

NIGERIA MEDIA CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2023

SURVEY | INTERVIEW | TRAINING |
PROGRAMMES | ADVICE |
DATABASE



**MEDIA
CAREER
DEVELOPMENT
NETWORK**

• Training • Mentoring • Coaching





**MEDIA
CAREER
DEVELOPMENT
NETWORK**

◆ *Training* ◆ *Mentoring* ◆ *Coaching*

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INTRODUCTION

CAPACITY BUILDING



Enhancing Capacity Development

For the fourth year running, we are glad to produce the Nigeria Media Capacity Development Report which among others, documents the major media training programmes and activities opportunities in the previous year to draw attention to the opportunities journalists and other media professionals should take advantage of to enhance their career.

The publication is a restatement of our continued commitment to promoting the need for conscious media career development in the media industry through maximizing available resources offered by especially media Non-Governmental Organisations and institutions in the country.

We are glad to know how valuable the annual publication has been for our target audience and will continue to enhance its content as we have done in this edition.

Apart from the regular highlights of the programmes and activities of major media NGOs and institutions in the country, quotes from our major interviews on our website and database, we have an insightful interview in this edition with the Programme Director of the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development, Mr Akintunde Babatunde.

Akintunde offered detailed responses on emerging issues and opportunities journalists should pay attention to in 2024, how well journalists should be maximising resources offered by media NGOs and how media NGOs can better enhance the capacity of journalists and development of the industry along with other issues he responded to.

Another section of our report this year that both journalists and media support organisations would find invaluable is the report titled 2023: State of Training based on the responses to the online survey we conducted.

We sought to know how often journalists got trained last year, who organised the training, the issues they were trained on and their suggestions for improvement of the training. Though the respondents were just 53, the responses were revealing what more can be done to ensure that journalists are better trained.

We commend media NGOs and institutions in the country for their continued commitment to enhancing the capacity of journalists in the country and urge them to devise new ways of attracting more diverse participants in their programmes and focus on new areas of need of training for journalists.

Journalists and media organisations also need to show more interest in the training organisations by the NGOs, institutions and corporate organisations through active participation and utilising lessons learnt in their reporting.

Our special appreciation to the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) for its financial support for this edition and other organisations for their continued support in various ways.

I acknowledge the efforts of members of the editorial team that ensured the production of this Report.

- LEKAN OTUFODUNRIN, Executive Director

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Justina Asishana
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About us

Media Career Development Network (MCDN)

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.mediareer.org we provide daily updated media industry reports, including news, jobs, training, interviews, views and more which attracts readership globally and quoted by top organisations and professionals.

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

Board of Trustees members




Prof. Oloruntola Sunday

Mrs Ugonma Cokey

Alhaji Yusuf Alli

Mrs Sekinah Lawal

2023: State of Media Training

It's been three editions of the Media Capacity Development Report, looking at the various programmes and activities of media focused organisations are doing in building the capacity of journalists and other media professionals at different levels.

This year we are providing insights from the feedback of the journalists who are beneficiaries of the training.

The quest was to get more information about the journalists getting the trainings; how equally distributed are training opportunities for journalists across private and government owned media houses, for male and female journalist; who are the organisers of the training, what are the focus of the trainings and in what ways can the trainings be better?

We shared an online survey filled by 53 Nigerian journalists, 22 of them work with an online platform while 20 and 11 work with print and broadcast establishments respectively. Most of the journalists are concentrated in areas like Lagos, Abuja, Ogun and Rivers, a few are in other areas in the country, limiting the representative capacity of the report.

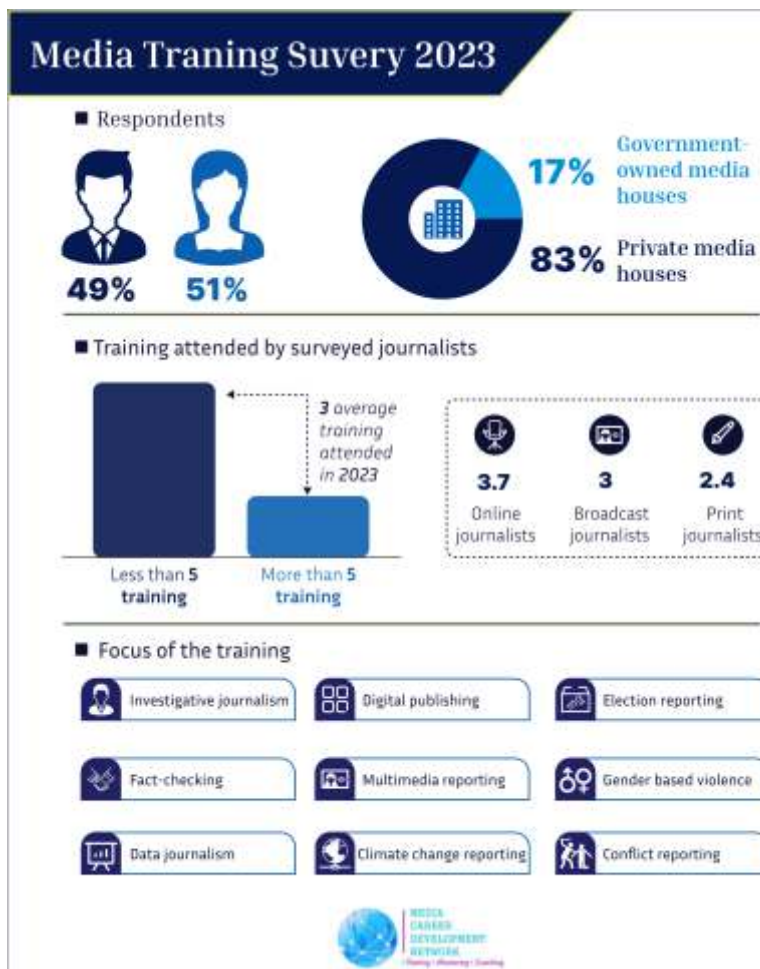
The survey which was answered by an evenly distributed gender of 27 (51%) female and 26 (49%) male was however contrastingly skewed towards the private media houses than the government-owned media houses where 44 (83%) of respondents were of private media houses as opposed to the 9 (17%) from government-owned ones.

It is however interesting to find out that even with the commendable effort of various organisations and funders to organise trainings in the year 2023, 39 (74%) of the surveyed journalists attended less than five trainings, and 14 (26%) attended five or more trainings where the highest number recorded was 15. The average training journalists in Nigeria attended in 2023 was three. For male journalists it is 2.7 while female attended an average of 3.4 training sessions.

Online journalists attended training the most in 2023, with an average of 3.7 trainings per person, following them are the broadcasters who attend an average of three training and the print journalist with an average of 2.4 training in the year.

While six journalists surveyed didn't attend any training in 2023, the most common number of training attended by journalists is two, with 15 of them saying so. The next common is one, where 10 journalists affirmed to have attended only a training for the whole year.

Regarding the focus of the training and the organisers, the survey revealed that most of the training focused on investigative journalism, fact-checking, Data journalism, Digital publishing, and multimedia reporting. Other focus areas include election reporting, environmental journalism/climate change reporting, Gender-based violence, women-inclusive reporting, trauma-sensitive reporting and conflict-sensitive reporting. However, there was a minimal focus on training on health, with only one respondent citing training on a health-related topic.



INFOGRAPH BY: Kehinde Ogunyale

Revealing a slow uptake of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Nigerian Journalists and a low interest in learning about how to use AI, only one respondent mentioned Artificial intelligence as a suggestion for training focus.

It was also noted that despite 2023 being an election year, none of the training organized by media houses focused on election reporting, nor did they train on climate change, environmental, gender and inclusion, and health reporting. They rather focused on areas like general and Investigative reporting, Fact-checking, data journalism, and monetization.

Media NGOs had a more diverse training focus touching varying areas, from fact-checking to investigative, Data and multimedia journalism, to Digital publishing, information management and balanced and inclusive reporting. The training also covered election reportage, fund tracking, climate change, GBV, journalism ethics, Legal administration and leadership.

Corporate organisations also contributed to training journalists, in areas like community development, effective writing, environmental and climate change reporting.

Revealing an apparent lack in needed business and leadership training for journalists, responses from survey respondents showed that there were only three instances of training focused on business, administration and leadership; one on monetisation, another on legal administration and the last on leadership. Recent industry research has shown that journalists and newsroom leaders need to be more equipped with management, business and leadership skills beyond the usual news and content generation skills.

To improve the quality of the training programmes, we asked the respondents for suggestions on how training providers can improve their work. There were a lot of suggestions on training focus, delivery, resource persons, and other modalities for the training.

On the focus of the training, journalists suggested that trainers should increase training on digital skills for journalism, data, and investigative journalism, election reporting, fact-checking, and advanced storytelling and writing techniques.

Trainers are also advised to focus more on gender-related issues coverage, inclusive reporting, and health coverage. As noted in one of the responses, many journalists still need more understanding of gender-based violence, reproductive health, and some other medical issues. Journalists want topics like fact-checking, solutions and accountability journalism, digital media, media entrepreneurship, and ethics to be more elaborated. There is also the clamour for increasing the training experience for campus and early career journalists

To improve the delivery of the training, journalists suggest that trainers should involve academics like professors of journalism in the training, incorporate more practical sessions and field trips to familiarise with actual practicing of the concepts learnt, and provision of incentives for participants of training.

They also stressed the need to take training beyond the popular Lagos and Abuja base where most of the training occurs and to many journalists in other areas that need more training to improve their work and build their capacity even in telling the sub-national and local stories that concern the people.

Media houses were charged to be at the forefront of training and capacity-building programmes for their journalists and training organisations are advised to collaborate with media platforms, and other media NGOs to boost participation and engagement.

Revealing a slow uptake of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by Nigerian Journalists and a low interest in learning about how to use AI, only one respondent mentioned Artificial intelligence as a suggestion for training focus. No suggestions are requested for audience understanding, news product management, or business leadership for media house leaders.

Media NGOs had a more diverse training focus touching varying areas, from fact-checking to investigative, Data and multimedia journalism, to Digital publishing, information management and balanced and inclusive reporting.

‘Emerging issues media should pay attention to in 2024’

In this interview with the Programme Director of the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID), Mr Akintunde Babatunde he spoke on emerging issues and opportunities journalists should pay attention to in 2024. He also offered insights on how journalists should be maximising resources offered by media NGOs and other issues.

Congratulations on the success of the Media and Development Conference in Abuja last year. What are the major outcomes of the various sessions which should interest journalists and the media industry as a whole?

The development conference was the second major international conference that we had last year. The reason for hosting such a conference was to help bridge the knowledge gap between what the development process is within Africa and the centrality of the media, in helping to report from a nuanced perspective.

We had a couple of sessions ranging from media, digital technology and artificial intelligence, maternal health, conflict security and human rights, media and social accountability in terms of fiscal transparency, and others. We also had special workshop sessions, where tools were shared on how journalists can report certain sectors like conflict. We also had case studies on those who have been reporting these sectors and shared their experiences on how they have been able to navigate the ecosystem. We also spoke centrally on how to fund accountability media. Especially in an era where most newsrooms lack the financial resources to fund investigative story projects. We had discussions around media sustainability, and how better journalists and media institutions can position

themselves to advance inclusive and sustainable development, not just in Africa, but to also ensure that while they are doing that, they are also profitable, and journalists can lead decent lives. That's pretty much like the summary of that conference and the thinking behind it.

What are the emerging issues and opportunities for the media that journalists should be paying attention to in 2024?

I think the very interesting dynamics within the media ecosystem is not just within the media, it is much more. So I would honestly review that question, and answer from the place of, what are the current trends in the issues that the world should pay attention to?

I think that the media as an agenda-setting entity can latch on to what is important in the global scheme of things, and then make sure that its agenda aligns with what is important because in focusing on what is important, therein lies the opportunities for impacts.

According to the World Economic Forum, misinformation and disinformation, climate change, societal polarisation and cyber threats, and interstate armed conflict rank in terms of the very high level risk that the world should pay

The media as an agenda-setting entity can latch on to what is important in the global scheme of things, and then make sure that its agenda aligns with what is important because in focusing on what is important, therein lies the opportunities for impacts.



Mr Akintunde Babatunde

attention to. And if we say the world should pay attention to these, it also means that those are areas where journalists and media institutions should focus their reporting on. But we also have AI and digital technology disruption of the media sector. So, what are the opportunities because I just gave an idea around the global issues, the opportunities there would mean that a lot of attention would be going into helping to, deal with misinformation, improve understanding of climate change, also track and understand the dynamics of AI and its impacts generally. So, I believe that a lot of institutions, media development institutions, will be having a lot of opportunities in terms of training, in terms of grants for journalists to pay attention to these issues. But not all journalists would get this, only journalists that are prepared in terms of fully equipping themselves with the right skills and the right stories that they have told in the past that will work for them. Those are the journalists that would get their share of the pack. That means opportunities are there. Journalism is perhaps one profession where you get to see opportunities for grants, opportunities for training for free.

And the point is that who are the guys who will get access to those opportunities? They are the journalists who are prepared in terms of their skill sets, in terms of their character, and in terms of how they are able to find the opportunities that abound everywhere.

From your experience with organizing training programmes and providing resources for journalists in Nigeria, how well will you say they are maximising what you are providing?

I think last year at CJID, we trained over 2000 journalists and institutions journalists, researchers, CSOs and representatives of governments across 8 countries in Africa. A number of them will take some training there to introduce people to skills. Because the training spread across different topics: Climate change, fact-checking, conflicts, oil and gas, natural resources a lot like that, and a lot of times we get to support journalists with grants. So we release grants in terms of thousands of dollars, hundreds of dollars, depending on not just journalists, but also for organizations to be able to do this work. In return, we have seen improvement.

For instance, we helped about 10 newsrooms to set up Climate Change reporting desk last year in Nigeria and Ghana. We supported a few media organisations with grants to set up training for journalists in Francophone Africa and we have seen some of the newsrooms publish www.mediareer.org

high impact investigative stories as a result of our interventions. A number of stories that we funded in other newsrooms last year got nominated for awards, some even won international awards. For us at CJID, that's the beauty of it when journalists who are doing consequential stories, get the support to do more and also get recognized for that. So I would say some journalists are taking advantage and they are doing well with it, and some still need some decent level of review in terms of the way they deliver. You sometimes get challenges where journalists are funded, and they are not able to execute the stories in line with the approved pitches. You also get delays in the time of delivery for stories that were funded. Sometimes you also get a deviation from stories published from the intended pitch. You also sometimes see a very declining quality in some stories, and that's where the question of editors and either those who approve stories comes into the picture.

But again, those are challenges, but we have seen newsrooms get better in the work we do through our support. We have seen journalists get better in the work that they do through our works and for us, when journalists

do the job, then they in turn improve the society and we can record the impact in terms of changes in democratic norms, improved transparency, and also improved understanding by the general public, so that the public is able to make informed decision about the choices that they make. And for us that is the goal as an organization.

We have seen journalists get better in the work that they do through our works and for us, when journalists do the job, then they in turn improve the society

How can media support organizations like CJID and others better enhance the capacity of journalists and development of the industry?

I think organizations that are working in this space should continue to do more as there are different levels of support. So in 2022, we reviewed our work and we discovered that sometimes when we support journalists, we sometimes forget editors, who also need to be supported. Sometimes we also do not remember to support newsrooms. So last year, we decided to scale up our work and support editors in training, supporting newsrooms in setting up reporting desks. So media development organisations also need to reinvent themselves and innovate. it shouldn't just be training. Beyond training they should support newsrooms with grants. Beyond training, they should offer technical support. Some newsrooms just need technical capacity. Some just need direction in the way they operate. So it shouldn't just be training for the sake of it. But even the quality of the trainers and the facilities has to be solid. It

must be solid, because you can't give what you don't have. If you're not fully equipped yourself with the right knowledge, how do you then train a journalist? It's important for news media development organizations to also think about what is happening globally and how can they bring that the core of the work that they do? And the last point: the reason CJID continues to say after training and supporting grants and all, we also convene conferences, so we can bring stakeholders within the technical and the subject matter experts, journalists and CSOs together to discuss what is important. And that way, there is a holistic process that makes impact even more achievable. So those are little things that I think is important for media development organizations to pay attention to.

Personally, what steps did you take to enhance your career that you will recommend to others?

I continue to learn. At the moment I don't think I have gotten it right. So every day, I seek opportunities to improve, and I've been able to get support. For instance, my Master's degree was funded by the UK Government with a scholarship. Then I also got into the Mandela Washington Fellowship in the United States supported by the US government. CJID is also an organisation where you can learn as much as you do your job. So, for me, I have been able to improve myself by being ready at all times, to learn new things and stay on top of what's trending and what's important to pay attention to within the industry and of course globally.

Do you see some duplication in the work media organizations are doing?

Yes, I think that there are duplications, but I also think that it is understandable within the realm of the sector where we operate, and this is where collaborations comes into the picture. Kudos to the donors supporting media and journalism initiatives in Nigeria, they continue to preach collaboration in the space

At CJID for instance, we are very collaborative. For instance, we extend our support to all media organizations in terms of small grants to run their operations. We also have a Coalition of WhistleBlowers and Protection where about 15 newsrooms, CSOs and media organisations come together to advance press freedom. CJID is the secretariat of that in the spirit of collaboration. Also, during the general election, we opened our central election database for up to 18 media organisations to pick get our data to use for election reporting. Those are the things we have done to improve the industry, but I do think we need to do more collaborative work because the challenges that face the

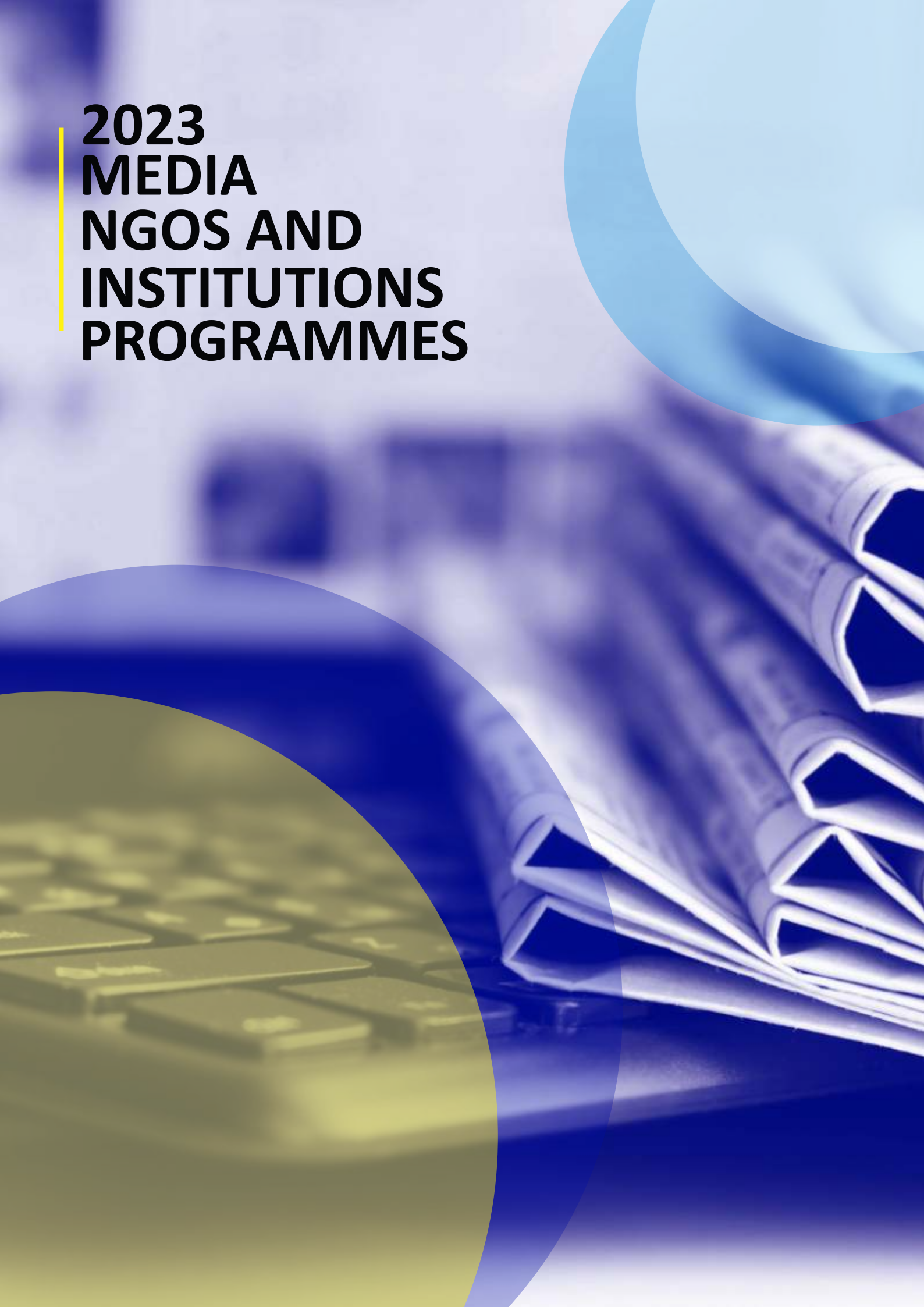
media are collaborative, it is not a single problem and it doesn't affect a single entity. It affects everyone. If we must face reality, then we need to do more work together, in the spirit of oneness and unity, rather than having to see duplicity that will take us nowhere.

