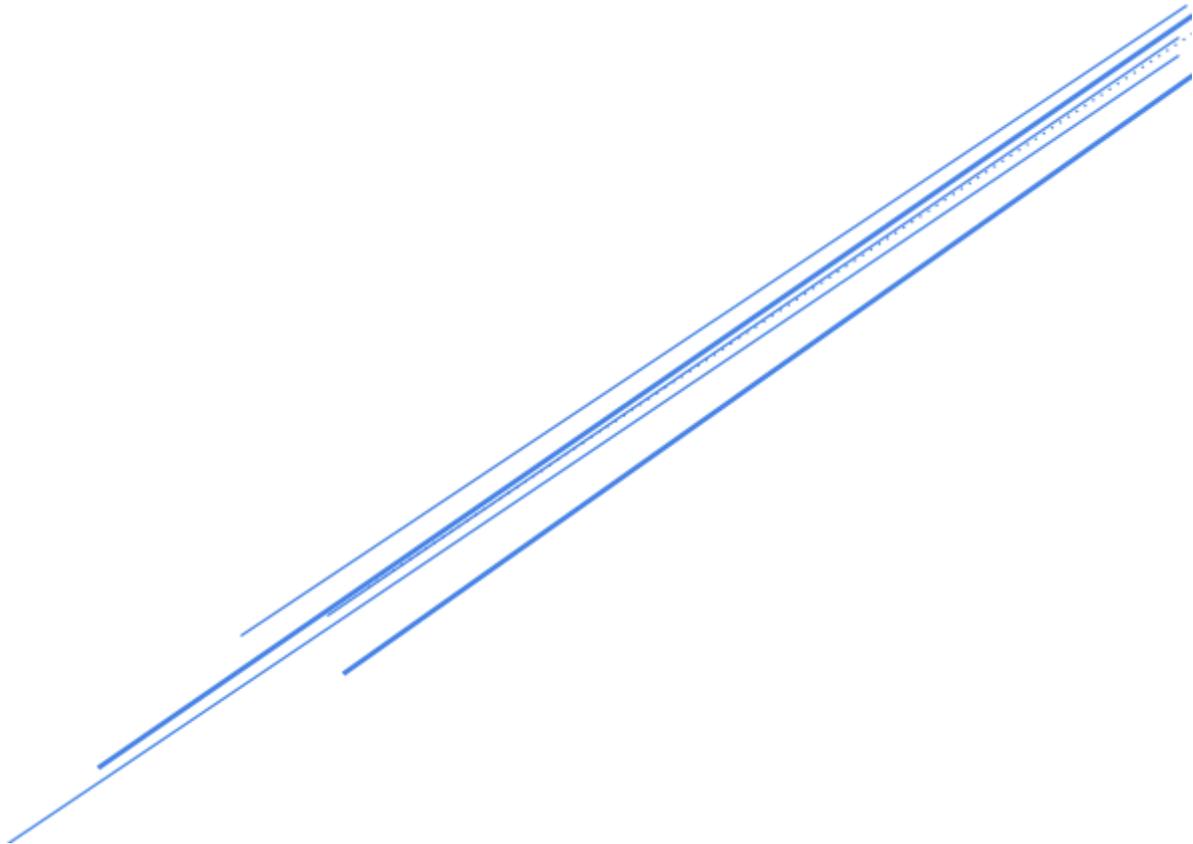


ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Vision Spring Initiatives
Rc. No. 908183



Executive Summary

Vision Spring Initiatives (VSI) experienced a period of deep reflection, strategic growth, and expanded advocacy during the year under review. Across this period, VSI strengthened internal systems, deepened partnerships, expanded capacity-building efforts, and advanced bold advocacy on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender justice, safe abortion, youth leadership, and inclusion. This annual report documents key activities, engagements, and milestones, reflecting VSI's continued commitment to rights-based, intersectional, and community-driven change.

This year, VSI marked its 15 years of existence and its long-standing work in supporting women and girls in Nigeria. Friends and partners were pleased to be part of the celebration and paid glowing tributes to the organisation. The milestone year provided an opportunity to take stock of the work done over the years and reflect on its impact on beneficiaries. However, the celebration was accompanied by a period of sober review. The situation for women and girls revealed troubling realities: rising cases of abuse and sexual and gender-based violence, continued resistance from gatekeepers, and instances where support—when offered—was merely tokenistic. These developments threatened to dim the light of VSI's celebration.

At the global level, the picture was no brighter. Increasingly, women and girls faced abuse at the hands of those entrusted with their protection, while world leaders appeared to retreat from their responsibility to uphold and defend human rights. At the national level, there was

significant pushback against gains made over the years. Hard-won laws, secured through decades of women's struggles, came under threat of withdrawal. At times, it felt as though everything was unravelling. In response, VSI intensified its efforts to strengthen voices and support women to challenge these injustices.

We remain deeply optimistic that the work we do-alongside other committed and well-meaning organisations, will yield lasting impact. We invite you to journey with us as we share highlights of our work in 2025.

Victoria Agholo
Communication Officer, VSI



Vision Spring Initiatives: Annual Report 2025

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VSI Thematic Areas

Gender Justice	Sexual and reproductive health and rights	Participatory leadership and political education
Education and Research	Partnerships and Movement building	

The Year 2025 in Numbers

- Training, workshops and dialogues: 67
- Collaborations and partnership: 12
- Multi-media advocacy: 100K
- Social media impressions: 531K
- Social media engagement: 47K
- Women and girls: 1500+
- Male engagement: 500+
- Press release: 20
- Award ceremonies: 2
- Educational institutions: 4
- Government agencies: 15
- Publications: 5
- Cases handled: 20
- Networks: 2
- States: 10
- Donors: 9



VSI Executive Director Mrs Ngozi Nwosu - Juba In NewYork for CSW

About Vision Spring Initiatives

Vision Spring Initiatives is a non-governmental organization dedicated to advancing gender equality, protecting the rights of women and girls, and promoting SRHR in Nigeria. Our mission is driven by a commitment to amplifying the voices of marginalized communities and fostering a society where all individuals can exercise their fundamental rights without fear or barriers.

Throughout 2025, VSI focused on five core areas of intervention; Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR): Ensuring access to comprehensive reproductive health information

and services for women and young girls. Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response: Strengthening support systems for survivors and advocating for stronger legal protections. Youth Empowerment and Leadership Development: Providing young women with mentorship, education, and career-building opportunities. Policy Advocacy and Civic Engagement: Influencing legal frameworks and policies that promote gender equality and human rights. Community Engagement and Capacity Building: Others include strengthening grassroots movements through education, training, and awareness campaigns.



Our ED alongside other delegates in New York For CSW

2025 Activities and Programs:

Organisational Strengthening, Advocacy, and Movement Building

The year opened with the organisation convening its annual staff retreat and strategic planning meeting, bringing together staff members, dedicated volunteers, and a member of the Board. The retreat created space for reflection on organisational performance, honest assessment of what was working and where improvement was needed, and collective planning for the year ahead. A key outcome of the meeting was the refinement of the organisation's strategic plan, with deliberate attention to embedding intersectionality and ensuring that advocacy efforts more accurately reflect the layered realities of the communities served. Discussions also explored creative advocacy approaches, particularly the use of art as a tool for storytelling, public engagement, and awareness-raising. In addition to setting strategic priorities, the retreat focused on strengthening internal processes, including capacity building as a continuous practice of learning and unlearning. Conversations on

integrity, accountability, and team culture reinforced the organisation's belief that how the work is done is as important as the outcomes it seeks to achieve. With direct input from a Board member, strategic conversations were grounded in both ambition and practical implementation, resulting in a shared sense of direction and renewed commitment across the team.



VSI annual staff retreat and strategic planning meeting

As part of its commitment to collaborative advocacy under the AmplifyChange Pamoja Project, the organisation convened a physical strategy meeting with members of its Strategy Team drawn from across Nigeria. The Strategy Team, established to develop a tailored approach to addressing the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) needs of young people, brought together media professionals, civil society leaders, legal experts, and representatives of public health institutions. A key highlight of the meeting was the screening of a documentary illustrating the healthcare challenges faced by young women in Nigeria, inspired by the organisation's earlier Mock Tribunal on unsafe abortion. Participants commended the organisation's sustained advocacy and emphasized the importance of coordinated, multi-stakeholder action to ensure accountability and policy commitment. The meeting resulted in a clear advocacy roadmap, including guidance on framing intervention language, drawing lessons from states with existing Safe Termination of Pregnancy Guidelines, and identifying priority stakeholders for engagement. These included commissioners across relevant ministries, law enforcement agencies, traditional and religious leaders, civil society actors, private healthcare practitioners, and youth-led organisations. Additional action points focused on reviewing existing state health policies, engaging advocacy working groups, assessing legal frameworks, and convening targeted stakeholder workshops. The meeting concluded with a resolution to deploy locally based Strategy Team members to engage decision-makers and sustain advocacy momentum.



Participants at the AmplifyChange Strategic Meeting

Governance, Compliance, and Institutional Accountability

VSI strengthened its governance and compliance systems through participation in a regulatory legal clinic convened by Spaces for Change. The clinic brought together civil society organisations, regulatory bodies, and financial institutions to build capacity on compliance with Nigeria's legal and financial frameworks, including the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing obligations, and internal financial controls. Sessions facilitated by representatives of the Corporate Affairs Commission, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, and the banking sector emphasized transparency, risk mitigation, and sound board governance. Participants were guided through risk assessment frameworks and encouraged to strengthen internal policies such as safeguarding, whistleblowing, and risk management. VSI committed to cascading these learnings internally, reinforcing its dedication to accountability and institutional integrity.



