



**MEDIA
CAREER
DEVELOPMENT
NETWORK**

• Training • Mentoring • Coaching



NIGERIA MEDIA CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2021

Training | Workshop | Interviews | Database | Career Advice

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® August 2022

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INTRODUCTION



We missed our target for producing this second edition of our annual report due to delays in getting some of the required reports and other factors, but we prefer that it is better published than not having one, even if it is for record purpose. Reports of the programmes and activities of some media Non-Governmental Organisations and groups are not in this edition, but readers will still find detailed reports of many others that continues to provide numerous training opportunities and resources for Nigerian journalists and their media organisations. In 2021 the media groups featured in this report organised many seminars, workshops and roundtables on various aspects of media coverage and required skills to enhance the capacity of participants. They published reports on different issues in the media and funded reports by journalists across the country.

The publication of this annual report is to provide journalists and other media stakeholders' access to the details of the tremendous work being done by the media NGOs and encourage better maximisation of the available opportunities.

Why some journalists have continued to utilise the training opportunities and resources, many more journalists, especially beyond the major cities and media houses still need to know more about how to enhance their careers. Apart from the programmes of the media NGOs, this report has a database of all necessary contact details for interested journalists. Key insightful excerpts from major interviews with top journalists in Nigeria and on the continent on our websites are reproduced in this report.

Lecturers in media training institutions and their students will also find our report very useful to access more practical and contemporary trainings beyond the

academic environment. They will find useful publications for some of the courses offered.

While many media organisations may not be able to afford regular training for their staff due to lack of the required funding, they should collaborate with the media NGOs for in-house programmes and project implementation.

They should be willing to grant their staff permission to fully participate in trainings and fellowships which will enhance their capacity. Without regular trainings, journalists will be unable to meet the demands of contemporary journalism practice which will determine the survival of media organisations.

Individual journalists should also appreciate the need to update their skills to make themselves suitable for emerging job roles in the changing media landscape.

Lekan Otufodunrin
Executive Director

Cable
Newspaper
Journalism
Foundation



Africa
Check

IPCC
INTERNATIONAL PRESS CENTRE

RCDIJ
Ripples Centre for Data and
Investigative Journalism

Light Ray



ptcij
PREMIUM TIMES CENTRE FOR
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM



PAN-ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY

TECH
Mirror Media

Media

Media
Rights
Agenda

Dataphyte



2021
MEDIA NGOs/
INSTITUTIONS
PROGRAMMES

ASSOCIATION OF
COMMUNICATION SCHOLARS
& PROFESSIONALS OF NIGERIA



NIGER
in PUBL
NGWIPR



African Women in the Media

DEVCOMS
Network



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JOURNALISM
CLINIC



i-79 Media Consults

actionaid

DAILY TRUST
FOUNDATION

NIGERIAN
GUILD OF
EDITORS



CODE for
AFRICA

ICIR
INTERNATIONAL
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REPORTING

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Daily Trust Foundation Trains Over 200 Journalists In 2021

Daily Trust Foundation is the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Media Trust Limited, publishers of *Daily Trust* titles, offline and online. Among its several activities, the Foundation is engaged in capacity building for journalists across platforms, with support from MacArthur Foundation. Journalists were trained in the craft of investigative reporting, as part of MacArthur Foundation's support for deepening transparency and accountability in governance in Nigeria.

In 2021, Daily Trust Foundation trained more than 200 journalists from several media organisations in Nigeria. The tripartite focus of the training programme include helping journalists to do critical reporting, data journalism and multimedia reporting, with emphasis of Mobile Journalism (MOJO).

According to Dr Theophilus Abbah, the programme director at Daily Trust Foundation, the workshops were very intensive, like any masterclasses, as journalists were not just taken through the craft of investigative reporting, but were exposed to the nuances of several sectors.

Abbah said, "We have discovered that journalists find it difficult to carry out investigative reporting because they barely understand the sectors they cover. They lack in-depth knowledge of the laws and policies guiding the sectors they cover. They, on their own, may not identify a wrongdoing, even if it is



being committed under their nose. Our strategy was to put journalists in the same room with industry experts who would take them through fundamental issues about identified sectors. During the masterclasses we introduced techniques for investigative reporting, as presentations by experts threw up a lot of story ideas for participants."

The sectors so covered include: State and Federal Budgetary Process; Agricultural Sector; Financial Sector; and Extractive Sector, each of them for four days. Participants in the workshops were nominated from Daily Trust, Leadership, Peoples Daily, Nigeria Television Authority, The Authority, Blueprint, Daily Nigeria, HumAngle, Nature News, National Accord, and some civil society organisations.

Apart from workshops about the four sectors, Daily Trust Foundation trained journalists in multimedia reporting (documentary production) across the six geopolitical zones. "The focus of the training was the use of mobile phones to effectively report across platforms," Abbah said. He added, "With the convergence of the media as a result of the Internet, any journalist who cannot create contents for multiple platforms cannot fit into modern journalism. The mobile phone has in-built tools for photography, video recording, voice recording, video and audio editing, uploading contents on the backend of websites, and the amplification of stories on social media platforms. What we did was to put journalists through how this is done, in three days."

The multimedia reporting training was carried out at the following locations: North-East (Yola); North-West (Katsina); North-Central (Lokoja); South-West (Ibadan), and South-East/South-South (Uyo). For each of these workshops, there were an average



of 30 participants, drawn from national and local media organisations, and across broadcast, print, and online platforms.

As the Foundation's journalism training objective is to entrench the art of investigative reporting, it organised several training events around the current approaches to this brand of journalism. The Foundation had a workshop for journalists who were less than a year in the profession, interns and members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC). They were introduced to investigative reporting, data journalism, fact-checking and verification, geo-journalism, mobile journalism, news writing and editing, and how to write for online.

On the Foundation's take-away during the 2021 training programmes, Abbah said, "We have discovered that many journalists have not passed through essential training events that would enhance their capacity to do their job. For instance, one editor told us he had not sat in a room to be



trained in 15 years. He was excited at the kind of exposure we gave to young journalists. Incidentally, this is the time journalists should embrace training, because new genres of journalism are emerging; things are being done differently from how they were a decade ago; and journalists need to migrate to platforms where people access their news. These create the imperative

for training."

Daily Trust Foundation plans to train more journalists in 2022, with focus on budget tracking and investigating public expenditure, and MasterClasses in Book Writing / Editing ; Film/Documentary Production; Document Digitization; Digital Marketing; and Media Entrepreneurship.





Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation

In 2021 The Cable Newspaper Foundation implemented some media training programs supported by Supported Mac Arthur Foundation and Open Society Initiative For West Africa (OSIWA) Mac Arthur supported the following:
Retooling for Impact, May, 18-19 2021:
Trainers- Fisayo Soyombo, multiple award-winning journalists, former editor of TheCable, Mike Uzor, Data/financial analyst and Mrs

Ugwoma Cokey, Director, Training, Voice of Nigeria
Budget reporting, November, 18-19, 2021
Trainers- Tolu Agunloye, lead partner, BudgIT, Sola Ayo-Aderele, former Editor, Online The Punch Newspapers
Cable colloquium: People-led demand for accountability December 15, 2021
OSIWA supported the following
Training workshop 1: Newswriting & Investigative

Journalism training. December 2020
Training workshop 2: Investigative Journalism: News, Facts and Data Reporting, Abuja, March 29-30
Webinar: Campus Journalism: Expanding Civic Engagements for Social Action and Participatory Democracy DATE: Aug 5, 2021
Physical Townhall meeting: Campus journalism as a tool for deepening democratic consciousness.

CABLE FOUNDATION ADVOCATES POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG CAMPUS JOURNALISTS

The importance of campus journalism as a tool for deepening democratic consciousness and active participation of youth in politics has been emphasised.

This was the crux of the town hall meeting organised by Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation (CNJF).

The event, which took place on Thursday in Lagos, had students from various higher institutions across the country in attendance.

The town hall meeting was implemented under the Campus Civic Media Campaign (CCMC) of the CNJF, with support from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA).

Olufemi Atoyebi, programme officer, CCMC, said the aim of the event is to examine the role of campus journalists and youths in democracy, especially with the momentum for the 2023 general election gathering pace.

“The town hall meeting is also designed to examine the youths’

understanding of issues bedevilling Nigeria's democracy and to assess the performance of new media in democracy,” he said.

Addressing participants at the town hall meeting, Cynthia Mbamalu, programme manager, Yiaga Africa, encouraged youths to engage in formal political processes and have a say in formulating policies.

She noted that 51.1 per cent of registered voters in the 2019 elections are young people within the ages of 18 and 35, adding that the number has the potential to increase by 2023.

The panelists at the town hall meeting included Steve Ayorinde, former commissioner for tourism, arts and culture, Lagos state;

Muyiwa Popoola, dean, faculty of communication & media studies, Ajayi Crowther University; and Kareem Itunnu, president, Association of Campus Journalists, Lagos State University (LASU).

Femi Owolabi, head of investigations at CNJF, moderated the panel discussion.

The discussion centred around the 2020 Lekki tollgate shooting as well as safeguarding press freedom in perilous times.

Samuel Olowookere, a participant from the University of Lagos, said the conversation helped him to gain a deeper understanding of the role of the media in promoting transparency and good governance.



2021 REPORT BY DEVCOMS NETWORK



The year 2021 featured finding a balance in programming as the effect of the global Pandemic (COVID-19) on the economy, health and wellbeing persisted in the country. Development Communications (DevComs) Network due to the COVID19 guidance and protocols, remotely hosted various health promotion campaigns on behavioral change such as media round tables and investigative field visits to improve on the overall health outcome for women and children.

PROGRAM BRIEF 1

Media Advocacy

State level media advocacy was implemented in collaboration with The Challenge Initiative (TC).

Devcoms facilitated **media roundtables** which brought together CSOs and professional journalists from different media organizations to discuss topical issues around family planning and contraceptive use among the youths and adolescents in Nigeria in order to put the issues in the front burner for policy action.

Trained health Correspondents embarked on Investigative Journalism to 43 local government areas in 8 States.

Mentoring and **Investigative field** visits were conducted to 49 primary Health care centres and State Health Care Boards, in the 8 states where the project was implemented which includes Anambra, Plateau, Edo, Bauch, Abia, Rivers, Gombe

and Nassarawa. This is an effort to drive media involvement in reducing maternal and child mortality by providing journalists the opportunity to have a real time picture of the state of the Family Planning clinics in those facilities and identify issues for media advocacy.

Sixteen (16) Round tables were conducted in the 8 participating states.-

Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission

To sustain key activities in the participating states DevComs worked with journalists in the 13 participating states under collaboration with TCI to initiate process of registration of state level media groups at the state level.



With financial and technical support from DevComs, 4 (31 percent) states have completed their registration and have received their Certificate of Registration. This step would encourage ownership among journalists at the state level and ensure sustainability of project activities at the state level.

PROGRAM BRIEF 2 **Strategic Media Engagement on COVID-19: Supported by National Research Foundation (NRF on Infectious**

Strategic Media Engagement is a cross-country research-based project for public understanding of infectious/non-Infectious diseases, most especially to highlight the impact of COVID19. Development Communications Network (Devcoms) is the lead implementer in collaboration with, Nigeria Heart Foundation (NHF), Media Diversity Centre (MDC) Kenya, and Media Network against Tobacco (MNAT), Zambia. This project targeting medical researchers, research institutes, and journalists is aimed at improving public understanding of the scientific basis of health, medical science and other scientific research in Africa.

The projects seek to improve public communication of science and public health in the media through training, development of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and syndication of report via various news mediums.

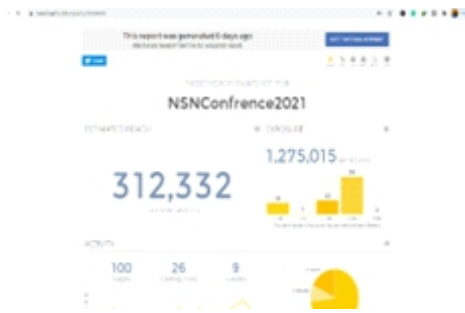
PROGRAM BRIEF 3 **Commemoration of United Nations' High Point Days**

To celebrate special United Nations' days such as International Women's Day (March 8), World Health Day (April 7), International Youth Day (August 12), and so on, Press releases were shared to all journalists on our contact via mailchimp to be used in their

various news media (traditional and new media). Devcoms also utilized various social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, Facebook to commemorate the days. Tweet sheets were shared and key stakeholders and policymakers were tagged.

PROGRAM BRIEF 4 **Media Publicity for Nutrition Society of Nigeria**

September 20th to 24th 2021
DevComs facilitated the Social Media Coverage and Communication Support for the 51st annual general meeting and scientific conference of **The Nutrition Society of Nigeria**



Hashtags Featured:
#NSNConference2021,
#NSNENUGU2021,
#NutritionConfrenceNG and was **number one on the trend table.**

The conference goal was to reach about 3 million social media users with messages and live occurrence of the 51st annual general meeting and scientific conference of the Nutrition Society of Nigeria with the aim of driving awareness towards nutrition-related concerns in Nigeria

After the conference, there was 3,331,955 impressions and 860,550 people were reached due to the pre-conference sensitization and social media engagement during the 3 days of conference days.

PROGRAM BRIEF 5 **Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC)**

Webinar.