What would you say people; media organisations, and CSOs, should have in mind in 2024?

Between the end of last year and the beginning of this year, the agenda that the media should focus on are actually clear: We need to pay attention to fiscal responsibility issues in Nigeria. We started the year seeing a lot of misalignment within government spending and that started when citizens started exposing budget line items one by one. That means the role of the media is still as important and it's still as relevant. What are media organisations doing to expose these issues and help set an agenda for the government. Second is that it is important for the media to respect itself and acknowledge that it is an agenda setter. If the media respects itself and acknowledges that it is an agenda setter, what it means is that our enterprise, our reporting will tell the government how to do things. The media should see itself as the institution that can help set agenda and hold the government to account to the highest standard possible. The media also, like I mentioned earlier, should be on top of important global issues and make sure that they centralize this issue in the way that it affects us locally. It is one thing to talk generally about AI and the likes, it's another thing to ask ourselves, how does this affect us in a unique way? That a story or that something is an important global issue does not mean it affects us in African countries or Nigeria the same way it affects in the US. So the question is, how do we localize global issues in the way that affect us and how do we then put that narrative out in an informed manner that helps improve public understanding, and also help the government in delivering on its duties? I think those are the important things that we should immediately pay attention to.



Mr Akintunde Babatunde



**2023
MEDIA
NGOS AND
INSTITUTIONS
PROGRAMMES**

Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism Interventions, collaborations and milestones in 2023



Our 2023 journey includes memorable moments and milestones that define our collective experience.

We partnered with Open Extractives and Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) for a three-day workshop, emphasizing the importance of beneficial ownership information for CSOs and journalists.

The Collaborative Media Engagement for Development, Inclusivity, and Accountability (CMEDIA) project supported by the MacArthur Foundation continued in 2023. The project with 26 organisations on board is a multi-level intervention that supports media independence to improve transparency, accountability, and good governance at the state and local levels of governance.

Through our intervention under the CMEDIA project, TVC News and The Nation Newspaper set up investigative desks.

Supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Report Women! News and Newsroom Engagement Champions edition of the Female Reporters Leadership Programme (FRLP) fellowship trained, mentored, and inducted 12 Fellows to address issues affecting women through stories and leadership projects.

The Centre also introduced the Champion building leadership project under Report Women! to address gender parity in news and newsroom leadership.



With the United States Mission in Nigeria's support, WSCIJ hosted 'What Makes Great Radio?' in Abuja and Lagos, to enhance the reporting skills of radio professionals.

Launched in 2023, we held six WSCIJ Journalism & Society Conversations. We emphasised [journalists' role in Nigeria's democratic struggle](#), and addressed [issues](#) like [gender inequality](#) and [media independence](#). 38607 impressions represent the number of times the conversations were viewed on X (formerly Twitter), while 1567 engagements were the reposts, replies, follows, clicks, and likes. Furthermore, a total of 11,190 individuals either participated live or listened after the conversation had ended.

The 2023 Visual Realities Media Summit- the first of its kind in Nigeria, addressed [ethical challenges](#), [AI integration](#), and [collaboration for impactful visual storytelling](#) among journalists with [52 participants present](#).

The 15th edition of the Wole Soyinka Centre Media Lecture Series titled ["Building a resilient Nigerian media and democracy"](#) focused on [robust framework and sustainable income generation](#) for media viability.



L-R: Ngozi Okpara, Associate Professor, Pan-Atlantic University; Yusuf Alli, Managing Editor, Northern Operations, The Nation; Lami Sadiq, Head, Investigations, Daily Trust; and Azubuike Ishiekwene, Editor-in-Chief, Leadership Newspaper, at the panel session during the 2023 Amplify In-depth Media Conference in Abuja on Friday 8 December.



L-R: Motunrayo Alaka, Executive Director/CEO, Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism in the middle being presented with Distinguished media gender equity advocate' Award by Lekan Otufodunrin, Director of Media Career Development Network (left) and a member of the MCDN Board of Trustees, Cookey Ugomma (right)

Lekan Otufodunrin, Director of Media Career Development Network (MCDN), led his team to the WSCIJ's headquarter to present an award to our ED/CEO for her [outstanding contributions to capacity development of female journalists in Nigeria](#) and the advocacy for gender equity in the news media.

Six Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting (WSAIR) winners spanning various years, along with two staff members from WSCIJ, participated at the 2023 African Investigative Journalism Conference at Wits University in Johannesburg. The gathering of investigative journalists across Africa which featured 140 speakers delved into topics on new technologies, collaborative efforts, media safety and funding. The CMEDIA-funded study tour provided a dynamic platform for WSAIR winners to network, interact with journalists from over 50 African countries and discuss their impactful investigative works.



From left, Babatunde Okunlola of Diamond FM, Kunle Adebajo of Human Angle Media, Kolawole Aliu of Leadership Newspaper, Emem Nssien, HR Officer, WSCIJ; Deji Lambo, formerly of The Punch Newspaper and Adekunle Yusuf, associate editor at The Nation Newspaper

In December, over 40 speakers participated at the Amplify In-depth Media (AIM) Conference as they tasked participants on [financial stability and independence](#), [objective reporting](#), [collaboration](#), [technology](#), [ethics](#) and [alternative funding for investigative reporting](#). Panellists also discussed the importance of [innovations](#), [Artificial Intelligence](#), [reporting beyond just the stories](#), [academias role in journalism](#) and [fact-checking](#) as ingredients for media sustainability at the two-day event which was a collaboration between WSCIJ and 18 other organisations under the MacArthur Foundation's 'On Nigeria Project' Media and Journalism (MAJ) cohort.

[The call for entries submissions](#) for the [18th Wole Soyinka Award for Investigative Reporting](#). Submissions commenced on Wednesday, October 4 for investigative stories produced between October 4, 2022, and October 3, 2023.

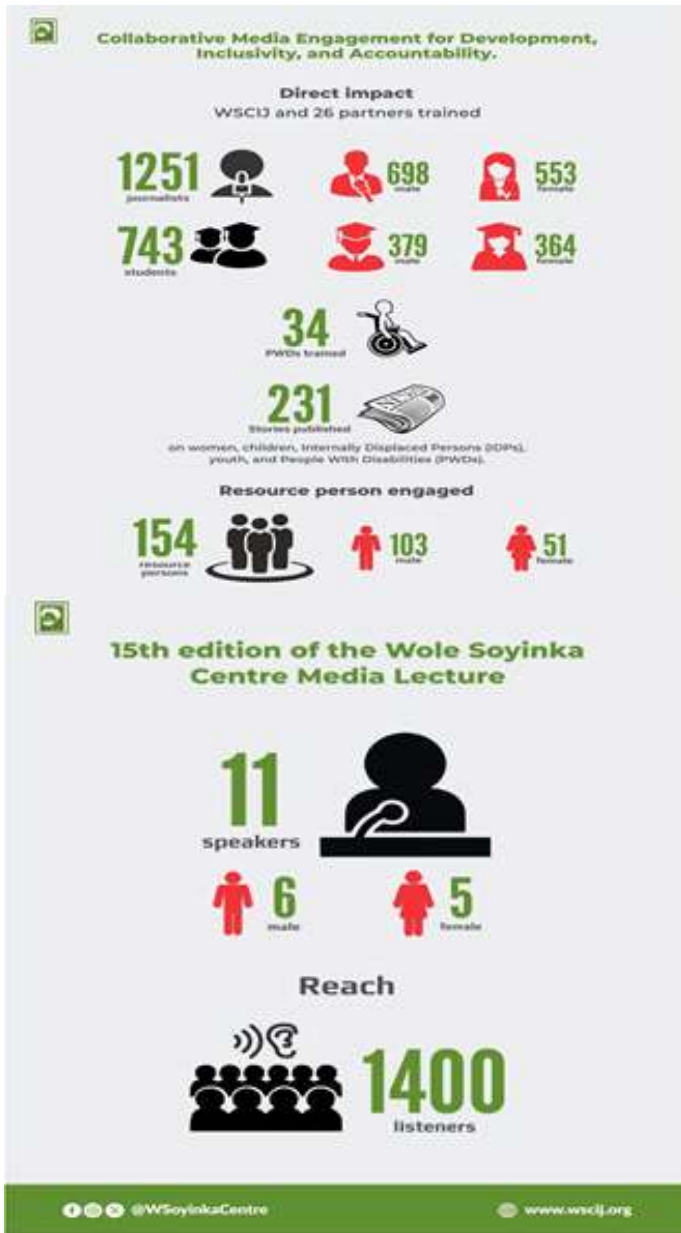
The centre also honoured ten (10) distinguished journalists at the 18th edition of its annual award in Abuja supported by the Embassy of Netherlands in Nigeria. Professor Lai Oso posthumously earned the Human Rights Defender Award and Lifetime Award for Journalistic Excellence, making history. It was in recognition of the late legendary journalist mass communication scholar's contribution to the field of journalism for over four decades.

Read the full report here: [WSCIJ 2023 Impact](#)



Professor Lai Oso posthumously earned the Human Rights Defender Award and Lifetime Award for Journalistic Excellence, making history.

A journey through some of our interventions in graphics



Media Career Development Network

Continued commitment to career development



2023 was yet another fulfilling year for us regarding our goals of supporting the career development of journalists and other media professionals in various ways.

Not only were we able to sustain our regular programmes and activities, including insightful content (News, Interviews, Analysis, Quotes, Insights etc) on our website www.mediareerng.org, Newsletter and social media platforms, publication of the annual Nigeria Media Capacity Development Report and outreach to journalists, we paid particular attention to enhancing our internship training for student journalists.

INTERNSHIP TRAINING

We hosted some students from various institutions who spent between one and three months in our office and had a collaborative exchange programme with a radio station and an online platform.

Students on internship with us benefited from being taken through a review of the various courses they have studied in school and would take on resumption. Through this process, they got better insights on courses from a more practical and professional perspective.

Our Internship exchange with Wisdom Gate Radio (wigradio.com) and New Dawn Nigeria (NewDawngr.com) aimed at fostering the professional growth of aspiring journalists attracted interns from various universities and polytechnics nationwide.

The primary objective of the programme was to provide interns with opportunities to broaden their skill sets and access valuable resources beyond their current internship placement. Through joint training sessions, reciprocal visits, and shared learning experiences, interns gained exposure to diverse facets of the media landscape.

They had the chance to showcase their work on the platforms of the collaborating organisations, thereby enhancing their visibility and professional portfolios.

In addition to facilitating domestic internships, we plan to collaborate with international organisations, thereby providing the interns the prospect of gaining global exposure and expertise.

WORKSHOPS/TRAINING

A 2-Day Capacity Training Workshop focusing on new media and online journalism organised for the League of Airports and Aviation Correspondents (LAAC) was facilitated by our Executive Director, Mr. Lekan Otufodunrin who provided valuable insights on multimedia practice. Participants acknowledged the workshop not only as a refresher course but also as an awakening to the realities of contemporary media trends.

Otufodunrin underscored the importance of digital skills and modern platforms for information sourcing and dissemination, urging participants to broaden their perspectives beyond traditional reporting methods. The workshop highlighted the emergence of digital-savvy journalists who are disrupting traditional models and reaching wider audiences through new platforms.

We also organised a training on Microsoft Excel Training for Journalists And Maximising Media Opportunities during the launch 2022 Media Capacity Development Report.

Other training programmes our staff facilitated or participated in include the following:

- In pursuit of Excellence at a lecture organised by Marketing Edge
- Fact Check training by Africa Young Media Professionals
- How to overcome personal biases when reporting on religious extremism by International Centre for Journalists
- Role of Campus Journalists in tackling Fake News by Association of Campus Journalist Ladoko

Participants acknowledged the workshop not only as a refresher course but also as an awakening to the realities of contemporary media trends.

Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) Ogbomosho.

- Solutions Journalism Training for University of Nigeria, Nsukka Union of Campus Journalists
- Weekend Journalism Masterclasses on News Reporting by the International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR)
- Maximising Social media for wealth creation
- Gender-Sensitive Reporting Training for key media personnel organised by KDI on Media Portrayals: The polarity (Positive or Negative)
- Panelist at the OAU 50 years of Campus Journalism
- Bootcamp for Young Professionals: The 3ms of 21st Century Leadership: Managing, Mentoring and Millennials” by the Chartered Institute of Insurance of Nigeria
- Twitter Space on the dialogue “Shaping the future of press freedom in Africa”
- News gatekeeping, ethics and Professionalism. What's missing today?
- Journalism, ethics and safety: Creating the balance in an uncertain world
- Journalism and emerging technology, navigating the milieu
- Perspective on Impactful Writing
- Russia in Nigeria Media at the RUDN University Conference
- How to Equip yourself in the Digital Media Era by Students Media Personalities in Nigeria

JOB PLACEMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS, COUNSELLING

Helping to source jobs and recommending journalists for vacancies was a major part of our success story in 2023. Some journalists we recommended for employment were hired. Additionally we offered trainings for journalists to enable them have required experience that can enhance their chances of getting desired placements in the media.

We also recommended journalists for facilitation roles, wrote recommendations for fellowship applications and provided counsel to journalists who reached out to us on career issues.

We hosted a Fellowship Project Training by a fellow of the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism Female Reporters Leadership Fellowship, Folashade Ogunrinde, an Editor at TV360 Nigeria.

ZOOM ACCESS

With our one year Zoom subscription we provided zoom access to journalists and organisations to host various www.mediacareer.org



programmes without time limit. We have continued to make the free access available to more journalists, organisations and institutions this year to enable them showcase their various initiatives and skills. Some of the organisation that use the zoom include:

- Solutions Paper
- Female Freelance Federation
- Verifier. Africa for launch of website
- Human Rights Journalists Network
- Enterprise CEO

BOOK DONATIONS, PUBLICATION

Our media books and other publications by media Non Governmental Organisations were donated to journalists and media organisations including Participants of the Report Women Fellowship organised by Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism.

- Dominion University
- NUJ Lagos
- New Telegraph
- Hot Pen Newspaper, Kaduna
- Legit.ng

Our ED with the assistance of staff of MCDN published two books, Dateline Cardiff (Unforgettable media training experience and impact) on his Thomsom Foundation Fellowship in 1998 and Our Punch Years (Reminiscences and insider accounts by former editors and staff of Nigeria's most widely read newspaper at 50).

AWARD

The Distinguished Gender Media Equity Award of Excellence was presented to the Executive Director of WSCIJ, Motunrayo Alaka in recognition of her outstanding contributions to capacity development for female journalists in Nigeria and globally and her advocacy for gender equity in Nigeria.

RENEWED COMMITMENT

In 2024 we are committed to scaling up our programme and activities to better serve journalists and media organisations. We would continue to advocate for better conditions of service for journalists without which they cannot perform maximally and achieve their career goals.

African Women in Media (AWiM) 2023 Project Report



African Women in Media (AWiM) is an international non-governmental organisation that aims to positively impact the way media functions in relation to African women. This is both as media workers and as subjects of media content. We are about gender equality in and through the media. Our members come from all over Africa and the diaspora and range in media backgrounds, mostly in news media. In addition to our training and conference, we research women's lived experiences in media and organise capacity-building activities using our learning management platform, AWiMLearning. We also publish niche content focused on women's rights and media issues on our news website AWiMNews. In 2021, we developed SourceHer! Which is an online directory of African women experts across various industries to be cited as expert sources in news reports.

Here is a breakdown of our activities in 2023;

Reporting Violence against Women and Girls Program

We continued into the second year of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) program, which was focused on the following activities:

Training and Capacity Building- Development of training for journalists with the overall objective of capacity building in policy making and holistic resilience at both individual and organisational levels. Two distinct training programs were implemented. The first was a self-paced training program to enhance psychological and financial resilience. The second training course, on "Developing and Implementing Gender-Responsive Policies," was conducted through a virtual instructor-led five-day webinar.

In 2024, AWiM aims to collaborate, train, develop and build our networks across the globe in order to achieve our vision that one day, African women will have equal access to representation and opportunities in media industries and media content.

Research- After research on the status of Violence against Women and Girls was concluded, the following two mini-reports were produced:

1. A review of the coverage of Violence against Women and Girls in Nigeria.
2. A review of the policy guidelines on Violence against Women and Girls reporting in Nigeria.

Investigative Report - In collaboration with selected journalists in Nigeria, our initiative employed a narrative approach that focused on human-angled stories to address pertinent issues. The journalists produced a two-part multimedia series on non-physical gender-based violence, an underreported form of violence against women and girls. This encompassed an investigation into necessary reforms within the realms of law enforcement, medical practitioners, and the legal system, with a specific emphasis on advocating for improved treatment of survivors.

Content Creation – We also developed news stories focused on Violence against Women and Girls in Nigeria. These news stories were not only meant to raise awareness on VAWG reporting but also increase journalistic skills in storytelling.

Young Women in Politics Program

The AWiM Luminare project on Increasing the Visibility of Young Women in Politics in Kenya and Nigeria was aimed at intervening in the state of reporting young women in politics and participation in civic life. To achieve these results, African Women in Media, AWiM, conducted research to understand the effect of media portrayal of young women in politics, how media visibility of young women politicians contributes to their elevation to leadership positions, how young women politicians leverage social media spaces for personal branding to attract the attention of legacy media and how often the visibility of young women politicians in the media drive political discussions.

The conclusions of both studies indicate that most stories featuring young women politicians rarely seek to profile them and their achievements. They instead focus on

generic issues that affect women to create an impression that they have a voice in the political arena. Using the tabloid approach, where most stories about young women politicians were deemed as sexist, primed gossip based on the physical appearance of young women. This did not help propel a positive image of them toward the public. All these factors have contributed to the early exit of young women from the political scene, which takes away the opportunity and benefits of visibility associated with being on decision-making tables.

In addition to both research reports covering Kenya and Nigeria, two media toolkits were also developed to address the ongoing underrepresentation of women, particularly young women, in political decision-making by providing media professionals in Kenya with guidance on fair and accurate reporting.

Both these reports and toolkits will be available on the AWiM Website in February 2024.

AWiM23 Conference

The AWiM23 conference held in Kigali, Rwanda, was a crucial moment as over 200 women and men in media, academia, policymakers, civil society and funders came together to share knowledge, best practices and research around Media and Violence. One of the major outcomes of the conference was the Kigali Declaration on the Elimination of Violence in and through the Media. The Kigali Declaration, in principle, includes, but not limited to, the following:

- Media portrayal and representation of survivors and victims of gender-based violence should be fair, balanced, unbiased and free of gender stereotypes.
- Media organisations should increase ethical coverage of all forms of violence against all women and girls regardless of ethnicity, class, ability and other distinctions.
- Media organisations and all industry bodies should establish guidelines on all forms of coverage of content on violence against women and girls. They should provide training to foster meaningful implementation and monitoring of the guidelines.
- Media organisations, associations and unions should address and combat sexual harassment and other forms of violence against women in the physical and on-line media workplace.