The organisation also engaged in global and regional policy spaces, including participation in an orientation and refresher session hosted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Youth Platform. The session provided insights into the structure and mandate of the Commission on Population and Development, its role within the UN system, and opportunities for civil society and youth engagement. Discussions emphasized the continued relevance of the ICPD Programme of Action in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, and sustainable development, particularly in the lead-up to the ICPD@30 milestone.

Further engagement on gender justice took place through participation in a convening focused on Beijing+30, bringing together civil society organisations, government representatives, and gender advocates to assess progress, challenges, and accountability mechanisms related to gender-based violence and women's rights in Nigeria. Through presentations, SWOT analysis, and state-level reflections, participants examined legislative gains, persistent gaps in enforcement, and emerging threats to gender justice. The organisation contributed updates on its Beijing+30 publication and reaffirmed its commitment to sustained advocacy, policy implementation, and accountability.

Engagement in Global, Regional, and National Policy Spaces

Capacity strengthening and movement building remained central to programme implementation through participation in a Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) training focused on establishing community-led movements for SRHR and safe abortion advocacy. The training brought together participants from civil society, human rights institutions, and professional bodies to examine personal values, cultural norms, and ethical considerations shaping SRHR policy and practice. Through interactive exercises, case

studies, and storytelling, participants explored stigma, gender-based violence, and systemic barriers to safe abortion access, culminating in the development of actionable advocacy plans aimed at strengthening grassroots mobilisation and policy engagement. Advocacy for women's political participation was further advanced through engagement in a media town hall that convened policymakers, development partners, civil society, and public figures. Discussions highlighted structural barriers limiting women's political inclusion, the benefits of gender-balanced governance, and policy solutions such as gender quotas, reserved seats, and mentorship pathways. The convening reinforced the organisation's commitment to amplifying women's voices and supporting structural reforms that enable equitable political participation.

At the sub-national level, the organisation conducted advocacy visits with key government officials and institutions to strengthen partnerships for women and girls' health under the AmplifyChange Pamoja Project. Engagements with representatives of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion, the Primary Health Care Board, and advocacy networks focused on access to comprehensive SRHR services, legal and policy constraints surrounding safe abortion, and opportunities for collaboration. Commitments were secured for joint initiatives, including community sensitisation, policy simplification into local languages, technical trainings, and town hall engagements, underscoring the value of relationship-building with state actors.



Our Executive Director, Ngozi Nwosu- Juba & Titilopemi Oriye conducted advocacy visits with key government officials and institutions to strengthen partnerships for women and girls' health under the AmplifyChange Pamoja Project

The organisation also hosted a Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) training for healthcare providers from Lagos and Oyo States under the AmplifyChange Pamoja Project. The training was designed to address biases, strengthen knowledge, and promote professional ethics in delivering non-judgmental, rights-based SRHR services. Through technical presentations, case studies, documentary screenings, and interactive group discussions, healthcare providers critically reflected on the legal, social, and medical dimensions of abortion care. Real-life testimonies from practitioners highlighted the prevalence of unsafe abortions and the consequences of restrictive laws on women's health. As the training concluded, participants committed to key action steps, including advocating for policy reforms to expand access to safe abortion, strengthening healthcare provider training, expanding comprehensive sexuality education to reduce unintended pregnancies, and increasing public awareness through engagement with religious leaders, communities, and the media. Post-training evaluations indicated shifts in attitudes and deeper understanding of patient-centred, empathetic care. Despite acknowledging ongoing challenges such as cultural resistance, legal constraints, and societal stigma, participants affirmed the urgency of collective advocacy to advance progressive SRHR policies that protect women's rights and reproductive autonomy.





Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) training for healthcare providers from Lagos and Oyo States

The organization deepened its advocacy, movement-building, and capacity-strengthening efforts through strategic partnerships, coalition engagement, and youth-focused programming. The organisation remained intentional about situating its work within broader national and regional conversations on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender justice, and institutional accountability, while strengthening internal and external capacities to sustain long-term impact. VSI's advocacy and communications work was reinforced through participation in a co-design and communications strategy process under the RAES Pamoja initiative. This engagement provided an opportunity to align advocacy narratives, refine messaging approaches, and strengthen collaboration among partners working to advance SRHR through coordinated, values-driven communication. The process underscored the importance of storytelling, strategic framing, and shared language in influencing public discourse and policy engagement.



VSI was represented at the AmplifyChange Pamoja Convening held in Lagos.

Further advancing its commitment to women-led advocacy, VSI participated in a co-creation and ideation workshop convened by the Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC) under the Women Lives Matter project, supported by AmplifyChange. The convening focused on driving transformative action for women's health by positioning safe abortion as a life-saving health service and a critical component of reproductive justice. Discussions highlighted Nigeria's disproportionately high maternal mortality rate and the role of unsafe abortion as a leading, yet preventable, contributor. The engagement emphasised the need to reform restrictive legal and policy frameworks, strengthen institutional capacity, and reinstate state-level guidelines that support access to safe termination of pregnancy for legal indications. VSI contributed to strategic conversations on stakeholder engagement, public awareness, and legal advocacy aimed at reducing stigma, protecting women's autonomy, and advancing rights-based health policies. Advocacy discussions during this period consistently framed unsafe abortion as an equity issue, recognising its disproportionate impact on young, poor, rural, and marginalised women who often lack access to accurate information and quality healthcare. VSI's approach centred on development-based advocacy that prioritises women's rights to life, dignity, and equitable treatment, while emphasising accountability from duty bearers, particularly government institutions. Conversations explored the role of skills building, social mobilisation, strategic messaging, and multi-stakeholder engagement in driving policy change, alongside the growing importance of digital tools such as social media, multimedia content, and online platforms in expanding reach, combating misinformation, and amplifying marginalised voices despite persistent challenges related to stigma, censorship, and digital exclusion.



VSI participated in a co-creation and ideation workshop convened by the Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center (WARDC) under the Women Lives Matter project, supported by AmplifyChange.

In parallel, VSI strengthened its engagement on ending sexual and gender-based violence through participation in a multi-sectoral capacity-building workshop hosted by CEWHIN. The workshop convened service providers, legal practitioners, activists, and government representatives to examine systemic gaps in the prevention of and response to violence against women, girls, and persons with disabilities. Sessions focused on gender equity, social inclusion, survivor-centred and ethical responses, distinctions within sexual violence cases, implementation of state action and sustainability plans, and improving access to justice for persons with disabilities. Through scenario-based learning, collaborative exercises, and action planning, participants were equipped with practical tools to strengthen coordinated responses at state and community levels, reinforcing VSI's commitment to inclusive, multi-sectoral approaches to addressing violence.

Youth empowerment remained a central pillar of VSI's work during this period through the implementation of a structured mentorship programme designed to support young women's personal development, skills acquisition, and economic empowerment. The programme paired mentees with experienced mentors across different states and sectors, using flexible virtual mentoring approaches to navigate challenges related to distance, health constraints, and internet access. Despite these limitations, mentors and mentees demonstrated resilience and steady progress through consistent engagement, tailored guidance, and goal-oriented support. The programme culminated in a graduation ceremony that celebrated the growth and achievements of the mentees, each of whom received startup capital to support their vocational or entrepreneurial pathways. The initiative strengthened individual capacity while reinforcing VSI's broader commitment to long-term youth empowerment and economic inclusion.



VSI Team, EmpowerHer 2.0 graduands & Religious Leaders

Coalition building and regional advocacy were further advanced through VSI's participation in a strategic meeting supporting the formation of the South West Safe Abortion Advocacy Coalition. The engagement focused on strengthening partnerships, refining advocacy strategies, and coordinating regional efforts to promote access to safe abortion. Sessions included values clarification discussions, legal analysis of abortion laws in Nigeria, and collective action planning, reinforcing shared commitments to rights-based advocacy and sustained movement building across the Southwest.



Recognising the emotional and psychological demands of advocacy work, VSI prioritised staff and partner wellbeing through participation in a virtual session focused on holistic approaches to personal and collective care. The session emphasised wellness as a balance of emotional, mental, spiritual, and communal health, particularly within resource-constrained and high-stress environments. Practical strategies discussed included creating safe spaces for healing and reflection, adopting flexible work structures and wellness policies, and fostering intergenerational care models. This focus underscored VSI's understanding that sustainable social change requires not only strong advocacy and policy engagement, but also intentional investment in the wellbeing and resilience of those driving the work.

Deepening Community Leadership, Institutional Accountability, and Inclusive Advocacy

Community engagement and norm transformation remained central to VSI's approach. Through a series of Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) training, the organisation worked closely with community and traditional leaders across Lagos, Oyo, and Osun States. These engagements created safe and reflective spaces for leaders to interrogate deeply held cultural and religious norms that perpetuate stigma, misinformation, and harmful practices related to women's bodily autonomy and SRHR. Using participatory methods such as real-life case studies, scenario-based discussions, and storytelling, participants explored the medical, ethical, and social dimensions of safe abortion, comprehensive sexuality education, and gender equality. Across these sessions, leaders demonstrated notable shifts in perception, openly acknowledging the role of misinformation and committing to using their influence to promote accurate information, challenge stigma, and advocate for gender-responsive and rights-based approaches within their communities.

