



## WEPBI 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

### WOMEN EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION AND PEACE BUILDING

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI) as a non-governmental and non-profit organization that has over the years been strategically engaged in Peace building, Election observation, Local Community Intervention programs, Conflict Prevention through Early Warning and Capacity Building for Women and Girls. WEPBI through these intervention projects built the capacity of many women as they engaged them in organized advocacy and sensitization workshops in various local communities in Imo, Enugu, and Ebonyi States, Abuja et al.

WEPBI is privileged to be selected through its profile of outstanding performance with very minimal financial capacity, to be engaged presently in this uncommon 5-year project – Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) in Enugu State from the last quarter of 2019 which is funded by Global Affairs Canada and supported by the ActionAid Nigeria.

WEPBI in keeping with its vision of "an equitable society in which women are competent and great leaders" has been able to carry on proficiently in pools of activities within the first 2 years of its contract including leadership trainings for women and girls. WEPBI have kept the strategic mechanisms akin to the ActionAid Nigeria and Global Affairs Canada.

It's been 3years on the WVL and the outcomes have been great through the engagements with relevant stakeholders, sensitization, training and advocacy within local communities to the indigent women and girls on the need for equity, active and good governance, and for good sanitation and hygiene through the One Girl One Pad program. In the absence of paucity of funds, they would lift the faces of many women up towards electoral

engagements and as well impress their sponsors with mission and vision fulfillments for their resources invested.

Kind assurance of esteem regards.



**Princess Amaka PQ Uzodinma Board  
Chairperson, WEPBI**

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WEPBI started the journey of impacting on the lives of young girls and women through capacity building, skill acquisition and other possible ways to add meaning to the lives of girls and women out there. Impacting and touching the lives of others, expanding the circle of our concern to include others and make them to discover who they are is the paramount to fulfilling one's destiny. Before this journey the question was, how do we achieve this? How do we get to that destination and make greater impact in the sector of lifting and advocating for women and girls? But Going through the journey so far it has made me realize that there's nothing impossible but the most important aspect of life is for one to start from somewhere which is one of the best ways to achieve success and not be discouraged.

WEPBI has been training and sensitizing women on their rights in politics and leadership spaces and Economic empowerment to raise competent leaders, bring out the best in women and girls and to give a voice to the voiceless.

We acknowledge all who have partnered with us so far to make this vision of "an equitable society in which everyone enjoys their rights irrespective of gender, creed and other affiliations" a reality especially ActionAid Nigeria through the WVL-N project sponsored by Global Affairs Canada, We say thank you.



Oguadimma, Ijeoma Joy Founder/ Executive Director WEPBI



## WHO ARE WE?

Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization established on October 2016. The organization is borne out of deep passion for the service to humanity and desire to facilitate sustainable development that is people oriented. and registered with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on January 2018 as BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL GIRLS' INITIATIVE. The name of the organization was changed by the Special Resolution and with the authority of the board of trustees to WOMEN EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION AND PEACE BUILDING INITIATIVE (WEPBI) on 5<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019. The organization was borne out of deep passion for the service to humanity and desire to facilitate sustainable development that is people oriented.

Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative are working to empower women and girls with leadership capacity, make them proactive and enable them contribute and sustain the development of the nation through good governance and quality leadership.

Our goal is to promote gender equality and empower our women which would translate to enrich and empower the society. We aim to achieve this through capacity building of women and girls on leadership; campaign on promoting the increase of women's participation in politics and decision making; research and advocacy to stakeholders on increased inclusion of women in appointed and elected leadership positions.

### VISION

WEPBI has a vision of an equitable society in which everyone enjoys their rights irrespective of gender, creed and other affiliations.

### MISSION

Our mission is to work with women and girls and their collectives to participate in all decision-making process and spaces, that advance their rights.

### CORE VALUE

We have 7 key core values. They are:

- **Inclusive Leadership** – We believe in a leadership that is aware, actively seeks out different views and listens to everyone irrespective of background, age, gender, ethnicity and religion as well as empowering women and girls to adopt inclusive leadership for better decision making.
- **Transparency** – WEPBI is an open and honest organization and we demand transparency from all staff and stakeholders we are working with.
- **Equity** – WEPBI encourages a leadership that is true, fair and impartial.
- **Accountability** – We take ownership of our work and value the commitments we make to ourselves and to the people we work with and we approach criticisms with open mindedness, prompt response and quick action.
- **Mutual Respect** – We value our differences and encourage everyone to share their opinions. We respect culture and tradition and create an environment where everyone is regarded with dignity and honour.
- **Informing to Empower** – We believe in consistently empowering our staff with right information to design more effective and efficient programs for women and Girls. We also ensure the women and girls are equipped with information that facilitate quality decision making in public and private spaces
- **Leadership Competence** – WEPBI believes in the leadership capability of anyone given the right skills and opportunity. We focus on developing the capacity of our staff and the community women and girls we work with to activate proactive and competence leadership within them.

