



"Equality has no gender, it is a right that belongs to all of humanity."



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

[www.singularlyme.org](http://www.singularlyme.org)

## Singularly Me Mother's Support Initiative [SiMMSI]

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## OUR MISSION AND VISION



### 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



Singularly Me Mothers' Support Initiative

[www.singularlyme.org](http://www.singularlyme.org)

## TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

We are pleased to present our annual report for SiMMSI, outlining our strategic and operational highlights, financial performance, and outlook for the future.

### Strategic Highlights

In 2022, SiMMSI focused on empowering young girls and women through various initiatives, including our school-based gender equality training, inter-school debates, and community campaigns against gender-based violence. We collaborated with a Turkish NGO to make a presentation at the NGO CSW66, which generated interest in our activities. We also continued our microloan scheme to support traders and formed alliances with other NGOs to solidify our impact.

### Financial Highlights

Despite funding being a major source of impediment, we were able to carry out our activities and achieve our goals. Our financial statements demonstrate the responsible use of resources and the impact of our programs on the lives of the beneficiaries we serve.

### Operating Highlights

In 2022, SiMMSI conducted the second phase of our school-based gender equality training, which was well received by the participating schools and students. Inter-school debates were conducted to raise awareness of gender equality issues among school-aged children. We also celebrated World Gender-Based Violence Day by conducting a community campaign against gender-based violence, which was well attended and generated important conversations. Our microloan scheme to support traders continued with loans being given out in two separate batches.

### Looking Ahead

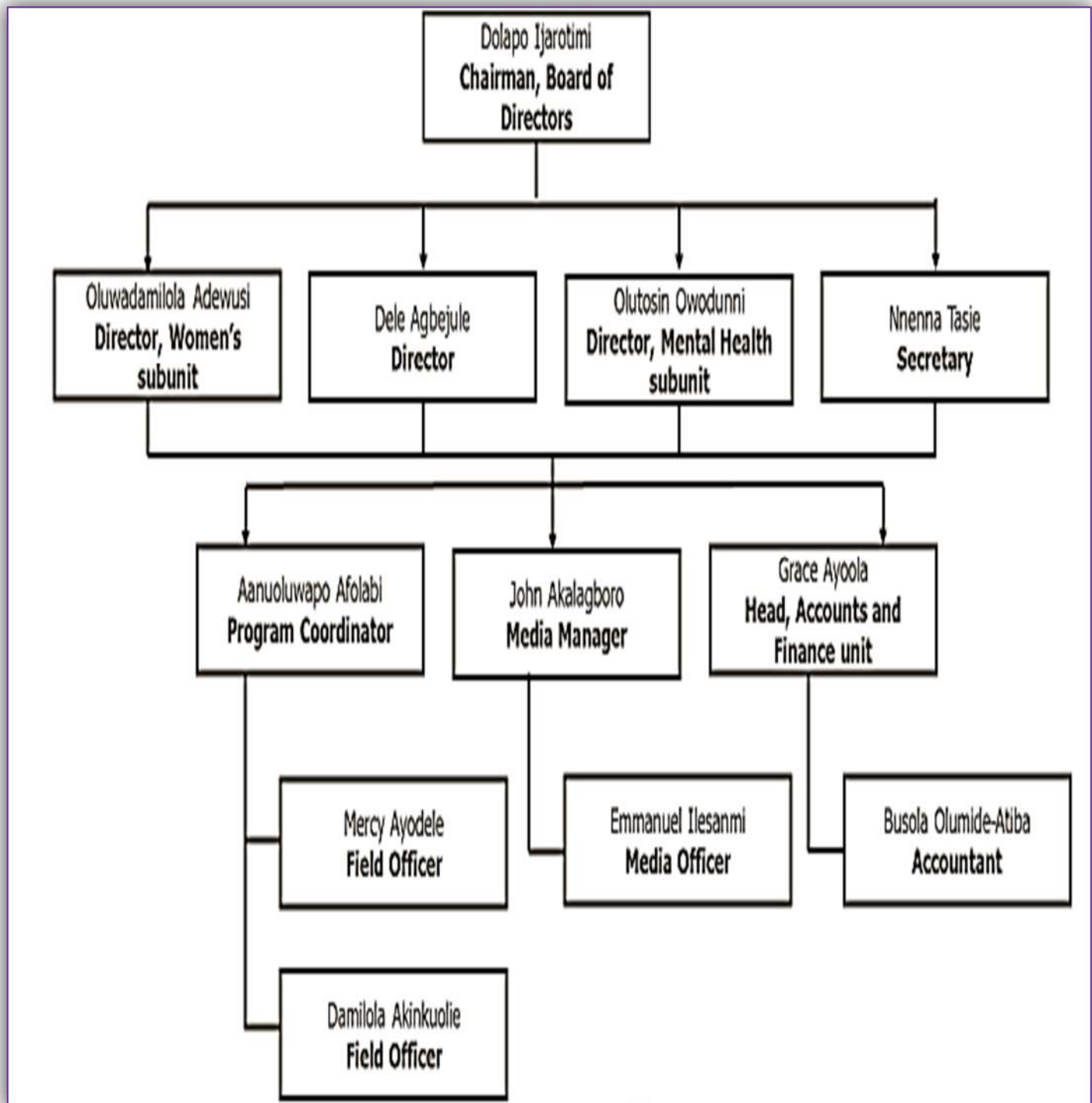
As we enter 2023, we remain committed to promoting gender equality, advocating for the rights of girls, and supporting single mothers. We plan to continue the role out of our gender equality training in secondary schools, as well as give out loans to support single mothers with trading. We will continue to seek funding and form alliances with other NGOs to expand our impact.

