



## **GENDER MOBILE INITIATIVE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**WHO WE ARE ..... 3**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE ..... 4**

**ORGANIZATION GOVERNANCE ..... 5**

**PROGRAMMES ..... 6**

**HIGHLIGHTS OF ADHOC EVENTS IN 2021 ..... 12**

**LEARNINGS..... 16**

**PARTNERS..... 17**

**CONTACT US..... 18**

## **WHO WE ARE**

Gender Mobile Initiative is a female and youth led non-governmental organization adopting a comprehensive approach in advancing gender equality and eliminating sexual and gender-based violence. Over the years, Gender Mobile has built a credible history in collaborative advocacy and gender mainstreaming as critical tools for the realization of a gender-equitable world.

We work to complement the policy and program interventions of government and other relevant stakeholders in efforts towards reducing and ultimately eliminating the menace of sexual and gender-based violence in Nigeria and beyond through the coordination of linked services, leveraging and harnessing the power of technology.

## **MISSION**

The Mission of Gender Mobile is to build a strong, vibrant and accessible-for-all platform to facilitate access to justice, forge collaborative advocacy and drive education and re-orientation for prevention and community ownership.

## **VISION**

We envision a just and equitable society devoid of all forms of gender-based violence.

## **OUR GOAL**

Our ultimate goal is to break the silence on gender-based violence, advocate for increased and improved institutional response to achieve gender equality and eliminate gender-based violence.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

What a pivotal year for us and the communities we serve!

The year kicked-off with a renewed sense of urgency to reinforce efforts towards achieving a gender-equitable world amidst concerted action to address the uptick in the incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Nigeria, and across the globe.

Violence against girls and women and gender inequality continue to thrive on adverse gender norms, lack of agency for women and girls, poverty, patriarchal norms, occupational segregation, and unpaid care work as women bear a disproportionate burden of domestic work. Despite the challenges and set back occasioned by the pandemic in the collective fight against gender-based violence (GBV), we pushed ahead with new approaches to address the structural inequity that fuels violence against girls and women particularly in environments of learning. Women and girls play a critical role in raising healthy communities; hence, women and girls are at the center of our effort as equal partners.



This year, we took a major leap of launching a demand-driven technology enabled platform that integrates both prevention and response to holistically tackle sexual assault and make education transmittal spaces safe for everyone to thrive. This facilitated the creation of virtual safe spaces and access to information and services in a way that catalyzes the power of solidarity.

We charted new pathways for fostering community ownership and forged partnerships to promote access to justice and economic empowerment of women. This remarkable progress happened on the strength of the incredible support of everyone.

Our ability to dream big, envision an equitable world, and soar high is a testament to the passion, innovation, grit, solidarity and commitment of the Gender Mobile Team, amazing partners and community of interest.

My immense gratitude goes to Gender Mobile's esteemed Board and every member of the Organization for the commitment invested. I look forward to a more impactful 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Omowunmi Ogunrotimi'.