## ORGANISATION THEMATIC AREAS

WEPBI remains committed to leading women's participation in decision making using the 3 key areas for strategic directions as our guide: Peace building and Conflict resolution, Governance, and Women's Right / Economic empowerment.



## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

In spite of the United Nations and other international organizations advocacy and declaration of the rights and equality between men and women of which Nigeria is a signatory, results show that women still constitute a small percentage of those participating in decision making and leadership. This is majorly due to the dominant social norms (values, beliefs, attitudes, behaviors and practices) which support male dominance, condone and perpetuate unequal power relations between women and men, thereby undermining women's social, political, health and economic rights.

WEPBI's Theory of Change describes our understanding that progress in women's empowerment and gender equality requires changes at three levels: Peace Building and Conflict Resolution; Good Governance; and Women's Rights / Economic Empowerment which seeks to provide women and girls with the technical and practical knowledge and skills while ensuring supportive environment that will empower them to take up leadership positions in any sphere of the society.

**Impact:** Increase in the number of women and girls with competence becoming leaders and decision makers in public and private spaces.

**Activities:** WEPBI's strategy is based on experience and lessons learned from the past 4 years, and include the following activities:

- Research
- Advocacy/ Lobbying to key community stakeholders
- Awareness creation
- Courses on leadership, gender integrated planning and related topics;
- Capacity building through trainings, mentoring support
- Media engagement for sensitization and advocacy purposes;
- Networking.

**Outputs:** These activities are expected to result in:

1. Research conducted to unearthed barriers and motivations to girl's participation in decision making processes, participation of women in politics, and representation of women and girls in governance.
2. Advocacy carried out to target key stakeholders including men, youth, traditional and religious leaders, CBOs, FBOs, state and federal actors to increasingly provide adequate support for women contesting for leadership positions.



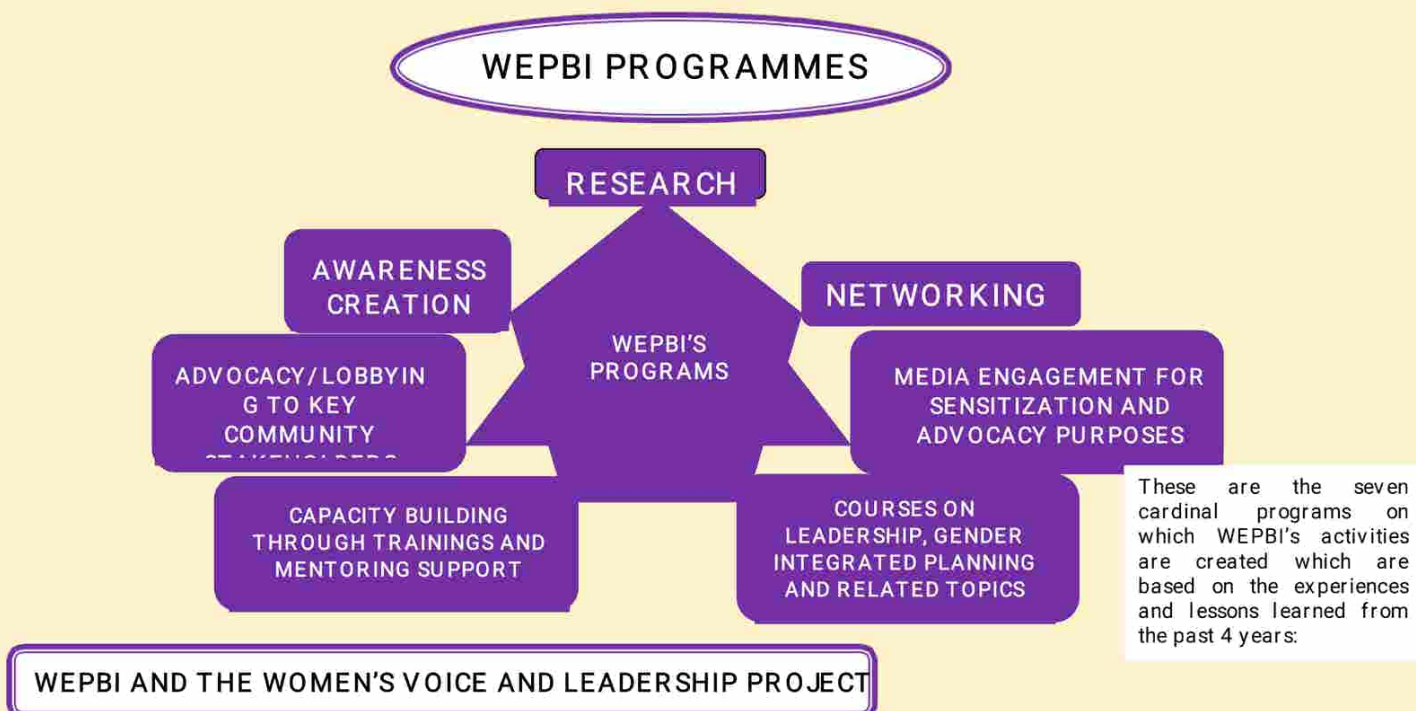
3. Advocacy on peace building and conflict resolution carried out to stakeholders to ensure that peace is restored and maintained in areas where there are crisis situations and their preparedness.
4. Awareness on peace building and conflict resolution carried out through various media channels
5. Media engagement and awareness creation on the inclusion of women in politics and support
6. Trainings carried out on - skills acquisition; entrepreneurship; leadership development, and SRHR.
7. Vulnerable and hard to reach girls empowered with skills and knowledge on sexual and reproductive health rights (covering topics on Violence against women and girls, Sex and family health, and existing and new policies that protect the rights of women and girls.)
8. Awareness campaigns through online and offline means geared towards sensitizing women and girls on new and existing policies that bother on SRHR done.