We thank our stakeholders for their continued support and partnership as we work towards creating a Nigeria where there is no gender discrimination or inequality.

**Dr. Dolapo Ijarotimi**  
Director, SiMMSI

*When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favour*  
— *Elon Musk*

## OUR ORGANOGRAM



## THE SiMMSI BOARD



**Dr. Ibidolapo Ijarotimi**  
President and Chair, Singularly Me Mothers'  
Support Initiative



**Dr. Damilola Adewusi**  
Director, Women's Subunit



**Dr. Olutosin Owodunni**  
Director, Women's Mental Health  
subunit



**Mr. Dele Agbejule**  
Central Director



**Nnenna Tasie**  
Secretary



## COMPLIANCE RISK FRAMEWORK

SiMMSI is committed to ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to our operations. To achieve this, we have implemented a compliance risk assessment framework that considers our internal controls, business processes, and legal requirements.

As part of this framework, we regularly review our internal controls to identify any weaknesses or gaps that could potentially result in compliance issues. We also conduct audits of our compliance function to assess its effectiveness in managing compliance risks.



It is worth noting that SiMMSI is registered with the Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 (1) (a) and (4) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011. We remain committed to upholding the highest standards of compliance in all aspects of our operations.

### Key components of the Compliance Framework

#### i. Board and Management Responsibilities

The Board and Management of SiMMSI acts as the management oversight for the organization. At SiMMSI, we are committed to integrity, and the organizational leaders are law-abiding and thus set the standard for volunteers to learn from.

The Board of Directors has developed a code of conduct, communicate prospects, adopt policies, and communicate these adequately to volunteers. Using enforcement measures, they ensure that the company guidelines are strictly followed.

#### ii. Risk Recognition and Assessment

At SiMMSI, risks are annually assessed by an external financial auditing firm to avoid biased reviews. The audit's scope is determined by the top management, who give the independent body all the materials and resources needed for the audit. To uncover compliance issues and make sure that personnel are upholding continuous compliance, SiMMSI prioritizes the annual auditing process. To

guarantee that the audit is carried out properly, SiMMSI ensures that some members of her monitoring system, such as the accountant and project manager, are enlisted on the auditing team.

Upon completion of the audit, the reports are documented, the gaps are found, and appropriate corrective measures are developed. The audit report is then delivered to the Board of Directors for further action.

### iii. Compliance program

SiMMSI has a compliance program that is followed for her to stay in adherence with established rules and regulations. The components of the compliance program are as follows:

- a. Policies: The Board of Directors at SiMMSI establish policies that all employees must abide by. The management make sure that these rules are followed by all departments.
- b. Processes: These include a list of the steps that must be taken to ensure compliance with existing regulations.
- c. Training: SiMMSI offers diverse training opportunities to achieve capacity building for her volunteers. At the point of recruitment, the competence level of prospective volunteers is assessed alongside some training. In addition, re-training sessions are organized to update volunteer's knowledge and improve their style of executing tasks and implementing projects.
- d. Monitoring: A monitoring policy is developed to determine organizational adherence to existing rules. These guidelines help to identify the areas in which departments are lagging.
- e. Use of corrective actions: To prevent repeats of mistakes, corrective actions are ensured at SiMMSI. These include a verbal explanation and/or written/documentation of the situation, and possible escalation of the issue at hand to the disciplinary panel that decides appropriate corrective measures to the offender. These actions help to preserve the organization's reputation and save unnecessary cost.

