



ANNUAL REPORT

2018



WHO WE ARE

Beyond Mentors Community Care Initiative (BMCCI) is a unique Non-Governmental, Non-political, human development organization which was conceived out of the need to address and prevent poverty from the cradle in Nigeria, particularly in the North. It is an exclusive initiative, a first of its kind in the Northern Nigerian region which was conceived in 2007, originally registered in October 2013 with the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja as a company limited by guarantee, and finally re-registered in 2017 as a Non-governmental organization with Registered number CAC/IT/NO 96320.

Our Contents centers on how to utilize and make the best use of all the financial tools available such as saving skills, budget etc., while enabling leadership and other credible life skills to prepare women, children and youth to make better and informed choices.

BMCCI is established and based in three states in Nigeria: Abuja, Nasarawa and Kaduna State. Since its inception, BMCCI has groomed and continues to nurture young girls and boys to understand their career paths and their significant responsibilities to their community, thus stimulating leadership skills in them; and has also lectured women groups and built their capacity to advocate on issues through the creation of strategic programs with social change actors. We have been working mainly in Nasarawa, Kaduna and Abuja and hope to extend our tentacles to other places at gradual phases.

WHAT WE DO

RAGS TO RICHES (R2R) CLUB

Having acknowledged that early financial education from the cradle in Girls, Children, Youth, and Young Adults is important to aid their transition to well informed Adults who can make wise financial decisions and possess the right leadership skills, BMCCI created the Rags to Riches (R2R) Club, which is a literacy Club that focuses on educating pupils in areas such as financial literacy, leadership skills, civic education, morals and values.

The R2R Club is an hourly club that holds once a week, has a very versatile nature, and contents of its curriculum are designed in a way that it can be adjusted to meet with the evolving needs of various communities. The club is FREE for public schools.

BENEFICIARIES: Junior secondary school students in J.S.S. 3, Out of School Children in Internally Displaced Persons' camps.

Women Community Africa(WCA)

The Women Community of Africa (WCA) is the advocacy arm of BMCCI with the mandate to amplify community issues and spread awareness on all such issues which inhibits and affects sustainable development of the African community.

In response to the disturbing frequency of sexual violence against children, the Women Community in Africa organized a maiden Conference tagged: #breakthesilence; A Road to Curbing Sexual Violence Against Women and Children. The Conference held on 10th October 2018 at Sharon Ultimate Hotels, Area 3, Garki, FCT, and at the end of the discussions, the participants agreed that there is a need for more sensitization in schools about this menace.

Consequently, the school campaign/ sensitization was adopted as a component of the action plan.

Women Community In Africa (WCA) Conference in Pictures





COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE CONFERENCE BY THE WOMEN COMMUNITY IN AFRICA (WCA) ON #BREAKTHE SILENCE: CURBING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NIGERIA, WHICH HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2018 AT SHARON ULTIMATE HOTEL, AREA 3, GARKI FCT.

PREAMBLE

Sexual Violence against women and children is a pervasive violation of human rights that persists in every country in the world and cuts across all socioeconomic groups and cultures. “Rooted in historically unequal power relations between women and men is gender-based discrimination. Available data reveals that as many as 7 in 10 women in the world have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, most of them at the hand of intimate partners, or even close family members/relations”. [UN Women]

The psychological and sociological impact of this abuse cannot be over emphasized. Despite ongoing efforts to protect children and women against abuse, there is still much to be done to protect survivors of sexual abuse and to further inform and educate the population about this menace.

To address this problem in Nigeria, The Women Community in Africa (the advocacy arm of **Beyond Mentors Community Care Initiative (BMCCI)**) in collaboration with Search Inwards Magazine Limited, KAS Prints, Peaches Confectioneries, P31 Consulting and Advocacy Limited, and WE FM organized a conference themed: “**#BreaktheSilence: A Road to Curbing Sexual Violence Against Women and Children in Nigeria**”. The conference held on 10th October 2018 at the Sharon Ultimate Hotels, Area 3, Garki, FCT, and was anchored by Dr. Ezi Beedie, Executive Director, BMCCI. Participants were welcomed by Mr. Kasumu Ademola, the chairman of BMCCI, and Hajiya Khadijah Abdullahi-Iya, an Execu-

tive Director at BMCCI chronicled WCA's journey so far.

Participants included Directors and Representatives from the Gender Department of FCT Education Secretariat, FCT Sexual and Gender Based Violence Response Team (**SGBVRT**), National Emergency Management Agency (**NEMA**), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (**NAPTIP**), member organizations at the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All (**CSACEFA**), Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation (**WOTCLEF**), Jose Foundation, Society To Heighten Awareness of Women And Children Abuse (**SO-THAWACA**), FINPACT Development Foundation, Jade Olise Foundation, Media, and other interested individuals and organizations.

The highlight of the conference was that two prominent survivors (a man and a woman) who were not hampered by their experience broke the silence of over 30 years.