**Outcomes:** This will contribute to the following outcomes: Improved leadership competence of women and girls in proactively promoting peaceful coexistence within their households, communities and society at large; Improved institutional systems and processes that will enable women access to leadership positions and participate in decision-making, and Increased number of women and girls empowered with adequate skills and information on leadership, economic independence and SRHR to enhance their leadership competence

**Assumptions:**

- More women and girls that are eligible will be given opportunity to serve in political and leadership positions of their choice in the state due to equal participation for women in politics.
- Women with leadership interest are given slots by various political parties to vie for positions and appointed in leadership positions.
- Also, the empowered women and girls utilize the skills they have acquired.
- Women and girls are properly informed and allowed to exhibit their leadership skills in conflict situations
- Community capacity to participate in project is not compromised by other development initiatives within the community, natural disaster, and so on.

Proposed number of women and girls turn up for training and funds are available for the trainings and process.



WEPBI is presently carrying out a five-year Women's Voice and Leadership project which is sponsored by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and ActionAid Nigeria (AAN). which aims at increasing the number of women and girls in active leadership, politics and decision making in public and private spaces' The project is targeted at four communities of Enugu state, cutting across the three senatorial districts. These communities are: Ndeaboh (Aninri L.G.A.), Amokwe (Udi L.G.A.),



Ikpamodo (Igbo Eze North L.G.A) and Eha Amufu (Isi- Uzo L.G.A.).

**WEPBI's WVL Project Objectives are:**

1. To engage relevant stakeholders necessary for improving women participation in decision making process and leadership establishment.
2. To increase enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and make for better advancement of gender equality in our society.
3. Capacity building through training and sensitization of women and the general public to increase the participation of women in politics.

This links to our organizational strategic objectives and WVL Action Aid's goal in that, it drives at increasing the leadership competence of women and girls thereby increasing their access to leadership positions and participation in decision making. This ultimately will translate to their being able to enjoy their human rights and ensure the advancement of gender equality in Nigeria through their active participation in politics as a clear expression of their human rights.



## WEPBI'S PROGRAMS FOR THE YEAR

### POOL OF ACTIVITIES BY QUARTER

Through the Women's Voice and Leadership Project, WEPBI has been able to carry out the following activities:

#### QUARTER 1

##### JUNE 2021

### ONE DAY DIALOGUE WITH TRADITIONAL RULERS AND TOWN HALL EXECUTIVES

These dialogue with traditional leaders and town hall executives was held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at Predia Hotel Enugu to know their roles in supporting the participation of women in politics and grassroots leadership. The objective is to ensure the inclusive of women in politics and leadership, this inclusion will give women a strong voice in the society. The participants involved are members of Ndeaboh community in Aninri LGA, Igboeze North, Amokwe Community in Udi LGA and Isi-Uzo.

At the end of the engagement, deliberation and discussion they decided that women should be included in politics and leadership and this can be achieved through enlightenment of the other leaders and constitutional amendment. This according to them is achievable between now and August 2021.