These engagements reinforced the critical role of traditional and community leaders as allies in advancing reproductive justice at the grassroots level.



Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) training with community and traditional leaders



Our Executive Director, Mrs Ngozi Nwosu - Juba in New York for CSW

In Abia State, VSI collaborated with the Office of the Wife of the Governor, key ministries, and agencies to deliver a multi-day capacity-building programme for law enforcement officers focused on strengthening coordinated responses to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The training emphasised survivor-centered, rights-based approaches and clarified the roles and responsibilities of state and non-state actors. High-level commitments emerged during the programme, including the announcement of a State GBV Response Team and Committee, alongside plans for the establishment of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre. Participants engaged deeply with legal frameworks, accountability mechanisms, and referral pathways, with recommendations calling for continuous training, strengthened survivor support networks, and enhanced collaboration with community gatekeepers.





VSI collaborated with the Office of the Wife of the Governor of Abia state her excellency Mrs. Priscilla Otti, Key ministries, and agencies to deliver a multi-day capacity-building programme for law enforcement officers focused on strengthening coordinated responses to sexual and gender-based violence

VSI further extended its capacity-building efforts to young women across Abia State, convening a large-scale training that brought together participants from all local government areas. The programme strengthened young women's knowledge of SRHR, gender equality, and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act, while equipping them with practical skills for advocacy, peer education, and survivor support. Discussions addressed harmful practices, the drivers and consequences of sexual violence, and the importance of youth-led advocacy in demanding accountability and reform. Participants and facilitators alike underscored the urgency of operationalising Sexual Assault Referral Centres and sustaining meaningful government–youth collaboration to address SGBV effectively.



VSI further extended its capacity-building efforts to young women across Abia State; providing knowledge on responding to sexual and gender-based violence



VSI Executive Director, Mrs Ngozi Nwosu-Juba with Abia State Senior Special Assistant to Governor of Abia State, Chief Ifeoma Thomas & FIDA chair, Barrister Akudo Amanamba

At the national and global levels, VSI remained actively engaged in policy and learning spaces shaping SRHR and human rights discourse. Participation in a global virtual convening hosted by the World Health Organization provided insights into newly released guidelines aimed at improving adolescent reproductive health and preventing early pregnancy in low-and

middle-income countries. The session reaffirmed the importance of age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and rights-based education, as well as the removal of systemic barriers limiting adolescents' access to contraception and reproductive healthcare. These discussions strengthened VSI's alignment with global evidence and reinforced its advocacy for adolescent girls' autonomy, access, and protection.

Sub-national advocacy remained a critical focus through sustained engagement with government institutions in Oyo State. Follow-up advocacy visits to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion and the State Primary Health Care Board advanced dialogue on strengthening legal protections, improving access to SRHR services, and developing state-owned guidelines on the safe termination of pregnancy for legal indications. These engagements yielded commitments toward policy review processes, translation of the VAPP Act into local languages to enhance grassroots accessibility, and renewed discussions on establishing functional Domestic and Sexual Violence Help Centres modelled on best practices from other states. Parallel engagements with development partners further strengthened alignment under ongoing collaborative projects, including efforts to support legislative reforms addressing unwanted pregnancy and unsafe abortion.



Follow-up advocacy visits to the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Inclusion and the State Primary Health Care Board

VSI also convened and participated in multi-stakeholder dialogues aimed at advancing inclusive SRHR advocacy. A regional SRHR summit in Oyo State brought together traditional leaders from multiple states to engage in candid discussions on safe abortion and the realities facing vulnerable populations. While initial resistance reflected the sensitivity of the subject, sustained dialogue, survivor testimony, and expert contributions shifted conversations toward empathy, shared responsibility, and collective action, marking an important step in breaking silence around taboo issues.



VSI team hosted a regional SRHR Summit in Oyo State with stakeholders

VSI participated in a stakeholder meeting hosted by SID to support the development of a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Advocacy Toolkit. The meeting aimed to foster collaboration in shaping a resource that advances SRHR advocacy, particularly among adolescent girls, young women, and other marginalized groups. The session opened with a presentation on SID's mission and its upcoming toolkit project, followed by a detailed overview of the toolkit's purpose, content, and intended impact. Participants engaged in an interactive exercise to assess their understanding of key SRHR-related frameworks and terminologies such as ICPD, CEDAW, VAPP, and PLHIV. SID's Executive Director also provided background on the organization's history, highlighting its work through the We Lead Project, which promotes SRHR access for marginalized populations. A working session allowed participants to review and provide feedback on sample content from the toolkit. Discussions emphasized the need for greater accessibility, including adaptations for visually impaired users, voice input integration, and QR-coded digital versions to enhance reach in underserved areas. The meeting concluded with a debrief and collective agreement on next steps,

reinforcing the importance of inclusive, collaborative advocacy tools that address the diverse realities of the communities they aim to serve.

The organization participated in a five-day capacity-building workshop on Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and financial management organized by RAES Pamoja. The workshop focused on strengthening participants' knowledge and skills in M&E and finance and was structured around the project's high-level theory of change aimed at increasing popular support for abortion rights in Nigeria by August 2026. Key impact areas included improved public attitudes, reduced stigma, and expanded access to accurate information and safe abortion services. Participants engaged in group exercises to define strategic objectives and measurable results, including increased awareness among youth, positive media narratives, improved knowledge of abortion laws, increased social acceptance, and reduced stigmatizing attitudes among healthcare providers and religious leaders. Activities such as documentary screenings, theatre performances, campus tours, and art exhibitions were designed to engage diverse audiences and stimulate dialogue. Monitoring and evaluation tools, including surveys, focus groups, and feedback forms, were integrated to assess reach, impact, and behavioural change. The workshop concluded with strengthened collaboration, improved advocacy capacity, and a shared commitment to advancing reproductive rights and health equity in Nigeria.



VSI participated in a five-day capacity-building workshop on Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) and financial management organized by RAES Pamoja.

Vision Spring Initiatives also convened a strategic meeting to initiate the creation of an inclusive, youth-led network aimed at amplifying the voices of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, LBQ youth, and young people living with HIV. The meeting focused on co-designing a participatory structure grounded in feminist values,

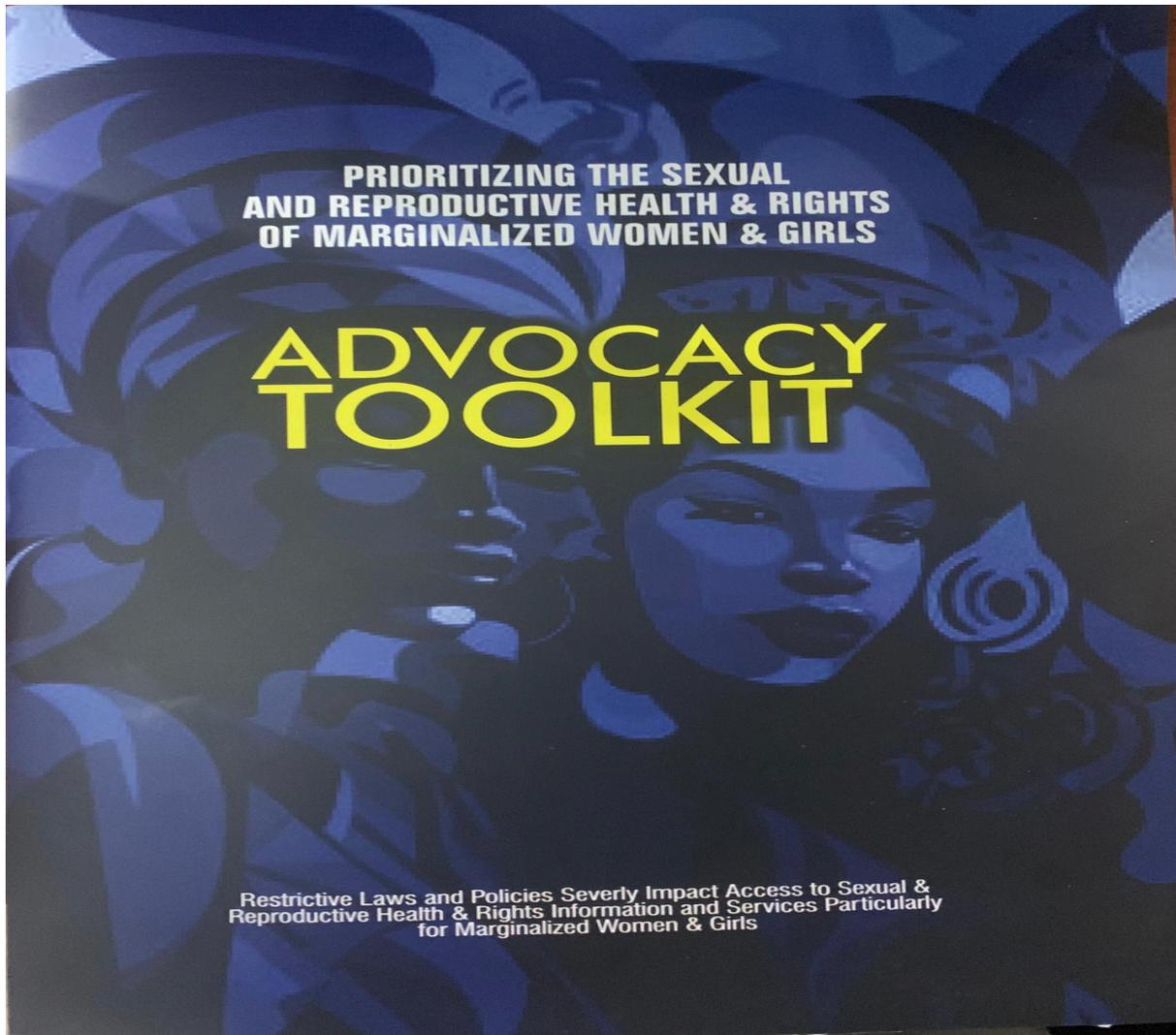
intersectionality, and grassroots representation. Participants discussed the network's vision, structure, and operational teams spanning advocacy, media, communications, programs, monitoring and evaluation, and community engagement, with WhatsApp agreed as the primary internal communication platform. Potential network names proposed included LILAN, MAAR, GENERATION I, BETTER ALPHA, and SYNERG-I. Sessions on grant writing, digital advocacy, and financial planning emphasized fundraising strategies, storytelling for visibility, and financial sustainability. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to formalize the network, establish leadership, and begin implementation, marking a key step toward inclusive, youth-driven national advocacy.