Read and Sign the declaration [here](#)

Dare to Belong: AWiM Premium Membership

The AWiM membership is for those who share the same values as ours: people who are passionate about African women and media, gender equality, and the constant pursuit of knowledge and skills development.

Our membership is open to all who wish to support the advancement of African women media practitioners on the continent and across the globe. Benefits of our membership include:

- **Free access to AWiMLearning**
- **Exclusive content on Members-Only Newsletter**
- **Access to AWiM Online Engagements such as Twitter Spaces, Webinars and Podcasts**
- **50% Discount on AWiM Annual Conferences**
- **Exclusive Member-Only Masterclasses and Book-club**
- **Early access to AWiM research reports.**

[Free Registration as expert sources on AWiM SourceHer!](#)

Interested parties can check out our Membership plans [here](#)

In 2024, AWiM aims to collaborate, train, develop and build our networks across the globe in order to achieve our vision that one day, African women will have equal access to representation and opportunities in media industries and media content.

Links and more:

Our Research - <https://africanwomeninmedia.com/all-research/>

Reporting Violence Against Women and Girls in Nigeria - <https://awimnews.com/category/vwag/>

Media and Young Women in Politics in Nigeria and Kenya - <https://awimnews.com/category/women-in-politics/>

One of the major outcomes of the conference was the Kigali Declaration on the Elimination of Violence in and through the Media.



Africa Foundation for Young Media Professionals A Year of Impact and Celebrated Milestones

2023 was a year of impact and celebrated milestones for the Africa Foundation for Young Media Professionals. With the successful execution and expansion of routine programs and projects, introduction of a new fellowship, and reaching more media professionals with capacity building and empowerment opportunities across Africa.

In 2023 AFYMP directly reached over 600 Africans and in more African countries with her programs, introduced a new fellowship and some projects targeted at African journalists, storytellers, and newsrooms, and covered more media subjects and talk points as it concerns Africa.

AFYMP's 3 workshops in Zimbabwe trained 58 participants, of which 42 were females and 16 were males, engaging 12 resource persons where 9 were females and 3 were males. Another 2 workshops for early career journalists and broadcasters in Uganda trained 28 participants of which 19 were females and 9 males, engaging 8 resource persons of 7 females and 1 male.

While doing the workshops, AFYMP also ran a media talk tagged "Let us talk about Sustainable journalism", introducing next-generation and early-career journalists to media sustainability. The media talk which was targeted at young media professionals across Africa was done virtually to accommodate the cross-continent population.

The routine media clinic outreach, while engaging 1 resource person, reached 120 mass communications students, about 80 of the participants in attendance were females while 40 were males.

The specialized National campus journalism outreaches/workshops "Reporting for Impact" project directly reached 125 campus journalists across five tertiary institutions in Nigeria. These include the University of Ibadan, Osun State University, Ladoke Akintola University Ogbomoso, University of Benin, and The Polytechnic Ibadan. This specialized outreach engaged a total of 11 resource persons where four were females and 7 were

males.

AFYMP's four strategic fellowships, which always run for about 6 months, were also held in 2023 admitting a total of 110 fellows consisting of 45 males and 65 females.

Media entrepreneurship fellowship had 30 participants consisting of 11 males and 19 females and engaging 19 resource persons of 11 males and 8 females; Women in journalism fellowship had 20 fellows, all females, engaging 10 resource persons of 8 females and 2 males; Disability and inclusion fellowship had 32 fellows consisting of 12 females and 20 males, engaging 12 resource persons of 6 females and 6 males. 3 of these resource persons were persons with disabilities; Campus Journalism fellowship had 28 fellows consisting of 14 males and 14 females, engaging 8 resource persons of 4 males and 4 females.

Africa Media Come Alive Conference, which is AFYMP's major yearly platform for raising ideas, issues and conversation within the media industry was also held in 2023. AMCAF as it is named is also an avenue for the final induction of fellows who participated in the four strategic fellowships.

AMCAF theme for the year was: "**The Future of African Journalism: Content, Policy and Business Viability**". The event had 120 attendees, 2 male and 2 female resource persons and debaters from Lagos State University, Nigeria Institute of Journalism, Babcock University, Caleb University as well as Mountain Top University.

The programs for the event include a Keynote address, panel session, and as usual, the annual intervarsity debate. Mountain Top University came first, Lagos State University came second while Babcock University took third position.

AFYMP also gave out its award: Most Valuable Professional Award to 3 outstanding media professionals who had stood out in the year. Unlike 2022, the three awardees were females.

With the support of Africa No Filter, AFYMP kickstarted a new fellowship "**African Change Narrative Storytellers Fellowship**" which aims to promote responsible, positive stories publishing about Africa and Africans.

The fellowship which runs for 6 months started in November 2023 to end in April 2024. 60 fellows consisting of 30 males and 30 females who are early career

Africa Foundation For Young Media Professionals is a media skills/career development organization based in Nigeria with projected regional and operational country offices across Africa.



journalists, broadcasters, and storytellers from across African countries were selected through a rigorous application process. The fellowship engaged 12 resource persons, 6 males and 6 females across Africa who are experts in ethical storytelling, responsible journalism, broadcasting, and editing. They will be aided by other volunteers as well as in-house staff.

In 2023, the Nigeria Grassroot newspaper platform published 96 in-depth stories that cut across Investigative, human angle, feature, and community news related to **P e r s o n s w i t h d i s a b i l i t i e s , w o m e n ,** education, environment, media entrepreneurship, policy, governance, etc.

The organization's newspaper which focuses on under-reported issues around accountability, gender, and human rights especially that of the marginalized voices at the sub-national levels mandated every fellowship participant to publish two stories each throughout their mentoring and fellowship session. This in addition to trained staff members/volunteers who report on issues amounted to the year's number of published reports.

Three major impact stories of the newspaper are:

- 8 months after Nigeria Grassroot news report, Anifowoshe Ikeja breathes relief
- 8 Months after Nigeria Grassroot News report, Lagos governor replaces LASODA GM
- 7 years 'later, Ogoni land breathes relief

Strategic media relations and visibility of the organization resulted in corporate views, position, guest expert interviews, and events covered by frontline media houses reaching over 200 million people globally. These media include premium print, radio stations, television stations, and online platforms.

Another notable impact manifested as the progress of participants in the AFYMP fellowships and programs.

Salaudeen Abdullah and Akintulubo Precious the 2023 Campus Journalism fellow and 2022 Media entrepreneurship fellow became President & Gen. Secretary of their University's Newspaper; Mary Joseph, a 2022 Media Entrepreneurship fellow won the Most Promising Producer Award; Confidence Biebara, a 2023

Women in Journalism Fellow won Journalist of the Year's Award (Website Category) organized by Trendsetters Award; Jare Tiamiyu, (a 2023 Disability and inclusion reporting fellow) Editor-in-Chief of InSight Media and His Platform won Community reporting Impact award for a story he did; Violet Ikong, Women in Journalism fellow 2023 won 2nd runner up in BugIT Active Citizen report(Solution Journalism category), Tijani AbdulKabeer, 2022 Media Entrepreneurship fellow won Social Voices health reporting story worth \$2500; AbdulRahman Adebayo, 2022 Campus Journalism fellow won Best Investigative Journalist Award

QUICK FIGURES

AFYMP in 2023 Directly reached:

- over 600 (182 males, 326 females) African young media professionals.
- Over 365 media and communication students and campus journalists
- 2 newsrooms
- 10 tertiary institutions of 8 universities, 1 polytechnic, and 1 institute of journalism.
- 2 additional African countries – Zimbabwe and Uganda (Adding to Nigeria, South Africa and Kenya)

AFYMP in 2023 engaged:

- 100 resource persons consisting of 43 males and 57 females
- More female participants and resource persons than male, with over 326 female participants to 182 male and 57 female resource persons to 43 male ones.

AFYMP in 2023 executed

14 kinds of programs, including workshops, training, fellowships, outreaches, a media talk, media clinics, conference, and Award

Introduced 3 new ones, a pilot newsroom training, media talk, and fellowship.

Published 96 stories in Nigeria Grassroot Newspaper.



Nigerian Women in Public Relations 2023 Project Report

ABOUT US

Nigerian Women in PR, established in 2019, is a social impact professional organisation set up to advocate for, and provide growth resources to, Nigerian Women working as Public Relations and Communications professionals across the world. Through our programs, initiatives and strategic partnerships, we provide a resource hub for learning and professional growth of our members; promote the continuous relevance of members as the Public Relations and Communications profession evolves; platform the RESULTS of Nigerian Women practising in the profession; and promote the understanding and value of the public relations profession.

Objectives

- To be a resource hub for learning and professional growth of each Nigerian Woman working in Public Relations & Communications.
- To support the continuous relevance of Nigerian women practising Public Relations and Communications as the profession evolves.
- To platform the results of Nigerian women in Public Relations and Communications.
- To promote the understanding and value of Public relations.

SDG ALIGNMENT

The initiatives and programs of Nigerian Women in Public Relations are designed to aid the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4: to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning

Nigerian Women in PR, established in 2019, is a social impact professional organisation set up to advocate for, and provide growth resources to, Nigerian Women working as Public Relations and Communications professionals across the world.



opportunities for all; and Sustainable Development Goal 8: to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Hence, our initiatives in 2023 were driven towards these SDG targets

- Target 4.4 via Experiencing PR Annual Conference - Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success
- Target 8.5 via Global Directory of Women-Owned / Led PR Firms - Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- Target 4.3 via NGWiPR Scholarship Fund - Equal access to affordable technical, vocational and higher education
- Target 8.5 via #PRBizWebinar - Full employment and decent work with equal pay
- Target 12.2 via #TrashyourTrash Campaign - Responsible management of chemicals and waste

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, Nigerian Women in Public Relations embarked on several impactful projects aimed at advancing the profession and empowering Nigerian female communications and public relations practitioners.

- **Experiencing PR 2023 Stakeholders' Brunch:**
We initiated the year with a stakeholders' brunch, facilitating a roundtable discussion to garner support and partnerships for the upcoming Experiencing PR conference. This event served as a platform to engage key players in the Communications and PR sector, laying the foundation for collaborative efforts.

- **Experiencing PR 2023 Conference**
The highlight of our year was hosting the second edition of the Experiencing PR Annual Conference. Themed "Beyond Crisis: Public Relations for Perception Management in Business and Public Affairs," the conference brought together public office holders, business executives, and PR professionals to explore critical issues facing the industry.



Notable speakers, including Co-founder, Africa Communications Week, Mimi Kalinda and former Statistician General of the National Bureau of Statistics of Nigeria Dr. Yemi Kale, enriched discussions, while impactful initiatives like the #TrashyourTrash campaign and the Nigerian Women in PR Scholarship Fund were launched.

- Resource Publication:

We published two significant resources during the year. The maiden edition of the [Global Directory of Nigerian Women-Owned/Led PR Firms](#) serving as a comprehensive guide for potential clients, promoting gender equity within the industry. Additionally, our publication "[Experiencing PR Magazine](#)" featured insights from professionals across multiple countries, fostering a deeper understanding of perception management in Public relations.

- PRBizWebinar

In collaboration with Africa Communications Week, we organized a training webinar on "How to Start, Grow, and Scale your PR Business." This initiative aimed to equip aspiring and existing PR entrepreneurs with essential tools and insights for success in the industry.

- PR Woman of the Month

Throughout 2023, we spotlighted the achievements of seven outstanding women in PR through our "PR Woman of the Month" feature. These interviews not only amplified their personal brands but also showcased their contributions to the profession.

- Premium Members Meetup

Our maiden Premium Members Meetup provided a valuable platform for dialogue and mentorship. With a session focusing on positioning for opportunities in 2024,

attendees gained valuable insights into navigating the evolving landscape of PR.

2024 OUTLOOK

As we venture into 2024, Nigerian Women in Public Relations remains committed to fostering lasting impact in the global Public relations and Communications industry. Our major initiatives for the year include:

- Experiencing PR Conference: March
- PR Students' Summit: Monthly
- C-suite Acceleration Workshop: May
- PR Business Training: June
- Reverse Mentorship Workshop: July
- PR Job Fair: November
- NGWiPR Business Visit: Bi-monthly
- Premium Members' MeetUp: Quarterly
- The PR and Comms Experience (PREP)

Throughout 2024, we will continue to publish periodic resources to support the professional growth and development of PR practitioners.



Daily Trust Foundation Training activities in 2023

Daily Trust Foundation is the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Media Trust Group, publishers of *Daily Trust* titles, *Trust TV*, *Trust Radio*, and *Digital Trust*. Among its several activities, the Foundation is engaged in capacity building for journalists across platforms, with support from MacArthur Foundation.

The foundation conducted 10 workshops in 2023. They include Safety for Journalists Workshop; Cyber Security Workshop; Budget Tracking and Investigating Public Expenditure (North-Central); Budget Tracking and Investigating Public Expenditure (South-West); and Book Writing, Editing, and Publishing workshop. Others include Advanced Data Journalism; Open-Source Intelligence Workshop; Television & Radio Production; Social Media Engagement Strategies; and Capacity Building for Leaders in Editorial Roles.

The Safety for Journalists workshop was put together to expose journalists to the safety measures they need in carrying out their duties to avoid physical attacks, incarceration, and harassment while reporting. It took place on January 19, 2023 at AES Luxury Hotel & Suites, Abuja. Twenty-seven journalists drawn from several media organizations took part in this workshop.

The Cyber Security Workshop which also took place in Abuja was organized to enhance journalists' understanding of digital threats, privacy, and secure communication in their reporting. It held from May 8, 2023 to May 10, 2023 at the Daily Trust Foundation Training Hall, Abuja. Twenty-six journalists, drawn from several media organizations, took part in this workshop.

The Budget Tracking and Investigating Public Expenditure (North-Central) took place in Ilorin, Kwara State from May 23, 2023 to May 25, 2023 at G-Pinnacle Hotel and Suites, Ilorin, Kwara State. The objective of the workshop was to enlighten journalists on the processes involved in budget preparation, how to access state governments budget documents, and to empower them to be able to scrutinize government spending, detect corruption, and hold government accountable. Transparency in public finances is essential for democracy. There were 28 journalists drawn from the six North-Central States, including Plateau, Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, FCT, and Kwara. Also, the Budget



Training session

Tracking and Investigating Public Expenditure (South-West) held for three days from August 30, 2023, to September 1, 2023 at Sunview Hotel, Akure, Ondo State. . There were 20 journalists drawn from the six South-West States, including Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Ekiti, Oyo, and Lagos State.

The Book Writing, Editing, and Publishing workshop held, under the Foundation's Media Enterprise Lab Project, for five days from Monday, September 25, 2023 to Friday, September 29, 2023 at Merit House, Maitama, Abuja. The workshop was meant to expose those in the media and journalism fields to the craft of book writing - fiction and non-fiction - to enhance their skills for additional income and self-sustainability. There were 51 participants, drawn from different spheres of life, ranging from the media and journalism space to the academia, to civil service and even private professionals.

The Advanced Data Journalism workshop held for three days from October 23 to October 25, 2023 the Daily Trust Foundation Training Hall, Abuja. The objective of the workshop was to enable journalists make sense of complex data sets to write data-driven stories that enhance accuracy, transparency, and accountability. Twenty journalists, drawn from several media organizations took part in this workshop.

The Open-Source Intelligence workshop was organized to expose journalists to the methods of information gathering from publicly available sources, especially with the use of

Daily Trust Foundation is the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Media Trust Group, publishers of *Daily Trust* titles, *Trust TV*, *Trust Radio*, and *Digital Trust*. Among its several activities, the Foundation is engaged in capacity building for journalists across platforms, with support from MacArthur Foundation.



digital tools. Many OSINT tools are valuable for fact-checking, investigations, and verifying claims. It was held for three days, from October 30, 2023 to November 1, 2023, at the Daily Trust Foundation Training Hall, Abuja. Twenty journalists, drawn from several media organizations, took part in this workshop.

The Television Production workshop was organized to equip journalists with skills to create high-quality television content. The workshop held for three days from November 13, 2023 to November 15, 2023 at the Daily Trust Foundation Training Hall, Abuja. 24 journalists took part in this workshop.

The Social Media Engagement Strategies workshop was designed to help journalists leverage social platforms for effective communication, audience engagement, and dissemination of news. It was also held at the Daily Trust Foundation Training Hall, Abuja from November 27, 2023 to November 29, 2023. Twenty-six journalists participated in this workshop.

The last workshop for 2023 was for capacity building for Leaders in Editorial Roles. This was designed to strengthen the leadership skills of editorial heads. The 3-day workshop began on December 11, 2023, and ended on December 13, 2023, at the Daily Trust Foundation Training Hall, Abuja. 19 journalists and editors took part in this workshop.

The workshops for 2024 include the following:

- Investigative Reporting for Interns, NYSC, and New Staff
- Investigative Reporting for Female Journalists in



- the North-Central
- Advanced Data Journalism (North-West)
- Advanced Data Journalism (North-East)
- Broadcast Investigation (South-South)
- Multimedia Reporting for Freelance Journalists
- Budget Tracking and Investigation (North-East)
- Budget Tracking and Investigation (South-East)
- Undercover Reporting
- Fact-Checking and Verification
- Digital/Radio/Television Production
- Writing and Editing the Investigative Story
- Conference on the Role of Media in Fighting Corruption
- Media Enterprise Lab project: Managing Media as Start-up and Non-Profit and
- Media Enterprise Lab project: Document Digitization.





2023 Projects Summary

International Centre for Investigative Reporting had over 900 applicants across all our projects for 2023 with 83.3% male, 16.7% female, and 2.9% identified as Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Out of these, 122 were selected and trained for the different projects. Of this number, 35 were female while 87 were male.

Project: Open Contract Reporting Project (OCRP)

ICIR OCRP project funded by the MacArthur Foundation had 60 participating journalists in 2023 who submitted 54 pitches. 38 pitches were funded and 32 reports were published.

The project began with the selection of 60 journalists from diverse backgrounds across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria, ensuring gender balance and previous track records in critical reporting. Following a rigorous screening process, these journalists underwent a comprehensive three-day Investigative and Data Journalism training program held in Abuja, Kano, and Lagos. The training equipped them with essential skills in investigative techniques, data analysis, and ethical reporting practices.

To ensure sustained guidance and support, the Centre appointed five mentors who worked closely with the journalists throughout the project's duration. Mentors provided one-on-one guidance, assisted in investigative pitches, and helped refine draft reports before publication. The journalists, under mentorship, produced investigative reports focusing on budgetary and procurement fraud. Out of 54 pitches received, 38 were supported, resulting in 32 published reports highlighting deficiencies in public sector infrastructure provision and procurement processes.

Project: Promoting Democratic Governance in Northwest

This project, supported by the United States Embassy in Abuja had 20 journalists and 20 Civil Society Organization actors in participation and funded 20 pitches submitted for the program.

The project focuses on enhancing the capacity of 20 journalists in the North West region of Nigeria. Held in Kano, the capacity-building program equipped journalists www.mediareng.org

with essential skills, techniques, and ethics necessary for investigative reporting. Additionally, a Media/CSO dialogue was convened, facilitating collaboration between journalists and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) dedicated to promoting accountability and transparency. Through real-time investigative reporting, this initiative aimed to hold the government accountable while fostering dialogue between media professionals and CSOs. The project aimed to institutionalize a systemic structure for engagement, develop civic mechanisms to hold the government accountable, and promote citizens' participation in creating a corruption-free society. By strengthening journalistic capacity and fostering collaboration between media and CSOs, the project sought to contribute to a more transparent and accountable governance framework in the North West region of Nigeria.

Project: Countering Misinformation and Promoting Media Literacy

This project aimed at strengthening media integrity and combating misinformation in Nigeria was funded by the German Embassy in Abuja and it directly impacted 30 journalists and 485 student journalists in 12 tertiary institutions across the six geo-political zones in Nigeria. 120 fact-check claims and 45 multimedia translations were published as well as 26 episodes of a radio program aired on the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria network.

The project aims to strengthen media integrity and combat misinformation in Nigeria through targeted capacity-building, educational programs, language-inclusive content dissemination, radio broadcasts, institutional support, and social media engagement. Capacity-building workshop was organized to equip 30 journalists with fact-checking skills and promote responsible journalism. Similarly, students in tertiary institutions received media literacy training, becoming ambassadors against misinformation on their campuses. 45 fact-checked content that was translated into local languages for the reach of non-literate populations, overcoming linguistic barriers.



