both languages cannot be overemphasised. It is so easy to err when you do not understand what you're translating. And some errors on-air are unpardonable. Understand and observe the rules guiding the two languages involved in your translation. Again, ask questions.

Do not set out to compete or be like anyone, don't imitate your 'idol'. Be you. You will stand out.

*Abimbola Otusanya is of FAAJI 106.5FM, Lagos*



## Will power is important - **Montu**

*What is your advice for journalists from coastal areas about taking up the challenge of covering the coasts in their countries?*

In this type of challenging journalism, one's willpower is the most important. Must have self-confidence. After mentally preparing, he will have to make other preparations. Coastal journalism must have the strength to work hard. Must have 16-18 hours of the continuous workforce. Must have the courage to stay and travel in disaster-prone areas. Must be in close contact with people. He must understand the geography of the coast. The entire coast should be searched round the clock. You have to think about the issues of report writing. Must be kept with the necessary materials.

*What skills and knowledge are required?*

Any journalist who has no prior skills can work on coastal issues. But he has to study. It is necessary to have a clear idea about the geographical position of the coast. Coastal people need to know about occupations and livelihoods. It is important to keep in mind which times of the year there are more crises in the coastal areas. It is necessary to have an idea about the laws, policies, etc. of the government regarding the coast. We have to keep an eye on government development activities in the coastal areas.

*Rafiqul Islam Montu, Coastal Journalism Specialist from Bangladesh is an accomplished awardwinning journalist.*



## Media NGOs/Institutions

# Database

### Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Reporting

-  **Executive Director**  
**Motunrayo Alaka**
-  *18A, Abiodun Sobajo Street,  
off Lateef Jakande Road,  
Agidingbi, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria.*
-  09082515179
-  [www.wscij.org](http://www.wscij.org)
-  [wscij@wscij.org](mailto:wscij@wscij.org)
-  @WSoyinkaCentre

### International Press Centre

-  **Executive Director**  
**Lanre Arogundade**
-  *House 11, Dideolu Court, Dideolu  
Estate 2nd Gate Bus Stop,  
Ijaiye Road, Ogba, Lagos, Nigeria.*
-  0816 220 6470
-  [www.ipcng.org](http://www.ipcng.org)
-  [admin@ipcng.org](mailto:admin@ipcng.org)
-  @IPCng

### Media Rights Agenda

-  **Executive Director**  
**Edetaen Ojo**
-  *31/33, Ladipo Kasumu Street,  
Off Adeleke Street, Off Allen Avenue,  
Ikeja, Lagos*
-  +234 1 4936033 & 4936034
-  [www.mediarightsagenda.org](http://www.mediarightsagenda.org)
-  [mra@mediarightsagenda.org](mailto:mra@mediarightsagenda.org)
-  @MRA\_Nigeria

### International Centre for Investigative Reporting

-  **Executive Director**  
**Dayo Aiyetan**
-  *22 Koforidua Street,  
Wuse Zone 2. Abuja*
-  +234-8033034675
-  [www.icirnigeria.org](http://www.icirnigeria.org)
-  [info@icirnigeria.org](mailto:info@icirnigeria.org)
-  @TheICIR

### Premium Times Centre for Investigative Reporting

- 👤 *Executive Director*  
**Dapo Olorunyomi**
- 🏠 *53, Mambolo Street, Zone 2, Wuse, Abuja.*
- ☎ 0810 419 8112
- 🌐 [www.ptcij.org](http://www.ptcij.org)
- ✉ [info@ptcij.org](mailto:info@ptcij.org)
- 🐦 @ptcij

### Development Communications

- 👤 *Programme Director*  
**Akin Jimoh.**
- 🏠 *26 Adebola Street, Off Adeniran Ogunsanya, Surulere Lagos, Nigeria.*
- ☎ +234-1-8196309, +234-803-3053713
- 🌐 [www.devcomsnetwork.org](http://www.devcomsnetwork.org)
- ✉ [info@devcomsnetwork.org](mailto:info@devcomsnetwork.org)
- 🐦 @DevComs

