



WEPBI NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

Newsletter Highlights

- Communities Taking Action Against GBV
- Women Saving, Growing and Building Together
- Cleaner Cooking, Healthier Communities
- Strengthening Citizen Voices in Elections



STORIES OF CHANGE

Once excluded from traditional leadership and community decision making, over 200 women are now serving in traditional cabinets, town unions and neighbourhood watch committees. Through sustained advocacy, WEPBI is helping shift long standing norms and create greater space for women's leadership, with the numbers continuing to grow.

Breaking Cultural Barriers, Opening Doors for Women

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to work with women and girls and their collectives to participate in all decision making processes and spaces that advance their rights, and promote sustainable peace at all levels.

OUR GOAL

To increase the number of women and girls in active leadership and decision making in public and private spaces, and fostering sustainable peace across all levels.



EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR LIFE BEYOND MARRIAGE: WHY IT MATTERS

From the ED's Desk

**“Marriage is a part of a woman’s journey,
not the destination of her dreams.”**

Marriage can be an important and meaningful part of a woman’s life, but it should not be the only future she is prepared for. Before marriage, women need the opportunity to understand themselves, develop their skills, pursue their aspirations and make informed decisions about the kind of life they want to build. Empowerment begins with giving women the knowledge, confidence and freedom to make choices about their own lives.

Women’s empowerment gives women the confidence and capacity to stand on their own, contribute meaningfully to their families and communities, and navigate life’s challenges with greater independence. Education, financial knowledge, skills development and access to opportunities can make a significant difference in how women experience marriage and life beyond it. A woman who is empowered is better positioned to contribute to her home while also maintaining her identity, interests and aspirations.

Empowering a woman before marriage is not simply about preparing her to be a better wife. It is about helping her become a woman who knows her worth, understands her rights, can make informed choices and has the confidence to speak up for herself. It also means creating an environment where women can ask questions, learn from others, make responsible decisions and enter relationships from a place of understanding rather than fear, pressure or dependence.

Every woman deserves the opportunity to build a life that reflects her abilities, values and aspirations. Her potential should never be limited by her marital status or defined only by her role within a family.

*To every woman, invest in yourself. Learn, grow, build your skills and pursue your dreams.
Know your worth and prepare for the future you desire. Marriage may be part of your
journey, but it should never limit your possibilities.*

BUILDING WOMEN'S FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE THROUGH VSLA

Women's economic empowerment creates opportunities to save, build assets, strengthen livelihoods and achieve greater financial independence.

As part of the Renewed Women's Voice and Leadership (RWVL) Project, ActionAid Nigeria organised a four day Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) training for partners across the South East. WEPBI joined other partners to strengthen practical skills for establishing and sustaining VSLA groups.



The learning moved from the training room into the community through a practical session with the Oji River Urban Women Association, where participants supported the formation of their first VSLA group. The process placed women at the centre, with every participant given the opportunity to contribute and have her voice heard.



From learning to action, the journey towards stronger financial security and greater economic independence begins with creating spaces where women can save, invest and grow together.

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP: A PATHWAY TO ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Gender based violence can leave women living with fear, silence, loss of dignity and limited opportunities. But communities are not powerless. Those who understand their communities best can also help drive solutions. Community ownership is therefore critical to creating lasting change.



Ending GBV requires collective action. By strengthening community ownership and amplifying women's voices, we can build safer communities where women and girls are protected, supported and free from violence.



On 24 and 25 September 2026, WEPBI launched the Sister Guardian Initiative (SGI) chapters in Mgbakwu and Isuaniocha communities, Awka North LGA, Anambra State. Fully funded by South Saharan Social Development Organisation (SSDO) and implemented by WEPBI, SGI brings together women and community stakeholders to strengthen local action on GBV prevention, survivor support and referrals.



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO PREVENT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



Ending gender based violence requires strong partnerships and collective action. to GBV.

The Executive Director of WEPBI, Ijeoma Joy Oguadimma, paid a courtesy visit to the Honourable Commissioner for Women Affairs, Anambra State, Mrs. Esther Chinyere Onyekesi, to strengthen collaboration around the Sister Guardian Initiative (SGI) and advance efforts to prevent and respond to GBV.