Strategic meeting to initiate the creation of an inclusive, youth-led network aimed at amplifying the voices of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, LBQ youth, and young people living with HIV.

A validation meeting was held to review the newly developed Inclusive Advocacy Toolkit, engaging diverse stakeholders including persons with disabilities, LBQ individuals, people living with HIV, and government representatives. The meeting aimed to ensure the toolkit's relevance, accessibility, and practicality in advancing inclusive advocacy and human rights in Nigeria. Building on insights from a previous inclusive network workshop, participants reviewed the toolkit's content on advocacy planning, message framing, stakeholder

engagement, and outcome monitoring, and provided feedback emphasizing accessibility and local language translation. Key recommendations included developing audio versions, organizing community sensitization sessions, creating a training manual, and establishing a follow-up mechanism to track usage. The session reaffirmed VSI's commitment to inclusive, participatory development and marked an important step toward finalizing and deploying the toolkit nationwide.



Vision Spring Initiatives (VSI), alongside stakeholders such as the Baale of Ibeshe, participated in the We Lead sustainability workshop to reflect on achievements, document lessons learned, and co-create strategies for sustaining youth-led, inclusive SRHR interventions beyond the project's funding cycle. Through participatory sessions including SWOT analysis and stakeholder mapping, participants identified short- and long-term actions, reinforced rights-holder leadership, accountability, and community ownership, and strengthened networks for continued collaboration.



VSI alongside stakeholders participated in the We Lead sustainability workshop

VSI also took part in a town hall organized by the League of Women Voters of Nigeria (NILOWV) advocating for special reserved seats for women in National and State Assemblies, mobilizing broad support from women-led groups, traditional and religious leaders, and other stakeholders to address gender imbalance in political leadership. In addition, VSI engaged in the GPPAC West Africa meeting to review regional peacebuilding efforts, share lessons from the international steering meeting, and strengthen national-level engagement and coordination among thematic working groups.



Our Executive Director, Mrs Ngozi Nwosu Juba and Mrs Toun Okewale Sonaiya, CEO-Women Radio

VSI also organized a two-day multi-stakeholder SRHR summit in Ibadan, bringing together government ministries, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to advance sexual and reproductive health and rights for vulnerable groups, with a focus on safe abortion. The summit fostered open dialogue, highlighted survivor experiences, and facilitated multi-sectoral collaboration, marking a critical step toward breaking stigma and centering the needs of marginalized populations.



VSI & Stakeholders SRHR Summit In Ibadan with a focus on ending unsafe abortion

The organization actively participated in multiple high-level dialogues, training, and advocacy initiatives focused on strengthening research, digital security, human rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) across Nigeria. In one session, the organization's Executive Director, Ngozi Nwosu-Juba represented VSI at a conversation on enhancing policy and decision-making through research and data in Africa. The dialogue highlighted the persistent reliance on regional and international research at the expense of Nigeria's own knowledge production and storytelling capabilities. Panelists identified critical challenges, including limited research funding, inadequate capacity, and low confidence in locally generated data. Recommendations emphasized the need to decolonize knowledge, invest in exploratory research, foster creativity among young people, encourage indigenous donors, and strengthen confidence in Nigerian research outputs.



VSI Executive Director Ngozi Nwosu-Juba represented VSI at a conversation on enhancing policy and decision-making through research and data in Africa.

VSI also joined a virtual session organized by WeLead on the Digital Defenders Partnership (DDP), which supports SRHR organizations through emergency and resilience-oriented funding. Participants learned about DDP's four funding mechanisms: the Incident Response Fund, Sustainable Protection Fund, Regional Partnership Fund, and Community Network Fund, designed to support digital security, regional online freedom, and collaborative skill-building among rapid responders. The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, providing participants with guidance on leveraging DDP resources to strengthen organizational digital resilience. The organisation engaged in advocacy for civic freedoms, represented at a media briefing addressing human rights violations and suppression of civic participation in Ebonyi State. The briefing focused on the politically motivated detention of a human rights defender and highlighted broader threats to democratic principles. Civil society actors called for national and international interventions to uphold justice, emphasizing that civic engagement should never be criminalized.



Our Executive Director, Mrs Ngozi Nwosu- Juba with Senator Natasha Hadiza Akpoti Uduaghan In NewYork For CSW

VSI attended the Hivos We Lead Nigeria Country Close-Out Event, celebrating the achievements of the We Lead Project. The event showcased enhanced access to SRHR information and services, policy contributions, and the empowerment of rightsholders to lead community-driven advocacy. A panel discussion on sustainability and collaboration, alongside performances from youth advocates, highlighted the importance of sustaining progress in advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights, particularly for marginalized women and girls. Representatives of the organization also facilitated an intensive training for call center and response agents on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) response, equipping participants with knowledge on trauma-informed communication, ethical crisis handling, referral pathways, and self-care practices. The training enhanced participants' capacity to provide empathetic, professional, and survivor-centered services.



VSI attended the Hivos We Lead Nigeria Country Close-Out Event, celebrating the achievements of the We Lead Project.

In efforts to strengthen adolescent-focused initiatives, VSI participated in a State-Level Roundtable Dialogue adapting the global Agenda for Action for Adolescents framework to the Nigerian context. Discussions focused on education, health, mental well-being, legal enforcement, social protection, stigma reduction, and youth agency, with emphasis on youth centers as platforms for skills development, health services, and recreation, supported by consistent government funding.

The organization proudly launched the Ayesha Imam Leadership Institute, unveiled its youth center, the Ayesha Imam Leadership Institute, a youth hub dedicated to building, empowering leaders and shaping brighter futures. The launch event, held in Odonguyan, Ikorodu, marked a significant milestone in VSI's continued efforts to promote youth development, participatory leadership, and inclusive learning environments. Named in honor of Ayesha Imam, mentor to the organization project director. The center symbolizes legacy, mentorship, and sustained impact. Attendees explored the various rooms and learned about the planned activities for youth empowerment. A major highlight of the day was the unveiling of the institute's signage, symbolizing the official recognition of the center. The launch concluded with brief remarks that reinforced the vision behind the center and its role in shaping future initiatives.



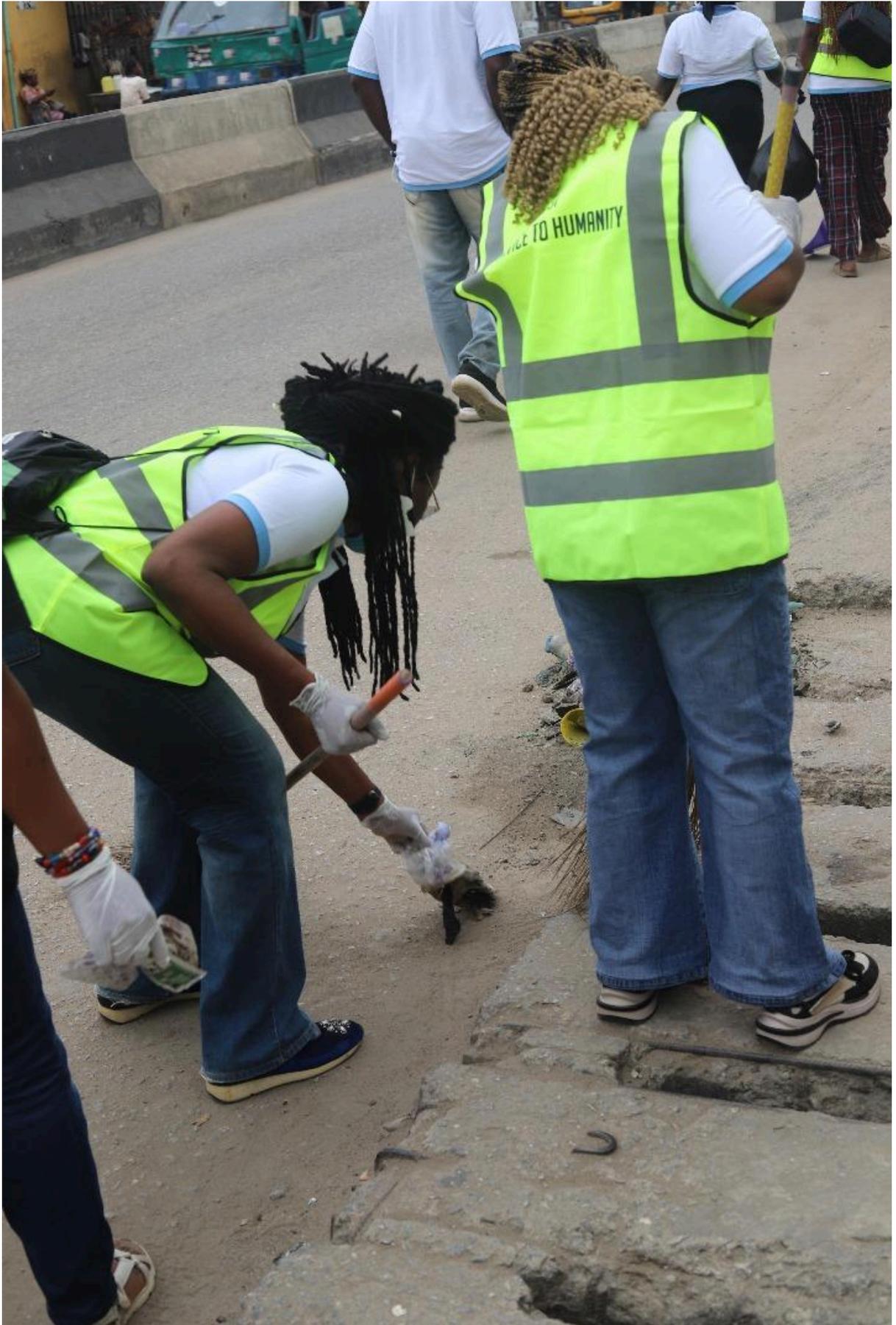
VSI staff pose in front of its newly built Ayesha Imam Leadership Institute