## ONE DAY ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY MEN TO DISCUSS THE NEED TO SUPPORT WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

The Men Engagement program which took place on 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 2021 at Predia Hotel Enugu to know their roles in supporting the participation of women in politics and grassroots leadership. The objective is to ensure the inclusive of women in politics and leadership, this inclusion will give women a strong voice in the society.

At the end of the engagement, deliberation and discussion, the men showed their willingness to support and contribute in women's political and leadership roles by lessening the burden of childbearing, putting an end to any form of stigmatization that could affect women, jettisoning cultural and religious belief that create undue restrictions for women involvement in politics, nominating and promoting credible women in political parties and youth groups, subsidizing entry formalities into political parties, creating an enabling environment for the women to be involved and carrying out women empowerment program in the areas of leadership through given the necessary political education as it demands.





## RADIO CALL-IN PROGRAM

Held on 25th of June 2021 at Urban radio 94.5 FM. It featured the speakers Ejinkeonye Jennifer the Program Officer of WEPBI, Ngozi Okoye the communication Manager of Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI) and Ikenna Ngwu the Executive Director of Inspire Education Initiative. The radio call was the need to engage mower advocator support women's participation in politics and leadership. Flapper and to highlight the issue like violence in election sexism and harassment against female candidates and female elected officials should be put to an end under the media should idolize women other than criticizing them. And for the society to support and encourage women to unlearn the mindset of being adamant to the right (inferiority complex)





JULY 2021

## STRATEGIES TO INCREASING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING

On the note to increase women's participation in politics leadership and decision-making held on 20<sup>th</sup> of July, 2021 at Predia Hotel Enugu state Nigeria. the female politicians present at the meeting were urged to help map out the strategies that can enhance the increase of women participation in politics and leadership

In the midst of the meeting success stories were told by women from different regional Parts from how they aspired to how they achieved their different goals.

After having a group discussion on the strategies that will help achieve the participation of women in political leadership amongst their selves, they highlighted the follows;

Advocacies to governor, community leaders, traditional rulers and stakeholders, working hard to bring women into decision-making position in political parties through sensitization, grassroots mobilization of women, Town Hall meeting with women leaders, encouraging women to support their fellow women with political interests by giving them their rewards, voicing out using social media, television, radio, distributions of flyers etc., Educating the girl child/ women about politics and position character as it necessitates and also having a Financial and capacity building training that can help their competency level, identifying the "he for she" male stakeholders and working with them, dialogue with key influential stakeholders that can give the needed push to the women aspirants that want to vie for political positions, idealization of the woman by the media which will further create awareness of their competence to the society.





AUGUST 2021

## 1-DAY VOTERS EDUCATION/TRAINING FOR WOMEN IN AMOKWE, NDEABOH AND IKPAMODO COMMUNITIES.

The one-day voters education/ training was held at Amoke, Ndeaboh, Ikpamodo communities on August 2021 to train the women on the importance of voters' registration and PVC collection in line with the importance of women in politics leadership and other decision-making space.





## COURTESY VISIT TO OJI AMOKWE TRADITIONAL RULER AND COMMUNITY WOMEN PEP TALK

It was a warm welcome by the Igwe of Oji Amokwe, which took place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The aim of the meeting was to introduce WEPBI and WVL project and the objective is to dialogue on how women can be included in the igwe's cabinet in his community. He suggested that a lot of work needs to be done in that regards but he promised to include women in his cabinet using lobbying as a strategy to convince his cabinet members which are currently all male.

The women already started a pep talk in various communities educating/ training other women on the importance of women inclusion in politics and leadership.





SEPTEMBER 2021

## MEDIA ADVOCACY - AIRING OF 14 DAYS RADIO JINGLES FOR INCREASED AWARENESS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS.

**Radio Jingles-** The radio jingle for the month was produced in English Language and aired on Dream 92.5 FM Radio Enugu. The jingle caption was on overcoming barriers towards women leadership and participation in politics, in Enugu State. The guest speaker was Nkele Imaria, Hospitality expert and Oguadimma Joy ijeoma the executive Director of WEPBI. They emphasized that women are not really shying away from politics rather its due to cultural barrier, family responsibility and no finance. Suggested that the listed barriers won't be a problem if the women are mentally empowered for those interested in politics and that women should be supported by family, women and also the society regardless of their gender. the need for men to support Women's participation in politics. The continuous airing of the jingle necessitates, for the purpose of achieving emphasis on the indispensable role of the woman in the society. By means of facilitating these media play of jingles among other social activities, WEPBI through the Women Voice Leadership Project (WVL) aims at increasing the participation of women in politics, in Enugu state- Nigeria.