25th of November, 2021
DevComs Network in partnership with the Health Promotion Association alumni (HPE, University of Ibadan) hosted a webinar titled; **Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) in a Disinformation Age.** The webinar was targeted at medical professionals, journalists, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development partners. The webinar witnessed high registration of participants from around the globe which demonstrated the willingness to allow for progressive social behavioral change communication in this disinformation age. In total, 155 attendees participated out of the over 510 people who showed interest to be part of the event. The program was anchored by Mr. Akin Jimoh the executive Director of DEVCOMS and Dr. Bright Orji President of the HPE alumni. Presentations were made by experts on three key thematic issues:

- SBCC in a Disinformation Age: Implications for theory, research and practice by Professor Adebayo Fayoyin.
- Health Promotion in Nigeria: Shifting Boundaries and Borders by Professor Ademola Ajuwon.
- UNICEF Unleashing transformational change through Youth Activism and Engagement by Professor Rufus Eshuchi.

PROGRAM BRIEF 6 **COVID-19 Materials Development for UNFPA:**

DevComs was engaged by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) on Media Material development on COVID19 in line with its mandate on the project “Engaging Civil Society Organizations to reverse

the negative impact of COVID-19 on equal access to essential health services”

The objective of the engagement was to design, develop and produce strategic communication materials on COVID-19. This is critical to facilitate civic education through risk communication lens as an important approach to facilitate behaviour change by addressing social norms and values that are harmful and enhance community transmission of COVID-19 but also to build the agencies of communities to claim their rights to essential health services and COVID-19 services.

PROGRAM BRIEF 7

Cross Country Advocacy Learning Event in collaboration with Mamaye

Devcoms Network anchored the Cross Country Advocacy Learning Event between Nigeria and Kenya on Maternal Newborn Child Adolescent Health (MNCAH). DevComs is a key member of the Knowledge Management and Communications sub-committee of Lagos State Accountability Mechanism for Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health (LASAM4MNCAH).

The event was put together for

Coalitions in Nigeria and Kenya to share lessons on different approaches applied in health advocacy within the countries. The advocacy learning event involved sharing of LASAM advocacy success stories and experiences using advocacy tools kits developed by E4A.

The focus area was on Health financing and key results achieved. Presentations centered on application of approaches like Political Economy Analysis and how the steps to change model has been useful in successfully advocating for increased resource allocation, release and utilization in health for improved relationship with government and other stakeholders.

PLANS FOR 2022

Devcoms Online radio goes live!

With the year already begun, we are excited to announce that Devcoms radio will test run from January 2022, focusing on public understanding of science and public health issues. The platform is an opportunity for communication/journalism student interns and youth corps members to hone their skills in science and public health journalism before joining the labour market.

Webinar for journalists: The DevComs-led cross-country

research project in collaboration with the MDC, Kenya, MNAT, Zambia and NHF, Nigeria will hold a webinar for journalists across the countries where findings from the qualitative and quantitative survey will be shared and knowledge of coverage of infectious and non-infectious diseases will be imparted. The facilitators and participants will be drawn from African countries.

Technical Support: To sustain our activities. DevComs will provide technical support for the newly registered state level media development groups in the 13 states across Nigeria.

Science fact Check: An Africa-wide initiative is scheduled for the second and third quarter of the year drawing journalists from across Africa.

Science Journalism: In the year 2022, DevComs will conduct series of activities to promote Science Journalism. An example of such is the Webinar for journalists offered by UNESCO, WHO and Knight Center. It is a new multilingual webinar for journalists reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic themed; “Variants, vaccines and medications: What journalists need to know to improve COVID-19 coverage” which holds on Thursday, Jan. 27.



Dataphyte

In 2021, Dataphyte trained over 354 media professionals from various organizations and agencies across the country in data journalism and data mining. The breakdown of the trained persons is as follows: 125 student journalists, 25 media institution lecturers, 120 practising journalists, over 20 government officials, and over 44 civil society practitioners.

Among the key modules developed and used for the training are Data Journalism, Overview of the National Open Data Ecosystem, Introduction to Spreadsheets/MS Excel, Introduction to Data Collection, Introduction to Data Cleaning, Introduction to Data Analysis, Introduction to Data Visualization, among others.

In the first quarter of 2021, Dataphyte focused on promoting data journalism pedagogy. To that end, the organization trained lecturers in two media learning institutions, program directors in one broadcast media organization, and desk leads in the extractive sector.

- Ten (10) members of the Mass Communication department at Koladasi University in Ibadan, Oyo state, were trained in Data Journalism for Media Literacy and Data-driven Reporting.

- Similarly, at the Nigerian Institute of Journalism, Ogba, Lagos, Nigeria, over 50 students and 12 lecturers were trained on the use of data journalism for media literacy and data-driven reporting, similar to the training provided to mass communication lecturers at



Koladasi University;

- 5 programme leads of a newly-founded broadcast radio station in Ibadan, Nigeria, Agidigbo 88.7FM were trained on data journalism for broadcasting;

- Dataphyte trained 15 journalists on the processes involved in data mining, including how to use Excel to analyze data and how to visualize data using applications, for the Daily Trust Foundation,

- 13 lead journalists covering the oil and gas sector were trained on how to critically understand and report the NNPC 2018 and 2019 Audit Reports.

In the second quarter of 2021, two training programs were held.

- Twenty (20) participants were taught how to use camera or

handset apps and other devices to produce short documentaries of fact-checked stories in a training at the Daily Trust Foundation, and

- 25 journalists were taken through the introduction to data journalism course in collaboration with the Daily Trust Foundation. Three training programs were held in the third quarter of 2021.

- Over 15 journalists were trained in Investigative Data Journalism in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State and Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, in collaboration with Policy Alert. The training assisted journalists in comprehending data on extractive payments, beneficial ownership, and contracts.

- Dataphyte collaborated with the Daily Trust Foundation to conduct Data Journalism Training for over 15 journalists in Abuja. The



procurement datasets. The training was conducted in collaboration with the Open Contracting Partnership.

- 20 civic actors from Ebonyi and Jigawa states were trained to mobilize subnational contract data for effective service delivery in Nigeria. The capacity building in Ebonyi occurred on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, and Thursday, November 18, 2021, while the training in Jigawa occurred on November 24, 2021, and November 25, 2021.

training participants were made aware of the gaps in the national public data framework. They were also taught data journalism as decision science, as well as tools for efficient data mining, data transformation, and analysis, as well as how to write an impactful data story.

subnational contract data for effective service delivery in Nigeria. The training placed the participants at the centre of the state's open contracting datasets. The training assisted CSOs, CBOs, and journalists in understanding the Edo state public procurement process as well as how to identify and report red flags in existing state

- On Thursday, December 8, 2021, Dataphyte collaborated with the Daily Trust Foundation to provide training on understanding and investigating the extractive sector. The training was designed to teach participants how to mine, clean, and use data in the extractive industry.

- Similarly, a three-day virtual data journalism training for seven journalists was held for Stage Media in Liberia. The training fulfilled Dataphyte's obligation as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between Dataphyte and Stage Media, Liberia. At the training, participants were taught Data Sourcing, Data Collection and Cleaning, Data Analysis, Data Visualisation and Storytelling with Data.

Four training programs were held in the fourth quarter of 2021.

- Dataphyte held a capacity building workshop for 20 civic actors in Edo state on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, and Thursday, November 11, 2021, to mobilize





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REPORTING

OVERVIEW OF ICIR TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN 2021

1. Investigative and Data Journalism Training for Journalists – African Resilience Network (ARN)

The ICIR under the African Resilience Network – Fake Expose project organized a 3-day combined (physical and virtual) training for journalists across different newsrooms in Nigeria. The training covered topics including an introduction to investigative journalism; media ethics; factchecking and data journalism. The even had over 40 journalists in attendance.

2. Advanced Regional Training on Investigative Journalism – MacArthur Foundation

The advanced regional training for journalists on the project was implemented in three zones South-west -Lagos; South-south -Port Harcourt; and North Central-Abuja. At the two-day training, journalists had their skills enhanced in several areas which includes data journalism, how to generate story ideas, perfecting multi-media skills and solutions journalism amongst others.

3. Online training for the journalists – International Budget Partnership (IBP)



The ICIR organized an online training session where all the journalists identified from the 7 project focal states were trained on the basics of investigations and data journalism. The training will also include security and safety tips to guide their investigations with the surge of insecurity and during COVID-19.

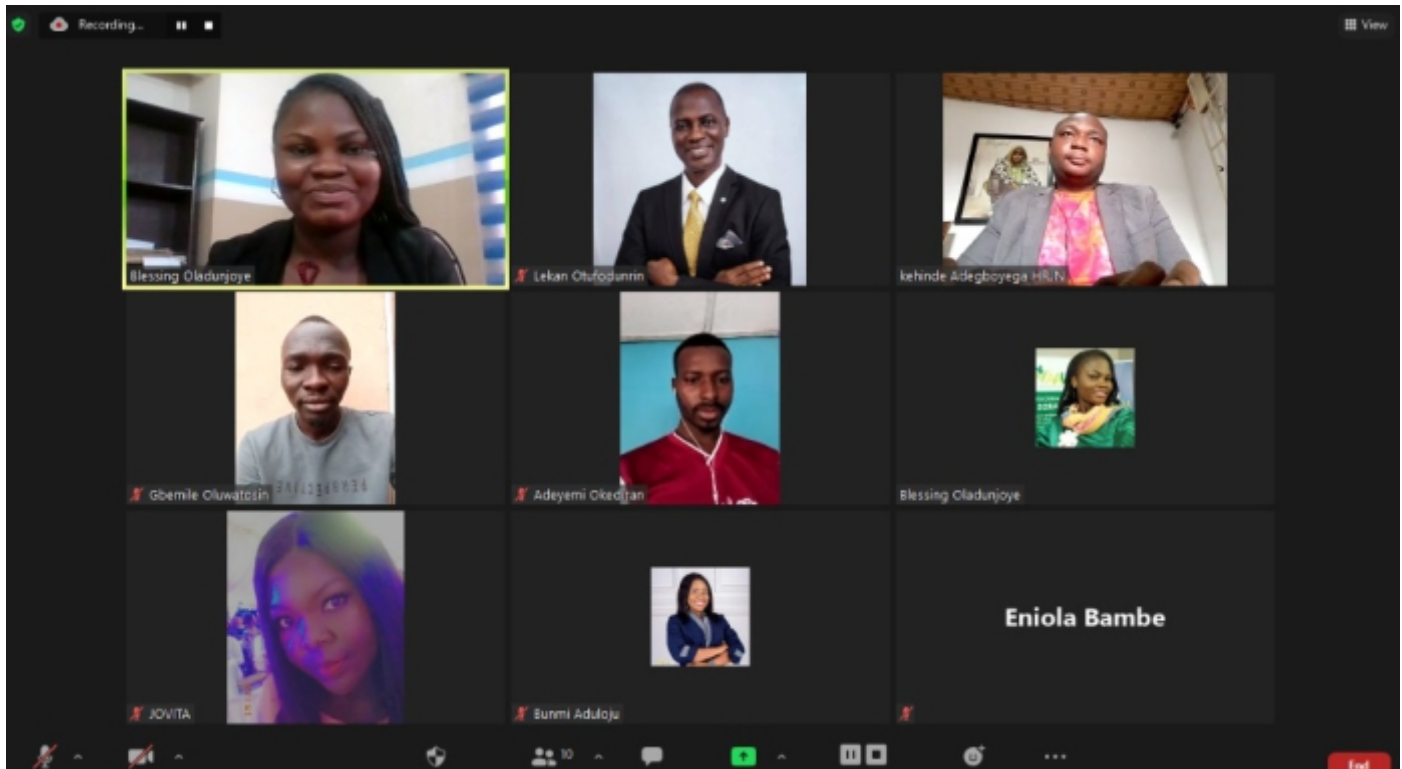
4. Weekend Journalism Masterclass – International Centre for Investigative

Reporting (ICIR)

The ICIR as part of her corporate social responsibilities designed a weekend journalism masterclass which is organized twice in a month. The Master class deal with the granules of the different topics and thematic areas of journalism to enable the journalists to have a sound footing on the profession. Some of the topics treated so far in 2021 include journalism ethics, plagiarism, and copyrights.



Human Rights Journalists Network (HRJN)



The Human Rights Journalists Network, HRJN, a network of journalists covering Human Rights issues held a couple of training sessions in 2021, as part of its capacity-building components.

In February 2021, HRJN trained journalists across Nigeria on how to employ Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) in carrying out investigative reporting. OSINT refers to the use of varying methods for collecting, analyzing and making decisions about data accessible in publicly available sources.

The training session, which was facilitated by Bertram Hill, a BBC Open-Source investigator, availed journalists the details on how to latch on to technological-based sources or tools, which are available in the public and can produce compelling and evidence-based stories.

Towards availing journalists, the opportunity to access data for human rights reporting,

HRJN in March 2021 in collaboration with the Human Rights Measurement Initiative, Netherlands, exposed journalists to some data that can aid their reporting.

Thalia Kehoe and Sharon Muriuki of HRMI showed Nigerian journalists how to use the HRMI data with the aim of understanding how human rights is measured globally and be able to hold government and citizens

accountable on human rights in Nigeria. The Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) is the first global project to comprehensively measure the human rights progress of countries.

