2021 ANNUAL REPORT
CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT
(INTERSEX NIGERIA)

Sensitization, Visibility and Awareness.
Intersex Nigeria is thankful for 2021, which has brought organizational strengthening, networking, and opportunities for exploration to promote the mission of our organization. Our goal throughout 2021 was to improve the overall organization strength and programming for intersex persons in Nigeria for the continuous creation of an enabling society that promotes the visibility, inclusion, bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health including mental well-being, and human rights of intersex persons in Nigeria, through community organizing, research, advocacy, and public engagements using a feminist lens.

Even though we encountered some challenges, it cannot be compared to the various partnerships and opportunities we experienced throughout the year in progressing our vision where intersex persons, from birth, have rights to bodily integrity and autonomy and are free from stigma and discrimination.

Over the past year, we have designed intersectional programs ranging from basic SRHR training for intersex persons, research and documentation, capacity strengthening of intersex persons through exchange programs and training, awareness creation for intersex visibility through the creation of IEC materials, and Online media advocacy campaign for an end to IGM, sensitization of local community leaders and relevant stakeholders in different locations in the country, SOGIESC training for intersex persons, and provision of emergency funds for intersex persons in Nigeria. During this process, we learned the importance of involving relevant stakeholders to carry out intersex advocacy in their communities.

From the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, we realized that intersex persons because of the lockdown are experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from dealing with discrimination, isolation, and stigmatization from family members.

Therefore, Healing Justice Workshop and Resilience Workshop were conducted to help intersex persons navigate life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Intersex South Africa partnered with Intersex Nigeria to document the experiences of intersex persons in Nigeria through self-storytelling. Intersex Nigeria brought together Intersex persons from the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria to celebrate the International Intersex Awareness Day. This was a proud moment for us because the beauty in our diversity was clearly painted through peer interaction and experience sharing.

The year 2021 moved us from a tiny team of three to an amazingly diverse young team of 4 staff and 1 volunteer, we also registered with appropriate bodies in Nigeria and opened a bank account. Through this experience, we have learned the meaning of building a diverse team of young, passionate, and dedicated team members with various identities and experiences.

We are optimistic that with your continued support on our journey of growth, gratitude, and hope for Intersex Nigeria. In the next year, we are looking forward to expanding our organizational systems, structures, and programs through more partnerships, networking, collaborations, and support from organizations, allies, and donors.

We are excited to share these moments in form of a report with our donors and community at large. Thank you from us at Intersex Nigeria.

Obioma Chukwuike
Executive Director

Intersex Nigeria

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Our Mission

To create an enabling society that promotes the visibility, inclusion, bodily autonomy, sexual and reproductive health including mental wellbeing, and human rights of intersex persons in Nigeria, through community organizing, research, advocacy, and public engagements using a feminist lens.

Our Vision

Our vision is to see a society where intersex persons, from birth, have rights to bodily integrity and autonomy and are free from stigma and discrimination.
Our Core Values

- **STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT**: We ensure that stakeholders (relevant government and non-government actors) and target beneficiaries (intersex persons) have a chance to contribute to our programs through exchange of knowledge, consultations, and meaningful liaisons.
- **TEAM WORK**: Our strength lies in our combined efforts, experiences and expertise. We collectively ensure the meaningful participation of our staff and volunteers in decision-making processes.
- **EQUITY**: We ensure that resources and services are tailored to meet the specific needs of diverse groups of intersex persons in Nigeria.
- **MUTUAL RESPECT**: We value everyone for who they are irrespective of personal beliefs, cultural backgrounds, religion, social class, abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).
- **INCLUSIVITY**: We recognize the diversity of intersex persons and as such we ensure that our work promotes non-discrimination, adequate representation, and equal access to opportunities and resources in Nigeria.
- **CREDIBILITY**: We adopt a transparent and accountable approach in our work and engagements with the intersex community and external stakeholders.
Our 2021 goals

1. Foster sustainable initiatives for intersex programming in Nigeria, including strategic recommendations on laws and policies that affect intersex persons.

2. Promote bodily autonomy of intersex persons and understanding of intersex anatomy through comprehensive sexual reproductive health and rights education.


4. Reduce stigma, discrimination, and human rights violations (intersex genital mutilation and pathologizing).

5. Cater to the sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) needs, including mental health of intersex persons in Nigeria.

6. Significantly contribute to the national, regional, and global intersex advocacy movement.
## Our 2021 Strategy

We strategically focus our communication, advocacy and outreach efforts around our set of goals.

