

*GENDER JUSTICE*

*PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS*

*FEMINIST LEADERSHIP*

*SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS*

*RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY*

*PARTICIPATORY LEADERSHIP*

# ANNUAL REPORT

► Vision Spring Initiatives ► 2019-2020

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## **Vision Spring Initiatives**

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## Our Thematic Areas

<p><b>Gender Justice</b></p> <p>This is Central and the core of VSI programming.</p>	<p><b><i>Sexual and reproductive health and rights</i></b></p> <p>Through VSI various programs women and girls have taken ownership of their bodies.</p>
<p><b>Partnerships</b></p> <p>Through partnerships our voices are amplified and greater results are achieved.</p>	<p><b><i>Participatory leadership/ women’s decision-making</i></b></p> <p>Through our approach to leadership and advocacy for women and girls’ participation, the circle of learning has been expanding.</p>
<p><b>Education/Research</b></p> <p>VSI contributes to learning and results that impact women, girls and vulnerable groups.</p>	



Bad governance affects women and girls in all areas. Education is halted and provision of SRHR services are tampered with. #NigerianWomenArise and demand for accountability. #blacktuesday #EndImpunity #EndBadGovernance #EndSARS #EndPoliceBrutality

- Ngozi Nwosu-Juba  
Project Director, Vision Spring Initiatives.



## The Years in Numbers



## INDIVIDUALS REACHED

WOMEN	MEN
400	200
GIRLS	MEDIA
200	40
KEY INFLUENCERS	
45	

## Executive Summary

Vision Spring Initiatives commenced the year with a review of the events of 2018. Gender discrimination remained common in Nigeria. Unfortunately, the Nigerian Constitution despite prohibiting gender based discrimination, does not protect women's rights. An ideal Constitution would be drafted with input of all segments of the society; this is not the case. There have also been calls for Constitutional reforms. These calls and reforms have not reflected the yearnings of Nigerian women. Education is bisect with myriads of problems these include poor funding, poor infrastructure, inadequate classrooms, teaching aids, paucity of qualified teachers and curriculum that does not reflect the needs of those who acquire it; technical and classroom education that does not respond to the needs of those who acquire it. The country continued to experience inter-tribal wars, insurgency attacks, and abduction of children from schools and withdrawal of girls from schools for marriage.

In 2020, The Violence against Persons Prohibitions Act has been domesticated by many states following agitations by civil society organisation due to the spike in sexual and domestic violence as witnessed during the Covid-19 pandemic. Civil society organisations continued to push for the advancement of the rights of women and girls. Gender discrimination, violence against women and girls rose to worrisome numbers during the Covid-19 pandemic and has been attributed to the lock down. Political life in Nigeria based on male norms and values remained as more than 90 percent of public leadership in the country were occupied by men. The level of impunity was unimaginable with abuse by a few political office holders who are mostly men.

The most disturbing of the many grave consequences of the lack of adequate sexual and reproductive health and rights in Nigeria is the denial of the sexual health and rights of women, sexual minorities, persons living with disabilities, and people living with HIV. A huge number of women and girls waiting to practice birth control cannot gain access to contraceptive. Accessibility and availability of sexual and reproductive health services for adolescents are very crucial for prevention and control of sexual and reproductive health problems. These services

play a critical role in the promotion of adolescent's sexual and reproductive health generally.

It is now 25 years since Beijing, the desires and aspirations of women has not been met. All across the world, the agitations continue but the desired results are not yet seen. In 2020 the world was hit by Covid-19 pandemic which has set education, health and general well-being of the world back.

*Covid-19 pandemic is having specific impact on women and girls and the government can address this by ensuring that all interventions in all areas target women and girls especially their sexual and reproductive health and right's needs.*

Our greatest strength during these troubling periods was partnering with strategic stakeholders to make our voices heard. This proved very strategic considering the challenges and paucity of funding caused by the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

We sincerely hope that the world becomes a better place for women and girls in the near future.



## 1. Organizational Background

Vision Spring Initiatives (VSI) is a duly registered (RC 908183) non-governmental, not-for profit human rights organization partnering with stakeholders to achieve developmental rights of children, young people and other vulnerable groups and supporting their attainment of these rights using a multipronged approach and diverse strategies.

**Our vision** is that collectively with women, adolescents and minority groups we create a world based on gender equality and social justice.

**Our mission** is to ensure that our constituencies have practical tools for the realization of our vision. We will collectively build on existing initiatives, engage in debates, research, education, advocacy, network building amongst other strategies.

We strongly believe that rights are interrelated, inalienable and inseparable and cannot be achieved in isolation. We therefore focus on the following thematic areas towards achieving our mandate:

1. Gender justice (Central and the core of VSI programming)
2. Education and Research:
3. Participatory Leadership/Political education
4. Sexual and reproductive health and rights
5. Networks/Exchange program / Youth Outreach

### **Our objectives**

- To promote gender equality in all spheres of our programming and develop literary skills amongst women and young persons.
- To advocate for the sexual and reproductive health and rights of young people and vulnerable groups
- To promote and advance education and research in Nigeria
- To promote participatory leadership and advance youth inclusion in decision making
- To engage with strategic stakeholders and demand implementation of Laws and Policies that guarantee the rights of citizens

- To collaborate with like-minded organizations and find areas of knowledge sharing and build strategic partnerships.

## **Our target Beneficiaries:**

Children, Young people and persons made vulnerable by laws, policies and practices.

### **1. GENDER JUSTICE**

Gender justice is central and the core of VSI programs. Discrimination and violence against women and girls are major causes of poverty all over the world. Ensuring that women and men / boys and girls benefit equally is at the core of all VSI intervention programs. Gender justice and equality therefore underpin all our work and interventions.

#### **Project under Gender Justice-**

*Policy Advocacy*-VSI's policy advocacy project enables it to engage in advocacy to promote the inclusion of women and girls in Laws and policies relating to gender, as well as the enactment of these Laws and the Constitutional commitments towards equality and closing of gender gaps.

*Legal Reform* -VSI's legal reform project enables it to challenge obnoxious and discriminatory Laws, asking for their repeal and demanding institutionalization and implementation of Laws that respect in equal terms the rights and dignity of women/men and boys/girls.

