Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative

Organisational Profile

Empowering Women, Youth & developing Children
**Vision**

Peaceful, healthy, empowered communities with social justice for women, youth and children to fully develop their potential.

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About IWEI

Isa Wali Empowerment Initiative (IWEI) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization inaugurated on 12th December, 2009, founded by Mrs. Maryam Uwais MFR in memory of her late father, Ambassador Isa Wali.

Registered with Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja, Nigeria, certificate no. 856560 in November, 2009.

IWEI’s structure comprises of a strong board of twelve (12) directors that includes professionals from all aspects of life who advise and guide the organization.

IWEI’s focus is to support girls reach their potential women, youth and children in areas of access to justice, human rights, economic empowerment, life skills.
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.
CORE VALUES

Reliability
Empathy
Passion
Integrity
Accountability
Dedication
Innovation
Teamwork
AWARDS & APPRECIATION

**Franco-German Award for Human Rights and Rule of Law 2019**

**Literacy Award by Agency for Mass Literacy 2018**

**Certificate of Recognition for Service & Contribution to the NSRP Observatory Initiative on Reducing Violence Against Women & girls 2017**

**The John Diefenbaker Defender of Human Rights 2014 Award**
Although the entire community is the ultimate beneficiary of IWEI’s programs and activities, the major focus is on women, youth & children who are mostly the vulnerable and marginalized members of society. IWEI takes a participatory bottom up approach in our programmes which are designed to develop capacity of our beneficiaries and ultimately the community as a whole; though in varying degrees, and thus to contribute to the well-being of the people at large.

**Strategies used**
- Advocacy
- Community Engagement
- Education support
- Capacity Building
- Safe spaces for girls
- Networking and Collaboration

**Services Offered**
- Consultancy services
- Training of Paralegals
- Training of Mentors
- Training of Facilitators

**Target Beneficiaries**
- Women & Adolescent girls
- Children
Our Thematic Areas

- Legal Empowerment & The Rule of Law
- Economic Empowerment
- Girls Empowerment
- Family Health & Nutrition
Legal Empowerment & the Rule of Law

IWEI has built a niche for itself in its work with community based paralegals in educating and providing information on rights, laws and how to access justice if ones rights have been violated. We train community based paralegals to enable them render legal aid services, provide awareness on rights and legal education on laws, particularly among vulnerable and marginalized groups, majority of whom are women and children who have witnessed many instances of violation and denial of their rights. Community-based paralegals are resident in rural communities and the urban poor locations.

**Our Strategies**

- Advocacy to government, traditional leaders and religious leaders
- Training of Community-Based Paralegals
- Legal education & awareness raising

**Our Achievements**

First National Paralegal Summit in Nigeria was held by IWEI in collaboration with the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria.

Over 30,000 women, girls, youth & men sensitized and educated on their rights, laws & ways of accessing justice

Paralegals handle over 2000 cases ranging from domestic violence, sexual violence, communal issues and awaiting trial persons at Police stations & Correctional Services
**Girls' Empowerment**

At IWEI, education for girls is priority. Through safe spaces, girls learn basic literacy & numeracy, life skills that include knowing their rights, civic education, issues on sexual gender based violence and hygiene including menstrual hygiene, importance of nutrition. We believe in sustainability and so train female mentors from within the girls communities thereby ensuring sustainability.

**Our Strategies**

- Advocacy to government, traditional leaders and religious leaders
- Community engagement
- Safe spaces for in-school girls and boys and out of school girls
- Enrolment of girls into schools
- Education support for girls and boys
- Vocational skills Training

**Our Achievements**

- 3780 girls supported with basic literacy, business and vocational skills and education support
- Community set up 3 additional safespaces for 60 girls and boys
Economic Empowerment

Our economic empowerment programme supports women in groups to become registered cooperative and open bank accounts. We provide financial literacy training (leadership, marketing, networking, business planning, basic bookkeeping) for groups and women cooperative groups.

Our Strategies

- Strengthening women cooperative groups on business financial literacy skills
- Training of women, youth on improved technique processes, packaging and branding
- Linking women groups to microfinance institutions and government bodies
- Supporting women groups with small loans
- Providing women and youth with small tools for income generation

Our Achievements

- 15,300 women and girls benefited from financial literacy skills, vocational skills
- Financial inclusion of women in women groups by supporting them to open bank accounts
- Supporting women groups to become registered cooperatives
Family Health & Nutrition

Mothers who are well-nourished are more likely to have healthy babies who can survive childhood illnesses. Adequate nutrition during infancy and early childhood is essential to ensure the growth, health, and development of a child.

**Our Strategies**

- Advocacy
- Education & awareness raising on maternal health, nutrition for mothers during pregnancy and children under 5 years of age.
- Training of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs)
- Training of Community Health Educators (CHEs)

**Our Achievements**

- 20,000 women and girls benefited from safe motherhood programmes
- Construction of tubular wells in 9 communities
Board of Directors

Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu. Wazirin Dutse (Chairman),
Mrs. Maryam Uwais MFR (Founder)
Hajiya Fatima Wali-Abdurrahman
Ms Asma'u Joda
Mrs Zubaida Rasheed
Mrs Rakiya Sarki-Ibrahim MON

Mr Bello Buhari. OFR mni
Mr. Yemi Candide-Johnson SAN
Mr. Asue Ighodalo
Dr Yashua Alkali-Hamza
Dr Nafi Wali-Omar
Mrs. Hadiza Wali-Oniyanagi

Our Funders (past & present)

Philanthropists

Legal Aid Council, National Human Rights Commission, NAPTIP,
Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Justice, Nigerian Police Force,
Ministry of Women Affairs, National Agency for the Prohibition of
Traffic in Persons and other Related Matters (NAPTIP), Nigerian Bar
Association, Agency for Mass Literacy Kano. Gongoni Ltd

Partners

International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Girls Not Brides,
Global Namati, Kano Civil Society Forum (KCSF), Women, Peace
Security (WPS) network, OBSTEC, Collaboration Against Rape and
Violence (CARAV), Ending Child Marriage Nigeria Coalition.

Collaborations and Networks
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Twitter:@IWEIng
Instagram: @WEIng