The last capacity building session for the year was held in commemoration of the 2021 International Day to Support Victims of Torture where with Angela Uwandu Uzoma-Iwuchukwu, Head of Office, Advocats Sans Frontieres France in Nigeria, spoke to journalists about how the media can be used as a tool to end torture and human rights abuses in Nigeria.

The facilitator charged journalists to develop multi-dimensional strategy to help them drive impacts regarding human rights issues in Nigeria.

HRJN is committed to leveraging on partnerships to build the capacities of journalists covering human rights issues.



PAGED
INITIATIVE

1. COVID-19 MEDIA RESPONSE PROJECT [2020-2021]

The COVID-19 Media Response project in partnership with Free Press Unlimited and the European Union is a media capacity building and advocacy project aimed to sensitize a wide variety of audience on the COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria; the project aims to educate media practitioners to tell human interest stories about the pandemic affecting the northern Nigeria for a period of one year.

The aim of the project is to provide grants to media practitioners, to write reports about the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on low-income communities, Internally Displaced Persons and the general public.

The project activities include a two-day capacity building workshop for media professionals from the nineteen states in northern part of Nigeria to help improve the coverage of the pandemic. The workshop was held in Abuja, Borno, Bauchi and Kano state respectively. A total of 35 journalist participated from the region.

The workshop addressed some personal experiences journalists had during the Covid-19 pandemic



lockdown which provided an introduction to how to pitch media stories taught to the journalists. The second activity allowed the journalists to pitch their stories for review by their peers and the facilitators. Afterwards corrections were suggested by the facilitator and implemented by the journalist and grants were given by the organization.

The project resulted in over 65 reports highlighting the effects of covid-19 in Nigeria, the reports written by journalist covered a variety of topics such as

transportation, health care, education, agriculture, primary health care and much more.

2. Distribution of PPE for Journalist 2021

PAGED Initiative in collaboration with Free Press unlimited opened a call for application for personal protective equipment to journalists in Nigeria. A total of 225 journalists from 29 States received facemask and hand sanitizers for field reports. Here some are of the pictures shared by journalists with PAGED Initiative.



Accountability and Advocacy Programme

- Media in Nigerian Elections (MiNE) Project
- Media Coalition
- Election Monitoring
- Information Disorder Analysis Centre (IDAC)
- Research Papers
- Judges Roundtable
- Manifesto tracking
- Health Reporting Project
- Udeme Project
- Selection, Recruitment and Deployment of 15 U-Monitors
- 4-days training and capacity building of campus students across 5 Universities
- State Journalists Engagement
- Roundtable Discussion on Strategic Partnerships for Accountability in Nigeria

Humanitarian Programme

- Media Freedom Project
- Emerging Threats to Press Freedom (Digital Migration and Regulation)

- Capacity building workshop on conflict reporting for journalists
- Journalists Psychological Welfare
- International Women Day Campaign 2021
- Digital Rights Inclusion Forum 2021
- Hackathon
- Hearing on the amendment of the NBC Act
- Coalition for Whistleblowers Protection and Press Freedom
- Leaks.NG
- Press Attack Tracker (PAT)
- Media Legal Defence Initiative
- Capacity Building Workshop for the Press Corps of the House of Representative in collaboration with Konrad Adeeuer Stiftung and National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, NILDS
- Challenged the legality of the Twitter ban at the ECOWAS court
- Media and Terrorism Project
- Campus Journalism Clinic on

Conflict-Sensitive

- Reporting and Safety
- Reporting Grants for Quality Stories on Conflict and Humanitarian Issues
- Publication on Spoor
- Media and Security Dialogue
- Media and Gender Project
- GBV Surveys
- PTCIJ GBV Reporting Handbook
- Training of 20 Nigerian Journalists on GBV Reporting (#Createsafespaces)
- Storytelling Commencement
- Research on Gender Impact of Climate Change in Agricultural Value-Chain

Natural Resources and Extractives Programme (NAREP)

- NAREP Oil and Gas Fellowship
- Radio Shows
- West Africa Climate Change Media Fellowship
- R4D Project

Research and Capacity Programme

- Dubawa
- Agric Reporting
- DTI
- Campus Reporter





WSCIJ ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2021

Programme (REMOP) is implemented with the support of the MacArthur Foundation. This year under the project, WSCIJ executed the collaborative story project on education and electricity with four media houses and two civic society organisations for education, and three media houses and two civic society organisations for the reportage of the electricity sector. Also, the stakeholders meeting on education and electricity held.

commissioned from the N2 million grant awarded the 2019 runner-up of the Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Journalism for the television category, Sharon Ijasan, to document through investigative research activities on child labour and violation of the rights of children in Nigeria, was published in March this year.

Free to share

The Centre started the year by continuing its project on the response to COVID-19 in Nigeria under its Free to Share project which started in 2020 with the support of Free Press Unlimited. The free to share project aimed at enabling journalist to improve the access of information and investigative reporting. The Centre supported 36 reporters and mentors to report the COVID-19 pandemic across 18 states and 48 reports were published.

Regulators Monitoring Programme (REMOP)

The Regulators Monitoring

The Dialogue (Basic education)

Under REMOP, WSCIJ in collaboration with Strictly Speaking and Premium Times held a six-part online series on education over six weeks to have conversations on the state of basic education in Nigeria, using stories produced under REMOP as the basis for engagement.

Radio Engagement

There was also a radio engagement on Nigeria Info using electricity stories published under REMOP.

Child Labour project

The third of three stories

13th Wole Soyinka Centre Media Lecture

The 13th annual Wole Soyinka Centre Media Lecture was held on the 13th of July with the theme 'Remaking Nigeria: Towards a secure and viable union'. This year event was in collaboration with African Centre for Media and Information Literacy (AFRICMIL). The event, which was held at NECA House in Lagos, had in attendance over 200 guests.

Report Women! Female Reporters Leadership Programme

The Report Women! Female Reporters Leadership Programme (FRLP) project focused on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). The project kicked-off



with a four-day training with support from Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). This year, 21 reporters were selected from different media house across Nigeria for training and mentoring. The reporters have made urge different in their newsroom and impacted students

and other youths outside their newsroom.

Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting

The 16th edition of the annual Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting held on the 9th of December 2021 at NECA House in

Lagos. This year, the centre honoured 14 reporters. Josiah Ajiboye, a veteran cartoonist and painter was presented the Lifetime Award for Journalistic Excellence. Also, CLEEN Foundation was honoured with the Human Rights Anti-Corruption Defender Award.

2022 ACTIVITIES IN VIEW

Report Women! News and Newsroom Engagement

The WSCIJ is implementing a three-year project, the Report Women! News and Newsroom Engagement, with support from the Gates Foundation. On the project, WSCIJ will engage the management and staff of select news media organisations on the benefits of increasing the representation of women in their coverage and newsroom leadership, design a source guide of women experts and provide resource tools, mentorship and

funds for story projects for journalists who champion the cause of equality.

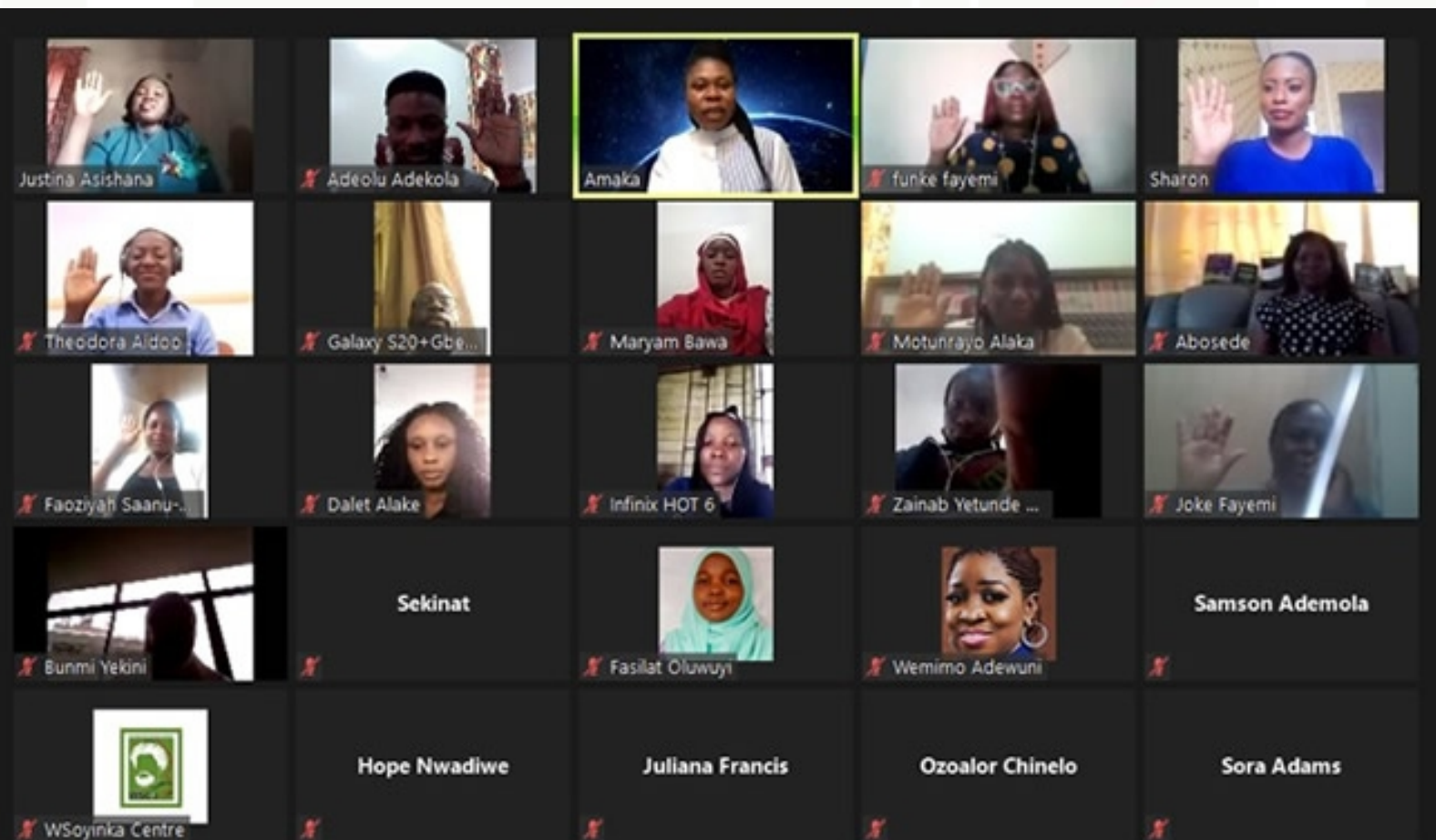
Report Women! Female Reporters Leadership Programme

The second share fair and award ceremony for the 2021 Report Women! Female Reporters Leadership Programme which is implemented with support from OSIWA will hold in the first quarter of 2021. Similarly, the five investigative stories commissioned on the justice status of select cases

will be published. Finally, we will launch the media justice report drawing from the investigative and research work.

Civic Space Guards project

Launched during the 16th Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting on 9th December 2021, the Civic Space Guards project will involve a conference to project media and other key stakeholders as guards of the civic space as well as a media monitoring exercise.



JADESeminars Activities in 2021

In 2021, its first full year of operations, JADESeminars Initiative organised mentorship programmes for young journalists. It also participated in some activities organised by other organisations.

A dialogue session on the state of the nation. The theme of the discussion was *Communication and the Challenge of Securing a Nation*. The session which was self-funded took place virtually on May 31, 2021. It featured four eminent Journalists who engaged online to Xray the topic. They include the Chairperson of the Broadcasting Organisation of Nigeria Hajia Sa'a Ibrahim. Hajia Ibrahim is also the Director General of the Abubakar Rimi Television, Kano.

There were also Dr Tunde Akanni, Associate Professor of Journalism at the Lagos State University, Mr. Ogbuagu Anikwe, Publisher, Enugu Metro and Dr. Olabisi Deji-Folutile, Editor-in-Chief, TalkNow.com. The session was

moderated by Mrs Ibim Semenitari, Publisher, Business Eye magazine and former Acting managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC.

Second Mentorship Session on Fidelity to Journalism Ethics

This was held in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. Over 25 young journalists of 5years and below in the profession, drawn from the FCT with some joining via Zoom, were mentored during the one-day intensive training by notable senior journalists on journalism ethics. The mentorship Programme was designed to enable the older journalists in the profession impart tips and knowledge for success to younger professionals.

The resource persons/mentors included

Mr. Dapo Olorunyomi, publisher, Premium Times took participants through the tenets of journalism ethics using the topic of Fidelity to Journalism Ethics

Mrs Moji Makanjuola, explored the topic: When Does Reporting from the Frontline End and Propaganda Begins?

Ms Ijeoma Nwogwugwu, managing director ARISE TV looked at how journalists can navigate the tightrope by adhering to journalism ethics and standards.