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<th>S/N</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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| 1.  | **HEALING JUSTICE AND WELL-BEING WORKSHOP (OCTOBER, 2021)** | In October 2021, intersex Nigeria organized a Healing Justice Workshop for 20 intersex persons in Lagos, Nigeria. The Healing Justice Workshop was put together for intersex persons from different geo-political zones in Nigeria, to heal past traumas that COVID-19 intensified. This workshop was a channel to open up unhealed wounds and seek healthy ways to begin a holistic healing journey. We understood the tension and build up traumas that has heightened for intersex persons as a result of COVID-19 and other dehumanization intersex persons face in Nigeria. We also recognized that the hardest thing to ever do, especially as intersex persons is to reveal their naked soul. Opening up unhealed wounds was a difficult task for participants and we saw a huge turn around during each session with a professional holistic psychotherapist. | 1. Increased knowledge of intersex persons on how to identify and deal with traumas they face as marginalized groups in Nigeria.  
2. Increased consciousness of intersex persons to prioritize their mental health and well being to heal from past traumas. |
## Our 2021 Strategy

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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>INTERSEX PHOTO EXHIBITION (NOVEMBER 2021)</td>
<td>Intersex Nigeria photo portrait artwork was part of Flaneuse Project title Envisioning a City for All. This art exhibition was organized by Heinrich Boll Stiftung and Lagos Urban Development Initiative. The aim of the project is to advocate for a more inclusive, livable and sustainable Lagos through deconstructing gendered power structure to achieve gender equality and gender democracy. This project is a call to the government to wake up and to embark on public discourse about the need to embrace people who are rejected by the society due to ignorance and stigmatization.</td>
<td>1. Increased level of public visibility and awareness on intersex issues and rights. 2. Reduced level of stigma and discrimination against intersex persons within the community.</td>
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## RESILIENCE WORKSHOP (OCTOBER 2021)

Recognizing the many adversities intersex people face in Nigeria, Intersex Nigeria organized a training workshop on resilience building in Lagos, Nigeria. This workshop empowered over 15 intersex persons from different geopolitical zones in Nigeria, to identify hardship and find ways to thrive in spite of the daily challenges and struggles intersex people face daily in Nigeria.

When faced with hardship or a difficult challenge, how do you respond? Do you fight through the challenge head-on? Or do you hide away from the obstacle? Who do you reach out to for help when these challenges are too heavy to carry or walk over? These are relevant questions that were raised during the training of intersex persons on resilience skills.

- Increased knowledge of Intersex persons on how to build resilience skills and recover from adversities
## Our 2021 Strategy

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<td>4.</td>
<td>INTERSEX AWARENESS DAY</td>
<td><strong>Details</strong></td>
<td>1. Increased level of public visibility and awareness on intersex issues and rights.</td>
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<td>Intersex Awareness Day was celebrated on the 26th of October, 2021. This Commemoration brought together Intersex persons from the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.</td>
<td>2. Safe Hub; Support system for intersex persons to remain true to themselves.</td>
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<td>Intersex Nigeria organized a reaffirmation session where intersex persons reaffirm their ability to remain unapologetic about their existence.</td>
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<td>A TikTok video was created to sensitize and create awareness about intersex, with a hashtag to further enhance the visibility of intersex on social media.</td>
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<td>Allies also showed solidarity by indicating their interest to always support the cause of intersex persons.</td>
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<td>A fun pack session where intersex persons did some dancing and memory sharing activity was also organized.</td>
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Financial Summary

INCOME GENERATION:
Grants - $65,000
Total Revenue - $65,000

EXPENSES:
Programs Implementation - $46,000
Operations and Administration - $19,000

70%  Programs Implementation
30%  Operations and Administration Costs

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:

• Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice
• Initiative Sankofa d’Afrique de l’Ouest (ISDAO)
• FRIDA
• COC NETHERLANDS
• FEMINIST REPUBLIK
• GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN

INTERSEX NIGERIA ANNUAL REPORT 2021
Looking back at where intersex organization is coming from in Nigeria, you can agree with me that there is hope for the community.

- There was a time when the existence of intersex persons was unduly questioned in Nigeria. Even the ‘I’ in ‘LGBTQIA’ was questioned due to the uncertainty surrounding the existence of intersex persons. There were questions like, “are they real?” “do they really exist in Nigeria?”
- There was a time when intersex people do not come out of their safe spaces due to fear of stigma, discrimination, and unacceptable from society.
- There was a time when there was no organizing specific for intersex people in Nigeria.
- Let’s not go far back to the time when intersex babies were killed at birth because they were believed to be abominations.

