

Singularly Me Mothers Support Initiative

Annual Report
Jan 2021- Dec 2021



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OVERVIEW

Singularly Me Mother's Support Initiative (SiMMSI) is committed towards bridging the gender inequality gap via grassroot initiatives and campaigns designed to:

- Provide functional and impactful grassroot education and awareness on the challenges of gender inequality
- Foster the rehabilitation and re-education of affected girls
- Provide Support for Victims of Gender Based Violence
- Provide Support, Training, Micro-grant and incentives to single mothers



Singularly Me Mothers' Support Initiative

Our Mission

To work with communities and schools to bridge gender inequality gap

Our Vision

A Nigeria where there is no gender discrimination or inequality



Support for Victims of Gender Based Violence



Gender Equality



Girl Child Advocacy



Skill Acquisition



Micro Grants and Incentives





CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

Dr. Ibidolapo Ijarotimi
MBBS, MSc, MPH, FWACP
Founder/Director

This is another opportunity to update our funders, supporters, partners and friends about how the past year has been for us and as usual, I am delighted to have this task as a lot of exciting new developments and programs have taken place during the course of the year.

This year makes it the second year since our formal registration as an organization though we have been operating informally for a few years now. To say the past year has been challenging will be putting it mildly however it has also been filled with achievements which make the challenges worthwhile. The Covid outbreak continued, and this meant that funding was reduced, the type of program we could carry out was limited but more importantly, more girls and women continued to be in danger from Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the gender inequality divide widened. Additionally, inflation in Nigeria worsened and more people dropped below poverty further putting more girls and women at a disadvantage.

Despite all these, we have been able to scale up our activities and reach more women and girls. We launched the second phase of microloans for single mothers who are market women and I am proud to say that the uptake was even better than the first one. While the microloans from the first phase were completely repaid, the second was disbursed. The complete repayment of the loans proves to us that our entrepreneurship training of these women is yielding fruits and helping them to manage and improve their finance. We are hopeful that with the support of our funders we will continue to have the opportunity to disburse more of these loans and continue with our entrepreneurship training.

Of particular note is the launching of our 'Gender Equality Training Handbook for Secondary School'. It was a very successful program which featured attendance from several secondary schools and dignitaries from Akure, Ondo State. It marked the commencement of Gender Equality and GBV training in selected secondary schools in Akure. We also donated the handbooks to the attending schools. Similarly, we conducted gender equality and GBV surveys in secondary schools in Oyo State Nigeria. We hope to have this as a baseline prior to our starting the Gender equality training and GBV training in Oyo state schools too.

We also continued to establish our online presence. We had several online interactive programs that educated attendees on gender equality and gender-based violence. We gave out gifts to winners of essays and read out outstanding essays during the programs. Our hard work also paid off as we were selected to be one of the speakers at the 66th NGO Commission on the Status of Women (NGO CSW). We hosted a Turkish NGO with a similar interest- Turuncu Association. This was well attended and new collaborations were made.

On the aspect of collaborations, we also have been collaborating with Health For Aid Initiative (HAFAI) on their G.L.O.W project in addition to other national and international organizations like Turuncu Association. Additionally, we continue to provide Monitoring and Evaluation services to other organizations.

All in all, it was a challenging but fruitful year. As we move into another year we look forward to forming more partnerships and collaborations and support from our funders and friends in order to expand and improve on our existing programs and start new ones.

Thank you

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

October 2021

International Day of the Girl Child



In celebrating the girl child, Singularly Me Mothers Support Initiative (SiMMSI), joins the conversation, with an online event on the topic, "Utilizing Digital Technology as An Effective Tool for Gender Equality"

Dec 2021

Single Mother's Trading Support 2.0



From Entrepreneurial Training, No-Interest Loan to financial and non-financial incentives and empowerment Schemes, SiMMSI is so determined to make a difference.

October 2021

Launching Gender Equality Training in Secondary Schools Handbook (GETSS)



in celebrating the girl child, singularly me mothers support initiative (SiMMSI), joins the conversation, with an online event on the topic, "utilizing digital technology as an effective tool for gender equality"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Singularly Me Mother's Support initiative (SiMMSI) embarked on a plethora of campaigns and programs targeted at creating awareness on the challenges of gender inequality especially the marginalization of the female child especially in Nigeria.

