

A CHANGE MANAGERS INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

● EDUCATION GENDER ● GOVERNANCE ● CONFLICT RESOLUTION
● HEALTH ● COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ● MONITORING & EVALUATION

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CMIN IN PROGRESS

Change Managers International Network is a well established organization with a network of associates spread all across Nigeria and also in various parts of the world, with a rap sheet of projects carried out in every part of the country cutting across various ethnic, social, and religious groups. CMIN is founded on the idea of envisaging a Nigerian society where equality, justice, adequate health care, access to basic and quality education and good governance resigns, by encouraging the use of participatory resolution to solve socio political challenges. We are strong in Monitoring and Evaluation with extensive experience in projects such as; the Girl child Education Challenge Project [GEC], we were one of the INEC accredited observers for the 2015 General Elections and also Self Help projects of the Universal Basic Education Commission in Nigeria. We also have good record of project management and implementation with several Development Agencies and Embassies.



CMIN ROAD TO SUCCESS

EDITORIAL REVIEW



Eghosasere Gold-Idehen [Editor]

This year was action-packed with interesting activities from the beginning of the year till the end. Change Managers International Network (CMIN) was able to round up some projects, engage in new interesting ones and attended several trainings, meetings, conferences and workshops in Nigeria and abroad. 2015 was an election year in Nigeria and CMIN as a partner for good governance was part of a coalition of organizations and agencies that took part in the observation of the elections in order to look out for women and encourage women participation in the electoral process and in governance in general.

As a result of the war against insurgency in the North-eastern part of the country a lot of persons have been displaced and relocated to several camps around the country, CMIN visited one of these camps in the F.C.T to provide basic needs for these families and individuals [especially women and girls] who have fled volatile areas in search of peace and tranquility. Another major step towards good governance and women participation in governance and politics was the breakfast meeting with female ministers of the federal republic of Nigeria organized by CMIN and its partners. The aim of the meeting to put together the concerns and hopes of women all around the Nation in different sectors and different regions and present these concerns to the newly appointed female ministers in order to give a senses of what the Nigerian women want and expect of them.

RESTORING HOPE



March 2015, the attention of the general public and Government was drawn to the discovery of IDP camps in Abuja by some churches during evangelism. In the wake of this discovery CMIN as a socially conscious organization went in to assess the general welfare of the people in the New Kuchingoro camp. We learnt that the government through NEMA is aware of this camp, and it was verified that they are indeed those who fled from Goza, Borno, Adamawa and Yobe the North East region of the country. Our team conducted needs assessment visit and our organization decided to assist them with the following; tissue papers, pads, soaps, disinfectants. CMI Showing our deep concern and care for the displaced persons during our visit, we inquired further on the immediate needs of the people and were told that they need medical attention, cloths, text books, bathing and washing soap, disinfectant and oil for cooking and other food condiments.

The women leader led us to the camp hall where all the children, youths, women and men gathered to receive us. Having assessed what others gave them and their needs, with the help obtained from the Bikers Club, our organization was able to donate the followings; salt, groundnut oil, tomato paste, toilet roll, sanitary towel, Rocyo, Izal disinfectant and matches all given to them.

CMIN again encouraged the children to continue schooling and take their education serious. The youths were also advised to look for jobs to keep them busy and resourceful. The internally

displaced persons at the camp were all grateful and showed their deep appreciation to CMIN before our departure.

MAKE SURE MY VOTE COUNT

CMIN in February, organized a sensitization programme in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and the 100 Women Lobby Group for first time/illiterate female voters in the six geo political zones of Nigeria. The essence of the sensitization was to enlighten on their right as first time voters and also on the need to come out on Election Day to exercise their right as eligible citizens of this country. They were educated on their right to vote and be voted for, how to vote, how to fold their ballot paper correctly, the need to make sure they have their permanent voters card and understand the use of the permanent voter's card.

More so, the women were also educated on how to vote properly and protect their mandate by waiting behind until their votes are counted and they should be at the polling station as early as possible on the Election Day for accreditation and voting thereafter.