*Interpretation and Simplification of Laws* - This initiative provides the opportunity for young people to benefit from interpretation and simplifications of Laws to enable them use these Laws to hold governments accountable and demand implementation of these Laws. The Laws are simplified for different age groups and for easy grasping for the users.

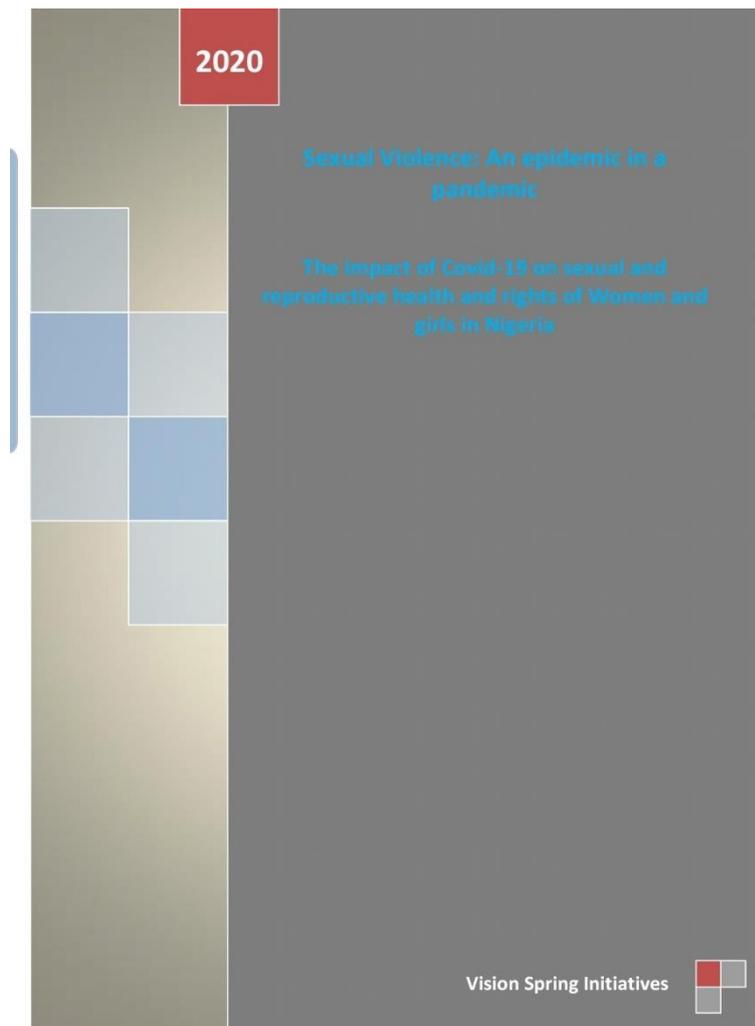


## 2. Education and Research:

Vision Spring Initiatives' Model school and Crèche project for and children (still under construction) will provide space for young girls and a few boys to 'unlearn' gender stereotypes and gain knowledge on gender. While girls learn that they can undertake any role and responsibilities if they are provided with the knowledge they require, boys learn to respect girls and ultimately become 'champions' in challenging stereotypes. This is one VSI's long term project and plan to charges a fee for the education as a means of sustaining the organization. Through Vision Spring Initiative's gender Manuals young people's reading culture will be enhanced.

*VSI's Gender and human rights Institute Project*-for gender trainings, curriculum review and development, including ensuring they are relevant to time and needs, teacher training, counsellors, school debates.

Research –All interventions promote evidence-based research.



### 3. **Participatory Leadership / Political education Project**

#### **Project under Participatory Leadership/Political Education-**

*Participatory and horizontal approach to leadership-VSI's leadership project draw from many years of partnering and engaging in leadership approaches that are inclusive and horizontal, respecting diversity, enhancing communication skills, every body's input and commitment and sharing results and challenges.*

*VSI's Political Education Project- election preparation, preparation as voters and those to be voted, school clubs on elections and citizenship, manifestoes and preparing youth for elections and violence free elections.*

4. **Sexual and reproductive health and rights Project:** {Sexual and reproductive health and rights-from a development perspective}

**Project under Sexual and reproductive health and rights' project**

Women and young peoples' sexual and reproductive health and rights remain the most debated issue including lack of its inclusion as a development issue: Comprehensive sexuality education, information about life skills, communication strategies, diversities, bodily autonomy, bodily care, self-esteem, VAW, sexual violence and responding to them.

5. **Networks/Exchange Program / Youth Outreach:** {Youth represent developed and on-going development. They have passions, determination and constitute half of the world's population}.

**Project under Network/exchange Program / Youth Outreach**

This space enables young people and other groups to dialogue and reach a consensus, understanding and yearnings of young people. It creates safe space for exchange, information sharing, dialogues, debates, peace initiatives amongst others.

## 1. Gender Justice (Central and the core of VSI programming)

Vision Spring Initiatives partners with sister agencies and government agencies to ensure that women who face all forms of violence are supported. In the year under review the cases reported to the organisations was handled in partnership with the Domestic and Sexual Violence Response team- an arm of the Ministry of Justice, Mirabel Centre, Community Women's Rights Foundation, Child Protection Network, Office of the Public Defender, Police gender desk, DPP, the Social Welfare in both Kosofe and Ikorodu local governments. One of its cases on child custody was finally settled in 2019 and the woman was granted custody of her 3 children while the husband got visiting rights. Another case of domestic violence was settled and the woman was relocated and helped to find employment. Other cases include rape and defilement of minors which was reported to appropriate authorities. In 2020, during the pandemic, Vision Spring Initiatives handled a case of rape of a 12 year old and successfully protected and sent to

prison the perpetrator and his accomplice. The young girl was supported through child birth and later sent to Mother and Child, a facility that caters for indigent children who give birth at an early age. The organisation continues to offer support and hopes to send the adolescent girl back to school in due course. Other cases of abandonment and battery are handled and referrals made where and when necessary. While handling these cases, the organisation continued to build capacity of women and girls for self-preservation and protection.