## INDUCTION OF NEW STUDENTS TO THE WOMEN LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The aim of this induction is to train more women on leadership opportunity which should be enhanced from home and to change the narrative of some parents to identify a girl child as one that can do anything and achieve a lot. Some of the women were raised to be timid and never stand out in the society which in turn kills their dreams and self-confidence





OCTOBER 2021

## FARM VISIT

The farm visit was to check mate the progress of women from Ndeaboh community who are farmers and also to encourage the women. The women were urged to wise up and not feel comfortable with women leader post in politics but rather should strive for high political post in the community. Emphasizing that women have the majority voting power and hence, not to allow men use them for their own political ambition in exchange for wrappers and freebies which will not bring an innovation or change in their lives. The Executive Director equally encouraged the women to unite in one accord and select the women that will vie for positions in the 2023 elections so that WEPBI can start training them.







## CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF GIRL CHILD

The event was held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 at Federal Government College, Enugu with the female students of the school. The event was represented by Ugochukwu Chisolum, the Finance Officer of WEPBI. The theme of the event was "DIGITAL GENERATION, OUR GENERATION", explaining that the digitalization of the world has paved way for the success of the Girl Child as some of the barriers of the Girl have been broken through a merging of digital age. The girls were urged to live up to their full potentials and abolish the bias in professions. They went ahead to introduce WEPBI as a women-led NGO with passion for empowering not just women as the name implies but equally young girls, stating that their projects which gave rise to these events is Women Voice and Leadership program (WVL), sponsored by Global Affairs Canada and supported by ActionAid Nigeria.





## INAUGURATION OF WOMEN INTO IGWE'S CABINET IN IGOGORO

WEPBI honored the invitation from HRH Igwe Ambrose Eke (Ezedioramma 1 of Mkpunato Igogoro Autonomous Community) on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2021. Four women were coronated with the title of Nze in the community. The Executive Director stated that it is not fair that only men get to take decisions that affect both the men and the women, that a man can never know the needs of a woman better than a woman, she then commended the Igwe for welcoming the idea of including women in the decision-making process. Expressing their joy, one of the women coronated noted that she is so happy and fulfilled being part of the event and also appreciated the help of WEPBI and their Igwe. She promised to use her office to enlighten and present the matters of women and that of the community in their meetings.



## NOVEMBER 2021

### ONE-DAY DIALOGUE WITH SUG AND OHER GOVERNING BODIES IN THE UNIVERSITY ON THE NEED FOR POLICY CHANGE TO INCLUDE FEMALE LEADERS IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

After the arrival and the formal introduction of the participants, the executive director of WEPBI gave a presentation showing the organizational delivery on the Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) project which aims at increasing women's participation in politics and leadership. She explained that the objective of the program is to ensure that women with the right portfolios are included to actively participate in politics and also allowed to express their views. She added that the purpose of the meeting with the SUG ExcOs is to find out ways that young girls can be encouraged and supported to participate in politics in their various institutions.

Ms. Eze Oluchi was introduced who raised a discussion on the "Importance of Women/Young Girls in Politics and Leadership". She also highlighted fear, tradition, cultural stereotype as some reasons why women/girls lack support from



the men. The girls/ women on the other hand are scared of going into politics because of attacks from cultists, threats from young men etc. She also encouraged young men to train and support the interested women/ girls vying for positions in politics/ leadership.

In conclusion, the facilitator said that the tag "gender equality" should change to "gender equity" because men and women should strike a balance and not compete against each other.



## ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

The event took place from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 which marks the 16 days of Activism for the elimination of violence against women and girls. In line with the UN Women's theme "ORANGE THE WORLD"; End violence Against Women, WEPBI teamed up with other Civil Society Organizations around the world to raise awareness through digital campaigns against Gender Based Violence using radio jingle airing on Urban FM, Enugu.

DECEMBER 2021

## ONE DAY ENGAGEMENT WITH POLITICAL PARTY EXECUTIVES TO ADVOCATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 35% AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVES PARTIES.

The one-day engagement was held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, December, 2021 at Predia Hotel Enugu. The mission is to enhance the place of women in political leadership, economic independence and inclusion of women in the peace building processes irrespective of the situation they might be confronted with in our contemporary society. The various political parties strategized on how the 35% affirmative action within their respective parties can be implemented. It was highlighted that women can achieve a lot if only they put their mind to it. They urged that the government should adhere strictly to the 35% affirmative action as enshrined in the National Gender Policy of 2006 adding that Nigeria must also respect its commitment to the 17 Sustainable Development Goal aimed at transforming the world by 2030 of which, goal 5 is specifically target at achieving gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.