### iv. Employees' Responsibilities

At SiMMSI, the employees, frequently referred to as volunteers, are innovative and open to knowledge. They take cues from the standard set by the Board of Directors. The communication network is usually kept open between volunteers and their departmental heads, as well as between departmental heads and the Board of Directors, presided over by the President.



## Principles and Practices reflected at SiMMSI

At SiMMSI, our principles and practices are premised on gender equality, social inclusion, and transparency.



### Gender equality

SiMMSI's gender equality principle emphasizes that both men and women's interest, needs, and priorities are considered, recognizing the diversity of various groupings of men and women. Gender equality should involve and concern both men and women equally. It is not just a women's issue. In addition to being a human rights problem, equality between men and women is also considered as a requirement for and a sign of sustainable people-centered development.



### Social inclusion:

Social inclusion refers to the principle SiMMSI adopts to ensure that all women, regardless of their background, can realize their full potential in life. These initiatives include empowerment and capacity building opportunities that support equitable access to sustainable production and make it possible for women to participate in the decision-making that has an impact on their daily life. Social inclusion enables women's active participation in the political, economic, and social spheres of life.



### Transparency

The management of SiMMSI believes in sharing information regarding the organization's mode of operations to improve accountability, trust, and clarity, both to individuals within and outside the organization.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022 ACTIVITIES

### SCHOOL-BASED GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAMS

SiMMSI's Board of Directors has unanimously agreed that secondary schools are an important setting for gender equality programs. Adolescence is a formative phase of life and SiMMSI's gender equality educative programs are crucial in sharpening and redefining students' perspectives about the girl child and her prospects in life. SiMMSI's team had to engage proprietors and school administrators intellectually to obtain the required authorization to conduct the gender equality training program for their students within the school premises. They also had to convince both the students and teachers to be on board and excited about the gender equality training.



SiMMSI's team had conversations with the students in their classes and in school halls, raising several issues on gender discrimination. They discussed whether both boys and girls or men and women had equal opportunities to education, leadership, vocational empowerment, and the impact of these biases on the lives of girls and women, and the society at large. The team also asked questions about the significance of addressing the subject matter of discrimination and violence against girls and women, the occurrence of gender-based violence in Nigeria, who the perpetrators and victims are, and the reasons to rise to stop the act. In many instances, the discussions ensued in critical conversations on strategies to tackle the problems.



## GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

SiMMSI conducted several grassroots advocacy campaigns to raise awareness on issues affecting women and girls at the community level. Through these campaigns, SiMMSI aimed to sensitize community members on the importance of gender equality, women empowerment, and the need to address issues such as gender-based violence, early marriage, and limited access to education and healthcare. SiMMSI's team engaged with community leaders, traditional rulers, and women groups to disseminate information and encourage community members to take action towards promoting gender equality. The grassroots advocacy campaigns were also aimed at challenging harmful cultural practices and beliefs that perpetuate gender inequality and discrimination against women and girls.





## SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGNS

SiMMSI created social media posts with the aim of empowering women in leadership, economic involvement, entrepreneurship, and school leadership, while debunking the stereotype that "Women's Education Ends in the Kitchen".

These posts were shared on SiMMSI's social media platforms, including LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram, as well as through volunteers' personal WhatsApp accounts.



**The world would be so much better and happier if we don't discriminate against any gender but provided equal opportunities for them to dream, act and become!**

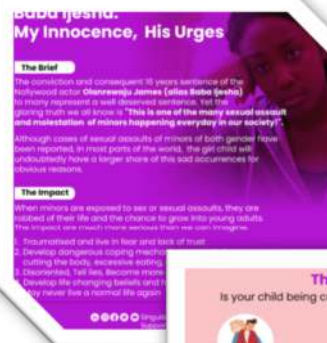
We talked about our future, the things we hoped to be and do  
We just didn't understand then, this problem has always been there  
How many times did we tell Chisom?  
You can't be a pilot! Women are not allowed to fly planes.  
Keep on dreaming we always did tell her

And to Bayo's choice we often gave the loudest laugh  
"This one wants to be a chef and own the biggest restaurants in the country!"  
"A man can never cook like a woman" we always warned!

We never bothered to give Amina any reply  
Imagine her wanting to be a Major in the army!  
A Lady in the army, what a dream!  
'ell, her suitors are already piling in their numbers.

Because society has normalized gender bias in so many ways, many of us are guilty of it without ever being aware of it.

**As we deal with people, it should be skills, competence and passion over gender.**



The intention of these updates was to inspire girls to dream big and strive for excellence in their pursuits, with the goal of helping them become responsible adults who can compete on a global scale.