The organization is a member of Child Protection Network. Child protection networks exist in over half of Nigeria's 36 states. Members carry out monitoring; documentation and reporting of child rights abuse cases, and partner with relevant agencies to support the safety of children, including train the children on their rights and responsibilities. In 2019, the organisation partnered with Community Women's Life Foundation to handle the case of rape of minor, the rapist absconded while adequate medical attention, including psychosocial support and monitoring was given to the child.

Other interventions by the organisation are responses to solidarity calls and writing of joint statements condemning all forms of violence against women and girls. The organisation is a member of the following groups in Nigeria:

- 
- Feminists groups
  - Interfaith Diversity Network of West Africa
  - Gender updates group
  - Lagoswomen2030
  - Justice Support Network
  - Lagos state Covid-19 CSOS
  - Nigeria Universal Health Coverage Advocacy group
  - Connecting the Dot Platform
  - Domestic and Sexual Violence response team and NGOs platform
  - Legal strategy team

The partnerships led to development of joint statements and a few visits to strategic agencies demanding an end to all forms of violence against women and girls.

On the first of November 2020, VSI celebrated the Day of the Girl Child with teenagers in the Irawo rural community in Lagos State. Our focus of discussion was to educate them on bodily autonomy and comprehensive sexuality education. We had 25 teenagers from the community between the ages of 13-19 years at the program. Our project director, Ngozi, led the conversation on the importance of knowing their rights as teenagers and making informed decisions. The girls asked series of questions relating to sex, abstinence and sexual abuse. VSI program officer, Tobi responded to all questions and introduced what feminism is and how the movement is championing gender equality in Nigeria. VSI's toll free lines were provided for participants to reach out to the organisation for any questions on SRHR, or need to talk to a counsellor, report a sexual abuse case and speak to a therapist.

The organization remained committed to responding to cases of violence against women and girl children and a few boys including reporting and handling cases of abuse through counselling, education, psychosocial support and referrals where and when necessary.





7 likes

**fundamentalfilmseries** "Movement building is #fundamental because collectively women's voices can transform the world." Vision Spring Initiatives fights for gender justice in Nigeria. Part of their work includes mentoring girls and creating "circles of learning" to help enable young people to find their voices. @vsi\_ng launched the #MyBodyMyRight campaign, led by young people, holding government stakeholders accountable, and demanding comprehensive sexuality education and services.

Read more about other organizations leading the way for gender justice:  
<https://fundamental-film.com/defenders-of-justice/>

## 2. Education and Research

Nigeria is yet to have a 100% enrolment for girls as desired by the provisions of the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women (BWCW) Platform for Action (PFA). The gains made in the education sector seem to have been eroded by incessant insurgency attacks and abduction of girls. As at the time of this report, the Chibok girls kidnapped from their schools in Bornu have not been found. According to the British Council, Nigeria's out of school population is the largest in the world and it is growing. Of the staggering 10.5 million out of school children in Nigeria, the majority are girls. According to a 2019 Educeleb.com report obtained from the Federal Ministry of Education, Akwa Ibom, Sokoto and Katsina are the three leading states with highest prevalence of out of school girls.



Cross section of parents at the UNESCO supported education project

Comprehensive Sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls still have not received adequate attention. Through partnership between UNESCO and Education as a Vaccine the organisation was able to boost its school program. It became critical to reach parents through the parent-teachers association to understand their level of commitment to the education of girls. Others reached with this intervention are community leaders and school teachers.



Advocacy visit to the Oba of Igbogbo in Ikorodu Lagos by Vision Spring Initiatives staff

The organisation in partnership with Education as a Vaccine (EVA) and UNESCO hosted series of school programs from November 2019 to March 2020 in Lagos Nigeria. The 03 projects; our rights, our lives our future program 2018-2020 aims for a consistent reduction in new HIV infections, early and unintended pregnancy, gender based violence and child marriage. Training methods employed include slide presentations, role plays, group exercise, and experience sharing which proved very productive. This was evidenced by the increase in knowledge and pledge to attitudinal change and willingness to pass the knowledge gained at the end of the trainings by participants.

Training Manuals provided by EVA was utilised for training parents and community leaders. A total of 400 parents, 30 religious and community leaders and 200 community members were reached through outreach activities across the two (2) Local Council Development Areas. (Ikorodu and Kosofe).

Training beneficiaries at Kosofe included Child protection Network representative, secretary general of the market association, Christian association of Nigeria, Chief Imam of kosofe LGA, members of community development committee (CDC), Community development association (CDA), and representative of widows in Kofose. Ikorodu training for religious and traditional leaders took place on Dec 7 and 9, 2019. In attendance were the local chiefs comprising the Odofin, Otunba okunrin, balogun , baales of Offin, Lajo, Igbe and Eregidon. The 03 project was introduced to the gate keepers, intimating them of the importance of family life and health education. (FLHE) They were reminded

of their role as community leaders. They confirmed that report of child abuse, early pregnancies and sexual violence was on the increase as they receive such reports on daily basis. They were encouraged to intensify effort at ensuring that perpetrators of sexual violence are brought to book, while they have the responsibility to ensure that sexual and reproductive health and rights information are disseminated by parents and other trusted adults. They discussed some of the reports they received in the past, promising to partner with civil society to tackle some of the complaints. They undertook to do the following at end of the two-day training:

- Partner with civil society organisations to end violence against women and girls in their communities
- Advocate for the education of women and girls as a means of ending all forms of sexual violence
- Build capacity of men and boys to become partners and respect the rights of women
- Build capacity of police in responding to cases of violence against women and girls
- Support parents and educational institutions in providing SRHR information
- Report cases of rape and other forms of harassment to appropriate authorities and ensure follow up.

One of the outcome of the activities was the organisations resolve to start a more structured school event.

