

Success Stories

Men Taking a Stand against Gender-Based Violence in Lagos State

Profile:

Women's Right and Health Project (WRAHP) is one of J4A's CSO partners that has been awarded a grant to work on gender based issues in Ejigbo and Igando-Ikotun LCDAs in Lagos State.

Story So Far:

The Women's Right and Health Project (WRAHP) in Lagos, held two 3-day workshops in July 2015 with a total of 63 men from the communities of Ejigbo and Igando-Ikotun LCDAs to build awareness about the criminal nature of gender-based violence (GBV) and the importance reporting and documenting such cases with the Nigeria Police Force.

The participants formed a group known as the 'Men against Gender-Based

Violence'. This group of men are charged with the responsibility of mobilising community members to engage with the police, report and document cases of GBV. They are also promoting women's rights within both communities.

The facilitators of the training included two high-ranking police officers who are strong advocates against GBV conferred the position of 'mandated reporters' on the group of 63 who are mandated by law to report such cases to the appropriate authority. One of the participants said,

“ It's the first time I'm seeing a police man talking about human rights or an-

anything of this nature so I'm more confident that if I report a case to the NPF, there are educated officers there and not just those who extort money. ”



Men against Gender Based Violence Group at the three-day workshop in Lagos State

Grandpa Rapes a Nine Year Old Girl

Name:

Peace Ijeoma

Profile:

Peace is a reporter for the Custodian newspaper in Enugu State

Story So Far:

Chief Wilfred Ogbodo, 78years, has been charged to court by Enugu State Police Command for allegedly raping a nine year old daughter of one of his tenants in Enugu. Chief Ogbodo allegedly committed the act after he invited the girl to his flat where he subdued her before allegedly committing the crime. Enugu-based sexual assault referral center, Tamar SARC, has vowed

to ensure that Ogbodo faces the full wrath of the law.

Narrating her ordeal at the TAMAR SARC managed by Women Aid Collective (WACOL) and funded by Justice for All (J4A) she said,

“ After he raped me, I bled profusely and he tried to stop it by cleaning my vagina with his handkerchief and shirt before his wife came home. ”

The grieving parents of the girl thanked TAMAR SARC for the treatment and counseling of their child, which they noted was prompt and effective. It was gathered that though the case has been charged to court and the suspect arrested, Tamar SARC's follow-up revealed that the case file has been forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) for advice.

Justice For All



Equal Access to Safety,
Security and Justice for Women

Our impact reports capture the positive changes brought about by our activities.

For more information visit: www.j4a-nigeria.org

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Equal access to safety, security and justice for women

The Justice for All programme works to ensure that women and girls have equal access to effective safety, security and justice systems.

The sad truth is that women's rights are not always considered human rights, as they should be. Women's access to justice is often limited by the cultural and historical context and tradition and accepted practice.

Furthermore, gender-based violence and violence against women and girls are serious problems in many countries and Nigeria is no exception.



Public Sensitization Increasing the Number of Rape Reports

J4A's support to the Kano State Justice Sector Reform Team (KJSRT) is yielding positive results as it partners with an NGO known as the Coalition against Rape and Violence (CARAV) to implement a state-wide public sensitization on rape. The sensitization process is aimed at educating and discouraging would-be perpetrators, encouraging victims and members of their families to report rape cases.

The sensitization has increased the awareness of community members on the provisions of the law relating to sexual/gender based violence and how victims can seek redress. The sensitization has also helped to increase the number of people reporting their rape cases to the appropriate authorities. CARAV is currently monitoring eight cases of rape (all underage) which are being heard at the High Court of Justice in Kano State.

high risk areas. These areas include Hotoro community, Kofar Ruwa Motor Park, Naibawa Motor Park and one rural community Zakirai in Gabasawa LGA. It has also provided a dedicated telephone hotline which is used for attending to and referring victims onward to the police, hospitals and other institutions that can help survivors of rape.

Victims of rape are usually discouraged from seeking justice because of the stigma, the lack of diligent prosecution and conviction of perpetrators.