Between inception in 2019 and 2021, Center for Healthcare Development and Youth Empowerment (Intersex Nigeria) has worked tirelessly to change these narratives and more regarding the intersex community in Nigeria. Some of these narratives have not been eradicated, eradicated but we can agree that a lot has changed for the better. This has been a period of learning, unlearning, adapting, and taking a shot at existing freely for the intersex community. Still we’ve got to be proud of the work that Intersex Nigeria has done in such a short time.

We would like to recognize the efforts of allies and supporters of the community who have steadfastly supported Intersex Nigeria to ensure that the intersex community in Nigeria becomes visible and begin to enjoy their fundamental human rights as every other citizen of Nigeria from birth. Honestly, we have been pleasantly surprised at the level of support that we have received from sister organizations and stakeholders. We are really grateful to local and international donors/funders who have been interested in supporting the work of the organization for the intersex community.

We will not fail to mention how proud we are of the many intersex persons who have been taken the risk of making themselves visible in this past year amidst stigma and discrimination to contribute in their own ways to the efforts that are put in place for the greater good of the intersex community in Nigeria. You are true heroes! To other intersex persons across the country, be encouraged. We are happy to say there is a community for you. You are worthy and you are enough!

We recognize that this is only the beginning of the work that needs to be done for a community severely underserved and marginalized for so long in Nigeria but with the immense support we receive from you all, we are confident that the intersex community in Nigeria will be able catch up with existing provisions in the society for humans.

This is our 2021! Indeed, it took a village. Intersex Nigeria would not have achieved this alone without your immense support. We strongly believe that in the coming years, Nigeria will become a safe space and a conducive country for intersex people to thrive in. Yeah, that will take a village too and we are counting on you and your support to learn and educate the people around you about intersex variations, your willingness to join in the engagements for the visibility of the intersex community, the resources you provide to support the work of the intersex community. These “little” efforts are really most of what it takes to reach our goal.

Let’s make this happen! Thank you!

In Solidarity,
THE BOARD

Daniel Adams
"The beauty of life is in our diversity. This means that you are worthy of everything good and your value as a person is not dependent on another person's ability to see or appreciate your unique difference(s).

Jennifer Aliu-Kadiri
Programs Officer
"Through communications and advocacy, communities at large will have a greater awareness of the rights, societal entitlements, and the infringement of rights faced by intersex persons. There is a need to constantly create awareness and advocate for their fundamental human rights as members of society such as:
- Right to life and liberty
- Freedom from discrimination
- Freedom of Opinion and Expression
- Dignity of the human person
- Right to work and education, amongst many others.
Together, we can make the voices of intersex persons heard!"

Falade Eniola
- Communications Strategist
Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity can not survive”. The fight for equality and recognition for intersex people is something I find myself endeared with, which everyone should also be a part of.

Roseline Ayoola
-Senior Finance Officer
"The experiences of discrimination that Intersex persons face are numerous, many Intersex person have had non-consensual medical interventions designed to make their bodies more typically male or female. These coercive medical interventions are oftentimes not necessary. This leads to insecure livelihoods, insecure housing, lack of economic sustainability and access to medical support."

#MyRights
#MyBody

Tosin Odunlami (He/Him)
-Finance Officer
Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the individuals are given the right to express themselves and live the life that pleases them.

Intersex persons deserve freedom, and laws that protect them and assure their safety in the society and world at large.

Being an intersex person isn’t a disability, stop the discrimination."

Aishat Muraina
-Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (Intern)
In an interview with Intersex Nigeria, intersex persons from different geopolitical zones in Nigeria explain the hardship and the ways they thrive in spite of the daily challenges and struggles intersex people face daily in Nigeria.

TOSIN

"It was during the training that I met other Intersex people whose stories where similar to mine, who had gone through a lot just like I went through who their bodies does not conform to their ascribed gender and who have changed or converted to their preferred gender."

DAVID

"I was in a confused stage. I was destabilized, frustrated and at the edge of giving up."

ECHE

"...I have been able to create a connected network and supportive system all thanks to Intersex Nigeria"

Make a difference, your financial donations of any size will be highly appreciated.