In 2020, the organisation commenced the #Girlimpactproject, through a Google drive the organisation received 70 applications. A total of 20 volunteers were trained while 15 were certified and currently conduct the organisations' school program. For more information Kindly visit <https://visionspringinitiatives.org/girl-impact-project/>



### 3. Participatory Leadership / Political education Project

Vision Spring Initiatives' thematic area on women's leadership was enhanced with series of training and mentorship program through Nigerian Women Trust Fund. The knowledge gained through this consultancy was stepped down to its constituency. Using the raising our voices on ending violence against women and girls training Manual developed by the Nigerian Women Trust Fund, the organisation held trainings encouraging women to aspire to leadership positions. Part of the topics covered in the training s include: Violence against women and girls and its manifestations, legal and institutional frameworks for ending violence against women and girls, raising voices to end violence against women and girls. Through these sessions, challenges of violence against women and how it affects their leadership aspirations were discussed with participant making useful contributions on how to end all form of violence.

Particular emphasis was paid to Sustainable Development Goal 5 which holds promises to advance women's rights with targets on ending gender based violence, eliminating child marriage, and female genital mutilation, educating, expanding women's economic opportunities and reducing burden of unpaid work. Others include ensuring access to Sexual and reproductive health and rights and helping women against their background of marginalisation.



Training session for young women and girls at Irawo, Ikorodu LGA

In 2020, Vision Spring Initiatives joined the Nigerian Women Trust Fund as a plaintiff and member of the Legal Strategy Team to challenge women’s poor representation in appointive and elective positions in Nigeria. The organisation appeared in Court in December 2, 2020 alongside other organisation in a suit against the President of Nigeria. The lawyer representing Vision Spring Initiatives and other plaintiffs is Falana and Falana Chambers. The following are currently the members of the Legal Strategy Team:

- Nigerian Women Trust Fund
- Women Empowerment and Legal Aid
- Women in Politics Forum
- Centre for Democracy and Development
- Women Advocate Research and Documentation Centre
- Vision Spring Initiatives
- FIDA Nigeria
- YIAGA AFRICA
- 100 Women Lobby Group



Vision Spring Initiatives in court as a Plaintiff seeking an enforcement of women's participation in decision making

The hearing of the case was adjourned to February 5 2021 and holds at the Federal High court Abuja. On February 5, a few members were physically in court due to Covid-19 pandemic. On the said date, the defendants to the case pleaded for an adjournment. The case was adjourned till April 13, 2021.

#### **4. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

In 2019 and 2020 the organisation hosted series of activities on the thematic area of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD-PoA) of 1994 has been a reference consensus document on the protection and promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights for ALL. This PoA was not developed and agreed upon without any controversy but what prevails today unequivocally is that EVERYONE is entitled to their sexual and reproductive health rights as part of the enjoyment of their human rights and that they are central to health, well-

being and development. At the ICPD, which held in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994 there was a consensus that sexual and reproductive health and rights were already recognized and protected in already existing national and international consensus documents, treaties and instruments therefore what was necessary at the time was to develop a global strategy and actions to achieve an ideal world of quality health for all and access to SRHR



In recognition of this commitment, Vision Spring Initiatives held the first Tribunal on ending unsafe abortion in Nigeria. The Tribunal had 50 participants including survivors of sexual violence and unsafe abortion who gave their testimonies. The goals of the Mock Tribunal included: to increase awareness and enhance public education of the SRHR needs of girls aged 18-24, break the silence on SRHR issues in Nigeria and gain commitment for the implementation of the Universal

Health Coverage Declaration; and to enhance partnership with lawmakers, religious and traditional leaders and media towards change in social norms.



VSI volunteer during a refresher training

Patriarchal attitudes are still at play in deciding the fate of women and contribute negatively to how women are regarded in making decisions on their reproductive health and rights. Despite the provisions in international and regional treaties, and consensus documents about the rights of the women to decide the number and spacing of their children, these rights are still censored; preventing women from enjoying these rights fully. It suffices to mention here that having women to make decisions on their reproductive health and rights does not rule out male equal responsibility in the decision-making process but to accord women the ultimate decision-making power of the use of their bodies. The Tribunal held by Vision Spring initiatives addressed issues of bodily autonomy and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights. The lessons from the Tribunal informed the need to create a platform to help young people navigate the various challenges they face in receiving adequate information. This was the creation of the #GirlimpactProject.



Girl impact project volunteers

The project currently trains 200 students in two schools in two local government areas of Lagos state; Sceptre International Secondary School Kosofe and De Keepers International School Ikorodu. The organisation developed one year manual comprising topics on Self-esteem, gender and sex, human rights, ending gender based violence, career choices and development and sexual and reproductive health and rights.





While this training aims to provide coordinated approach and response to SRHR, our overall goal is to have a balanced society and serve the development needs of young women and men in secondary schools in Nigeria.



We hope that other schools and institutions might replicate or partner with Vision Spring Initiatives. The project is also preparatory steps to the establishment of VSI's gender and leadership institute.

## 5. Networks/Exchange Program / Youth Outreach:

In 2019 the organisation partnered with and attended a number of initiatives hosted by sister organisation. By 2020, most events were held via zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.



VSI's zoom meeting event

### Reports of meetings attended:

#### 1. WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AND THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY, 2020

Tobi represented the organization at a two day capacity building workshop for advocates on the elimination of violence against women and girls in Ikorodu LGA of Lagos state implemented by the Centre for women's Health and Information. Participants were trained on key concepts and value clarification on Gender, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. The workshop also treated areas on how to access justice for violence against women and girls and sexual and gender based violence survivors in Lagos state with the legal frameworks, issues and concerns and understanding the results framework of SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE and how as advocates we can contribute meaningfully to the overall project results.

The training enabled creation of partnerships and community engagement with other CSOs in order to achieve the project objectives. Through this project, VSI joined the ONLINE SPOTLIGHT CAMPAIGN TO END VAWG and have been able to skilfully engage and advocate with community gatekeepers to eliminate VAWG.



VSI representatives and other participants at the workshop.

## *2. MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2020*

Vision Spring Initiatives was represented at the CSOs Shadow Report on Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing+25 with focus on SRHR). This validation process was implemented by the Women Advocates Research and Development Centre(WARDC) in collaboration with BraveHeart Initiative (BHI), Edo state, Women’s Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON) and Centre for Organizational Development (COD) with support from IPAS. The shadow report was reviewed by working in groups. VSI was in the group that discussed four strategic objectives and actions which included:

- Women and poverty
- Education and training of women
- Women and health
- Violence against women

The reports were reviewed and additional input recommended.