With financial and moral support from KJSRT, CARAV is sensitizing four pilot



Members of CARAV visit the Emire of Kano State, HRH Sanusi Lamido Sanusi

Highlights of Achievements

1. TAMAR SARC records its first conviction following the assistance it provided to a client
2. A total of 1177 clients have been treated by both SARCs since they started operations
3. CARAV is currently monitoring eight underage cases of rape being heard at the High Court of Justice in Kano State
4. The Kano State House of Assembly passed a draft amendment bill into law which increased the punishment for rape on conviction from 2 to 14 years imprisonment without an option of a fine. The bill was signed into law by the Executive Governor of the state, Dr. Rabiu Kwankwaso before he ended his tenure.
5. KJSRT partners with CARAV to carry out a state-wide sensitization on educating would-be rape perpetrators and encouraging victims to report cases
6. Aljazeera visit the Mirabel Centre, publishes an article titled 'A day in the life of... Lagos' only rape support centre'.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre Support Secures Conviction

The Enugu Sexual Assault Referral Centre (the Tamar Centre) has reported the first case of a conviction following a victim being assisted by the SARC.

An 18-year-old boy sexually assaulted a 27-year-old female victim at her home in Udi LGA, Enugu State in April 2015. The victim of the assault reported to the

police who brought her to the SARC where she received medical treatment and counselling. A forensic medical report was passed to the police who arrested the boy and charged him to court. Following the submission of the medical report as evidence, the boy pleaded guilty to the offence and was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment.

Whilst this is the first recorded occasion of SARC medical evidence being used

to secure a conviction in Enugu State, there are many additional cases that are currently going through the courts and more convictions are anticipated in the J4A supported SARC states.

FCT Chief Judge Signs Family Court Rules

The Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Justice Ishaq Bello, has signed the family court rules, which will regulate the enforcement of the Child Rights Act within the FCT. This follows the drafting of the rules and advocacy for its implementation, which was undertaken by the Federal Justice Sector Reform Coordinating Committee (FJSRCC) with support from the J4A programme.

The rules will be applied by family courts in Abuja during the hearing and determination of cases arising from the provisions of the Childs Rights Act.

The Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs has also appointed assessors who will sit alongside judicial officers in the family courts to provide advice on the best interests of the child in the determination of issues before the courts.

The FJSRCC with J4A support also organised sensitization workshops for stakeholders involved in the implementation of the law. These include judges, magistrates, lawyers, CSOs, Nigerian Prisons officials, staff of NAPTIP and other agencies, including the Social Services Secretariat of the FCT.

“Children have always been an important part of our society and creating a special and dedicated system of Justice Administration for them was born out of the understanding that they are relatively different from adults and therefore, need special care and protection against the harshness of the normal court process.”

Hon Justice Ishaq Bello, Chief Judge of the FCT



FCT Judge, Justice Ishaq Bello signing the family court rule.

The Violence against Persons Prohibition Bill signed into Law

The former President, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan signed the Violence against Persons Prohibition Bill into law on 25th May 2015. The new Act aims to eliminate violence in private and public life, prohibit all forms of violence against persons, provide maximum protection and effective remedies for victims and punish offenders.

The Bill is the result of a 14-year-long process of activism in civil society that began at a legislative advocacy workshop on violence against women in 2001 in Abuja. At the end of the workshop, participants agreed to form a coalition – the Legislative Advocacy Coalition against Violence against Women (LACVAW) – to pursue the goal of pushing for a national Bill prohibiting violence against women. The content of the Bill is home grown, reflecting the realities of violence in Nigeria today. It also incorporates provisions based on Nigeria's commitment to international human rights principles.

First presented to the House of Representatives in May 2002, the Bill on Violence against Women became a Bill on Violence against Persons in 2008 when it was harmonised with 8 other Bills on gender based violence in the National Assembly.

Under the newly enacted law, the following are all offences: **spousal**

battery (s.19); **forceful ejection from home** (s.9); **forced financial dependence or economic abuse** (s.12); **harmful widowhood practices** (s.15); **female circumcision or genital mutilation** (s.6); **harmful traditional practices** (s.20); **substance attacks** (s.21); **political violence** (s.23) and **violence by state actors** (s.24). Victims of violence are entitled to comprehensive medical, psychological, social and legal assistance by accredited service providers and government agencies. It stipulates that their identities must be protected during court cases.

The Justice for All Programme supported civil society groups through the Human Rights Agenda Nigeria (HRAN) Network to attend and make presentations at the public hearings organised by both houses of parliament. Logistical support and resources were also provided for both the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence against Women (LACVAW) and the Gender

Technical Unit of the National Assembly (GTU) in the process leading to the harmonisation of the two versions of the Bill passed by the National Assembly.