A radio program in partnership with FRCN facilitates public discourse on tax equity to ensure widespread dissemination of project findings, fostering informed conversations and advocating for tax policy reforms.

Collaborating with the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria produced a radio program to discuss verified claims and promote media literacy, broadcasting in local languages. The project, spanning from September to December, empowered journalists, students, and the public to counter misinformation effectively, fostering a more informed and responsible information landscape in Nigeria. In an unexpected turn of events during our project, journalists took the initiative to orchestrate a community awareness campaign focused on media literacy and combating misinformation.

This impactful endeavour successfully extended our efforts to ensure inclusivity in grassroots communities. Where a particular journalist organized monthly training sessions for journalists across various newsrooms in Kano State and he has trained over 50 journalists within the timeframe. Another journalist from Ogun State also extended the reach of media literacy awareness by presenting at the State Union of Journalists headquarters, sensitizing journalists from all media houses in Ogun State on countering misinformation and advocating for responsible information sharing within the state's media space.

Project: Tax Justice, Equity and Transparency

Funded by the International Budget Partnership, this project directly impacted 12 journalists who submitted 12 pitches and were funded. 13 episodes of a radio program were aired on the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria network.

The project initiated a targeted selection process aiming to recruit 12 young, early-career business reporters from Lagos, Taraba, Cross River, and Kano, with a focus on increasing female representation in local-level accountability reporting. Utilizing diverse channels, including social media and direct messaging, ensures broad outreach for applications. Following selection, journalists undergo a comprehensive three-day training program covering investigative and data journalism, with a specific emphasis on tax-related issues. Expert faculty, including partners like IBP and tax equity specialists, provided technical sessions on tax policies, laws, and contemporary issues. Mentorship forms a crucial component, with three experienced editors guiding journalists throughout the project. Mentors offer editorial advice, evaluate story ideas, and supervise fieldwork to ensure alignment with project objectives and standards.

Journalists produced multimedia reports examining tax challenges in their respective states, focusing on issues like multiple taxation, tax justice, and compliance. These reports aim to identify reform areas and set agendas for governmental action. A consolidated report synthesizes findings from all journalists, analyzing trends and providing insights into federal-level tax reforms.

Additionally, a radio program in partnership with FRCN facilitates public discourse on tax equity to ensure widespread dissemination of project findings, fostering informed conversations and advocating for tax policy reforms.



LIGHTRAY! Amplifying Voices and Driving Change

LightRay! Media's Impactful Year: Amplifying Voices and Driving Change

Nurturing the Next Generation: Throughout 2023, LightRay! Media has been dedicated to bridging skill gaps, mentoring, and empowering a diverse array of radio/TV anchors, podcasters, journalists, writers, researchers, and digital content creators. Regardless of age or gender, we've strived to equip individuals with the tools to shape the future of media. Mid-level and experienced journalists from over 100 media-based organisations across Nigeria, Africa, Afghanistan, etc., were trained on Ethical Standards and Self Development, Media Checking Media, and Follow The Story capacity building initiatives. Students at the Nigerian Institute of Journalism were also trained on new broadcasting strategies and principles.

Journalistic Excellence: Our commitment to delivering unique and interpretative journalistic stories remains unwavering. We've delved deep into societal behaviors, shedding light on their profound impacts on human interactions and economics. Notably, our comprehensive coverage of Nigeria's National Assembly Plenaries sets us apart as the authoritative source, providing unabridged details essential for citizen empowerment and governmental accountability.

Empowering Women in Media: In a groundbreaking move, we launched the LightRay! 100 Women in Leadership and Rule of Law Fellowships. The Women in Media Leadership Summit (#LightRay!100WiMLPolicy) has emerged as a platform to amplify and celebrate women's voices in Nigeria's media landscape. Our pioneering policy, endorsed by the National Guild of Radio Managers (Private), symbolizes a collective commitment to gender diversity and inclusivity, fostering an environment where women thrive and drive meaningful narratives, gender mainstreaming, and specialization. The (#LightRay!100WiMLPolicy) was supported by Gates Foundation, Wole Soyinka and #ReportWomen.

Advocating for Justice: In the third quarter of 2023, we initiated the LightRay! Rule of Law Fellowships, spotlighting the detrimental impact of loan defamation

LightRay Media is a converging creative ecosystem with a strong focus on Books, Reading, Journalism, Mentoring, Broadcasting, Training, Events, Conferences, and Publishing services.

apps on Nigeria's economic well-being and the rule of law. Through rigorous investigations and advocacy efforts, we've catalyzed regulatory action and public awareness, leading to the shutdown of over 70 illegal operators in collaboration with GAVEL. Additionally, our Judiciary Fellowship has shed light on judicial malpractice, enabling public scrutiny and accountability.

Recognizing Excellence: Our Founder and Executive Director, Ejiro "Lady E" Umukoro, was honored with the United States Agency for Global Media ChangeMaker Award for her capacity development programmes through LightRay! Media as well as her investigative prowess and tangible impact on society. From exposing female cultism to prompting interventions against cybercrime, her work exemplifies the transformative power of journalism.

LightRay Media was among the 70 selected small newsroom from across Africa, Asia, and Europe by the London School of Economics (POLIS) with support from Google News Initiative for the AI Journalism Academy Fellowship. Our work in producing media-focused Digital Content Creation and training also received sponsorship from the Embassy of Netherlands for the RNTC Media Fellowship.

LightRay!'s website provides in-depth and authoritative report and outstanding women in media leadership in Nigeria, Africa, Europe and Asia and their contributions to the media landscape within and outside Nigeria: <https://lightraymedia.org/tag/women-in-media-leadership>. As the single most authoritative source and reference guide on the Nigeria Naational Assembly, LightRay! provides uncut opensource data and information about the motions, matters of urgent importance, petitions, bills, debates, etc., presented on the floor of the house of representatives with actionable facts for citizens engagement, empowerment and mobilisation: <https://lightraymedia.org/2023/11/30/nigeria-national-assembly-plenary-proceedings-of-the-house-of-reps-thurs-nov-30th-2023>.

As we reflect on 2023, LightRay! Media remains steadfast in our mission to drive positive change through the use of media in more innovative ways, create more career capacity development programmes, champion fearless journalism and our unwavering dedication to truth and accountability in 2024.



Media Rights Agenda

Main Activities in 2023 and Planned Activities for 2024

About Media Rights Agenda

Media Rights Agenda (MRA) is an independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization which works to promote and defend the right to freedom of expression, media freedom, access to information as well as digital rights and freedoms.

It was incorporated in 1997 with the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part C (Incorporated Trustees) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 and has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, The Gambia.

MRA carries out a variety of activities including, but not limited to: research and publication; litigation and legal services; advocacy and campaign; and training and capacity building.

Activities Carried out in 2023

1. Monitoring Attacks Against Journalists and Media Organizations

As part of its mandate of promoting and protecting press freedom and at the core of this mandate, MRA tracks, collates and documents incidents of attacks against journalists and media organizations. These are published on MRA's website (<https://mediarightsagenda.org/category/attacks/>) and collated in a searchable online database (<https://attacks.mediarightsagenda.org/>). MRA issued press statements in response to some of the attacks, where the nature of the attacks so warranted to condemn the attack and call on the government to take necessary action.

2. Production and Dissemination of Monthly Media Rights Monitor

MRA has consistently been producing, publishing, and disseminating its monthly online newsletter, *Media Rights*

Monitor. The newsletter is divided into different sections including News, Attacks on the Media, Litigation and legal issues, Collaborative Media Project, and Fellowships and Awards. It is disseminated monthly to nearly 10,000 recipients worldwide. The Fellowships and Awards of the newsletter contains opportunities that journalists can apply for to upgrade themselves professionally and in some cases, financially. The newsletter can be accessed by visiting <https://mediarightsagenda.org/category/media-rights-monitor-2/>.

3. Publication of Guide for Journalists on Using the FOI Act for Investigative Reporting

MRA produced, printed, and disseminated copies of a guide for journalists on using the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act for investigative reporting. The Guide is titled "Beaming the Searchlight: Manual on Using the Freedom of Information Act for Investigative Reporting." The guide is available for download from https://mediarightsagenda.org/publications/Manual_on_Using_the_FOI_Act_for_Investigative_Reporting.pdf.

4. Publication of Annual Reports of Attacks on



Journalists and Media Organizations

MRA produced, printed, and distributed copies of an Annual Report on the Freedom of Expression situation in Nigeria in 2022 which it has been disseminating. The publication is titled "Stifling Freedom of Expression in Nigeria: Annual Report of Attacks on Free Expression and Media Freedom in 2022" can be downloaded from publications section of MRA website. The report is available online and can be downloaded from <https://mediarightsagenda.org/publications/Annual-Report-2022-Stifling-Freedom-of-Expression-in-Nigeria.pdf>.

5. Publication of Guide on Protection Mechanisms on the Safety of Journalists

MRA produced, printed and disseminated a Guide on Protection Mechanisms on Safety of Journalists having identified and collated regional and international instruments on the safety of journalists with which it produced a report with advisories on how journalists,



MRA and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung held a two-day convening on the Safety of Journalists in Nigeria in Abuja as part of a broader programme on the safety of journalists.

media organizations and other actors can utilize the instruments and mechanisms to protect themselves, ward off threats and seek accountability for attacks against journalists.

6. Publication of Compilation and Analysis of Laws and Regulations Affecting the Media

MRA conducted research into the Laws of the Federation, regulations and policy documents to identified all media laws, general laws and other regulations and policy documents that have implications for the media. Based on the research, MRA identified all media laws, general laws, regulations and policy documents that protect media rights and freedoms or undermine media freedom, safety or independence. MRA also analyzed the relevant laws and instruments to ascertain their implications for the media and highlighted the specific threats that they pose to the media as well as how they can be used to protect media rights and freedoms.

MRA produced a report from the research and analysis, with recommendations and guidance on how journalists and media organizations can protect themselves from the negative effects of the laws or documents and how they can take better advantage of the positive provisions. The report was printed and is being distributed.

7. Three Workshops for Journalists on Using the FOI Act for Investigative Reporting

MRA held three capacity-building workshops for journalists from print, broadcast, and online media organizations on using the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act for investigative reporting. The workshops were used to sensitize participating journalists and build their capacity to use the FOI Act to carry out investigative reporting. The workshops familiarized the participating journalists with the key provisions of the Act, how to make requests for information under the Act to increase their chances of success, and the enforcement mechanisms and options available to them whenever they are wrongfully denied access to the information they requested. MRA held the three workshops in Kaduna in the North, Ibadan in the South West, and Enugu for South East/South-south. MRA is also providing ongoing technical support to the journalists who participated in the workshops.

Visit the link below for reports on the workshops:

<https://mediarightsagenda.org/workshop-participants-urge-media-to-regularly-scrutinize-activities-and-finances-of-public-institutions-for-performance-evaluation/>

<https://mediarightsagenda.org/workshop-participants-urge-media-stakeholders-to-provide-resources-for-awareness-and-capacity-building-on-using-the-foi-act/>

<https://mediarightsagenda.org/journalists-seek-cso-support-litigation-assistance-to-enforce-their-right-of-access-to-information/>

8. Litigation and Legal Services

Under its Litigation Programme, Media Rights Agenda offers legal assistance to journalists who are arrested and detained, subjected to oppressive criminal charges in the course of their professional duties, assaulted, or harassed and intimidated in any other manner. MRA also litigates in class actions aimed at eliciting broad judicial pronouncements with positive implications for media freedoms.

It has pursued both approaches at Nigerian domestic courts as well as before international judicial forums, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights where it has litigated more cases on freedom of expression and media freedom than any other organization on the continent.

It also offers free legal services and representations for individuals and civil society organisations denied access to information requests from relevant institutions through its nationwide network of FOI lawyers.

See <https://mediarightsagenda.org/mra-wins-foi-law-suit-against-the-central-bank-of-nigeria-two-others/>.

9. Multi-Stakeholder Roundtable on the Safety of Journalists in Nigeria (in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, FES-Nigeria)

MRA and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung held a two-day convening on the Safety of Journalists in Nigeria in Abuja as part of a broader programme on the safety of journalists. The roundtable brought together participants from different stakeholder groups to discuss the issue of journalists' safety in Nigeria and explore the possibility of developing and adopting a multi-stakeholder "National Mechanism on the Safety of Journalists." See report at <https://mediarightsagenda.org/fes-nigeria-mra-convene-multi-stakeholder-roundtable-on-the-safety-of->

[journalists-in-nigeria/](https://www.mediareer.org/journalists-in-nigeria/).

10. Support to Journalists for More Effective Deployment of the FOI Act for Investigative and Other Reporting

MRA provided technical, financial and mentoring support to journalists across the country to encourage them to utilize the Freedom of Information Act for investigative and other routine reporting and to do so more effectively. Journalists supported under this programme were journalists who had been trained by MRA on the FOI Act. MRA provided them with support in drafting freedom of information requests or assisting them to review their draft requests while also providing them with advice on what to do. MRA provided these journalists with a stipend of N50,000 each to help them defray the costs of submitting FOI requests and following up on such requests.

Planned Activities for 2024

1. Three Enlightenment Workshops for Journalists on Laws Affecting the Media

MRA plans to hold three enlightenment workshops for journalists on laws and regulations affecting them to familiarize them with these laws and instruments, sensitise them on their legal rights and liabilities, as well as on how the laws and other instruments affect them and the practice of journalism, both positive and negative. The workshops will also familiarize them with the relevant professional Code and other legal or professional requirements that they need to be aware of and to comply with. The journalists selected to participate in the workshop will be those with a clear or demonstrable interest in being independent, professional and ethical or who, based on the organizations that they work for, have a real possibility of being more independent, professional and ethical. One workshop will be held in each of Kano for journalists in the North, Abeokuta for journalists in the South West, and Owerri for journalists in the South East.

2. Publication of Annual Reports of Attacks on Journalists and Media Organizations

MRA will, in 2024, also produce, print, and distribute copies of an Annual Report on the state of Freedom of

MRA will continue to provide technical, financial and mentoring support to journalists across the country

Expression in Nigeria in 2023.

3. Litigation and Legal Services

MRA will continue to offer legal assistance to journalists and media outlets that are attacked in the course of their professional duties, assaulted. It will also continue to litigate class actions in matters and areas where it sees the opportunity to get the courts to make broad judicial pronouncements that may have positive implications for media freedoms, at both Nigerian domestic courts as well as before international judicial forums, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

4. Other Planned Activities

MRA will also continue to monitor, track, collate, and document attacks against journalists and media outlets and issue press statements where necessary. It will also continue to produce and disseminate its flagship monthly online newsletter, *Media Right Monitor*.

5. Support to Journalists for More Effective Deployment of the FOI Act for Investigative and Other Reporting

MRA will continue to provide technical, financial and mentoring support to journalists across the country to encourage them to utilize the Freedom of Information Act for investigative and other routine reporting and to do so more effectively. Under this programme, MRA will continue to support journalists who have been trained by MRA on the FOI Act. MRA will provide them with support in drafting FOI requests and assist them to review their draft requests. It will also provide ongoing advice on what the journalists should do in specific situation and provide those journalists who had not previously received any financial support with a stipend of N50,000 each to help them defray the costs of submitting FOI requests and following up on such requests.

MRA will continue to provide technical, financial and mentoring support to journalists across the country.



Media Mentors Network Major events in 2023

Media Mentors Network organised two major events in 2023.

Media Mentors Meet Mentees - This was a forum to help young female journalists learn from the experiences of experienced female journalists and it was held to commemorate the International Women's Day 2023. The event was held in Minna on the 8th of March and had 20 female student journalists and early career female journalists as participants.

Two experienced female journalists, Ms Aisha Wakaso and Hajiya Saadatu Alhassan who were the guest speakers spoke to the participants about navigating the journalism space and the needed skills and characters needed to grow in the job.

Niger Women in the Media Summit - The Niger Women in the Media Summit was held on 18th to 19th October, 2023 at the IBB Pen House, Minna, Niger state. The two-day event was aimed at building the capacity of female reporters for leadership roles and enhancing reporting on gender mainstreaming in media.

The Summit covered themes around leadership and empowerment, gender mainstreaming in media, building resilience, creating a Mentor-Mentee network for female journalists in Niger state and enhancing professional development. The Special Adviser to the Niger state Governor on Print Media, Ms. Aisha Wakaso gave the keynote address.

The first day of the Summit covered building the capacity of female journalists for leadership roles and has workshop on Leadership skills for women journalists by a Lecturer of The Department of Mass Communication, IBB University, Lapai, Safiya Kaka Muhammad Dagaci and a Panel discussion titled "From Newsrooms to Boardrooms: Navigating Leadership as a woman in the media" with panellists who include the CEO and Founder, Elina Media, Mrs Celine Alkali Moses and the Assistant Director News, NTA Minna, Mrs Fatima Aliyu with Justina Asishana as the moderator.



In 2024, Media Mentors Network intends to maintain its two main events which are the Media Mentors Meet Mentees and the Niger Women in Media Summit.

The second Workshop titled Self-care and well-being for women journalists by Dr Rekiya followed. There were questions and answer sessions and announcements made especially about the pitch deck where participants were encouraged to submit a gender focused story idea.

The second day of the Summit covered improving reporting in gender mainstreaming and was started with a Lecture titled "The role of media in promoting gender mainstreaming" by the CEO, Succeeding Against All Odds, Dr Valda Martins and followed by a Panel discussion titled "Amplifying women's voices: The role of Media in fostering inclusivity" with Project Officer CJID, Osaruonamen Ibizugbe, Programmes Officer, Rule of Law and Empowerment Initiative, Barrister Nana Hauwa Isah, Founder, Women Supporting Women, Aisha Gambo Danazumi as panellists while Zahra Muhammad moderated.

After the panel discussion, a workshop titled practical workshop on gender sensitive reporting by Project Officer CJID, Osaruonamen Ibizugbe was held and was followed by the announcement of the winners of the pitch deck. The winners include Harajana Umar Ragada of Ultimate FM/Lina TV and Zahra Muhammad of ASHENEWS.

The Summit had the participation of 61 people which included 56 women and 5 men and was supported by the Wole Soyinka Center for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) through its Report Women Project, Center for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID) and ASHENEWS.

Media Mentors Network also collaborated with several NGOs in Niger state in 2023.

- It acted as a Consultant during the Aisha Wakaso Award for Young Female Journalists
- It assisted in the 2nd Aisha Wakaso Symposium
- It assisted in the coordination of a Feeding Programme tagged Feed my Students by Succeeding Against All Odds.

In 2024, Media Mentors Network intends to maintain its two main events which are the Media Mentors Meet Mentees and the Niger Women in Media Summit. It also intends to hold two mentoring programmes for student journalists and two workshops for journalists in Niger state.

Women FM 91.7

Major execution in 2023

Executive Summary

In 2023, WFM91.7 successfully executed two major training programmes to advance women's participation in politics and empower female investigative journalists. These initiatives were focused on training political and gender-sensitive reporters including female investigative journalists. The projects addressed the gender gap in political reporting and investigative journalism, contributing significantly to women's visibility and empowerment in Nigeria.

List of Implemented Projects in 2023

Media Reporting Training - Advanced Women Participation in Politics in Nigeria

Introduction

We have trained political reporters in six states (Kaduna, FCT, Cross-River, Kwara, Ekiti, Borno, Ebonyi) to promote the positive portrayal of women in politics. We emphasized the important role of media in promoting gender equality and encouraging youth advocacy.

Goal

Our goal is to address the low participation of women in politics by promoting women's involvement.

Innovation

We have created a tailored training manual for reporters that focuses on positive portrayal, best reporting practices, the RUSH Model, and the 50:50 Strategy.