Acct Name: Center For Healthcare Development and Youth Empowerment.
Bank Name: UBA
Naira Account Number: 1024567445
Dollar Account Number: 3003493840
Kindly Send us an email info@intersexnigeria.org
Tell us what stage where you in when you met Intersex Nigeria.

Before I met with Intersex Nigeria, I was in a confused stage. I was destabilized, frustrated and at the edge of giving up. I was confused about my health, my body and physical appearance. I was at a stage where I ask myself everyday if I was normal person, if I was cursed or under a spell. I see my body not conforming to the ascribed gender, so I became worried and willing to seek for help. I was at the stage where after several medical examination, test, scan, and consultation I was told that I have to undergo two stage surgeries and I was looking for support from NGOs that funds Intersex surgeries before I came in contact with Intersex Nigeria.

At what point did you figure out that you are not the only Intersex in Nigeria?

At first, I thought I was the only Intersex person in Nigeria but meeting with different people from different geographical location and backgrounds gave me the courage, boldness, peace of mind that am not the only Intersex person in Nigeria. I was invited for a resilience workshop in Lagos organized by Intersex Nigeria where I met different people who are Intersex coming together to share their stories, bond together, went through healing justice and resilience skill training.

Can you tell us about the improvement?

After the resilience and healing justice organized by Intersex Nigeria in October 2021, I had my conversion while at the training and during the conversion process, though it was not an easy thing but I have peace of mind, I feel relaxed and loved, I feel comfortable, am able to showcase my true identity. I can walk freely in the community, am able to access so many opportunities, attend events which I was not able to do before. Also, am able to access medical health care services and lot more.

TOSIN

What has changed since your encounter with Intersex Nigeria?

A lot has changed since my encounter with Intersex Nigeria to the level that am surprised how am able to scale through the trauma, challenges and discrimination from family, friends, community and society at large. After my encounter with Intersex person in Nigeria, I have peace of mind, my mental health is at a stable stage though am still having anxiety disorder. Have enjoyed a lot of open opportunities, training support from Intersex Nigeria and am still open to more training and opportunities.
When and how did get to know Intersex Nigeria?
I encountered intersex Nigeria at a stage where I was at the corner of my live, where I didn’t have the courage, I began to question myself that “who am I?, ”what are my importance in the society?”, “what do I have to offer in the society?”

I was scared of, where people pointing at me, I was afraid of what the society will say and how they will Identify me.

What has changed since your encounter with Intersex Nigeria?
Encountering intersex Nigeria is one of the blessings that has ever happened in my life. Meeting them has really helped me a lot, because it helped to rebuild my self-esteem, it helped me to be able to reinforce the walls of self-healing.

intersex Nigeria also helps me to know who I am as an intersex person, they helped me understand the beauty of an intersex person, and to understand the environment and how to work through people around me.
When and how did get to know Intersex Nigeria?

I discovered intersex Nigeria in 2019 during their program in Kano. after the program, I was able to interact with the executive of intersex Nigeria; it was quite a memorable meeting such an amazing person, ever since then, they have always been supportive and inclusive in whatever has to do with capacity building and makes intersex persons understand the reality of their existence. I really appreciate that moment. Meeting intersex Nigeria since 2019 up to this moment has been wonderful.

How helpful has been the Intersex Nigeria workshops and trainings you have attended so far?

The training has helped me so far in my job and my family. I have made people see why they have to celebrate everybody's existence regardless their sex and to spread love rather than hatred and so far it has been favorable.

What are your thoughts about the future for Intersex people in Nigeria?

I believe people will find interest in supporting this drive, and people will see why spreading love can build a stronger and remarkable world, because where there is absent of love, there will be no productivity, the present of love will bring peace of mind, and produce positive results.
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Center for Healthcare Development and Youth Empowerment (Intersex Nigeria), is open to partnerships, collaborations, donations of financial resources, administrative/communication resources, human resources, etc.

We are open to exchange programs that will benefit the growth of our organization and at the same time strengthen the human capacity of our staff members and volunteers.

Together, we can do so much more...
Acknowledgements

We thank our Donors for their generous gift to Intersex Nigeria. We are thrilled to have your support. Through your donation we have been able to accomplish our goals and continue working towards creating more visibility, advocate and sensitize on Intersex rights, challenges and well-being.

We acknowledge the contributions of the Intersex team who worked tirelessly on all our projects. Thank you for your valuable insights.

We also appreciate our volunteers, COAs, and Stakeholders.

We thank you for your continued support in our programs.