### Cable Newspapers Journalism Foundation

- 👤 *Executive Director*  
**Simon Kolawole**
- 🏠 *LAGOS: 5b Iyalla Street, Alausa, Ikeja*  
*ABUJA: Suite 303, Zeto Court, 3 Osogbo Close Off Emeka Anyaoku Street, Area 11 Garki,*
- ☎ +234 811 397 5332
- 🌐 [www.thecable.ng](http://www.thecable.ng)
- ✉ [info@thecable.ng](mailto:info@thecable.ng)
- 🐦 @CableFoundation

### Daily Trust Foundation

- 👤 *Programmes Director*  
**Theophilus Abbah**
- 🏠 *No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar way, Behind CHIDA Hotel Utako District, Abuja*
- ☎ 0803 389 5294
- 🌐 [www.dailytrustfoundation.org](http://www.dailytrustfoundation.org)
- ✉ [info@dailytrustfoundation.org](mailto:info@dailytrustfoundation.org)
- 🐦 @Daily\_TrustF

### ActionAID Nigeria

- 👤 *Communications Coordinator*  
**Lola Ayanda**
- 🏠 *Plot 477, 41 Crescent, off Sa'adu Zungur Avenue, Gwarinpa Abuja.*
- ☎ 0812 8888 2527
- 🌐 [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)
- ✉ [nihinlola.ayanda@actionaid.org](mailto:nihinlola.ayanda@actionaid.org)
- 🐦 @ActionAidNG


### Journalism & Development Seminars Initiative


- 👤 *Executive Director*  
**Angela Agoawike**
- 🏠 *Suite B9, B9, Alphacell Plaza, Plot 12, Ebitu Ukiwe Street, Jabi, Abuja.*
- ☎ +2348096502062
- 🌐 [www.jadeseminars.org.ng](http://www.jadeseminars.org.ng)
- ✉ [Info@jadeseminars.org.ng](mailto:Info@jadeseminars.org.ng)  
[jadeseminars@gmail.com](mailto:jadeseminars@gmail.com)
- 🐦 @jadeseminarsngr



### Africa Check

 *Nigeria Editor*  
**David Ajikobi**

 *Plot 8, Providence Street, Lekki  
Phase One, Lagos, Nigeria*

 09083777789

 [www.africacheck.org](http://www.africacheck.org)


 [info@africacheck.org](mailto:info@africacheck.org)

 @africacheck\_NG

### Civic Media Lab

 *Executive Director*  
**Akinfolarin Oluwaseun**

 *13a, Isaac John, GRA, Ikeja*

 09093302343


 [www.civichub.com.ng](http://www.civichub.com.ng)


 [seun@civichub.com.ng](mailto:seun@civichub.com.ng)

 @civicmedialab


### Human Rights Journalism Network


 *Founder/ED/Coordinator*  
**Kehinde Adegboyega**

 *Lagos, Nigeria*

 08061140996




 [humanrightsjournalistsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:humanrightsjournalistsnetwork@gmail.com)

 @HRJN10


### Ripples Centre for Data and Investigative Journalism


 *Executive Director*  
**Samuel Ibemere**

 *103, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi,  
Lagos, Nigeria.*


 +2348090394527, +2347037351967


 [www.rcdij.org](http://www.rcdij.org)


 [info@rcdij.org](mailto:info@rcdij.org)

 @rcdij

### Dataphyte

 *Founder*  
**Joshua Olufemi**

 *F-wing bassan plaza Central Business  
District Area, Abuja, Nigeria*

 08116665321


 [www.dataphyte.com](http://www.dataphyte.com)


 [admin@dataphyte.com](mailto:admin@dataphyte.com)


 @Dataphyte

### Journalists International Forum For Migration ( JIFORM )


 *President*  
**Ajibola Abayomi**

 *9, Iyalla Street, Alausa, Ikeja,  
Lagos State, Nigeria.*

 +234(0)8111811225,  
+234(0)8036458653


 [www.jiform.org](http://www.jiform.org)