Key Activities & Outcomes

We have trained 95 journalists which includes 75 political reporters and 20 gender sensitive reporters. The 75 political reporters entail 34.6% females, 46.7% males, and 18.7% Person With Disabilities. We have also created a community of Gender Reporters, with 117 members and counting. As a result of our efforts, there has been a

significant increase in visibility for women candidates across various media platforms. We have produced 210 radio jingles and 52 radio programs promoting Women's Participation in Politics. We have also engaged in social media advocacy, with 142 posts reaching 72,763,000 people on various platforms. Furthermore, we have conducted consultative dialogues with 25 media executives and editors.

Achievements

Achieved a 50% increase in visibility for women candidates across various media channels. Established a community of Gender Reporters. Received a positive response from listeners, encouraging women's participation in politics.

Women Radio Centre - First Female Academy Training Investigative Journalists

Introduction

The Women Radio Centre (WRC), which was established to train female journalists from the six geo-political zones of Nigeria, recently trained a group of 20 female journalists on investigative reporting. The objective of the training was to raise the next generation of female investigative journalists and to shift the balance in the investigative gender gap on reportage from a woman's perspective.

Goal

Empower and train female journalists in investigative reporting, addressing gender gaps, and amplifying underreported stories affecting women and girls.

Innovation

Women Radio Centre innovates with targeted training, regional expertise, and a community of Gender Reporters. Consultative dialogues with media executives and editors ensure sustained coverage of women in politics. The selective fellowship program, led by seasoned faculty, involves story grants and coaching for practical application, empowering female journalists to produce compelling investigative reports on underreported women-centric issues.

Key Activities & Outcomes

Establishing the first female academy, Women Radio Centre trained 20 journalists from Nigeria's 6 geo-political zones in investigative reporting, aligning with their mission for gender balance and women's inclusion in leadership. Over the past two years, female journalists were trained by seasoned investigative journalism experts, resulting in 5 published reports. These independent investigative journalists now focus on uncovering and reporting the impact of corruption on women, supported and guided by



Women Radio Centre innovates with targeted training, regional expertise, and a community of Gender Reporters.

the Centre.

Achievements

Successfully trained 20 female journalists., produced 5 published reports on critical women's issues, presented recognition and awards to participant of investigative journalism

Success Stories

Here are a few testimonies from the beneficiaries of the training conducted by wfm91.7.

"It was a nice training and I intend to make sure my reportage is balanced and I intend to document data about all the women I report going forward. **Sola Ojo. Sun Newspapers**

"I am really grateful for this opportunity. Attending this training has made me understand why my reporting needs to be balanced, more inclusive and why I should give women more representation". **Rose Yusuf Kaisar. Liberty Radio, Kaduna**

"I appreciate Women Radio for the opportunity, for awakening the consciousness to report women positively and generally". **Rowland Olonishuwa. Herald Newspaper, Kwara State**

"I thank Women Radio and UN Women for this training. It will help me project women positively from now on. **Mosunmola Ayobami. Western Post, Kwara State**

Thelma Okokon (Electronic Media, Nasarawa) expressed, "Armed with newfound knowledge, I am poised to unveil untold narratives about women, catalyzing meaningful change."

Mariya Shueibu (Electronic Media, Kano) declared, "I now adeptly conduct investigative reports, making a positive contribution."

Joan Odafe (Print/Multimedia, Lagos) affirmed, "My resolve to pursue impactful stories has strengthened, fueled by the skills acquired during the training."

Challenges Faced

The economic instability affected the Women Radio Centre training and hindered programme reach and duration. Also, resistance in some parts of the country like Northern Nigeria affected the reporting practices of inclusive and gender-balanced reporting. Lastly, the issue of commitment from journalists to deliver an investigative report after training was also challenging.

Opportunities Explored

Women Radio Centre has actively sought and cultivated partnerships with media executives and editors, this collaboration resulted in increased support, visibility, and a more favourable environment for promoting gender-balanced reporting. Recognizing the power of social media, Women Radio has strategically expanded its engagement on various platforms. This

provides an opportunity to reach a broader audience, fostering awareness and advocacy for women's political participation.

Team

A diverse and experienced professional team was engaged for the Women Radio Trainings. The team comprised trainers for political reporters, a faculty for investigative journalism training led by Dr. Dapo Olorunyomi, coaches for investigative journalists, and media executives and editors for consultative dialogues. Their collective knowledge, expertise, and commitment have been instrumental in achieving the objectives of the projects.

Future Initiatives: Schedule for 2024

Women Radio Centre aims to continue its impactful training programmes for female journalists in 2024. This includes empowering women through investigative journalism training and promoting gender balance and women's inclusion in media. We aim to expand collaborations with media entities, executives, and editors. This strategic approach is designed to enhance gender-focused reporting, fostering a more inclusive media landscape and representative of women's perspectives.

Lastly, we recognize the importance of sustainable funding, Women Radio Centre intends to explore and cultivate partnerships that can provide long-term financial support. This initiative ensures the continuity and growth of their projects, empowering women in journalism beyond the immediate future.

Conclusion

In 2023, WFM91.7 and Voice of Women took significant steps to promote gender equality in media through impactful projects. The organisation's commitment to empowering women and fostering positive change in society was validated through success stories, collaborations, and recognition received in the Nigeria Media Capacity Development Report 2023. Looking forward to 2024, WFM91.7 aims to build on these achievements and contribute further to the development of women in Nigeria.



Centre For Media And Society 2023 Reports



Introduction

In 2023, the Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO) achieved remarkable milestones in its dedicated pursuit of media development. Throughout the year, our organisation expanded its endeavours across various fronts, producing commendable outcomes in multiple areas.

Our focus centred on media capacity development, active engagement in media policy reform, and fostering stakeholder participation in critical issues such as inclusion, regulatory matters, digital rights, gender, freedom of media, and expression. We also dedicated efforts to deepen civic and voter education, support the electoral process, and combat disinformation and misinformation. The tangible impacts of these initiatives are evident across the nation's media and democratic landscape.

Undeterred by our accomplishments, we remain resolute in our commitment to achieving even more in the upcoming year. Our dedication to continual reassessment, the implementation of enhanced strategies, and an expanded scope of work underscores our commitment to fulfilling our mandate comprehensively. As we look ahead, our resolve remains stronger than ever, propelling us to continue making positive contributions to the media development arena.

Strengthening the Professionalism of the Media

The organisation conducted various capacity-building activities throughout the year 2023 in a bid to strengthen the professionalism of media practitioners nationwide. Activities included capacity-building for journalists on issues in the phases of the electoral cycle, training workshops addressing Disinformation and Misinformation, and more, spanning all six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

Improving Media Legislative/Regulatory Frameworks

Activities to improve media regulatory frameworks were prioritised. CEMESO organised event on broadcasting legislative/regulatory frameworks, focusing on Nigeria's broadcasting industry. The organisation actively engaged the public in advocating for media regulatory reforms through the Publishing and dissemination of the Public Enlightenment Series, enhancing understanding of issues in the planned amendments to the NBC Act and emphasizing their impact on media coverage within the electoral process and democratic governance.

Deepening Civic and Voter Education

In its commitment to fostering informed political

participation, CEMESO aside from capacity building also contributed multimedia content production, particularly explainer videos, for the public during the electoral processes, before the general and off-cycle elections. These videos significantly increased civic and voter education on various platforms, encouraging active citizen participation in the electoral process.

In some of our interventions, CEMESO successfully produced and disseminated Civic and Voter Education (CVE) content on Radio and TV stations before the 2023 general election (January- February). Airing on various selected stations across the country, this initiative produced 48 CVE content episodes, fostering increased citizen engagement. A second round of CVE content production and dissemination occurred in May 2023, focusing on post-election issues.

CEMESO, in partnership with the International Press Centre (IPC), organised Media Engagement Workshops in Kogi, Bayelsa, and Imo for Off-cycle Governorship Elections. These workshops strengthened journalists' performance in their deepening of voter education.

Strengthening the Capacity of Women Journalists

CEMESO conducted a baseline survey that revealed gaps in the digital skills of women journalists. These findings enabled us to provide capacity building that helped women journalists in Nigeria to join the crew of digital multimedia storytellers, especially during the electoral processes. Two workshops, held in Jos and Benin, equipped participants with skills to enhance their professionalism in media coverage, focusing on contemporary approaches and technical know-how for election reporting. Participants produced digital content, fostering improved media coverage.

Recognising the impact, CEMESO extended its efforts to Port Harcourt, training an additional 20 women journalists

The Centre for Media and Society is an independent, non-governmental organization based in Nigeria. The institute was established in April 2000.



in Digital/Multimedia Storytelling Skills. The aim was to bolster their capacity for producing content on post-election issues, emphasizing inclusive coverage of the electoral process. Participants created a 13-topic work plan and produced stories, further enhancing their skills and contributing to media professionalism.

Donation of Equipment to NAWOJ

As part of our dedication to empowering women journalists, CEMESO donated office equipment to the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) in Rivers, Adamawa, and Kaduna states. This initiative, aimed to strengthen the capacity of women journalists to operate at optimal level in their respective secretariat and positioned to add value to electoral process. The equipment transfer occurred during the closing ceremonies of three Media Monitoring Centres garnering heartfelt gratitude from NAWOJ members.

Enhancing the Capacity of the Media to Deal with Misinformation and Disinformation

The Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO) is actively fighting hateful content in the media. We organised training sessions for broadcast journalists in Abuja, Asaba, and Kaduna, equipping them with fact-checking skills to combat fake news. Several journalists were empowered, leading to positive outcomes, such as avoiding sanctions from the National Broadcasting Commission.

Promoting Inclusion for Leadership and Governance

CEMESO actively promotes inclusive media coverage, particularly during electoral processes. Two events in Abuja and Kaduna shared best practices and trends in inclusive coverage. Participants included journalists with disabilities, sign language interpreters, academics, and members of the inclusive community. Participants identified challenges, proposed solutions, developed work plans, and renewed commitment to inclusive coverage.

The organisation also developed and distributed copies of the "Media Guideline for Disability-Inclusive Coverage of Elections in Nigeria" to enhance inclusion in the media space.

CEMESO collaborated with community-based organisations to host a 1-Day Media Roundtable on Gender-Equity & Inclusion for Local Development. A two-day Advocacy Procession to Mushin and Egbeda Local Government Areas highlighted citizen-validated action plans for inclusive participation of women and PWDs in local development initiatives.

CEMESO also actively participated in the 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, advocating for support to end gender-based violence with the message: "If you see something, say something, and do something."

Tracking and Promoting Freedom of Media and Expression

In our commitment to promote freedom of the media and expression in Nigeria, we launched the Media and Expression in Nigeria (MEIN) tracker. This system monitors and reports on issues impacting media freedom and expression space in Nigeria. We monitor daily and share content across media stakeholders. Monthly reports are also accessible on our website, providing valuable insights derived from quantitative and qualitative data analysis.



Journalists For Christ: 50 new digital journalists emerge from #NLNGChangeYourStory training

Journalists For Christ International Outreach (JFC Nigeria) is a faith-based, Non-Governmental media organisation devoted to enhancing the spiritual and professional development of journalists and allied media professionals. The organisation provides opportunities and engagements with local and international organisations to enhance the overall development of Christianity, media and society.

JFC Nigeria is committed to the promotion of value-based, ethical and best practices in journalism for the advancement of Nigerian society.

Though established in 1998, it was however officially registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission as a faith-based non-governmental organisation in July 2011.

Monthly fellowships

Like in previous years, the monthly fellowship (physical and online) focusing on key media and spiritual issues continue to hold with guest speakers and members leading the sessions.

Some of the major fellowships held in 2023 include:

- Pursuits of Excellence in Media practice by Executive Director/CEO of the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism, Mrs Motunrayo Alaka
- Radio and Peace to mark the World Radio Day by Rev Gustav Ebai, Executive Member, World Association for Christian Communications (WACC) Africa Region.
- Maximising Times and Seasons by Former Editor of The Punch Newspapers, Pastor Bola Bolawole.
- Honing Your Investigative Journalism Skills (step down of the 2023 Global Investigative Journalism Conference) by the Treasurer of JFC, and Publisher BONEWS, Blessing Oladunjoye.
- The inaugural fellowship of the Abuja branch of the organisation had Seun Akioye who spoke on 'Journalism in 2023 as of old' and Shehu Olayinka-Bello formerly of the International Centre for Investigative Reporting who spoke on 'Using Social Media for Fact-Checking'.

WACC Partners Forum, Kenya

The President of JFC, Lekan Otufodunrin, who is also the

www.mediacareer.org



Secretary of WACCAR attended the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) Partners forum held August 1-3 in Nairobi, Kenya on the theme "Communication Rights Towards a Digital Justice Agenda." IDP ADVOCACY In continuation of our advocacy for the rights and welfare of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Nigeria based on three previous projects implemented with the support of WACC, we have continued to update the website <https://idpreportng.info/> and Twitter @IDPmonitor to amplify media reports about the state of displaced persons and call for necessary actions to be taken.

Our network of reporters trained on coverage of IDP issues in Lagos and Abuja have continued to write reports on IDP issues and discuss on the dedicated Whatsapp groups.'

Engagements:

The organisation facilitates communication and collaboration among its members through active WhatsApp groups. These groups serve as forums for information sharing, faith discussions, and mutual support. Members participate directly in conversations, addressing issues relevant to their profession and personal lives, with prompt responses and assistance from fellow members.

Online Presence:

Journalists For Christ continues to maintain an active presence on its website www.journalistsforchrist.org and social media, particularly Twitter and Facebook, where it shares relevant christian and media content to enhance spiritual and professional development of members and other media professionals.

Conclusion

Looking ahead, Journalists For Christ remains committed to empowering its members and promoting excellence in journalism guided by faith principles.

Journalists For Christ International Outreach (JFC Nigeria) is a faith-based, Non-Governmental media organisation devoted to enhancing the spiritual and professional development of journalists and allied media professionals

Step-Up for Women In Journalism Initiative (SWIJ) Remarkable Years of Success Stories

The year 2023 was a remarkable year of stepping up to us at the Step-Up for Women In Journalism Initiative (SWIJ) as we reflect on our activities and impacts. We started the year with a charge on members to be more intentional, focused and determined to grow their journalism career and indeed, that had a good impact.

Based in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, SWIJ has recorded significant milestones in mentoring and coaching female journalists within the South-South and South-East zones of the country.

The group was founded by an award-winning journalist, Ann Godwin after six- months of participation in the Female Reporters and Leadership Programme (FRLP) 2021- 2022 cohort by the [Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism](#), with the support of her seasoned mentor, Lekan Otufodunrin, the Executive Director of Media Career Development Network.

From the initial membership of 17 persons, SWIJ now has over 60 members and the majority of them are based in Rivers State, while some are based in Lagos, Edo, Akwa-Ibom, Imo and Bayelsa States. The membership is made up of experienced, mid-career, young and student female journalists among whom are seven PhD and several Master's Degree holders

2-Day Capacity Building Program:

SWIJ with Support from the Wole Soyinka Centre For Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) under its Report Women Programme and is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, trained over 70 journalists from Nigeria, the UK, Ghana, Tanzania and other African countries between the 19-20th October 2023.



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The two-day programme had virtual and physical meetings, while the online session tagged, 'Improving Capacity of Women to Become Expert Sources for News' gathered over 50 attendees from various countries, the physical tagged, 'Facilitating the implementation of Gender Policies within the Newsroom and Organisations; Building leadership capacity among female Journalists had about 20 attendees.

Resource persons include News Manager, Cool FM/Wazobia Info, Port Harcourt, Chioma Ezenwafor; Former Commissioner for information in Rivers State, Mrs Ibim Semenitari; Executive Director of SWIJ, Ann Godwin; Executive Director, Media Career Development Network, Lekan Otufodunrin; Economic and Business Analyst, Ignatius Chukwu; University Don, Professor Godwin Okon; President/Founder, Advancing Women in Business, Port Harcourt, Josephine Itonyo; Broadcast Journalist and Entrepreneur, Dr. Ijeoma Tubosia,

Participants described the training as apt and inspiring, disclosing that the sessions impacted greatly in them.

Also, feedback from some Port-Harcourt-based radio stations showed that two days after the training, women



started indicating interest in airing their views on some national and state issues.

Also, an editor with the News Agency of Nigeria, (NAN) Precious Akutamadu, said, the virtual and physical training by SWIJ was worth it, it was quite impactful and relevant to our career growth. She thanked the organisers and sponsors of the training, expressing hope to see more of such training.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

SWIJ in collaboration with the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ), The Women's Optimum Development Foundation (WODEF) and the Women Entrepreneur Association of Nigeria (WEAN) actively organised and implemented a 16-day virtual conversation aimed at promoting awareness, advocating for policy changes and foster open dialogues to combat gender-based violence.

Advancing Women in Financial Management, E-Commerce

The organization also in collaboration with the Advancing Women In Business (ADWIB), organised a three-day summit on advancing women in E-Commerce, Financial Management for advancement etc.

The training helped and equipped women on how to position themselves for economic diversification and enhance their digital skills.

SWIJ DOING MORE WORKS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE

Our organisation is doing a lot of work to advance and



promote excellence among female journalists in Nigeria and beyond as well as building the leadership capacity of women and newsroom champions

In the coming year, we have lots of impactful and capacity-building programmes lined up such as:

- Understanding Climate Change in the Digital Era. How to report top-notch news on climate change to end the menace of rise in sea level.
- Building capacity for female journalists through modern technology
- How to gain staying power amidst economic realities.
- Preparing for Life after Journalism
- Balancing Journalism and Love Life
- How to gain access to Media Opportunities
- Ai in Journalism
- How to become a better media entrepreneur.



US Consulate General 2023 Media Training

The United States Consulate General, Lagos organised some media trainings in 2023. Below are details of the programmes.

What Makes Great Radio (WSCIJ) May 2023

Blurb: 48 radio reporters, producers, and news anchors from across Nigeria completed a U.S. Mission supported journalism workshop titled “What Makes Great Radio?” Associate professor of broadcast journalism at Stony Brook University, New York, Steven Reiner led the workshop in Abuja and Lagos as part of activities to commemorate this year's World Press Freedom Day. Reiner is a former executive producer of “All Things Considered,” National Public Radio's award-winning afternoon newsmagazine. At the workshops, organized in collaboration with the Wole Soyinka Center for Investigative Journalism, Reiner provided tips on producing long-form, investigative radio features and in-depth news reporting. In addition to learning about various techniques of producing compelling audio journalism, participants had the opportunity to produce radio stories, which were critiqued by the class on the last day of the workshop.

Political Reporting Workshop November 2022 to October 2023

Blurb: To help the local media appreciate their huge responsibility of reporting accurately on elections and the electoral processes, the U.S. Consulate partnered with the West Africa Broadcast and Media Academy (WABMA) to organize an election reporting workshop. The first component is a political journalism workshop for 100 reporters and political editors from radio, TV, newspapers, and online media. The second component of the program is a workshop for 50 photojournalists and video journalists on innovative visual storytelling during the electoral cycle. The regional workshops are taking place in Ibadan, Lagos,



Port Harcourt and Enugu. The training was led by Professor Chris Ulasi, Dean School of Communication, Texas Southern University; Grace Ekpu, Investigative Reporter, Associated Press; the late Professor Lai Oso, former Dean of Communication at the Lagos State University; and Ike Okere, Director West Africa Broadcast and Media Academy (WABMA).

Trauma Sensitive Reporting for Journalists. August to December 2023

Blurb: With support from the U.S. Consulate, Child Solidarity Group implemented a workshop on trauma-sensitive reporting. The workshop help build capacity of working-level journalists on safe reporting to protect victims of trauma, violence and suicide-related experiences with the overall goal of minimizing harm and distress to survivors. Participants acquired skills on covering topics in which sources must recall the intense emotional and psychological trauma they have experienced which could be a difficult task for any journalist. Along with ensuring that they are reporting accurately on these topics, explored best practices in ensuring the wellbeing and safety of victims and survivors, who often serve as their primary sources.



To help the local media appreciate their huge responsibility of reporting accurately on elections and the electoral processes, the U.S. Consulate partnered with the West Africa Broadcast and Media Academy (WABMA) to organize an election reporting workshop.

Yellow Bloom Consulting Training - 2023

Anikeade Funke Treasure makes her debut in the 2024 edition of the report on media training and trainers in Nigeria.