Sometime in the month of August, the organisation also celebrated its 15years anniversary with the theme *“Celebrating Tenacity and Purpose,”* the event featured the premiere of a documentary on the organization’s journey. Some of the organization project beneficiaries also shared moving reflections. Media houses such as TVC captured the moments to amplify our story beyond the room. The event highlighted VSI’ legacy, partnerships, and sustained

impact. The week leading up to the event was filled with engaging activities, from staff games to our youth center launch, and a community clean-up, that strengthened our bonds and deepened our commitment to service. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to empower individuals and communities, advance justice, and create lasting impact.



VSI @15 Celebrating Tenacity and Purpose





In the week leading up to our anniversary celebration, the VSI team, alongside some of our volunteers, engaged in a community clean-up exercise

We facilitated a five-day intensive training for call center and response agents on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV). The training strengthened participants' capacity to manage crisis calls with empathy, professionalism, and confidentiality, while reinforcing trauma-informed communication and ethical service delivery. By the end of the training, participants demonstrated renewed confidence, improved technical skills, and a deeper understanding of survivor-centered care ensuring that every call for help is met with compassion and competence. This was done in partnership with the office of the first lady of Abia state.



VSI was represented at a workshop where Minority Watch recently launched the No Justice, No Safety Project with a two-day workshop on Collaborative Initiative on Legal Interventions and Strategic Litigation. The workshop convened partners and stakeholders to address systemic discrimination and human rights violations against marginalized communities in Nigeria, particularly women and girls, LGBTQI+ persons, and people living with HIV. Discussions on the first day focused on building collaboration, improving case documentation, harmonizing SOPs, and strengthening capacity for legal action beyond data collection. Participants also co-developed a comprehensive case documentation tool and reviewed notable cases and court pronouncements handled by Minority Watch. On the second day, partners reviewed and refined the new litigation report form, shared inputs for its use in case referrals, and agreed to host Legal Rights training for beneficiaries in their communities. To sustain collaboration, organizations were grouped by location for quarterly meetings, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was introduced to guide partnerships under the project. The workshop closed with evaluations and commitments from participants to advance strategic litigation, strengthen survivor-centered responses, and collectively push for legal and policy reforms that protect Nigeria's most vulnerable groups.



VSI was represented at a workshop where Minority Watch recently launched the No Justice, No Safety Project with a two-day workshop on Collaborative Initiative on Legal Interventions and Strategic Litigation.

The organisation also organized refresher training for its volunteers, to strengthen the capacity of past volunteers to better deliver impactful sessions in schools. The one-day workshop provided an opportunity to re-engage volunteers, introduce them to the new facilitators and student manual and reintroduce them to the program's key focus areas.



Girl Impact Refreshers Training with Facilitators

The Organization is currently engaging students in junior secondary schools, Keme Balogun Junior College and Ipakodo Junior Grammar School, through a structured adolescent development and life skills program. The initiative targets girls, and a few boys, between the ages of 10 and 16, providing age-appropriate education that supports their personal development, wellbeing, and ability to make informed choices. The programme focuses on human development and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), while responding to the complex challenges young people face today. These include gender-based violence, low self-esteem, academic pressure, mental health concerns, and limited access to accurate information. Through interactive learning sessions, discussions, and practical activities, the sessions address key thematic areas such as sex and gender, leadership, human rights, gender-based violence, SRHR, mental health, emotional intelligence, and self-care. Emphasis is placed on building life skills, emotional resilience, empathy, and critical thinking, enabling learners to better manage stress, navigate social pressures, and protect their wellbeing. The overall objective of this ongoing session is to support the mainstreaming of the needs and concerns of women, girls, and young people ensuring that they are equipped to participate meaningfully and benefit from social and developmental processes. Across sessions, students have shown strong interest and active participation, engaging openly with facilitators and one another. The learners consistently express enthusiasm during activities, reinforcing the value of sustained, school-based interventions.



VSI Volunteers facilitating a session at Ipakodo Junior Grammar School



Students at Keme Balogun Junior College during a session

Vision Spring Initiatives (VSI) participated in a stakeholder meeting on Strengthening Civil Society Response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Lagos State, which brought together government agencies, civil society organizations, and development partners. The session aimed to deepen collaboration, improve coordination, and reinforce survivor-centered approaches in addressing SGBV. The Key objectives included recognizing CSO contributions to

women's protection, clarifying their roles in advocacy, service delivery, research, and referral coordination, and identifying gaps to strengthen the response framework. Goodwill messages from the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Programme (RoLAC), funded by the European Union (EU) and International IDEA, commended CSOs for complementing the work of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA). The Speakers, including Mrs. Atinuke Odukoya, Mrs. Juliet Olumuyiwa-Rufai, and Mrs. Oni, emphasized collaboration, survivor empowerment, and effective referral pathways. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to sustaining partnerships and promoting inclusive, survivor-centered interventions.



The Organization' Executive Director, Mrs Ngozi Nwosu-Juba, was present at the two-day conference on Disability-Inclusive Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Response System, convened by the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) in Abuja. The workshop, which hosted about 30 participants from diverse backgrounds and disability clusters, focused on strengthening inclusion and advancing the rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Nigeria. Persons with disabilities in Nigeria continue to face systemic

neglect, discrimination, and abuse, despite the existence of laws and policies meant to protect them. Limited access to services, disability-unfriendly infrastructure, and compounded challenges, similar to those faced by women and girls experiencing GBV, have hindered their full participation in society. The workshop provided a platform for dialogue and action to close these gaps. One of the most compelling moments was the presentation by Mrs. Funmilayo from CEWHIN, who shared impactful work being done in Osun State to support PWDs, including the introduction of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to guide collaboration among agencies. Civil society and government stakeholders also engaged in panel discussions, emphasizing intentional hiring of PWDs to combat stigma, full implementation of disability laws and policies, building stronger partnerships between CSOs, government, and mainstream organizations, promoting mentorship as a tool for empowerment, and expanding access to quality education and employment opportunities. The Canadian Embassy commended the initiative and pledged additional funding to sustain advocacy. Participants agreed to use the materials developed during the workshop for ongoing advocacy and to begin immediate implementation of lessons learned within their organizations and communities. As part of the outcomes, participants received copies of the SOP developed by CEWHIN, which offers practical guidance for strengthening collaboration and advancing inclusion.



VSI at the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) in Abuja.

The organization also held roundtable discussions on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), bringing together artists, content creators, and strategic partners. The session provided an opportunity to build a shared vision for the second phase of the Pamoja Project while strengthening collaboration across creative, advocacy, and media spaces. The discussion had four key objectives: To present and deliberate on the objectives, activities, and expected outcomes of Phase 2 of the Pamoja Project, ensuring all participants had a shared understanding. To introduce new partners and explore opportunities for collaboration and synergy across creative, media, and advocacy platforms. To clarify the roles and responsibilities of all involved in implementation, creative artists, staff, the curator, documentary producers, voice-over artists, and media partners. To establish coordination, communication, and accountability mechanisms that will guide smooth collaboration throughout the project phase.