**Omowunmi Ogunrotimi, Esq.**

*Executive Director*

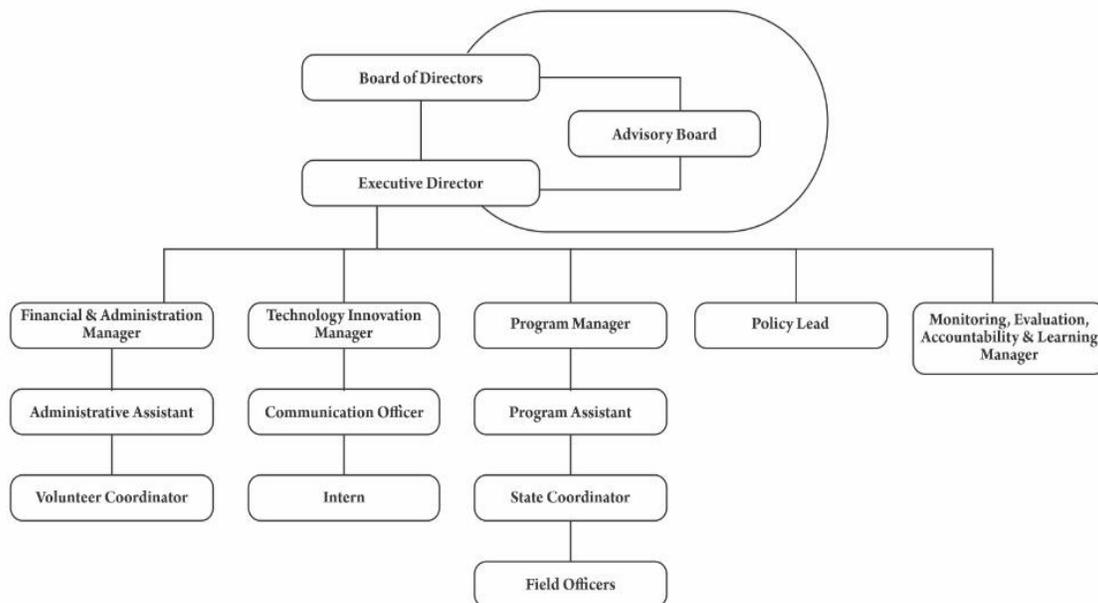
## ORGANIZATION GOVERNANCE

Gender Mobile Initiative's governance structure derives its validity from enabling legal framework, particularly the Companies and Allied Matters Act and other relevant laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In accordance with best practices, Gender Mobile Initiative has a diverse and inclusive Board responsible for directing the affairs of the organization in consonance with its mission. In practice, the Board delegates its authority to the Management who is accountable to the Board.

The responsibilities of the Board are wide-ranging despite its part-time service. However, the Board is heavily invested in providing proactive oversight for accountable functioning of the organization through periodic evaluation of management performance, leadership succession planning, audit oversight, financial reporting, risk management and determination of governance processes.