The multi-genre media personality in Nigeria bestrides radio, TV, print media, literature and digital media effortlessly. Funke - Treasure is a versatile and well sought after training consultant, media trainer, conference facilitator, moderator, speaker, panellist, media analyst and compere, she has featured extensively in such tasks across Nigeria, West Africa and Africa.

She has had a 27-year career in the Nigerian media. Her interests are in journalism, broadcasting, presentation and production for radio, TV, print and digital media. She trains on a range of development issues, elections and election coverage for journalists and media relations. She has written two books for her training engagements as an elocution coach.

A certified speaker, trainer and facilitator with the global John Maxwell Team. She launched her leadership and personal development training series, **The Live Your Dream** Masterclass as a member of the Team in 2021.

In the recent past, she was engaged as trainer/mentor for different training streams of reporting at the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Reporting. Until she became a member of the board of International Press Centre (IPC) in 2019, she was a trainer for the organisation touring Nigeria on different training streams especially on women related themes and election.

She is also a trainer/facilitator for the Institute of Media and Society (IMS), training journalist on reporting women, politics, elections and specialized reporting training on vulnerable groups. She also works with Journalism Clinic, training journalists in podcasting, community journalism, the power of sound and being on their team of trainers to train the State government executives on Interview, Interview skills and more.

She has engaged in many training programmes, here are highlights of the major ones in the last two years:

In 2022, she was engaged by Journalism Clinic as one of the facilitators for NLNG Masterclass for Executives of External Relations & Sustainability Division on Handling Q & A.

She trained female journalists on Understanding Investigative Reporting & Developing an Investigative VAWG Story for African Women in Media(AWIM)'s Reporting Violence against Women and Girls in Nigeria Project. She was a facilitator on media visibility for women political office aspirants Summit for WFM.

Under the auspices of West African Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC), she trained aspiring female politicians Ekiti, Ondo, Osun, Kogi and Kwara states

Under the auspices of West African Research and Documentation Centre (WARDC), she trained aspiring female politicians Ekiti, Ondo, Osun, Kogi and Kwara states on public speaking and media relations and use of media, ahead of the 2023 General elections.

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In 2023, Funke Treasure was the facilitator for the strategy meeting for Iyalodes and Iyalojas in South West Nigeria on public speaking. She was subsequently the Consultant Presenter - Producer for 'Ke Gbajare', a town hall meeting format radio programme on SGBV for Iyalodes and Iyalojas, Yoruba female high chiefs, across south west Nigeria organised by WARDC.

She was also one of the coaches for the second edition of the female investigative reporting training of Women Radio Centre.

She was the facilitator at a webinar on the Safety of female Journalists in Nigeria; and trainer for a capacity building for local journalists on impactful reporting of grassroots development issues and safety consciousness for International Press Centre in February and November, 2023 respectively.

She is the Executive Director, Illuminate Nigeria Development Network (INDN); and the Lead Consultant and Trainer at Yellow Bloom Consulting.



The Media Mentors Academy

2004 to 2024: Two Decades of Unyielding Commitment to Nurturing Excellence in Journalism

Embarking on a visionary journey since its inception in 2004, the Media Mentors Academy (MMA), formerly known as the Media Mentors Leadership Academy (MMLA), stands as a beacon of unwavering commitment to nurturing journalistic excellence.

Founded by the esteemed Joke Kujenya (Ms), a seasoned female journalist from Nigeria, the academy is a testament to her extensive 40-year career, during which she has covered various beats and made notable contributions to Nigerian journalism.

Nestled in the heart of Lagos, Nigeria's commercial hub, the academy has evolved into a cornerstone for mentorship and training for campus journalists and emerging talents, extending its transformative influence until the culmination of the current year.

Devoted to elevating journalistic standards, the Media Mentors Academy aspires to shape the future of the profession through comprehensive mentorship programs.

The core mission revolves around enveloping the professional journeys of young journalists, guided by trusted industry leaders, and accelerating their development through rigorous training interventions and vigilant monitoring.

The mentorship scheme of the academy offers a holistic experience, spanning investigative and data journalism, storytelling, climate reporting, and diverse other facets of the journalistic realm.

Throughout its rich history, the academy has paired diverse mentees with seasoned mentors, navigating the challenges of the profession and fostering skill development while expanding professional networks.

In the intricate dance of collaboration, mentees work closely with their assigned mentors, imbibing the values of upholding the highest standards in journalism.

A meticulously tailored six-month schedule guides the

mentees through skill enhancement, resource access, exposure to authoritative sources, and networking expansion, offering limitless opportunities for growth.

Anticipating positive outcomes, the Media Mentors Academy envisions an upsurge in skilled and inspired journalists, wielding enhanced writing capabilities. The 2024 vision extends beyond mere training, aiming to produce authoritative journalism writers contributing impactful stories across diverse genres, including investigative journalism, data journalism, storytelling, media literacy, and more, spanning the breadth of Africa.

Beyond the realm of training, the academy operates a weekly evaluation process, where mentees diligently report their activities to mentors, documenting progress, challenges, and accomplishments.

A comprehensive evaluation after the initial six months, conducted collaboratively by the academy and mentors, serves as a guiding beacon for program improvements, shaping the final six months of the mentoring loop.

In 2023, the Media Mentors Academy hosted monthly training sessions, bringing together journalists from Nigeria and Africa.

Trainers, both local and international, imparted knowledge to approximately 250 journalists, both on campuses and in the field, marking a significant milestone in the academy's commitment to knowledge dissemination.

As 2024 unfolds, the academy continues its trajectory with a year-long training initiative, encouraging journalism professionals to engage in physical or virtual meetings.

This initiative not only broadens their knowledge base but also connects them with mentors who play a pivotal role in reviewing activities, addressing weak areas, and providing essential guidance for improvement.

Amidst the ever-evolving media landscape, the MMA remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing journalistic excellence.

This dedication serves as a vital contribution to revitalizing the role of quality journalism in Nigeria and, in a broader context, contributes to the overall improvement of journalism across the continent of Africa.

Part of our training outlines for the current year 2024 include, but not limited to: Digital Journalism and Multimedia Storytelling, Ethical Reporting and Media Literacy, Global Issues and Solutions Journalism and Precision in Language: Elevating Clarity & Impact in Journalism, to list a few.

Amidst the ever-evolving media landscape, the MMA remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing journalistic excellence.



Nigeria Media Innovation Program: Capacity Development Workshops



The Nigeria Media Innovation Program ([NAMIP](#)) is a 3-year intervention created to support independent media organizations to attain financial sustainability thereby ensuring editorial independence. The program will accomplish these goals by providing grant support, capacity building, coaching and technical assistance to participants as a learning, collaborative cohort.

Throughout 2023, NAMIP implemented capacity-building initiatives to assist its 26-member cohort in various areas of strategic focus, including business and marketing strategies for media entrepreneurs, exploring revenue pathways, SEO content strategies, and sales strategies. Additionally, NAMIP provided technical assistance programs through the Media Product Fellowship, as well as opportunities to participate in various international media conferences.

Capacity Building Workshops

[Workshop on Business and Marketing Strategies](#)

1. : The workshop led by Claire du Preez focused on developing a first draft business strategy for cohort members that defines the key considerations required for an effective marketing plan.

[Workshop on Exploring Revenue Pathways](#)

2. : The workshop was facilitated by Anita E. Eboigbe, a trained journalist and media manager, with 10 years of experience across the various levels of media building, with a focus on media business operations and sustainability. Anita was instrumental in guiding the cohort through media business models and revenue development strategies. During her sessions, Anita emphasized the importance of four key anchors that contribute to the success of media businesses: *audience, product, team, and distribution*. These pillars serve as the foundation for building a thriving media enterprise that resonates with its target audience while ensuring effective product development, a skilled team, and efficient distribution channels.

[Workshop on SEO Content Strategies](#)

3. : The 2-day Workshop was facilitated by Adam Oxford of Area of Effect. The cohort explored in-depth SEO strategies for news organizations. Adam shared content strategies for SEO and the technical aspect of implementing of SEO for your online platforms.

[Workshop on the Sales Strategies](#)

4. : The workshop led by Carl Davis, Managing Director of MemeBurn, focused on equipping newsrooms with strategies to generate revenue through sales of their various products and services. These include the fundamentals of Sales, the importance of developing a client database and creating a Rate Card. Lastly, tips on how to spot buying signals and closing deals.

The Cohort also had its own internal Community Calls on a wide range of knowledge-sharing sessions. These include organizational management, Introduction to Google AdSense, Low-Data Digital: harnessing WhatsApp for audience engagement. The community call also provided the opportunity for cohort members to mention common issues for the program team to address and support.

As part of its technical assistance interventions, NAMIP developed the Media Product Fellowship. A 4-month program aims at building the product-thinking, execution, and business development capacity of up-and-coming media practitioners as well as assist newsrooms on the road to sustainability by embedding these Fellows in their newsrooms. NAMIP chose nine fellows from over 120 applications after careful consideration of their interest in media business development, past work, and their thesis on how the Nigerian media industry can evolve. More information about the fellowship can be found [HERE](#).

The members of the NAMIP cohort attended several international conferences:

1. The biannual Global Investigative Journalism

The Nigeria Media Innovation Program (NAMIP) is a 3-year intervention created to support independent media organizations to attain financial sustainability thereby ensuring editorial independence.



Conference (GIJC) in Gothenburg, Sweden: This conference brought together more than 2,000 journalists from 130 countries who specialized in investigative journalism, media technological advancement, and media sustainability. Despite logistical challenges, the cohort members actively participated in the conference as panellists in workshops. Networking opportunities were also provided to the cohort members in collaboration with the MacArthur Foundation to expand their connections.

2. The Thomson Reuters Trust Conference in London, UK: This conference brought together journalists, media executives, legal experts, and other stakeholders to discuss the most pressing challenges facing the media industry today, including threats to press freedom, the rise of disinformation, and the impact of technology on journalism. The conference provided the cohort members with valuable perspectives on the latest trends and issues in journalism globally.
1. The MDIF Media Forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand: The cohort members were part of the Pre-Forum as beneficiaries of MDIF's special programs, including Amplify Asia, Amplify Europe, MMP, NAMIP, SAMIP, and SAMIP Regional program. The forum aimed to discuss shared challenges and themes across the programs as well as valuable lessons and insights, while also facilitating networking opportunities for the cohort members. The Media Forum was a perfect blend of knowledge-sharing and networking opportunities for media leaders from 40 countries who attended the conference.
2. The Africa Women in Media Conference in Kigali, Rwanda: The NAMIP cohort attended this conference as part of a joint delegation of MDIF's Special Programs. The conference provided the opportunity to share insights and explore opportunities for collaboration through roundtable discussions that focused on three key themes: engaging and retaining audiences, embracing digital technologies, new products, and editorial formats, and innovative funding models.
3. The 18th Africa In-depth Media Conference in Abuja, Nigeria: MDIF, in collaboration with The Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism, MacArthur Foundation, and other regional partners, organized this conference. The conference provided a platform for media organizations to discuss the key factors that determine the independence of news media, also known as 'the independent media equation'. The discussions included issues related to policies, ownership, technology, and sustainability, which are essential to the development of Nigerian journalism and the transformation of the country's democratic landscape.

The program team deliberately put in efforts to encourage collaboration among the participants by organizing follow-up meetings and introducing them where there were opportunities for synergies. NAMIP has facilitated significant improvement in product development, audience development, digital development, revenue growth, and organizational management of its cohort members through workshops, conferences, and technical assistance programs.

Significant achievements in 2023.

Throughout 2023, our reach extended to over **300** newsrooms spanning Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Liberia, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger Republic, where we provided training to more than **1,700** journalists. We published a minimum of **878** fact-checks and **463** investigative stories, earning us **12** regional and international awards. Additionally, we tracked nearly **1,300** government projects, observed **10** elections in the subregion, and organized two international journalism and development conferences - the [West Africa Journalism Innovation Conference \(WAJIC\)](#) and the [Media and Development Conference](#).

Our Work on Journalism

Journalism is at the heart of what we do at the Centre. It is the fulcrum. So, whether we are amplifying the voices of oppressed journalists and fighting for press freedom, or raising the next generation of ethical journalists, what we are really doing is strengthening the journalism ecosystem and creating an enabling environment for agenda-setting.

In 2023, our Media Freedom project actively engaged with over 49 newsrooms and 427 individuals, facilitating dialogues on journalist safety and the preservation of press freedom in the region. We extended psychosocial support to journalists who encountered attacks while performing their constitutional duties. Through the Coalition of Whistleblowers Protection and Press Freedom (CWPPF), we issued a minimum of 17 press releases advocating for the protection and safety of journalists.

Our Campus Reporter project continued to enhance the skills of campus journalists in Nigeria. We conducted training sessions for 165 students at Kogi State University, Anyigba; Federal University, Lokoja; Moshood Abiola Polytechnic; and Usmanu Danfodiyo University. Additionally, our Media in Gender project trained 40



journalists nationwide in reporting on gender-based violence. We supported 11 student advocates and journalists, empowering them to undertake storytelling and advocacy projects addressing gender-based violence reporting mechanisms on university campuses in Nigeria. Notably, our Media in Gender project conducted thorough research and unveiled a [comprehensive report](#) on the prevalence of gender-based violence against female undergraduates in tertiary institutions across Nigeria.

Our Work on Democratic Accountability

In the significant election year of 2023, in Nigeria and other parts of the subregion, such as Sierra Leone and Liberia, we played a pivotal role. In Nigeria, we deployed a team of 60 journalists and observers nationwide to monitor the elections. In Sierra Leone and Liberia, we collaborated with organizations like the [West Africa Network for Peacebuilding \(WANEP\)](#) and the Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone to ensure peaceful, credible, and fair democratic transitions of power. Our extensive elections coverage reached an impressive 92,951,350, underscoring our collective efforts, alongside our media coalition, to ensure electoral accountability.

Our social accountability project, [UDEME](#), remains dedicated to tracking the execution of government projects allotted in budgets across all 36 states in Nigeria. This year, we monitored 1,283 of these projects. While our pursuit of ensuring citizens receive their fair share of good governance is challenging, tangible results, such as investigations into Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) contracts in Borno State and renewed commitment from the Akwa Ibom state government to conclude an abandoned hospital project in Ukanafun,

Our reach extended to over 300 newsrooms spanning Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Liberia, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger Republic, where we provided training to more than 1,700 journalists.



One of our proudest achievements is Dubawa's investigative piece, *Baba Aisha*, which questions the content of a low-end herbal concoction.

Akwa Ibom state, attest to our impact on the country's governance process.

In 2023, we introduced a review of loan-tied infrastructural investments in Nigeria, specifically focusing on investments from China. Supported by our partners at CIPE, we conducted comprehensive research into the status and relevance of these investments, published reports on our findings, and provided training for journalists on effective reporting of loan-tied infrastructural projects in the country. We look forward to expanding these efforts to other parts of the continent and broadening our focus beyond China.

Our Work on Sustainable Development

One of our core mandates is to deepen development discourse through investigative stories and policy research. That has been the core focus of our development work in areas including climate change, natural resources and extractives, universal healthcare, agriculture, conflict, security and human rights.

Throughout the year, we released a total of 293 investigative stories and nine research and knowledge products. Additionally, our active participation in digital and mainstream media engagements allowed us to contribute our perspective to various development issues of public concern, thereby enriching the development discourse in the region.

Under our Natural Resources and Extractives project (NAREP), we conducted a 2-day capacity-building programme for 16 journalists carefully selected from a pool of over 300 applicants representing diverse newsrooms in Nigeria. We also published a policy brief titled "Economics of Petroleum Industry Act and the Nigerian Reality." In our Climate Change project, we not only published three policy briefs and 106 articles but also assisted nine newsrooms in Nigeria and Ghana in establishing dedicated climate change reporting desks to enhance media coverage of climate change-related issues.

In our Conflict, Security, and Human Rights project, we trained 51 journalists on effective conflict and human rights reporting across Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad. Our interventions included publishing 19 investigative reports, two policy briefs, and 3 Lake Chad security briefs. Our interventions through our Health and Agriculture projects involved fostering local and international partnerships for agriculture and health reporting. We trained over 150

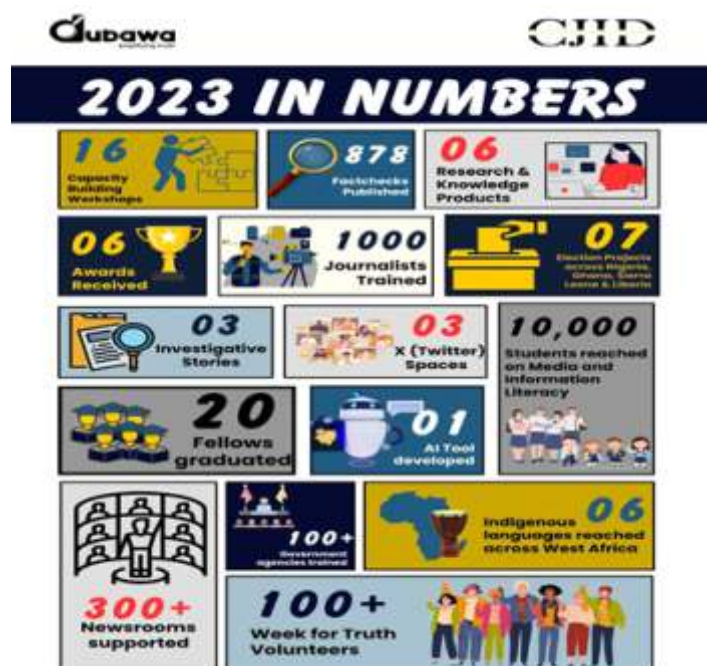
journalists and policymakers on mental health reporting, conducted in-depth analyses of topics relating to food prices, primary healthcare, and other healthcare policies, and published over 100 news stories and newsletters.

Our Work on Verification, Fact-checking and Media Literacy

One of our proudest achievements is Dubawa's investigative piece, [Baba Aisha](#), which questions the content of a low-end herbal concoction. The impact of this journalistic enterprise led to a clamp down on producers of the herbal concoctions by Nigeria's food and drug administration, NAFDAC and won us seven (7) regional and global awards.

Another work we are proud of is the Dubawa Audio Platform. Because Radio is an indispensable source of information for millions in the West Africa region, and we acknowledge its unparalleled influence in shaping the news, we developed an AI tool that listens to and records radio, converts it to text, identifies claims and fact-checks those claims in real-time. This tool will combat the spread of fake news and disinformation, empower fact-checkers with technology that automates the labour-intensive process of transcribing and identifying fact-check-worthy claims in radio broadcasts, and support journalists and media organizations in upholding the highest standards of integrity and accuracy.

Stepping into 2024, we anticipate even greater successes. New paths will be charted, and our trajectory will take exciting turns. But, our unwavering commitment remains constant—to harness the power of journalism and digital innovation to advance a media landscape that champions democratic accountability in the pursuit of inclusive and sustainable development in Africa.





**HUMAN RIGHTS
JOURNALISTS
NETWORK
NIGERIA**

Journey of diverse collaborations

As we reflect on 2023, we take pride in the diverse collaborations that have defined our journey.

Against the backdrop of Nigeria's election year, we collaborated with EyeWitness, UK, for a Photo and Video as Evidence Workshop to document the Election. Additionally, our inaugural in-person international session on Fact-Checking the Elections: Fake News, Misinformation and Disinformation in the digital era during Nigeria Elections, in collaboration with the Code for Africa team in Kenya, unfolded at the Pan African Digital Rights and Inclusion Forum 2023 (DRIF23) by Paradigm Initiative in Nairobi in April.

In May, our Co-founder and Executive Director, Kehinde Adegboyega, alongside Co-founder John Attah, participated in the Stockholm Internet Forum 2023 by the Swedish International Development Cooperation in Sweden, engaging with hundreds of Civic Societies worldwide to discuss the role of the Internet and ICT during Crises, Conflicts, and Disasters.

June marked a significant month for us, featuring our second RightsCon session. Collaborating with the Committee to Protect Journalists and Avocats Sans Frontières France Nigeria (ASF Nigeria), we hosted a hybrid session on I can't speak: Digital Authoritarianism and Freedom of Expression in Nigeria at RightsCon 2023 in Costa Rica by Access Now.