 [jjformalert@gmail.com](mailto:jjformalert@gmail.com),  
[info@jiform.org](mailto:info@jiform.org)


 @jiform


### **PAGED Initiatives, Abuja**


 *Executive Director*  
**Ummi Bukar**

 *1 Moundou street off Parakou  
Crescent Wuse 2 Abuja*

 08118656000, 07015104354

 [www.pagedinitiative.org](http://www.pagedinitiative.org)


 [pagedinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:pagedinitiative@gmail.com)  
[info@pagedinitiative.org](mailto:info@pagedinitiative.org)


 @pagedinitiative


### **Journalists Against AIDS**


 *Executive Director*  
**Olayide Akanni**

 *14 Fadare street Ogba, Lagos Nigeria.*

 0902 696 9713


 [www.nigeria-aids.org](http://www.nigeria-aids.org)


 [Jaaidnsng@nigeria-aids.org](mailto:Jaaidnsng@nigeria-aids.org)  
[jaaidnsng@gmail.com](mailto:jaaidnsng@gmail.com)

 @jaaidnsngr

### **Media Career Development Network**

 *Executive Director*  
**Lekan Otufodunrin**

 *14 Fadare Street, (End of Kayode Street)  
Besides Normal Children's School,  
off Ijaye Road, Ogba Lagos*

 +2348023000621,  
+2348050498530


 [www.mediareerng.org](http://www.mediareerng.org)


 [info@mediareerng.org](mailto:info@mediareerng.org)


 @mediareerngr


### **LightRays**


 *CEO/Founder*  
**Ejiro Umukoro**

 *Franklin Atake, Warri and Asaba.*

 +234 803 592 6901

 [www.lightraymedia.org](http://www.lightraymedia.org)


 [contactlightraymedia@gmail.com](mailto:contactlightraymedia@gmail.com)  
[erumukoro@gmail.com](mailto:erumukoro@gmail.com)

 @LightrayM


### **Institute for Media and Society**

 *Executive Director*  
**Akin Akingbulu**

 *3a Emina Crescent, Off Toyin Street,  
Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa.*

 08033079828


 [www.imesoimeso.org](http://www.imesoimeso.org)

 [info@imesoimeso.org](mailto:info@imesoimeso.org),  
[imesoimeso@hotmail.com](mailto:imesoimeso@hotmail.com)


 @imesoimeso

### **i-79 Media Consults**

 08188902246

 [www.i79media.com](http://www.i79media.com)

 [info@i79media.com](mailto:info@i79media.com),  
[i79mediaconsults@gmail.com](mailto:i79mediaconsults@gmail.com)

 @i79media







### **Illuminate Nigeria Development Network**

-  *Executive Team Lead*  
**Funke-Treasure Durodola**
-  *9, Dele Adedayo Street, Ramat Crescent, Ogudu GRA. Ojota. Lagos*
-  08147937878
-  [www.mysanitarypad.com](http://www.mysanitarypad.com)
-  [sharingwithtreasure@gmail.com](mailto:sharingwithtreasure@gmail.com)
- 

### **Tech Mirror Magazine**

-  *Editor*  
**Olanrewaju Oyedeji**
-  *111, Gidado Idris Way Wuye, Abuja*
-  +234-8164847752,  
+234-9055552048
-  [www.techmirrormag.com.ng](http://www.techmirrormag.com.ng)
-  [info@techmirrormag.com.ng](mailto:info@techmirrormag.com.ng)
-  @realtechmirror

### **The Journalism Clinic**

-  *Founder*  
**Taiwo Obe**
-  *Virtual*
-  +2348023130829
-  [www.thejournalismclinic.com](http://www.thejournalismclinic.com)
-  [founder@TheJournalismClinic.com](mailto:founder@TheJournalismClinic.com)
-  @Clinic4Journos