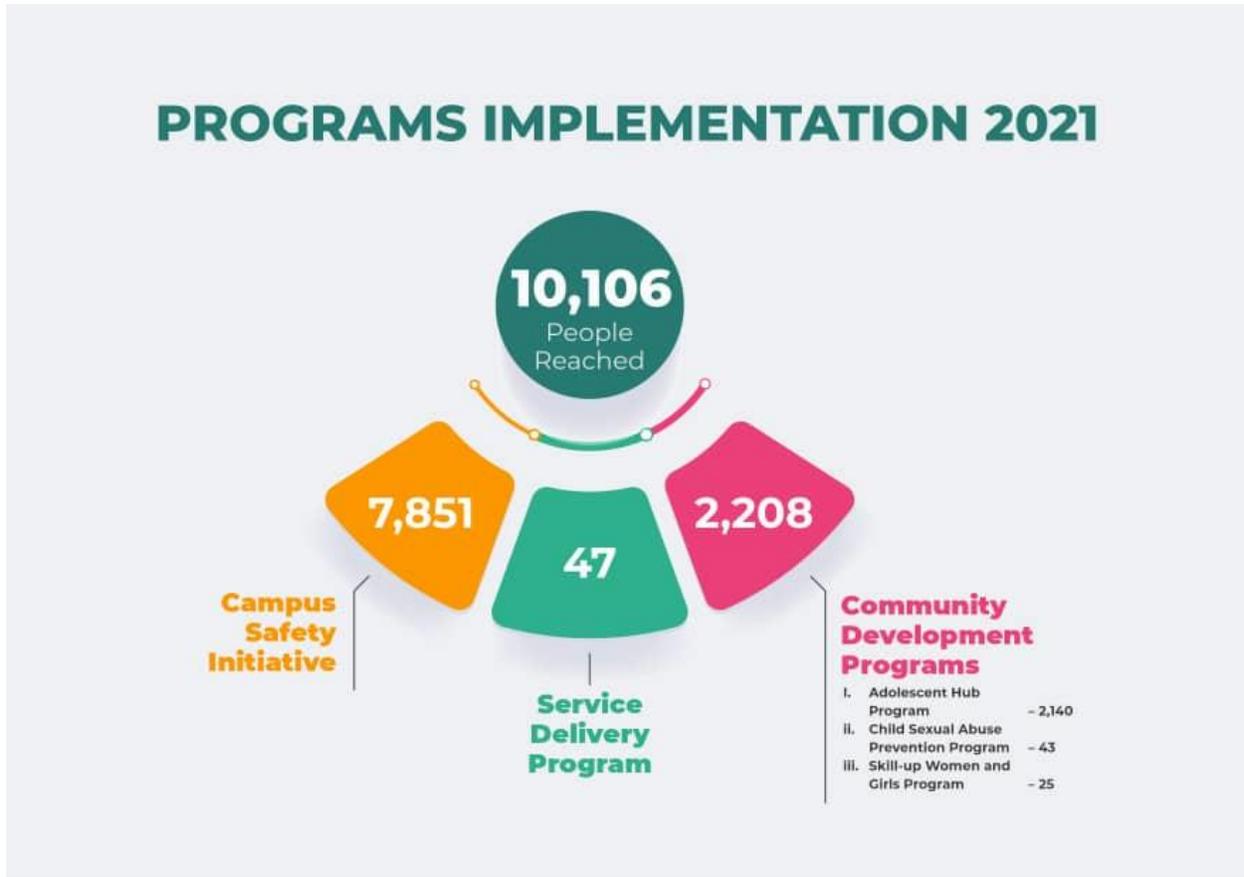


### Organogram/Leadership Structure



## PROGRAMMES

Throughout 2021, Gender Mobile worked with a renewed sense of urgency towards advancing gender justice, achieving gender-equitable outcomes and addressing structural barriers that enable violence against women and girls to thrive, particularly in environments of learning. Our programs are anchored on strategic approaches such as policy advocacy and influencing, technology adoption, research, service delivery, livelihood support, capacity building/strengthening and awareness raising to advance gender equality and women empowerment.



Like every one of the preceding years, 2021 was a year of numerous events and great highlights for Gender Mobile. This year, we worked in different communities of interest and strived to remain impactful on every project and programme of the Organization. The projects and programmes implemented in the course of the year under review include:

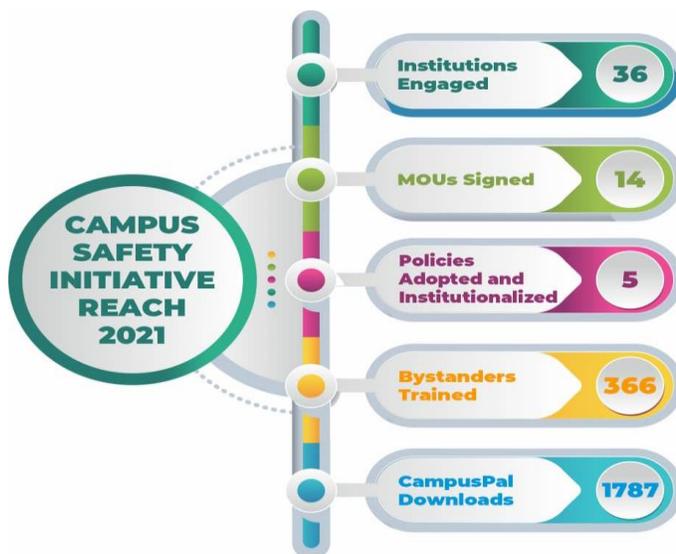
- Campus Safety Initiative
- Service Delivery Program
- Adolescent Hub Program
- Child Sexual Abuse Program
- Skill-up Women and Girls Program

## CAMPUS SAFETY INITIATIVE

Nigerian Tertiary Education Institutions are diverse and characterized by power asymmetry that enable gender-based violence, especially sexual harassment to thrive. Our work has exposed us to several learnings particularly highlighting the strong nexus between power-centred harassment and capacity to give consent to sexual relations in tertiary education institutions as well as the need to address gaps in institutional grievance redressal mechanisms aimed at effectively addressing sexual harassment as a culture and climate issue.