VSI representative Tobi Ayodele in the group photograph

### *3. FRIDAY MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2020*

The legal analysis of proposed protection from internet falsehood, manipulations and other related matters bill program was organized by the Spaces for Change (S4C) where CSOs, media and other relevant stakeholders analysed the proposed PROTECTION FROM THE INTERNET FALSEHOODS, MANIPULATIONS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS BILL which was the latest addition to the long list of legislative proposals that hold enormous potential to restrict the civic spaces and push back on the growing citizen's ability to scrutinize government's actions. After the analysis it was observed that the bill reproduced several sections of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention,) Act of 2015, with only minimal modifications. An Action Group on free civic space was formed and the #NoSocialMediaBill campaign was birthed where VSI participated in the online and offline activities to ensure the stoppage of the passage of the bill.

### *4. WEDNESDAY 27 MAY, 2020*

On Wednesday 27 May 2020, VSI hosted a webinar on **IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS: TACKLING MISSED OPPORTUNITIES**. In attendance were over 20 civil society organizations and partners working on SRHR in Nigeria. The panel discussion highlighted solutions to problems identified by CSOs after the lockdown was announced in Nigeria and there was an alarming increase in the number of

sexual and gender based violence cases across the states. The panellists in their response gave actionable solutions which includes acknowledging CSOs as service providers to respond to SGBV cases and access to survivors, provide SRH information as much as possible online and collaborate with other CSOs to tackle identified issues.

#### *5. June-August 2020*

VSI participated in both virtual and physical workshops organized by FIDA Lagos state and Spotlight Initiative on Gender Responsive Budgeting and Evaluation of Budget Utilization on eliminating violence against women and girls and access to SRHR services. These workshops built our capacity in analyzing state budget and monitoring government spending. VSI was selected to be part of the representatives to pay advocacy visit to the parliamentarians of Lagos state to dialogue on recommendations discussed from the workshops.

#### *#ENDSARS PROTEST – OCTOBER 2020*

Nationwide protests against police brutality began on Oct. 8, after a video emerged in early October showing police officers thought to be from the notorious Special Anti-Robbery Squad, or (SARS allegedly shooting and killing a young man in Nigeria’s southern Delta State. Although Nigerian authorities denied the reports, protests erupted across the country calling to disband the unit and #EndSARS. The demonstrations was mostly driven by young people who say they have been unfairly profiled by SARS. SARS have allegedly raped women, kidnap young people and extort money from them. VSI joined in the protest physically and virtually.

#### *VSI Refresher Training-October 2020*

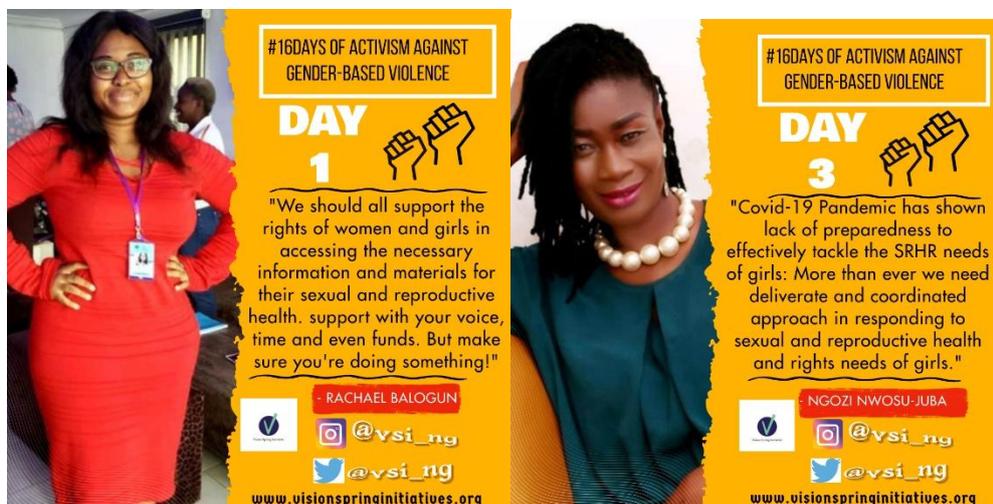
After the first Training of Trainers on SRHR for the GirlImpact Project in August, there was closure of secondary schools due to the increase in number of cases of Covid-19 pandemic. In October when schools reopened, VSI organized one-day refresher training for the volunteers before starting the sessions with the students. This was combined with a mental health session where participants discussed the EndSars protest and how activists were affected by it. The volunteers used the opportunity to amplify the importance of comprehensive

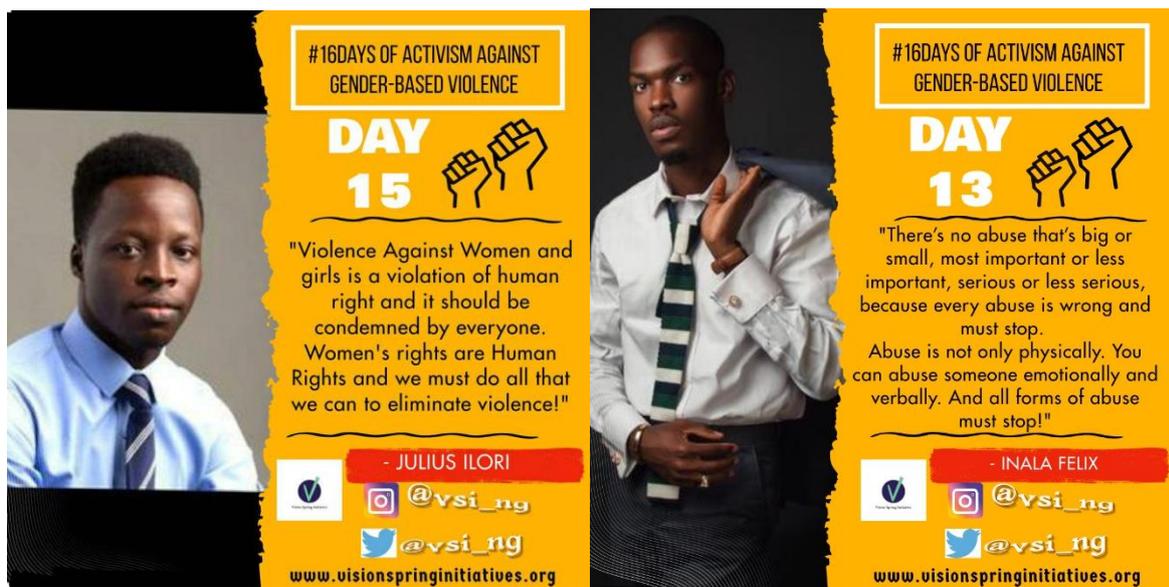
sexuality education using designed placards with Sexual and Reproductive messages.