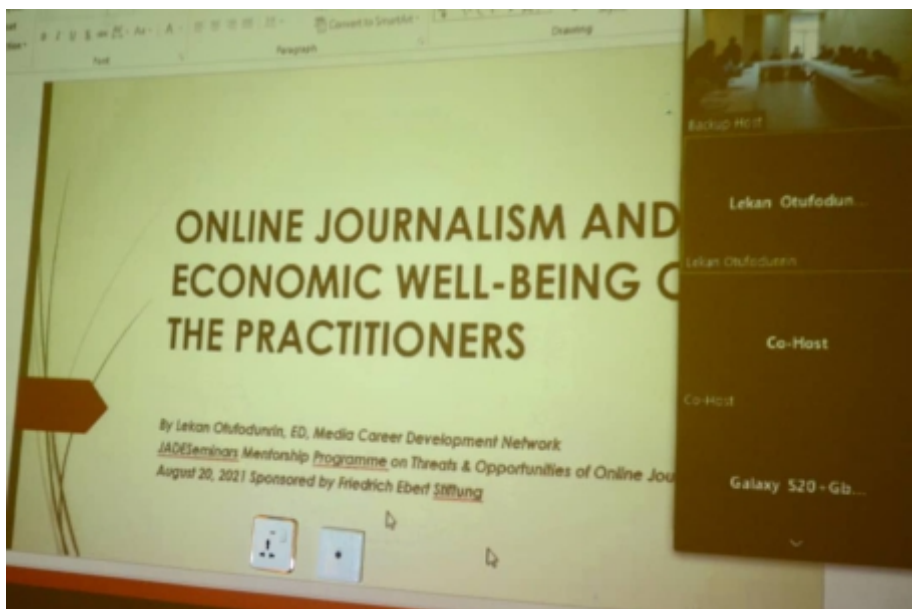
Mr. Nsikak Essien, former editor, National Concord looked at “How infidelity to Journalism Ethics Impacts Development.

Also in attendance were representatives of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung led by its Resident Representative, Dr. Daniel Mann and Ms Juliana Anosike, programme manager. The event had Mr. Tony Akiotu, Group Managing Director, DAAR Communications as Chairperson.

Third Mentorship Session on Threats and opportunities for online journalism – was held on August 20, 2021, also in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Nigeria.

At the heart of the topic – Threats





and Opportunities of Online Media is the issue of technological innovations for communication, the benefits it offers journalists, the pitfalls and how to navigate such pitfalls. Nigeria's journalists of the communication revolution age, undoubtedly have a big role to play in using their platforms to help build-back Nigeria on the path of development.

In the age of ICT, which has revolutionised the media, influencing how journalists gather and disseminate news, for the particularly ICT-savvy young journalists who deploy a multimedia approach to news gathering and reporting, understanding the threats inherent and opportunities there for the taking, all of course within the ambit of the ethics of the profession becomes most useful as they seek to report events in real-time.

The resource persons/mentors included

Mr. Dapo Olorunyomi, publisher, Premium Times spoke on Online Journalism and Professional Accountability

Mr. Lekan Otufodunrin, executive director, Media Career Services who spoke on Online Journalism and Economic Well-Being of The Practitioners

Mrs Moji Makanjuola, MFR, MFR, executive director, International Society of Media in

Public Health (ISMPH) who took on the topic: Online Journalism: Between Civic Crusading, political mobilisation, and journalism.

The sponsors, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung was well represented by a team led by the Resident Representative Dr. Daniel Mann, and included the programme manager, Ms Juliana Anosike. The Chairperson of the opening session was Mr. Buki Ponle, managing director of the News Agency of Nigeria, NAN. The event also featured an interactive session that saw the participants engage with the mentors. The event also featured an interactive session that saw the participants engage with the mentors.

Endorsement of applications of

some journalists for Fellowships abroad. This came in the form of writing references for the journalists and in all, four references were provided.

JADESeminars initiative also took part in the **African Media Barometer : Consultative Forum** on “*Building an Advocacy Group for Implementation of AMB Recommendations in Nigeria*”. It was organised by the Media Rights Agenda in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung from October 25 – 27, 2021.

The Forum agreed on five Working groups to advance the recommendations of the Forum. As part of its commitment to the project, JADESeminars elected to take part two working groups namely

- **Working Group on Media Law and Policy Reforms**
- **Working Group on Broadcasting Reform**

Choosing to work in the two groups underlined JADESeminar's commitment to policy issues especially those that impact media and development in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, JADESeminars Initiative continued work on its maiden book project on Nigerian women in Journalism, slated for public presentation in the first quarter of 2022.





Africa Check



Health misinformation partnership with NCDC and WHO

Our partnership with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and WHO just like during the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to help us to debunk misinformation about the coronavirus and the Covid-19 vaccine in a timely manner.

The NCDC and WHO has provided us with some of the facts that we need to be able to tackle misinformation not just about the virus and the vaccine but also on other key health areas.

Also, we partnered with the NCDC and WHO to train journalists especially health reporters on how to respond to and debunk health misinformation and because of the peculiarity of the Covid-19. We placed more focus in equipping them with the right knowledge and tools to wade in and stop the cycle of misinformation around the virus and the vaccine.

Vaccine Facts Radio

Our Vaccine Facts Radio project kicked off in September 2021. The Vaccine Facts Radio is impact-focused, innovative, and multi-disciplinary. It harnesses the power of fact-checking, media literacy and interactive radio drama to educate, and inoculate underserved communities against Covid-19 vaccine misinformation.

It has a participatory approach where communities engage with and learn about vaccine misinformation and co-create fact-based narratives that create attitude

and behaviour change around vaccines.

The weekly one-hour programme airs every Wednesday by 1pm on Radio one 103.5fm Lagos and is titled 'On top di matter'. It's a magazine programme done in pidgin where there is an interactive radio drama titled 'Life na pot of beans' here we use the experiences of the everyday life of a typical Nigerian to debunk misinformation about the Covid-19 vaccine.

Listeners have the opportunity to call into the programme to debunk misinformation about the Covid-19 vaccine. This we believe will help them muster the courage to be able to challenge the same in the outside world.

We have received a lot of positive feedback regarding the programme, as many of our listeners have called to let us know they have gotten clarity about the Covid-19 vaccine through the programme, been able to get vaccinated and encourage their families and friends to do the same and also been better equipped with reliable information sources that have helped them challenge misinformation about the vaccine.

We go live on our Instagram @africacheck_ng every Wednesday by 1pm For more people to be able to join us outside of Lagos. You can listen to any of our previous episodes here

Fact checking trainings

We believe the fight against misinformation is a responsibility that belongs to everyone, hence we do regular training for journalists and students who are studying to

become journalists on fact-checking.

We had series of fact-checking training in 2021 to teach journalists and student journalists how to identify and debunk misinformation/ disinformation. Not just that, we also teach them how to use fact-checking tools in their fight against misinformation.

These trainings are then followed by a mentorship programme to further provide them with the resources and guidance they need while writing their own fact checks and debunking misinformation in all its forms.

Media literacy Project

Just as we saw with the Covid-19 pandemic, as the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine began several forms of misinformation started to spread and is still spreading. This necessitated a need for us to come up with strategies to help challenge and debunk the hoaxes, half-truths, conspiracy theories, fake cures, etc that have already started to spread both online and offline.

We started the media literacy series titled 'Know the fact get the vax' which provides valuable and reliable information about the Covid-19 vaccine, at the same time offering tips on how to spot this misinformation, debunk them, and also encourage people to get vaccinated.

The 20-episode series was done in Pidgin and Hausa languages, aired on radio and distributed on social media, to make it easier for us to reach more people with the message.



Despite the pandemic which disrupted communication programmes for the year, ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) accomplished the following programmes and projects based on its Communication Strategy and Mainstream Media Communication objectives.

- **Communications Strategy Statement**

“We will use both the traditional and new media in reaching millions of people in Nigeria and globally. Through our work and engagement with the media, we will be known as an organisation at the forefront of contributing to eradicating poverty”.

- **Mainstream Media Communications Objective**

To be recognised as an independent nongovernmental organization at the forefront of poverty eradication, human rights activism and gender equality in Nigeria by actively engaging with the media through capacity building, factual contents and resources, and providing technical support to enhance journalism practice in Nigeria.

MEDIA CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2021, AAN trained 129 Journalists.

25 journalists were trained on Migration reporting in Benin

36 journalists from FCT, Kogi and

Nasarawa were trained on Policy Engagement For Preventing Violent Extremism During And Post Covid-19 in Akwanga.

38 media were trained on Public Finance Management

30 journalists were trained on their role in attaining g SDG 16(Peace, justice, and strong institutions) in Nasarawa State.

This bring the total number of Journalists trained since 2018 till date to 733. (604 journalists were trained between 2018 and 2020 as detailed in 2020 report).

Led conversations to enhance journalism practice in Nigeria through the annual National Media convening. A key outcome was the need to mainstream gender policies across newsrooms in Nigeria.

[ActionAid Nigeria Advocates Stronger Policies, Institutions to Protect Journalists](#)

1. Donation of wheel chair to the wife (Damilola Obahopo) of Vanguard Kogi Correspondent, Mr. Bolu Obahopo following her recovery from a ghastly motor accident in November 2021.

<https://thenigerianpost.com.ng/2021/11/30/actionaid-nigeria-donates-wheelchair-to-wife-of-kogi-vanguard-correspondent/>

2. ActionAid Nigeria Organised a candlelight vigil in honour of Lucy Damian, late director/chief editor with Kogi State Broadcasting Corporation (Confluence Radio FM 94.1).

<https://thenigerianpost.com.ng/2021/08/21/kogi-nlc-chairman-offers-late-journalists-child-scholarship/>



2022 IN VIEW

- Support the mainstreaming Gender Policies in Newsrooms across Nigeria.
- Strengthen capacity of women journalists (NAWOJ and other women journalists forums).
- Strengthen capacity of partners to leverage media partnerships to raise their organisations' profile and by extension, AANs profile.
- Institutional Support for journalists collaborative forums midwifed by AAN e.g Journalists Against Violent Extremism (JAVE), Journalists Against Poverty (JAP).



As promised at the year end of 2020, we intensified our reports publishing media and journalism opportunities which were made available to professional journalists and campus journalists alike in Nigeria and in other countries on the continent.

Over 520 articles on media [vacancies](#), [fellowships](#), [awards](#), [conferences and scholarships](#), [trainings](#), [resources](#), [grants](#) etc. were published on our platforms in the year under review.

We also published 10 special compilations of media opportunities published monthly while we provided support for journalists and media practitioners who applied for some of these opportunities.

We financially supported the 2021 edition of the [Ogun State Campus](#)

[Journalism Summit \(#OCJS21\)](#). We also recommended and engaged an independent jury for the Ogun State Campus Journalism Awards presented during the summit.

We equally intensified a reporting partnership with the Campus Journalism Awards (CJA) organised by the Youths Digest which we have been doing since 2019.

The followers of our Twitter List, [Nigerian Journalists](#), with a little over 100 members grew to 968 in 2021.

While we were unable to organise any group training sessions in the outgoing year, we conceptualised and pitched project ideas to donors some of which will be carried out in the new year. We were able to offer individual training and mentorship sessions for professional and campus journalists who sought us

out.

In December 2021, we started the [Campus Echoes](#) newsletter which we hope to use to catalogue the production and promotion and solutions stories about social responses to challenges facing the Nigerian educational system in the year 2022.

As we rounded off the year, we provided tips for journalists and media practitioners who were looking forward to [maximise media and communication jobs and opportunities](#) in the year 2022.

We still remain accessible via our various platforms including;

Website: <https://i79media.com/>

Facebook:

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

Twitter:

<https://twier.com/I79Media>



MEDIA CAREER DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

♦ Training ♦ Mentoring ♦ Coaching

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS' JOURNALISTS AND CAMPUS MEDIA

On Thursday, December 30, 2021, Precious Ewuji of the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti won the Revelation of the Year Category of the Students Media Personalities, Nigeria national awards sponsored by Media Career Development Network.

The sponsorship is one of our numerous supports for student journalists during the outgoing year that has seen us training and mentoring some across campuses in the country virtually and physically, including Ogun Polytechnic, Abeokuta, Nigeria Institute of Journalism, Lagos, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, Covenant University, Otta and University of Jos.

We launched an Online Internship platform for student journalists to address the problem of limited internship placements for who have to undertake compulsory internships as part of their course requirements. We were able to get placements for some and our WhatsApp group have continued to provide resources and opportunities on daily basis.

In the New Year, we intend to intentionally reach out to more student journalists and organisations to provide them necessary skills and mentoring to prepare them for fulfilling career in the profession.

LAUNCH OF ANNUAL NIGERIA MEDIA CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

In acknowledgement of the commendable capacity development support for the media in the country by Non-Governmental Organisations, we [launched the annual Nigeria Capacity Development Report](#) to document their various programmes activities and resources in January.

It also contains feedbacks from participants and beneficiaries of the various programmes and projects on what they learnt and suggestions for improvement.

Other contents include:

- Attestations by journalists who maximises the opportunities they had in 2020
- Opportunities for student journalists, Awards, Insightful interview quotes on capacity development by accomplished journalists, Funders
- Database of media NGOs and support organisations
- How to maximise capacity development opportunities in 2021

We appreciate the cooperation of organisations and individuals who generously shared their reports with us for publications.

[Download Full Copy](#) of Report Nigeria Media Capacity Development Report 2020

The 2021 Report will be launched in January 2022

TRAINING FOR JOURNALISTS

With the support of the United States Consulate, Lagos, we held a [training on Post-Election and Accountability](#) for journalists in

Bayelsa State with participants from print, electronic and online media organisations.