For the fourth year running, we reached more tertiary education institutions with the Campus Safety Initiative which was launched in 2018. In 2021, we held several hybrid meetings with Management members of 36 Tertiary Institutions, signed MOUs with 14 new Tertiary Education Institutions and finalized policies with 5 of the Institutions. The Campus Safety Initiative has supported Nigerian institutions of higher learning to strengthen their internal mechanisms to address sexual harassment through a tripartite approach of

context specific anti-sexual harassment policy design, capacity building of Campus Ambassadors as proactive bystanders, and the adoption of the CampusPal App for confidential reporting of sexual harassment and effective case management. [Click here](#) to watch our documentary on Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria.



Activities carried out focused on campus communities in 2021:

### 1. CampusPal Mobile App Launch

A major milestone we recorded in 2021 was the launch of CampusPal on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, a demand-driven technology-enabled platform that integrates both prevention and response to holistically tackle sexual assault and make education transmittal spaces safe for everyone to thrive. This facilitated the creation of virtual safe spaces and access to information and services for members of campus communities. We hope to expand on the gains of CampusPal in institutions of higher learning through collaborative advocacy, education and community ownership.





You can watch the CampusPal journey video [here](#) and see highlights of the launch event [here](#).

## 2. Town Hall Forum at University of Abuja

On July 7<sup>th</sup> 2021, a Town Hall Forum on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Proactive Bystander Intervention was held with 84 students at the University of Abuja. The Forum was held with focus on the baseline understanding of sexual harassment, bystander intervention strategies and leveraging survivor-centered platforms such as the CampusPal App to report cases of sexual



harassment. Students engaged in role-plays on proactive bystander intervention. A survivor of sexual harassment at the University also shared her experience of sexual harassment and spoke to participants on the need to speak out and seek counseling services if faced with sexual harassment. The event ended with a raffle draw and 15 students emerged winners.

## 3. Kogi State University Engagement

On 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021, a 2-day physical engagement held at Kogi State University. We held interactive sessions on Sexual Harassment Prevention and Redress Mechanisms at the institution with 50 staff comprising of members of the Technical Working Group (TWG); Independent Sexual Harassment Prohibition Committee (ISHPC), National Association of Women in Academics (NAWACS), teaching and non-teaching staff. Capacity building session on Bystander Intervention also held with 22 Campus Ambassadors of the institution.





A Town Hall Meeting with 195 participants held on issues of sexual harassment and elevated conversations on the collaborative efforts by management of Kogi State University through the Campus Safety Initiative to improve its internal mechanisms to be more responsive.



Engagement at the institution rounded up with the adoption drive of the CampusPal Mobile App and distribution of CampusPal souvenirs to over 2,500 students in hostels and other campus spaces, to share information on the CampusPal and how students can harness the user-friendly features of the App to interact with peers and onboard a range of information and services. Click [here](#) to watch excerpts from the Town Hall Meeting.

#### 4. Niger State College of Education Minna Engagement

On 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021, we facilitated a sensitisation programme on sexual harassment prevention during the matriculation and orientation event at Niger State College of Education Minna. About 5,000 students and staff were educated on sexual harassment, proactive bystander intervention strategies and the CampusPal mobile app. Interactive sessions were also held with participants to assess the knowledge gained from which 7 outstanding students received CampusPal souvenirs. An engagement was also held with Management members of the institution on the Campus Safety Initiative and a partnership was established with the institution through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



## SERVICE DELIVERY PROGRAM

In 2021, we provided survivor-centered services to victims and survivors through our Service Delivery Program in response to the uptick in incidents of sexual and gender-based violence in Nigeria and the challenges in access to services. Forty-seven (47) persons accessed support services (information and counselling, legal aid and referral services) through our 24/7 call centre infrastructure and web-based platforms.



To effectively respond to sexual harassment cases reported from environments of learning, we adopted an accountability model that ensures the investigation and adjudication of sexual harassment cases have the most basic elements of fairness and due process. A key learning for us on Service Delivery Program is the need to strengthen collaborations with other GBV service providers to improve the provision of quality services to survivors and for effective GBV interventions.