JANUARY 2022

## IDENTIFYING WOMEN WITH INTEREST IN VIE FOR POLITICAL AND LEADERSHIP POSITION

On the 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 2022 the Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI) organized a four (4) days program which was held at town hall at four L.G.A of Enugu state, they are; Isiuo, Enugu-Ezike, Aniri and Udi L.G.A of Enugu state Nigeria. The aim of these events is to impact the qualities of good leadership and the best/ right strategic means to use when vying for a political position. This training is to increase the participation of women in politics and leadership. The program kicked off with reminder of Global Affairs Canada and ActionAid Nigeria who are sole supporters of WVL project. They highlighted what a good leader should possess and the strategies women who are interested in politics and leadership position can use. The advice and strategies include; Registering and identifying yourself with a political party, always attending relevant event and ceremonies when called for or invited, Politics is usually a win or lose, Volunteering work is a necessity in politics, be active in your community, learn to build, they should always keep their mind on the goal and impact their political positions will yield in the society. Vying for a political position doesn't include neglecting their responsibility as a woman in the family and society. They were also encouraged to set their goal to be an example to young girls in the society and they should also cultivate the habit of giving back to the society and noting that, we are living in time that sees more women taking high office in all spheres of the society and we need to cease the opportunity.





FEBRUARY 2022

## TRAINING ON COOPERATIVE AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED WOMEN ORGANIZATION.

The need to promote women's sense of self-worth, their ability to determine their own choices, and their right to influence social change for themselves and others is through empowerment. There's need to empower women in rural areas to form a cooperative among them to help improve, distribute and multiply their local expertise, resources and capital. The Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI) organized a four days program to train women on cooperative and business management. The program was held at four different L.G.A; which includes Amokwe, Ndeabor, Ikpamodo and Ehamufu on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> of February, 2022.

The major objective of these training is to impact them on the importance and the opportunities that come with being empowered through having a cooperative association in their community. The training highlighted the definition of a cooperative which is the union of persons/ group of people under an umbrella of autonomy to achieve their cultural, social and economic interest. It also pointed out the 7 principles of cooperative, aims of forming a cooperative, how to form a cooperative and the thing to bear in mind when forming a cooperative to avoid mismanagement and to have a legit sustainable outcome. They also given the core value of a cooperative; which include Self-respect, democracy, integrity, openness, accountability and transparency among themselves, these will give room to unity amongst them, support and one voice in leadership.





## THE INAUGURATION OF WOMEN INTO IGWE'S CABINET IN NDEABOR COMMUNITY ANIRI L.G.A. ENUGU STATE.

HRH. Igwe Benedith Nnaji for Eze (JP) Ezeagbor the 6<sup>th</sup>, the Ezeoha of Ndebor invited WEPBI on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March to witness the inauguration of ten more women to be part of his cabinet members in decision-making and also a female Igwe to run the affairs of women in the community at his palace. The Executive Director of WEPBI expressed her joy on the inclusion of women's voice in decision-making and commended the Igwe for embracing the idea through a peaceful dialogue.

He commenced with inaugurating the female Igwe-UmuNwanyi Mrs. Ndukwe Maryann Akubueze followed by the prospective females as cabinet members with a certificate of recognition and a chieftaincy tittle to each of them; some of them are; Chief Arudi-n'-Echendo to Mrs. Gloria Achi, Chief Ugodiya to Hon. Mrs. Christiana Chukwuemeka, Chief Enyidiya to Mrs. Abigail Ezech etc. HRH. Igwe Benedith Nnaji for Eze (JP) Ezeagbor the 6<sup>th</sup>, the Ezeoha of Ndebor acknowledged that adding women in his cabinet was debated and argued upon but due to potential reasons pointed out towards women inclusion in the affairs of the community, gave rise to a unanimous hand that gave him the encouragement to include women as cabinet members for a change. He added that irrespective of women jealousy, women are meant to be treated equally, due to this ongoing project women have passed 50/ 50 and are going to 70/ 30 participation. He thanked WEPBI and their sponsor ActionAid Nigeria and Global Affairs Canada for giving them the opportunity to be part of this revolution and sensitization. He also thanked his member for their support and to God Almighty; Adding that women has brought them to the limelight that their equality in everything.