The overarching objective of the workshop is to build the capacity of the participants to hold the newly sworn-in Bayelsa Administration officials more accountable while in office.

The workshop also seeks to engender a culture of democratic accountability and good governance reporting among local journalists in Bayelsa State.

The training was well received by the participants who commended the sessions facilitated by former Dean of School of Communications, Lagos State University, Ojo, Professor Lai Oso and Executive Director, Lekan Otufodunrin as very insightful and empowering.

Other trainings were held during the year for staff of Ogun State Television, Abeokuta, Insurance and Pension Correspondents, WaNa Data members of Code for Africa, Campus Reporters, Participants of the Female Reporters Leadership Programme by the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism, and Members of the West Africa Solutions Journalism Hub.

LAUNCH OF WEST AFRICA SOLUTIONS HUB

For the implementation of [Solutions Journalism Africa Fellowship](#) by our ED, our website hosted the dedicated [West Africa Solutions Journalism Hub](#), that includes [Solutions Report Monitor](#) which is a one-stop site to access news, resources, and career opportunities.



Following the training held for journalists from Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Gambia, a network has been created for continued engagements and training on solutions journalism. More members from other countries in the region will be invited to join the group in 2022.

Members will produce solutions journalism reports to be published in their media platforms.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF JOURNALISTS FOR OPPORTUNITIES

A publisher reached out to us early in the year to recommend some journalists for employment and we did. We are glad that some of them were employed like others also employed in other organisations based on our recommendations.

We are also on the lookout for training, fellowships, awards and other opportunities which we have shared with journalists who have benefitted from them.

We wrote recommendation letters for journalists during the year and we are glad some of their applications were successful.

MENTORING AND COUNSELLING FOR JOURNALISTS

A female journalist on a field trip in North East Nigeria needed

someone to discuss unexpected developments with and reached out to us. She got necessary counsel on what to do and was very grateful for having someone when can open up to at such lonely moments of confusion journalists face.

During the year we regularly responded to calls, enquiries and requests from journalists who wanted counsel with their career journeys. We got feedbacks that our support was helpful and we are willing to do mentor and counsel more journalists in the New Year.

PUBLICATION OF CAREER-ENHANCING CONTENT

Our website www.mediareerng.org, now redesigned, has continued to be a must-read for journalists in Nigeria, Africa and beyond for career-enhancing content including [news](#), [jobs](#), [insights](#), [interviews](#) and other [resources](#).

One of our readers Ene Oshaba wrote in response to one of our interviews titled '[How to win fellowships, get grants and freelance opportunities](#)'. "This is so enlightening. Thank you for commitment to grooming better Journalists through your mentoring and disclosures"

We remain committed to committed to providing

comprehensive reporting of media issues beneficial to the career of journalists.

DONATIONS

We experimented with seeking donation for our work through the #GivingTuesday and we are glad that we got some donations from individuals, including our Board of Trustee members and past beneficiaries of our mentoring.

We promise to utilize the donation and more we can get for the implementation of our programmes in pursuit of our goal of achieving the following:

- 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

LightRay

LightRay Media Masterclasses

The year 2021 saw a string of collaborative training and capacity building masterclasses for teens, campus journos, mid-level journos and presenters across the Media ecosystem in Nigeria - print, online, social media, electronic broadcast and within schools in Nigeria.

With security and safety of lives and properties becoming the constant denominator of media press releases, political catastrophes, talk programmes and everyday conversations among the public and other stakeholders, it became crucial to address the sensationalisation and escalation of how media headlines, social media stories, misinformation and propaganda has enabled the making of demi-gods of politicians while stoking the flames of ethno-religious hate, emotional trauma and politics to go haywire.

As Consultants and facilitators, we handled training of Nigerian journalists from over 20 media houses from the BBC, Arise News, Kure Liberty TV, The Guardian, Punch, FRCN, Radio Now, and more, with the Africa Centre of Democracy and Development (CDD, Abuja) on Conflict Sensitive Reportage and Ethically Responsible Media Policies across all levels within the media organogram.

A similar media intervention was



done with Premium Times at a roundtable with all top intelligence agencies and institutions across the military, police, navy, paramilitary, etc., in partnership with over 10 media organisations across Nigeria to bridge the gap between intelligence Intel directly received from the intelligence organs rather than via third parties or until misinformation has been perpetrated, that continues to see more damage control from the police, navy, and military rather than preventative management of security and intelligence gathering. It was unanimously agreed that having Nigerian journalists embedded and trained by the military will help bridge the misinformation gap and falsehood being propagated. Ejoro Umukoro, Chief Vision Officer of LightRay Media was the Facilitator of this roundtable put together by Premium Times.

In the area of capacity building, LightRay Media did a special training on Using Data to tell Stories with Code for Africa in a virtual online session. Using her data driven Pulitzer Centre featured stories, Ejoro Umukoro showed how Using data to expose gender-based violence and abuse of children, inspired the Delta State Government to pass the VAPP Bill into an Act in Delta State that has put the Child's Rights Committee to be on its toes to implement the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act in Delta State. Students of mass communication from across 10 universities in Nigeria along with journalists from other parts of Nigeria joined in this online capacity training. Over 5 emerging student journos through mentoring and editorial services provided them by LightRay Media were able to publish their first beat

report or investigate stories.

To end the year, between October and November 2021, LightRay Media organised a Mastermind Masterclass programmes for adolescents and practicing journalists in Delta State.

The Mastermind Masterclass Pro for journalists had over 100 registrations from members of Nigeria Union of Journalist, National Association of Women Journalists and other independent journalists and broadcasters in Delta State.

Journalists tasked on developmental, solutions journalism.

Journalists were tasked to delve into reportage that will affect societal development and solutions to problems.

The multi-award-winning journalist and author of Distortion, Lady Ejiro Umukoro put this together with LightRay Media and Aquire Centre, Effurun in Delta State.

Some issues discussed at the workshop included identifying the gaps in the media, why they exist, what can be done to address them and ways practitioners can collaborate to boost the profession and ensure its pride of place as the fourth estate of the realm.

The brainstorming session saw responses to posers, as well as exchange of ideas from over 20 journalists drawn from Warri, Sapele and Ughelli areas of the state.

They identified insecurity, inadequate training, poor remuneration and welfare package, as well as disrespect and intimidation of practitioners, as challenges to practising journalism in Nigeria.

Suggestions on how to address these gaps included the need for more team work and collaboration

among practitioners and be willing to promote more unity among journalists and not the divide and rule political mentality that has swept thru the organised bodies of the media practitioners such as the NUJ, NAWOJ, independent Correspondents, etc.

Journalist were also impressed upon to learn to separate when they are writing a PR-News Report from a hard-core news report as their brand is properly managed as the Political season is upon them.

Ejiro Umukoro urged journalists across Delta state to pursue solutions and developmental journalism so as to carve a niche for themselves in the media world.

She also encouraged newsmen to grasp opportunities to train and self-develop in order to boost their reporting skills.

The Adolescents Mastermind Masterclass put together by LightRay Media as a giveback to society from Lady Ejiro Umukoro was designed to attract, build capacity and mentor adolescents who have strong creative minds in an environment where such creativity in writing, public speaking, spoken word artistry, broadcasting, etc., does not support their creative growth in becoming aspiring journalists, broadcasters and writers from early on in a preparatory way.

To give adolescents ownership of their abilities to excel in this field,

they were taught the Special 5-Capacity Model created by Ejiro Umukoro to identify, harness, and leverage on even with their academics in readiness to own their space in the media ecosystem. Over 100 adolescents and parents attended this Creative Masterclass.

The Year ended on a high note with several awards for Lady Ejiro Umukoro, LightRay Media and where as General Manager of MEGA 89.1FM she was recognised for her reviving the Creative Economy and running a radio station with Impact in Delta State for the following:

1. Award of Excellence for Outstanding Investigative Journalism and Media for Impact
2. Award for Excellence in Support of Youth Development in the Niger Delta
3. Award for Excellence in Contribution to Innovative and Creative Development
4. African Leadership and Social Impact Awards in the USE OF MEDIA FOR DEVELOPMENT
5. MOST INFLUENTIAL LADY OF THE YEAR In Recognition for Distinguished Contributions to Human Capacity and Enterprise Development.

Website:

Email:

contactlightraymedia@gmail.com

Twitter: @LightRayM

Facebook: LightRay Media





In 2021, TechMirror Magazine launched/held programmes aimed at the development of the country.

This was asides from the publication of unique content aimed at promoting Technology and Information Technology.

The TechMirror Magazine hosted;

1. The social media training program for youths in collaboration with centre for Information Technology and Development. At this training, we had 100 beneficiaries drawn from journalists, writers, youth leaders and small and medium-scale owners. We deployed the use of virtual training via Zoom and WhatsApp as a way to ensure that everyone is brought together for the training.
2. The TechMirror Magazine launched the Digital Economy Bulletin which was/is the first of its kind in Nigeria. A bulletin aimed at showcasing the developments and strides of Nigerians in the country's Digital economy drive.
3. We also partnered with Afarahub for ICT-related developments.
4. TechMirror magazine held the fifth edition of its annual social

media Summit; the Pan African Social Media summit. The event hosted top dignitaries from across the continent. The summit culminated in the launch of a social media awareness campaign, campaign that will kick off in 2022. The campaign will aim to improve knowledge on social media and its use by Nigerians

5. We also in 2021 hosted training on ICT for development by Nigerian youths. Leveraging on training them to use ICT for business growth and development.

6. We engaged key agencies of government, media organizations, civil society organizations, and different bodies in our 2021 calendar year.

In 2022

The TechMirror Magazine intends to host/hold;

1. Six social media physical campaigns in different regions of the country. We also plan to host another six virtual campaigns.
2. We also plan to produce a booklet focused on ICT and Technology as part of our ICT inclusion drive
3. Our strive also looks toward giving a platform for young innovators this year

4. The sixth edition of the Pan-African Social media Summit will be held
5. The Digital Literacy Advocacy for Secondary Schools will continue further in the country through the Digital Literacy club and TechMirror Magazine. This we plan to extend to Orphanage schools and villages/rural areas.
6. We also will extend our advocacies to Tertiary institutions and work with Management of schools toward Education Technology especially creating important discussions on Artificial Intelligence.

OUR REACH IN 2021

We were able to touch physically the following states through our programs

1. Osun state
2. Abuja
3. Lagos state
4. Imo state
5. Ondo state

Our virtual program had participation from people throughout the country including from other African countries like Angola, Niger.

OUR PLATFORMS

Techmirrormag.com.ng (Online)
 TechMirror Magazine (Print)
 Digital Economy Bulletin (Digital)

Social media
 @TechMirror - Twitter
 @TechMirror Magazine- Instagram

Office Address: 111, Gidado Idris Way, Wuse, Abuja

IMS

INSTITUTE FOR MEDIA AND SOCIETY

LIST OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY IMS IN 2021

1. Media Content Monitoring towards Anambra State Governorship Election
2. Production and Co-Sharing of Contents on Governance and Accountability
3. Media Engagement Towards Anambra State Governorship Election
4. Media Appearance Towards Anambra State Governorship Election
5. Focus Group Discussion on



Trends and Challenges of the Media in Fair, Accurate and Ethical Coverage of the Electoral Process in Nigeria. (South) Port Harcourt

6. Training Workshop for Journalists on Electoral and Broader Governance Programming

7. Consultants Follow-up with Selected Broadcast Media on Political and Broader Governance Programming

8. Production and Circulation of Resource/Enlightenment Publications on the NBC Act Amendment Process

9. Consultative Meeting with the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) on the Broadcasting Regulatory

Framework

10. NBC Presentation at BON Conference

11. Conversation by Media Industry on Inclusion in Electoral and Political Process

12. Retreat on Promoting Inclusive Media Regulatory Frameworks

13. Stakeholders' Consultative Meeting on NBC Act Amendment Process

14. Meeting on Development of Media Guidelines for Disability Inclusion

15. Sensitization Media Campaigns Promoting Inclusion and Strengthening Women, Youths and PWDs in Leadership and Political Participation





Africa Foundation for Young Media Professionals

For the period under review, Africa Foundation for Young Media Professionals AFYMP held two major activities with another one-on-one personal coaching for media students across institutions through zoom.

Media Entrepreneurship workshop for Nigeria Broadcasting Academy students, Ikeja Lagos

AFYMP, in conjunction with the management of the Nigeria Broadcast Academy, Ikeja, Lagos held a one-day media entrepreneurial skills development for about 220 students of the institution. The aim was to expose the participants to several opportunities available in the media for those who want to start out their media career without recourse to looking for established media houses for work.

AFYMP's ED-Yinka Olaito shared with the participants several avenues individuals can use to get into the media industry through proper marketing with good strategy, the right vision, and information.

Another facilitator, Sunday Osantuyi, who is the publisher of gatekeeperng.com, shared his journey as an online media entrepreneur. Commenting on the impact of the workshop, many of the students expressed gratitude to the organizer for such an enriching eye-opening workshop. The then Director of the school, Engineer Abiola Ajibola encouraged participants to hit the ground

running by applying lessons learned.