## ADOLESCENT HUB PROGRAM

In the year under review, we expanded implementation of the Adolescent Hub Program, an evidence-based 7 weeks modular activity on sexual and gender-based violence prevention targeting in-school adolescents ranging from ages 10-19 years old. Our interaction with this target population has exposed us to new learnings on the prevalence of school-related gender-based violence (SRGBV). This informed our design approach in training adolescents, parents and school administrators aimed at tackling the emergent and evolving SRGBV issues and its manifestations.



A total of 2,140 in-school adolescents spread across 5 secondary schools in Ekiti State were reached with information on SGBV prevention and response, enhanced knowledge of gender equality as proactive bystanders on SGBV issues.

Relatedly, we conducted training for 9 volunteers on the implementation of the Adolescent Hub Training Module. The training focused on building the capacity of volunteers on the Adolescent Hub project and module as well as take them through the trainer’s manual to ensure their ability to accurately deliver the module in the field.

### **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

The Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program is a children-focused program targeting young boys and girls between ages 3 – 12 years with information on sex education, prevention and reporting of child sexual abuse. In 2021, a total of forty-three (43) children were educated on understanding their body parts, sexual abuse prevention and the importance of reporting incidents of abuse.



A key finding from our interaction was that a significant number of sexually abused children are unable to speak up about their experiences due to fear of reprimand by their parents or guardians resulting in unabated patterns of abuse.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADHOC EVENTS IN 2021

### 1. Implementation of Educational Institutions Strengthening Programmes in Partnership with National Orientation Agency

Gender Mobile renewed its partnership with the National Orientation Agency (NOA) aimed at synergizing efforts at strengthening mechanisms in educational institutions, sensitization and attitudinal re-orientation to address SGBV. Alongside other partner organizations, we provided technical support as a resource partner during the 2021 implementation of two flagship programs of the NOA, the Campus Focus Program for Tertiary Institutions and the Continuous Attitudinal Re-Orientation Campaign in Secondary Schools.



Through the Campus Focus Program for Tertiary Institutions and the Continuous Attitudinal Re-Orientation Campaign in Secondary Schools, we reached an estimated 3,200 participants (learners and administrators) in 5 tertiary institutions and 3 secondary schools across the 6 geo-political zones in Nigeria with capacity building, increased awareness about GBV, sexual and reproductive health rights, and improved institutional response to address the widespread incidents of SGBV.

### 2. The Role of Students in Attaining Social Justice

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2021, a virtual engagement held with 65 Student Campus Ambassadors drawn from different Nigerian Tertiary Institutions. The thrust of the interaction focused on their role as actors in the attainment of social justice leveraging technology. This held to mark the 2021 theme for the World Day of Social Justice themed: 'A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy'. Students were engaged on legal frameworks, the digital platforms including the CampusPal, and the need to use technology beyond social interaction to call for action and amplify voices regarding social injustices including campus sexual assault.

### 3. Secure Our Lives Ekiti State Convening

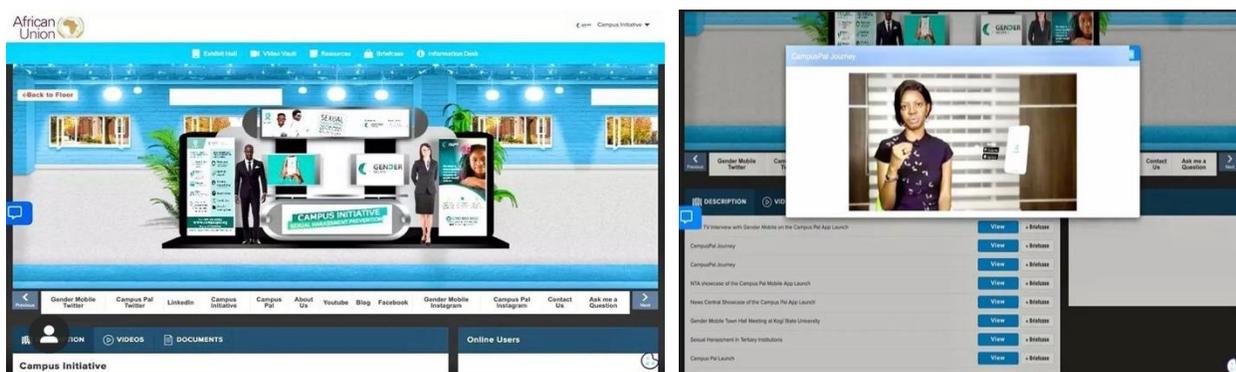
On 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Gender Mobile in collaboration with a collective of women-focused civil society organizations such as Balm in Gilead Foundation for Sustainable Development (BIGIF) embarked on campaigns and made call for action on the growing state of insecurity in Nigeria. 56 participants shared personal angle experiences of gender-based violence. They accessed a range of support services.