Continuing our commitment to raising awareness, we collaborated with ASF Nigeria and Premium Times in June for a Twitter(X) Space conversation on Systematic Torture in Nigeria. The event featured CSP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, commemorating the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

August saw us join hands with ASF Nigeria once again to host a Consultation with Journalists on Press Freedom in Nigeria and with the International Center for Journalists on a webinar on Addressing Visa and Travel Challenges for Journalists. In October, our hybrid Digital Encryption Workshop, in collaboration with Access Now, CCHUB, Civic Hive, and with the support of the Internet Society, marked our participation in the Global Encryption Day.

www.mediareng.org

Human Rights Journalists Network (HRJN) is a nonprofit organisation that collaborates to document, build capacity and advocate on human rights issues in Nigeria.

December was a month of celebration and reflection. We collaborated to host a Human Rights Film Festival in Abuja, with the UN, National Human Rights Commission, the Brazilian Embassy, and Belgium, commemorating the UDHR at 75 and moderated a panel session on Torture in Nigeria during the festival.

The second edition of the Africa International Human Rights Film Festival was a highlight, featuring the support of Witness, in collaboration with Media Defense UK, Heinrich Boil Foundation Nigeria, WTECH, CCHUB Creative Economy Practice, and Goethe Institute. Over 100 films were screened, complemented by a Masterclass and five Panel Discussions.

Furthermore, we organized a day workshop for journalists and Civic Societies on the UDHR, in collaboration with the UN, at Dover Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos.

As we enter a new year, we carry the momentum of these collaborations, thankful for the shared dedication to promoting human rights through impactful initiatives



The International Press Centre (IPC) Summary of 2023 Activities

Project Title: European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria-Phase 2 (EUSDGN II) project.

In 2022, the International Press Centre in Lagos, Nigeria, launched a project funded by the European Union to enhance media involvement in promoting democratic governance through fair, accurate, ethical, and inclusive coverage of electoral processes in Nigeria. The project aims to support democracy by engaging the media in professional reporting on electoral procedures across various platforms.

The activities implemented under the EUSDGN II project are as follows:

1. One-day skill-enhancing virtual workshop for 40 bloggers and online journalists in the southern part of the country on conflict-sensitive reporting

In preparation for the February 2023 general elections, IPC conducted a one-day virtual workshop aimed at enhancing the skills of 40 bloggers and online journalists from the southern region on conflict-sensitive reporting. This workshop took place on January 12, 2023. Furthermore, an additional 40 bloggers from the northern region were also trained, resulting in a total of 80 participants being equipped before the 2023 general elections.

The primary objective of the virtual workshop was to address the dissemination of hate speech and counteract the negative impacts of unethical and insensitive reporting during the 2023 Nigeria electoral processes. The focus was on empowering media professionals with ethical and conflict-sensitive reporting skills to foster responsible journalism.

Among the attendees were online journalists and bloggers, including members of the Guild of Corporate Online Publishers (GOCOP), actively engaged in online coverage of the 2023 elections.

2. Media/CSO Roundtable – 2023 Elections – Avoiding Landmines, Overcoming Obstacles and Conducting Credible Elections

IPC and YIAGA Africa, under the EU-funded EUSDGN II project, organized a forum to address INEC's readiness for the 2023 elections. Stakeholders discussed election

themes like security, inclusivity, and media responsibilities to enhance public trust and credibility. Key attendees included media and CSO representatives, with a focus on proactive measures to ensure successful elections.

During the roundtable discussions, stakeholders delivered presentations on various election-related themes, including election security, citizen engagement, inclusivity, media responsibilities, and insights from INEC representatives. The forum concluded with a collective acknowledgment of crucial areas that could impact the elections' credibility, prompting commitments from INEC and other stakeholders to address these concerns proactively before the presidential and gubernatorial elections.

3. One-Day Media Stakeholders' Roundtable on The Media Monitoring Report of The Coverage of the 2023 Electoral Process.

The International Press Centre (IPC) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental and independent media resource centre. Though based in south western Nigeria its activities is nationwide.

IPC conducted two roundtable sessions in Abuja and Port-Harcourt with media stakeholders to review the media monitoring report on the 2023 electoral process. Discussions focused on coverage trends of the election by newspapers and INEC platforms, addressing professionalism and improving media coverage. The initiative, spanning eighteen months, also analyzed IPC's media coverage of the electoral and democratic processes. After the activities, the goals achieved were:

- Media monitoring reports provided insights into coverage trends during the electoral process, encouraging professional reporting standards and supporting under-reported themes.
- Recommendations highlighted areas for improvement in electoral reportage.
- Expert reviews addressed gaps in election coverage and proposed solutions for media professionalism.
- Findings were used to identify areas for improvement and guide programmatic interventions. Workshop attendees included journalists from print and online media.

4. Stakeholders Roundtable on the Role of the Media in Deepening Democracy Governance and Public





Presentation of the Presidential Campaign Promises

The roundtable discussion focused on various topics related to enhancing democratic governance by promoting transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making to bolster comprehensive government practices. During the session, IPC presented an analysis of the campaign promises made by the winner of the 2023 presidential elections.

The comprehensive documentation of the presidential campaign commitments helped both the media and citizens to assess political agendas and educate the public on the significance of upholding accountability in democratic governance.

Furthermore, the roundtable facilitated a detailed conversation on fostering democratic accountability by aligning with citizen expectations and enhancing the media's role as the fourth estate of the realm.

This effort was part of IPC's involvement in the 2023 electoral processes, including tracking and analyzing media coverage trends across various platforms such as print and online media outlets.

Moreover, the media roundtable acknowledged IPC's significant achievement in developing the Nigerian Media Code of Election Coverage for IOS and the Media Election App. These resources provide essential guidelines for election stakeholders, creating an environment conducive to enabling the media to fulfill its professional duties effectively during electoral procedures. The development of the IOS/Web App aimed to facilitate easy access for journalists, media professionals, researchers, and academia to download the guidelines for enhanced accessibility and application.

The media roundtable acknowledged IPC's significant achievement in developing the Nigerian Media Code of Election Coverage for IOS and the Media Election App.

5. Media Roundtables Engagement on Imo Guber Election, Imo, Kogi Election and Bayelsa Elections.

The purpose of this event was to conduct a thorough analysis of the intricate relationships between the public, the media, and the electoral procedures. The primary objective was to formulate a comprehensive agenda that emphasizes enhancing the media's and citizens' roles in fostering a credible electoral system.

The workshop aimed to instil essential media professionalism and inclusivity in the coverage and reporting of the ongoing electoral process in the state. This initiative is intended to assist the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in facilitating transparent, peaceful, and legitimate gubernatorial elections in Kogi in November.

Furthermore, the workshop fostered collaborative brainstorming sessions and idea exchanges among media stakeholders to explore effective strategies to uphold the media's crucial role in promoting electoral processes and democratic principles universally recognized.

Lastly, participants were introduced to the IPC's Media and Elections app, an innovative tool designed to enhance access to valuable resources for election reporting.



Project Title: IVERIFY Project

The primary goal of the iVerify project, facilitated by the International Press Centre in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the government of Spain, is to enhance efforts in combating the issue of information disorder. This includes tackling the surge of disinformation, misinformation, malinformation, and hate speech, particularly during electoral and democratic proceedings.

Activities

1. Fact-checking workshops for journalists from Kogi, Bayelsa and Imo States

IPC organized fact-checking workshops for 80 journalists from various media outlets in the three states ahead of the November 11, 2023, off-cycle governorship elections. The Journalists were trained to detect disinformation, use fact-checking tools, and provide factual election coverage without biases to ensure accurate information reaches the public.

The workshop yielded significant results, including the enhancement of journalists' professional competencies.



Project Title: NIGERIAN JOURNALISTS' SAFETY INITIATIVE Activities

1. Capacity building program for local journalists on impactful reporting of grassroots development issues and safety consciousness.

The training was conducted by the NIGERIAN JOURNALISTS' SAFETY INITIATIVE, a pivotal component of a three-year project named 'Safety Awareness and Impactful Reporting of Communities', overseen by IPC and supported by the Open Society Foundation (OSF). The primary objective of this capacity-building initiative was two-fold: firstly, to equip local journalists with the requisite skills for reporting on human and social development matters in a solution-focused manner, and secondly, to educate a wider audience of media professionals on essential skills, methodologies, and safety measures crucial for impactful reporting on grassroots development issues.

IPC orchestrated this training with a specific focus on empowering local journalists with the necessary skills for reporting on human and social development using a problem-solving approach and also disseminating valuable insights on skills, methodologies, and safety protocols to a broader group of media professionals engaged in impactful reporting on grassroots development matters.

The workshop yielded significant results, including the enhancement of journalists' professional competencies and an elevation in the coverage of developmental issues at the community level in at least three regions across Nigeria. Additionally, a comprehensive resource guide on impactful reporting of grassroots development issues and safety procedures was introduced and distributed to further bolster professional development and safety awareness among media practitioners.

ActionAid Nigeria Report

Report on Strengthening Media Capacity as Catalyst for Social Cohesion

Participants: 30 Media Professionals

Organizer: ActionAid Nigeria

Background: ActionAid Nigeria, committed to promoting, protecting, and preserving the rights of vulnerable groups and communities, works closely with the media to amplify community voices. Through various engagements, including media training and collaborations with indigenous media houses, ActionAid Nigeria addresses issues affecting the poor and vulnerable groups, focusing on holding the government accountable in tackling extremism hindering development.

Objective: The objective of this activity was to strengthen the capacity of media professionals as catalysts for social cohesion, particularly in Kano and Kaduna states.

Activities:

- **Media Training:** ActionAid Nigeria organized a media training session titled "Strengthening Media Capacity as Catalyst for Social Cohesion." The training aimed to equip 30 media professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to actively promote social cohesion at the community, state, and national levels.

Key Discussion Points:

- Social cohesion and its various connotations, emphasizing the role of the media as both part of the problem and part of the solution.
- The importance of media in promoting social cohesion and mitigating social conflicts.
- Strategies for media professionals to effectively contribute to peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Outcomes:

- **Enhanced Capacity:** Participants gained a deeper understanding of their role in promoting social cohesion and peacebuilding.
- **Empowered Media Professionals:** The training equipped media professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively address issues affecting vulnerable communities and hold the government accountable for proffered mechanisms to tackle extremism.
- **Community Impact:** By strengthening the capacity of media professionals, ActionAid Nigeria aims to amplify community voices and facilitate positive change at the grassroots level.

ActionAid Nigeria is a global NGO based in Nigeria — Ending Poverty in Nigeria by providing basic amenities, Support us with your donations. Your regular monthly donation will provide support for flooded communities in Nigeria.

Conclusion: The media training on "Strengthening Media Capacity as Catalyst for Social Cohesion" was a significant step towards achieving ActionAid Nigeria's goal of promoting social cohesion and peacebuilding in Kano and Kaduna states. By empowering media professionals with the required information and skills, ActionAid Nigeria continues to work towards creating a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Next Steps: ActionAid Nigeria will continue to engage with the media and other stakeholders to further promote social cohesion and peacebuilding initiatives. Future activities will focus on building upon the outcomes of this training and expanding the reach of media interventions in vulnerable communities.

Report on Journalists' Training on Judicial Accountability in Post-Election Justice Delivery in Nigeria

Participants: 10 Media Professionals

Organizer: ActionAid Nigeria

Objective: The objective of this activity was to train journalists on the electoral and judicial processes to enhance their rapportage create awareness, build capacity, and establish a working relationship with journalists to promote accountability in post-election justice delivery.

Overview: The training session was conducted as part of the 12-month CLEAP-Justice intervention funded by the Ford Foundation, running from July 2023 to July 2024. The project seeks to increase civic consciousness, participation, and engagement in electoral adjudication processes, ultimately promoting mobilization and citizens' actions to hold tribunals and court judges accountable for transparent justice dispensations in the electoral process.

act!onaid

Activity Details: The training session began with an introduction to the objectives and activities of the CLEAP-Justice project. Journalists were briefed on the project's purpose, goals, methodology, and timeline to establish a common understanding of its mission.

Key topics covered during the training included:

1. Provisions and tenets of the Electoral Act
2. Judicial and political processes in Nigeria
3. Role of the media as watchdogs of democracy

Presentations were delivered by resource persons to elucidate the relationship between the Electoral Act, judicial and political processes, and the media's role in promoting citizens' engagement in judicial accountability post-election.

Outcomes: The training successfully achieved the following outcomes:

1. The capacity of 10 journalists was deepened to effectively contribute to Judicial accountability in Post-Election Justice Delivery in Nigeria. These journalists are Judicial correspondents of the National Association of Judicial Correspondents

(inclusive of its President and Vice-President) ·

2. The journalists were trained on the Electoral Act and Election Petition Processes, vis how the process of Election Petition Tribunals (EPTs) could be effectively reported, to empower Citizens with knowledge and information.
3. The Journalists gave signed commitments to promote the objectives of CLEAP Justice project actively.

Conclusion: The training for journalists on judicial accountability in post-election justice delivery was a vital step towards achieving the goals of the CLEAP-Justice project. By empowering journalists with knowledge on the electoral and judicial processes, the project aims to foster greater transparency and accountability within Nigeria's electoral processes, ultimately contributing to the promotion of democratic principles and citizens' engagement in governance.

The training for journalists on judicial accountability in post-election justice delivery was a vital step towards achieving the goals of the CLEAP-Justice project.



2023 Media partnership workshop report



Introduction

In September 1, 2023, PAGED Initiative held a two-part media partnership workshop with journalists to discuss findings from recent community film screenings focused on barriers to girls' education. This report summarizes the workshop discussion and outcomes.

Phase 1 Workshop Overview

The first phase of the workshop brought together journalists from print, radio, TV, and online media outlets. We shared key findings from the communities that we visited, we highlighted major obstacles girls face in accessing education. These include poverty, cultural norms, teen pregnancy, and lack of sanitary supplies.

We facilitated an open discussion for journalists to share feedback and insights into how media can help address these barriers. Key suggestions focused on sustained coverage of girls' education issues, telling stories that inspire change, and exploring partnerships to improve access to educational resources.

Phase 2 Workshop Overview

As part of our efforts to promote girls' education through impactful media reporting, the second part of the workshop focused on building skills. We had an insightful discussion on the challenges girls face in accessing quality education and also solutions-driven reportage. This led to discussions on reporting styles, news framing, solutions journalism, data-driven reporting and multimedia reporting styles.

The workshop also included learning sessions focused on community entry reportage and developing human angle stories. The human angle stories will capture community-driven initiatives, personal journeys, and role models working for change.

The goal was to equip journalists with strategies to amplify the voices of girls in education through our Media Advocacy Project. Participants were enthusiastic about using the power of media to advocate for change.

Community Mobile Cinema

PAGED Initiative, in collaboration with journalists from renowned media organizations like Human Angle Media,

PAGED (Participatory Communication for Gender Development) Initiative is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation based and registered in Nigeria with CAC registration number: CAC/IT/NO92434.

The Whistler Nigeria, Express Radio, Aminci Radio, Solacebase Communications, Herald Reporters, Liberty TV/Radio, and ARTV, embarked on community entry and research in the following communities in Kano and Kaduna States:

Tudun ilu LGA, Malali LGA, Karatudu LGA, Maraban rido LGA, Sabon gari LGA, Makoda LGA, Sumaila LGA, Karaye LGA, Kumbutso LGA, Chalawa, Warawa LGA and Jemagu LGA.

These community meetings and research yielded firsthand insights into the struggles and compelling stories faced by residents. Journalists channeled these experiences into powerful reports highlighting the issues and barriers impeding access to quality education, particularly for girls. The reports not only shed light on the challenges but also offered valuable insights into potential solutions, paving the way for effective interventions.

Our next steps are to hold similar journalists workshops in Kano state and Kaduna State to explore potential ways to improve girls' access to education in various local communities within the two states. We aim to leverage the media's influential role in shaping attitudes and driving community action.

Outcomes and Next Steps

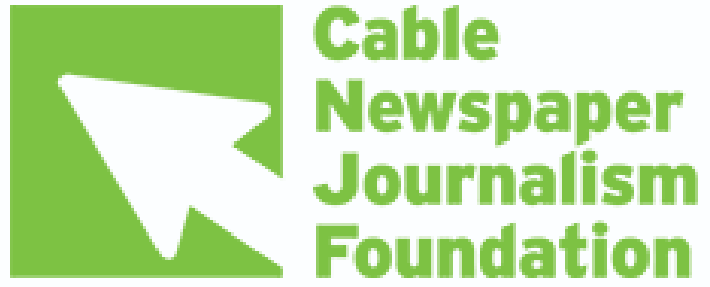
The two-phase workshop strengthened our relationships with media partners who are committed to keeping girls' education challenges on the public agenda. Journalists agreed to increase coverage of these issues and find opportunities to uplift community champions as role models and shed spotlight on their success stories.

Conclusion

The comprehensive media partnership workshop marked an important step in engaging journalists in efforts to address barriers to girls' education. The Journalists demonstrated a strong desire to be part of the solution through their reporting and community initiatives. We look forward to a continued collaboration with various media organizations.



2023 Impact Report Summary



Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation is a non-profit organization which uses the vehicle of journalism to demand transparency and accountability for good governance in Nigeria. In 2023, it worked in partnership with TheCable.ng to implement the activities listed below.

Training: Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation in partnership with TheCable.ng held a two-day training for journalists in Lagos on August 17 and 18, 2023 with the title: How AI is Changing Journalism Landscape.

Investigations: We gave out several mini- grants for investigative reporting this year. Some of our investigative stories which generated outstanding impact in the course of the year is:

[Lagos Slave Factories](#) a story which exposed the sharp practices in Indian-owned companies in the heart of Lagos where workers aren't well compensated and even sometimes lose body parts due to poor safety protocols. Our expose' led to the [closure of the factory](#) by the Lagos state regulators.

Secondly, the organization was made to [treat its staff](#) whose hand almost got chopped off while working in the factory.

Two years after our [report on fake birth certificate](#), and its lack of digitization, Nigeria's president Tinubu [launched](#) the electronic civil registration and vital statistics system, which digitises all births, deaths, marriage and divorce notifications.

Digital Innovation: In May 2023, TheCable also contributed to news inclusivity through the launch of TheCable DINA- Nigeria's first inclusive news app with assistive features to provide persons with disabilities (PWDs) access to the news.

Factchecking: We www.mediacareer.org

published over 300 factchecks in Igbo, Hausa, Pidgin and Yoruba languages, to curb mis and disinformation around the 2023 general elections. Our organization is also a part of the Nigeria Factcheck Coalition, which did live-factcheck on election day. These factchecks set the record straight and prevented what could have resulted in post-election violence.

Awards: TheCable journalists were also recognized for some reputable international awards and nominations such as [Kevin Carmody Award for Outstanding Investigative Reporting](#), the [fetisov award](#) and the Africa Factchecking award.



5 Things To Know About TheCable DINA (Disability-Inclusive News App)



Nigeria's FIRST disability-inclusive news app.



Aligns with Nigeria's Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act 2019



Safeguarding persons with disabilities from fake news and misinformation through Cable Check



Promote disability-inclusion across the news ecosystem in Nigeria



Leading disability-inclusive information and news in the media sector in Nigeria.



[theableng](https://www.thecableng.com)

thecable.ng

The Journalism Clinic

50 new digital journalists emerge from #NLNGChangeYourStory training



The Journalism Clinic held two editions of its #NLNGChangeYourStory workshop for journalists and communication professionals in 2023, one in Lagos, from 20-22 June and the other in Abuja, from 1-3 August.

Aimed at enhancing the digital communication and social media skills of journalists, and to empower their audiences and drive positive change, the two editions had 25 participants each in attendance.

Training, in both instances, was by Dan Mason, an international trainer, who with his partner and the Founder/Director of The Journalism Clinic, conceptualised the multimedia storytelling training.

In both workshops, participants learnt how to use their mobile phones to do videos in selfie, voice-over and title formats with CapCut and Canva apps and various other digital tools.

They were also taught how to make audiograms - combining images and audio clips (say from an interview recorded by the journalist) to make a video; story forms, how to make maps and charts.