VSI volunteer at the training

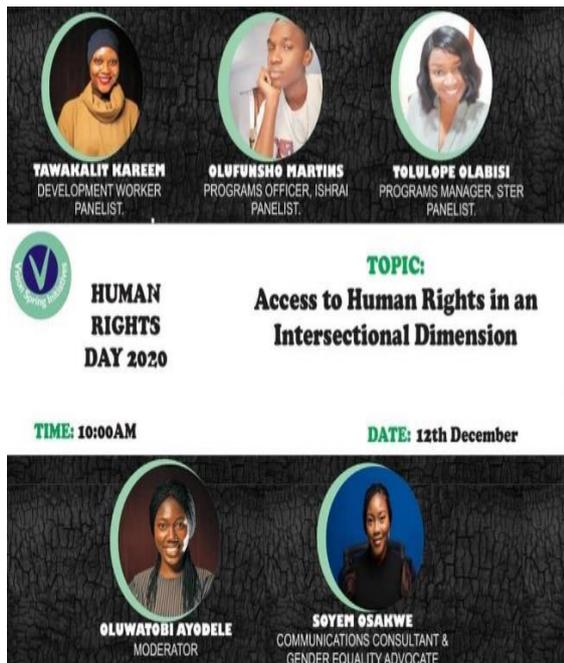
Every November 25 begins the 16 days of activism to end violence against women and girls. The 2020 campaign factored in the rise of violence against women and girls recorded all over the world due to the lockdown caused by the covid-19 pandemic. VSI also recorded increased cases of rape of children and sexual harassment of teenagers and women during the lockdown. For 16 days, VSI's SRHR advocates and trainers spoke on how access to sexual and reproductive services can be improved in Nigeria especially in a covid-19 world. Advocacy targeted mainly the federal government, ministry of health, ministry of women affairs and poverty alleviation and state governors, especially since the declaration of #StateofemergencyGBV in all the 36 states including the Federal Capital Territory.





Some quotes from the campaign by VSI staff, volunteer and male champions

On the 12 of December 2020 was Universal Health Coverage Day and VSI celebrated it alongside Human Rights Day which was December 10. The theme for UHC was Health for all: protect everyone. VSI held a panel session with young feminists and other activists to discuss **“Access to Human Rights in an Intersectional Dimension”**. The session highlighted how we all hold multiple social identities simultaneously, such as race, gender, and sexuality and how Intersectionality examines how multiple oppressed identities interact to create overlapping and compounding systems of disadvantage. At the end of the session, it was agreed that everyone need to respect the voice of those most affected by issues by centering their voices, respecting their goals for their communities, and stepping aside and allowing them to serve as spokespeople for their own causes. Valuing voice means lifting up, promoting, and supporting the leadership and storytelling of those most affected by policies and practices and centering their substantive suggestions and values into any given project and media advocacy. The print and Television media were also present to discuss their role in ensuring universal health coverage is achieved in Nigeria and no group is left behind.



Participants and panellists at the event

### ***Publications***

Through its publications the organisation highlighted the issues that affect women and girls –through the publications it built awareness and shared knowledge with other sister organisation who used the publication for research and advocacy. The following publication were published by the organisation

- Paper to Practice: Survivors of Unsafe Abortion tell their stories:  
<https://visionspringinitiatives.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/PAPER-TO-PRACTICE.pdf>
- Sexual Violence: An epidemic in a Pandemic:  
<https://visionspringinitiatives.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Sexual-Violence-An-Epidemic-in-a-pandemic..pdf>
- 
- 8 ways to teach your child about bodily autonomy and consent-published in English and Pidgin English.

They can all be downloaded from VSI website at [www.visionspringinitiatives.org](http://www.visionspringinitiatives.org)

**VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**WILSON AWHARINTEFE & CO  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**

**VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE**  
Audited financial statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

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## VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE

Audited financial statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

### CORPORATE INFORMATION

REGISTERED OFFICE 2B, Kofoworola Street, Dele Kuti Estate, Beach Road Ebute, Ikorodu, Lagos State

Email: [visionspringinitiatives@yahoo.com](mailto:visionspringinitiatives@yahoo.com)

[visionspringprojects@yahoo.com](mailto:visionspringprojects@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.visionspringinitiatives.org](http://www.visionspringinitiatives.org)

Facebook: visionspringinitiatives

Twitter: @vsi\_ng

AUDITORS: Wilson Awharintefe & Co  
Chartered Accountants,  
59, Dayo Akinyemi Street,  
Owutu-Ikorodu, Lagos.

SOLICITORS K.C. Umenjamma Esq.  
Attorney at law, Patent Trademark, corporate and property  
Consultants.  
1, Atiba Street, Opposite Binitie Hotel, Computer Village,  
Ikeja, Lagos.

BANKERS Polaris Bank  
Ogudu Road, Ojota Lagos.