Although, this is the second year since the formal registration of SiMMSI, the impact has been great nonetheless as attested in the reviews received via our online and offline platforms. The drive of SiMMSI towards becoming one of the leading voices in grassroots campaigns towards gender equality, single mother's empowerment and support and other crucial areas of concern are duly reflected in the campaigns deployed this year. From the Micro-finance and empowerment initiative to gender equality awareness campaign, SiMMSI continue to grow in both impact and reach to the target demography in Nigeria while partnering with other local and international organizations to broader reach.

Challenges from the disruption in activities and availability of funds as a result of the Covid-19 and a slew of other challenges were some notable limitations in the actualization of the organizations' goal. The campaigns could be expanded in both reach and quality with more improved funding.

The leadership, core and ad hoc team of SiMMSI continue to strive to expand the scope and delivery of all campaigns and ensure the vision of the organization is manifested and flourishing across Nigeria and Africa at large.

OUR CAMPAIGN FOCUS

Gender Equality with a focus on female marginalization:

The challenges of gender quality and female marginalization especially in the developing countries of the world cannot be over-emphasized. Beyond the obvious awareness campaigns, SiMMSI embarks on a series of grass-root initiatives



Finance and Empowerment

The need to empower women, especially single mothers cannot be over-emphasized. Adequate entrepreneurship training, grants, and other relevant aids play a crucial role in ensuring they can take care of essential needs and give their children the best chance of survival.

Gender-Based Violence and Health Campaigns

Gender-Based Violence, the prevalence of female genital mutilation, and a plethora of health challenges bedeviling women and the girl child in most countries of the world, especially in Nigeria and the African continent are core concern to us at SiMMSI as such we continue to be one of the leading voices for grassroot awareness and impact campaigns.



OUR SERVICES

In furtherance of our vision, SiMMSI provides Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Services to other non-profit organizations as a service. SiMMSI assists organizations in creating Monitoring and Evaluation programs that are essential for determining the effectiveness and efficiency of their projects, while using accumulated knowledge for overall improvement.

Understanding the goals of interventional programs is key to laying the right foundation for all data collation and visualization activities associated with your project.

Understanding donor expectations and demands helps NGOs select the appropriate indicators for each level of your project and design the framework for its effective implementation.

Our M &E service is a major source of revenue income to keep the organization's activities going, our client organizations include other women-led NGOs like HAFAI.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT GENDER
JUSTICE AND DIVERSITY HEALTH,
NUTRITION AND POPULATION **MICROFINANCE**
HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL AID **SERVICES**
EDUCATION INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT
MICROFINANCE AND EMPOWERMENT
MIGRATION

TARGETING THE ULTRA-POOR WATER,
SANITATION AND HYGIENE **ENTERPRISES**
AND INVESTMENTS AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD SECURITY **COMMUNITY**
EMPOWERMENT DISASTER,
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
HEALTH, NUTRITION AND POPULATION
GENDER JUSTICE AND DIVERSITY
EDUCATION HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL
AID SERVICES, **WATER,**

MICROFINANCE AND EMPOWERMENT



"Teach her about how money really works, and she can change the world."

LINDA DAVIS TAYLOR

BANKING FOR THE POOR

The microfinance programme intends to bring collateral-free credit and services to poor and disadvantaged single mothers. We execute this primarily through grassroots organizations. The organizations serve as a platform for these women to gather and discuss issues concerning their daily lives and through which we can host our various mentorships, trainings, and educational programs. Our holistic, credit- plus approach which included entrepreneurship training also ensures that our borrowers are supported, can exchange information and learn about health, social and legal issues.

Our loan package, exclusively for women who are part of organizations, is provided for small enterprise ventures such as buying and selling, rearing poultry and livestock, growing vegetables, and making handicrafts. Loans range from 10,000 to 100,000.