VSI Held Pamoja Inception Meeting With Creatives for the second phase of the Pamoja Project

VSI hosted a week-long workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), creating a powerful platform for story-telling, advocacy, and strategy. The week opened with moving testimonies from young women who shared their survival stories of unsafe abortion. To ensure holistic care, pre- and post-counselling sessions were provided, offering psychosocial support that helped the testifiers process trauma and rebuild confidence. Their stories highlighted the urgent call for policymakers and lawmakers to strengthen laws and policies that guarantee safe, legal, and accessible reproductive health services for all young women and girls. The highlight of the week was VSI's second Mock Tribunal on SRHR, which brought together Key stakeholders to deliberate on protecting and promoting women and girls' rights. A panel discussion emphasized the need for multi-level interventions, families as safe spaces, schools equipped with safeguarding and sexuality education, men and boys taught accountability, and policies that restore national clinical guidelines and expand youth-friendly services such as the National Guideline on Safe Termination of Pregnancy which has yet to be adopted by some states. The week concluded with a strategy session, where participants signed a commitment form and the VSI Strategy Team drafted a state-level SRHR guideline for Oyo State to drive future advocacy. The workshop reaffirmed VSI's commitment to advancing safe, non-discriminatory, and rights-based approaches to reproductive health.



Moving testimonies from young women who shared their survival stories of unsafe abortion.

The Organization also hosted its EMpowerHer 3.0 training for beneficiaries. The session engaged selected young women on understanding human and reproductive health and rights, to exploring savings culture and business management. Despite the heavy rainfall, participants came in their numbers and actively engaged with the presentations and discussions. Following the technical session, beneficiaries took part in focus group discussions facilitated by VSI staff and volunteers, which helped in assessing their readiness and suitability for the program. The session concluded with closing remarks, leaving attendees motivated and looking forward to the next phase.



EMpowerHer 3.0 training for participants

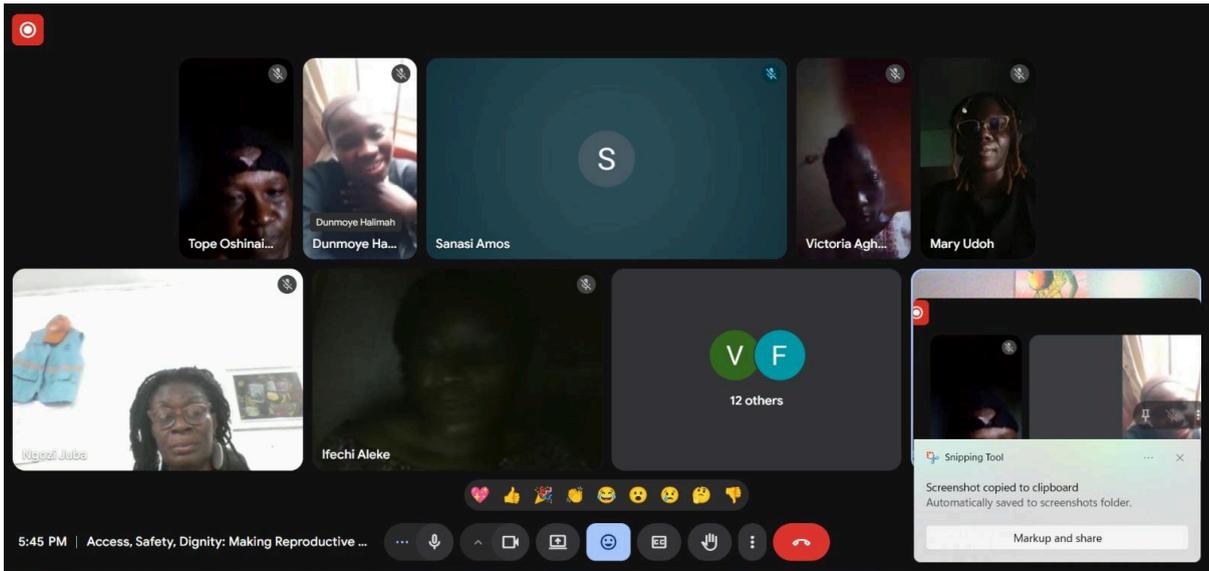
A representative from the organization was present at the Stakeholders Roundtable Inception Meeting for Project Equal Care, organized by the Sustainable Impact and Development Initiative (SID). The AU–EU Youth Action Lab project aims to empower adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) with disabilities by improving their access to inclusive sexual and reproductive health services. The session featured a presentation of findings from a Focus

Group Discussion with AGYW living with hearing, visual, and physical disabilities. Key issues raised included limited accessibility of health facilities, stigma from families and service providers, weak implementation of disability-related policies, and lack of representation in decision-making. Participants emphasized the need for sign language interpreters, better training for health workers, and enforcement of supportive laws. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to ensure no young woman, especially those with disabilities, is left behind in accessing quality healthcare.



A representative from the organization was present at the Stakeholders Roundtable Inception Meeting for Project Equal Care, organized by the Sustainable Impact and Development Initiative (SID).

Vision Spring Initiatives marked International Safe Abortion Day, with a webinar themed “Access, Safety, Dignity: Making Reproductive Health Care a Reality.” The session underscored Nigeria’s alarming maternal mortality rate, the second highest globally, with unsafe abortion as a major contributor. In her opening remarks, our Project Director, Ngozi Nwosu-Juba stressed that safe abortion must be seen as health care rather than a moral issue. The panel discussions highlighted gaps in Nigeria’s restrictive legal framework, which only permits abortion to save a mother’s life, excluding cases of rape, incests and gender-based violence. Speakers called for reforms to guarantee access, safety, and dignity in reproductive health, as well as comprehensive sexuality education. Contributions also explored the role of faith communities in shaping reproductive rights, with perspectives from both Christian and Islamic contexts emphasizing shared values, protection of life, and the need for stigma-free health care. Panelists urged stronger advocacy, legal reform, and creative approaches, including engaging regional courts, to safeguard the lives and dignity of women and girls. Key action points included: Advocacy for accessible and safe abortion services, while protecting women’s autonomy and dignity. Following up on the National Safe Termination of Pregnancy Guideline and its implementation. Expanding comprehensive sexuality education and creating safe spaces for open dialogue. Legal reforms and sustained advocacy to close gaps in Nigeria’s abortion laws.



Vision Spring Initiatives marked International Safe Abortion Day, with a webinar themed “Access, Safety, Dignity: Making Reproductive Health Care a Reality.”

The Organization’ Project Director, Mrs Ngozi Nwosu-Juba represented VSI at the Liberation Alliance Africa convening, where members of the Community of Practice met in Nairobi to reflect on how African Indigenous Knowledge can be centred in preventing and responding to sexual violence. The gathering was designed to deepen collective consciousness, strengthen feminist knowledge production, and document Africa’s cultural evolution as a foundation for transformative responses to sexual violence. The meeting brought together eight members from across the continent, who shared practical experiences, strategies and lessons. VSI presented its Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) approach, highlighting how engagement with religious and traditional leaders has improved acceptance of sexual-violence interventions at community level. Other participants shared approaches including economic empowerment as a tool for survivor resilience, and storytelling as a pathway to healing, truth-telling and voice. The group reviewed and refined an existing concept note developed earlier in the year, agreeing on how it can be strengthened for implementation. It was resolved that members will collectively finalise the document for publication in January 2026, to guide future programming and shared advocacy efforts. As a next step, Community of Practice members will continue to participate in regional and global spaces where the work can be amplified, documented and expanded.



VSI at the Liberation Alliance Africa convening, where members of the Community of Practice met in Nairobi to reflect on how African Indigenous Knowledge can be centred in preventing and responding to sexual violence.

Vision Spring Initiatives held a Town Hall Meeting on Shrinking Civic Space on Thursday, 23rd October 2025, in Ikorodu, in partnership with Spaces for Change (S4C). The meeting brought together 25 participants, including market women, community women, and traditional leaders, to discuss civic participation and citizens' rights at the grassroots level. Participants were introduced to the concepts of civic space and shrinking civic space through simple explanations and relatable community examples. The session provided a safe space for women to share lived experiences, including unfair levies, lack of compensation after demolitions, and challenges in speaking up within their communities. Through interactive discussions, group work, and facilitation in Yoruba, participants identified practical ways to amplify their voices peacefully and effectively. The meeting was described as educative and impactful, with plans underway to sustain community dialogue and expand participation in future town hall sessions.



Vision Spring Initiatives held a Town Hall Meeting on Shrinking Civic Space

Sometime in October, the Pamoja Partners Strategic Review Meeting convened in Lagos brought together partner organizations working under the Pamoja Project—including AmplifyChange, RAES, the MAMA Network, and AHAKI—to collectively assess progress in advocacy efforts aimed at reinstating the suspended Lagos State SToP Guidelines and advancing broader SRHR laws and policies. The two-day meeting was organized by the Society of Gynaecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON) and facilitated by Dr. Kehinde, Dr. Jagun, and Prof. Akinola, the legal consultant. The meeting was designed to support partners in advancing legislative and regulatory policy goals, provide strategic guidance and advocacy tools, and strengthen coordinated and impactful policy engagement within Lagos State. It served as a critical platform for reflection, alignment, and shared learning among diverse stakeholders committed to improving reproductive health outcomes for women and girls. Day One of the meeting focused on technical grounding and strategic reflection. Following opening remarks by Dr. Kehinde and a review of the meeting's objectives, Dr. Jagun delivered

a comprehensive presentation on the evolution of the SToP Guidelines—from their national origins to state-level adaptations, the Lagos State version, and the context surrounding its suspension. This was complemented by a legal and technical review led by Prof. Akinola, who examined the guideline’s provisions, gaps, and regulatory implications, notably highlighting its provider-centred nature and limited accessibility to citizens. Partners then engaged in policy strategy discussions, including stakeholder mapping and engagement pathways, before breaking into thematic group work sessions on strategic litigation, advocacy, access to services, and strategic communications. VSI, represented within the RAES-funded strategic communications group, contributed to developing a Lagos-focused workplan addressing narrative gaps and public engagement strategies. The meeting concluded with the development of coordinated action plans for the next 18 months to foster alignment and collective action among partners.