BOARD MEMBERS  
Dr. Ann Ojimba  
Dr. Toyin Ajao  
Barrister Chioma Ogwuegbu  
Barrister Nkemdilim Amelia Izuako  
Dolapo Dola-lami  
Baijatu Bello  
Ngozi Nwosu-Juba

Wilson Awharintefe & Co  
Chartered Accountants

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## VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE

Audited financial statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

### Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

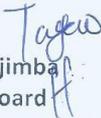
The companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 requires Director to prepare financial statements for each financial period that give a true and fair view of the state of financial affairs of the company at the end of the period and of its profit and loss. The responsibilities include ensuring that the company:

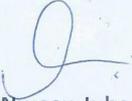
- a) Keeps proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the company and comply with the requirements of the companies and Allied Matters Act 1990;
- b) Establishes adequate internal controls to safeguard its assets and to prevent and detect fraud and other regularities; and
- c) Prepares its financial statements using suitable accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates, and are consistently applied.

The Directors accept responsibility for the annual financial statements, which have been prepared using appropriate accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates, in conformity with Nigerian Accounting Standards and the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Directors are of the opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial affairs of the company and of its profit or loss. The directors further accept responsibility for the maintenance of accounting records that may be relied upon in the preparation of financial statements, as well as adequate systems of internal financial control.

Nothing has come to the attention of the directors to indicate that the company will not remain a going concern for at least twelve months from the date of this statement.

  
Dr. Ann Ojimba  
Chair of Board

  
Ngozi Nwosu-Juba  
Project Director

Wilson Awharintefe & Co  
Chartered Accountants

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# Wilson Awharintefe & Co.

(Chartered Accountants)

59, Dayo Akinyemi Str., Owutu - Agric Ikorodu.

E-mail: [Wilsonola2015@yahoo.com](mailto:Wilsonola2015@yahoo.com)

Tel: 081 8430 2947, 070 3038 9554

## VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE

Audited financial statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

10<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

### REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

#### TO MEMBERS OF VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE.

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of Vision Spring Initiatives Ltd/Gte, for the ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, set out on pages 7 to 14, which have been prepared on the basis of significant accounting policies on page 10.

#### Board of Director's Responsibility for the financial statements

The board of directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Statements of Accounting Standards issued by Nigerian Accounting Standards Board and with the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAP C20 LFN, 2004. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Nigerian Standards on Auditing (NSAs) issued by the institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and in conformity with specific guidelines sometimes issued by funders of auditing the project(s) they sponsor. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan, and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Wilson Awharintefe & Co  
Chartered Accountants

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Partners: Wilson Awharintefe | Saheed Adegoke

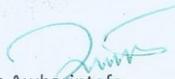
OPINION

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company financial position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 in accordance with statements of Accounting Standards issued by Nigerian Accounting Standards Board and the Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAP C20 LFN. 2004.

Report on other legal requirements

The Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAP C20 LFN,2004 requires that in carrying out our audit we consider and report to you on the following matters. We confirm that:

- 1) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.
- 2) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the company; and
- 3) The company's Balance sheet and inflow and outflow accounts are in agreement with the books of accounts.

  
Wilson Awharintefe  
FRC/2019/ICAN/00000019058  
For: WILSON AWHARINTEFE & CO  
(Chartered Accountants)  
Lagos.



## VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE

Audited Financial Statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	Note	2019 N	2018 N
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-current Asset:</b>			
Property, Plant & Machinery	1	4,213,200	4,094,350
<b>Current Asset:</b>			
Receivables		Nil	Nil
Rent prepaid		Nil	Nil
Bank & cash balances		<u>2,992,133</u>	<u>10,254,658</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>7,205,333</b>	<b>14,349,008</b>
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Audit fee		100,000	100,000
Sundry expenses		Nil	Nil
<b>Net asset</b>		<u><b>7,105,333</b></u>	<u><b>14,249,008</b></u>
 <b>FINANCED BY:</b>			
Accumulated fund	2	1,036,301	357,476
Grants	3	6,069,032	6,069,032
Utilized Fund c/fwd		NIL	<u>7,822,500</u>
<b>Total Funds Employed</b>		<u><b>7,105,333</b></u>	<u><b>14,249,008</b></u>

Dr. Ann Ojimba  
Chair of the Board

Directors

Ngozi Nwosu-Juba  
Project Director

Wilson Awharintefe & Co  
Chartered Accountants

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## VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE

Audited Financial Statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

### STATEMENT OF INFLOW AND OUTFLOW ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2019

		2019	2018
	Note	N	N
GROSS CASH INFLOW	5	34,406,385	36,036,900
LESS WORK IN PROGRESS			(7,822,500)
NET FLOW OF CASH		<u>34,406,385</u>	<u>28,214,400</u>
DEDUCT: OUTFLOW/ DISBURSEMENTS			
Projects Executed	6	31,931,000	25,814,304
Administrative Overhead	7	1,796,560	2,079,485
TOTAL OUTFLOW/DISBURSMENTS		<u>33,727,560</u>	<u>27,893,789</u>
EXCESS OF INFLOW OVER OUTFLOW		<u>678,825</u>	<u>320,611</u>

**VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE**  
Audited Financial Statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2019

	Share Capital	Accumulated Fund	Total Equity
	N	N	N
Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019	Nil	357,476	357,476
<i>Statement of Income &amp; Expenditure</i>			
Surplus		678,825	678,825
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	Nil	1,036,301	1,036,301
	N	N	N
Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2018	Nil	36,865	36,865
<i>Statement of Income &amp; Expenditure</i>			
Surplus		320,611	320,611
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	Nil	357,476	357,476

**VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE**  
Audited financial statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

Accounting Policies

1. Accounting Convention: The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.
2. Income: The Income shown in the accounts include all the amount received from donors for all programmes
3. Foreign Currency Transaction: Transaction arising in foreign currency are converted to Naira at the approximate rate of exchange ruling at the dates of the transaction. Foreign currency balances are converted to the Naira at the official rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Any differences arising on the conversion to Naira are dealt with in the statement of inflow and outflow.
4. Fixed Assets: Fixed Assets are stated at the cost less depreciation.
5. Depreciation: Depreciation charges on fixed assets are calculated at the following rates to write off the cost of the assets on a straight line basis over the expected useful lives of the assets.