SiMMSI's slogan, "*Skill and Value has no Gender*", reflects the organization's commitment to gender equality and empowering women to achieve their full potential.

<https://www.simmssi.org/2022/08/25/gender-bias/jena/#akurehowefar>



**SiMMSI Discourse:  
Gender and Occupation**

**Quick poll:**

**Would you prefer to be treated by a male doctor or a female doctor?**

**Give your reasons / share your experience**

## ENTREPRENEURIAL AND SKILLS ACQUISITION

Women are disproportionately among the rich members of the society, and the number of poor women living in rural areas is on the increase compared to men. Yet, women are discriminated against in the agricultural sector, and this has persisted till date. Factors contributing to the increase in rural poverty are economic recession, civil strife, and natural disasters. In addition, the rise in the number of households supported solely by women is an important variable explaining the increase in poverty among women. Thus, women need to be empowered to meet the Sustainable Development Goals 1 (No poverty), 5 (Gender equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).



For this cause, SiMMSI has annually provided microcredit loans for women traders at NEPA market, a local trading arena in Akure, Ondo State. Each beneficiary is supported with #20,000 micro-credit loan December every year, and this is repaid #3,000 monthly over the next six months in the new year. SiMMSI is indeed contributing towards poverty alleviation by providing microfinance opportunities for small businesses who ordinarily do not have access to traditional financial resources from major institutions, thereby making access to loans needed for their businesses to thrive a herculean task.





## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022	
<b>INCOME:</b>	(N)
(A) RETAINED EARNINGS (B/F FROM 2022)	145,567.37
(B) DONATIONS/ CONTRIBUTIONS:	
<b>CORPORATE:</b>	
SINGULARLY ME MOTHERS SUPPORT INITIATIVE (SIMMSI)	119,542.85
COLLABORATING WITH HAFAI	1,387,000.00
<b>INDIVIDUAL DONATION:</b>	
DONATION FROM OLUWABUKOLA AANU ADEBOWALE	20,000.00
DONATION FROM IBIDOLAPO OLUWAROTIMI	100,000.00
<b>(C) OTHER INCOME:</b>	
LOAN REPAYMENT FROM MARKET WOMEN	430,000.00
BALANCE FROM PROJECT EXPENSES REFUNDED	35,190.00
REFUND FROM MEMBERS/ IMPREST REFUND	15,500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,252,800.22</b>
<b>LESS OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>	(N)
<b>(A) PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES:</b>	
HAFAI PROGRAM EXPENSES	128,000.00
HOLIDAY SCHLOOL GETTS PROGRAM	10,000.00
SCHOOL GIRLS DAY PROGRAM	56,500.00
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	30,000.00



ENTERTAINMENT FOR SCHOOL GIRLS DAY PROGRAM	56,000.00
(B)OVERHEAD/ OTHER DEDUCTIONS	
WEBSITE DOMAIN RENEWAL/SSL WEBSITE	33,950.00
GENDER EQUALITY DATA ENTRY	5,000.00
CREDIT CARDS/PHONE CALLS	2,000.00
BANK CHARGES	6,914.30
IMPREST GIVEN FOR OVERHEAD EXPENSES	20,000.00
(C) MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENTS:	
SALARIES/ STIPEND	1,099,000.00
XMAS BONUS	50,000.00
MARKET WOMEN LOAN SUPPORT	600,500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,097,864.30
NET INCOME	154,935.92
NOTE TO THE ACCOUNT:	
NET INCOME= INCOME- OPERATING EXPENSES	

## 2023 Financial Forecast

Item	Amount (₹)
Revenue from grants	2,500,000
Revenue from individuals	150,000
Revenue from microcredit loan refund	600, 000
Operating expense	2,500,000
Taxes (at 10%)	200,000
Net income	550,000

## Conclusion

SiMMSI has continued to make significant strides in empowering and supporting women and girls in Nigeria. Through our various programs, partnerships, and initiatives, we have made a positive impact on the lives of countless individuals and communities. We are proud of our achievements so far, but we also acknowledge that there is still much work to be done.

Moving forward, SiMMSI remains committed to our vision of creating a society where women and girls have equal opportunities, access to resources, and the freedom to pursue their dreams. We will continue to work tirelessly to promote gender equality, fight discrimination and violence against women and girls, and support the education and empowerment of women and girls in Nigeria.

We would like to express our gratitude to our stakeholders, partners, and volunteers who have supported us throughout our journey. Together, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of women and girls in Nigeria.