There were two main paper presentations on:

1. ***Categorization of Child Sexual Abuse***- Adaora Onyechere, Social Innovation, Policy Development Advocate.
2. ***Response, Mechanisms and Access***- Mrs. Agnes Utah Hart, Director, FCT Gender Department and Coordinator of the FCT SGBVRT.

Following the presentations was a panel discussion on:

1. ***“Addressing Innovative Preventions, Interventions and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse”***,
2. ***“Lasting Solutions, Sanctions and Prosecuting Offenders of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children”***.

The panel was moderated by Adaora Onyechere and had the following members:

- Mrs. Patricia Odukwu, Acting Director, Counseling and Rehabilitation Department, NAPTIP.
- Asmau Leo, Head, Gender and Vulnerable Group Care Unit, NEMA.

- Abanka Musa, Focal Person, CSACEFA.
- Adetoun Dally, Executive Director, Children Impact Development Initiative.

Lastly, there was a brainstorming session on strategies for the school campaign/ sensitization as the next point of action. The participants were divided into 4 groups and their **recommendations were summarized under four headings:**

1. Awareness:

- Develop curriculum for sex education
- Sensitize Parents, Teachers and Students using PTA Meetings, debate sessions etc.
- Recognizing dates/days that resonates with the purpose for instance The Day of the African Child
- Use of questionnaires.
- The use of info graphics.

2. Club and Societies:

- Having a head teacher assigned to the club.
- Training the trainers.
- Employing trained Counselors.

3. Participation by stakeholders

- Government implementation of relevant policies about gender such as Child Protective Policy.
- Sensitization and advocacy.
- Involving more NGOs.

4. Social Media in schools:

- School website and social media sites
- Creating animations and games to push advocacy
- Pictorials and video presentation

At the end of the discussions, participants agreed that sexual violence has moved beyond its conventional categorizations and now includes emotional and customary sexual abuse, and highlighted the following as **factors that hinder survivors of sexual violence from speaking out:**

- Stigma/ stereotype.
- Lack of shelter and welfare for survivors.
- Delayed justice system.

- Fear and empathy.

They recommended the following **solutions**:

A. Preventive measures:

1. Create awareness of the prevalence of sexual violence through media and school campaign-advocacy and sensitization.
2. Widen the scope of sensitization to include sexual violence against boys.
3. Take the sensitization to the grass root and involve traditional leaders.
4. Educate parents on vulnerability and red flag signs of abuse.
5. Teach children to speak out.
6. Educate children on boundaries in physical relations with people, i.e. safe and unsafe touches.
7. Train and retrain the police.
8. Create forensic units in police stations.
9. Media awareness: engage the Ministry of Information and National Orientation Agency.
10. Enact stricter penalties for offenders.

B. Interventions and treatment for victims:

1. Counselling.
2. Building a support system: support from NGOs for more shelter and welfare.
3. Rehabilitation.

C. Interventions for offenders:

1. Counselling.
2. Psychosocial support.

D. Sanctions:

1. Jailing offenders.
2. Publicizing offenders.

Adopted

The action plan for:

1. A link where survivors can anonymously #breakthesilence .
2. School campaigns/outreaches.
3. Advocacy for legislations with more stringent penalties for perpetrators.

PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED AT WCA'S CONFERENCE ON CURBING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NIGERIA.

S/N	OBJECTIVES	ACTIVITIES	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
1	Encourage more survivors of sexual violence to break the silence.	Create a link where survivors can anonymously #breakthesilence.	Search Inwards Magazine Team/WCA.	October 2018.
2	Increase Awareness about child sexual abuse in schools for students, parents and teachers.	Organize School campaigns/outreaches in at least ten (10) schools in FCT.	WCA, member organizations of CSACEFA and Girls Not Brides, FCT Education Secretariat.	November 2018-February 2019.
		Create more clubs in schools.	WCA/BMCCI, School management.	March-May 2019.
		Create animations and games.	Search Inwards Magazine Team, BMCCI.	June-August 2019.
		Sensitization on School social media.	School management.	January-March 2019.
3	Design or Review curriculum on sex education	Engage the relevant authorities and inform them of the need for curriculum.	WCA/BMCCI, CSACEFA school management, Ministry of education, National Education Research and Development Council.	September–November 2019.
4	Implementation of child protection policy.	Engage the relevant authorities and inform them of the need for child protection policy.	WCA/BMCCI, CSACEFA, School management, NAPTIP, FCT SGBVRT.	December 2019-March 2020.
5	Legislation with more stringent punishment for perpetrators.	Advocacy to National Assembly.	WCA, Media, CSACEFA, Girls Not Brides, other stakeholders.	June 2019-October 2019.

**Women Community In Africa (WCA) Conference
#BreaktheSilence: Curbing Sexual Violence Against
Women And Children In Nigeria**

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