MARCH 2022

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI) marked her International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 with the women of Ndeaboh Community in Aniri local Government area Enugu state on the theme "Breaking the Bias". The celebration was superb and power-packed because the women of Ndeaboh turned up with different entertainment such as welcome song, opening remarks, singing, dancing and drama. Emphasis on the inclusion of more women in political participation in their community and society was laid, stating that if the progress continues like this, women's voice will be inevitable. Furthermore, they were given encouragements to keep striving to be more than just a house wife, stating that there's more to a woman that meets the eye. Break the Bias till an ultimate goal is achieved, the women were fully at their best with lots of entertaining agendas to celebrate the joy of being a woman, they showed their overwhelmed gratitude on the impact of Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative WEPBI and the Women Voice Leadership (WVL) project in their lives. They stated that inclusion of women in the matters of the community will continue to bring development and more sensitization into their community





## MEDIA ADVOCACY - AIRING OF 14 DAYS RADIO JINGLES TO INCREASE AWARENESS ON THE NEED FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POLITICS AND DECISION-MAKING SPACES.

**Radio Jingles-** The airing of 14 days radio jingle for the month started from 10<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2022, and was produced in English Language and aired on Enugu's Dream FM 92.5 FM. The jingle caption re-echoes for men and society to support in increasing the participation of Women in politics by 35%, in Enugu State and women should be active and willing to participate fully in politics and decision-making in the society to bring about positive change. The continuous airing of the jingle demands, for equality in political position in the role of the woman in the society. Creating awareness to remind the society of the affirmative policy of women position in politics and to increase awareness on women participation in politics and decision making in Enugu State.

**THE RADIO CALL-IN PROGRAM** – this took place at Urban radio 94.5FM Enugu on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, 2022. The Radio presenter; Cheezy Charles, the Executive Director of Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative (WEPBI) Oguadimma Ijeoma Joy and the guest speaker Nebo Collins were on air to speak extensively on the topic: Impact of Constitution Amendment on Women's Political Participation Focusing on the 5 Demands from women group. It pointed out the need for women to see politics as developing their home/ society. The goal of the meeting is to make the issues faced by women known to the concerned bodies and awaken their minds to provide a solution at the end of the day.





## ONE DAY MEDIA ROUND-TABLE WITH MEDIA PERSONNEL IN ENUGU STATE ON THEIR ROLES IN CREATING VISIBILITY FOR FEMALE POLITICAL ASPIRANTS

The one-day Media round-table Dialogue, with Media personnel in Enugu state on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, 2022 at Predia hotel, Enugu. Discussing the roles of media, in creating visibility for Female political Aspirants. The major aim of these is to increase women's visibility, inclusiveness, support and participation of women in politics and leadership spaces. They highlighted that this aim can be achieved by promoting more women in political discussions and engagement on Media, management of negative reports against women, discussing topics that's women-related every week, creating special programs for women in politics and as well as been cost friendly in hosting their programs. present were Mr. Chukwuma Ezeogu from Radio Nig. Dennis Agbo from Vanguard, Olonade Olushota from Arise TV, Success Uzuoku from Dream FM, Ifeanyi Ogbodo from AIT, Chukwuemeka Obasi from ESBS, Tony Ezechukwu from TVC News, Chris Anigbogu from Sunrise FM, Magnus Eze from The Sun, Chineye Nwoye from NTA, Lawrence Njoku from The Guardian etc.





## Social Media Links:

In order to raise more social awareness, Our **LINKEDIN** social media handle has undergone a tremendous development. Having started off with 307 connections at the beginning of the year; we have presently reached 7100 connections with a difference of 6793 more networks on our LinkedIn in the last one year. We look forward to improving our connections to at least 15000 by the end of the year 3.

Our **INSTAGRAM** page has seen a remarkable change as well. The follow ratio has improved from 52: 150 to 182:556 followers/ those followed.

WEPBI's **TWITTER** account also improved from 50 followers out of 85 followed at the beginning of the year to a statistic ratio of 85: 159.

A Google search presence has been created for WEPBI in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the year (August) and this has also helped to improve our SEO (Search Engine Optimization) ranking and website clicks.

Our pictures and videos to our WVL activities have been constantly uploaded up to 219 times so far through the year on our Google search. The posts were also viewed on Google search this month and show a progressive shift by 140 extra views from last quarterly.

Adjustments have also been made on our website settings and WVL activities carried out through the year have been shown through our newsletters on our blog posts.