The engagement focused on strengthening SGI implementation in Isuaniocha and Mgbakwu communities and advancing community action on GBV prevention and support.



Support our One-Girl One-Pad Initiative

Account Details:

Account Name: One Girl One Pad
Account Number: 5700038066
Bank Name: Fidelity Bank

In-kind donations (pads, hygiene kits, etc.) are also welcome at:

No. 27 Nwafor Orizu, Independence Layout, Enugu

SUPPORT WEPBI DECLUTTER CAMPAIGN



**JOIN US!
DONATE!**

FOR YOUR DONATIONS PLEASE CALL OR SEND
A WHATSAPP MESSAGE VIA: 07066097045

Join WEPBI's Declutter Initiative and turn your unused household items into hope for those in need! This campaign invites you to donate gently used clothing, kitchen utensils, electronics, and more to support rural communities.

Your contribution can transform lives!

CLEAN COOKING: SUPPORTING WOMEN AND CLIMATE ACTION



WEPBI's Executive Director, Ijeoma Joy Oguadimma, served as a Consultant on the project, supporting community engagement, stakeholder coordination and the delivery of clean cooking awareness activities. Her role helped strengthen engagement with communities and stakeholders while promoting the benefits of cleaner and more efficient cooking solutions.



Her contribution helped promote cleaner cooking practices and encourage the adoption of energy efficient solutions, while highlighting practical approaches that support women's well-being, reduce environmental impact and advance climate action.



Clean cooking is an important part of climate action. Cleaner cooking practices can reduce pollution, protect the environment and support healthier communities, particularly for women.

WEPBI contributed to the Clean Cooking Scale Up Project by Clean Technology Hub in Enugu State, which reached 300 women with clean cooking knowledge and provided 300 energy efficient stoves.



The initiative highlights how practical clean energy solutions can advance women's well-being while contributing to climate action and more sustainable communities. WEPBI appreciates Clean Technology Hub for the opportunity to contribute to this important work.



ADVANCING CASSAVA BIO ETHANOL DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH EAST

Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning organised the Phase Two Strategic Institutional and Organisational Capacity Building Workshop and Public Private Dialogue on Cassava Bio Ethanol in the South East Geopolitical Zone. WEPBI was represented by its Executive Director, Ijeoma Joy Oguadimma.



Held under the Cassava Bio Ethanol Value Chain Development Project, the workshop focused on strengthening stakeholder capacity and promoting effective public private dialogue to support the development of the bio ethanol value chain across the South East.

The engagement provided an opportunity for stakeholders to strengthen institutional collaboration and explore practical approaches to advancing cassava bio ethanol development in the region.



STRENGTHENING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION THROUGH ELECTION OBSERVATION

On 26 September 2026, WEPBI observed the Enugu State Local Government Elections in Enugu North and Enugu South, documenting low voter turnout, late arrival of electoral officials and materials, inadequate materials and instances of multiple voting.



As Nigeria looks towards 2027, these observations highlight the need for stronger voter education, timely electoral processes and more inclusive participation to strengthen democratic governance.



WEPBI appreciates ActionAid Nigeria, South Saharan Social Development Organisation and the Justice, Development and Peace Commission for supporting the training and coordination of election observers. Strengthening citizen participation and ensuring that women's voices remain part of democratic governance are essential to building more inclusive electoral processes..

SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

APPRECIATION

We sincerely appreciate our donors and partners, Graça Machel Trust, Global Affairs Canada, ActionAid Nigeria, and South Saharan Social Development Organisation, as well as our traditional rulers, government agencies, and community stakeholders. Your continued support in advancing gender equality, combating GBV, promoting women's leadership, and strengthening peacebuilding efforts is deeply valued.

Thank you for your partnership and commitment.

OUR DONORS



Newsletter Prepared by: Ogechi Ewoh
Communications Officer, WEPBI



Address - No. 27 Nwafor Orizu Independence Layout, Enugu State



Website - www.wepbi.com



Facebook - @wepbi89



Instagram - [wepbi892](https://www.instagram.com/wepbi892)



LinkedIn - @wepbinitiative



Twitter - @wepbi89



Youtube - @WEPBI



Gmail - wepbi89@gmail.com



WhatsApp - 09035979918