Landed Property	0%
Office Equipment	20%
Furniture, Fittings, Books	15%

## VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE

Audited Financial Statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

NOTE: 1 FIXED ASSET

	LANDED PROPERTY N	OFFICE EQUIPMENT N	FURNITURE BOOKS & FITTING N	TOTAL N
Cost b/fwd.	3,950,000	597,150	286,000	4,833,150
Additions	<u>NIL</u>	<u>250,000</u>	<u>NIL</u>	<u>250,000</u>
Total	<u>3,950,000</u>	<u>847,150</u>	<u>286,000</u>	<u>5,083,150</u>
 DEPRECIATION:				
Brought Forward	NIL	571,400	167,400	738,800
For the year	<u>NIL</u>	<u>88,250</u>	<u>42,900</u>	<u>131,150</u>
Total	<u>NIL</u>	<u>659,650</u>	<u>210,300</u>	<u>869,950</u>
 NET BOOK VALUE:				
AT 31/12/19	3,950,000	187,500	75,700	4,213,200
AT 31/12/18	3,950,000	25,750	118,600	4,094,350

NOTE 2: ACCUMULATED FUND

	2019 N	2018 N
Accumulated Fund b/fwd.	357,476	36,865
Excess of inflow over outflow	<u>678,825</u>	<u>320,611</u>
Accumulated Fund c/fwd.	<u>1,036,301</u>	<u>357,476</u>

NOTE 3: GRANTS

	2019 N	2018 N
Grants b/fwd.	6,069,032	3,640,230
Loans by the board	<u>NIL</u>	<u>2,428,802</u>
Total c/fwd.	<u>6,069,032</u>	<u>6,069,032</u>

NOTE: 5

IN-FLOWS

SOURCE OF FUNDS RECEIVED:

	N
1. Global Fund for Women	4,950,000
2. Nigerian Women Trust Fund	3,000,000
3. UNESCO through EVA	1,000,000
4. Good Seed Petrochemical	7,000,000
5. ISDAO through UHAI EASHRI	5,610,000
6. COC Netherlands	7,066,385
7. International Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health	1,000,000
8. Astrea Lesbian Foundation	990,000
9. -Ajoke Ayisat Afolabi Foundation -Income from consultancy	450,000
10. University of Maryland (Baltimore)-Income from consultancy	200,000
11. Board Contribution to Publications	500,000
12. Support by International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)	<u>2,640,000</u>
Total funds	<u>34,406,385</u>

NOTE: 6 PROJECTS EXECUTED

	N
• Global Fund for Women	3,930,000
• Nigerian Women Trust Fund	3,000,000
• UNESCO through EVA	1,000,000
• Good Seed Petrochemical	6,900,000
• ISDAO through UHAI EASHRI	5,555,000
• COC Netherlands	6,966,000
• International Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health	1,000,000
• Astrea Lesbian Foundation	990,000
• Support by International Women's Health Coalition (IWHC)	<u>2,590,000</u>
Total	<u>31,931,000</u>

## VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE

Audited financial statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

### NOTE: 7 ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD

	2019	2018
	N	N
Office rent	700,000	400,000
Allowance to Voluntary Staff	369,600	860,000
Communication & Internet Expenses	100,000	127,675
Internet Modem	15,000	
Depreciation	131,150	132,400
Electricity & Generator Expenses	215,460	235,860
Printing & Stationery	56,400	75,800
Office General Expenses	80,300	109,100
Bank Charges	28,650	38,650
Audit Fee	<u>100,000</u>	<u>100,000</u>
Total	1,796,560	2,079,485

**VISION SPRING INITIATIVES LTD/GTE**

Audited financial statements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019

CASHFLOW STATEMENTS

	2019	2018
Cashflow from operating activities	N	N
Excess of income over expenditure	678,825	320,611
Add back depreciation	<u>131,150</u>	<u>132,400</u>
	809,975	453,011
Changes in working capital		
Decrease in current asset	Nil	300,000
Decrease in current liabilities	Nil	(78,600)
		<u>221,400</u>
Net cashflow from operating activities	809,975	674,411
Cashflow from investing activities		
Purchase of laptop	(250,000)	
Net cashflow from investing activities	(250,000)	
Cashflow from financing activities		
Grant	Nil	2,428,802
Utilized fund	<u>(7,822,500)</u>	<u>7,049,045</u>
Net cashflow from financing activities	<u>(7,822,500)</u>	<u>9,477,847</u>
Net cash & cash equivalent	<u>(7,262,525)</u>	10,152,158
Add: Opening cash at the beginning	<u>10,254,658</u>	<u>102,400</u>
Closing cash/cash equivalent at ending	<u>2,992,133</u>	<u>10,254,658</u>

## **Personnel**

Ngozi Nwosu-Juba /Project Director  
Juliet Abuah / Accounts Officer  
Tobi Ayodele- Program Officer  
Tope Oshinaike / Counsellor (Part time)  
Adesoji Erewami /Admin Officer

## **Volunteers**

Opeyemi Fagbemi  
Rachael Balogun  
Temitope Fasuyi  
Juliana Botchey  
Chinonso Duru  
Anita Graham  
Aderonke Eseka  
Adebimpe Adebara  
Chika Blessing  
Abiola Kareem

## **Board Members**

Toyin Ajao  
Dolapo Dola-Lami  
Baijatu Bello  
Chioma Ogwuegbu  
Justice Nkem Izuako  
Dr. Ann Ojimba  
Ngozi Nwosu-Juba (ex-officio member)

## **Partners**

CSO League, Kenya

Interfaith Diversity Network of West Africa

FEMNET Kenya

Women Law Development Center of Nigeria (WLDCN)

Coalition for the Defence of Sexual Rights (CDSR)

LAGOSWOMEN2030

International Centre for Sexual and Reproductive health and rights (INCREASE)

De Keepers International School Ikorodu

Sceptre Secondary School Kosofe

Ajoke Ayisat Afolabi Foundation

## **Supporters**

Good-Seed Petrochemical Company

COC Netherlands (Consultancies)

International Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (INCREASE)

Global Fund for Women

Gofundme (Funds raised by Niyi)

UNESCO through Education as a Vaccine

Nigerian Women Trust Fund (consultancies)

ISDAO (fiscal hosting)

Women Advocacy, Research and Documentation Centre (consultancies)

Centre for Health and Information (Consultancies)

Board members' contribution in cash and kind