Africa Media NGOs Stakeholders' Forum

The purpose of the workshop, which had faculty and participants from across key markets in Africa-Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa, was to provide a platform where stakeholders can discuss challenges and opportunities within the sector during and post-pandemic era. The panellists for this workshop were Dr. Kole shetima of MacArthur Foundation, Simon Kolawole of The Cable Foundation, Dr Yemisi Akinbobola (AWIM, Kenya), Mrs Amina Frense(Former Chair, IAJ, South Africa) and Wallace Gichengu, (CIML, Kenya) . Mr Lekan Otufodunrin served as moderator.

Knowledge shared during the session includes strategy, and how to handle media NGOs financial

and human resources challenges. Perspectives on funding opportunities and challenges faced by donor Agencies were also addressed.

One-on-one media skill coaching for media students

An occasional demand for specific coaching by some media students across Nigeria media training institutions was also responded to through zoom meetings. They include knowledge on fact-checking, newsroom management, etc.

Africa Foundation For Young Media Professionals

Leadmode Resource Centre
315 Herbert Macaulay Way
Sabo Yaba Lagos

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NIGERIAN WOMEN in PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Reverse Mentorship Workshop

This is an annual exclusive upskilling workshop held in the second quarter for senior female Public Relations and Communications professionals with at least 15 years experience. The 2021 edition consisted of five training sessions attended by over 40 c-level Nigerian female professionals from Indonesia, Namibia, Ghana, South Africa, Rwanda, England, the United States, and Nigeria.

The Reverse Mentorship Workshop organised by Nigerian Women in PR was the first of its kind; a pioneer event that only became popular with other organisations after the debut of the first edition of our event.

For the year 2022, the Reverse Mentorship workshop will hold on the 29th and 30th of June 2022

The Experiencing Public Relations Conference

EXPERIENCING
**PUBLIC
RELATIONS**

A collection of essays by Nigerian Women in Public Relations



Our annual conference is held yearly in March to celebrate women but also to address salient topics in public relations. The annual conference also provides a platform for us to deliver an experiential program used to teach public relations professionals, new trends in corporate events management while educating the public on the impact of public relations on businesses and society.

The 2021 edition witnessed the launch of our first publication - [Experiencing PR](#).



PR and More - Instagram Live Series

Our bi-monthly IG Live Series is a conversation starter on topics surrounding public relations, communications and beyond. It is an avenue to empower our community of women professionals who struggle in their different careers.

Let's Talk Comms

#LetsTalkComms is a voice-only adaptation of the podcast model where senior public relations professionals provide short takes on frequently asked questions from members.

The C-Suite Acceleration Workshop

Our annual third quarter event is

designed to aid mid-level career women prepare for the challenge of senior management. The program, designed to be delivered by experienced c-suite professionals and c-suite recruiters, includes a mock boardroom session, executive interviews and etiquette training.

The event is scheduled to hold on the 9th of November 2022.

The Public Relations Students on Campus Summit

To address the challenge of aging in the industry, and to attract passionate and enthusiastic young women into the profession, the Campus Summit targets all tertiary institutions in Nigeria where young professionals in the Inspired Group share their experience with undergraduates. We have held seven editions of the Summits across three geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

This year, the Students on Campus Summit will hold across eight campuses including Lead City University, Ibadan, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba, University of Ife, Ile - Ife, to mention a few.

JOB FAIR

Our Annual fourth quarter Job Fair is specifically targeted at our Inspired Members. With the Job Fair, we provide a credible platform where human resource professionals and business executives can recruit trained and competent public relations professionals.

THE NEWS DIGEST

In 2021, Youths Digest Publishers Limited was able to execute some of its regular projects. During the year in review, aside from our online newspaper, The News Digest, which has consistently promoted articles from young journalists; our flagship event Campus Journalism Awards (CJA) took place in Abuja.

CJA has always been the biggest gathering of Campus journalists across the country as well as an avenue for recognising campus journalists doing excellently while also encouraging others to take the profession at heart.

2021 CJA which was the fourth edition of the awards came with a special feature as some notable personalities in the country were awarded for their roles in the development of their niche.

Also in the year, the 12th edition of The Youths Digest magazine was also launched at the CJA event.

The magazine features articles contributed by many campus journalists and budding writers from various news organisations and agencies - both public and private in the country.

We also held our annual Campus Journalism Dialogue (CJD), sometime in December for finalists of the CJA 2021.

The Dialogue is an initiative borne out of the discovery that the majority of outstanding Nigerian Journalists started on campus and were beneficiaries of many training opportunities.

Thus, we decided to come up with the initiative to ensure that the



future of Nigerian media, advocacy and societal development is sustained.

Youths Digest strongly believes that if journalists are properly trained, society can be rid of vices and misinformation.

In all of what we did in 2021, we cannot forget to acknowledge the contribution of the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC). Notably, during our Award, CISLAC's technical Departments had contributed in generation of governance themes and critical developmental topics of discussion.

Also within the year in review, we launched the Youths Digest Campus Journalism Initiative. The Initiative is a non-profit civic hub that looks to teach independent-minded journalism to Nigerian youths on social issues such as human rights, principles of inclusion, accountability and justice.

It will kick off during the second phase of the Campus Journalism Dialogue in February 2022. This year's Dialogue will train young journalists on key reporting ethics.

All plans are ongoing to commence the campus journalism initiative in one of the tertiary institutions in the North-Central by February, 2022.

Gidado Yushau Shuaib ANIPR Editor, The News Digest & Youths Digest www.NewsDigest.ng MA Media, Campaigning and Social Change (Hons) University of Westminster Organiser, Campus Journalism Awards & Dialogue Delegate, Youth Assembly at the United Nations 2015.

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AWiM is an international non-governmental organisation with the vision that one-day African women will have equal access to representation and opportunities in media industries and media content. The aim is to create an enabling environment for African women who work in media industries to thrive while positively influencing how African women are represented in the media industry and presented in media content. Our members come from all over Africa and the diaspora and range in media backgrounds, mostly in news media. As an international organisation, our aims are in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063 Aspirations 3 & 6 and United Nations SDGs 5 & 16: SDG 5:

Our priorities are;

1. To conduct research, develop academic pedagogy, and training programmes informed by the lived experiences of African women working in media industries, using these to mobilise industry and academic networks of women in media around various issues;
2. To support and mobilise media associations, networks, and groups in Africa who seek to support African women working in

media industries so that they can effectively deliver their objectives and share their knowledge;

3. To administer projects that support media women in the production of media content and projects that contribute to their career development;
4. To work with media content producers and publishers in developing strategies and policies on the representation of African women in their content;
5. To work with and guide stakeholders towards decision-making informed by the lived experiences of African women working in media industries; and develop initiatives that bridge relationships between media industries, policymakers, academia, and CSOs at local, regional, and international levels.

In line with our mission, in 2021, we started the year with our gender and digital media training programmes supported by Fojo Media Institute. We trained 100 African women journalists on data journalism, digital publishing,

developing internal gender policies, and reporting women's rights.

In January, we also launched our pilot for AWiMNews. AWiMNews is our niche news website that focuses on the intersection between women's rights and the media. Together with our founding editor, Sumeya Gasa, and over 30 freelance women journalists across Africa and its diaspora, we published a range of content to demonstrate the importance of a niche platform like AWiMNews. The focus of AWiMNews on the intersection between women's rights and the media addresses the glaring issue of inadequate coverage of African women's issues in media discourse.

Following the six-month pilot, we are pleased to share the relaunched website for AWiMNews.

The success of our work with Fojo Media Institute on AWiMNews also led us to collaborate again with them to develop SourceHer!, which is a database of African women experts from a range of industries. Platforms like SourceHer! are important and speak to the need to improve media representation of African women. According to UNESCO, only 10% of news stories focus on women. Women sources in news media comprise just 20% of experts or spokespeople interviewed, and a mere 4% of news stories are deemed to challenge gender stereotypes. Studies also show that men are more likely to be quoted than women in news media and more likely to cover "serious" topics. Our aim is that through SourceHer!, we can do our part to challenge this gendered practice.

In May, we launched the Photojournalism



programme with our long time partners, the African Union Commission and German Development Agency GIZ. Under this programme, we launched the Agenda 2063 Women's Photojournalism Awards. We researched the lived experiences of African women photojournalists, and our mini-podcast series explored these lived experiences further. We also carried out three training courses on photo essays, legal and ethics of photojournalism, and photojournalism documentaries. The programme trained 50 African women journalists across the three courses.

In 2019, we announced our partnership with Wikimedia Foundation Nigeria to launch our Visibility Project. The Visibility Project aims to increase the number of African women represented on Wikipedia. In 2020, thanks to UNESCO and the IPDC, we trained 200 women as Wikipedia editors and organised editathons. Five hundred ninety-eight new profiles of African women were created on Wikipedia through these joint activities. We continue to work closely with Wikimedia Nigeria Foundation. As part of our pre-conference activities this year, thanks to the support of the MacArthur Foundation, we trained 100 women journalists as Wikipedia editors who went on to create 37 new profiles and improved 26 existing profiles.

Furthermore, we have redeveloped our learning management platform, AWiMLearning, in response to feedback from both trainers and trainees. Awimlearning gives you access to media training in a way that is accessible and manageable, and we have been deliberate about designing our pedagogical approach to consider the realities of the women we train. Safe spaces for women in media to learn and share. AWiM was able to support our

members in organising two activities this year. The first was one of our photojournalism awardees, Arlette Bashizi, from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Who organised a photo exhibition focused on documenting the life, especially the professional life, of people living with disabilities. The objective was to celebrate the achievements of this often neglected community by exhibiting photos that disclose positive and resilient messages about them.

We also supported Wemimo Adewuni from Nigeria. She organised a hangout for journalists who have dedicated their work to reporting social issues. During the hangout, they brainstorm and develop strategies to improve reporting social issues and drive impact with these stories in 2022.

LOOKING AHEAD

For 2022, AWiM has partnered with the UN Environment Programme in Africa to launch the Africa environmental journalism programme. The project is underpinned by the African Green Stimulus Program and the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It will see us invite freelance journalists and content producers to pitch environmental stories focused on Africa, especially the gendered aspects of environmental issues. Journalists commissioned to produce stories will have access to training, and we invite media partnerships from organisations who want access to quality environment stories. Given the global conversations around the environment, this is a timely and vital project that ensures women's voices and broader environmental challenges in Africa do not get forgotten.

In partnership with Fojo Media institute, AWiM will launch her Reporting Women's Rights Graduate Training Scheme. We will nurture journalism graduates through the graduate programme in reporting on women's rights and media in Africa. Recently graduated women journalists will have the opportunity to apply for a year-long stipend and mentorship-supported programme.



Let's Increase Women's Visibility as News Sources In Africa



Want to learn more?



INSTITUTIONS



**PAN-ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY**

MEET THE EXPERT' SERIES WITH TOLULOPE ADEDEJI

Defying the Covid-19 limitations, the FT13 Class of the School of Media & Communication, Pan-Atlantic University held their first virtual event tagged 'Meet the Expert' series.

The guest speaker was Mrs. Tolulope Adedeji, Marketing Director and Board Executive Director of AB InBev, manufacturers of Corona Beer, Budweiser amongst others.

SMC organises the International Women's Day Edition of the Alumni Webinar Series March 25, 2021

In line with its mission to foster significant engagement among alumni and industry leaders, the SMC hosted an International Women's Day edition of the alumni webinar series, which fostered engagements among alumni and some inspiring speakers in the world of media and communication.

The session which was expertly moderated by **Senior News Anchor at Channels TV, Ijeoma Onyeator had Adesuwa Onyenokwe, Editor in Chief at TW Magazine Nigeria, Stephanie Busari, Multiplatform bureau lead and Supervising Editor, Africa at CNN, Toyosi Ogunseye, Head West Africa at BBC and Alexis Akwagyiram,**

Nigeria Bureau Chief at Reuters Nigeria in attendance to reflect on the theme **Telling African Stories in the New Decade: The Enablers, Challenges and Opportunities**

The Nollywood Studies Centre organises The Business of Film programme December 2, 2021

The Nollywood Studies Centre of the School of Media and Communication, Pan-Atlantic University organized The Business of Film 5 days training Programme which held from the 15th till the 20th of November, 2021.

The programme featured experienced resource persons from the film industry, including Kene Mkpuru, Victor Aghahowa and Mr. Humphrey Obino.

United Nations Global Migration Film Festival January 31, 2022

On the 11th December 2021, the United Nations Global Migration Film Festival was held.

The annual film festival sheds light on the challenges of migrants and celebrates the strengths and contributions of migrants to their communities.

A panel discussion was held on the movies watched and the idea of safe

migration.

The panel was made up of SMC faculties, Mr. Lawrence Akande and Dr. Chiemela Ogbonna; there was also Efe Edosio, a Nollywood documentary filmmaker Nollywood, One UN rep (Cyprine Cheptepkeny who is a UN representative, and One representative from the Migrant as Messengers group.

Chevron Nigeria Fetes SMC's AWARES Alumni October 14, 2021

Outstanding alumni of the Advanced Writing and Reporting Skills (AWARES) have been recognised at an awards ceremony organised by the School of Media and Communication, Pan-Atlantic University, in collaboration with Chevron Nigeria. The event took place on Sunday, October 10, 2021, at the Omu Resort, Bogije, in Lagos.

The event, fully sponsored by Chevron Nigeria Ltd, was meant to reward excellence and professionalism in Chevron-sponsored journalists who had participated in the certificate course from 2014 to 2019.