“The length of time it has taken LACVAW to get this far is an indication of how deeply violence against women is tolerated in the society. Whilst a new law prohibiting violence is not sufficient to change this situation, it is necessary to send a message that the state accepts its responsibility to ensure that impunity for such action no longer prevails.”

Dr. Charmaine Pereira, Chair LACVAW Working Group

Lagos Speaks on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

As part of 16 days of Activism on Violence against Women in 2014, the Justice for All programme (J4A) organised a conference to mobilise support for a more coordinated response to the scourge of sexual assault and rape. The conference, which held in Lagos on 4 December also targeted stakeholders to provide support for the continuation and expansion of the Mirabel Centre and similar Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) across Lagos.

In attendance were the Lagos state policy makers and officers led by the Attorney-General. Also present were police officers, lawyers, medical practitioners, gender activists and many civil society organisations on behalf of citizens.

In his address, the former Lagos State Attorney-General & Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Ade Ipaye, reassured the audience that “the Lagos State Government takes the matter of SGBV

very seriously” and charged everyone to “break the culture of resolving this criminal act privately within the family ... because if we do not bring offenders to book the culture of silence will be perpetuated”.

“We don't just want to read about cases of rape in the papers, we want to read about convictions of perpetrators”
- Alex Muoka of the Nigerian Bar Association

A host of personalities from the entertainment industry including Ice Prince, Bimbo Akintola, Koffi, Queen Uba and Wana Udobang, all of whom are Goodwill Ambassadors of the Mirabel Centre, were present at the event. The celebrities publicly pledged their support and commitment to the campaign against sexual and gender-based violence in Lagos State.

The Conference focused on the critical need for all those involved in the fight against SGBV to work together in a

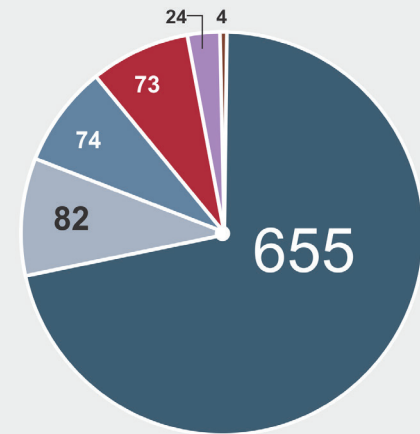
coordinated way. Each agency / organisation was given the chance to speak about their own contribution. It was notable from the police and Ministry of Justice presentations that they are taking the issue of SGBV much more seriously. The number of cases being charged to court has multiplied and the Ministry has created a special team to focus on gaining convictions for sexual assault.

The clear message that resonated through the day was that Sexual and Gender Based Violence is an epidemic that can only be slowed with coordinated effort and commitment from multiple agencies and groups, starting with citizens and going all the way up to the Government.

Since the establishment of the SARCs in Enugu and Lagos states, a total number of about 1258 victims have been received by both centres of which 1232 are females, 26 are males while 27 of these are people with disabilities.

Getting Results

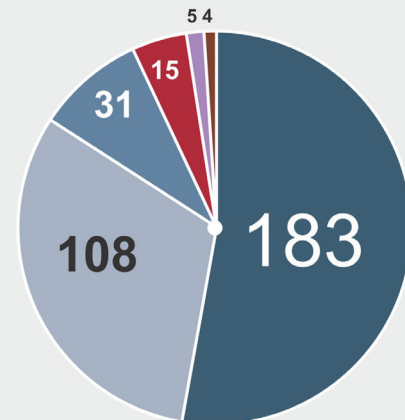
Mirabel Client Breakdown by Source Referral (Sept 2015)



■ Police
■ Health Providers
■ Self Referral
■ Gov Agencies
■ CSO/NGO
■ Others

Mirabel SARC Data, September 2015

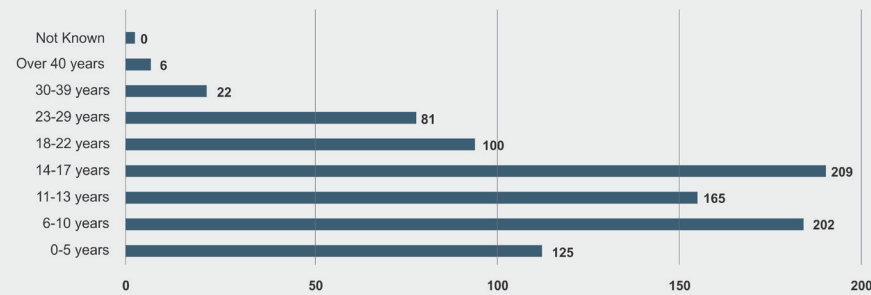
TAMAR SARC Client Breakdown by Source Referral