Pamoja Partners Strategic Review Meeting convened in Lagos

A representative of the organization participated in the second day of the AC Pamoja Learning and Strategy Refinement Session aimed at strengthening the AC Pamoja Movement in Lagos State. The session focused on consolidating outcomes from the previous day, including the presentation and review of a SWOT analysis of the existing SRHR movement landscape. Participants engaged in refining and validating a feminist-informed, inclusive movement-building strategy that integrates collective power, collaboration, and sustainability. Discussions also centred on collective commitment-building, clarifying roles and action plans under the Lagos CSO Advocacy Group, and strengthening communications and visibility through digital storytelling, media engagement, and joint advocacy campaigns. The engagement reinforced the importance of coordinated, youth-led and feminist approaches to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights and sustaining impactful civic action in Lagos State.



A representative of the organization was present at the West Africa Peace and Security Dialogue (WAPSeD) 2025 in Abuja organized and hosted by Building Blocks for Peace. It convened policymakers, civil society actors, academics, and development partners to critically examine the evolving peace and security landscape in West Africa. Organized by the Building Blocks for Peace Foundation in collaboration with IPCR, GPPAC, LAC-LAC Network, and SPSP, the dialogue was framed around the theme “Reimagining Peace and Security in West Africa: Local Solutions, Regional Solidarity and Global Partnerships.” Opening and keynote sessions emphasized that sustainable peace requires multi-level engagement that integrates local realities with regional coordination and global support. Speakers underscored the urgency of rebuilding trust in security institutions, strengthening inclusive governance, and investing in capacity-building across national, local, and regional levels to address the complex social, economic, and political drivers of conflict in the region. Across several high-level panel discussions, participants examined the state and emerging dynamics of peace and security challenges in West Africa, highlighting governance failures, resource competition, disinformation, violent extremism, and authoritarian tendencies as key drivers of instability. Panelists noted that insecurity is heavily concentrated in countries such as Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali, with spillover effects across borders due to porous boundaries and weak coordination. Discussions stressed that terrorism and violent extremism are symptoms of deeper governance deficits, where citizens lose trust in state institutions and turn to alternative authorities. Contributors also warned against militarized, one-size-fits-all responses, calling instead for transparency, accountability, regional intelligence-sharing, and approaches that prioritize dialogue over force. A strong focus was placed on inclusive and grassroots peacebuilding, particularly the critical roles of women, youth, and traditional structures. Panel sessions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) emphasized economic empowerment, political inclusion, and intergenerational collaboration as essential foundations for lasting peace. Speakers highlighted how local wisdom, community elders, women mediators, and culturally rooted mechanisms can effectively resolve conflicts when empowered and integrated into formal systems. The dialogue concluded with side events that reinforced cultural exchange and

knowledge-sharing, including visits to the Nike Art Gallery and the IPCR Intellectual Wealth Corner. Overall, WAPSeD 2025 served as a strategic platform for advancing locally driven, regionally coordinated, and globally supported pathways toward sustainable peace and security in West Africa.



At the West Africa Peace and Security Dialogue (WAPSeD)2025 in Abuja organized and hosted by Building Blocks for Peace

The Youths in Human Rights Practice Town Hall convened by Partnership for Justice (PJ) on behalf of the Nigerian Human Rights Defenders Network (NHRDN), in partnership with the Embassy of France in Nigeria, brought together young human rights defenders, university students, and civic actors to foster solidarity, share practical strategies, and strengthen collective action for the advancement of human rights in Nigeria. Discussions focused on the evolving challenges facing youth-led human rights practice, the importance of collaboration across movements, and the role of young people in sustaining civic engagement and democratic values. The convening reinforced the need for safe spaces, institutional support, and cross-sector partnerships to empower young defenders to effectively respond to shrinking civic space and emerging human rights concerns.



The Project Director, Mrs Ngozi Nwosu-Juba represented VSI at a one-day resource mobilization training organized by WARD C and supported by the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF). The session brought together civil society organisations from across the country to reflect on the realities of fundraising within Nigeria's tightening economic climate and to explore practical solutions for sustaining long-term work. During the workshop, facilitators emphasized that resource mobilization goes beyond seeking donor funds and extends to building relationships, strengthening internal capacity, and leveraging networks, skills and partnerships. Participants also had hands-on exercises, including a SWOT analysis session, where they examined their strengths, gaps, and external opportunities that could support future growth. Key issues raised during the dialogue included the need for CSOs to reduce dependence on donor funding, develop structured mobilisation strategies, and explore alternative financing such as community fundraising and income-generating ventures. Participants also noted the importance of organisational planning, stakeholder engagement and effective communication of impact as part of sustainable resource mobilization. The session ended with consensus on next steps, including the establishment of a WhatsApp group to serve as a learning and support hub where participants can share opportunities, continue discussions, and receive further guidance on fundraising. A follow-up virtual learning series was also proposed to reinforce skills and keep CSOs connected beyond the physical workshop.



Mrs Ngozi Nwosu-Juba represented VSI at a one-day resource mobilization training organized by WARD C and supported by the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF).

Vision Spring Initiatives actively participated in a stakeholder dialogue which aimed to bring together key influencers from state and non-state to strengthen collective action against sexual violence in Lagos State. Women's Rights and Health Project (WRAHP), with support from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), is implementing a project titled "Protecting Women and Girls from Sexual Violence through Changes in Behaviour, Practices and Attitudes of Community Members in Three Local Government Areas in Lagos State, Nigeria." As part of this initiative, WRAHP convened a Stakeholders' Dialogue on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response aimed at strengthening collective action against sexual violence in Lagos State. The dialogue was designed to amplify the voices of key influencers whose positions and actions shape community attitudes, policies, and responses to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The dialogue brought together 40 participants, including traditional and religious leaders, policymakers, law enforcement officers, and community advocates from the three target LGAs. Through open and reflective discussions, participants reviewed progress made in preventing and responding to sexual violence and identified opportunities to deepen collaboration. Key conversations focused on strengthening referral pathways for survivors, promoting survivor-centred advocacy, and challenging harmful social norms that enable violence. The engagement concluded with renewed commitments from stakeholders to foster safer communities where women and girls are protected, accountability is upheld, and the responsibility to prevent sexual violence is shared by all.



VSI at the Women's Rights and Health Project (WRAHP), with support from the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF)

Vision Spring Initiatives also attended the Pamoja project convening of global and Nigerian partners to strengthen safe abortion access through coordinated communication, advocacy, litigation support, and service pathways, supported by a coalition of 14 organizations. Following the initial M&E training in Q2 2025, this mission aims to harmonize reach calculations across all media channels, finalize a unified Indicator Reporting Plan (IRP), and standardize analysis workflows, including pre-post questionnaire integration. Over the three-day session, partners will align on the updated tracker, validate indicators, map activities to Nigeria's IRP, and adopt a unified analysis template. The training will also include hands-on exercises using real or sample data to improve data quality, analysis skills, and evidence-based decision making. Ultimately, this mission ensures consistent measurement, reporting, and learning across the Nigeria coalition to improve the effectiveness of PAMOJA interventions.



VSI was present at the Indicator Reporting Plan (IRP) Pamoja Workshop

VSI was present at the 2025 Gender and Blue Economy Conference. The conference opened with a clear call to action as policymakers, researchers, civil society actors, private-sector stakeholders, and representatives of coastal communities gathered to interrogate gender inclusion within Nigeria's growing blue economy. In her welcome address, CGE Africa's Executive Director and Coordinator of the Gender and Blue Economy Working Group, Uchenna Idoko, framed the blue economy as a critical intersection of livelihoods, climate resilience, youth employment, maritime governance, and national competitiveness. She stressed that without gender-responsive planning, strong institutions, and data that reflects the lived realities of women and girls in coastal and riverine communities, the promise of the blue economy would remain uneven and exclusionary. This message was reinforced in the keynote address delivered on behalf of the Lagos State Government, which highlighted the state's commitment to education, research, leadership development, and coordinated public-sector action as foundations for a gender-inclusive blue economy. Goodwill messages from national institutions and development partners further emphasized inclusive governance, locally driven innovation, and the urgent need for gender-disaggregated data to guide policy reform. A defining feature of the conference was its emphasis on amplifying women's voices and investing in future generations. The launch of "Girls by the Shore: A Girl's Guide to the Blue Economy" marked a significant milestone, offering a practical and inspiring resource designed to demystify ocean-related sectors and help girls envision careers in fisheries, maritime transport, climate science, research, and innovation. This commitment to early inclusion was further deepened through a fireside chat with teenage girls from Tomaro Senior Secondary School, whose candid reflections on education, safety, mobility, and limited exposure to blue economy opportunities grounded the discussions in lived experience. Their testimonies underscored the importance of visibility, mentorship, and structured pathways for girls in coastal communities. Complementing this was a compelling guest presentation by Dr. Charles G. Ofori, who drew on regional research to outline how integrated governance,

gender-responsive planning, climate-smart investment, and community participation can transform Nigeria's vast marine and aquatic resources into engines of inclusive and sustainable growth. The conference also created space for critical reflection and forward-looking dialogue through its panel sessions and research exhibition. Discussions on mainstreaming gender in Nigeria's blue economy acknowledged progress in awareness and collaboration, while candidly addressing persistent gaps such as limited gender data, fragmented institutional mandates, funding constraints, and insufficient community engagement. A dedicated panel on women rising in fisheries showcased the experiences of the Future Women Leaders in Fisheries Fellows, highlighting both the barriers women face in male-dominated sectors and the innovative ideas they bring to sustainable resource management and community resilience. The subsequent research exhibition allowed participants to engage directly with the fellows' work, demonstrating how investment in women-led research and leadership can translate into practical solutions for fisheries and coastal livelihoods. Collectively, the sessions reinforced a central message of the conference: a sustainable blue economy in Nigeria depends on inclusive policies, evidence-based decision-making, and deliberate investment in women and girls as leaders, innovators, and custodians of ocean and aquatic resources.