ACCREDITED OBSERVER BY INEC



Change Managers International Network took part in observing and monitoring of the General Election for 2015, we had situation rooms in partnership with 100 Women Lobby Group and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development to monitor the elections in different regions of the country. We had individuals on ground in each of the geo-political zones as chief observers and these chief observers also had individuals in various states and LGAs to observe the various polling units. The election that lasted till late hour of the day was quite an interesting experience. The activity gave us the opportunity to see the level of women participation in the electoral process and how women and other marginalized groups were treated and also what goes on during election especially in the rural areas. It was an avenue to observe people's interest, attitude and apathy towards electioneering in Nigeria.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS HAS BEEN LAUNCH IN NIGERIA

CMINetwork was represented in the launch of SDGs organized by SOCIAL GOOD SUMMIT and the follow

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) starting 2016-2030 and our President Muhamadu Buhari was among the Presidents that adopted the SDGs. Some of the organizations present at the launch include; Ministry of Budget and National Planning, Bill & Belinda Gates Foundation, One Campaign, Save the Children, OSSAP-MDGS and others. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) pledged to support governments around the world in tackling the new agenda and taking it forward over the next 15 years. The 17 new Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, aim to end poverty, hunger and gender inequality, take action on climate change and the environment, improve access to health and education, build strong institutions and partnerships, and more.

FEMALE MINISTERS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA DURING A BREAKFAST MEETING



Change Managers International Network as the secretariat of the 100 Women Lobby Group had a breakfast meeting with the Female Ministers in November. The aim of the breakfast meeting was to bring all female ministers together to start a conversation on how the plights of women all over Nigeria can be tackled. At the meeting there were presentations on different stories of young girls in rural communities who are willing to go to school but as a result of certain social, traditional and economic challenges these young girls had to forfeit their education. Other presentations showcased clear examples of what young girls and women in Nigeria and other West African countries at large are going through, from lack of financial support to cultural/ethnic constraints and so on. One important message from the presentations that stood out was a saying that; “if you empower one girl child, you have in essence empowered a whole community”, this is true because she would grow up to become a mother of the future generation and would help reduce maternal mortality rate because she is exposed enough to know the importance of access to proper health care services.





GENDER EQUITY AND GENDER EQUALITY IN NIGERIA

By Eghosasere Gold-Idehen

According to African history women have played key roles in major events in the history of various African countries, from the Queen of Sheba from Ethiopia to Cleopatra of Egypt down to the famous Nigerian Queens [Queen Amina of Kano and Queen Ida of Benin] and other women who as a result of their actions/persona/disposition became historic figures and folk tale legends. As a young boy growing up in Benin-city, stories of Queen of Ida to us were like stories of Western cowboy adventures. She was unstoppable and fierce, she was kind and loving she was Princess Diana with a blend of Cleopatra in the way she handle the affairs of the Great Benin Kingdom.

Brave women have come and gone and left their marks on civilization and the history of mankind but for some reason it seems not enough to change the perception of women that a large number of people around the world have. The questions I ask myself are; “Is it right for women to be seen as weak and incapable of handling certain tasks or situations?”, “Is there a secret gender war going on that we don’t know about?” “Was there any time that both groups gathered in large quantity to create these perceptions about each other?” The answers to these questions carry the truth about the fight for gender equality and gender equity.

The problem often related to fighting a war of liberation is the challenge of “double standards”. What exactly is double standard? Well simply put it is a chauvinistic approach to solving a problem. According to the Encarta dictionary it is a **standard applied unfairly**: a principle, rule, or expectation that is applied unfairly to different groups, one group usually being condemned for the slightest offense while the other is treated far more leniently. As the saying goes “what is good for the goose is good for the gander” but to think of it, if this were to be the mentality of people, would there be fairness in the way we treat men and women. So then the question is should men and women be treated the same or should men treat women in respect of their strengths and areas of improvement and should women also treat men in respect of their strength and areas of improvement.

The entire world is split between male and female and both genders so therefore must work together for continuity, for as the world evolves and civilization grows so also do new ideas and ideals spring up on how things can be done and God forbid we get to a stage where one party feels enough is enough and decides to create a strategy to function, live and thrive without the other. Inclusion, understanding and love are the answers to the questions I always ask myself learn and practice it and the issues of Gender equality and equity will be a fading issue.