■ Police
■ Health Providers
■ Self Referral
■ Gov Agencies
■ CSO/NGO
■ Others

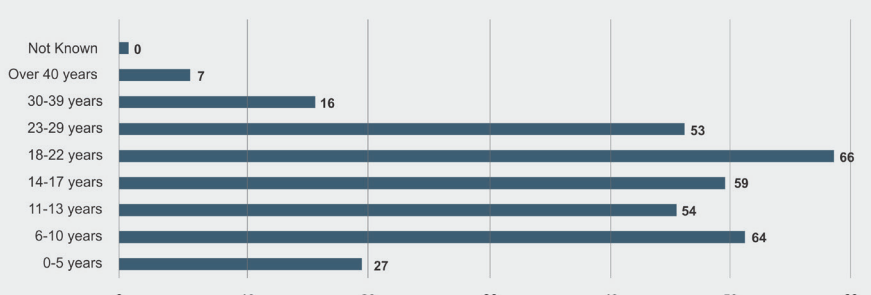
TAMAR SARC Data, September 2015

Mirabel SARC client breakdown by age



Mirabel SARC Data, September 2015

TAMAR SARC client breakdown by age



TAMAR SARC Data, September 2015

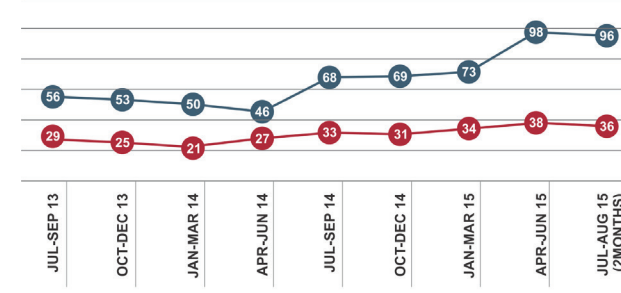
Improved Collaboration between the JWCs and the Mirabel Centre

Part of the intervention provided by the J4A programme to the Juvenile Welfare Centres (JWCs) is to encourage collaboration with other stakeholders in the fight against gender based violence.

As a result of the improved skills and knowledge gained from this support JWCs are now collaborating with other state and non-state actors especially the Mirabel Centre. By the end of September 2015, 655 cases had been referred to the Mirabel Centre by the police. Over 60 police stations in Lagos State have referred one or more sexual assault case to the SARC. According to the Mirabel Centre manager

“I believe that the training of JWCs is making a noticeable difference as there has been an increase in the number of referrals from the police to the Mirabel Centre.”
Juliet Olumuyiwa-Rufai

Victims referred by NPF to Mirabel SARC by quarter and number of Police stations referring



● Number Cases from NPF
● No of different Police Stations

Mirabel SARC, 2013 - 2015

Aljazeera TV Visits the Mirabel Centre

The Mirabel Centre, the first Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) in Nigeria received an Aljazeera TV crew on the 6th September 2015. The crew was headed by Wana Udobang who is a human rights journalist with Aljazeera. The visit was aimed at raising awareness on the work of the centre, traumas that rape survivors experience and increase support for sustaining the facility when J4A comes to an end in 2016.

“When I ask the girls and women how they feel now, ...they all expressed gratitude to the center referring to it as a place of refuge, somewhere they can talk and get guidance, not to mention the hugs.”

A detailed account of the visit is available at <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/my-nigeria/2015/09/nigeria-lagos-rape-support-centre-150906092402721.html> (Accessed 9 September 2015).

Law on rape reformed to provide for stronger penalties for perpetrators

The Kano State Justice Sector Reform Team (KJSRT), a J4A supported initiative, is leading the reform on sexual/gender based violence laws in the state. The KJSRT has set out several initiatives to address the issue and commissioned a review of the relevant provisions of the Penal Code. One of their aims is to increase the punishment for rape related offences to serve as a deterrent to perpetrators. Following the review and legislative advocacy, the Kano State House of Assembly passed the draft amendment bill into law and increased the punishment for rape on conviction from 2 to 14 years imprisonment without an option of a fine. The law was signed into law by the Executive Governor of the state, Dr. Rabi Kwankwaso before he ended his tenure.