VSI at the 2025 Gender and Blue Economy Conference

VSI hosted the second Town Hall Meeting in Ikorodu, moving the Shrinking Civic Space Project from simple awareness to concrete community action. Participants explored how shrinking civic space affects women, young people, and other vulnerable groups, using real experiences from their community to deepen the discussion. A major outcome of the meeting was the creation of the Advocacy Network, a grassroots coalition made up of market women, youths, religious and traditional leaders, male allies, and civil society actors. The group agreed on its purpose, structure, and next steps for continued collaboration. The session strengthened community ownership of the project, increased civic awareness, and set up a

shared platform for reporting violations and coordinating collective action. Despite some challenges, participants ended the meeting with a strong sense of unity and commitment to advocating for a safer and more open civic space in Ikorodu.



Shrinking Civic Space Townhall meeting In Ikorodu

Vision Spring Initiatives was represented in a workshop focused on strengthening community and institutional responses to Violence Against Women and Girls . The event, organized by WANEP in partnership with Project Alert, brought together advocates, practitioners, community leaders, and organizations working in the women’s rights and protection space. A major highlight of the program was the session facilitated by the Executive Director of Project Alert, who delivered an insightful and practical presentation on the root causes of violence, power dynamics, harmful social norms, and the crucial role of community actors in prevention and response. Her session emphasized survivor-centered approaches, legal frameworks, and effective community-level mechanisms for supporting women and girls. The workshop created a meaningful space for learning, experience sharing, and building stronger cross-organizational collaborations. Discussions centered on transforming social attitudes, strengthening reporting pathways, empowering women and girls, and promoting safer, more equitable communities. The event reinforced the need for continuous advocacy, awareness, and community engagement, aligning strongly with our organization’s commitment to gender justice and protection of vulnerable groups.



WANEP in partnership with Project Alert, brought together advocates, practitioners, community leaders, and organizations working in the women's rights and protection space.

Vision Spring Initiatives participated in a Stakeholders' Engagement Meeting convened by ATLAS Initiative under the Enriching Lives Through Empowerment (ELiTE): SGBV Prevention and Response for Vulnerable Adolescent Girls and Young Women project, supported by Irish Aid. The engagement brought together community leaders, civil society actors, and relevant stakeholders from Lagos and Ogun States to strengthen collective efforts toward preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence. The meeting provided a platform to share project objectives, clarify community roles in SGBV prevention, and explore strategies for strengthening referral pathways and community-led protection mechanisms. Emphasis was placed on creating safe spaces for adolescent girls and young women, empowering female community champions, and equipping beneficiaries with knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and livelihood skills. The engagement reinforced the importance of local ownership, collaboration, and sustainable, rights-based approaches in advancing the safety and well-being of girls and young women.



Vision Spring Initiatives participated in a Stakeholders' Engagement Meeting convened by ATLAS Initiative

The First Lady of Lagos State, Her Excellency Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, paid a courtesy visit to VSI's office. During the visit, our team provided an overview of key programs, including safe-space initiatives and activities aimed at empowering vulnerable women and girls with practical tools for self-development, action, and voice across Lagos State and beyond. The First Lady's engagement brought warmth and encouragement, and her recognition of the organization's efforts was deeply appreciated.



The First Lady of Lagos State, Her Excellency Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, paid a courtesy visit to VSI's office.

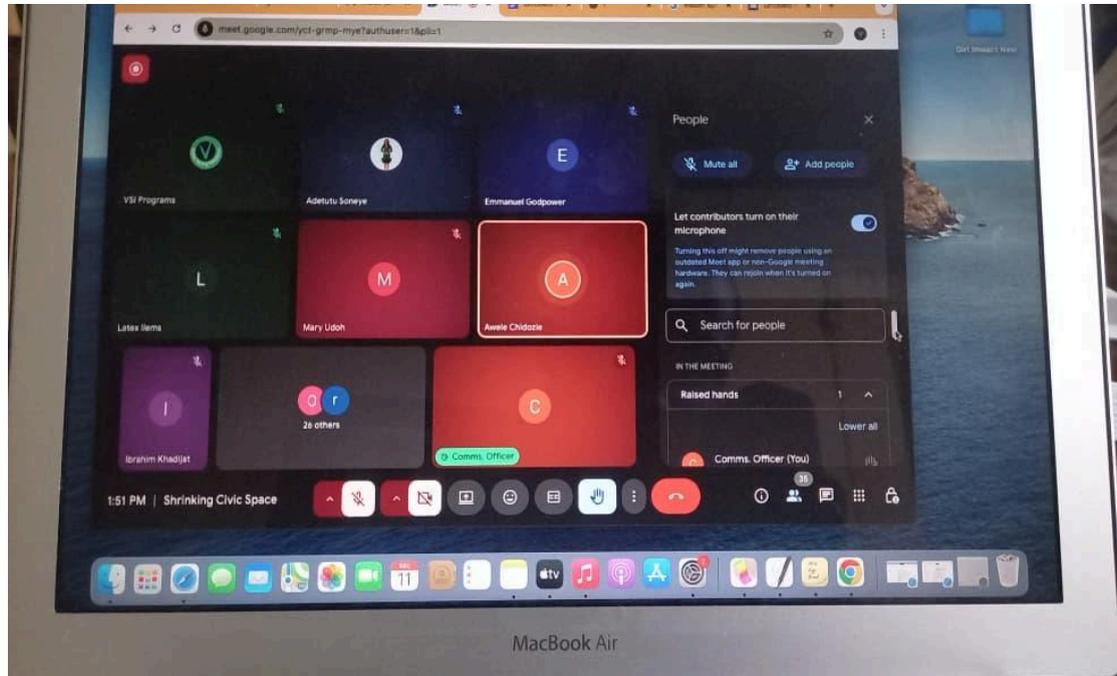
Vision Spring Initiatives staff in Abia State joined the global commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence under the theme “Unite to End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls.” The event highlighted the rising cases of online harassment, exploitation, and abuse, drawing attention to the urgent need for stronger protection mechanisms for women and girls both online and offline. The team emphasized how central the digital world has become to education, work, and social interaction, underscoring the importance of safeguarding women from cyberbullying, revenge porn, and online trafficking. The commemoration reinforced the reality that violence against women is not only a personal violation but a societal crisis that undermines equality, development, and peace. It also addressed the long-term psychological trauma, economic disempowerment, and deepened inequality caused by such violence.



Vision Spring Initiatives staff in Abia State joined the global commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

VSI held an online webinar that explored the growing challenges caused by shrinking civic space and how these restrictions limit people's ability to speak up or gather without fear. The conversation highlighted real examples from Nigeria, including the suppression of peaceful protests and restrictions on online expression, and reflected on how these issues especially

affect young people. Speakers explained how fear of retaliation has created a culture of silence, leading to wider social and economic consequences. The session wrapped up with practical guidance on effective advocacy. Emphasis was placed on peaceful engagement, collaboration among community groups, and presenting evidence-based concerns. Overall, the webinar underscored the importance of unity and collective action to safeguard civic participation.



Participants joined in on the virtual webinar that explored the growing challenges caused by shrinking civic space

The Shrinking Civic Space Talent Competition Award Ceremony was held by VSI. The event marked the successful culmination of a multi-phase community engagement project aimed at amplifying voices and promoting safe, inclusive civic participation for women, girls, young people, and marginalized groups. The ceremony celebrated young artists whose creative works, spanning poetry, film, music, and visual art, powerfully explored the realities and impacts of shrinking civic space in Nigeria. Their contributions demonstrated a strong understanding of civic rights, freedom of expression, and the lived experiences of marginalized communities. The event brought together community members, partners, advocates, and project stakeholders, fostering reflection, dialogue, and collective ownership of the project's objectives. Virtual participation by award recipients ensured inclusivity and broadened reach beyond physical boundaries.



Awardee' joined the ceremony virtually



Group picture with some of the physical participants present

In addition to programmatic work, VSI also prioritized team bonding and well-being. The year concluded with an end-of-year get-together for staff and volunteers, creating a relaxed and

joyful space to unwind and celebrate collective efforts. The gathering featured movies, popcorn, drinks, and plenty of dancing, serving as a reminder that community, joy, and solidarity are essential to sustaining impactful work.





VSI end of the year get-together 2025

At VSI, as we move forward, these experiences continue to inspire renewed commitment to building a more just, inclusive, and violence-free society.