### **African Women in Media**

-  *Founder*  
**Dr Yemisi Akinbobola**
-  [www.africanwomeninmedia.com](http://www.africanwomeninmedia.com)
-  [yemisi@africanwomeninmedia.com](mailto:yemisi@africanwomeninmedia.com)  
[joy@africanwomeninmedia.com](mailto:joy@africanwomeninmedia.com)  
[dele@africanwomeninmedia.com](mailto:dele@africanwomeninmedia.com)
-  @RealAWiM

### **African Foundation for Young Media Professionals**

-  *Director of Communications and Project Leadmode Resource Centre*  
**Yinka Olaito**
-  *33 Queen Street off Herbert Macaulay Road. Alagomeji, Yaba, Lagos*
-  +2347061194389  
+2348093160591
-  [www.afymp.org](http://www.afymp.org)
-  [info@afymp.org](mailto:info@afymp.org)
- 

### **Medrive**

-  *Founder/Creative Director*  
**Wemimo Adewuni**
- 
-  08067892787
-  [www.medrive.org](http://www.medrive.org)
-  [info@medrive.org](mailto:info@medrive.org),  
[medriveng@gmail.com](mailto:medriveng@gmail.com)
-  @medriveng





# HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR MEDIA CAREER IN 2021

*Career Development specialist, Lekan Otufodunrin highlights lessons from the career accomplishments of a female journalist in 2020 and suggests what journalists should do in 2021.*

In case you missed it, below is what [Elfredah Kelvin](#), a journalist based in Port Harcourt, River State shared online on December 31 titled “OVERVIEW OF INCREDIBLE 2020” about what she accomplished in 2020.

\*Over 11 grants from different organizations (within & Outside Nigeria)

“Multiple fully funded events (online & Offline) \* 4-Fellowship (within & Outside Nigeria)

\*While enjoying Freelancing; Got 3 full-time job offers. Rejected two. Very proud of the job I accepted.

\* Eight months deal in Dakar, Senegal on issues concerning Niger Delta region.

\* Invited and got paid as a facilitator for a 2-day program.

IT WASN'T EASY. GOD'S GRACE WAS JUST TOO SUFFICIENT.

In the year 2020 when Coronavirus disrupted our lives and work in

many ways than we envisaged, it's incredible that Elfredah accomplished so much in her career.

Rather than giving up on 2020 and leaving her career to chances, if any ever comes, she must have been more than ever determined to succeed and maximize every opportunity she got.

I knew Elfredah who is now a Reporter @GazetteNGR since her fellowship year in the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism Female Leadership Reporters programme.

She was hungry to learn. She was

determined to overcome her limitations. She refused to be discouraged by the lack of commensurate pay for her work and hustles. She refused to see herself as a local reporter and dared to seek opportunities where many, with even better qualifications and experience, would not attempt.

She maximized every opportunity like when Media Career Development Network offered token data support (N1-5,000) for journalists to participate in webinars.

She was very appreciative of the offer, participated in a webinar and

wrote [a very insightful report which was the condition for getting the support.](#)

I can imagine the sacrifices she must have made as a married woman and mother to meet the demands of the various assignments she has to do in her workplace and other programmes she has

“  
**You will also need to widen your horizon and networks. The circle within which you operate and your mentality is crucial to how much progress you can make in the profession. Be inquisitive, seek relevant information and belong to networks that can advance your career online and offline.**”

participated in.

If she had listened to discouraging comments of some colleagues who must have thought she was unnecessarily ambitious, she wouldn't have come anyway near how far she has come from being a local reporter to being a journalist reckoned with nationally and globally.

Despite the challenges in our industry, there are many opportunities waiting for those who don't easily give up. What is important is to strategically try hard and smart enough and be satisfied you have done your best even if you don't get what you want.

In 2021, let it not be that you believe that you can't make better career progress beyond the level you are now. Don't get too worried about the second wave of COVID-19 and be expecting the worst in your career.

Among other steps, you must take, redefine your career goals in the light of the rapidly changing media landscape and have a work plan on how to achieve your aspirations.