With the success recorded with microfinance and empowerment initiatives and a renewed commitment to empower more women, SIMMSI embarked on a plethora of finance and support initiatives and also launched the “Single Mother’s Trading Support 2.0”, a relatively more robust and encompassing outreach.

The Single Mother’s trading support 2.0 featured entrepreneurial training and the subsequent disbursement of non-interest loans as well as other financial and non-financial incentives. In a similar success to the maiden support programme, The Single Mother’s trading support 2.0 was well received by the target applicants who expressed their sincere appreciation and promised to make judicious use of the fund for further expansion of their businesses.

Testimonials

My name is Mrs. Ogwu, I sell little stationeries, notebooks and school items. I'm a single mother, and I appreciate this loan facility extended to me to boost my business. I pray the lord will increase your organization and grant you the grace to do more. I thank you very much.

Single Mother’s Trading Support 2.0 recipient





Support us to empower
struggling single mothers

Single Mothers Trading Support 2.0

Featuring
Entrepreneurship training
Business funding (Microloans and support)

For donations
Paypal- singularlymeofficial@gmail.com
Bank- Singularly Me Mothers Support Initiative
Heritage Bank, 5100357213



Single Mother's Trading Support - Photo Talk

◉◉◉◉◉ Singularly Me Mother's

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AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
GENDER JUSTICE AND DIVERSITY
HEALTH, NUTRITION AND POPULATION
MICROFINANCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND
LEGAL AID **SERVICES EDUCATION**
INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT
GENDER EQUALITY & GIRL CHILD
MARGINALISATION MIGRATION
TARGETING THE ULTRA-POOR WATER,
SANITATION AND HYGIENE **ENTERPRISES**
AND INVESTMENTS AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD SECURITY
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
DISASTER, ENVIRONMENT AND
CLIMATE CHANGE **HEALTH,**
NUTRITION AND POPULATION
GENDER JUSTICE AND DIVERSITY
EDUCATION HUMAN RIGHTS AND
LEGAL AID SERVICES, **WATER,**

GENDER EQUALITY AND GIRL CHILD ADVOCACY

“Being a young African girl is not a hurdle to overcome, but a force to be reckoned with.”

DR JOANNIE MARLENE BEWA



SiMMSI's commitment towards becoming a voice for gender equality in Nigeria and Africa at large is unwavering. Our plethora of grass-root outreaches and campaigns over the years have yielded amazing results and essentially represents a true proof that the saddening menace of Gender inequality could be a thing of the past if sensitization is done at the grassroots and every person works towards building a society with equal opportunities and rewards for everyone regardless of gender.

In the past one year, we embarked on several girl child advocacy and gender equality campaigns at schools, the community, the grass-roots and beyond.

Equality Handbook

SiMMSI marked the international day of the girl child 2021 in grand style by launching our much-anticipated equality handbook titled 'Gender Equality Training in Secondary Schools' (GETSS). The book launch, which took place on October 11 at St. Michael's Secondary School in Akure was a tremendous success, with dignitaries, students, and staff from schools around the Akure Metropolis.



The Ondo National Orientation Agency director, Mrs. Adelayo Adefolalu who graced the occasion admonished all present, especially female secondary school students in Ondo state to aim high in their educational pursuits. Making the call at Akure, Ondo state, during the official book launch of the 'Gender Equality Training for Secondary Schools (GETSS)' handbook, a gender equality training manual written by 'SINGULARLY ME MOTHERS SUPPORT INITIATIVE (SiMMSI)', she advocated her support for girl child education and urged students to pay attention to their studies if they desired to go far in their future careers. She also encouraged female students to compete favorably with their male peers without fear or intimidation.



FUTURE OUTLOOK

In our microfinance programme, we intend to launch a pilot project on financial education. This project aims to empower microfinance clients by giving them a greater understanding of financial management. Over the next year, the programme will roll out an expanded curriculum, which includes classroom as well as community-based components.

One of the major causes of loan defaults is health emergencies within a family. These incidents can be costly and magnify household vulnerability. To help clients cope with these events, the programme is piloting a health loan.

Existing clients can quickly access loans for medical services like consultation, diagnosis, surgery, and hospitalization, while patients can decide on their service provider.