Key outcomes from the convening were a call to duty bearers to promote and protect the rights of affected populations due to the rise of insecurity in the nation and also the need to integrate survivor-centered services into communities to meet the needs of survivors and realize the rights of women and girls.

#### 4. CampusPal Exhibition at the African Union Innovating Education in Africa Virtual Expo 2021

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, 2021, the CampusPal Mobile App was showcased at the African Union Innovating Education in Africa Virtual Expo 2021 as one of the top African education innovations. Given the all-time high statistical prevalence of sexual harassment and its attendant implications, CampusPal innovation is designed to make education transmittal spaces safe for everyone to thrive.



During the exhibition, we shared information and resources on the 3 components of our Campus Safety Initiative and interacted with other exhibitors driving innovative solutions addressing critical challenges in education and training systems across 31 African countries. You can check out our Booth at virtual expo [here](#).

#### 5. Commemoration of GMI 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and International Day of the Girl Child

Gender Mobile Initiative marked its 4<sup>th</sup> year of social impact sojourn in the civic space on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2021, which doubled as the International Day of the Girl Child themed, ‘Digital Generation, Our Generation’.

In recognition of the joint commemoration, Gender Mobile Team members and partner organizations shared individual statements on Gender Mobile’s contribution to tackling global



challenges on gender equality, enhancing the rights of women and girls and achieving sustainable development.

We conducted a Twitter Poll and hosted a Twitter Hangout. Gideon Olanrewaju, Founder of Aid for Rural Education Access Initiative (AREAI) discussed the intersecting dimensions of gender equality, education and digital access for girls. We also explored the role of technology in addressing SGBV and how critical stakeholders can leverage gender mainstreaming in digital access for girls to challenge gender-biased norms about women/girls in the tech space.

We held an inter-school debate on the significance of digital tools in curbing gender-based violence: an advantage or disadvantage. The event drew 283 participants including 6 debaters from Olaoluwa Muslim Grammar School, Honneyx Academy and Anglican High School Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State. The debaters demonstrated knowledge on how gender stereotype enables GBV in schools, homes, places of worship and the community at large. They also highlighted the associated risks with the use of technology such as cyber bullying, stalking, cat-fishing, child grooming, which can have negative psychosocial impact on victims such as causing fear, low self-esteem, depression and suicide. Prize items including educational books, writing materials, sanitary pads and facemasks were given to the winner and other debaters.

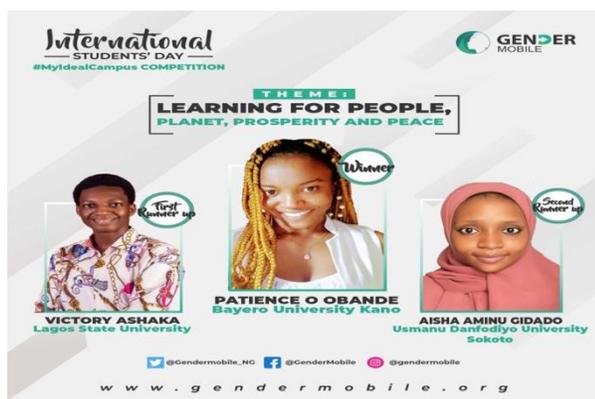
## **6. Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**