Attesting to the impact of the workshop, Hannah Amah of Rivers State Television, who was in the Lagos Class said: "I have done several trainings, but this particular one is special. You are taught tools and made to use them (perfectly)."

Victor Eneji of The Cable affirmed that his [story](#) using the storytelling forms he learnt, was one of the most read on their website during the period it was published.

Of the training, he said: "The programme emphasised the ethical use of AI tools to enhance research and storytelling skills, while also providing training in visual storytelling techniques. Having applied the learned skills, I have



experienced a significant improvement in my journalistic work. I have made great strides in how I craft my headlines, research, and carry out investigations.

Lydia Samson, who said she was known as an analogue journalist by her colleagues at NTA Abuja, proudly went away as "Madam Digital." She said she was transformed "in the twinkle of an eye." Her expectations to "be more digitally empowered in my storytelling as a journalist" were roundly met.

The Nigeria LNG Limited has stoutly supported the training since 2015. There was a hiatus until 2021 when it resumed again.

During the closing ceremony in Lagos, Mr. Andy Odeh, NLNG's General Manager of External Relations and Sustainable Development, stated that the initiative is aimed at equipping journalists with the necessary tools and skills to navigate the ever-changing landscape of digital communication and social media.

"The driving force behind this workshop," he stated, "lies in our firm belief that our stakeholders are not just partners in our current success; they are an integral part of our journey towards greater heights. At Nigeria LNG, we understand that our growth and success are intricately linked to the growth and success of those around us. We aim to create a symbiotic relationship where both parties thrive together."

In both workshops, participants learnt how to use their mobile phones to do videos in selfie, voice-over and title formats with CapCut and Canva apps and various other digital tools.

Nigeria Health Watch 2023 key achievements

Nigeria Health Watch is a not-for-profit health communication and advocacy organisation that advocates for better health for Nigerians. We work to actively engage and support the government in raising awareness and increasing knowledge on a wide range of public health issues in Nigeria.

We hold duty bearers accountable to deliver affordable and quality healthcare for Nigerians. Nigeria Health Watch's unique capacity lies in its communication and health expertise, which enables the organisation to provide solutions for evidence-based communications and advocacy in Nigeria's health sector.

Realising the critical role of the media in our advocacy work, we constantly engage in various capacity-building programs to equip journalists with the skills to report on issues and effectively lead to sustainable positive change. Below are our 2023 trainings:

Prevent Epidemics Project

In 2023, Nigeria Health Watch organised a series of trainings for various stakeholders, media organisations, and other partner organisations. The training aims to build/ strengthen the capacities of the relevant participants to contribute to the ongoing advocacy to improve epidemic preparedness in Nigeria.

In March 2023, Nigeria Health Watch, recognising the media's strategic roles in raising public and policymaker awareness and driving advocacy for epidemic preparedness in Nigeria, we organised a 3-day training for the 3rd #PreventEpidemicsNaija Journalism Fellowship. The training's main aim was to help journalists improve media reporting quality and increase their understanding of the need for dedicated and sustained funding for epidemic preparedness.



Nigeria Health Watch is a not-for-profit health communication and advocacy organisation that advocates for better health for Nigerians.

The fellows had a field trip to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control's National Reference Laboratory and the Incident Coordination Centre as part of the training activities. This visit enabled the fellows to gain more insight into the NCDC's incident management structure and coordination of public health emergency capabilities. It also equipped them with more information on epidemic preparedness in Nigeria.

A total of 15 journalists from TV, radio, and print media were selected and invited by Nigeria Health Watch to the 3-day Journalism Fellowship facilitated by a highly competent team of experts from Nigeria Health Watch and LISDEL.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS/RESULTS:

EPR Reporting:

There was a 6% increase in knowledge assessment on the sole responsibility of the media to inform the public about health issues.

There was a good increase in knowledge assessment on epidemic preparedness and response funding as a key component of global health security.

Data/Evidence-based Journalism:

There was a 6% increase in knowledge assessment on how evidence-based/data journalism relies solely on quantitative data. There was a 12% increase in knowledge assessment on how data journalism is used for reporting large-scale epidemics and not smaller outbreaks. There was a 27% increase in knowledge assessment on how journalists should use only data from official sources in their evidence-based data journalism and reporting.

Data Visualisation:

There was a 27% increase in knowledge assessment on using other types of data visualisation for journalism besides charts and graphs. There was a 7% increase in knowledge assessment on using data visualisation to highlight disparities or inequalities in epidemic preparedness and response funding.

Health Misinformation

In October 2023, Nigeria Health Watch conceptualised and



launched the Health Misinformation Management Fellowship Programme in Niger State. The initiative aimed to train and equipped the participants with the skills and knowledge needed to combat health misinformation within communities and the country. The project was borne following the insights garnered from the misinformation project piloted in Niger state.

Nutrition

In August 2023, Nigeria Health Watch, in partnership with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), organised a 2-day training themed: Strengthening Capacity of Media Professional for Effective Nutrition Reporting. The training workshop aimed to build the capacity of the media on appropriate reporting of nutrition activities using the proper terminologies while enlightening Nigerians on the different issues that come with malnutrition and how it can be averted and addressed. The workshop had 30 journalists from newsrooms in attendance, such as ARISE TV, News Agency of Nigeria, AIT Vanguard, NTA, and more. The training helped strengthen their capacity for effective nutrition reporting in Nigeria.

Solutions Journalism training

Since 2020, Nigeria Health Watch has implemented the Solutions Journalism Africa Initiative project with support from the Solutions Journalism Network. The project equips media organisations and journalists with skills to report www.mediareng.org

how various social problems are being addressed nationwide. This is helping to address the predominant challenge of overly focusing on reporting problems, which is making audiences avoid the news.

As part of the project, Nigeria Health Watch continues to engage and train journalists offline and online to teach them the solutions journalism writing framework. In 2023, Nigeria Health Watch organised SoJo Meetups, semi-informal meetings with journalists, freelancers, and storytellers across the country's six geo-political zones. The meetups provided an opportunity to teach and engage with over 100 journalists. The meetups also benefitted student journalists.

The workshop had 30 journalists from newsrooms in attendance, such as ARISE TV, News Agency of Nigeria, AIT Vanguard, NTA, and more. The training helped strengthen their capacity for effective nutrition reporting in Nigeria.

Africa Check Nigeria

key projects and activities

Fact-checking elections with the Nigerian Fact Checkers Coalition (NFC)

In 2023, Africa Check played a pivotal role in Nigeria's electoral landscape as part of Nigeria's Fact Checkers Coalition (NFC). Our commitment to upholding truth and transparency extended across various fronts, from meticulously fact-checking pre-election debates in Lagos to establishing real-time situation rooms on election days. We hosted other members of the coalition in the election day situation room we set up in Lagos.

We engaged in rigorous fact-checking processes, scrutinising claims made by presidential/National Assembly and gubernatorial/state house candidates to ensure voters had accurate information.

Furthermore, our dedicated situation room also operated during the off-cycle elections that took place in Imo, Kogi, and Rivers states in November 2023. We fact-checked a series of claims made by candidates and potential misinformation shared by social media users that could affect participation in elections and acceptance of elections.

High school media literacy programme in Lagos

We also took our media literacy campaign to secondary schools where we empowered over 900 students in secondary schools in Lagos Island with the skills to spot and verify false information. By cultivating a culture of critical thinking, we contribute to building a more informed electorate for the future.

Conferences, workshops and training sessions

Workshops and training sessions, we facilitated in 2023:

- Media and Development Conference #MDC23.
- "Understanding & Countering Disinformation" training session organised by American Spaces in Nigeria in celebration of World Press Freedom Day 2023,
- Live stream with TikTok to discuss how creators, influencers, institutions and everyday users can tackle fake news and misinformation during elections and beyond.
- A round table organised by the International Press Centre and INEC, to identify flashpoints of electoral misinformation and disinformation.
- Fact-checking training funded by Karibu

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Foundation in preparation for the 2023 general elections

- "Election-Day Reporting Programme" organised by the Punch Media Foundation.
- NCDC-REDISSE Mpox Media Orientation Workshop in Lagos.
- Training for journalists covering the environment organised by the Climate Africa Media Initiative Centre and Dangote Group in Lagos
- CFI International Media and Development Forum in Paris
- West Africa Journalism Innovation Conference #WAJIC23
- American Spaces Nigeria special training workshop for journalists on New Tools and Techniques for Combating Misinformation and Disinformation.

Media partnerships

We continued our run programmes on five (5) radio stations and one TV station in different states in the country with the support of the Gates Foundation. The programmes aired weekly tackle misinformation on health and development issues and enlighten listeners on how to identify misinformation and disinformation schemes. Our programmes focus on explaining methods for fact-checking claims and equipping the audience with the right knowledge and tools that will enable them to stop the spread of false and misleading information. Our media partners are Radio One Lagos, Wazobia FM Lagos, Splash FM Ibadan, Freedom Radio Kano, Sparkling FM Calabar and News Central TV Lagos.





Corporate Media Training for Media Professionals.



Second Edition of MTN-Pan Atlantic University Media Innovation Program

MTN Nigeria Communications Plc and Pan-Atlantic University held the second edition of the Media Innovation Programme providing media professionals a unique opportunity to explore Nigeria's technology sector and the nexus between media and technology.

20 media professionals were selected for the 2023 MIP Cohort executed by the School of Media and Communication, Pan-Atlantic University.

Like the previous one, the six-month fully funded certificate fellowship which commenced on May 15, 2023, featured a study visit to the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa and an innovation hub to incubate ideas.

The fellowship benefited journalists across print, broadcast and online media platforms and content creators. Some of them include Chineye Anuforo of The Sun Newspaper, Abdul Rasheed Hussain of Premiere Radio 102.7 Kano, Basit Jamiu of Legit.NG, Aanuoluwa Temitope Odubanjo of FabWoman, Efunnuga Oluwaseun Yemisi of Pulse Nigeria.

In September 2023 the fellows went on a 9-day study trip to South Africa where they had classroom sessions at the



University of Johannesburg, a visit to the MTN Group Headquarters in Johannesburg, another session hosted by the South African Institute of International Affairs, and the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria.

The trip also featured a breakfast session with the South African editors' forum to drive collaboration between Nigerian media practitioners and their South African counterparts and some other lined-up programs.

A statement signed by the organisations stated that the multifaceted programme was aimed at equipping them with the skills to adapt to changing realities and to support media practitioners, and promote understanding of the rapidly changing media landscape

The fellowship benefited journalists across print, broadcast and online media platforms and content creators.

Dangote Group trains Journalists in Northwest Nigeria in Digital Media

The Dangote group, in September 2023 held a training on “Ethics, Skills, and Personal Qualities for Reporting in the Digital Age” for about 50 journalists in the Northwest region of Nigeria.

The training which was held in Kano state was coordinated by the Centre for Financial Journalism in Nigeria, featuring resource persons like Dr Ray Echebiri and Mrs Aisha Sule who emphasised the need for journalists to continuously build their capacity in the area of digital reporting.

Leading the participants present at the training, chairpersons of the Nigerian Union of Journalists in Kano and Kaduna, Mr Abbas Ibrahim and Mrs Asmau Halilu respectively spoke about the timeliness of the training while charging their colleagues to optimally utilise the

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According to the spokesman for the Dangote Group, Mr Anthony Chiejina, the annual workshop is part of a series conducted over the years in geopolitical zones of the country.

the annual workshop is part of a series conducted over the years in geopolitical zones of the country.

Nestle Nigeria and Lagos Business School train journalists on sustainability.

Nestle Nigeria and the Lagos Business School Sustainability Centre, in July 2023, conducted the annual Nestle Sustainability Training for media professionals and journalists to equip to better work in the areas of nutrition, health, and environment with the necessary skills and knowledge to promote sustainability through their reporting.

The three-week program which also featured in-person sessions, a field trip and group work provided in-depth exploration of data analysis, sustainability trends, and solution journalism.

It offered participants a comprehensive look at the relationship between the environment and food systems, enabling them to effectively communicate best practices, lifestyle choices, and policy directions that foster

Polaris bank trains journalist in Financial reporting

By Chukwuma Umeorah, in [The Sun Newspaper](#)

As part of efforts to upskill journalists and improve the quality of financial reportage in the country, Polaris Bank in June 2023 organised a one-day media training designed to furnish journalists and media practitioners with the latest techniques in the field.

Held in Lagos, the training had seasoned Journalist and business expert, Akin Olaniyan who drilled the journalists on delivering a well-balanced and effective report especially as it concerns the sensitive nature of the financial space.

Olaniyan delivered a lecture tagged, 'Reporting Finance in a Depressed Economy' using Nigeria's current economy reality as a case study, highlighting some variables that journalists and media practitioners must pay attention to to deliver an effective reportage.

While also admitting some of the challenges journalists face on the job which include media ownership structure, lack of capacity, poor remuneration, regulatory issues, and ethnoreligious considerations among others, he noted that these factors affect the quality of their reports, However, he beckoned that they maintain the ethical values of journalism practice as one single skewed publication could have a devastating impact on its audience, companies and organizations and even the economy country.

He commended the management of Polaris Bank for organising the training while adding that continuous and www.mediareer.org



sustainability in food systems, lives, and communities.

Participants of the training were also taking on a field trip to the Lekki Urban Forestry and Animal Shelter Initiative (LUFASI) Park, Sangotedo in Lagos. After

this were the group presentations by participants and award giving to reward active and punctual participants of the training.

According to Victoria Uwadoka, the Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Manager, Nestle expects that after the training of the journalists, there will be a difference in how they analyse data, report and communicate to influence attitudinal change in families, communities and organisations. She also expressed appreciation to the Lagos Business School for delivering the programme effectively.



on-the-job training of reporters such as this would help them learn and relearn as well as boost their capacity in the delivery of their jobs.

On his part, Sheriff Adekoya, the DG of

Edgeforth business solution and brand strategy firm who lectured on "Media Intelligence and Strategy" gave an insight into how technology can be effectively harnessed in journalism, advertising and branding.

According to him, technology is moving at a very fast pace, rapidly shaping our daily activities and journalists and media practitioners alike are expected to hijack the opportunity to innovate and explore new ideas or be swept under the bus in a constantly changing world.

He stressed that journalists who were particular about brand journalism needed to create a unique pattern in their style of writing and that a deep understanding of the brand and product that they wish to promote would enable them to create brand believability among their target audience.

The Group Head, Strategies, Brand Management of Polaris Bank Ndumeche Ezurike urged the participants to embrace the knowledge acquired from the training to improve on their jobs for the benefit of the society at large and to be conscious of their corporate social responsibility as journalists.

FUNDERS

Most of the training programmes and activities of media NGOs and institutions would not have been held but for the support of various funders and corporate organisations.

In the year under review some of the major funders include the following:



INSTITUTE FOR WAR & PEACE REPORTING



BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



International Labour Organization



MacArthur Foundation

Quotes From Interviews on Capacity/career Development



We are doing great work in investigative journalism, but we can do more because there is a huge gap to be filled in some aspects like data journalism, interactive storytelling, immersive storytelling and others. We also need more strong communal newsrooms that are focused on telling stories at the grassroots. We need more niche newsrooms that are saying 'Hey these are the things, these are the topics that interest us and we are going to make sure that you get the best of journalism when it comes to these topics'. And we need more collaboration between different media organisations because that is the best way to really make sure that we are able to birth the best products and we are able to trigger the greatest amount of impact.

So, I think journalists in Nigeria should do a lot more research about what is really going on in other parts of the world and aspire not just to do the standards but beyond those standards. We have the skills, we have the brains we have the talents, and there is nothing stopping us, we just need the aspiration and the hard work.

Nigerian journalist are doing great but there is still a huge gap.

- Kunle Adebajo Head Investigations HumAngle.

Young Media professionals must imbibe the culture of hard work and value addition!

- Publisher of Marketing Edge, Mr John Ajayi

The advice I have for young media professionals is that they must imbibe the culture of hard work. They must imbibe the culture of value addition.

It is not about worries about what am I going to wear. It should not be about what am I going to eat, it should not be about 'My age mates are buying cars', my age mates are marrying, I got married very late. That never bothered me because I wanted to impact, and I have since made a lot of people. I have mentored people, I have mentored youths because people like us were lacking in all those opportunities. Any youth that comes across me, if he is not a lazy type, he is made forever.

So, the younger generation should go back to the drawing board and learn from the older generations. What made those generations so relevant, still respected, still credible, and still believable? Sometimes when I go out and see some of these youths who get involved in Yahoo (fraud) I just shake my head and feel sorry for society.

The other time, they said former president Muhammadu Buhari referred to some youths as lazy. The old man was not lying. When I was at their age, I never learned to drink beer till I entered the university. I think I tasted my first beer when I was in the university, but about ten years ago, there used to be a joint that me and my friends go for after-hours, we saw young guys sagging, and ordering beers, and I said this society has lost it.

I want the younger generation to learn the ethics of hard work. Hard work pays, don't say it because you don't have a godfather

Journalists must pay serious attention to what's being said or taught during fellowships or at the workshops and seminars they attend. These opportunities don't come every day, and what they learn can be instrumental to their growth in the media.

The other thing is that journalists must develop a culture of sharing knowledge. We all should be able to interact with each other about where we've been to and what we learnt in the places we went.

How journalists can maximise local and global opportunities.

- Phillip Obaji, correspondent of Daily Beast and inaugural recipient of the Jim Hoge Reporting Fellowship awarded by the International Center for Journalists (ICJ)

Student and media professionals should step out of mundane learning and explore real-world experiences.

- David Adeleke Africa Editor, Rest of World.

Step outside whatever your lecturers are teaching you in class and gain real-world experience. Take up internships, volunteer for organizations, and learn how to use tech tools by yourself. I remember teaching myself how to use Adobe InDesign and Photoshop because we needed to design a school magazine.

Even outside of school, I've always liked to learn new things and explore new ideas. I've read books about business, technology, psychology, behavioural economics, etc. For any media professional, the goal should always be to acquire high-value skills and be able to operate at the highest level.

I have been able to learn from fact-checking Nigerian elections that we have young people in Nigeria who are passionate about this country and who want to contribute to its growth and entrench a democratic dividend because the majority of our volunteers are only paid stipends which is not commensurate with the expertise they are bringing on board to the organization.

I have also learnt that a lot of Nigerians like to spread misinformation, even when you tell them they are still adamant about it. I think that is a product of illiteracy and ignorance. I have also learnt that a lot of influencers take solace in spreading misinformation and disinformation.

As we have Nigerians invested in spreading misinformation there are a crop of youths interested in fighting it.

-Olasupo Abideen
Founder FactcheckAfrica

Physically challenged persons can work in different media roles.

- Oluyemi Arowosola Micheal, Factchecker, translator and reporter for TheCable Newspaper.

Physically challenged people can work as writers, proofreaders, transcriptionists, translators, interpreters, graphic designers, or even fact-checkers like myself. There are many things a physically challenged person can do, even visually impaired people can read with the aid of Braille, which means that there are things that they can do when it comes to responsibilities in the media houses.

I would like to suggest to employers, they should not look at people with physical disabilities, from the view of the challenge, that he or she is physically challenged and that will limit the amount of what he or she can do. I think what they should consider is mental ability.

I think campus journalists should try to work for outlets beyond their campuses. It improves your skill, tenacity, and creativity, and by extension, you understand the "politics" of journalism more. You understand to frame better stories and have more impact too.

I try to encourage campus journalists who are good to try out mainstream publications because it builds their skills more and offers a lot of freedom to do work that is appreciated.

Campus journalists should work beyond their campuses and try mainstream publications to improve their work.

- Olatunji Olaigbe,
international freelance and campus journalist.

What the national media must do to compete with the international media.







- Olatunji Olaigbe

I would say encourage more young people and innovation. You can easily look at the trailblazing outlets in Nigeria at the moment and see that they're led mostly by young and innovative people.







Nigerian publications have a habit of not valuing young journalists. I have friends who work in local outlets and they tell me you need at least 2 years in a publication before you can write a front-page story or image. I pitched a couple of Nigerian outlets early in my career and except for HumAngle, I would not want to repeat that experience. I just think international media value the work of younger talent more than local media, and in a country where the young are most of its population, the person with the young perspective wins.

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