Mission:

“IWEI seeks to transform the society by enabling women, youth and children escape the cycle of poverty and ignorance mostly fostered by harmful traditional practices, by attaining a state of wellbeing and having a voice through innovative, qualitative and sustainable empowerment programmes”
In rural areas of Kano, literacy levels are low, women have poor access to information, skills, finance and land.

Many of the women were not aware of the roles and functions of their cooperatives and so were not really functional. As a result women tended to work individually which reduces the profits they make and limits their access to services offered by microfinance banks.

IWEI has been training women in both cooperative and non-cooperative groups on effective working as groups (cover page shows women who have jointly rented a piece of land and are working on it together) and also on holding meetings, bookkeeping, keeping records, leadership, etc. Monitoring and mentoring of the cooperatives activities is ongoing. Though IWEI has facilitated linkages to the microfinance banks but accessing loans continues to be a challenge for the women cooperatives. IWEI continues to work on this area including alternative sources of finance.

1154 women from 72 women business groups / cooperatives were beneficiaries of cooperative strengthening training in this quarter.

Women working together in their cooperative group. They are preparing their grains to be taken to market for sale. Women are not always allowed to go to the market unless they are elderly or young unmarried girls. So they rely on their menfolk to take their goods to the market.

Women above are the ones on the cover page seen tending their rice field which they are jointly renting.

IWEI supported 12 women groups to be registered with Ministry of Commerce as cooperatives
Groupwork session during training of women groups on how to cost and price their products.
Zainab (not real name) went to the legal clinic to complain about the domestic violence and neglect by her husband who would travel for months without leaving any money for her and the children. With intervention from paralegals at the legal clinic center who mediated on her case, she said life had improved. She expressed her satisfaction with the way her case was handled and resolved by the paralegals.

Fatima Wada Rano—I’m very happy to have been a part of the training, as I now have a better idea on how to grow my business. I also learned the benefits of bank transactions, because I used to think I would have to be rich or educated to have a bank account. I never used to know how I spent my money but now I can save as much as I can. A big thank you to IWEI.

Maryam Yusuf Wudil—From the training I attended, I understand what it means to be a leader and the importance of carrying along everyone in the group.

Altine Ali Dawakin Tofa: I have been a business woman for a long time now but I have never been to a training like this one. Before this training, I would send my children out to find out how much similar products like mine were being sold for, and I would price mine accordingly. I never knew whether I was making a profit or a loss. Now I have learnt how to calculate my expenses & profit.

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Feedback from beneficiaries

IWEI PARALEGAL HELPLINE

Are you experiencing marital problems? Are your rights being violated? Are you being assaulted sexually or otherwise? IWEI can help you by providing free paralegal services in a confidential manner. Please contact us on: +2348074790000; +2348094790000 * Mondays—Fridays * 10am—4.30pm
With support from MacArthur Foundation, IWEI continues to work towards making access to justice real for the vulnerable members of society majority of whom are women and children in 6 LGAs of Kano. Access for justice continues to be elusive and problematic for the vast majority of society both women and men. This is in part due to low literacy levels, ignorance of their rights and dearth of legal practitioners in rural areas. This is the reason why IWEI continues to work on bridging the gap between providing access to justice and the vulnerable members of society especially women and children.

IWEI’s approach includes:

- Training community volunteers as paralegals who render legal aid services and sensitization on issues that affect their communities such as on rape, domestic violence etc.
- Legal education classes for women at the legal Clinic Centers in 6 LGAs in Kano
- Radio program and jingles to reach a wider public beyond the 6 LGAs and this has resulted in increase in numbers of cases being received and information being requested

IWEI Team on “In Baku” program, Freedom radio Kano

**Sensitization in communities by Paralegals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women reached</th>
<th>Men reached</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1044</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>1316</td>
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**Radio program on Legal Education & women’s rights - Thursdays on In Baku, Freedom Radio from 5pm—6pm**

Mallam Saminu Garun Mallam - “women congregate in my house on Thursday’s to listen to IWEI’s radio program. Men also listen to the program.

As a result of the radio program, women and men alike have reported knowing more about their rights and what to do should their rights be violated.

People as far away as Katsina State listen in on the weekly program
Being an introvert, it was a bit overwhelming to find myself in an organization like IWEI. Having to interact everyday with many people from different tribes, backgrounds and characters.

As a fresh graduate, reading was not anything I’d choose to indulge myself in (I was tired from all the readings). Well, as luck will have it, my first assignment was to read books and write ups about the organization, it’s work, achievements, projects and structure. This prepared me for the work that was coming.

Few weeks later, I started enjoying the friendly environment but the project activity which I felt would be a big challenge, was monthly training of 51 members of different Women Cooperative groups (a MacArthur Foundation supported project) at Dawakin Tofa L.G.A for six (6) months. My thought was; I can’t handle being in the limelight - addressing a crowd! I was nervous, lacked confidence and any experience. The Training of Trainers’ in the office gave me a boost and an idea of what is expected at the field and how to carry out the training to adult women

I have achieved a lot since I joined IWEI 7 months ago:

- I trained over two hundred (200) women in Dawakin Tofa LGA, Kano State
- I mentor and monitor three beneficiaries of IWEI
- Skills learnt include: proposal writing, report writing

The independence and level of exposure I have acquired since being a Facilitator will surprise my friends. I am now able to associate with people from the local community with diverse ideas, varying life experiences and skills.

IWEI is a great place to be if one wants both personal development and to contribute to uplifting the vulnerable members of society. I feel very privileged.

Volunteering with IWEI is fulfilling, rewarding and fun.

- You get to see another side of life
- You help make peoples’ lives better
- You learn new skills
- You meet other people
- Enhances your CV
Consultancy & Services offered by IWEI

- Paralegal Services (counselling, mediation, referrals, support etc)
- Paralegal Training
- Basic Literacy Classes for Women
- Income generating skills training for women
- Training of Trainers (economic skills, mentors for safe spaces)

Give us a call for more information

Support women out of poverty through economic empowerment.

Donate Today

Name: Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative
Stanbic bank, Acct number 0000881516

Connect with us and join the conversation on:

Instagram: @IWEIng
Twitter: @IWEIng
Facebook: Isa wali empowerment Initiative
Youtube:@IWEI

10 Arakan Road, Nassarawa GRA, Kano. Phone: +2348074790000, +2348094790000  E-mail: info@iwei-ng.org