Be honest about your limitations, including relevant skills and qualifications you don't have and plan how to acquire them. If your progress will depend on the skills and qualifications, stop wishing about getting them, get them now.

Apart from enrolling for regular courses, there are free online courses and training you can participate in.

There are numerous free online resources for anyone hungry for knowledge.

You will also need to widen your horizon and networks. The circle within which you operate and your mentality is crucial to how much progress you can make in the profession. Be inquisitive, seek relevant information and belong to networks that can advance your career online and offline.

In whatever you do, be innovative and think about new and better ways of doing your assignments and projects. Keep tab of global best practices and don't be contented with how things have always been done. Use new

technology to improve your output. Audit your areas of coverage and be sure you are not covering only a part of what you should be reporting or writing about. Find new experts to quote and let your audience get a sense of new perspectives in your content.

One last point, ensure maximum visibility for your work and accomplishments. Don't be too modest to deny yourself necessary acknowledgement for what you deserved to be known and rewarded for. Work on your online presence and be searchable for your expertise.

What happens if the situation in the media don't get better and there are fewer opportunities? That should be the least of your problem. Always remember that when the going gets tough, only the tough gets going.

If Elfredah succumbed to the Coronavirus fears, she would have written about HORRIBLE 2020 and not INCREDIBLE 2020



*Participants at the training for campus journalists by the Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation*



## ABOUT US

# MEDIA CAREER DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



*Dr Oloruntola Sunday*



*Mrs Ugonma Cokey*



*Alhaji Yusuf Alli*



*Mrs Sekinah Lawal*

**M**edia Career Development Network (MCDN) is a registered not-for-profit and non-political organization with the following aims and objectives:

To promote excellence in media practice in Nigeria

To organise media training and provide mentoring support for journalists and media professionals.

To produce resource materials to enhance media career development.

To engage in advocacy for freedom of the press in Nigeria.

To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, share experience, find mutual support and guidance for media professionals.

To protect the interest & welfare of journalists and media professionals

Our management team led by the founder and Executive Secretary, Lekan Otufodunrin, a media career specialist and journalist are made up of experienced journalists with local and international network to meet the career development needs of journalists and media professionals.

Our Board of Trustees members made up accomplished media professionals and academics are:

Dr Oloruntola Sunday, (Chairman) Associate Professor of Mass

Communication, University of Lagos, Alhaji Yusuf Alli, Managing Editor, Northern Operations, The Nation Newspapers,

Mrs Ugonma Cokey, (Treasurer) Deputy Director, Voice of Nigeria, Mrs Sekinah Lawal, Former Chairperson, Lagos Chapter of the National Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ)

Lekan Otufodunrin, Columnist and former Managing Editor, The Nation Newspapers (Executive Secretary)

Initially registered as Media Career Service since 2003, we have been devoted to promoting excellence in media practice and providing resources to meet the challenges of media career through regular training, mentoring and coaching for all categories of journalists and other media professionals in Nigeria and elsewhere.

Acknowledged as Nigeria's foremost media career development organization, we organize seminars, workshops, conferences and awards aimed at enhancing the skills of journalists.

We provide mentoring and coaching support for journalists to accomplish their career goals and aspirations.

We identify and help facilitate Fellowship opportunities for interested

journalists in a diverse field of journalism practice.

Through our website, [www.mediacareerng.org](http://www.mediacareerng.org) we provide daily updated media industry reports, including news, jobs, training, interviews, views and more which attracts readership globally and quoted by top organisations and professionals. We collaborate with other local and international media Non-Governmental Organisations for the implementation of their programmes and the overall development of the media industry.

Organisations we have collaborated with over the years to meet the increasing career demands of journalists, include International Press Centre, Lagos, the Lagos Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Nigeria Guild of Editors, International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR), Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Reporting, Premium Times Centre for Investigative Reporting, Journalists Against AIDS (JAAIDS), Nigeria, Posterity Media, The Omololu Falobi Foundation, Media Concern for Women and Children (MEDIACOM), Writers Training Institute and the Development Alliance, amongst others.