As part of the annual global campaign of the 16 Days of Activism calling for an end to violence against women and girls, Gender Mobile had an interactive engagement on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2021 with women at Mpape District, Abuja. We had the opportunity to enlighten 40 Mpape community women within the ages 19 to 45 on the prevalent incidences of sexual and gender-based violence, preventive strategies, and victims' support. We further held a Twitter round-table on core intersectional issues of access to contraceptives, body autonomy and sexual and reproductive health. On the sideline of our Skill-Up Women and Girls Program which aims to empower women and promote access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls, we partnered with Comprehensive Health Centre Okeyinmi, to facilitate the provision of family planning services to 25 women at the Okeyinmi health center, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State.



## 7. #IdealCampusChallenge

In commemoration of the International Students' Day held annually on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 25 students from various tertiary institutions across Nigeria participated in the #MyIdealCampus contest, which provided a veritable platform for students to creatively ideate and express through digital platforms their vision of an ideal Campus and the roadmap to achieve it. Students expressed that they envision campuses with proper infrastructure and safe for everyone, that promote green economies, enable access to workable learning tools, uphold mutual respect among members of the campus community, and encourage meaningful student engagement.



Participating students did not only identify a utopian campus environment as an ideal Nigerian campus, but also highlighted practical steps to its achievement such as leveraging technology, promoting meaningful collaborations with members of the campus community, targeted funding and strengthened institutional mechanisms to address sexual and gender-based violence. The top three entries were awarded cash prizes and can be viewed on our social media platforms.

## LEARNINGS

The Gender Mobile Team has recorded some learning points in the year 2021. These include:

1. Historically, violence against girls and women thrives on unequal power relations which impairs the agency of women to make independent decisions and choices. This incredible nexus provides a clear opportunity for interventions that prioritize the agency of women as a critical tool for real empowerment.
2. Technology adoption for sexual and gender-based violence should be designed holistically to integrate both prevention and response.
3. Technology adoption should not be a substitute but a complementary approach to existing measures to address sexual and gender-based violence.
4. Technology is a veritable tool to balance transparency, accountability and confidentiality.
5. Technology adoption should be designed in a way that is culturally appropriate with the end-users as equal partners.
6. Environments of learning are fertile spaces to seed the principles of democracy, political participation and feminist organizing.
7. In leveraging technology, it is apposite to balance issues of confidentiality, data privacy and ethics.
8. Building a community of practice is a viable tool for building and strengthening community ownership and fostering sustainability.

## PARTNERS

This year, Gender Mobile forged new partnerships, strengthened collaborations with existing partners and fostered community ownership of our interventions. We have relied on the close collaborative relationship between Gender Mobile, partner organizations and its community of interests to forge forward in promoting access to justice and advancing the rights of women and girls.

We recognize the invaluable financial contribution and support from development partners such as Ford Foundation, Pollination Project and YHER Africa that enabled the Organization undertake and continue its flagship projects, the Campus Safety Initiative and Adolescent Hub Project respectively.

We are grateful to all our partners:

**Ford Foundation**

**Ekiti State Government**

**Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission**

**National Orientation Agency**

**The Pollination Project**

**Yher Africa**

**Yar'Adua Foundation**

**Education as A Vaccine**

**National Association of Nigerian Students**

**National Female Students Association of Nigerian**

**National Union of Campus Journalists**

**AIIESEC Nigeria**

**Partner Tertiary Education Institutions**



## CONTACT US

### **Gender Mobile Initiative**

Tsukunda House  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, B03  
Central Business District  
Abuja

**Tel:** +234 700 000 0002  
**Email:** info@gendermobile.org  
**LinkedIn:** gendermobile  
**Twitter:** @GenderMobile\_NG  
**Facebook:** @GenderMobile  
**Instagram:** gendermobile

For information about Gender Mobile and our work, visit [www.gendermobile.org](http://www.gendermobile.org)