



NIGERIA GRANTEE BRIEF

GIRL POWER INITIATIVE

Coordinator: Ehita Aikpitanyi

C4C Fellows: Ehita Aikpitanyi and Ifeyinwa Okonkwo (Program Officer)

Location: Delta State, Nigeria

Organization's annual budget: \$400,000

Champions for Change Grantee since 2014

Total C4C Funding Received: \$40,000

Website: <http://gpinigeria.org/gp/>

ABOUT GIRL POWER INITIATIVE

Girl Power Initiative (GPI) is a non-governmental youth development organization with the mission to empower in-and-out of school girls between the ages of 10-24 to advance their sexual and reproductive health and rights and achieve their full potential in four states (Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Delta and Edo States). GPI was founded in 1993 and its work focuses on assisting young girls to overcome the risk of early sexual activities, gender discrimination, unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unsafe abortion, all forms of sexual abuse and harassment as well as other forms of violence and exploitation.

RMNCAH ADVOCACY

Project Title: "Tackling Sexual Violence Against Girls and Women For Improved RMNCAH Outcomes In Oshimili North And South Local Government Areas Of Delta State"

Project Dates: September 15, 2015 – September 15, 2016

KEY IMPACT

Provision of free psychosocial support and reproductive health services to sexual violence survivors at three designated health centers. These new free services will benefit up to 173,000 girls and women to ensure that they can access information and services that protect their reproductive health and rights.

Geographic Focus: Delta State

The Delta State Child's Rights Law, passed in 2006, criminalizes rape and other forms of sexual violence and makes provision to protect children and young persons from sexual violence. However, in Oshimili North and South of Delta State, rape is still on the increase and equated to similar situations in war-torn areas of Nigeria. Sexual violence impacts negatively on the reproductive health and well-being of girls and women. This project seeks to engage key decision makers to influence decisions that will result in the implementation of the Child Rights law to protect and advance the reproductive health and rights of girls and women.

GPI's project goal is to reduce the incidence and RMNCAH consequences of sexual violence against adolescent girls and women in Oshimili North and South Local Government Areas of Delta State.

The project's objectives include:

1. By March 2016, the Chairmen of Oshimili North and South Local Government Areas will make public commitments to implement section 3 of the Child Rights Act and establish measures for the provision of psychological, medical and social recovery of victims of sexual violence.
2. By the end of March 2016, the Divisional Police Office will establish two help lines in Oshimili North and South to assist the two gender desk officers and other designated trained personnel to handle cases of rape and sexual violence effectively.
3. By September 2016, the Ministry of Women Affairs will strengthen three family courts in Oshimili North and South to effectively address cases of rape and sexual violence in the state.

Rise Up's Champions for Change (C4C) initiative improves the lives and health of women, children, and youth in Sub-Saharan Africa. C4C achieves large-scale impacts by investing in visionary local leaders and organizations through advocacy, leadership development, organizational strengthening, and grantmaking. In Nigeria, C4C's national network is advocating for improved reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health. In Kenya, C4C's national network is advocating to improve young people's health by preventing and combating non-communicable diseases. For more information please visit <http://www.championingchange.org/>

4. By September 2016, traditional leaders of the Council in Oshimili North and South Local Government Areas will make public pronouncements and establish community measures to prevent and address incidences of rape and sexual violence.

IMPACTS TO DATE

- Advocacy efforts resulted in the designation of three health centers by the Oshimili North and South Local Government Chairmen that will offer free psychosocial support and reproductive health services for victims of sexual violence, to reduce poor reproductive and maternal health outcomes as a result of sexual violence.
- MTN helpline is secured for victims of sexual violence report sexual violence cases in Delta States.
- The Commissioner of Ministry of Women's Affairs commits to revive 16 Family courts to improve their effectiveness in addressing sexual violence cases in Oshimili South.
- Community Leaders in Oshimili North and South Local Government institute sanctions and establish community monitoring mechanisms to prevent sexual violence in the community.