## WEPBI's successes till date

- ✓ Started a 5-Year Global Affairs Canada funded Women's Voice and Leadership-Nigeria project by ActionAid Nigeria with research on Factors Militating Against Women's Participation in Politics in Enugu state in February 2020.
- ✓ Started our monthly Newsletter publication in August 2020 last year and was well acknowledged by Global Affairs Canada. We were also asked to be featured by them in October 2020.
- ✓ We have been able to come to terms of agreement on our Collaboration with FIDA on the persecution of VAWG cases. This came to a success with the eventual signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the Month of September 2020 following the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.
- ✓ Online Paper publication of our research findings on the factors that militate against women participation in politics in Enugu state on the Open Political Science Journal accepted November 24, 2020.
- ✓ WEPBI launched the Women Leadership Academy (WLA) in November 2020 and have concluded lecture activities with the first set of aspiring female leaders in March 2021.
- ✓ WEPBI created a Google search page through Google My Business and YouTube Channel. We have also expanded the audience reach on our LinkedIn from 300 connections in the beginning of year 2 to 7131 connections as at March 2021. This has helped to improve our visibility to the public as well as our audience reach.

**Impact:** The impact of our research and advocacy engagements through the year has brought about realization of the major factors that constrain women from participating actively in politics and this has also awakened the mind of concerned stakeholders about the need to begin to change some of the old narratives which excludes women; thereby retarding the growth and development of the society. Our overall impact at the end of the WVL project is to establish a legacy for continuous increase in the number of women and girls with leadership competence to function in public and private spaces.

**Output from WEPBI's WVL Stream of Activities:** The activities already highlighted above have resulted in: An increased awakening of women through our radio airings. We are beginning to get women who come on air to briefly share their past challenges with us and we do well to encourage them. This shows an improved statistics of women who understand and have interest in our advocacy for increased women participation in Enugu state politics. This awakening is not just limited to the women but the men as well. They have also gradually begun to understand that the support of women is needed in the management of most leadership sectors.

The last quarter of Year 3 shows the organization's attempt, to actively increase the participation of women in politics, through cooperative empowerment and voice, by means of conducting meetings with relevant stakeholders in seeking the way forward to achieve our objective and the suggestions given will form the basis of our project implementation in the coming year which starts by April, 2022.

**Expected Output from WEPBI's Stream of Activities:** Women and girls trained in leadership skills in crisis situations, peace building and conflict resolution, mentored and informed on how to monitor early warning signs to proactively promote peace in crisis situations

- The preparedness of women and girls during crisis situations and how they handle the issues in communities ascertained through research
- Advocacy on peace building and conflict resolution carried out to stakeholders to ensure that peace is restored and maintained in areas where there are crisis situations and their preparedness.
- Awareness on peace building and conflict resolution carried out through various media channels
- Research conducted to unearthed barriers and motivations to girls' participation in decision making processes, participation of women in politics, and representation of women and girls in governance.
- Advocacy carried out to target key stakeholders including men, youth, traditional and religious leaders, CBOs, FBOs, state and federal actors to increasingly provide adequate support for women contesting for leadership positions.
- Media engagement and awareness creation on the inclusion of women in politics and support
- Trainings carried out on - skills acquisition; entrepreneurship; leadership development, and SRHR.
- Vulnerable and hard to reach girls empowered with skills and knowledge on sexual and reproductive health rights (covering topics on Violence against women and girls, Sex and family health, and existing and new policies that protect the rights of women and girls.)
- Awareness campaigns through online and offline means geared towards sensitizing women and girls on new and existing policies that bother on SRHR done.

**General Outcomes:** All of WEPBI's general activities being carried out will contribute to the overall outcomes of Improved leadership competence of women and girls in proactively promoting peaceful coexistence within their households, communities and society at large; Improved institutional systems and process that will give women access to leadership positions and participate in decision making, and Increased number of women and girls empowered with adequate skills and information on leadership, economic independence and SRHR.



## ANNEX

All videos and pictures of activities can be found on our social media handles

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/wepbi-initiative-8224001b3/recent-activity/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/2379540468735576/posts/3334473309908949/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/wepbi89/status/1293295387386818560?s=19>

Youtube - <https://youtu.be/sR68Ag71uiQ>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/p/CE5JXeel23J/?igshid=1v6m8fk1wx0ej>

## ACRONYMS

AAN Action Aid Nigeria

CAC Corporate Affairs Commission

CBOs Community Based Organizations

CSOs Civil Society Organizations

ESHA Enugu State House of Assembly

ENSIEC Enugu State Independent Electoral Commission

FBOs Faith Based Organizations

FGD Focus Group Discussion

FIDA International Federation of Women Lawyers

FRCN Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria

GAC Global Affairs Canada

GBV Gender Based Violence

INEC Independent Electoral Commission

IWD International Women's Day Celebration

LGA Local Government Area

LWROs Local Women Rights Organizations

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

MOU Memorandum of Understanding

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

SGBV Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

SRHR Sexual Reproductive and Health Right

VAWG Violence against Women and Girls

WEPBI Women Empowerment Education and Peace Building Initiative

WLA Women Leadership Academy

WVL Women's Voice and Leadership