The fourteen awardees, journalists drawn from the print and electronic media, were chosen based on their work in the period following their completion of the course.

TALE OF A SELFLESS MEDIA WOMAN BUILDING CAPACITY THROUGH MENTORSHIP

From Minna, a not-so-famous city in Niger State, Nigeria, the story of a young female journalist with a burning desire to make an impact in the world through her little means began and has since blossomed into full bloom.

Justina Ashishana began her journalism career as an intern at The Nation newspaper in 2011 upon completion of her studies at Nasarawa State Polytechnic, a state-owned tertiary institution in Nigeria's North Central region. She later joined New Nigerian Newspaper and Newswatch before returning to The Nation in 2015 where she is now the Niger State correspondent.

Aside from her regular job as a state correspondent for the foremost newspaper in Nigeria which keeps her busy all year round, Justina has continued to acknowledge the invaluable place of mentorship and fellowship programmes in the career life of a typical African woman in the media industry.

She attends conferences, trainings, and workshops and participates in fellowships then shares what she learnt with budding journalists and media students through step-down trainings and mentorship programmes. Justina has proven to be a great asset toward the capacity development of female journalists in Nigeria and most especially, Niger State where she resides.

In 2017, she attended the 10th Global Investigative Journalism Conference, in South Africa organized by the Global Investigative Journalism Network. In 2018, she attended the ICFJ Road Safety Conference in Thailand. In 2020, she also received a fellowship to attend the Global

Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Sweden.

In 2021, she was a Fellow at the African Women Journalism Project (AWJP), an organization founded by ICFJ Knight Fellow Catherine Gicheru as well as received training on misinformation through the Institute for War & Peace Reporting's Africa Resilience Network.

She has also been a fellow of the Report Women Network, African Science Literacy network, ICFJ safety fellow, Dubawa fact-checking fellow and alumni of Data and Solutions Academy of the School of Media and Communications in the Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos.

One thing that makes Justina stand out after these workshops, fellowships and conferences is the fact that she takes it upon herself to share her acquired knowledge with fellow journalists who may not have had an opportunity to participate in such programmes.

Moved by her desire to increase the capacity of budding journalists in Niger State and Nigeria at large through mentorship, she founded the Media Mentors Network, an initiative that aims to build a network of mentors and mentees in Nigeria.

"Media Mentors Network began after I attended a series of fellowships and mentorship programmes and realized there's a big gap in mentorship in Nigeria. I realized that a lot of young journalists come out from tertiary institutions without anyone to look up to." Justina told AWiM News.

This is why Justina decided to form Media Mentors Network to bridge the gap between mentors and mentees by linking already established journalists with inexperienced ones.

Through the Network, she carries out



trainings, seminars and consultancy work to address pressing issues in the media world.

"Mentorship plays a vital role in the capacity development of female journalists. This is because there are very few female journalists in the field and upcoming ones need to have someone to look up to that will guide them through developing their skills and confidence. Mentors help their mentees to take steps they might be reluctant to make, encourage them to aim higher beyond limitations as well as inspire them to take bold steps which ordinarily were thought to be for the male gender alone," she added.

Having personally benefitted from a series of fellowships and mentorship programmes, Ashishana believes it is one of the major ways of achieving gender balance in the media industry.

"I think gender equality is very achievable if we put our axes together. Women who are already advanced in the profession should open up to teaching other young budding journalists. upcoming journalists on the other hand should be open to mentorship and not feel like they're being used when someone is trying to mentor them. Being sent on assignments you feel is not what you should do can link you up with what you're supposed to do," she said.

*This article is written by
Blessing Udeobasi, Awimnews.com*



MEDIA AND CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND PEACE IN SOCIETY

COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THE 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNICATION SCHOLARS & PROFESSIONALS OF NIGERIA (ACSPN) AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 1ST & THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2021

1.0 Preamble

The Association of Communication Scholars & Professionals of Nigeria (ACSPN) held its 8TH Annual Conference with the theme: “Media and Citizens Participation in Governance for Accountability and Peace in Society” between September 1 and 2, 2021. The conference was organised in partnership with River State University Port Harcourt (RSU) and UNESCO.

The 2-day hybrid Conference (virtual and physical), attracted participants from different parts of the country and overseas.

The President of the Association and Vice Chancellor of the Federal University, Kashere, Professors Umaru A. Pate, noted in his welcome address, that there is doubt that the media have the constitutional role to hold the government accountable, and is a veritable tool to promote peace in the society. However, the media ability to perform these roles are affected by issues of poor funding, competition from social media, safety of journalists and decline in media credibility. For

media to promote peace and facilitate citizen participation in governance, those challenges need to be addressed. He expressed the appreciation of the partnership and support of the Vice Chancellor and the Management of Rivers State University, and UNESCO. He commended the effort of the LOC and welcomed members.

The Vice Chancellor, Rivers State University and host, Professor Nlerum Sunday Okogbule, in his remark, noted that the media has a large role in entrenching democracy in Nigeria and that role should not be underestimated. He stated that the cost of governance in Nigeria is too high and the press has the responsibility to investigate and set agenda on ways to cut such cost. This, he said can be achieved by harnessing the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, and that the media has a duty to facilitate citizen participation in governance and promoting sustainable peace.

There were goodwill messages from Dr. Richard Amadi - HOD, Mass Communication, Rivers State University and the Honourable Commissioner of Information and Communication, Rivers State, Pastor Paulinus Nsirim.

The keynote address on the “Role of the Media in Accountable Government and Peace in Society”, was presented by Dr. Jossy Nkwocha [FNIPR] Group Head, Corporate Communications, Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals and Fertilizer Ltd.

The Lead paper for Day 1: “Driving Development Through Targeted Engagements”, was presented by Mr.

Igo Weli General Manager, External Affairs, Shell Petroleum Development Company, Port Harcourt, and discussed by Professor Ayobami Ojebode, Department of Communication and Language Arts, University of Ibadan.

The Lead Paper for Day 2, “Saving Journalism and Regulating Big Tech: What Could Work in Africa?”, was presented by Anya Schiffrin, Director of the Technology, Media, and Communications (TMaC) specialization, and a lecturer at the School of International and Public Affairs, at Columbia University, USA and discussed by Prof. Oluyinka Esan, ACSPN Deputy President.

The Female Researchers Panel on “Governance, Women, Media, and Inclusive Society”, featured Prof. Eylem Atakav, University of East Anglia, UK who made a presentation on “Academic Activism, Social Impact and Story telling.” Discussants included, Hon. (Mrs). Inime Aguma Commissioner for Women Affairs, Rivers State, Ms. Constance Ikokwu, Doctoral researcher, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, Dr. Titilayo Osuagwu Lecturer, Department of Linguistics and Communication Studies, University of Port Harcourt, Ms Ngozi Marion Emmanuel - PhD researcher, University of Leicester, England & Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State.

Dr. Lasisi Olagunju, Editor, Saturday Tribune made the special panel presentation on the “Media are not

Dead? Are Canons Shifting? The discussants were Dr. Chido Onumah Coordinator, African Centre for Media & Information Literacy, Abuja & Vice President, ACSPN NorthCentral, Lead Discussant, and Dr. Ahmad Shehu, American University of Nigeria, Yola.

There were three masterclasses, two by Dr Ola Ogunyemi, University of Lincoln, UK, on “Documenting the Research Process” and “Publishing in Refereed Journals”, while Mrs. Florence Olumodimu, Programme Director, DigifyProNG, presented on “Leveraging Digital: Building a Personal Brand”.

2.0 Observations

The conference observed that:

1. Journalists are the only professionals given a role in chapter 2 of the 1999 constitution to hold government accountable to the people.
2. The media have the duty to promote peace in the society
3. That while it is important for the media to hold government accountable, it is necessary to note that there is a decline in societal or national value
4. New media technology is key to facilitating citizen participation in governance
5. The media have the responsibility to always examine the facts before reportage
6. A vibrant media and citizen participation are central to governance
7. Media portrayal of women is often not favourable to the course of women
8. Women participation in media is low and there has been a failure to utilise the media even when the opportunities are available.
9. Poor implementation of the Freedom of Information Act is affecting media role in holding government accountable
10. Journalists lacking in upholding and promoting professional ethic, which affect media credulity
11. The problem of safety of journalists affects media ability to

hold government accountable

12. Journalists are deficient in peace journalism skills, thereby affecting their ability to promote peace.

13. Funding and credibility are major challenges of the media in performing their roles in holding government accountable

14. There are legislation deliberately designed to curb and limit the role of the media in holding the government accountable

15. Government funding could compromise the independence of the media in objectively performing their roles, especially holding government accountable

3.0 Resolutions and Recommendations

At the end of the conference, the following resolutions and recommendations were adopted. That:

1. Media organisations should explore new business models to address the challenges of funding
2. Journalists should advocate for media development fund that should support media organisations
3. Journalist should advocate for bailout support for the media as is the case with other sectors, especially in difficult times, such as the pandemic or recession
4. Media organizations should collaborate and engage stakeholders for necessary support
5. Citizens need to go back to the value system and own up and not blame government for every societal problem
6. Media literacy should be encouraged and funded by the government and other funding

bodies to ensure that citizens understand ways to engage the media more appropriately

7. Journalists should uphold and promote professional ethics to ensure adherence and credibility in the media

8. Women should be more proactive in engaging with the media by exploring available avenues, such as media phone in programmes, new media platforms, films, among others, to tell their stories

9. Media organisations should focus on training and retraining of journalists, to enable them update skills and knowledge on current issues

10. Journalists' safety should be taken more seriously by media organisations which should ensure robust insurance schemes and hazard provisions for journalists

11. Media organisation should ensure that the welfare of journalists is taken seriously to ensure that they effectively carryout their roles without compromise

12. Media should constantly remind citizens of their obligation to uphold societal values

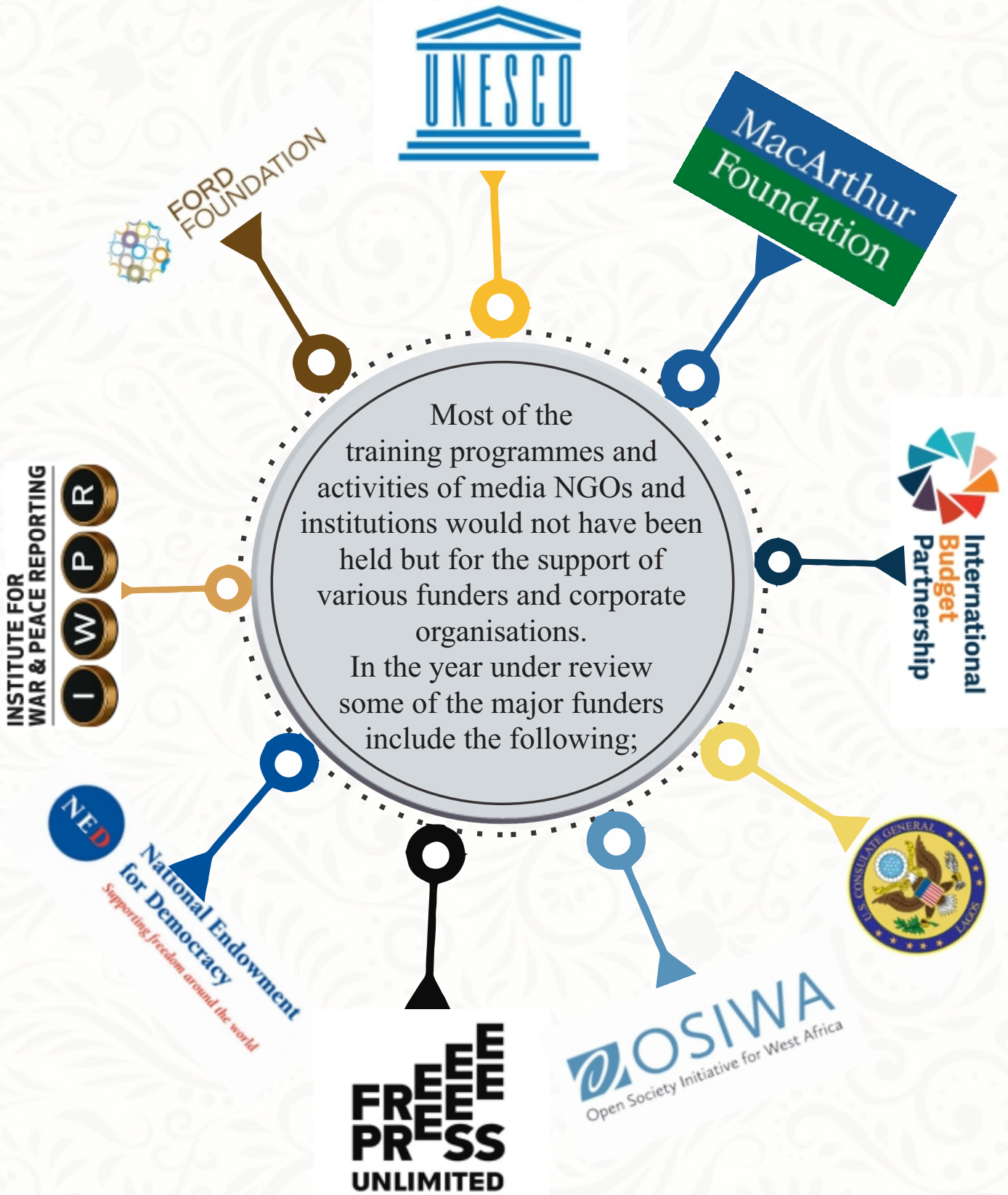
13. Journalists should fully harness the benefits of Freedom of Information Act to hold government accountable

14. Media organizations should ensure easy access to the media for their audience, to enhance their participation in governance through the media

Prof Nosa Owens-Ibie
General Secretary
September 8, 2021



FUNDERS



QUOTES FROM INTERVIEWS ON CAPACITY/CAREER DEVELOPMENT

HOW TO GET INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS – IRUOMA

Every journalist who wants to succeed must be hardworking, patient, and persistent. They must constantly apply these attributes in their day-to-day activities.

What I mean by hardworking is not merely writing “she said” or “he said” kind of journalism or stories. Journalists must learn to do in-depth stories that spotlight the numerous socio-economic issues that affect the people. Such reports, written in the human-interest form go a long way to expose the problems while advocating for solutions to address them. I believe such stories have forms of advocacy that make impacts at the end. It's such stories that journalists should submit when applying for fellowships or awards and grants. Organizing committees look at the extent of the stories we write. They want to know what impacts or potential impacts the stories can make, how does it promote press freedom, and advocate for good governance.

Every journalist should try to do at least one special story or investigation every three months that exposes social injustice, gender inequality, and corruption. This is not primarily because of fellowships or awards, but their contribution towards making Nigeria a better country and an advocate of press freedom and good governance.

Patience and perseverance are attributes every journalist must also apply. I have received numerous fellowships, grants, and awards rejections, but I never gave up. I have kept applying for opportunities and I have succeeded in receiving so many of them. But I am still hungry for more.

Freelance Investigative and Development Journalist, Kelechukwu Iruoma

<https://mediacareer.org/2021/10/11/how-to-win-fellowships-get-grants-and-freelance-opportunities/>

HOW TO ENHANCE MEDIA CAREERS DESPITE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND DIGITAL DISRUPTION - BANJO

Tell stories beyond the routine 500 words breaking news. “Fortune favours the brave” is a saying I learnt from a journalist I used to respect so much. Be brave. Take risks. Apply yourself. Learn new skills.

Become a well-rounded journalist.

Write for an international organisation at least once in your career. Apply for fellowships and awards.

Don't listen to anyone telling you fellowships and awards don't matter. They do! Yes, your work as a journalist is the most important but those fellowships are opportunities to get better at your craft. You don't do the stories for the awards but awards look good on your wall and have a way of spurring you up when those occasional doubts creep in. I should also say that when you apply for these opportunities, you will get many no. If your luck is similar to mine, you will probably get more rejections but the few acceptances

are always worth the tons of rejection. So, don't ever give up. Finally, fight for your career and your byline!

Banjo Damilola is an award-winning Nigerian investigative journalist. She had worked with Sahara Reporters and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

<https://mediacareng.org/2021/10/05/my-great-columbia-journalism-school-learning-experience/>

HOW TO ENHANCE MEDIA CAREERS DESPITE DIGITAL DISRUPTIONS – OBATERU

Continuous self-development is the key. The news media ecology has changed and would continue to change as technology evolves, so we journalists must continue to improve our knowledge and skills to remain relevant. For example, data-driven journalism is now a key component of investigative journalism and news media organisations are in need of data-savvy journalists who can give them a competitive edge.

The reality is that income of news media are dwindling and their ability to retain and pay journalists well and regularly are becoming more difficult. Many journalists have either been laid off or turned into freelancers because their news media can no longer afford to keep them amid the financial difficulty caused by digital disruptions. Journalists must not only improve their skills but also think of what they can do to earn additional income to augment the normal salary which may not even come regularly. Freelancing for different media organisations, lecturing part-time, editing, etc. are some ways to earn additional income.

We must stop complacency and take steps to improve our welfare by ourselves since most of our media organisations are themselves struggling to survive and might not be in a position to remunerate their workers well.

Dr. Taye Obateru, Senior lecturer at the Department of Mass Communication, University of Jos is an experienced journalist, researcher, and teacher

<https://mediacareng.org/2021/08/27/my-unplanned-diploma-to-ph-d-story-obateru/>

HOW TO PREPARE FOR RETIREMENT FROM TOP MANAGEMENT POSITIONS - EGBUNIKE

What actually is your beef with retirement? What should occupy you as a Journalist is the grace of good health and the opportunity to utilize the foundation you laid before your disengagement from any medium. In most cases some of us joined the bandwagon in accepting that journalism does not have a second value. I completely distance myself from that group.

What matters most is your ability to identify your biggest niche in the industry and create an innovative platform for your contacts to buy-in.

Specifically, there is no hard and fast rule about disengagement. The truth is that disengagement will surely compel any right-thinking journalist to seek or create a window for sustainable wealth.

Mr. Olisa Egbunike, a veteran Nigerian journalist was former Assistant-Editor-In-Chief of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) and Editor of the Independent Newspaper.

<https://mediacareng.org/2021/08/23/how-journalists-can-make-a-success-of-their-career/>

GLOBAL MEDIA PRACTICE JOURNALISTS SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO - OLUPPHUNDA

Legacy media are struggling as digital startups emerge. The line between print and broadcast media organisations is blurred. Multimedia tools are creating new ways of storytelling. Nigerian journalists should pay attention to the impact of technology on the media. How can we use different technological tools to amplify stories that matter, stories that can drive change in our society?

I am also studying the impact of local journalism. Global media practices are also focusing mainly on how local journalism reporting can create inclusion in society. We need more journalists who can drive this change. We also need more local reporting. We can use all the genres of reporting -broadcast, online, print

and radio to achieve this. It's not just enough to sit in Lagos and Abuja and major cities to report. We need to tell untold stories. Good thing is that there are grants for local reporting in all media genres. One major development is also the impact of digital media on journalism practices. Now that it's clear that the future of journalism will largely be mobile, Nigerian journalists especially those working in traditional media need to embrace these changes.

Bayo Olupohunda, Editor-in-Chief of Opera News

<https://mediacareng.org/2021/06/20/how-to-survive-the-digital-disruption-in-the-media-industry/>

MULTIPLE STREAMS OF INCOME FOR JOURNALISTS, MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS - ARINZE

A – The two major ones are advert and sales. But now that those two are dwindling, every media house has to upgrade by devising new ways. The most critical today is to ensure that they are strong online. When you are credible and strong online, automatically you attract adverts. Another avenue is writing books, which I must confess has really favoured me. Also, we can diversify into other things. We can go into event planning, event management, consultancy, ghostwriting, book publishing, farming, stock trading, real estate, name it. We have too many opportunities to explore now, and like I tell people, it must not only be journalism. The time has come for us to try other things. Because those that invest in media have other things that they do. It is actually what they make from there that they invest in the media. So, why must we continue to focus on just one thing? Even the one thing, sadly, we don't do well or manage professionally.

Azuh Arinze, Publisher, Yes International Magazine

<https://mediacareng.org/2021/06/01/what-i-have-learnt-in-ten-years-of-publishing-my-magazine-azuh-arinze/>

HOW TO REMAIN RELEVANT IN PRESENT THE VERY DYNAMIC MEDIA LANDSCAPE GLOBALLY - ATEBA

To remain relevant internationally, you need to upgrade yourself. You need to up your game, you need to be able to attend the same press briefing with the journalist at the New York Times and ask a better question than them. You need to understand that online is the new reality. No one waits for news tomorrow. It's all happening now, and it has to be published as it happens. You may do a follow-up story, a bigger story, or bring new perspectives into the story, or investigate a story for weeks or months, but you need to be relevant today for that big story to be read tomorrow. And because online is where it happens, you need to take advantage of all the resources, build your team to work remotely, using platforms like Slack to write articles, share business ideas, hold meetings and do video calls. You also need to have a social media presence, a LinkedIn page, a Facebook profile, a Twitter handle, and other platforms. You also need to learn how to conduct an interview via Zoom, and how to record them, edit them and publish them on YouTube or your platform. But also, you need to have an international passport and travel for conferences and world events. In addition, you need to attend training at home, know how to access resources, how to get in touch with newsmakers and sources of news. You also have to follow me and follow others who are already doing what you may want to do tomorrow. I can go on and on, but those are a few tips, tricks and hacks that you can use.

Simon Ateba, Founder and Senior International Correspondent of [Today News Africa](#) based in Washington.

<https://mediacareng.org/2021/04/13/how-to-successfully-build-an-international-online-publication/>

SKILLS GAPS MEDIA JOB SEEKERS SHOULD HAVE - AWONIYI

Young journalists should be versed in content management; they should be able to post their articles themselves and get images legally and edit them to illustrate such stories.

They should be able to research on the go and have the memory of elephants. In the rush to publish before the news gets stale, we forget in many cases to link our reports to their roots. This is why I believe that the journalist that we need has to be an allrounder. But can they be adequately remunerated? I don't think so.

I, therefore, think that whoever goes into journalism should be driven more by their passion for the profession and social change.

Germany-based Publisher of *The African Courier*, Mr Femi Awoniyi

<https://mediacareerng.org/2021/02/19/my-fear-about-the-future-of-journalism/>

WHAT IT TAKES TO WORK FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS - ADEBAYO

Nothing more important than empathy and truly caring for children and women. No doubt, UNICEF is a great place to work and impact lives directly. Every role matters in driving results and moving the needle, no matter how small. For every great organization, international or not, the focus encompasses both competence and compassion. It is not only about what we do but how we do what we do. Care, respect, integrity, transparency and accountability are UNICEF's core values. And no matter how much capacity an individual has, she would not be worth her portfolio if she is deficient in these values. So, when these values are in place, I would just add that a personal commitment to excellence is important. It is great to deliver on your workplans, but make sure you are not doing the minimum.

I see my role as an opportunity to be the difference and make a difference. I recently read what the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala had to say about success. For her, it is about getting out of bed every day and running to work. It is as simple as that. It is about showing up, without fail, whether as a result of truly enjoying the job or a good old commitment to the job. There is a tendency to see the job as having arrived, but I kid you not, it is the beginning. The short-term impact of your role is lived out right under your nose by vulnerable children and women, let alone the long-term benefit of a child succeeding and helping others like her or him succeed. I am talking about a cycle of value that is both immediate and long-term. As a humanitarian, nothing trumps hard work, being compassionate and having integrity.

Chevening Scholarship alumna, humanitarian and multiple award-winning journalist, Folashade Adebayo is the Communication Officer for UNICEF Nigeria, Maiduguri Field Office in Borno

<https://mediacareerng.org/2021/04/08/career-monitor-folashade-adebayo-tell-the-punch-unicef-nigeria/>

ADVICE FOR JOURNALISTS TO EXCEL IN THE PROFESSION - MHLANGU

Be curious, be prepared and on time, believe in the power of truth and story-telling and nurture the learner and the teacher in you!

What were your recommendations for sustaining media operations in Africa considering the massive digital disruption of media practice globally?

The study recommends that Investors/owners/funders need to realize that future success is with the news media organizations that are able to produce more than traditional news products. Owners who recognise the greater role of news in the continent and the importance of collaboration are likely to continue to invest in the sector which will only lead to marginal profits if any.

Smaller specialist publications are likely to succeed if they focus on a few key topics rather than try to be everything to everyone. Further research is required on the feasibility of establishing government funding for a private news organisation in Africa.

Former Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief eSat TV, South Africa, Mapi Mhlangu, is a specialist in delivering compelling television news content and newsroom processes

<https://mediacareerng.org/2021/01/12/how-to-genuinely-excel-in-journalism/>

PRACTICAL STEPS JOURNALISTS SHOULD TAKE TO ENHANCE THEIR CAREERS - MEYER

They must learn the basics of media law – through Google, short courses or taking modules in university. No one will be able to cheat you and your reporting won't put you in a legal mess if you know basic media law.

They must have a side hustle, to guarantee editorial independence:

Nowhere in the world is journalism often well-paid; the exceptions are few. When you have something else that brings income, it frees you from censorship by your employer, and manipulations from sources, especially in the African context. You need to be ready at any time to leave a job that takes your soul or decline a source's Greek gift. I keep saying it – I sold kerosene by the bottle, second-hand clothes and then handbags; I have done all sorts to maintain my editorial independence. It doesn't have to be anything big, but it has to be legal, and able to free you from folding into mediocrity just to keep the lights on and food on your plate. Editorial independence is what will distinguish you in the long run and give you the higher-paying jobs so please consider it a worthy investment.

Keep learning: It can be scary but try your best to learn new techniques. If you are in print, learn to cut audio, shoot video and vice-versa. You never know when it is that skill that will distinguish you.

Never cut corners and realise that excuses will cripple your rise: Self-explanatory. I won't say more; let me keep it short and simple, as the newsroom slogan says.

Ruona J Meyer, 2019 Emmy Nominee is a multi-media journalist with 17 years' experience in print, radio, wire agency and digital outlets across Nigeria, South Africa, and the UK.

<https://mediacareng.org/2021/01/21/what-journalists-must-do-to-enhance-their-careers-ruona-meyer/>



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ABOUT US

MEDIA CAREER DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



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Media 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.mediacareer.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.](http://www.mediacareer.org)

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.



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